FISHY NEWS NUMBER 1 RESPECT FAIRNESS COMMITMENT 30TH JANUARY 2025

Fishy News

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Principal's Message

Welcome back to everyone for the start of a new school year. It was great to see all 115 students here and happy and ready to start the school year on Wednesday morning. It was also wonderful to visit all the classrooms and speak to students about their holiday break. I would like to give a special welcome to our 10 new prep students who have just started their schooling adventure. It was great to see how comfortable they were at the school, for some of them it looked like they had been here for years. For the new parents at the school I would like to welcome you to our wonderful school community. It was great to catch up with a few of you at Gibsons for a coffee yesterday. Just a quick reminder that during the remaining Wednesdays (5th, 12th, 19th and 26th) in February the prep students will be doing their initial testing. Prep students are only required to come in for their allocated time on these days, if you have yet to arrange a time, please see Shelley or contact the office.

New Staff

We have had a lot of new staff join us over the holiday period. A big welcome to Burke Vanderzalm who has joined our school this year as a trainee. Mackenzie Power will be working in Educational Support, John Reid will be our new P.E teacher. Molly Patton will be teaching MARC van and Amy Answerth will also be working in educational support. It is amazing how quickly the school has grown; when I started here back in 2016 we had 75 students and 8 staff. We now have 115 students and a staff of 23!

Burke

Mackenzie

Mr Reid

Miss Patton

Nature Playground

The students were very surprised to see a nature playground installed over the holidays near our blue-gums area. The area includes a natural sandpit, stepping stones a dry creek bed and a bridge. The nature playground has been a long time in the making and I would like to thank our school council for all the work they put in to make this possible. Also, thanks to Enzo's landscaping and Amber Creek Sawmill for their time and effort. I hope the students enjoy the playground for many years to come.

Cheers, Dale

Fish Creek & District Primary School

Hoddle Road
Fish Creek VIC 3959
03 5683 2271

Important Dates

February:
7th - Cluster swimming trials
14th District swimming
17th– 21st 5/6 Camp
25th School photos
28th Division swimming

Primary Welfare

Donna Giliam
Phone: 03 9080 1881
email:
donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au

Compass

Events needing to be actioned on COMPASS:
School Photos
Local excursions consent
Swimming trials consent
Please remember to check here and COMPASS regularly

Welfare Report

My mum has a photo on her fridge of my youngest daughter in the front row of assembly, on her first day of primary school. Her face set in that unique way a prep child holds their face, anticipation, excitement, worry, joy and wonder. Today I looked at all the prep students with the same wonder in their faces, some were worried, some excited, some lip syncing the anthem – just like Mr Banks suggested.

Then I scanned each grade, looking at all the faces – new and old, ready for the new school year all belting out the national anthem, I sang along and was enjoying the rhythm of the new school year. Until I dared to scan to the back row, the row where our grade 6 kids stand. I scanned the line. There were the faces of the kids my youngest had grown up with, kinder, lockdowns, camps, cubbies, tag, sports days, swim meets, negotiations, fun times-the lot. Then my eyes landed on her – my last one here. My voice wobbled and the lump in my throat stopped me from getting through the second verse.

For a parent, the time between the front row of assembly and the back is fleeting – our kids grow so fast, the time slower for the kids – until they ponder on the speed of time at their graduation.

Welcome to 2025 – may the days between the front row and the back row be filled with wonderful and growth. When those days bring challenges, know that this community will wrap you up. If you or your child need anyone to talk to please reach out.

Donna Giliam

Mental Health Wellbeing Support

Donna.giliam@education.vic.gov.au

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Swimming Trials

On Friday the 7th of February selected grade 3-6 students will have our District swimming trials at Toora Swimming Pool. On this day our swimmers compete against Meeniyan and Tarwin Lower primary schools to see who will represent the Waratah District at the District Swimming Sports. This is not a compulsory event, it is only for students who wish to try out, and those who feel they can confidently swim 50 metres in either freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke or butterfly.

Parents and Friends

Parents and Friends (PnF) provides valuable assistance to the school in many ways such as fundraising, social events and supporting school programs. Anyone is welcome to attend the meetings which are held at the school and advertised in this newsletter each month.

Consent to Photograph, Film & Record forms

Going out today with this Newsletter is our "Photographing, Filming & Recording Consent" form. We need your permission to publish your child's first name, their photo and/or their work in different publications such as our own newsletter, our web page, the local paper etc. This new form will be valid for the length of your child's stay at our school and can be altered at later stages at your request.

Please fill in and return only the *signed last page* as soon as practical so that we can implement any restrictions.

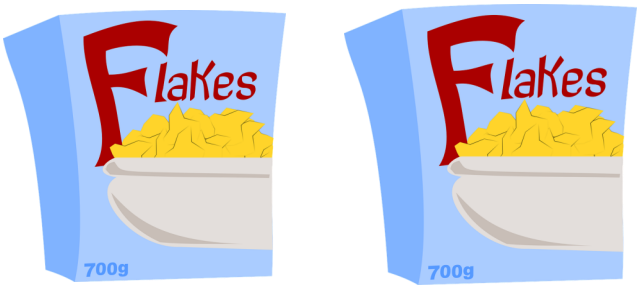
2025 Prep parents/carers have likely already submitted this form as part of their prep student's enrolment package.

Lunch Orders from Evans

Evans petrol station in Fish Creek is providing lunch orders for our students. Parents/Carers can order (and pay) directly with Evans but can also fill out an order form and send it in to school with payment. We will include lunch order forms with the next newsletter. *We do ask that you limit your child's options to those provided on the menu*.

Cardboard Boxes

Ms Hamlett has asked if anyone has empty large cereal boxes could they please bring them to school and leave them at



Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you have a valid means-tested concession card, such as a Veterans Affairs Gold Card, Centrelink Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible.

Payment amounts this year are $125 for eligible primary school students. Payments are made direct to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions and sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

If you applied for CSEF through our school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year, unless there has been a change in your family circumstances such as another family member has come to the school.

If you would like to apply for the first time, please contact the office for an application form.

You can also download the form, and find out more about the program and eligibility, on the Department of Education and Training's Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund web page.

Check with the school office if you are unsure, and please return completed forms to the school.

School Photos

A notice was sent via Compass yesterday asking for your permission to provide Blue Wolf Photography with parent names and email addresses as all photo orders are direct and online with them. Please make sure this is actioned as soon as possible.

We also have the option to do sibling photos. If you would like this, please contact the office so we can make this happen on the day.

Late Arrivals/ Early Departures

Just a reminder, students arriving late to school need to be walked in by an adult who needs to register the late arrival on the iPad at the office. If you are collecting your child early from school, please head to the office and record their early departure on the iPad.

Bus Travellers

A reminder to parents/carers of bus travellers to let the office know of any changes, permanent or temporary, to bus travel arrangements. Permanent/ regular changes must be submitted in writing to the office.

If you are at all concerned about your child's experience on the buses, please let our office staff know.

Welcome to our 2025 Preps!