



Cycle 1, 2018 newsletter



Chloe Nature Journaling

Significant Dates for Cycle 2, 2018

Birthdays

February

Camila, Eleanor, Abbey & Georgia

March

Tate, Jonah, Tee-Jai & Fran.

Monday 12th March **Labour Day Public Holiday**

Tuesday 13th March **Student Free Day**

Wednesday 14th March **First Day of Cycle 2**

Friday 30th March **Easter Friday Public Holiday**

Monday 2nd April **Easter Monday Public Holiday**

Friday 6th April **Last Day of Cycle 2**

"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."

Margaret J Wheatley

Welcome to 2018

What a great start to 2018, kicking off the year with our new mentors Abigail Browne and Emma Rushford who are now officially part of the PIVS mentor team. We are all loving the new space and have settled in really well. With our students numbers now at 33 we are all set to embark upon a year filled with great fun and loads of learning adventures .

PLPs' Next Cycle

Hair Dressing Skills

with Sarah Azzato (Xavier & Ruby's Mum)

Surfing

with Jess, Benita and Geoff (Tate's Mum and Dad)

Swimming @ the Pool

with Abby and Fiona

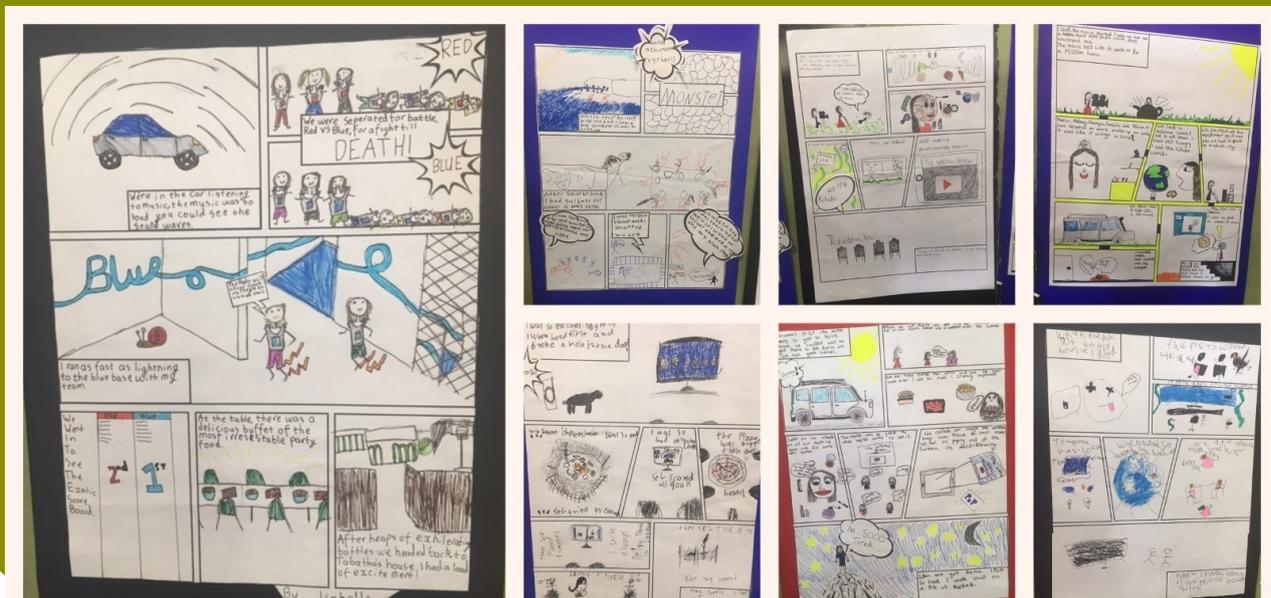
Literary & Numeracy Comics by Abigail

Wow, what a start to the year it has been! I have loved every moment of my first cycle at PIVS; getting to know all the students, mentors and families, both at school and on FAMP.

Working more closely with the Older Years in Literacy and Numeracy and watching them achieve has been awesome! All of the children have displayed strengths, interests and a love for learning, each in their own way.

We have been working on place value in Numeracy across all levels, experimenting with number lines, number patterns and fact families - just to name a few approaches. All of the students have enjoyed making individual "Figure Me Out" posters in which they were asked to come up with maths problems to teach number facts about themselves. These are on display in the Blue Preso Room. I encourage families to come in and see if they can "figure out" which one belongs to whom? Whilst observing these posters, make sure you also check out some of the fantastic Hyperbole Comics also on display. This was the main focus in Literacy for Cycle 1 which we did in conjunction with Sarah Maclean from KVS. The comics provided an introduction to figurative language, which we will continue to expand on in Cycle 2. For this project, the students completed a recount comic of their summer break with a minimum of five hyperboles (unrealistic exaggerations). All of the Older Years children put lots of thought and care into this project which is visible in the final products. Make sure you're ready to be COMPLETELY MIND BLOWN when you read them! Stay tuned for more awesome work this cycle as we introduce Metaphors and Similes.

Thanks for a great start to 2018, PIVS children and community. Abby



Meet the Mentor Emma Rushford... By Lien

What was it like for you at school?

When I started prep, my primary school had 100 kids. So it was pretty small, not as small as PIVS, but still small. It had a little cottage, which was my prep to 1 and 2 classroom. It was the local primary school, so I knew everybody, and all the families. It was really nice.

If you were a child at PIVS would you like this school? Why?

I would have loved it. When I was in High School I was begging mum to go to an alternative school. I was super arty and really crafty and didn't really like school. I would have loved the creative things we do at PIVS and the veggie gardens, because that's what home was like for me. Mum used to tell us to play outside all day, and not to come back until it was dark. I would have loved PIVS.

What other careers have you had?

I was a kinder teacher all last year, a swimming teacher for four years and I worked at a golf course driving the beverage cart around the course selling food and drinks. The novelty wore off that after a while! I have also worked in after school care, in a candle shop and in a café.

Why did you want to work at PIVS?

I thought it was a perfect combination of what I loved about kinder and what I loved about school. I loved play-based learning, arts and crafts and getting outside at kinder and I never wanted to give that side of it up, but the school side appealed to me as well, so PIVS ticked all those boxes. It appeals to my inner child and what I would have loved to do at school, and when I have kids, I'd love to send them to PIVS. It's what I think school should be like. I think that if I'm going to work in a school, then I need to believe in it.

What do you enjoy so far about working at PIVS?

What I love about working at PIVS is just everybody! I really love the people, not just the kids, but the other mentors and the parents are awesome. Everyone is super fun, very friendly, and it's just been really nice. FAMP has been great for getting to know everyone a little bit better, and in a different way. I also love the way that we can individualise learning for each child, help or extend their learning easily, and it's so easy to meet everyone's needs.



New Foundation Students by Emma

In Cycle 1, PIVS welcomed 6 new Foundation children and their families. What a fantastic group, with various interests, skills, backgrounds, and smiling faces. We have all had a great couple of weeks settling in to school, exploring our amazing environment and making new friends. Some highlights have been helping to make morning tea and lunch, getting to know the Kimochis, using our school library and Imaginarium,



Scarlett, Camila, Saoirse, Emma, Jonah, Lois, Eli, Ben, Oscar & Tee-Jai



Ben, Lois, Camila & Saoirse



Ben, Scarlett, Saoirse, Lois & Camila

getting to see the new chicks, and of course FAMP! FAMP was a great chance for the new Foundation students to connect with other PIVS children, as well as for all families to get to know one another. Everyone had a lot of fun! Thank you for a great Cycle 1 Fs and 1s, I am looking forward to a year full of fun, learning, and adventures together.

Kitchen Garden by Jess

It was an exciting cycle in the PIVS Kitchen Garden, with the Level 4-6 students learning how to propagate strawberries from runners. We then looked at what our options will be when we have fruit in surplus over the summer months, including the advantages of and techniques involved in preserving. Thanks Nanna! We had fun making strawberry jam and citrus marmalade and got a thumbs up from our taste testers at morning tea!



The Foundation students began their year by getting familiar with all things Kitchen Garden. We had a fab time practicing making our own lunch, choosing between all the food options and using our three bin waste system when cleaning up.



The Level 1-3 students have been looking at how we care for our chickens. We took the opportunity, (with our three new chicks at PIVS) to look at the incubation period and embryo development. We also have a shortlist of names for our new miniature PIVS community members up on the Kitchen Garden board, and will soon find out what their names are when the votes are in!



Swimming PLP by Jess

There was a huge buzz around our Pool Swimming PLP in Cycle 1. We travelled to Wonthaggi pool on the school bus for four weeks in a row to hone our skills in the pool (whilst of course also practicing important Executive Skills, such as organisation and time management). The Level 4-6 students worked on a progression of swimming drills, sometimes feeling quite challenged by moving their bodies in new ways. The Level 2 and 3 students practiced some basic kicking drills with boards, focusing on staying on the left hand side of the lane, keeping their bodies moving through the water and avoiding bumping into others. The children had such a great time and it was a fantastic lead into some more water-based PLPs to be offered next cycle.



New Spaces by Lien

Over the summer break, our indoor learning spaces were re-imagined and transformed, ready for a fresh start to the new year. The existing preso room was extended and made much larger, and the old 'blue room' had its curtains replaced with walls and windows, turning it into a new space. A big group of our families and staff came together in January to paint, clean and weed, which was a wonderful chance to spend time together and get excited about the new learning areas. Plants were hung from the ceiling, and the Younger Years area moved to the front of the building. The Mentors put the finishing touches to the clean, open spaces on their Planning Day, ready for school to start!



Nature Journaling by Sarah Maclean (KVS)

Our feet touched the warm sand at Shack Bay, as our eager eyes skimmed over the rocks and the tumbling waves. Nature Journaling this cycle involved investigating marine environments, with a focus on texture and how to capture that with our drawing. There was also plenty of exploring, rock scrambling and discoveries to be had, as the students from both Village Schools shared the experience together. This was the first time we have combined learning areas across the schools, and we are looking forward to continuing this next Cycle. A hearty thanks to Shannon Letcher and Rachel Carruthers for coming along as our parent helpers.



Nature Kids by Nick

Cycle One was a fantastic welcome back for the Nature Kids, an interest group formed in late 2017. Growing from its humble beginnings, when it was pioneered by three young naturalists, Nature Kids has now blossomed into a community of 18 Level 2-6 students.

Because of this newfound member base, Nature Kids has been split into two groups, a group of young, like-minded nature lovers, and a group of older budding marine biologists.

For the younger Nature Kids, the cycle focussed on being in nature and encountering the variety of plants and animals that occur locally. Visiting Swan Lake and the Rhyll Inlet, we were able to experience a range of environments and observe some of the living things within them.

The older group of Nature Kids also visited Swan Lake but then opted for a more marine, geological focus, visiting Forrest Caves. At the caves, the power of the sea was evident, with huge chambers having been eroded away, creating caves within the rock.

Nature Kids is looking to be an exciting program for the year, with the kids' excitement high and a plethora of ideas about the exploration of our natural world.



Ukulele by Fiona

Each Wednesday in Cycle One the Level 1-6 students have enjoyed a ukulele lesson with Tanya Nolan. The great weather enabled these to happen outside under the trees and the playgroupers have really enjoyed watching and listening as they wander past.

These lessons will continue into Cycle Two and are an example of how we like to have children work with people who are passionate about their craft.



Xavier, Abbey, Aerin, Jasmine & Tanya

Inaugural Quiz

'Pumpkin Trophy' by Fiona

And so it begins...the inaugural Famp Quiz dual winners for 2018 were the recipients of the specially hand crafted (by Nick) '2018 Pumpkin Trophy'. A fabulous fun tradition we would like to continue and have decided to dry out the pumpkin seeds ready to plant, to produce the perfect pumpkin to carve for years to come. A trophy that will always have its origin's stemming back to the start of this fabulous event in 2018.



Nick carving '2018'



Our seeds from the '2018' Pumpkin Trophy

BCSC Planned Activity Group Visit by Lien

This cycle we have continued to build on the lovely relationship the PIVS students have developed with the Bass Coast Shire Council Planned Activity Group. Planned Activity Clients are people who live within the Bass Coast Shire and who have been referred to the Council, often due to social isolation. This time, our Level 2s, along with Mentors Jenny and Jess, visited their elderly friends for a shared reading day. We started with a delicious morning tea, and the PIVS children introduced themselves to the group. This was followed by reading aloud, firstly by PAG member, Greta, who shared a wonderful rendition of The Owl and the Pussycat, after which, Eleanor and Nate read books to the group. All Level 2s then read their readers to PAG group members and some beautiful connections were made between old and young.

We finished with shared music performances, including Lorraine leading the Watermelon Song and piano pieces by Eleanor and Nate. We went home with a generous donation of many books to PIVS. It was a very special day, with beautiful moments for all who attended. We look forward to continuing the interactions between these children and adults.



Nathanael, Ruby, Callum & Riven reading away



Ruby



Chloe & Riven having lovely chats

FAMP 2018 ... By Fiona

Our fun-filled school tradition—FAMP (Family Camp) was held last cycle at the new and sensational location of Cape Paterson. FAMP is a great way for new families and mentors to meet everyone in the community and for students to connect in an environment away from the classroom.

The program included lots of beach time with everyone enjoying a dip and an explore of the big rockpool. There was Base camp action aplenty with the camping ground feeling like our own little neighbourhood. Bikes raced around the circular track and self-organized ball games went for hours in a spare camp site close by. Sarah Maclean from KVS showed the children how to use focus to maintain their balance on the slackline, as well as being a super FAMP MC!

The kitchen marquee produced some delicious fare and feeding 75 seemed to flow seamlessly with all the help from the adults passing through. An emergency run for coffee had to be made as the urn worked overtime to keep up with the relaxed conversation that could be heard throughout the day.

A new addition to the program this year was the Quiz, hosted by Sarah, which included quirky general knowledge questions as well as a range of audience participation activities. Congratulations to The Water Birds and Family Feud who are the inaugural quiz champions and recipients of the specially handcrafted (thanks, Nick) trophy.

Thanks to everyone, families and mentors alike, who organized their busy lives to be able to spend the time at FAMP together. Cape Paterson is definitely a keeper and we'll see you back there, same time next year!

