Orientation Day
On Tuesday our Grade 6 students attended their final transition day at South Gippsland Secondary College whilst our other students spent some time with their new classmates and teachers for next year. Our new PrepFied spent the morning with Miss Jordan and helped plant out the garden near the staffroom. Over the holidays we are hoping some beautiful bright sunflowers will pop up to welcome us all back for 2015. A special thank you to Tara Ellard for helping out and sourcing the plants with money raised from selling our broad beans. Thank also to Rob O’Sullivan from Narkabundah Nursery for giving us a great discount.

Model Aeroplane
Just a reminder that the Model Planes need to be done in readiness for the Foster Show next year, so it might be a good idea to pull them out and start making them.

Take home & library books
Teachers have been collecting ‘take home’ books from the children. Could you please ask children to check bookcases and their bedrooms for library books as well. All books to be back by TOMORROW.

Term 4, Issue 39
11th December 2014

Important Dates

December
- Friday 12th: Grade 1—6 Swimming Program at SPLASH
- Tuesday 16th: Fun Day at Toora Pool
- Wednesday 17th: Christmas Dinner
- Thursday 18th: School Reports sent home
- Friday 19th: Mini Fair & Presentations
- Friday 26th: Last day of Term 4 Early Dismissal 1.30pm

January 2015
- Wednesday 28th: Pupil Free Day
- Thursday 29th: Pupil Free Day
- Friday 30th: School Begins

End of Year Wrap Up
I can not believe this is the last newsletter for 2014, this year has flown by. I would like to take this opportunity to say goodbye and good luck to the families who will be leaving us this year. For some it has been many years and I hope that you take away fond memories of FCDPS and feel welcome to come back and visit anytime. Thankyou to the PnF for supporting our school throughout the year in a variety of different ways and an early thank you for the Christmas Dinner next Wednesday. Thank you to our KidsMatter Action Team for your efforts in helping to foster a positive school community. Congratulations to all of our students for their achievements this year. Thank you to all of our staff, volunteers and parents for their support and assistance throughout the year, your efforts are truly appreciated. If you are round over the holidays please keep an eye out for the school and report any suspicious behaviour to the police. I would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday and am looking forward to starting the year with you all in 2015.
Staffing Update
Much time and consideration has gone into making decisions based on the best needs of our students, our staffing profile and feed forward from parents. We thank you for your continued support in making FCDS such a fantastic place to learn. We are pleased to announce classes and specialists for next year will be as follows:
- Prep/1—Miss Jordan
- Grade 1/2—Mr LePage
- Grade 3/4—Mrs Smith
- Grade 5/6—Mrs Vitols and Mr Farrell
- Science—Mrs Banikos
- PE—Mrs Richards
- Performing Arts—Mrs Hamlett
- Chinese Prep-2 only—TBA

Parent Survey
Thank you to everyone who has returned the parent survey. We have received some great feedback from our parents and will be discussed with staff early next year before going to school council.

Mini Fair
It is nearly time for the mini fair again, so we ask parents to have a look around and see if they have any items they would like to send along to the school for the White Elephant stall. Any item in good condition would be greatly appreciated.

Buses for Next Friday
A reminder that next Friday is clean up day. If your children need to come to school, please note the buses will be running 2 hours earlier.

Tidy Team Awards
This week’s Tidy Team Award went to Grade Prep/1. Congratulations and thank you for keeping our school tidy.

School Council Update
Mark Anderson, Senior Advisor from the DEECD was invited to attend our meeting to discuss the procedure for addressing parent concerns and complaints. Mark clarified that School Council does not have a role in resolving concerns or complaints other than approving our school policy. The DEECD has particular guidelines for managing parent concerns and complaints which have been included in our school based policy. Mark delivered a presentation to councillors outlining the appropriate process and clarifying the expectations of school councillors. It was apparent from the conversation that some parents were concerned about statements circulating in the community regarding staff issues at the school. Mark reminded everyone of the process and that this is an operational matter but was, however, able to indicate that appropriate Departmental supports are in place. Everyone is moving forward positively towards 2015.

Mini Fair
This can be found on our website or a copy can be collected from the office. We are confident that now everyone has the correct/some information we can move forward and focus on the role of school council which is school governance with regard to policies, the budget, strategic intent and building and grounds maintenance.

School council endorsed the provision of a Languages program to comply with DEECD requirements for 2015. It was decided to explore the recruitment of a Mandarin Chinese teacher. The decision was based on the parent surveys (39% Chinese, 27% Indonesian, 19% Italian, 15% French), greater recruitment opportunities through cluster arrangements, School Council parent representation, a 2015 Mandarin Chinese network in South Gippsland and potential for cultural experiences across the Cluster. If a suitably qualified teacher is not available Indonesian will become our language of choice.

School council endorsed the provision of a Languages program to comply with DEECD requirements for 2015. It was decided to explore the recruitment of a Mandarin Chinese teacher. The decision was based on the parent surveys (39% Chinese, 27% Indonesian, 19% Italian, 15% French), greater recruitment opportunities through cluster arrangements, School Council parent representation, a 2015 Mandarin Chinese network in South Gippsland and potential for cultural experiences across the Cluster. If a suitably qualified teacher is not available Indonesian will become our language of choice.
We also approved the ICT Acceptable Use Policy. This can be found on our website or a copy can be provided with a copy early next term.

Mini Fair
During the holidays we will be having the oval levelled and re-sown. This will mean the oval will be out of action for a while, however once it is complete the students will be able to play on an even surface without risk of injury. Cal Smith has been contracted to complete the works. For further information, the minutes are available on our website.

Christmas Dinner
The silly season must be really upon us as the Signmee went out with the wrong DAY, right DATE for the Dinner, so please note the Christmas Dinner is on WEDNESDAY 17th December. Sorry for the confusion.

Toora Pool Fun Day
A reminder that parents are welcome to join us next Tuesday at Toora Pool for a swim, games and lunch from 11.30am.

Accounts Now Due
Please pay ALL OUTSTANDING account by Wed 17th December.

Fees for next year will be $150 and notices will be sent out next week. Payment is due at the start of the school year.

Grade 6 Graduation Night Anya & Isla
On Wednesday night all of the Grade 6s met up at the KP for Graduation Dinner. The food was the best and the dessert was amazing. After dinner we walked back to the school where we did 2 songs and showed our parents our scrapbooks. It was a magnificent night.