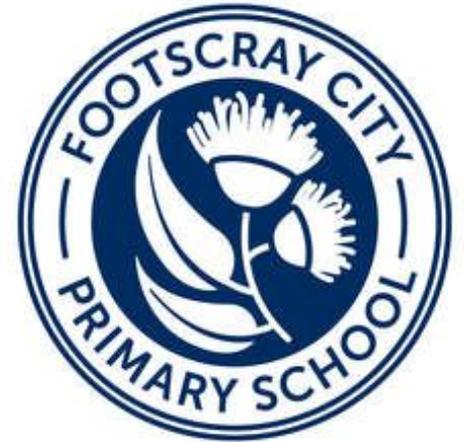




Community Bulletin

Footscray City Primary School

January 2024



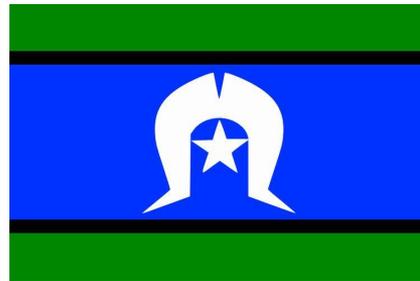


Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land on which the community of Footscray City Primary School, learn, play and collaborate - the Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung and Bunurong peoples of the Kulin Nation.

We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Aboriginal people have a deep and continuous connection to the Maribyrnong River valley for at least 40,000 years and we acknowledge this rich history of community and of storytelling.





Our Mission at FCPS

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

Our Vision at FCPS

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 at FCPS

At Footscray City Primary School we are a diverse and inclusive **COMMUNITY** who value

- Taking **RESPONSIBILITY** for our learning and our impact on our selves, others and our environment.
- Thinking and acting with **KINDNESS** which means we are friendly towards others and considerate of their feelings.
- Demonstrating **RESILIENCE** by persisting and being courageous when faced with challenges in our learning and relationships.

Principal's Message



Welcome to 2024 and to the exciting chapter that the new school year represents. I hope that you enjoyed a rejuvenating time with loved ones over the holiday period, and that you and your family are happy, safe and well. I also share a special welcome to our new students, families and staff - welcome to our great school and community. We are pleased that you are here and look forward to building trusting relationships that will enable you to feel connected and to thrive.

Staffing

Staffing for 2024 sees many familiar faces across the classroom and specialist programs, as well as us welcoming new educators to our school. It is indeed a challenging time in education as availability of staff and retention and wellbeing continue to be core priorities. I am very pleased to confirm that we have continued our practice of recruiting teachers who are a great match for our culture, bringing passion, commitment and a love of learning to their professional practice and personal approaches. We are confident that our staff are well supported through our Professional Learning Community approach and wrap around leadership model, and that we are set up for a productive and successful year of learning.

School Improvement Priorities

2023 was a time of great growth and achievement for our school. With the new model for the **NAPLAN** testing implemented for the first time, our students embraced this opportunity to 'show what they know' and we are incredibly proud of our results. We outperformed similar schools across the state in all areas of reading and numeracy, and in writing our year 5 results exceeded similar schools with our year 3 results only slightly below this marker. This is but one measure of success for our school and we know that the best way for students to experience success in their learning - everyday and in assessments such as NAPLAN - is to be taught by highly effective teachers delivering a sequenced and differentiated learning program. We celebrate and acknowledge all involved in these great results.

Principal's Message



We have continued to implement our **Student Wellbeing** initiatives including as a pilot school for the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) Program. This has seen us build our processes across the three tiers of intervention and improve our shared capacity to identify and respond to the wellbeing needs of our students. Our work has been showcased across the Western Melbourne area, with FCPS considered an exemplar school in the effective implementation of these crucial interventions and supports.

Last year also saw us participate for the first time in the **Disability Inclusion** reform. This has enabled us to direct funding to key staff roles such as our Disability and Inclusion Leader and Speech Pathologist, as well as broaden the scope of existing roles such as our Mental and Health and Wellbeing Leader and Student Engagement and Wellbeing Officer. We also had great success in submitting applications for Tier 3 funding for identified students - working with families, staff and allied health professionals to complete student profiles that advocate for funding so that a child can access the supports that they need to thrive.

We look forward to the next steps in our implementation of these school improvement initiatives and will share more information about the successes of our year in our Annual Report 2023, to be published and presented to the school community in April. Look out for updates on this and your invitation to attend a Community Forum where school leaders will talk to these milestones.

2024 is set to be a great year - with our strong, committed team of teachers, experienced and skilled leaders working across the school and exciting new initiatives that represent further innovation in student learning and wellbeing. We look forward to working with you in partnership and to continuing the great things that make FCPS a vibrant, connected community.

Jessie Hand - Principal

Farewell to Year 6 Class of 2023



Looking back on the end of the 2023 school year, this was a time when we celebrated the Year 6 class and wished them well in their transition to high school. We approached this time as an opportunity to express gratitude - gratitude for the friendships made, the experiences shared and the memories that we hold.

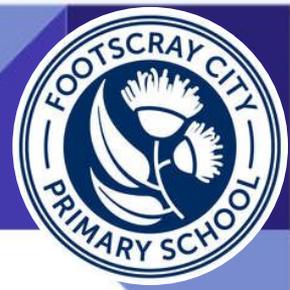
These students have been important members of our community and over their years with us have contributed to our school whilst experiencing significant growth and achievement in their academic and social/emotional learning. They are bonded by their friendships forged over the year as they have grown up together. We are indeed grateful for these years together - these students and their families are important to us and we thank them for their trust and partnership.

To our graduating students, we encouraged them to be proud of themselves and one another. They have shown persistence, courage and have thrived. For the future we emphasise an important message - your new high schools are so lucky to have you. There are opportunities ahead of you with existing and new trusted people. You will explore new programs and experiences - you will continue to be creative and curious and will leverage your skills to build your capabilities.

As we start a new school year and a new chapter without these students with us each day, we reiterate the message that we will miss them. That we are proud of them.

And to them we say - savour your memories and look forward to the future. You deserve the very best and please remember - it's not goodbye, it's see you soon.

2023 FCPS School Captains



Charlotte Byrne
School Captain



Willa Cusick
School Captain



Zoe Higgins
School Captain

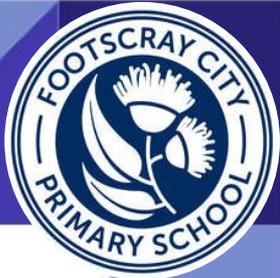


Stephanie Smith
School Captain

Our Captains of 2023 - Charlotte, Willa, Zoe and Stephanie - demonstrated the power of collaboration, a commitment to their learning and that of their peers and they have lived our values of responsibility, kindness and resilience in all their actions as leaders in our school. They were a powerful team and we know that leadership matters in a thriving community - we appreciate their valued contributions to our community and know that they have bright futures ahead of them.



2023 FCPS Student Leaders



Nina Hill
Wellbeing Captain



Elsa McKerrow
Wellbeing Captain



Arrow Wynter
Cultural Diversity Captain



Zac Caleb
Cultural Diversity Captain



Freya Hallander
Environment Captain



Annie Ryan
STEAM Captain



Matilda Antonious
Art Captain



Nico Thomas
Art Captain



Audrey McLeod
Publications Captain



Hazel Rickards
Publications Captain



Anoushka Pearl
Music Captain



Olive Spolding
Music Captain



Polly Conboy
PE Captain



Charlie Mansell
PE Captain



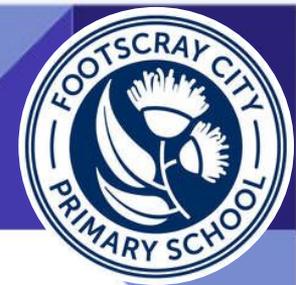
Tom Janssen
PE Captain



Indie Thomas-Parker
PE Captain



2024 FCPS School Captains



Freya Bugden
School Captain



Flynn Carr
School Captain



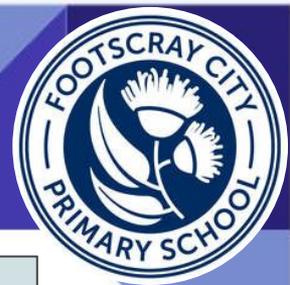
Wyatt Pagan
School Captain



Chloe Scalmer
School Captain

Congratulations to the School Captains of 2024 - we look forward to your energy and leadership within our community and to seeing you thrive in these roles.





2024 FCPS Student Leaders



Manusri Kadiyal
Environment
Captain



Josie Wood
Environment
Captain



Olivia Pham
Cultural Diversity
Captain



Aaron Watts
Cultural Diversity
Captain



Roxy Pollock
Art Captain



Auden Thomas
Art Captain



Sebastian Brgoc
Publications
Captain



Kaan McSweeney
Publications
Captain



Sol Kamimura
STEAM Captain



Riley Moore
STEAM Captain



Jessie Wiezik
Music Captain



Wil Wadsworth-Speight
Music Captain



Sam Crossley
Wellbeing
Captain



Frankie Herbert
Wellbeing
Captain



Seb Edmund
PE Captain



Sofia Fotiadis
PE Captain



Serena Koroma
PE Captain



Marlon Moncrief
PE Captain



Charlie Parker
PE Captain

FCPS Leadership Team 2024



Jessie Hand
Principal

Grace Speight
Assistant Principal
Disability & Inclusion



Eliza Kerin
Assistant Principal
Foundation - Year 2

Anthony Curnow
Assistant Principal
Years 3-6

FCPS Leadership Team 2024



Jenine O'Brien

Leading Teacher - Mental Health & Wellbeing

Helen Dearn

Learning Specialist Foundation - 2

Juliet Thompson

Learning Specialist Foundation - 2

Georgia Hynes

Learning Specialist Years 3 & 4

Sandra Tiricola

Learning Specialist Years 5 & 6

James Jardine

Acting Learning Specialist - STEAM



School Operations - Staffing



As I shared with you in our last Community Bulletin, there are updates regarding some of our colleagues and friends who are embarking on new journeys in 2024. With adventures such as travel, family time, tree change, tertiary study and new career pathways amongst the factors at play for these staff, we wish them all a safe, healthy and prosperous 2024 and look forward to hearing of their progress and seeing them back at FCPS in the future.

- ★ **Rose Girdwood**
- ★ **Gabrielle Ivey**
- ★ **Jane O'Reilly**
- ★ **Alex Biaggini**
- ★ **Eliza Davidson**
- ★ **Sam Izzo**

And a warm welcome to our new staff members . . .

Alicia Lenghaus Foundation	Anna Robenn Learning Support & Art (Years 1/2)	Amelia Reeves Year 1/2	Olivia Figliola Year 1/2	Laura Mordaunt Year 1/2	Kirsty McLennan Year 3
Rebecca Checkley Year 4	Hannah Magee Year 5	Chloe Heywood Year 5	Finton Lynch Year 6	Tatiana Puscas Year 6	

STEAM at FCPS in 2024



We are thrilled to be introducing **STEAM** as a specialist subject at FCPS in 2024. This will see students participate in 1 session each week of STEAM, Art, Mandarin, Music and PE as part of their specialist learning programs. This new specialist curriculum offering will be taught by James Jardine, an educator with considerable experience in this area.

Our goal with STEAM education is that we deliver a comprehensive learning program through a blend of classroom learning programs and the STEAM Specialist learning program.

STEAM incorporates five curriculum areas - Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

The benefits of quality STEAM learning and teaching include:

- Deepened Understanding in Each Discipline
- Enhanced Practical Skills and Knowledge
- Preparation for future learning and careers in STEAM fields



STEAM at FCPS in 2024

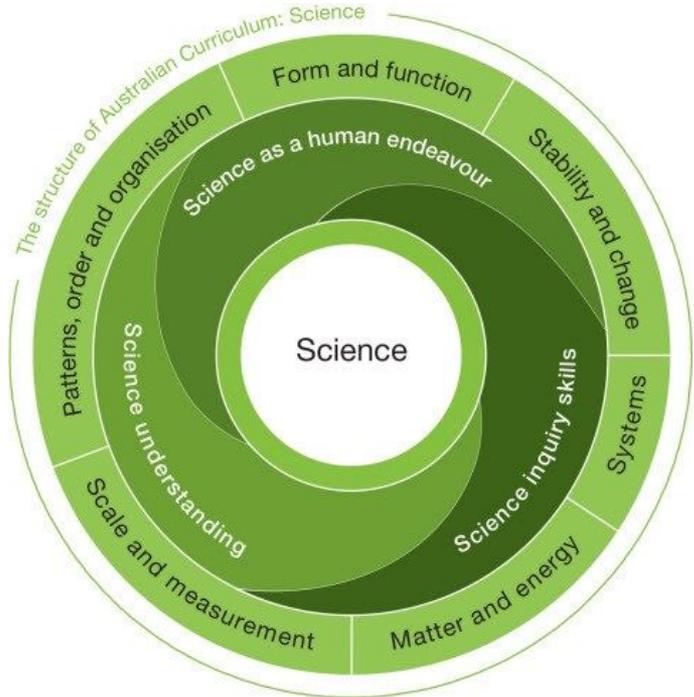


Science - Term 1

Physical & Earth/Space Science

Science - Term 3

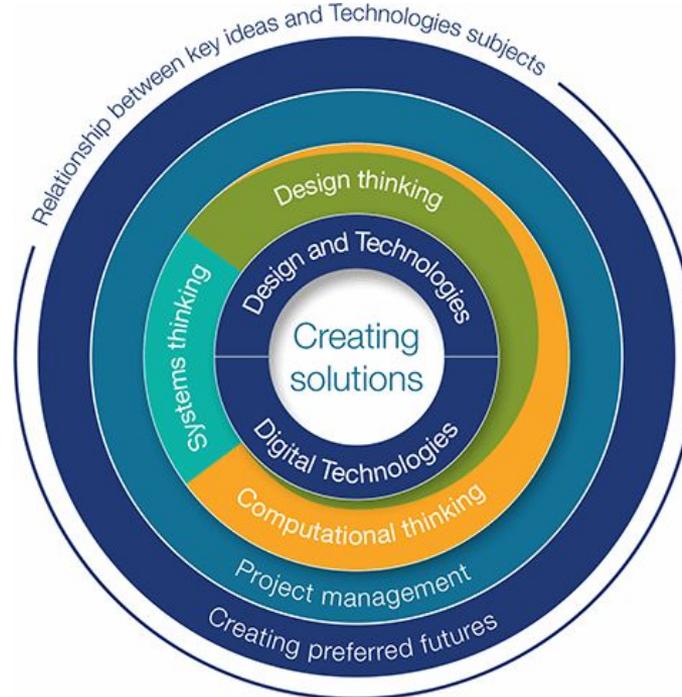
Biological & Chemical Science



Digital Technologies - Term 2

AND

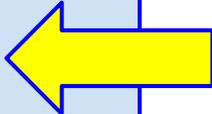
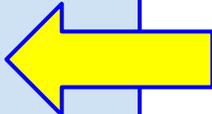
Design & Technology - Term 4



Watch out
for further
updates as
the year
commences!

Important Dates - 2024



Term 1 - Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 29th January - Curriculum Day #1Tuesday 30th January - Curriculum day #2Wednesday 31st January - Year 1 - Year 6 Students Return 
Term 1 - Week 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Monday 5th February - Foundation students commence Students attend 9am - 1pm Wednesday 7th February - Foundation students do not attend
Term 1 Dates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Term 1 commences Wednesday 31st JanuaryTerm 1 concludes Thursday 28th March

Curriculum Days 2024



We are running 4 Curriculum Days in 2024, as per the Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA). This allows for professional learning and collaboration for our teaching and education support staff, and for the development and provision of Student Report Cards.

Please note there will be an additional **Pupil Free Day** run in 2024 as staff are entitled to a Professional Practice Day under the VGSA. This date will be determined in Term 1 as it requires input from the 2024 teaching staff (a requirement under the VGSA). This will then be presented to School Council for approval and communicated to parents/carers as a matter of priority.

Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Curriculum Day #1 - Monday 29th January● Curriculum Day #2 - Tuesday 30th January
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Curriculum Day #3 - Monday 15th April
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Curriculum Day #4 - Monday 4th November

Victorian Child Safe Standards

Why child safety is so important . . .



Our school is committed to the safety and wellbeing of all children. We want children attending our school to be safe, happy and respected.

The Child Safe Standards recognise that all children are vulnerable.

The Child Safe Standards require schools to **take steps to prevent child abuse** and **build a culture of child safety**.

Schools cannot assume that child abuse does not and cannot happen within their school or school community.

We want all volunteers to participate in the Child Safe Standards Volunteer Training

The next session will be held on Thursday 13th July @ 7pm (webex)

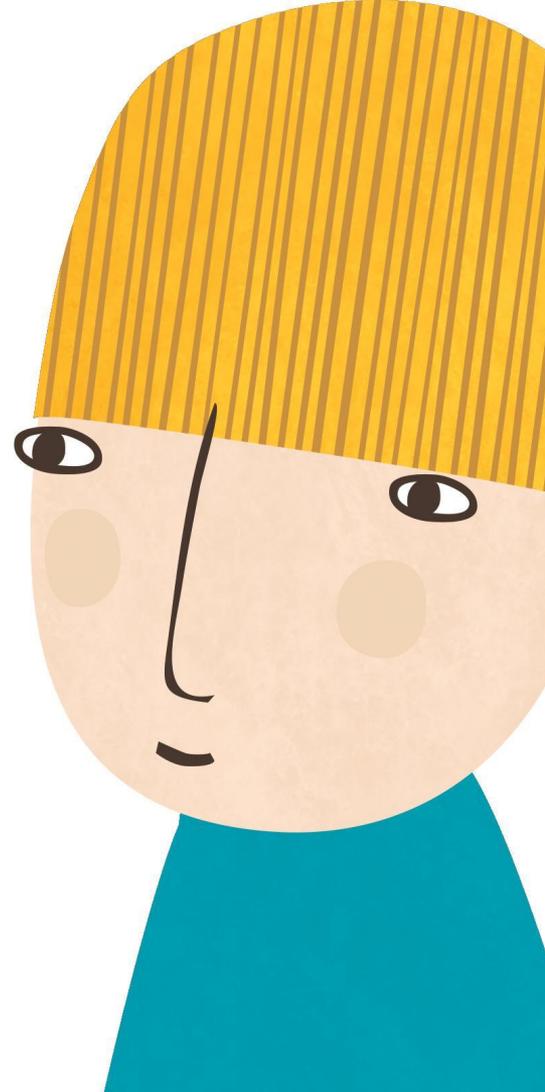
Victoria's Child Safe Standards



- **Child Safe Standard 1** – Establish a culturally safe environment in which the diverse and unique identities and experiences of Aboriginal children and young people are respected and valued.
- **Child Safe Standard 2** – Ensure that child safety and wellbeing are embedded in school leadership, governance and culture.
- **Child Safe Standard 3** – Children and young people are empowered about their rights, participate in decisions affecting them and are taken seriously.
- **Child Safe Standard 4** – Families and communities are informed and involved in promoting child safety and wellbeing.
- **Child Safe Standard 5** – Equity is upheld and diverse needs are respected in policy and practice.
- **Child Safe Standard 6** – People working with children and young people are suitable and supported to reflect child safety and wellbeing values in practice.
- **Child Safe Standard 7** – Ensure that processes for complaints and concerns are child focused.
- **Child Safe Standard 8** – Staff and volunteers are equipped with the knowledge, skills and awareness to keep children and young people safe through ongoing education and training.
- **Child Safe Standard 9** – Physical and online environments promote safety and wellbeing while minimising the opportunity for children and young people to be harmed.
- **Child Safe Standard 10** – Implementation of the Child Safe Standards is regularly reviewed and improved.
- **Child Safe Standard 11** – Policies and procedures that document how schools are safe for children, young people and students.
- Ministerial Order 1359 provides the framework for child safety in schools.

PROTECT

Volunteer responsibilities to keep students safe and our school's child safety policies and procedures





Volunteer responsibilities to keep students safe

- Volunteers make a valuable contribution to our school community and have responsibilities to keep students safe in our school environments.
- Our school has developed policies and procedures to keep children safe and to make sure we respond to any concerns.
- Volunteers must be familiar with and follow our school's:
 - Volunteers Policy
 - Child Safety Code of Conduct
 - Child Safety and Wellbeing Policy
 - Procedures for responding to incidents, disclosures and suspicions of child abuse





Do you want to act as a volunteer at FCPS?

Perhaps you want to help students and teachers in the classroom or specialist programs.

Maybe you want to attend an excursion or camp, or support our extracurricular programs.

To do this, you must participate in the **Child Safe Standards Training for Volunteers.**

We will be holding a training session on **Friday 23rd February** - please look out for a Compass Post at the start of the term with information on how to register for this session.



**Thank you and we look forward
to seeing you soon!**

