

Together we make a difference

Friday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2025

# Hi everyone,

It has been a wonderful start to the 2025 school year!

I am excited to be the Acting Principal at Ferny Creek PS this term and have felt very welcomed by staff, students and families. As a staff, we have been reviewing aspects of our programs and activities, and we are feeling very positive about moving forward together with enthusiasm and a commitment to providing strengthened learning and wellbeing programs for our students and families.

You will notice some adjustments to some of our communication and I welcome any feedback about this. We have included a calendar at the end of this newsletter which should ensure that you are feeling prepared for our school events, please note there are some dates that need to be finalised. Class newsletters are being prepared, and we anticipate these being sent out prior to our 'Meet the Teacher' evening.

### A VALUED START PROGRAM

For the first two weeks of this year our staff have been working with their students to create a culture where everyone inspires and encourages each other's learning. Embedded in this time is the opportunity to collectively set the expectations for the year. This includes working and talking with the class to establish a shared vision, enabling each class to understand what they are striving for together and what needs to be adhered to, in the interest of being the ultimate learning environment. Our students have really enjoyed the variety of Valued Start activities with their new (and old) friends and we are sure that this time will support a successful beginning to the 2025 school year.

# PARENT-TEACHER CONVERSATIONS (MEET THE TEACHER)

As part of our formal communication processes, we will be having 'Meet The Teacher' Conversations on Wednesday12th February from 3.50pm to 5:50pm, for families with students in grades one through to six.

We invite you to come along and meet with your child's teacher for a short discussion that will provide an opportunity for you to:

- Share information about your child so that the teacher has a comprehensive understanding of their individual circumstances
- Assist the teacher in identifying the personal learning needs of your child
- Ask any questions that you may have regarding the school's programs and curriculum.

As this evening will occur early in the term it is important to understand that the purpose of this discussion is for the teacher to become acquainted with your child and family. I encourage all families to participate in this communication opportunity.

On this occasion the teacher will not be reporting on your child's academic progress.

# CONTACT AND MEDICAL INFORMATION

Please take a moment to ensure that the Office has your current family and emergency contact details. It is also very important that you update your child's medical profiles to ensure that we have their current medical information at the Office. If your child has Asthma, Allergies or Hay Fever you will need to provide an Action Plan for them.

As we will be sending communication home via Compass, please ensure that you are connected and able to access any messages. We will also continue to celebrate student achievement via Seesaw.

# **POLICIES AND CONSENTS**

Given the Department's position on mobile phones in schools, I want to highlight our school policy. The definition of a mobile phone includes "a mobile phone is a telephone with access to a cellular (telecommunication) system, with or without a physical connection to a network".

For the purpose of this policy, 'mobile phone' refers to mobile phones and any device that may connect to or have a similar functionality to a mobile phone, such as 'smart watches'. I ask that you familiarise yourself with this policy in support of your child/ren understanding our school's requirements and processes.

# **BUSHFIRE SEASON**

Given the likelihood of some warmer weather in the coming days, I would like to reshare this essential communication regarding bushfire preparedness.

The Fire Refuge onsite (which is also our Junior School building), is a community Fire Refuge and will also be the location for the community to relocate to in the event we are all caught in a bush fire. It is very important as we are in a bushfire prone area, to ensure that you have your own personal updated Fire Plans in place.

# School preparedness and pre-emptive actions for the bushfire season

Fire danger ratings indicate how dangerous a fire would be if one started in hot dry and windy conditions and provide clear direction on the safest options for preserving life. They can be a trigger for action in community and for school and household level fire plans.

EXTREME CALASTROPHIC

FIRE DANGER RATING

Schools and children's services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at some lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 1-4 list will be closed when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their Bureau of Meteorology district.

Schools and early childhood services listed on the Department of Education and Training's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR) and those at lower risk of bushfire or grassfire on the Category 1-4 list take pre-emptive actions on elevated fire danger days to minimise the risk of being caught in a fire in these conditions. The category of risk (per the BARR list) determines the actions that the school or early childhood service will need to take on days of elevated fire danger.

We are a BARR Category 2 school and will be following the directives of the department, should school be in session:

<u>EXTREME FIRE DAYS</u> – we relocate to Wattleview Primary School in Ferntree Gully. <u>CATASTROPHIC</u> FIRE DAYS – we are closed.

In the event that any of these evacuation processes are put in place, you will be notified by SMS with a 'read receipt'. It is very important that you respond to this message.

Please ensure that all your contact details are up to date on our systems.

Our school will **close** on a day forecasted as a **Catastrophic fire danger rating**. The department will advise our school of the potential for a **Catastrophic fire danger rating** as information becomes available, however the pre-emptive closure will be **confirmed by 4pm the day prior to Catastrophic fire danger day**.

Fire danger ratings are forecast by the Bureau of Meteorology up to four days in advance. It is important to also be aware that these fire danger ratings are issued according to Central weather districts covering a vast area of Victoria. The conditions in our own area could be different to those issued by BOM or for the Central weather district. For this purpose, Central is also divided into **Local Government Areas**. Our actions are governed by the weather forecast and fire danger ratings for our LGA and may sometimes conflict with the information issued by the BOM, due to a range of factors, e.g. current conditions on the mountain, recent rainfall etc. We take our directives from DET, who will be guided by the latest information for our LGA.

Should a Catastrophic day be forecast, we will notify you of the potential closure by an email, Compass or hard copy letter. Closure of the school due to a forecast Catastrophic day will be confirmed on the day prior and we will provide you with advice, were possible, before the end of the school day.

Once confirmed, the decision to close will not change, regardless of improvements in the weather forecast. This is to avoid confusion and help your family plan alternative care arrangements for your child. It is also important to note that:

- No staff will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for the Bureau of Meteorology district/LGA in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.

Families are encouraged to enact their own Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic and Extreme fire danger rating days. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

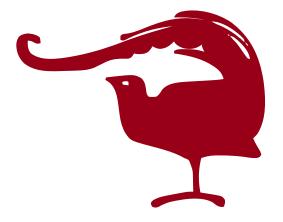
For those of us living in a bushfire prone area, the Country Fire Authority (CFA) advises that when Catastrophic days are forecast, the safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day.

Multiple sources that offer information on emergencies are listed below:

- VicEmergency app that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website <a href="https://emergency.vic.gov.au">https://emergency.vic.gov.au</a>
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (<a href="https://twitter.com/vicemergency">https://twitter.com/vicemergency</a>)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

# Have a great week, Susan

Susan Vissenjoux Acting Principal



FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Colour Fun Run & Family Picnic

THURSDAY
20
FERNY
CREEK PS
OVAL

PICNIC STARTS
1.30PM
COLOUR RUN BEGINS
2.30PM



# **BRING A PICNIC & DRESS FOR MESS!**

Watch out for more details & forms coming home in schoolbags soon.

Extra forms will be available at the office.

# SHARING OUR OF LEARNING



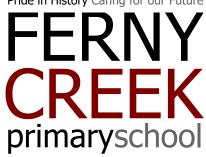






# VOLUNTARY FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Pride in History Caring for our Future





School Road, Ferny Creek 3786 Phone - 9755 1522 Mobile - 0400 641 774 Email - ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.qov.au

www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au

# PARENT PAYMENT ARRANGEMENTS 2025

Dear parent/guardian,

Ferny Creek PS is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of Ferny Creek PS voluntary financial contributions for 2025.

Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian curriculum and we want to assure you that all financial contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing financial support from our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and resources for our students. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer.

Our school financial contributions have allowed us to support the iPad and Chrome Book program, provide additional literacy and numeracy resources, art, physical education, STEM and music equipment resources. Without the addition of financial contributions from families the additional resources for these programs for the benefit of the students, would be very much restricted.

Please find attached Ferny Creek Primary School's financial contribution schedule for 2025, which includes an overview of what your contributions will help us provide. Please note - there will be no individual book packs provided to students in 2025. All necessary consumable items will be supplied directly to classrooms in bulk and distributed to students as required.

For students in grade 3 to 6 it is expected they will continue to use the contents of their pencil cases from last year.

For further information on the Department's Parent Payments Policy please see a one-page overview attached.

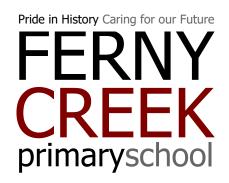
Yours sincerely,

Anni Smart

Frank Packer

Principal

School Council President





School Road, Ferny Creek 3786 Phone - 9755 1522 Mobile - 0400 641 774 Email - ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au

www.fernycreekps.vic.edu.au

STUDENT NAME	GRADE F-6
THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROPERTY	GIGIDL 1 O

Curriculum Contributions. Items and activities that students use, or participate	Amount
in, to access the Curriculum.	- XCII-II
<ul> <li>Classroom consumables, materials &amp; Equipment</li> <li>ART - paint, crayons, canvas, glitter, coloured paper, card, clay, materials</li> <li>STEM - ingredients, books, shared classroom materials</li> <li>MATHS - numeracy blocks, calculators, textbooks, stationary, math's resource equipment</li> <li>LITERACY - Class sets, novels, readers, book boxes</li> <li>CLASSROOM - pens, pencils, textas, glue sticks, writing, graph and scrap books, highlighters, post it notes, folders, display books, scissors, rulers. Book bags</li> <li>SPORTS - equipment, affiliations</li> <li>LOTE - Auslan workbook</li> </ul>	\$ 100.00
Online subscriptions including:  Mathletics, Firefly Maths Trek, PAT Maths, Think Mental  Literacy Pro, Essential Assessment, Seesaw, Decodable Readers	\$ 90.00
Printing & photocopying of worksheets and learning materials	\$ 15.00
CT Devices – provision of devices for the shared classroom sets	\$ 15.00
SUB TOTAL	\$ 220.00
Other contributions – for non-curriculum items and activities	Amount
School grounds maintenance and improvements. Suggested \$ 80.00 per family	S
Tax deductible contributions	Amount
Library fund.	
A tax-deductible contribution to support the purchasing of learning resources e.g., book purchases, improving technology resources- iPads, Chromebooks and other equipment that supports student learning across the school.	s
Chromebook Lease/ Purchase Co-contribution YEAR 3-6 ONLY	\$ 75.00
TOTAL AMOUNT	\$



# Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Ferny Creek PS offers a range of items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides in order to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

No Payment is required for these activities at this time. Permission forms and payment requests will be sent out to families throughout 2025.

Extra-Curricular Items and Activities	
Optional school camp for Years 3 to 6 (No camps for 2024)	
Optional Interschool Sports program,	- 116
Other optional incursions and excursions to be scheduled	
Optional Swimming program	

### Financial Support for Families

Ferny Creek PS understands that some families may experience financial difficulty and offers a range of support options, including:

- the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund to eligible Health Care Card holders
- Individual Payment Plans
- State School relief

For a confidential discussion about accessing these services, or if you would like to discuss alternative payment arrangements, contact: Jill Heathcote, Business Manager Ph: 03 9755 1522 | Email: ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au

# Payment methods

- Cash
- EFTPOS
- Direct Deposit to the school's bank account. CBA 063 414 A/C No 1002 2451
- Credit card

l authorise \$		to be charged to my Visa/Mastercard.				
Details as follo	ws:					
Name on Card:						
Card No:				Exp date:	/_	
Signature						

### REFUNDS

Parent requests for refunds are subject to the discretion of the school and made on a case-by-case basis. Refunds will be provided where the school deems it is reasonable and fair to do so, taking into consideration whether a cost has been incurred, the Department's Parent Payment Policy and Guidance, Financial Help for Families Policy and any other relevant information.



# PARENT PAYMENTS POLICY

# ONE PAGE OVERVIEW



# FREE INSTRUCTION

- Schools provide students with free instruction and ensure students have free access to all items, activities and services that are used by the school to fulfil the standard curriculum requirements in Victorian Curriculum F-10, VCE and VCAL.
- Schools may invite parents to make a financial contribution to support the school.

# PARENT PAYMENT REQUESTS

Schools can request contributions from parents under three categories:



### **Curriculum Contributions**

Voluntary financial contributions for curriculum items and activities which the school deems necessary for students to learn the Curriculum.

# Other Contributions

Voluntary financial contributions for noncurriculum items and activities that relate to the school's functions and objectives.

# Extra-Curricular Items and Activities

Items and activities that enhance or broaden the schooling experience of students and are above and beyond what the school provides for free to deliver the Curriculum. These are provided on a user-pays basis.

 Schools may also invite parents to supply or purchase educational items to use and own (e.g. textbooks, stationery, digital devices).



# FINANCIAL HELP FOR FAMILIES

- Schools put in place financial hardship arrangements to support families who cannot
  pay for items or activities so that their child doesn't miss out.
- Schools have a nominated parent payment contact person(s) that parents can have a confidential discussion with regarding financial hardship arrangements.



# SCHOOL PROCESSES

 Schools must obtain school council approval for their parent payment arrangements and publish all requests and communications for each year level on their school website for transparency.

# **SUNSMART REMINDER**

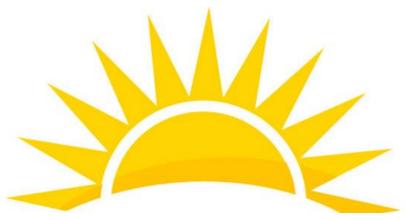
Just a reminder that <u>all</u> students and staff are expected to wear a named broad brimmed hat during any outside activities from the beginning of Term Four until the end of April.

Teachers will be reminding students that without an approved hat they will be directed to remain in the undercover basketball court area.

Ferny Creek Primary School encourages all staff and students to apply **SPF50 or SPF50+ broad spectrum**, **water-resistant sunscreen daily** whenever UV levels reach 3 and above. Sunscreen should be applied before going outdoors and reapplied every two hours.

Students and staff are encouraged to bring their own SPF50 or SPF50+ broad spectrum, water-resistant sunscreen to school.





# **UNIFORM REQUIREMENTS**

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory at Ferny Creek Primary School. All our uniform pieces can be purchased on site, from our uniform shop on Monday from 8.50am – 9.30am.





# FERNY CREEK PRIMARY SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Student Name:	Phone	- 1 - 1 <u>- 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1 - 1</u>	Class:		
Date Ordered:	Date Paid:	Date Collected		d:	
Uniform Shop Item	Size Range	Prices	Size	Quantity	Sub
TOPS	1.5 (1.5)		1. 30		J. C.
Polo T-Shirt Short Sleeve	4,6,8,10,12,14,16	\$20.00			
Polo T-Shirt Short Sleeve	Adult S, M, L	\$25.00			1
JUMPERS		71.			
Polar Fleece Full Zip	6,8,10,12,14,16	\$40.00		1	
Polar Fleece Full Zip	Adult S, M, L	\$43.00	1		
Polar Fleece Black Vest	6,8,10,12,14	\$34.00	1,134	1 1	
PANTS		1.7	1	1	
Mesh Shorts	6,8,10,12,14,16	\$14.00	3 11		
JACKETS			1		
Waterproof Jacket – Fleece Lined	6,8,10,12	\$37.00			
ACCESSORIES		7.7			
Brimmed Hats ( Prep – 6)	S, M, L	\$10.00		17 17 1	
Bucket Hats (Grades 3-6)	M, L, XL	\$10.00			· .
Girls Winter Pinafore	6,8,10	\$52.00	1 1		
	12,14	\$56.00			
School Bags		\$45.00			
				TOTAL	

The uniform shop is open on Monday from 8.50am – 9.30am.

Uniform shop orders can also be placed at the office.

# **IMPORTANT DETAILS**

# **CURRICULUM DAYS**

Proposed Curriculum Day for Term 1 is 6<sup>th</sup> March.

The last day of Term 1 is 4<sup>th</sup> April. School finishes at **2.30pm**.

# 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 partnewed with TheirCare to provide this service to your school whick includes quality care, booking flexibility, amazing programming for your children and commitment to deliver on our promise to your 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 righthand corner to register your child's details.

All families are strongly encourage 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.







# FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

# INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

# CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$150 for primary school students
- \$250 for secondary school students

### **HOW TO APPLY**

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments**; your child has started or changed schools this year.
- changed family circumstances; such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.

# MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:

https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx





# Thank you

Thank you to the following families that looked after the

chickens over the holidays:

Galbraith

Hill

Bec C

Groeneveld

Gardner

Lawrence

**Piper** 

Rachel E







- O OLINDA COMMUNITY POOL
- **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 9TH**
- **3:00 PM 7:00 PM**





# PLUS...

The Optus

# GIANT INFLATABLE

for plenty of pool side games action with prizes to be WON!

Proudly sponsored by





# **OPTUS**





Get fit and have some fun Something for everyone

- · Net Set Go
- · Junior teams
- Social Open
- Walking Netball
- All abilities starting soon

Contact <u>playnetball@sfcnc.org.au</u> for more details



# OPEN DAY

**SUNDAY FEB 23** 

10AM-1PM

**BEGINNER'S COACHING** SERVE SPEED RADAR **COACHING TIPS CARDIO TENNIS BALL MACHINE** 

FERNY CREEK RESERVE HILTON ROAD, FERNY CREEK



# PROTECT

# Everyone has the right to be safe and be protected from abuse.

No one should behave in a way that makes you feel unsafe or afraid, including anyone in your family, anyone at school or anywhere else in the community.

Tell a teacher or any adult at your school if you feel unsafe.





# It's everyone's responsibility.

Adults at school must listen and respond to concerns about child abuse.

If you suspect abuse of any child or young person, you have a responsibility to report it, even if you are not sure.

Further information & resources www.education.vic.gov.au/protect











# **Term 1 2025**

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

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
February	<b>03</b> Foundation First Day	04	05	06	<b>07</b> Assembly
	10	11	12	13	14
	17 District Swimming Belgrave	18	Meet the teacher conversations	20 C LOUR RUN	21 Assembly
	<b>24</b> G3/4 Camp	25	<b>26</b> G3/4 Camp returns	27	28 Billy Cart Derby
ch	03	04	05	06 Proposed Curriculum Day	<b>07</b> Assembly
	10 PUBLIC HOLIDAY	<b>11</b> G5/6 Camp	12 Division Swimming Croydon	13	G5/6 Camp returns
March	17	Naplan 18	Naplan 19	Naplan 20	Naplan 21
~	17	10	17	20	Assembly
	Naplan	Naplan	Naplan	Naplan	Naplan
	24 Naplan	25	26	Proposed Whole School Event	28
April	31	01	02	03	Easter Hat Parade Last day of Term 1 2.30pm dismissal

9755 1522 ferny.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au

