



FERNBROOK SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

TERM 4 2022



IMPORTANT DATES

2022 END OF YEAR

Wednesday 7/12 - End of Year Concert

Thursday 8/12 - Community Movie:
Greenhouse by Joost

Friday 9/12 - Ninja Nation & Last Day of Term 4

2023 TERM DATES

Term 1 - Tuesday 31/01 to Thursday 06/04

Term 2 - Wednesday 26/04 to Friday 23/06

Term 3 - Tuesday 18/07 to Friday 15/09

Term 4 - Tuesday 03/10 to Friday 08/12

Our term dates for 2023 are in line with the Victorian Government school holidays.

However please note that we will have a 3 week break mid-year, between Term 2 and Term 3.

STAFF

Principals:

Matthew Nye
Rhys Thomas

Business / Administration:

Jasmin Williamson

Teachers:

Joanna Johannes
Michelle Buckley
Denise Dempsey
Ralph Horn
Melanie Thomas

Support:

Rochelle Benning
Naomi MacTaggart
Raymond Thomas

Children are not a distraction from more important work. They are the most important work" - C.S. Lewis

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPALS

Thank you to all students, staff and families for a remarkable finish to Term 4 and the 2022 school year. We are extremely fortunate to belong to a community who is so supportive of our unique school and the style of learning that we offer. We see and feel the efforts of our community members that devote their time to contribute to the betterment of Fernbrook School.

This term has been full to the brim of change, engaging learning tasks for our students and forward planning for the future of the school. Our students across the school have enjoyed their learning, experiencing activities such as: planting and cultivating seeds, writing poetry, learning about weather and erecting a fence. This time of year has also seen the school come to life to celebrate the festive season by making decorations, acting in plays and listening to Christmas music.

We also have had the pleasure of welcoming Shelly to the Juniors class. She has quickly formed meaningful relationships with our community and we are so happy to have her on board.

A range of changes will take place at the beginning of the 2023 school year. This is both an exciting evolution but also a time where our students, staff and families will require our support and time to ensure all new plans and processes run smoothly.

Some exciting changes for 2023:

- School lunches to be provided everyday
- A transition to more project-based learning
- Formation of Prep and 1 Junior class
- Formation of Grades 2 -6 Middle Years class

All changes and extra details will be outlined in a community email next week.

We would like to acknowledge four members of our community that will be graduating primary school this year. Destyn, Chloe, Nim and Joshie are all valued members of our Middle Year's class and will be sorely missed next year. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2022, we are fortunate that this is not a goodbye!

Rhys and Matt



Happy Birthdays this term:

October

Jo
Cooper
Freya
Fynn

November

Matt
Destyn
Violet
Mika
Shelly

December

Elliot
Nicolette
Luna
Evangeline

OFFICE UPDATE

What an incredible year we've had here at Fernbrook! My heartfelt thanks to all of you for such a warm, open welcome when I joined the team! I feel very honoured to be a part of such a beautiful community, and truly love coming to work each day. You all make it such a wonderful place to be! -Jas ✨

FEES

To streamline the payment of School Fees moving forward, and in an effort to simplify the process for both families and the school, a Financial Commitment Plan has been designed and requires submission from each family.

This form needs to be completed with your preferences and returned to Jasmin.

The due date has now passed, if for any reason you haven't already returned it, please return it by no later than this Friday 9th of December.

This will guarantee your child/ren a place at Fernbrook in 2023. Thank you in advance!

SENTRAL PARENT PORTAL

We are excited to have progressed our use of the Parent Portal this year, it is proving to be very helpful in the day to day management of our students!

If you are yet to create a log in and download the app, please do so as soon as possible.

If you need a copy of the instructions and your unique access key, please ask Jasmin.

ABSENCES

Moving forward, it is preferred that we are notified of all absences via the Parent Portal, instead of other methods, such as emails and phone calls, if possible.

Did you know?

Term calendars can be found on our website under the 'important dates' tab 😊

Please note that we will continue to monitor our voicemail's over the Christmas break, and will endeavour to get back in touch with you as soon as possible for any *urgent matters*.



PARENTS AND FRIENDS COMMITTEE

Hello to our wonderful Fernbrook families,

The Parents and Friends Committee (PNF) are delighted to have the opportunity to formally introduce ourselves!

Our mission as a committee is to provide support to our school community, as well as create opportunities for fun, connection and contribution.

As you know, schools need parent participation and support in order to thrive and build a cohesive, well connected environment.

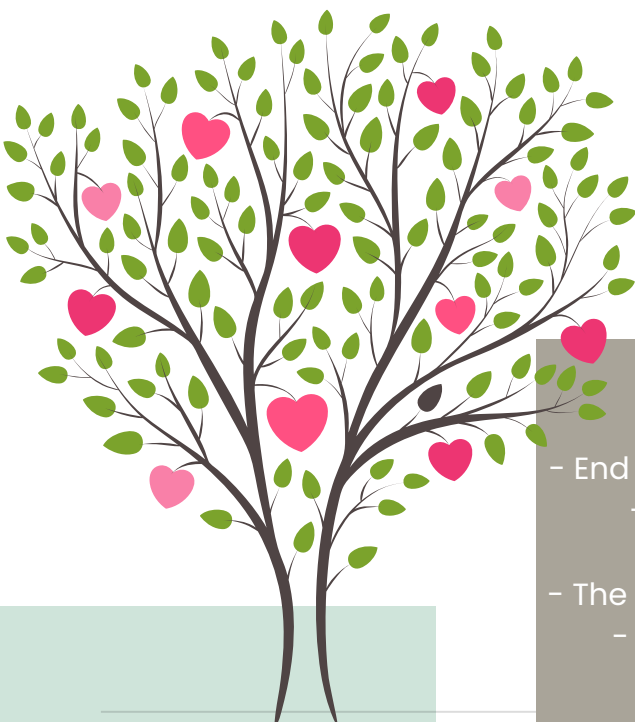
If you would like to contribute your ideas, skills and energy to the level you are comfortable, you are welcome to join us for our meetings, held each Tuesday at 2 p.m. at school. You can join us in person or via zoom if you can't make it on site (you might miss out on the tea and treats though!)

Equally if you are someone who would like to help out in a ad hoc "helper" capacity, but don't necessarily have the time to commit to regular meetings, then we would love to hear from you too!

Having parents willing to be called on from time to time is a huge help. We would love to add you to our list of helpers/support team!

Our email is : parentsandfriends@fernbrook.com.au

Kindly,
Cherelle, Elizabeth, Sandi and Katie



Current projects:

- End of Year celebration 2022
- Family camp 2023
- Open days 2023
- The Basin Music Festival 2023
- Car pooling initiative
- Social activities



THANK YOU

The Basin Music Festival committee contacted us recently to let us know of the positive feedback from the wider community regarding Fernbrook School's participation, and have invited us back next year in March 2023!

A special thanks to the families who generously manned our stall!

Here are some photos from the day (it didn't rain!)



JUNIOR CLASS

We made it! Congratulations and well done to our Juniors and their families. This was the first full year for all of our students and they each did such an amazing job. A special congratulations to our Foundation students completing their first year at school!

This term we welcomed Shelly to our team, we have all enjoyed getting to know her and have loved having her join our community!

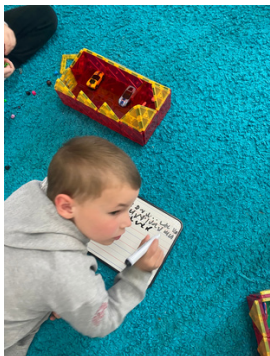


We find opportunities to practice our literacy skills at any stage of our day. Above is Fynn and Tate drawing their magnetic tiles creation. Below Cooper is also writing about his creation.

During literacy, the juniors continued to work on their phonics and reading/writing skills. We got outside a few times to write in our Nature Journals, however the weather didn't allow this too much unfortunately. We explored 'ourselves' and 'where we live in the world', what foods we need to eat to stay healthy, the importance of sleep and water for our health and growing bodies. We read some beautiful stories, some funny ones, some tongue twisters and some poems. We even made our own acrostic poem about ourselves.



Gaia doing her morning writing task.



Nature journaling, a time to reflect and observe what nature has to offer. We sometimes prompt the student with questions or leave them to be.



During our writing we encourage the students to sound out their words, use lots of descriptive words and look at their spelling. They each have a dictionary they can use to discover new words or add words that they have learnt to spell.



The students, as part of our inquiry on ourselves, discovered where they live in the world. We then used our work to find our houses on google maps. it was really fun for everyone to see how far some travel to school.



Ivy getting some help to sound out words, and using her alphabet to help guide her writing.



Eating yummy pancakes!



Salt Dough fun



Cooking

Each Wednesday in the Junior room we have been integrating literacy, mathematics and cooking. We have been exploring different ways to create procedural texts - using visuals, writing steps and creating a recipe book. We have then used our procedure to make pancakes, ice-cream and salt dough ornaments, practicing our maths skills through predicting, using different units of measurement and understanding temperature. It has also linked in with our STEAM unit exploring solids, liquids and gases! The students really enjoy having cooking sessions in the program!



We didn't get as many creek adventures in as we would have liked, thanks to this crazy weather! Our creek adventures are definitely where the magic happens, we all love taking any opportunity to head down there. We enjoy swinging, creating and exploring what nature has to offer.



'Journey Sticks' helping us to recount our journey through the creek.



Freya experimenting with the process of weaving, using sticks and wool, whilst down at the creek.



Enjoying our time down at the creek.



Nature offers such a wide range of beautiful resources. Here Evangeline has created a Christmas tree ornament using sticks and other loose parts. What a wonderful creation!



Maths comes in all shapes and sizes. The students love to explore their mathematical skills, alongside brilliant team work, language and negotiating skills and imaginative play when busy with the magnets. We love that there is never two creations the same!

Role playing shops, using 'real money'. The students really got into this bringing in items and pricing them or making items in the maker space.

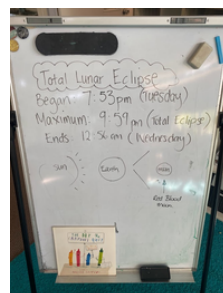
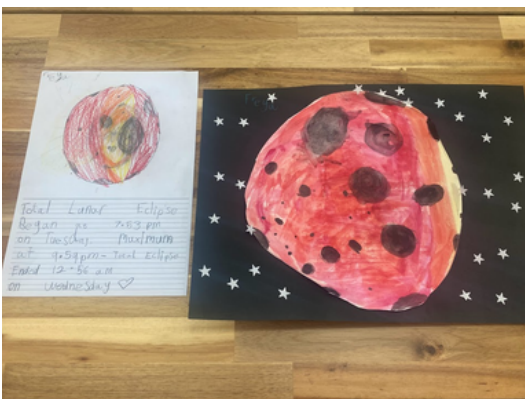
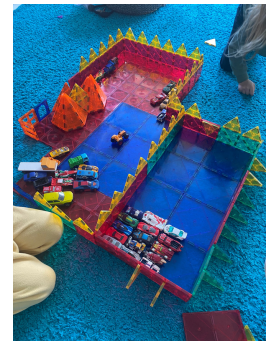


During maths we delved into the value of money, length and mass. We explored math strategies using a wide range of hands on activities, discussions and everyday learning experiences. Its been a great term of maths and learning, we are very proud of them all!

In the Juniors' room learning is all around us. Taking time to play, experiment, discover and create with a wide variety of loose parts. We encourage students to work together, taking these opportunities to develop our social and emotional skills as well as our language and mathematical abilities.



Another favourite of the students is creating shapes using the wooden shapes and nails. Students love to create using a wide variety of different resources. This is something we encourage and love to see their unique representations.



During morning meeting Shelly showed a picture that she captured of the Lunar Eclipse, which sparked everyone's interest. We decided to research how the "Blood Moon" occurs and found out some facts about it. We morphed this into a writing and Visual Arts activity, where we drew pictures and recorded the times of the eclipse. We then researched different pictures online and noticed the colours and patterns we could see to then create our own water colour Blood Moons! Inquiry learning at its best!



As part of our unit on length and measurement, we measured the class and had the students pop themselves into order shortest to tallest. The students loved seeing where they were in the line amongst their friends.

JUNIOR CLASS SPECIALIST SUBJECTS

S.T.E.A.M. – Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Maths.



We have had so much fun on Fantastic Fridays! The class has investigated several questions over the semester. Can we make insect hotels? What happens when you add warm water to M & Ms? What is the life cycle of a meal worm? Are they worms? What do our skeletons do? Why is oobleck weird? What is inside a bubble? Why do the bubbles from a lemonade spider last longer? How can you blow up a balloon without using your mouth?

Can you make ice cream in a bag? How can a beam balance help us in science? There was huge excitement when we did our paper tower challenge. Juni and Evangeline made a tower that could hold a mug!

We love our active science!



Performing Arts

We have been dancing, singing and creating up a storm in Performing Arts for Term 4!

We have continued to learn some Auslan to help us communicate in a non-verbal way. We have learnt some emotions and the colours of the rainbow – this you will see at the End-of-Year concert.

Each session we have read a different book and then explored these in our own unique way. We have explored the jungle after reading 'A Walk in the Jungle', and examined how to make a rocket ship to go to the moon and what it might be like on the moon after reading 'Moon Sailors'. The students have created some fantastic visceral spaces – a unicorn rocket with rainbow wings, a walk on the moon amongst the stars, jungle walks with animal obstacles and rivers to cross.

We have worked together and learnt how to navigate our friends ideas that are different to ours and how to listen to each other with open hearts.



MIDDLE YEARS CLASS

English

This term in English, we have dived further into text analysis and comprehension. Our students have written inspirational poems that were entered into a nation wide competition. Unfortunately no one from our school featured in the shortlisted poems but our students were proud of the poems nonetheless. We have also engaged in a lot of creative writing, learning the important features needed to create engaging stories.



Mathematics

This term in Mathematics, our students engaged in learning about money, volume and capacity. We also reviewed the trickier topics such as multiplication, division, fractions and decimals. Some highlights were our bush adventures where students showed their understanding of fractions and money. They also figured out the many ways we can measure an orange! These ranged from measuring juice, the area of the peel and the volume of an orange.



Performing Arts

The Middle Years class have been working tremendously hard on their performance for the End of Year concert and performances for Corroborree. They have been learning lines, planning set and costumes, and working hard on their characterisation for their chosen characters. The class also thoroughly enjoy re-creating Monty Python sketches and having the whole school in stitches with their comedic timing.



We can't wait for you to see 'Santa's Cookie Problem' on Wednesday night!



Design and Technology

This term we have continued holding weekly sessions with Raymond to work on timber trays and kitchen utensils.



S.T.E.A.M. - Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Maths.



Destyn with his limestone sculpture

This semester we have had lots of fun learning and working with limestone, acids and bases, forces, and weather. The students used the scientific method and the Fair test concept to design their own experiments involving paper rockets, slime, the water cycle and how an acid can make a sickly sweet drink taste good! We made clouds - literally, as well as models of cloud types. Every session involved a hands on activity and usually ended up with a lot of cleaning to do!



Nathan setting off his paper rocket



Sherbrooke Falls excursion

The weather excursion to Ferny Creek weather station and Sherbrooke Falls was a great success. We learnt about our local community and how the forest is affected by storms. We started our first Citizen Science Participation event with the Great Aussie Bird Count. More of that fun to come in 2023!



Excursion, Charlie's stretchy slime, Slime investigations, Faith's evil brew!

Cooking

This term we have been cooking more regularly much to the students' delight. It has been a rewarding experience for all as we cooked meals and ate together, usually speaking about special life experiences we have had. Some of our masterpieces this term have been risotto, pasta and apple crumble. We also took a trip to the local bakery and spent our usual cooking budget by enjoying some delicious treats 😊



HIGH SCHOOL



English

In English, the High School class have been working on creative writing. They have written poetry and creative stories based on imagery and metaphors. They created 'Choose Your Own Adventure' stories using a flow chart and have built these in Minecraft. A lot of creativity has gone into these pieces of writing and each student was able to create a vastly different story. Building the adventure story in Minecraft meant using different literacy skills and spacial creativity.

Humanities

Humanities this term included economics and business and civics and citizenship. We watched a video of how Apple cunningly convince people that an iPhone is a need rather than a want, which led to an interesting conversation on whether a teenager could live without a mobile phone. Students budgeted an interstate move to investigate the housing and labour market. The high school then saw some fierce debating on topics such as pineapple on pizza during our civics study. During the Victorian State Election we created our own candidates and a secret ballot for the Monbulk ward saw Jayden now representing us in parliament.



Halloween Ghost House Crew



Visual Arts and Cooking

The students spent time researching and identifying what artistic elements they liked in Gingerbread House designs. They created a template of their own design and researched the products they wanted for their house. Using a template, they all created their own gingerbread house and have designed them using their individual flair to create a unique house.

The High School building smells amazing; the Christmas spices permeate the air in the kitchen and classroom – YUM!



Science

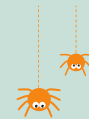
The world of Minecraft was again an interesting tool for science where we could use code to build roller coaster models which investigated Newtons Laws of Motion! Then some incredible roller coasters were built to examine the relationship between wheels and friction. We dropped things from a great height to explore gravity, made compasses from paper clips to reveal the Earths' magnetic field and hoisted our business manager to the ceiling to demonstrate mechanical advantage!



Year 7
Fencing Project

Maths

Students created interactive models in Minecraft to explore volume and area which included building some very large skyscrapers and a scale model of the Eureka tower. In statistics and probability we investigated the Census data for The Basin to discover the average house price and salary. Students enjoyed programming in blocks and python in preparation for the International Hour of Code challenge in the last week of term.



Halloween Cookies

Performing Arts

The High School students have been practicing their argumentative and improvisational skills. Adopting the 'Yes, and...' structure of improvisation, the class created their own Cluedo performance around the gold table in the hall. They performed this for Corroborree, asking the rest of the school to identify who the murderer was.

They also learnt the structure of a debate: researching, planning and practicing each speaking role, and then arguing their point of view.

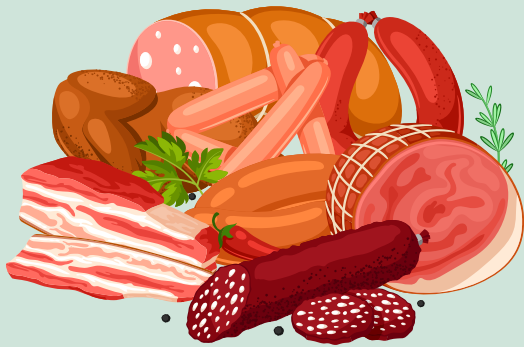


Bushcraft in Term 4 suffered from perhaps the wettest run of Thursday mornings in spring ever recorded! Despite this, students learnt how to light fires in damp and difficult conditions and make a cup of tea using a tripod and billy. Cooking damper on a stick proved to be very popular too. We sometimes mixed bushcraft with science by making our own compasses to find Mt Dandenong and then used real compasses to practice map reading and navigation. The exciting challenge next year will be to pass these skills on to the new senior school students before learning new tricks!

THANK YOU

We wish to express our sincere appreciation to the following local businesses for their sponsorship and generous donations towards our End-of-Year Concert.

We're so grateful for their support!



THE BASIN FREE RANGE AND GRASS FED MEATS

1319 Mountain Highway
The Basin
VIC 3154

9762 1639

BAKERS DELIGHT BORONIA JUNCTION

8/123 Boronia Road
Boronia
VIC 3155

9762 0556



thank
★ you ★