FISHY NEWS NUMBER 13 RESPECT FAIRNESS COMMITMENT 8TH MAY 2025

Fishy News

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Principal's Message
Sam McLennan

We welcomed Samuel McLennan to Fish Creek Primary this week during Environmental Science. He spoke to all of the students about the boat he has built entirely out of ocean trash. He is sailing it from Hobart to Sydney, raising awareness about marine pollution and upcycling rubbish. He spoke about his passion for environmental restoration, and his incredible adventures sailing his home-made boat across Bass Strait and living in it for the past 14 months. Sam's message was not just one of the environmental importance of protecting our natural resources but also a story of resilience and inner strength. I lost count of the number of questions that the students asked; a truly thought provoking and inspirational presentation. Check out Samuels ongoing journey at https://weareexplorers.co/project-interrupt/

ATOSS

On Monday we will begin the Attitude To School Survey (A.T.O.S.S), for students in grades 4 to 6. The ATOSS is a voluntary student survey offered by the Department of Education every year to help schools and the Department understand students' experiences of school. We will ask your child about their thoughts and feelings about their school, their learning, relationships with other students, resilience, bullying, health and wellbeing, physical activity, and life in general. Families in grades 4-6 should have received compass notifications about the survey. If you have any questions regarding the survey please don't hesitate to get in touch with the office.

Mother's Day

It was great today to have our wonderful Parents and Friends group, working with the students to create Mother's/Special Person's day presents. Thank you to our volunteers for donating their time for this special project. If you are interested in joining our PnF, please contact the office or Charlotte Mortimor (PnF president).

Mother's Day Morning Tea

Tomorrow at 10am there will be a special morning tea for the P-2 grades mothers and special people. The students have been working very hard on this event and it should be lots of fun. Look forward to seeing everyone there.

Cheers, Dale

Fish Creek & District Primary School

Hoddle Road
Fish Creek VIC 3959
03 5683 2271

Important Dates

May:
9th - Prep-2 Mother's Day morning Tea 10am
16th - Winter Sports - Fish Creek
19th - Bee Excursion
21st - Little Long Walk
22nd - PnF Meeting 9 am
22nd - Cross-country
23rd - Winter Sports - Meeniyan
June:
6th - Student Free Day
9th - King's Birthday Publc Holiday
13th - District Winter Sports

Primary Welfare

Donna Giliam
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Compass

Events needing to be actioned on COMPASS:

Winter sports - Grades 5/6

Honey farm - Bee excursion

Newsfeed: ATOSS Grades 4-6

Please remember to check here and COMPASS regularly

Student of the Week

Winter Sports

Next Friday our grade 5/6 students will be commencing their winter sports program. Students had the choice of participating in football (boys and girls), netball (boys and girls), soccer or mixed sports as part of their program. Winter sports training goes for 2 consecutive Fridays (16/5 at Fish Creek and 23/5 at Meeniyan) where we join up with Meeniyan and Tarwin Lower Primary to learn new skills and gain fitness through these fantastic sports. At the end of the Winter sports, selected teams from the 3 schools will compete in a game against the Prom Coast schools. Students are required to bring a change of clothes on these days.

Welfare Report

When I was 21, I left Melbourne on a train, the first stop was going to be Albury, then a road trip with my friend Belinda to Byron Bay and then wherever the wind blew me. There is a photo of me standing on the platform that day, with a nervous smile and an enormous backpack. The weight was tremendous and within weeks I had halved the amount of gear I was carrying around.

I always had red shoes, I felt like they were the ticket home should I ever need to click my heels together and get back to family. I also always carried my very funky 'rose coloured glasses'. I loved the way they made the world look and I wore them even when it was not sunny.

Walking around the world with rose tinted glasses meant I saw beauty everywhere and this trickled through to my perspective on many things. Mistakes became opportunities and getting lost became an adventure. Optimism did and always has served me well.

I had not thought about my lightened backpack with my red shoes and my rosy glasses for a long time, until yesterday, when my daughter came home retelling stories from Samuael McLennan. She told me stories of him building a boat from waste, of him sailing the Bass Strait but the most profound part of the conversation was when we talked about choice and about perspective. She told me how the most challenging part of Samuel's life bought him to the most powerful and interesting.

A reminder that it is important every now and again to see what it is we are carrying in our 'backpacks' and ponder on how it is serving us. It might seem silly to look at the world through 'rose coloured glasses', to find all the rainbows – however, optimism sees possibility and possibly enables change. Samuel is a perfect example of this – how lucky are our kids to have met Samuel this week!

Mental Health Wellbeing Support

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Student work inspired by Samuel McLennon's visit

Samuel made his boat out of pipes and other materials that he got from the beach. He had a lot of people helping.

He came to us to tell us that being rich is not important, but GETTING RID OF RUBBISH IS IMPORTANT!!! He told us that if you look after the environment, you look after yourself. Everybody has a chance to be good. We can do the same as Samuel and help the environment . KING GEE and STORMY helped him. He actually sailed from Hobart to Sydney the mayor rejected his letter and he was sad that the mayor did that. by Henry Gr3

SAMUEL'S RUBBISH RAFT

Samuel started off rich and won lots of competitions but then he wanted to see what it felt like being homeless and poor. Then one day (he had been homeless for a while now) he believed he could build a raft with only the rubbish he found on the ground. The process of building the raft took 2 whole years, every day and every night: it was tiring but worth it!

He wanted people to believe that rubbish was as valuable as gold so they pick it all up so the animals could survive and we could survive and make the world a better place. It took him 14 months to get to Walkerville from Tasmania. Then he is going to sail to Sydney and go to a museum that has invited him to go. Then he is going to put wheels on it and go to Canberra and go to Parliament House and tell them that they should organise more clean ups. by Lucy Gr3

Samuel McLennan started off poor in a van. He learnt to be healthy then wealthy until he became mentally healthy. He wants us to be strong and never give up.

Months turning into years and he made a raft out of rubbish and it ACTUALLY FLOATED! Samuel wants us to learn that rubbish can be useful to build. He also had some sponsors on the way called KING GEE and Stormy. They gave him jackets and beanies.

He also is about to travel from Hobart to Sydney. Samuel came to Fish Creek to present to us how he made this story. by West Gr3

The Rubbish Boat

Yesterday Samuel McLennan came to visit the Grade 5/6s. He has built a boat made entirely of rubbish that has washed up on the beach. He was building for 2 years and has dared himself to take it from the southern side of Tasmania to Sydney.
He started building in 2022 and set sail in 2024. He has been sailing for 14 months and still has to go to Sydney. Right now the boat is moored in Walkerville.
The sails are made of oyster nets and rubber straps that washed up. And the frame is made of plastic pipes.
Samuel has also started a thing called Project Interrupt which is about interrupting how we think, speak and act around ourselves and other people and consider what it's doing to our environment.

by Henry
Gr 5

Fish Creek Community Pot Luck Dinner

in the Memorial Hall
Friday 9th May, 6-8pm

Bring a plate, for yourself or to share
Tea, coffee and punch for gold coin donation

Tomorrow night!!

LIGHTS……..CAMERA……..ACTION!!!!

We are looking for any offers of help for the up-coming production that will be held in Term 3. If you have any skills that you think might be of use in our production, can you please let the office know. Help is sought for all sorts of roles – from costume design and making to sound and lighting.

Foster Care
Nurturing who they are and who they want to be

As a parent, you know that every child and young person is unique, resilient and has abundant potential.

Childhood is one of the most important times in life. It's a time for discovery, growth, exploration, and learning—a time for making connections that shape who we become.

Berry Street foster carers play a vital role in supporting a child's journey and in nurturing their uniqueness. With your time and care, you can encourage and empower a child or young person who has experienced trauma to grow, develop and feel safe.

Whether it's supporting a child to feel safe and build their trust in adults, exploring their interests and developing new hobbies, or encouraging a young person that their dreams are valid, being a Berry Street foster carer is a deeply meaningful and crucial role. And one which each carer brings their unique life experience and skills to.

Join our community of foster carers and help make a positive impact on a child's life.

Phone: 1800 816 037
Email: fostercare@berrystreet.org.au
Website: berrystreet.org.au/fostercare