

# FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Newsletter Week 4 Term 4 2021

### 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.

### EXECUTIVE ADDRESS

#### Welcome Back!

Monday morning was a hive of activity at Forrest Primary School, as our Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 6 students returned to in-person learning. If you didn't know better, you would think it was the start of a new school year! It was so wonderful to see all the smiling faces of students, parents and teachers, even if they were covered by masks. We are so proud of the way students have settled back into school routine and have demonstrated their resilience with the new school procedures.

Some of the funny comments we have heard include:

'Is it break time yet? I'm tired.' (It was only 9:30am).

'I'm glad to be back at school, my teacher at home always gets cranky at me.'

'I love school. I hope I never have to do school at home again!'

'Can you give me all my work now so I can get it done quickly?'

Since a picture says a thousand words, please enjoy our snapshots on page 4 of the first day back at school for Term 4!

#### Traffic

With the return to school, we would like to take this opportunity to remind everyone to please be patient and follow the rules when using our traffic system. In alignment with our COVID safety policy, students need to be able to get themselves out of the car including opening and closing car doors, whilst parents remain in their vehicles. If your child is unable to do this, we suggest either practising these steps at home, or parking and collecting your child from a designated location.

#### World Teachers Day

Today is World Teachers Day, a day for Australia to celebrate and thank teachers. However, since many of our teachers are not back in the classroom until next week, Forrest Primary School will celebrate it on **Thursday 4 November**. The theme of World Teachers Day 2021 is 'Teachers at the heart of education recovery'. This year we would like to celebrate

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### JUST A FEW REMINDERS...

If your child is **absent** from school, please notify the front office (*rather than any individual staff member*) by email or phone. This helps us to record student absences accurately and on time.

If your child arrives **late** to school (i.e. after 9:00am), please remind them to sign in at the front office and receive a late slip.

If you need to collect your child **early** from school (i.e. before 3:00pm), please give the front office as much notice as possible via email or phone.

**[forrestps@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:forrestps@ed.act.edu.au)**  
**6142 1470**

our teachers (with support from parents and carers) who have ensured education continues, despite major challenges faced this year. From 14 October, you can help collect a million virtual apples to thank teachers across Australia at [www.worldteachersday.edu.au](http://www.worldteachersday.edu.au). Visit <https://worldteachersday.edu.au/for-parents-community> for other ideas of how parents / carers and students can get involved.

### Colour Explosion

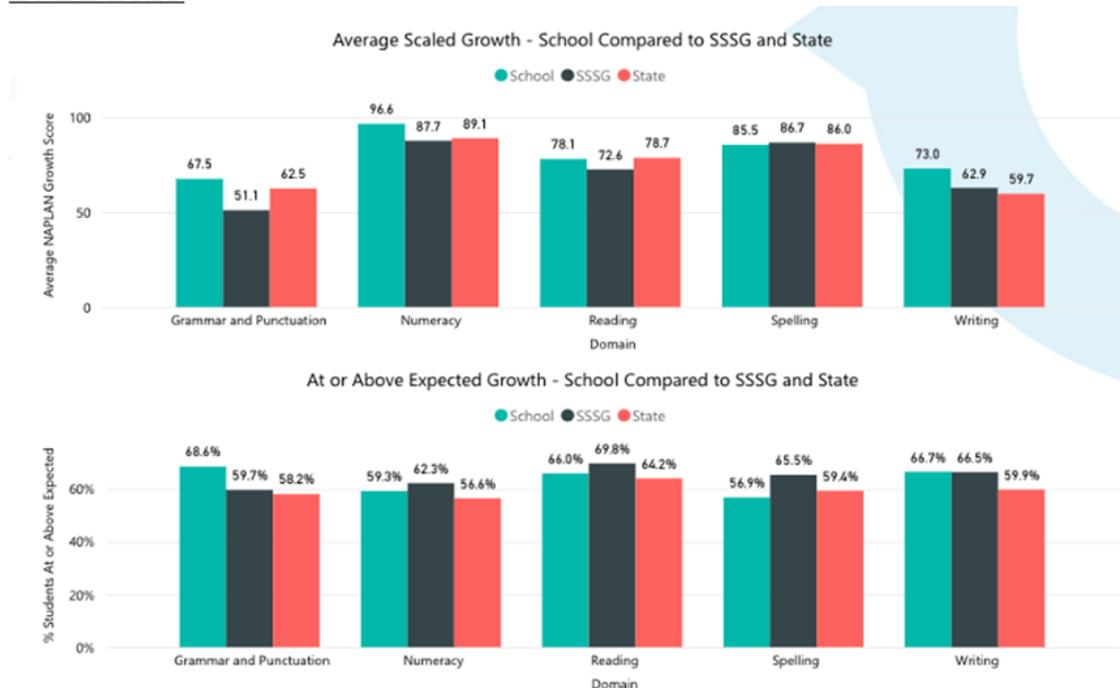
The Forrest Primary School Colour Explosion will be held on Thursday 2 December. All fundraising needs to be in by Wednesday 24 November to allow for the ordering of prizes. To date we have raised over \$17, 000. These funds will be used to purchase iPads, Chromebooks and interactive whiteboards. If you have not created your online fundraising page yet, it's not too late! Jump online to [www.myprofilepage.com.au](http://www.myprofilepage.com.au) and click register. By raising only \$10, you can win some amazing prizes!

### NAPLAN Reports

Every year when we receive our NAPLAN results, the teaching teams, supported by the Executive Team, analyse the data to determine areas of strength and areas for improvement. As a school we use the cohort data to reflect on best practice and set goals for future improvement. We also use the data to evaluate the effectiveness of new initiatives. Teachers triangulate the data with other in-school data sets to support individual student improvement. This year we have noticed that the Year 3 students have performed well in the areas of reading and grammar/punctuation, are on par with state scores for numeracy, and that spelling and writing are areas for improvement. Our Year 5 students have performed well in grammar/punctuation and numeracy, and their spelling and writing scores are the strongest scores the school has achieved in many years! Their area for continued development is reading.

NAPLAN data is also very helpful in measuring student growth over time. The following graph shows this growth measured in two ways. Firstly, 'average scaled growth', and secondly, as a percentage of students who perform 'at or above expected growth'. Please note that the black column, 'SSSG', represents statistically similar schools across NSW and the ACT. The 'State' refers to NSW and the ACT.

#### Year 5 Growth



There is large uncertainty around the ability estimates for **extremely high performing students**. Students with **extremely** high results in the base year may be reported as having negative growth. Growth scores for these students are less meaningful and should be interpreted with extreme caution. A key benefit of transitioning to NAPLAN Online is that the growth scores for these students will be much more precise and accurate than those currently reported.

The school will continue to analyse data sets, both systematic and in-school, to support targeted improvements. NAPLAN reports have been posted to families. If you would like to discuss your child's NAPLAN results, please contact your child's class teacher.

### Assessment and Reporting

Teachers and the Executive Team have been working continuously on assessment and reporting during Semester 2. At the end of last term an Assessment and Reporting Audit was completed, which aligned school procedures with recommendations from the Education Directorate. As a staff we discussed our beliefs and values around assessment and developed a whole school agreement on how we can authentically assess students before, during and after lockdown.

Teachers understand that assessment tasks must consider equity to ensure all students are given what they need to flourish. When assessing students for Semester 2 reports, we will draw from what students have learnt before, during and after lockdown, as core literacy practices and assessment have been ongoing throughout the year. Teachers are formatively assessing all the time and will consider a student's disposition to learning, individual learning style, and ILP / PLP goals if applicable, when reporting in Semester 2.

Semester 2 Reports will be emailed to parents and carers on **Thursday 9 December** (Week 10). Please ensure your email address is up to date on our records—you can email [forrestps@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:forrestps@ed.act.edu.au) to check. As usual, teachers are ready and willing to talk to you about your child's progress. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any areas of concern that you would like to discuss.

### 2022 Class Placements

It is that time of year again where you can talk to Chris Pilgrim (Principal), Renee Berry (Deputy Principal) or Jemma O'Brien (Deputy Principal) about your child's class placement for 2022. You can make a phone appointment through the front office or email us at [forrestps@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:forrestps@ed.act.edu.au) with your requests, until **Friday 19 November** (Week 7) only. Please remember:

- We want to know about your child's needs. Information about your child's personality, disposition, and work habits help us to place children into classes.
- You can nominate three children you would like your child to be with in a class. We can guarantee one of your choices only. We cannot guarantee all of them and we cannot guarantee your choice if you only nominate one or two children.
- We have not finalised teacher placements for 2022 and we do not allow parents to choose teachers for their children. Please respect that our staff are highly professional and expert teachers, who will arrange classes based on the educational, social and emotional needs of your child.
- We will contact you if your request cannot be met.

Thank you for your continued support.

Nicole Richardson  
on behalf of the Executive Team





**WELCOME BACK!**



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR

## Have you heard about **The Forrest Squad**?

They've put an outstanding effort into supporting the students of Forrest Primary School!

During remote learning, the 11 squad members met for weekly meetings with Mrs Kowalski (and sometimes Ms Pilgrim and Ms Berry when they could make it!) to discuss how they could best support students and families during lockdown. The ideas and discussions were inspirational and led to many new concepts being developed over the multiple weeks at home. The squad provided fun quizzes for families, and created signs and videos leading the students out of lockdown, with meaningful messages for each year level. The videos focused on the changes that had occurred at school, such as playground spacing, hygiene practices, mask-wearing, and cohort grouping. They helped many students understand the importance of making sure the school stays safe and alleviated many fears about returning to school.

The squad members are looking forward to seeing all the students back at school, and will continue to support them during this transition.



The Forrest Squad!

# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS



Forrest Primary School's Colour Explosion  
will be held on

**Thursday 2 December 2021**

Fundraising for the event will close on  
Wednesday 24 November to allow for the  
ordering of prizes.



# SCHOOL HAPPENINGS

## Forrest Primary School Colour Explosion

Great effort!

Since we started this event, lots of students have already started fundraising!

Way to go!

To date we have raised **\$17, 851!**

With five weeks to go before the event, the countdown is on!

Keep fundraising – there are lots of prizes up for grabs!

Remember that all funds raised will go towards purchasing iPads, Chromebooks and IWBs (interactive whiteboards).

Most importantly, visit [myprofilepage.com.au](http://myprofilepage.com.au) to create your profile page and share it with your family and friends to spread the word!



# COMMUNITY NOTICES

BEGA VALLEY | BELCONNEN | CALWELL | COOMA | CORROBOREE  
EURO COAST | GINNINDERRA GOULBURN-MULWAREE | GUNGAHLIN  
JINDABYNE | LANYON | MURRUMBATEMAN | QUEANBEYAN  
SOUTHERN TABLELANDS | TUGGERANONG | WESTON CREEK | WODEN



## REGISTER NOW



ARE YOUR KIDS INSPIRED BY THE OLYMPIANS? MAYBE THEY COULD WEAR THE GREEN AND GOLD IN 2032!



LEARN THE FUNDAMENTALS OF RUNNING, JUMPING AND THROWING IN A FUN AND FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT.

FOR KIDS FROM 5 TO 16 YEARS WITH CENTRES ACROSS THE ACT AND SURROUNDING REGIONS.

[ATHLETICSINTHEACT.COM.AU](http://ATHLETICSINTHEACT.COM.AU)

CONTACT US: (02) 6247 1296 OR [ADMINISTRATION@ACTLAA.ORG.AU](mailto:ADMINISTRATION@ACTLAA.ORG.AU).

# CONTACTS

<b>Front Office:</b>	6142 1470
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<b>Website:</b>	www.forrestps.act.edu.au
<b>Principal:</b>	Chris Pilgrim, christine.pilgrim@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Deputy Principals:</b>	Renee Berry, renee.berry@ed.act.edu.au Jemma O'Brien, jemma.o'brien@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Business Manager:</b>	Sonya Campbell, sonya.campbell@ed.act.edu.au
<b>Board Chair:</b>	Cameron Bowles, fpsboardchair@gmail.com
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