

Ferny Creek PS Connections

Together we make a difference

Friday 23rd May 2025

Hi everyone,

National Volunteer Week for 2025

This week is National Volunteer Week for 2025. We celebrate the power of volunteering to bring people together with the theme 'Connecting Communities'.

To all our volunteers,

On behalf of our entire school community, we want to extend our heartfelt thanks for the time, energy, and care you have so generously given. Whether you've been organising and supporting events, assisting with excursions and camps, working your magic in our outdoor spaces or lending a hand behind the scenes, your contribution has made a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and staff.

Your kindness and dedication embody the spirit of community that makes our Ferny Creek Primary School such a special place. Thank you for showing up, for your passion and generosity, and for the positive example you set for our young learners. We are truly grateful for everything you do.

Book Fair Thank you

We have just completed another very successful Scholastic Book Fair. The money and rewards earned during book fair will allow us to purchase new books and resources to further encourage a love for reading! We would like to extend our gratitude to Robyn Adderly for coordinating parent helpers and assisting with set up. Also, a big thank you to all the wonderful parents that helped before and after school at book fair. This would not have been possible without the parent volunteers in our community. Thank you.

Celebrating Our Breakfast Club Success!

We're thrilled to celebrate the wonderful success of our new **Breakfast Club** – what a fantastic start it's been! Thursday mornings have been filled with fun, community spirit, and the delicious smell of **yummy toast** in the air.

A huge **thank you** to our amazing **parent and staff volunteers** who have generously given their time and energy to make sure every child starts the day with a full tummy and a smile. We're also incredibly proud of our **student helpers**, who have stepped up with enthusiasm and teamwork to support the smooth running of Breakfast Club.

The dedication of our parents has helped to create a welcoming space where students can connect, fuel up, and feel ready to learn. Please come along and support this valuable new program.





Why Breakfast Matters for Learning

We all know that mornings can be a bit rushed, but making time for breakfast really does make a big difference for our kids at school. A good breakfast helps students start the day with the energy they need to focus, learn, and feel their best.

When children eat breakfast, they're more likely to concentrate in class, stay calmer, and be ready to take on new challenges. It can also improve memory and problem-solving skills—which means they're set up for a great day of learning!

Breakfast also helps build healthy routines and gives kids the nutrients they need to grow strong and stay well. Whether it's a bowl of cereal, a piece of fruit, or some yummy toast at Breakfast Club, every little bit counts.

Enrol for Foundation (Prep) 2026

If you or anyone you know has a child starting school in 2026, you are now invited to apply for enrolment. School tours are run every Wednesday at 2.30pm or by appointment.

We will be holding two **open nights** to come and meet the principal and hear about all our wonderful programs and opportunities for students to thrive at Ferny Creek Primary School.

Monday 2nd June from 5pm and Wednesday 18th June from 5pm.

Download the Foundation (Prep) Enrolment Information Pack for Parents and Carers

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/school/parents/Foundation-Prep-enrolment-information-pack-parents-carers.pdf>

This pack includes an application form. Our school can provide you with a printed copy of the form to complete.

Submit your enrolment application to the school by Friday 25 July 2025.

School Council

Our **School Council** plays an important role in helping make our school the best it can be! Made up of parents, staff, and community members, the council works together to support school planning, approve budgets, help with events, and make decisions on things like policies, facilities, and fundraising.

It's a great way for families to have a voice in the school and stay involved in shaping the direction of our learning community. We're always thankful for the time and effort our School Council members give – they help make a big difference behind the scenes!

Our 2025 school councillors are:

Frank Packer (President), Anthony Askew (Vice President), Elynn Dang (Treasurer), Brendan Lawrence, Ben Dean, Jodie Benedick, Kelly Jacob, Kristy Foskett, and Susan Vissenjoux.

Celebrating Education Support Day

Acknowledgement and Thank You to Our Education Support Staff

I would like to extend my deepest thanks to our incredible Education Support staff, whose dedication and care make a lasting impact at FCPS every day. Your kindness, initiative, and organisation are the backbone of so much of what we do. Your contributions do not go unnoticed, and we are all truly grateful for all that you bring to our school community. Thank you so much for everything you do.

Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) team

We're excited to be part of the **Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS)** program, which supports the wellbeing of all students in our school. This initiative helps build a whole-school approach to mental health by providing extra support, training, and resources for staff to better understand and respond to students' social and emotional needs. It means we can work more closely with families, support students earlier, and create an even more caring, inclusive, and mentally healthy school environment for everyone.

Our Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) team is Susan Vissenjoux, Kelly Jacob, Colene Farrell, and Brian Graham.

What Will the MHiPS Team Do?

- Promote a whole-school approach to mental health and wellbeing
- Support teachers and Education Support Staff
- Build strong partnerships with families
- Offer parent/carer engagement and learning opportunities
- Help students build emotional awareness and resilience
- Celebrate wellbeing days (e.g. R U OK? Day, Harmony Day)
- Provide targeted support for students in need

Our goal is to create a school where every child feels safe, valued and supported — and where mental health is part of everyday conversations.

Understanding the Zones of Regulation

At school, we have started using the Zones of Regulation to help students learn how to understand and manage their emotions in a healthy way. The Zones are a simple, colour-coded tool that helps children recognise how they're feeling and what they might need to get back to a "ready to learn" state.

Blue Zone: Sad, tired, sick, or bored

Green Zone: Calm, focused, happy – *ready to learn*

Yellow Zone: Frustrated, silly, nervous, or starting to lose control

Red Zone: Angry, out of control, overwhelmed

We link these Zones to characters from *Inside Out* to help students make connections:

Sadness (Blue Zone) **Joy (Green Zone)** **Fear/Disgust (Yellow Zone)** **Anger (Red Zone)**

To support students, we use strategies like sensory tools (e.g. fidget items, calming music, quiet spaces), brain breaks (like movement, stretching, or a short walk), and breathing techniques to help them move back toward the **Green Zone**.

Families can support at home by using the same language (e.g. "What zone are you in right now?"), and helping children identify which strategies help them feel calm, focused and 'ready to learn and play'.

Together, we can help our students to build emotional awareness, resilience, and the tools to thrive—both in and out of the classroom!

WHAT ZONE ARE YOU IN?

BLUE	GREEN	YELLOW	RED
			
I FEEL: ♥ Tired ♥ Slow ♥ Bored ♥ Sad ♥ Sick	I FEEL: ♥ Focused ♥ Ready to learn ♥ Calm ♥ Happy	I FEEL: ♥ Frustrated ♥ Worried ♥ Excited ♥ Silly ♥ Not in control	I FEEL: ♥ Elated ♥ Mad/Angry ♥ Terrified ♥ Out of control ♥ Yelling/Hitting
I CAN TRY... ♥ Getting a drink ♥ Walking ♥ Talking to a friend ♥ Reading a happy story	I CAN TRY... ♥ Helping others ♥ Remembering goals ♥ Finishing work ♥ Expected behaviours	I CAN TRY... ♥ Walking ♥ Counting to 10 ♥ Drawing the problem ♥ Talking to a teacher or trusted adult	I CAN TRY... ♥ Deep breaths ♥ Finding a safe space ♥ Exercise ♥ Talking to teacher

Parent Forum

We had an enthusiastic group of parents join us for a parent information panel, Growing our Future Global Citizens. Thank you to Elynn Dang for facilitating and to Katherine Lawrence and Davor Topalovic for sharing your areas of expertise with us. As a follow up to this, we would like to recommend the Raising Children Parenting Network website, particularly the advice around the use of technology in the primary years.

[Media & technology for school-age children | Raising Children Network](#)

PLEASE NOTE:

- Cross Country Carnival Friday 30th May
- School Photos Thursday 5th June
- Student Free Day on Tuesday 10th June

Have a great week,

Susan

Susan Vissenjoux – A/Principal





WE ARE PROUD TO BE A

URSTRONG SCHOOL

Creating a kinder world by
empowering kids with friendship skills.

URSTRONG's whole-school friendship strategy has improved the social climate in schools around the world, connecting over a million kids, parents, and teachers with a common language of friendship.

URSTRONG teaches kids what's normal in a friendship and the difference between healthy and unhealthy friendships. In short, we teach kids how to become Friendship Ninjas.

Friendship Ninjas know how to put out common Friendship Fires® and how to combat Mean-on-Purpose behaviour by using their Quick Comebacks. Friendship Ninjas can get their friendships back into the Green Zone by taking steps to Talk-it-Out and they also understand that friendships can change and that's okay too.

There's a Friendship Ninja in all of us and URSTRONG helps kids discover theirs!

Discover everything URSTRONG has to offer and sign up to your included Parent Membership at urstrong.com



P.S.T!
GET THAT GLOSSARY ON
YOUR FRIDGE. THEN YOU CAN
USE OUR LANGUAGE OF
FRIENDSHIP TOO!

THE URSTRONG GLOSSARY

KIDS' LANGUAGE FOR KIDS' PROBLEMS

AT URSTRONG, WE BELIEVE IT'S IMPORTANT TO USE KIDS' LANGUAGE FOR KIDS' PROBLEMS. THAT'S WHY WE HAVE OUR VERY OWN, UNIQUE LANGUAGE OF FRIENDSHIP. HERE ARE SOME IMPORTANT TERMS THAT CHILDREN, PARENTS, & TEACHERS LEARN IN OUR PROGRAM.



FRIENDSHIP NINJA

A Friendship Ninja is someone who surrounds themselves with friends in the healthy zone of the Friend-o-Meter. A Friendship Ninja is kind and friendly to everyone.

A Friendship Ninja understands the 4 Friendship Facts and puts out their Friendship Fires® when they ignite.

A Friendship Ninja stands up for themselves and their friends. A Friendship Ninja makes new friends and understands that friendships change, and that's okay.

Above all else, a Friendship Ninja is someone you want to be friends with because they're true to who they are!



FRIEND-O-CYCLE

The normal cycle of conflict in a friendship.

The phases of the Friend-o-Cycle are:

- Healthy Friendship
- Friendship Fire®
- Confront the Issue
- Talk-it-Out
- Forgive & Forget
- Closer & Stronger
- Healthy Friendship!



FRIENDSHIP FIRE®

Normal conflicts like hurt feelings, disagreements, and misunderstandings.



FRIEND-O-METER

A visual tool that helps assess how we are feeling in our friendships.



MEAN-ON-PURPOSE

Intentionally cruel, rude, malicious behaviour that is designed to hurt someone.



4 FRIENDSHIP FACTS

A set of four facts that help us have realistic expectations in our friendships so we understand what is normal.

1. No friendship (relationship) is perfect.
2. Every friendship is different.
3. Trust & Respect are the two most important qualities of a friendship.
4. Friendships change... and that's okay!



QUICK COMEBACK

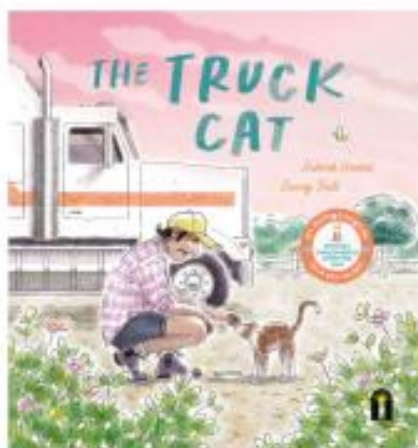
A very short word or phrase that is used when someone is Mean-on-Purpose.

Quick Comebacks are designed to let the other person know that you heard/saw what they did and you're not okay with it.

LEARN MORE AT URSTRONG.COM



National Simultaneous Storytime



Some cats are house cats.

Some are apartment cats.

But Tinka is a truck cat.

Tinka lives everywhere.

National Simultaneous Storytime (NSS) is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association (ALIA). Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator, is read simultaneously in libraries, schools, pre-schools, family day cares, childcare centres, bookshops, family homes and many other places around the country. Now in its 25th successful year, it is a colourful, vibrant, fun event that aims to promote the value of reading and literacy, using an Australian children's book that explores age-appropriate themes, and addresses key learning areas of the National Curriculum for Foundation to Year 6.

This year, the book was read by the author, Deborah Frenkel, and live streamed for students to view her reading her own book. Students also watched illustrator Danny Snell draw Tinka and then had a go drawing it for themselves. This book was also celebrated through other activities and will feature as part of our specialist programs. We are looking forward to next year, when we can hopefully celebrate all together in our to-be-renovated library.





Australian Library and
Information Association

Hardie Grant
CHILDREN'S PUBLISHING

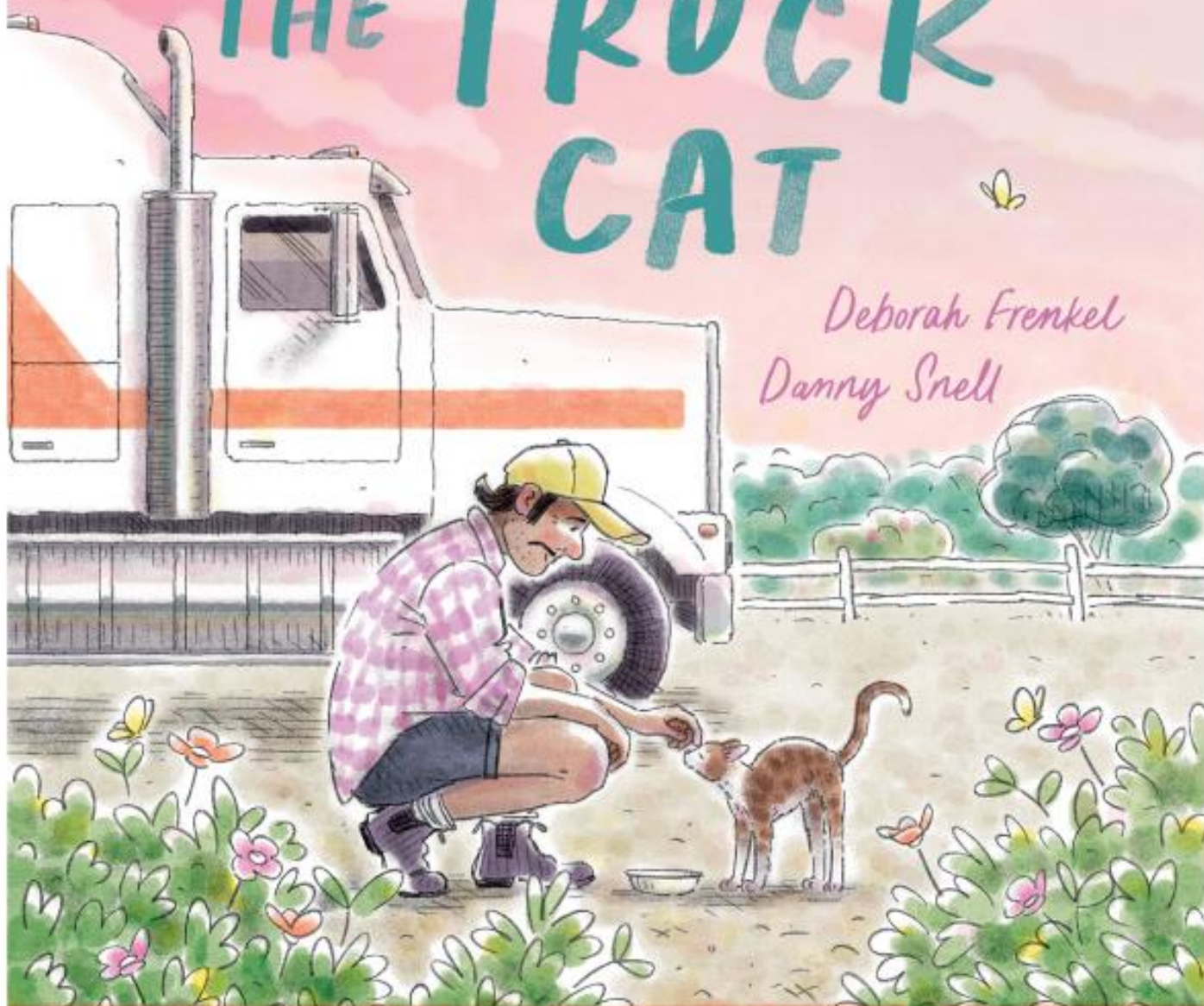
LIANZA

Ferny Creek Primary School Students

was one of 2,204,658 participants that shared a reading of

THE TRUCK CAT

Deborah Frenkel
Danny Snell



NATIONAL SIMULTANEOUS STORYTIME

21 May 2025 | www.alia.org.au/nss | [#librarestorytime](https://twitter.com/librarestorytime)



FEELING THE CHILL?

**ORDER YOUR FERNY CREEK PS
BEANIE NOW!**

\$20 each for a limited time!

One size. Pre-orders taken until **Tuesday, 3rd June**. Limited quantity available after that. Delivery expected before the end of term.

**DON'T FORGET
THE PARENTS TOO!**

Student name: _____

Class: _____

No. of beanies _____

Payment method: Cash enclosed Credit card Direct Deposit

Cost: \$ _____

Account Name: Ferny Creek Primary School

BSB: 063414 Account Number: 10022451 Ref: Child Surname Beanie



SAME-DAY NOTIFICATION OF UNEXPLAINED STUDENT ABSENCES

FACT SHEET FOR SCHOOLS

Protecting the safety and wellbeing of children through reporting and monitoring of absenteeism is the responsibility of both parents/carers and schools.

Parents and carers have an obligation to notify the school of their child's absence as soon as possible **on the day of absence** using the school's preferred method, including use of an online IT or app, by telephone or by email.

[Factsheet for school for same-day notification of unexplained student absences](#)

New School Attendance Guidelines

From the end of Term 2 2018, all Victorian government schools must contact parents/carers as soon as practicable on the same-day of an unexplained student absence.

The same-day notification requirement supports the safety and wellbeing of all students. Schools need to know when and why a child is absent and parents/carers need to know if their child is not at school. Prompt communication also promotes daily school attendance. Going to school every day is the single most important part of a child's education. Children and young people who regularly attend school and complete Year 12 or an equivalent qualification have better health outcomes, better employment outcomes, and higher incomes across their lives.

Many schools are already implementing a same-day notification system. The Department of Education and Training (the Department) is supporting schools to meet this new requirement using available online solutions where practicable and ensuring parents and carers are aware of their responsibility to notify schools of a child's absence through promotional material including the Parent/carer Factsheet.

For further information on attendance, including the new School Attendance Guidelines, see the [School Policy Advisory Guide](#).

Schools and parents working together to support student attendance

Building positive and collaborative relationships through clear communications with parents and carers is critical to the successful implementation of the same-day notification requirement.

The responsibility needs to be underpinned by shared understandings and expectations about the procedures for monitoring, recording and follow-up of student attendance as outlined in the school's *Attendance Policy*. Distributing the school's *Attendance Policy* to parents and carers will help ensure they are aware of their obligation to notify the school of their child's absence and minimise the follow-up required by schools.

For support to update your school's Attendance Policy, see: [Policy template portal](#)



EVERY DAY COUNTS

What is the school's responsibility?

- **Notify parents/carers:** The school must notify parents and carers as soon as practicable on the same day of an unexplained absence. This should occur in the morning allowing time for the parent or carer to respond. Schools can choose how they advise parent and carers based on their local context e.g. by email, push notification via downloaded app, SMS or phone call.
- **Follow-up (where required):** At times the parent or carer may not be able to be reached because the school does not have their correct contact details (i.e. changed phone number, SMS/email failure notification received etc.). In this instance, the school should attempt to make contact with any emergency contact/s nominated on the child's file held by the school, where possible, on the same day of the unexplained absence.
- **Record student absences data:** Under the [School Attendance Guidelines](#) schools are required to record or transpose absence data in CASES21, eCASES or a third party software which is compatible with CASES21. Schools using third party software are required to import attendance data into CASES21 on a monthly basis.

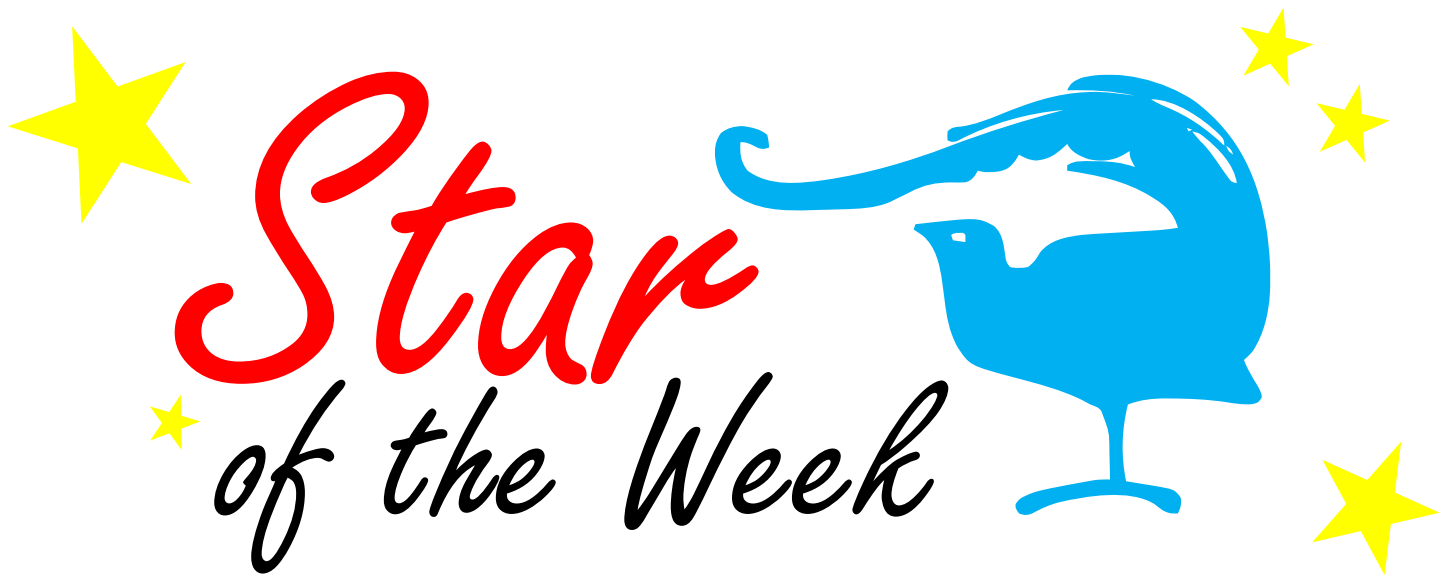
Online solutions to same-day notifications

The Department is committed to supporting schools to meet their attendance requirements through an automated IT platform where practicable. Schools can decide which IT platform to use and current options include:

- eCases (a departmentally provided adjunct to CASES21) to generate SMS alerts
- third party software to alert parents of their child's absence via SMS or push notification

Parent/carer's responsibility

Parents/carers are required to ensure their child attends school every day and have an obligation to contact the school to notify the school of their child's absence. Parents/carers should inform the school in advance of known upcoming absences, or on the day of absence as soon as practicable. In addition, in order to implement this requirement, it is essential that parent/carers provide schools with their most up-to-date contact details.



Foundation/Grade 1

Bridie H: For being kind and caring and a great friend.

Harry C: For 'having a go' and doing some amazing work on 'Truck Cat' and in veggie patch.

Grade 2S

Pip J-B: For challenging himself to expand his vocabulary in his writing. Wonderful work!

Georgia J: For making positive choices to help herself focus during learning times. Keep up the fantastic work!

Grade 3/4E

Ted J-B: For showing focused listening during learning time and asking thoughtful questions particularly during our history unit.

Alia R: For bringing a positive attitude to the classroom and showing resilience. Keep up great work.

Grade 3/4KH

Coco P: For always approaching tasks with a positive attitude. It is a pleasure having you in our class.

Katy D: For always being a kind and respectful friend. You are such a fabulous human Katy!

Grade 5/6A

Bel S: For your wonderful start at Ferny Creek Primary School. You have settled in well and have been a welcome addition to our classroom (as voted by her classmates).

Emme P: For your friendly nature in the classroom. You are always willing to help others, treat everyone with kindness, and constantly display our school values (as voted by her classmates).

Grade 5/6B

Michael O: For being willing to share his opinions and knowledge, and for answering questions without being prompted. Well done!

Penny D: For being an independent worker in class and making good choices about where she sits.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2025

Bridging Now to *Next*

27 MAY –
3 JUNE

#NRW2025



RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU





PLAY

FOR
the
KICKS

come
find your
awesome

OLINDA - FERNY CREEK
AUSKICK CENTRE

Running Now!
Saturdays 10am
Olinda Recreation Reserve

REGISTER HERE



play.afl/auskick



**PARENTS
BATTLE**
OF THE BANDS

**CALLING ALL
FERNY CREEK PS
PARENT MUSICIANS!**

Let's form a Band and show them that our parents still know how to rock! and raise some funds for our schools music and performing arts programs.

Contact us at fcpsparentclub@gmail.com if you want to join the band or find out more

YARRA RANGES

JUL 31

SOOKI LOUNGE
BELGRAVE

**7 PM
2025**

IMPORTANT DETAILS

CURRICULUM DAYS

Our next Term 2 student free day is 10th June.

The last day of Term 2 is 4th July.



COMMUNICATION

Ferny Creek Primary School recognises the importance of the partnership between schools and families to support student learning, engagement and wellbeing.

Your child's teacher will offer you a range of opportunities to communicate with them including:

- ✓ Compass
- ✓ Email
- ✓ Formal meetings
- ✓ Before/After school chats

If you do not have Compass please contact our school Office and find out how you can obtain the app. Compass will be used several times each week, so we want everyone to have access.

FACEBOOK

Please like our Facebook page. This will be used by the school to inform families and the public of events and updates at the school. Feedback and discussion with parents/carers are welcome, but the school will not use Facebook for this purpose.

Please contact the school directly if you wish to discuss matters, as per our communication process. Only this Facebook page is endorsed by the Principal. Any other Facebook pages are not officially authorised representatives of the school.

CONTACT DETAILS

It is very important the school has your most current emergency contact telephone details, home and e-mail address.

If you change telephone details or home e-mail address at any point, we ask that you update the school with your accurate contact details as soon as possible.

STUDENT SUPERVISION

Please note that our school grounds are supervised by school staff at the following times:

- ✓ Before school from 8.45am
- ✓ Throughout recess and lunch
- ✓ After school from 3.30pm to 3.45pm

The school grounds are not supervised outside the above times.

While some families use the front playground as a meeting place, please know children must be supervised by an adult outside of these times.



MORE IMPORTANT DETAILS

OUT OF HOURS CARE



TheirCare provides adventurous and stimulating Before & After School Care Programs in a safe environment for all children. During sessions children develop life skills, friendships, confidence and creativity through play.

Ferny Creek Primary School has partnered with TheirCare to provide this service to our school which includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to our school community.

Operation Times:

Before School	7am-8.45am
After School	3.30pm-6.00pm

Service Phone Number:
0419 958 268

How to Enrol:
Visit TheirCare website
www.theircare.com.au

And click 'Book Now' in the top right-hand corner to register your child's details.

All families are strongly encouraged to register their child/ren for TheirCare as it is free to enrol, and while you are under no obligation to use this service, it does provide support for you in the event of an emergency. Plus, our students love attending this service! For further information about this program please contact TheirCare directly.

LUNCH ORDERS

Lunch orders are available each Wednesday. There is an ordering system via the QKR app and orders must be placed by 8pm each Tuesday for Wednesdays lunch.

Late orders cannot be accepted.



STUDENT SUPERVISION

All bike and scooter riders are required to wear a bike helmet in Victoria.

Approved helmets have the Australian Standards Mark TM (AS/NZS) 2063) and will be marked as suitable for cycling.

Children under the age of 12 may ride on footpaths as can a supervising adult. They are required to give way to pedestrians and to wheel their bicycles over pedestrian and children's crossings.

Bikes/scooters can be stored in our bike shed during school hours.

Also, by law everyone must wear a seat belt when travelling in a car in Australia.

SUNSMART

For Term 1 and Term 4 we wear our named broadbrimmed hat at all times when outside.



Term 2 2025



Keep this handy calendar on your fridge for upcoming events at school. Check Compass, visit our website <http://www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au/> or follow our Facebook page as this calendar is subject to changes.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
April	21 Easter Monday PUBLIC HOLIDAY	22 First Day of Term 2	23 Ferny Creek PS Leaders Anzac Ceremony 	24	25 ANZAC Day PUBLIC HOLIDAY
	28	29	30	01	02 ANZAC Acknowledgement Assembly 03 ELECTION DAY BBQ
May	05 Whole School Event – “Being Brave”	06	07	08	09 Book Fair Mother's Day Afternoon Tea 
	12 Education Week Book Club orders due in	13 Last day of Book Fair	14 Student Free Day	15	16 
	19	20	21 National Simultaneous Story Time	22	23 District Cross Country
	26	27	28 Reconciliation Activity Day	29	30 Cross Country Carnival 
June	02	03 Division Cross Country	04	05 School Photos	06
	09 Kings Birthday PUBLIC HOLIDAY	10 Student Free Day	11	12 Region Cross Country	13
	16	17	18	19	20
	23	24	25	26	27 Working Bee  Sunday 29 th June
July	30	01	02	03	04 Last Day of Term 2.30pm Dismissal



9755 1522

fernycreekps@education.vic.gov.au