

FORREST PRIMARY SCHOOL



Newsletter Week 1 Term 1 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.

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new students and families! We're all excited and full of energy for learning and renewing relationships! If you have any questions, please ask your child's teacher, the front office staff or any executive teacher. My door is always open for a chat – just ask at the front office or make a time to talk. If I'm not available at the time I will get back to you.

Our school newsletter is usually sent out on even-numbered weeks of the term. However, this week we have a special edition to give you some vital information.

COVID Practices

At all times we will practise COVID safety – washing hands thoroughly, keeping 1.5 metres apart, monitoring and managing the number of people in the building or at events, and using the Check In CBR App.

Virtual Parent Information Q&A Sessions

Parent information sessions will be virtual this year, and they're coming up soon – early next week on Tuesday 9 February. A note regarding these sessions and including a Google slide presentation was emailed to all families yesterday. The Q&A sessions will be conducted via Google Meet, with Kindergarten – Year 2 at 6:00pm and Years 3 – 6 at 6:30pm. All teachers in the team will be present. Recordings of these sessions will be available via See-saw for any parents/carers unable to join the Google Meet.

Assemblies

After lockdown in 2020, assemblies in their face-to-face form are back! We will start in Week 4 and you'll find out who is doing the first one in next week's newsletter. We can

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday 9 February

Virtual Parent Information Q&A Session

Thursday 25 February

Swimming Carnival

JUST A REMINDER!

When your child is **absent** from school, please inform the front office via email:

forrestps@ed.act.edu.au

If your child is **late** to school (even by five minutes), they need to come to the front office for a late arrival pass.

If you need to collect your child **early** from school, please inform the front office in advance where possible.

have 500 visitors so people in the hall will be spaced 1.5m apart (but families will sit together of course). If you can't be accommodated inside the hall, we will have the doors open so the audience can spill out onto the veranda. It will be on a 'first in best dressed' arrangement, and we will need your cooperation to make it work.

'Getting To Know You' Interviews

These will take the form of phone calls this year. Teachers will call all families during Weeks 3 and 4 to make contact and learn anything you want them to know about your child. If you'd really like a face-to-face meeting with the teacher, this can be arranged during the phone call. Teachers will be interested in setting some personal goals for your child in the areas of literacy, maths and an interest or competency area, so please feel free to contribute to this during the conversation. (Your child will also be consulted to form these goals, so the goals are co-created by the child, parent and teacher).

Kindergarten and Year 1 Parent Visits

Over the next few weeks, teachers in Kindergarten and Year 1 will open their classrooms for parents to visit, to see how the classroom works and how their children have settled in. This will be organised in small groups and parents are invited to stay for 20 – 30 minutes. (Teachers will send invitations via email or Seesaw). During those times we will have the Principal or an executive teacher available in the staffroom for questions or a chat.

New Demountable Building

We have been very fortunate to receive a third demountable building, which will be for classes 4D and 4P. It should be ready soon but progress was hindered by recent rain! Never mind, it will be ready in the next month and is brand spanking new with beautiful furniture, new smart TVs and most importantly, wonderful, excited, motivated teachers!

Staffing

We will give you the staffing update next week as last-minute details about who is doing what will be completed by then. (It always takes a little while at the beginning of each year due to changes in individual circumstances).

We look forward to seeing more of you this year and to educating your children by looking after all the precious parts of them! Our teachers are dedicated to your children and will give them their all. They appreciate working in partnership with you so please ask the questions you need to and have the conversations you want to. However, it's always good to make an appointment to speak to a teacher, as they have meetings straight after school on some days, and they can't talk at 9:00am because they are focussed on only one thing at that time: teaching! Teachers also don't sit at computers during the day – they are teaching, planning and doing lunch duties – so although they won't be able to respond to your emails or Seesaw posts immediately, they will respond in a timely manner. If you have an urgent matter, please call the front office on 6142 1470.

Traffic has been going well with most people arriving between 8:40 and 8:55am, driving with care and consideration! Thanks for that – it makes for a great start to the year.

We look forward to working with you and your children this year, and thank you for your continued support and partnership.

Chris Pilgrim
on behalf of the Executive Team

YEAR 6 NEWS

Year 6 students and teachers have started the year with great enthusiasm and have already enjoyed many engaging activities linked to their Unit of Inquiry, 'Growth Requires Navigation'.



On Tuesday, students participated in The Amazing Race activity where they worked in teams to race through a variety of obstacles and challenges. Students felt a sense of achievement whilst building connections with their teachers and peers.



In mathematics, students have focused on what it means to be a mathematician and have linked their learning to real life situations. They have also engaged in learning experiences that provide opportunities for social and emotional growth.

Students were very excited to be sized for their Year 6 polo shirts and we look forward to seeing them all in their official uniform in the next few weeks!



'Photos and Beauty' by Campbell (6B)

You can't change your true appearance on a phone but you can change it in your own way. Whatever way you do it just remember you're always beautiful in your own special way.



LIBRARY

All classes have had an opportunity to borrow library books this week, which is wonderful for the start of the 2021 Chief Minister's Reading Challenge. More details to come in the next newsletter.

Library Opening Times

We encourage interested parents and carers to come to the library to enjoy reading a story before or after school with their child. The library is open before school from **8:40 – 9:00**, and after school from **3:00 – 3:30**.

Book Borrowing

Parents and carers can borrow up to four books to take home for two weeks at a time. Preschool – Year 2 students are encouraged to bring a library bag for their library session and can borrow up to two books for one week, and Year 3 – 6 students can borrow up to four books for two weeks.

The library is open at lunch time for students to read, draw, play quiet board games or play with Lego. Kindergarten students will start coming in a couple of weeks at lunch times.

Libraries ACT News

Do you have a child aged between 0 and 5 years old? Discover what the

library has to offer them! Register them as a library member before 14 February 2021 to receive a free picture book and a special children's membership card (while stocks last). Apart from print and online resources, ACT Libraries have some great activities for families. Check out their website: www.library.act.gov.au



Here are KL students coming to the library for the first time to listen to a story, have a quiet browse and borrow a book to take home for the week.... so exciting!

Happy reading!

Louise McMullen
Teacher Librarian

CULTURE CLUB

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students are invited to join Culture Club, held in the school library from 2:05 – 3:00pm on Mondays, starting in Week 2 of each term. It is an opportunity for students to learn about culture, heritage and history, and to participate in a variety of art, music, storytelling, cooking, environment and excursion activities throughout the year with community experts, staff, and parent/carer facilitators. Thank you to the P&C who provide afternoon tea for the students.

We look forward to continuing to work with our school community on renewing our School Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). If you would like to be involved with the RAP Working Group, please let the front office staff know or email forrestps@ed.act.edu.au.



New titles in the library!

VOLUNTEERS

We look forward to welcoming back parent and community volunteers this year. Further details will come out in the next newsletter about opportunities available through the school or P&C. It is a requirement in ACT Schools for all adults who work with children to have a *Working with Vulnerable People Card* (WWVP). The WWVP scheme aims to reduce the risk of harm or neglect to vulnerable people in the ACT. It requires those who work or volunteer with vulnerable people to have a background check to determine an applicant's suitability to be registered under the scheme. You can apply for free as a volunteer through AccessCanberra@act.gov.au

SCHOOL BOARD

2021 SCHOOL BOARD NOMINATIONS

We want YOU for the Forrest Primary School Board!

If you're keen to contribute to the governance of Forrest Primary School, please nominate for a position on our School Board. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions are vacant for a one-year appointment:

- **One parent member**

Please complete a School Nomination Form—these will be available from the front office.

Nominations open: **Monday 8 February 2021, 11:00am**

Nominations close: **Monday 22 February 2021, 11:00am**

Please register your interest to the Assistant Returning Officer, Sonya Campbell, at sonya.campbell@ed.act.edu.au. You can then submit your nomination by placing it in the box provided at the Forrest Primary School front office between 8:30am and 3:30pm on a week day.

If an election is required, the voting period will be from 11:00am on 1 March 2021 to 11:00am on Tuesday 9 March 2021 (please note that Monday 8 March is a public holiday).

Once decided, the appointment will commence 1 April 2021.

CONTACTS

Front Office:	6142 1470
Enrolments:	6142 1476
Deakin Preschool:	6142 2853
Email address:	forrestps@ed.act.edu.au
Website:	www.forrestps.act.edu.au
Principal:	Chris Pilgrim, christine.pilgrim@ed.act.edu.au
Deputy Principals:	Hayley Singh, hayley.munsie@ed.act.edu.au Renee Berry, renee.berry@ed.act.edu.au
Business Manager:	Sonya Campbell, sonya.campbell@ed.act.edu.au
Finance Officer:	Ann Hayres, ann.hayres@ed.act.edu.au
Board Chair:	Simone Alabaster, simmic@tpg.com.au
P&C President:	Jarrod Fitzgerald, president@forrestpandc.com.au
P&C Website:	www.forrestpandc.com.au
Forrest Out Of School Hours Care:	6295 8985, info@fooshc.org.au
Uniform Shop:	uniforms@forrestpandc.com.au
Canteen:	canteen@forrestpandc.com.au