

Thursday 19th September 2019

Dear families,

We look forward to celebrating the end of term with you tomorrow and hope that you have a safe and happy holiday with family and friends. A few things from us before we depart for the break . . .

Celebrations and Acknowledgements

Art Show 2020 - Visual Intelligence Agency

We came together last Friday as a school and a community who value creativity and imagination. We understand that high quality learning experiences in the Visual and Performing Arts boost critical thinking and support our students to take the time to be curious and reflective about what they are observing in the world around them. The students of Footscray City Primary School (FCPS) and the Western English Language School (WELS) are highly motivated. We are proud of their willingness to take risks in their learning and their ability to think outside of the square; to engage in new ways of thinking and to see these ideas to fruition.

Visual Intelligence Agency was the theme of our 2019 Art Show. It was a showcase of art shaped significantly by the students themselves. Student voice was integral in the development of the concepts with unique ideas and pieces on display. We saw that as families moved through the gallery, they were enthralled by the high levels of interactivity and innovative use of technology.

Our Art Show was an opportunity to celebrate the learning of the students of FCPS and the WELS. To celebrate our students thriving in their development and application of creative ideas. To celebrate the community of which we are all valued members. We thank you for joining us and for being part of such a special event. We acknowledge and appreciate the vision and passion of our Visual Arts Team and thank them for the high quality learning experiences they provide. **Emily Power-Moore, Alicia Pearce and Alex Soares (FCPS) and Shannon Slee (WELS) - you are an inspiration!**

It was wonderful to have the opening of this event feature performances from our string ensembles - the Andante and Presto Orchestras led by Elisa Kelly and Emma Rudin respectively. Also featured were our choir led by Alison Farr. The talent both mesmerized and entertained us, and confirmed our ongoing appreciation of the instrumental music teachers and their quality learning programs that provide students with regular opportunities to participate in ensemble experiences. Special mention to our Ensemble Captain Zoe Endres for her mentoring of young musicians and high levels of participation in the music program, and the parents who support the ensembles by playing as fellow musicians and/or transporting their children to early morning rehearsals.

No community event at FCPS happens without the contributions of a wide range of people. We extend our gratitude to - our Administration Team of Jo, Sue and Michelle, our Maintenance Manager Rob Suffolk and our Fundraising and Community Events (FACE) Committee. We also make special mention to the parents who joined Emily, Alicia and Alex in the days preceding the event, helping to set up the displays. They are Alison DeMaria, Janet Simmons, Dana Monkman, Liudmila Asociova, Jasmine Sandhu, Aimee O'Grady, Michelle Rowlands and Michelle Eddy. Also Jorge de Araujo for his photography of the exhibits (we can not wait to see them!) and Andrew Livingston for his lighting expertise.

We have long benefited from the support and active contributions of our local members of Government, at both the State and Federal level. We welcomed Tim Watts MP, our Federal Labor Member of Parliament representing the seat of Gellibrand to open the Art Show 2019 and thank him for his commitment to excellence in education and to supporting innovation within his constituency.

Gymnasium and Performing Arts Building

I am delighted to share the news that the new Gymnasium and Performing Arts Building is officially 'ours' with the first day of access for students, teachers and families scheduled for **tomorrow - Friday 20th September**.

We have set up a schedule that will see all students visit the building with their teachers and explore the spaces before throughout the day. We will then hold our first **Assembly in the Gymnasium at 1pm tomorrow**.

We invite **parents and families** to visit the new building **tomorrow (Friday 20th September)** for your own sneak peak from **12:30pm-1pm**.

This will be followed by our **End of Term Assembly** in the **Gymnasium** from **1:00pm - 1:30pm**.

There will be an official opening next term and we will keep updated on the details of this.

I appreciate the patience of our staff, students and community throughout his building project, particularly in recent weeks where the building has appeared ready but with no access available. There have been a range of delays including the scheduling of the power upgrade from Jemena and we appreciate the support of the VSBA and the team from Hutchinson Builders in navigating these.

End of term reminders

Team Kids Holiday Care Program

We are pleased to be partnering with Team Kids to provide Holiday Care at FCPS, commencing these Spring school holidays - Monday 23rd September to Friday 4th October. Please see the program flyer attached for information about what is on offer and details on how to book online or follow the link -

<https://teamkids.com.au/>

Monday 7th October - Curriculum Day

There will be no school on this day (first day of term 4) but there is a full-day care program offered by Camp Australia. You can enrol for this via their parent portal - <https://www.campastralia.com.au/>

The focus of this day is on the development of our approaches to concept curriculum. That is, how we design and deliver our Concept Units that cover curriculum areas such as History, Science, Geography, Economics and Civics and Citizenship.

This relates directly to one of our School Strategic Plan goals that is to *'Develop the FCPS Concept Scope and Sequence with embedded assessment practices to support intellectual engagement and student motivation.'*

In particular, we are focusing on building in student agency - students having a say in what they are learning and how they will go about this learning. We are striving to build our capacity to provide rich and open-ended learning tasks where students have the opportunity to approach this learning in individual and collaborative ways and explore a range of thinking strategies appropriate to the task. We understand that this relies on us understanding the abilities and interests of individual students so as to explicitly teach using tailored strategies that are appropriately challenging. We look forward to keeping you updated on this work!

Intentions for 2020

We are currently engaging in careful planning for the 2020 school year. Knowing the number of students who will be enrolled at FCPS for the following year is crucial in the development of our funding models, grade structure and recruitment of teaching staff.

If you are **not returning to FCPS next year**, we ask that you notify us as soon as possible.

Upcoming Information - School Performance Reports

Next Term we look forward to sharing with you the results of the Parent Opinion Survey, the Attitudes to School Survey (students) and the NAPLAN 2019 testing program. These sets of data helps us to evaluate our growth over the last 12 months and develop school improvement actions.

I wish you a safe and enjoyable holiday and look forward to seeing you soon.

Take care,
Jessie