

FCPS Principal's Message

May 2019

My Principal's message is designed to provide you with a snapshot of the current work being undertaken at Footscray City Primary School. This will include information relating to student learning, engagement and wellbeing as well as important events and the recognition of milestones for our community.

It is part of a communication plan that includes the weekly posts from your classroom teacher and our termly newsletter whose content will increasingly be driven by student working groups.

Footscray City PS has a highly engaged community with a shared focus on supporting our students to learn and thrive. We hope that our communication contributes to you feeling connected as a member of this community and confident about the direction of our school.

I look forward to seeing you soon,
Jessie



Together we are future making for every child

OUR MISSION

We are future making for every child so that they are learning to *learn*, learning to *thrive* and learning to *contribute*.

OUR VISION

Our students will possess the *skills, knowledge* and ways of *thinking* that enable them to *embrace learning, respond to challenges* and thrive as *active members* of the community.

OUR VALUES

We are a diverse and inclusive COMMUNITY who value

- ▶ Thinking and acting with KINDNESS which means we are friendly towards others and are considerate of their feelings
- ▶ Taking RESPONSIBILITY for our learning and our impact on ourselves, others and our environment
- ▶ Having a RESILIENT attitude about our ability to learn which means we persist and are brave when faced with challenges

Student Learning

► NAPLAN Online

We have now completed the 2019 NAPLAN testing schedule which was done using the online platform for the first time at FCPS. I'm pleased to report that everything went smoothly for our students and we thank our IT Technician Quang Ho for his hard work in making sure everything was in place.

We are so proud of our grade 3 and grade 5 students - they demonstrated considerable effort throughout the test sessions (Writing, Reading, Numeracy and Language Conventions) and had a positive attitude about using NAPLAN as an opportunity to show what they know and challenge themselves as learners.

I acknowledge the 3/4 and 5/6 teaching teams for their support of the students in the lead up to the testing and during the testing period. As always the children were encouraged to believe in themselves and we saw our students well prepared to apply their skills, knowledge and understandings in this setting.

► Upcoming Event - Community Forum Tuesday 18th June 5:30pm-7pm

The FCPS Executive Leadership Team are hosting our families for an evening session that will debunk the myths about NAPLAN! We will show you how we use the national testing to track student growth and achievement and plan for school improvement.

We will also be presenting the FCPS Annual Report (2018) at this session.

Celebration of Learning - 5/6 Hub

What a wonderful celebration of learning in the 5/6 hub on Friday!

The students shared the outcomes of their learning that has culminated from their Business and Economics unit with their families as well as students across the school.

Student Voice and Agency was evident as they demonstrated their knowledge and skills in this unit, supported extensively by the team of teachers and Education Support Staff - Anthony Curnow, Georgia Hynes, Sophia Nem Singh, Amy Kirkup and Kate Shierlaw.

We congratulate the students and their teachers on this outstanding success. Watch out for these future entrepreneurs who all demonstrated terrific ethics in their business acumen!



Attitudes to School Survey 2019



Every year students in grades 4, 5 and 6 have the opportunity to participate in the Attitudes to School Survey. A DET initiative, the survey provides the students with the chance to have their say about their experiences of learning and teaching, how they feel about themselves as learners and what they are experiencing in their friendships and relationships with teachers and peers.

We use the results of this survey to identify what's working in our school and what we therefore need to protect, as well as what we need to change and improve upon.

I have been conducting the survey with students in small groups and they have been positive about this opportunity for voice and agency. We look forward to sharing the results with the students, teachers and community later in the year.



Footscray Learning Precinct Student Action Teams

Students from grades 5 and 6 attended a workshop last week with their peers from the other Footscray Learning Precinct Schools - Footscray PS, Gilmore College for Girls and Footscray City College.

This was a continuation of the work started in 2018 when all the FLP schools had groups of students come together to be trained as Student Action Teams by facilitator Kate Wilde. As a product of this training, the students have already contributed valued ideas relating to year 7 transition and uniform for the new FLP Secondary School.

This session was particularly exciting as the students were introduced to the new Executive Principal of the Footscray Learning Precinct Secondary School (interim name) Frank Vetere. Frank and I facilitated the session with contributions from the teachers of the FLP schools. There was particular enthusiasm when brainstorming ideas for the new school name and logo so watch this space!

The members of the FCPS Student Action Team are:

- ▶ Rosa Nicholson, Juliette Lock, Maisie Howard, Hamish Spark, Zara Atchison, Harvey Oakley-Cullen, Katya Brogc, Kashif Sawudi, William Bomar and Maya Kamimura.



Fundraising and Community Events

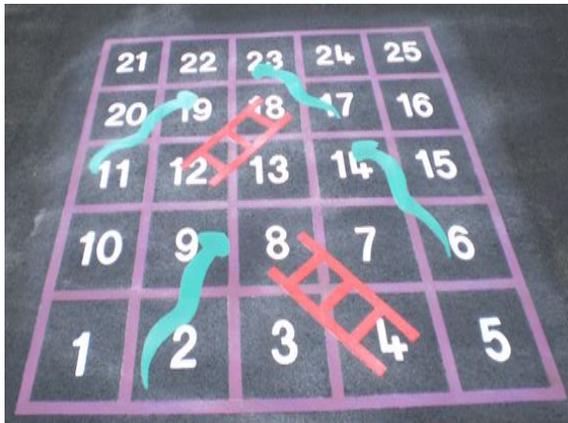
With gratitude to our community we share the news that we have already raised nearly \$14 000 through fundraising events in 2019. The details are:

- ▶ Student Disco - \$10 000
- ▶ Easter Raffle - \$3 675

This tells us that we have a highly engaged and generous community and also a Fundraising and Community Events (FACE) Committee that is working hard to host fun events for our families that capture interest and invite participation. Thanks to you all!

Student Voice - How we will use our fundraising dollars . . .

The students on the SRC and ERC will be researching options for improvements to the grounds and additions we can make to our play spaces. These will include suggestions from their classmates and will be presented as recommendations to School Council. The images below are some ideas already being considered.



Election Day at FCPS

Democracy Sausages, Cake Stall and Coffee Shop

What fun we had hosting our local community as a polling station on Election Day. The Cake Stall was the talk of the town and we thank all our families who donated such yummy goodies.

The sausages raced out the gate and the coffee machine earned its keep too, so it was a productive as well as enjoyable day.

As always, it was all made possible through the hard work of the FACE committee and our FCPS parent volunteers. Big shout out to Cathy, Joyce and Amanda for their coordination and Rob and our administration team for setting up and supporting the logistics. Great job team!



School Uniform at FCPS

We have noticed high variability across year levels in relation to students being in school uniform. This has not been a major focus of conversation with the students and now is a good time to monitor how our Uniform Policy is being lived.

We encourage individuality and support students in having a strong sense of their own identity. We understand that what we wear and how we present ourselves is one of the important ways we can show who we are.

Whilst acknowledging this, we are a school with a compulsory school uniform. We believe that cooperation with the Uniform Policy supports our school to be a safe and orderly learning environment where all children experience a sense of school pride, connection and are made to feel included.

The uniform available through PSW is high quality and long lasting. There are also a range of options to suit personal tastes. Our 2nd Hand Uniform Shop (located at school) provides clean uniform options that at a cheaper rate than buying new, can help with the family finances as well as support the environment by reusing pre-loved items.

Commencing this week, we will be reminding students to:

- ▶ Wear navy blue tops and bottoms (school logo is preferred but not required)
- ▶ Wear closed toe and closed heel shoes
- ▶ Leave casual clothes, branded items and non-school hats at home

We appreciate your support and welcome you to contact us to discuss further. Our School Council will be revising the Uniform Policy and this will then be available on the school website.