Forrest Primary School
Newsletter
Term 1 Week 1 2017

MISSION STATEMENT
Forrest Primary School helps all of our students reach their full potential in a safe, loving, inspiring and challenging learning environment.

We strive to develop confident, compassionate, responsible children who are lifelong learners and can make the world a better place.

Our community is culturally diverse and we value and celebrate the perspectives, knowledge, skills and abilities all bring to our school.

Dear Parents, Carers and Community Members,

Welcome to Forrest students and families, whether you are returning from 2016 or returning from posting. We welcome our new families and students as well, including those moving from other school, states or countries, or those who have come to Canberra on posting. We welcome people from all cultures, all religions, all linguistic backgrounds, all countries and we wish you a fulfilling, happy experience at Forrest Primary School, our IB World School.

Mission Accomplished! This week has been all about ‘getting our children into school.’ Our children, parents and staff seem very happy with how that process has gone. A big thanks to our deputy, Ms Hayley Singh, who had a great, new idea about arranging classes and introducing children to their new teachers at the end of the previous year.

Thank you to the people who came to see us in the ‘window of opportunity period’ early in Term 4 last year to explain what your children required to learn effectively or to make requests. We honoured that and responded by ringing you if we do as you preferred.

Next year we will refine the system more and do away with sociograms altogether as they do get in the way. The teachers know who work well together and how to make effective learning environments. We acknowledge and appreciate the high trust between the teaching staff and the community around class placements.

The kindergarten children arrived resplendent in their new school uniforms, big hats and wonderful shoes. I think they must have been up and dressed by 5 in the morning! Over the

NOTES DUE
8 year olds and above Swimming Carnival due 15 Mar
Year 5 2017 Camp due 23 Feb
Year 6 2017 Camp due 17 Feb
Year 6 Commemorative shirt due 23 Feb

PLEASE SEE ‘NOTES ARCHIVE’ UNDER THE ‘OUR SCHOOL’ TAB ON OUR WEBSITE TO PRINT EXTRA COPIES

Refer to last page for school and community contact information

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past three and a half days they have walked around the school, learnt about inquiry. We welcome it when they ask why? Why? And really why? Thank you parents, thank you teachers and the supportive specialist team who have dried up tears, applied bandaids, shared laughter and hugs and supported mums and dads and grandparents. We are on our way to having an exciting, wonder filled year of learning!

Please don’t hesitate to contact myself or the executive team if you have concerns or expressions of appreciation!

Thank you for your continued support,

Chris Pilgrim on behalf of the executive team.

Library News

We hope you can visit our lovely library and see the beautiful deck and new bifold doors which open up the reading area of the library to the beautiful view of the trees. We look forward to many opportunities for inside and outside learning and play. This year we will continue our work with the redevelopment of the library staff work area then the library lab.

The library redevelopment project will ensure we have a vibrant, collaborative, agile learning and community space for the 21st century, supporting reading for information and pleasure, research for the units of inquiry for the Primary Years Programme as well as providing support for Lunchtime clubs, community meetings, Homework Club and extracurricular activities.

Opening Hours:

The library is open for students at lunchtimes Monday – Friday for quiet reading, drawing, card and board games and soon the Senior Computer Coding Club and Origami Club.

Parents and carers are welcome with their children to visit the library before school, 8:30-8:55 or after school 3:00-3:30 to read together or play a board game. Parents and carers are also able to borrow up to 4 books.

Student Borrowing:

Students have a weekly library borrowing session starting in Week 2 and your child’s classroom teacher will let you know which day. Students in Preschool to Year 3 require a library bag.

Preschool - 1 book weekly
Kindergarten - 1 book weekly
Year 1 and 2 -2 books weekly
Year 3 and 4 -3 books for up to 2 weeks
Year 5 and 6 - 4 books for up to 2 weeks

Parents/Carers - 4 books for up to 2 weeks

Whiz Kids: Senior Students can volunteer to be on a roster to support and facilitate library activities at lunch times.

Book Promotions coming up:

Library Lovers’ Week is 13-17 February. Encourage your child to read you a story that s/he loves and you might like to read your favourite childhood story to your child too. Check your ACT Libraries for special activities for families in that week and we will also celebrate at school.

Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge. Students are encouraged to read 15 books from any genre in library/class and home time during Term 1-3. Class teachers will monitor the class reading logs and Year 4-6 students receive an individual reading log during Term 1 to complete at home.

August: Scholastic Book Fair and Book Week

We always appreciate parent/carer assistance with book covering at home during the term. Please come to the Library before or after school to see the Library staff to collect a bag of books and contact for covering.

Happy Reading!

Louise McMullen-Teacher Librarian

Kindergarten - 1st Day of School

Congratulations to all the kindergarten students who attended their first day of primary school on Monday 30 January. The teachers were proud of the way the students confidently participated in the class room activities and cooperated with each other in the playground. The kinder students attended a whole school assembly and began to build positive relationships with teachers and peers. Thank you to the parents who came along to the staffroom for a cup of tea and to discuss life at Forrest Primary School. We look forward to seeing you at the parent information session next week.

Showtime in the City

Showtime in the City brings the best of the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show to the city centre, with snow cones, popcorn, showbags and a petting zoo all on offer between 10 and 11 February, in Petrie Plaza.

This free event showcases the family-fun atmosphere away from the showground in one of Canberra’s most accessible spaces, as part of the Government’s commitment to bring our city to life through the City Action Plan.

Tickets to the ActewAGL Royal Canberra Show will be available for sale at a ticket booth both days. Showtime in the City will take place in Petrie Plaza 10 (4pm-9.30pm) and 11 February (10am-4pm).

Showtime in the City is an initiative supported by the ACT Government and the City Action Plan, the Royal National Capital Agricultural Society and ActewAGL. To find out more information or to have your say on the future of Canberra’s city centre visit YourSay.act.gov.au/activetecivic.
How to book your Parent/Teacher interviews

**NOTE:** Information entered into this booking system is outside of the school’s network and therefore under the privacy information policy of the website sobs.com.au – their policy states that they will not disclose this information to any other party, and nor will the information be used for any other purpose than managing these interviews.

1. Visit the website
   www.sobs.com.au

2. Type in your **email address**

3. Enter your **name and contact details**

4. Enter your **child’s full name** and select **year level** from the drop down menu

5. If your child’s name already appears in this list, check the **year level** and adjust this as necessary by clicking the arrows

   Click on the **Book Interviews** or **Adjust Interviews** button to book or change your interviews
6. Select the teachers you require interviews with by **ticking the boxes**

7. Scroll and select available slots with staff member. The green slots are available. Gray slots are unavailable. As you **click a green slot** it will turn pink and your child's name will appear in that time. You will only be able to book once with each teacher, and only once in each time slot. Ideally you want to select interview slots that are chronological so that you can move from one interview to the next without having to wait around. Once you have selected your interview slots click the 'Save' button.

   If you **change your mind** click the pink slot and it will revert to green allowing you to choose a different time slot.

8. Once saved you will have the option of **emailing** or **printing** your interview booking times. If you select the email option the schedule is sent to the email address you initially entered.
Important dates to remember
PLEASE BE MINDFUL THAT CHANGES MAY OCCUR TO THESE DATES THROUGHOUT THE TERM.
Calendar Events can also be found on the school website www.forrestps.act.edu.au

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School & Community Contact Information

Principal: Chris Pilgrim
Acting Deputy Principal: Hayley Singh
Business Manager: Ann Hayres
Board Chair: Robyn Calder
P&C President: Tui Davidson

General Enquiries: 6205 5644
Enrolment Enquiries: 6205 5632
Email: forrestps@ed.act.edu.au
Webpage: www.forrestps.act.edu.au
Deakin Preschool: 6205 6288
Forrest Out Of School Hours Care: 6295 8985

Please note that contact information is subject to change.