Principal’s Report
Lesley McCarthy

Following last night’s School Council meeting, I am very pleased to confirm the FETE profit in excess of the target sum required for Oval rectification works. Following a submission from The HUB, Council has agreed to use some of these funds to purchase items for the kitchen – specifically, a Bain Marie, Pie Warmer, an extra large Esky and a Popcorn Maker. These items will allow for a variety of items to be sold through the kitchen and at various functions.

The laying of new turf on the oval will commence very soon with rectification to be completed in 3 stages. One third of the oval will be worked on and out of bounds for a period of approximately 8 weeks – lay to play. With the projected rainfall and our stored water, by the beginning of 2013, the oval should be back to its former glory.

In this issue, you will find a report on my educational leadership trip to Finland earlier this term. This was an amazing experience and I am continuing to work with the education groups to share our findings and influence educational practices in Australia.

One of the main observations which all Principals noticed was the focus on every child expected to be being responsible and independent. From preschool, children were responsible for their own clothing and belongings, behaviour, following school rules, using play equipment and going outside in all weather. This contrasts markedly with our current situation where the lost property bin is overflowing, homework is often not completed or not to a good standard, children do not use manners or play safely and collaboratively on the equipment and we have hot/cold day timetables.

A recent Michael Grose article focussed on strategies for parents and teachers to use in influencing responsibility and I encourage everyone to read this article and reflect on their practice. How are you ‘rescuing’ or ‘helping’ your children to become responsible and resilient?

Parents are advised that the AEU protected ballot has resulted in a decision for teachers to Stop Work on Thursday June 7th. This is in response to ongoing delays in finalising the enterprise bargaining agreement with DEECD and the State Government.

A formal notice will be sent home to parents next week after all teachers have advised me formally of their intentions. Children who attend school on the day will be supervised with whichever staff are on duty. The usual curriculum program will not operate on the day.
**Care Member of the Week**

**Week beginning 5 September 2011**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Reason</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mangalore 1</td>
<td>Arky S</td>
<td>For his excellent drawing representing self-control and his happy attitude towards CARE group.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mollie</td>
<td>Rebecca M</td>
<td>For her confident sharing and persistence when skipping. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooltan 1</td>
<td>Sebastian F</td>
<td>For showing responsibility and leadership during our session on self control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mooltan 2</td>
<td>Urjii A</td>
<td>For showing confidence in her new CARE group while talking about strategies she uses to stay calm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashmere 1</td>
<td>Perry T</td>
<td>For showing self control and persistence in our ‘Stang on 1 Leg’ game. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashmere 2</td>
<td>Liam C</td>
<td>For showing great self control during the game of ‘Silent Bombardment’.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cashmere 3</td>
<td>Sarah B</td>
<td>For always sharing her wonderful ideas in circle time. Well done!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi 1</td>
<td>Max P</td>
<td>For his positive contributions to our activities on self control.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi 2</td>
<td>Leo A</td>
<td>For contributing to our CARE discussions about self control and the ways he stays calm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delhi 3</td>
<td>Fatuma M</td>
<td>For her constant uplifting personality that helps put a smile on everyone’s face.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Office News**

**Office Hours, 8.30am – 4.00pm Monday to Friday**

**2013 Prep Enrolment**

Applications for Prep 2013 enrolment are now open. School Tours take place each Tuesday during Term 2 at 9.15am led by our Student Leaders. Application forms and Parent Information Handbooks are available from the office.

If you have a child due to commence school next year, please collect the enrolment forms and enrol your child by the end of Term 2, this being 29th June. Should you know of a child due to start school next year, who lives in our enrolment zone (refer to the school website for details), please remind parents to hand their enrolment forms in during Term 2.

**Woolworths Earn and Learn Program**

The program will start on Wednesday 9th May until Sunday 1st July. When you do your shop you will receive one sticker for every $10 spent (excluding liquor, tobacco and gift cards).

Please submit completed cards into the collection box located near the office. Should you need another sticker card please see the office. All completed cards must be sent to the office no later than close of business on Tuesday 17th July (first week of Term 3). Enjoy collecting.

Many thanks to the families who contributed to the Good Friday Appeal this year. We have received a certificate of acknowledgement for $267.00. The Royal Children’s Hospital is a source of excellent medical care for many of our students; in fact 3 of our students are currently in patients receiving world class care from this magnificent hospital.

**Lost**

A Silver Razor scooter with blade sparks went missing from the bike rack near After Care on Friday 25th May. If found please contact the office.
**Assistant Principal’s Corner**  
*Sandra McOrist*

**Parking**
Parents are reminded that there is NO parking for parents at the school. The two car parks are for staff only and the laneway is a Drop Off point at the end of the hall only. Do not park behind staff cars and let your children out as this is dangerous.

At 3.30pm, cars may not wait at the drop off point although if your child wishes to wait behind the chain, you may drive through to collect them.

**Lost Property**
The bin is overflowing again and parents are asked to check it often. Named items are returned to class pigeonholes but there are a very large number of unnamed items.

**School Uniform**
With the change to cooler weather, parents are reminded of the school uniform policy. **Uniform is compulsory** and does not include jackets or pants which do not reflect our school colours of Navy, white and teal green. A number of students have been wearing multicoloured windcheaters and jackets lately which is not allowed. Children should also have a warm coat on days of forecast wet weather.

**Teaching your child to be more responsible**
Most of us want children to become responsible for their own behaviours, relationships and develop resilience. However, we often resort to ‘saving’ them rather than allowing them to experience the results of their actions.

Children need to be protected when their choices endanger themselves or others but sometimes, they need to suffer the consequences/ experience and learn from their mistakes. Natural consequences are the best solution. They forgot their lunch/ hat/ musical instrument/ homework. Too bad!

Make their problem, THEIR problem, not yours. Remind them but don’t take the responsibility for their actions or choices.

Sometimes, we are tempted to save them from themselves, but this can lead to learned helplessness. We may need to reinforce the lessons if they don’t understand so be prepared to explain why.

This also includes honesty – if you make a poor choice or error of judgement, own up. It is better to be honest and take the consequences than be caught out in a lie. Be prepared to apologise and learn from the experience.

Learning to be punctual, organised, and responsible are ongoing processes, not something learnt overnight. Help them now so that as teenagers and young adults, they know how to make good choices and take responsibility for their decisions.


**School Council News**
*Peter Pickering, President*

We have established an email address for School Council. It is **schoolcouncil@flemingtonps.vic.edu.au**

This is the current Hall Hire timetable. There are no bookings during the last week of term on Tuesday-Thursday. Shared facilities usage agreements are part of the Federal and State Governments policy on shared and joint use of government facilities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Activities</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>3.45-4.45</td>
<td>Drama</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5.30-7.00</td>
<td>Rebels Netball</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>3.45-4.45</td>
<td>Fit Family</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>3.45-6.00</td>
<td>Karate</td>
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<td>6.30-10.30</td>
<td>Melbourne Sinfonia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>3.45-7.00</td>
<td>Karate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday</td>
<td>4.30-9.30</td>
<td>Calisthenics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>9.00-5.00</td>
<td>Calisthenics</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Curriculum News

Transit of Venus
On the 6th June, Venus will line up directly with the Sun and we'll get to see the planet as a small black dot against the bright Sun. The transit of Venus is one of the rarest cosmological events you'll ever see. This is your last opportunity for more than 105 years. The next transit will not happen until 2117.

Only six transits have occurred since the phenomenon was discovered – 1639, 1761, 1769, 1874, 1882 and the most recent in 2004. Each has its own story. Like the transit of 1769 that provided the public reason for James Cook's voyage to the Pacific but led him to chart the east coast of Australia.

Australia, New Zealand, East Asia and the western Pacific are the best locations for viewing all of the 2012 transit, which starts here in Melbourne around 8.15am and goes through to 2.45pm. It is most important that you don't look at the sun directly otherwise you could cause eye damage.

On the day if there is no cloud cover we will have in place a webcam to view the transit throughout the school network and we will use a number of indirect methods to view this occurrence. All are welcome to share this experience with us, I will be in the science room from around 8.00am.

Science
Students in grades 3 & 4 and some from grades 5&6 are investigating establishing an indigenous grassland space in the dirt/mud outside the science room. Our current plan is to loosen the soil, fence the space with chicken wire, place a few good sized rocks and plant wallaby and kangaroo grasses with a few small flowering plants.

Bird boxes have been discussed as well as small raised water baths and a worm farm. Our aim is to try and attract/create habitats for small indigenous insects, reptiles and birds. Any parents who may have time to help establish the space please see myself.

Ultranet
A reminder for parents who have forgotten/lost their Ultranet password that you should contact the office for the password to be regenerated.

Parent Teacher Interviews
Parents are notified of the upcoming dates for Parent Teacher interviews and 3 Way Conferences. These will be held on Tuesday 26th and Thursday 28th June. Notices and requests for a time will be sent home soon.

CSIRO Double Helix Science activities
During the school holidays, CSIRO are offering activities for students at the Yarraville Guide Hall. 10.00-4.00pm with lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided. For more information or to enrol, www.csiro.au/VicHolidays

School Travel Survey Report
We now have the School Travel Survey Report for the school. It shows that 40% of students usually walk, ride, scooter to school. This compares with the 88% on Ride to School Day. Many more students would like to ride, walk or scooter to school and many parents want them to. It shows the potential to get more people travelling actively to and from our school.

A copy of the report will be available on our website. Now that we have the report we can start work in earnest on preparing the Green Travel Plan. We'll let everyone know the date for a sit down consultation session. In the meantime send me your ideas and thanks to all those people who have done so already.

Bart Sbeghen
M 0418 231 686 E macbart@bigpond.com
Grade 1/2 POD Visit

On the 28th of May every Grade 1/2 class went to the POD, it was at Debney Meadows Primary School. The POD is great because it is an old shipping container that has clean, recycled and safe rubbish that would have gone to the tip. At the pod we first went through the rules, after that we did some playing. I was with Beth and Chloe. We built a fun park with some girls from Debney Meadows Primary School. We had lots of fun!
By Lainie A

On Monday the 28th of May all of the 1/2's visited the POD at Debney Meadows Primary School. The POD is a big old shipping container filled with old, broken and safe stuff to play with. We had to line up so we could get our stuff. There were wheels, keyboards, wood and more. We got our stuff and started to build anything. I worked with Angus, Marcus and George. We made a ‘thing-a-ma-bob’. We used wood, a wheel and rope netting. When we put everything away and we went back to school. We had a great time!
By Wyatt B

On Monday we visited the POD at Debney Meadows Primary School. In the POD there was clean and safe rubbish. Aesha, Trona, Naeema and I made a house. But it broke, it was not a good house. We built it again but it was hard work. Then we had 5 more minutes to play and it was time to pack up. We put everything back in the pod. It was a lovely day and I wish I could do it again.
By Manasa C

On Monday we went to the POD. The POD is a shipping container that has lots of rubbish and recycled things in it to play with. When we got there they told us the rules. Then we took it in turns to choose something. When it was my turn I chose...
...some fake grass and wood. We made a house. We used fake grass, wood, a broken phone and the back of a chair. I worked with Wenyan, Lensa and Fadumo. We had lots of fun.
By Georgie L

...to make a cubby house. We were successful at making it. I enjoyed working with Kelsey and I tried my very best.
By Aysia A

...a tyre to make a swing. I went on it. I enjoyed going on the swing. I used some string to tie it.
By Suliaman Hassan
**FINLAND**  
**Education in PISA Paradise**

At the risk of being a little simplistic, we can say that the high PISA scores for Finland are largely due to the Finish students having a better work output than Victorian students.

This is due to several related factors which line up to enhance their year 9 PISA ‘snapshot’:

1. A strong work ethic is very evident in today’s Finnish society as a whole and schools in particular, similar to Victoria 30 years ago. This includes a respect for authority/teachers, a natural tendency to comply with expectations and an acceptance that improvement in student outcomes is achieved through the hard work of students (as well as teachers).

2. There is a strong expectation and practice for students to attend their local school. There are almost no private schools, and those are international or philosophically different e.g. Montessori. This avoids the polarised school cohorts and inequity of opportunity between schools and students currently being produced in Victoria by the emphasis on parent choice.

3. A focus on children being responsible from a very young age. 3 year olds at childcare are expected to put on their own snowsuits, boots, hats and gloves before going out to play. Children receive a free hot meal at lunchtime daily and the children serve themselves from 6 years old. Students are responsible, organised and resilient (we didn’t see a sick bay or lost property box at any of the basic schools we visited).

4. Student cohorts within ‘Basic Schools’ (years 1-9) are very similar socio-economically and intellectually to each other.

5. The school structure of Basic (years 1-9) and Upper/Vocational (years 10-12) positively biases the PISA data because:
   - The Finnish year 9s are the ‘kings of the castle’ at this stage of their development with greater self respect, responsibility, opportunity, confidence etc than their equivalents in Victoria who have an insignificant role somewhere in the middle of our secondary schools.
   - There is a much greater significance in the learning outcomes for year 8/9 students in Finland because their academic results determine which schools/courses they will be competitively selected into for the Upper School years of 10-12.

Consequently, the structure encourages them to put in more effort at this stage to ensure they get what they want in year 10 onwards.

- There is a strong commitment (philosophically and financially) to early, effective and on-going intervention for all students not making expected progress socially, behaviourally or intellectually. This is evident in school practices and in the education budget (7% special needs funding compared with Victoria’s 1%).

As a consequence there is far less failure, giving up and frustrated acting-out behaviour than we often see in Victoria and therefore increased student work output.

While Victoria has a number of good things going for it which are already helping us to be as successful as we currently are. These need to be recognised and **promoted with pride just as Finland does**.

To further improve Victorian PISA results (and other learning outcomes), it appears that we need to creatively look for ways to increase the work output of our students. Some strategies can be adapted from those we have observed in Finland, others we need to invent ourselves to maximise the benefits which can be made available from our own context/structures/processes.

Some other notes:

Finland has 5 terms, each of 8 weeks with the last week assessment.

Education is completely free from 3 to 16 years of age and child care a right from 6 months of age. Costs at Upper secondary and vocational are for textbooks or materials at specialist classes.

Children stay with the same teacher for a minimum of 3 years and in some schools for all of primary school. This reduces the ‘getting to know you’ stage and builds strong relationships.

Every school has at least one if not more Special Education trained teachers, and underachieving students are withdrawn for additional and catch up lessons. All teachers have a Bachelor Degree in an educational content area before they start their teacher training and complete a Masters Degree. All teachers play a musical instrument. There are few specialist teachers in basic schools, the classroom teacher teaches across the curriculum. Sewing, woodwork and textiles are taught in basic school as well as a range of outdoor sports.

Children start formal school at age 7 after at least 2 years of kindergarten/pre school and attend school for fewer hours per week than Victoria.

Finns have a belief in education as a path to future success and are willing to pay for this.

**Thought provoking**
Community News

'Round the Bay in a Day' ride
2012 marks the 20th anniversary of the 'Round the Bay in a Day' ride which will be held on Sunday 21 October 2012. This is the biggest mass participation ride in Australia, fully supported by Bicycle Network Victoria. It's not a race, and participants can ride at their own pace, and over a pre-selected distance.

Trevor Wallwork (father of Sam & Noah) has entered the 250 km route and will be riding for 'Team fps'. All parents, students and friends are welcome to enter the ride, and can chose from 50, 100, 135, 210, & 250 km routes. The 210 km & 250 km routes include a ferry ride between Queenscliff & Sorrento.

'Team fps' will be raising money for the Smith Family, supporting children with their education costs. Riders must register with BNA, via the website by Monday 1 October 2012, although places on each route sell out quickly. Please feel free to enter the ride and join 'Team fps'. If you have any questions, please feel free to call Trevor on 0421 052 388. Details are also available on the BNA website, at www.bicyclenetwork.com.au/general/great-rides/20005/

Come and try Karate
Increase your personal confidence, learn self defense and have fun all at the same time! Here in the school Hall Wednesdays and Thursdays at 4pm. 2 free sessions for everyone and a FREE karate uniform on joining for all new members. Visit www.artofdefence.com.au or call Amelia on 0407320333.

We Give Kids Confidence
Kids Up Front Drama Academy has been building primary aged children’s Confidence, Creativity and Communication skills through a FUN and exciting drama program since 1988.

Drama Classes
at Flemington Primary School Hall
Term 2 2012
Mondays after school
(Prep to Yr 2) 3:45 to 4:45 pm
(Yrs 3 to 6) 4:45 to 5:45 pm

Phone 1300 821 828

Expression of Interest Form
(please return at school entry)

Students Name: ________________________________
Yr: ________________________________
Contact Phone number: ________________________________
Email: ________________________________
# Flemington Primary School
## SCHOOL UNIFORM ORDER FORM

Prices as at October 2011

Opening times
Monday after assembly
Thursday – 3.15pm-3.45pm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHILD'S NAME:</th>
<th>DATE:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TEL. NO.:</td>
<td>GRADE:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRODUCT</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>COST $</th>
<th>SIZE</th>
<th>QTY</th>
<th>TOTAL $</th>
<th>Back Ord</th>
<th>Back Ord Comp</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>POLO SHIRTS Printed, short sleeved</td>
<td>Ch 4 – 16</td>
<td>$23.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>POLO SHIRTS Printed, long sleeved</td>
<td>Ch 4 – 16</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>WINDCHEATER Printed fleecy, raglan sleeve</td>
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<td>$28.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BOMBER JACKET Printed fleecy, 2 colour &amp; studs</td>
<td>Ch 4 – 16</td>
<td>$38.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>TRACK PANTS Standard fleecy, side pockets, reinforced knees</td>
<td>Ch 4 – 16</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<td>PINAFORE Detachable bib, side pocket, single pleated adjustable skirt</td>
<td>4 - 6</td>
<td>$55.00</td>
<td>8 – 10</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
<td>12 - 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>RUGBY KNIT UNISEX SHORTS Elasticized &amp; drawstring waist, side zip pocket.</td>
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<tr>
<td>SUMMER DRESS Standard check, front buttons, collar, pocket</td>
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<td>$39.00</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>CULOTTES Gabardine pleated onto band</td>
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<td>SALES **</td>
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<td>WIDE BRIM HAT Small / Medium / Large</td>
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<tr>
<td>SURF HAT Large (GRADES 5 &amp; 6 ONLY)</td>
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<td>$13.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>SCHOOL BAG Large (Price Increase from 1st Feb 2011)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MUSIC TOP White long sleeve printed back and front</td>
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<td>$30.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>BREATHABLE SPORTS SHIRTS Printed, short sleeve (GRADES 3-6 ONLY) WEAR WHEN PARTICIPATING IN SPORT</td>
<td>Ch 8 -16</td>
<td>$26.00</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL AMOUNT DUE

OFFICE USE ONLY

ORDER FILLED BY:  DATE:

AMOUNT PAID:  $    RECEIPT NO: