PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEW PROCESS
Thank you to all those families who took the time to speak with their class teacher yesterday at our parent/teacher interview session. The discussions were insightful for both and reinforced the partnership teachers and parents develop to improve student outcomes. Well done to our new teachers and new families for their positive support of the process as well. Teachers will now begin to construct 5 week blocks of work with progress reports to keep parents informed of progress. Our digital portfolios will also highlight work completed.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
At the close of nominations we had received the following nominations for vacancies so we declare these nominations to be duly elected. Congratulations to these new councillors for 2014.

Parent Reps: James Campbell
Jackson Wilson
Stephanie Henderson

Community Reps: Tim Postgate
Parent’s Association - t.b.a.

Staff Reps: Kathryn O’Donnell
Jenny Vincent

These positions will be ratified at the upcoming Annual General Meeting of school council on Monday 17th March.

POSITIVE PUBLICITY - well done Fyans Park
Great to see a positive story regarding our school hit the front page of the Geelong Advertiser today. Whilst NAPLAN results form only a small part of our assessment regime with students, it’s terrific reinforcement for the efforts of staff and students that places our school in the top group of schools in Geelong. We compare very favourably with local private schools and are in the top few government schools in our region. We place developing independent learning, cooperation and team work just as highly and rate NAPLAN as only one in a long line of assessments student complete during the year. It is great to get some recognition for the terrific work here though.

Well done Fyans Park!

NOTES HOME THIS WEEK
* Receipts
* Bank books
* Grade 5/6 Digital Portfolio Information
* 5/6 Department Newsletter

The Grade 3/4s will be performing at Assembly this week.
SCHOOL NEWS

FYANS PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
50th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS
A short meeting will be held to plan for our upcoming 50th Anniversary Celebrations in 2015. The meeting is to be held at school on Monday 17th March at 3.45pm. If you are interested to hear about our anniversary celebrations, come along on the 17th!

DIVISION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday the 28th of February a group of kids from Fyans Park went to Kardinia Pool to compete in the Bellarine Division Swimming Carnival. The students who went were Ned, Connie, Emma, Ruby, Daniel, Ella, Lucia and Abby. For some of us it was our first time representing Fyans Park. We were nervous but everyone did their best on the day. We came away with having a great day and some very excellent results.

Congratulations to Emma for coming first in the girls 50m Backstroke. Ruby also did a great job in the 50m Backstroke coming third. The girl’s Freestyle Relay came third overall which was also an amazing effort. Ned came 11th overall in the Boys 50m Breaststroke and he came 43rd in Freestyle. He enjoyed being there on the day and enjoyed every second of it.

Connie came second for the half of the way in Backstroke but in the end came fifth. She came fifth in Backstroke and 55th overall in Backstroke for the 12 to 13 year old girls. In Freestyle, Connie came seventh or eighth. She tried her hardest in every stroke. Connie enjoyed being there on the day and enjoyed every second of it too. Ned thinks he can speak for everyone who was there when he says, “We all enjoyed it!”

By Connie & Ned

SCHOOL HATS
Get your House coloured hat in time for our House Athletics Day at Landy Field next Friday. $15 at the Office.

Easter Egg Raffle
On the last day of term (28th of March), the SRC will be organising an Easter egg raffle. Tickets will be sold before and after school outside the 5/6 department, in the last week of school. Tickets will be sold for 50c each or 3 for $1. The money raised will be donated to the Royal Children’s Hospital Good Friday Appeal.

We would appreciate any donations of baskets, Easter eggs and chocolate rabbits. Could all donations please be brought to Room 12, and each child will receive 50 – 100 House points for each donation.

From Chloe, Cade, Lucy and all SRC Reps.

BABYSITTER
Hi, my name is Will Thomson the brother of Lucy and Jack Thomson who go to Fyans Park Primary. I am 14, in year 8 and go to Kardinia International College. Please call me if you would like a great babysitter. My rates are $8 an hour. Call 5223 2223 or 0497 800 161.
ART ROOM NEWS

Our talented Grade 5/6 Fyans Park art students have been exploring the topic ‘Wooden Boats’ as part of their class studies of Maritime History. Several students have entered art work into the School Art Exhibition at the Royal Geelong Yacht Club for the Wooden Boat Festival to be held this weekend, Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th March.

If you are looking for a free long weekend family activity, please go along and view the wonderful artwork. We have been awarded six prizes in the ‘Senior Primary’ section. Prize presentations will be made to students at 3.00pm on Sunday 9th at the Yacht Club. I will accept prizes on behalf of students unable to attend and a further presentation of all students who entered will be made at school assembly at a later date.

**Paintings & Collage**

1st prize Scarlett A
2nd prize Sarah W
3rd prize Amelia M

**Models**

1st prize Coco J, Erin S, Chamathi S
2nd prize Will J, Harrison S
3rd prize Henri M

Congratulations and well done to all Grade 5/6 art students.

Anne Morell
Visual Arts Teacher
FPPS HOUSE SPORTS DAY
Friday 14th March, 2014 - Landy Field

We are excited to announce that this year’s House Sports Day is to be held at Landy Field Athletics Track!! The day will kick off for the Grade 3-6’s at 9:00am (bus pick-up) with the first event commencing at 9:30am. The Prep-2’s will then make their way over at 11:00am for their first event at 11:35am. The move is going to enable us to run each event with more proficiency, giving the students an opportunity to have a go at each event with proper equipment and on an athletics track. It is also going to make selection for the District Athletics a lot more accurate and easy to coordinate.

The day is still a family fun day, with participation being the number one thing. Please come down to support your kids! There will also be a coffee van there for you to enjoy. The timetable for the day is provided below.

A permission form has been sent home with each student today.

Thank you,

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<th>10:10-10:30</th>
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<th>Lunch (20min)</th>
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In primary school, some students miss on average 3 weeks of school per year. That’s half a year of school by the end of year 6.

Every Day Counts

Primary school attendance

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important
We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early
Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do
The main reasons for absence are:

Sickness – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

“Day off” – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

Truancy – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

• Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

• Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
Shrove Tuesday and the start of Autumn!

Hi Families,

Please note we have a new opening time of 6:45am for Before School Care!!

I have had a few parents ask about the safety of the iPads which the 3/4 Department are using whilst they are in OSHC. Each child, as they enter OSHC, take their iPads out and place them in my office where other children do not have access to. The children get a window of roughly 20 minutes in the afternoon to use their devices to ensure they aren’t sitting continually and not joining in on other activities. I don’t allow children to share their devices, unless it is OK’d by their parents that they may share with their siblings. Each child is aware of the games that can and can’t be played as well that the internet is not to be accessed unless it’s for homework purposes.

This week in OSHC we celebrated Shrove Tuesday by having pancakes in the morning and since it was such a warm day, we had a water fight that afternoon to cool off, which is always fun.

Our activities are designed to ensure that the children are getting the most out of their time in OSHC. Many children have expressed that they enjoy coming to OSHC to play with their friends and to learn new games and most of all, to have fun. This year I have implemented a diary which the children use to write in what they would like to do on the afternoons they are in OSHC, to ensure that their interests are being met.

If anyone has any old shirts lying around it would be appreciated if we could have them in OSHC so that we can use them as art smocks for the children when they are painting.

Cheers & Keep Smiling,

Jodie

STAR OF THE WEEK: HANNAH