



Cycle 7, 2018 newsletter



Birthdays

December

Jasmine, Seb,
Callum, Lois, Jack,
Cruz & Scarlett L

Bear Gully Camp 2018

Chloe, Willow, Aerin, Olive, Nate, Angelo, Callum, Jack, Shayla, Fenn, Riven & Ruby

Significant Dates for Cycle 8, 2018

Monday 19th November **First Day of Cycle 8**

Monday 3rd– Wednesday 5th December **Year 6 Camp**

Wednesday 12th December **PIVS Graduation Dinner**

Thursday 13th December **Beach day at Cowes Foreshore—
Last Day of Cycle 8**

Friday 14th December **Student Free Day**

Monday 17th December **Parent/Student/Mentor Interviews**

Tuesday 18th December **Parent/Student/Mentor Interviews**

"What I think the mentor gets is the great satisfaction of helping somebody along, helping somebody take advantage of an opportunity that maybe he or she did not have." — Clint Eastwood

Meet the Mentor— Franciska Johnston

What was it like for you at school?

In my early years I changed schools quite a bit and it wasn't until grade 3 that I finally had a permanent school. I was quite shy and tended to just do what was required and not much more. It was my Grade 4 and 5 teachers who played significant roles in encouraging and inspiring me to pursue my love of dancing. This in turn built my confidence in all areas of my learning and was a definite spark! They spoke to my parents and suggested sending me to dance classes outside of school. As a result, my whole world opened up and in high school my PE teacher recruited me for the School Rock Eisteddfods. I played the lead roles, which had me spotted by a recruiter for the Sydney Dance Company (SDC). I had an opportunity for a scholarship to the Australian Ballet School which was the path to the SDC. My teachers/mentors along the way had so much influence on my experiences and I am very grateful to them.



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

Absolutely! As my confidence grew with my dancing and school, I started to question the 'how' of things. Questions like, do I have to do it your way or can I do it my way? I found myself wanting to approach things differently and creatively. If I was at PIVS, I have no doubt that my approach would've been nourished and fostered. For me, PIVS is also all about relationships; the social and emotional connections. Connections not only between students, but also the invaluable connections with mentors, the entire PIVS community and beyond. A select few teachers for me literally changed my life path - they made the effort to connect and even today I cherish my relationships with them.

What other careers have you had?

Unfortunately, for various reasons, the 16 year old me did not end up applying for the scholarship. Whilst disappointed, I still continued to dance and started to teach with my own dancing school at 17. When I left school after Year 12, I worked answering phones in my Dad's driving school business alongside running the dance school. It was a great year, yet I still wanted to be dancing and performing for myself. I auditioned to do a Bachelor of Arts Dance degree in Dance, got accepted and headed to Uni.

In my early 20's I moved to the big city and pretty much gave up on my dance school and aspirations of being a dancer in a dance company. Instead I was encouraged to get a 'real job'. I mainly worked in retail and hospitality. I had a flair with connecting with people and found myself progressing quite quickly in my career. My eventual entry into the Retail Traders Association's training department led me to go back to Uni to do a Bachelor of Adult Education in Human Resources. I ventured out on my own as a consultant, offering my services as a writer, developer and presenter of training programs.

After I met my later-to-be-husband Michael, I moved to Melbourne with a new job at Freedom Group as the Learning and Development Consultant for Vic, SA and Tas. It was here that my career changed from being a trainer to having a team of trainers. I came full circle and moved into the role of coaching and mentoring others, with much of my training revolving around the same executive skills we use at PIVS. Once I became a Mum, I worked casually as a HR Training Consultant and also with Michael in our own Small Business Marketing Business.

Board Report by Lien



During Cycle 7, the PIVS Board had more frequent get-togethers than usual, as we continued to focus on developing the PIVS Strategic Plan. We have all really enjoyed thinking about the priorities for PIVS now and in the coming years, and how we can continue to ensure that our school remains innovative, vibrant and relevant into the future. We look forward to the plan becoming available for the PIVS community to read (once a draft is completed), so that interested people can read further about some of the strategic priorities for our school.

Why did you want to work at PIVS?

I literally stumbled across PIVS on an island drive with the kids in late 2016, and its location prompted me to find out more. All I can say is that being excited was an understatement. After years of being a trainer, I had felt it would be great if we could empower our children with 'Executive Skills', and for our schools and teachers to talk about Maslow's hierarchy of needs and focus more on the social and emotional needs alongside traditional learning. Finding a job at PIVS was the last thing I expected, as my focus was on the kids, but next thing I knew I had an interview for the Admin role starting in 2017.

What do you enjoy about working at PIVS?

What can I say, I love what I do! What I love most is being able to see and experience the living, breathing school from my desk and as I venture into the main building each day. The silent observation of the amazing things that go on. A highlight for me is having the students (and of course the mentors and parents) visiting me in the hut - whether that be a hello, a chat, a hug, a resource and/or even a place of refuge to recoup before heading back into the world. Overall, I enjoy knowing that I am part of something bigger. We are on the forefront of the evolution of education for our children, and PIVS is a place for us all to 'spark' and be seen as individuals. So much goes on behind the scenes and we all play our part in bringing it all together. I see it happening every day. I am proud of what we all do and thankful for being able contribute at a ground level.

Fitzroy Community School Camp by Craig

I pulled up to Fitzroy Community School (FCS) with a minibus full of Village School students and proudly wore a big smile on my face. Together we were ten students strong, five from PIVS and five from KVS; Aerin, Isabelle, Jasmine, Tate and Xavier from PIVS, with Marni, the mentor from KVS, bringing Flick, Jonah, Lola, Mila and Tahlia. We knew the next three days were going to be awesome and our students flooded into the FCS terrace house building with looks of childhood exploration and intrigue.

We unloaded our things, and whilst the FCS crew were setting up for their fete, we made our way across the road to the Edinburgh Gardens to play basketball. Upon our return the school had come alive with children and adults buzzing around everywhere. Our Village School students quickly released themselves into the flow of human traffic and started visiting stalls and making those initial connections with the FCS community. Surprisingly, as the afternoon went on, three of our crew (Tate, Xavier and Jonah) had found their way into the workforce of the fete and were operating the soda spider stall and Nerf battle arena. Come the end of the day, we were all in great spirits.

The next day and a half were filled to the brim with more structured activities, with the Village School students grouped in with the FCS 'biggies' (5/6 group). In the morning, each group rotated between an English lesson with Faye Berryman, the original founder of the school, and rounders practice with Tim Berryman, the current principal of the school. The next two blocks were split between an FCS-inspired sports lesson with me, playing 'Animal Ball' and 'Sock Wars' and a free block to do as they pleased around the school. In the afternoon, the conjoined biggies group played together in an interschool rounders tournament with other schools from the Fitzroy area. Finally ending the day, the Village School crew enjoyed a dinner at La Porchetta, finishing off with ice-cream! The next morning, the groupings were separated into mixed aged 'tribes' with a mixture of lessons including Mathematics with me, English with Nick Berryman (lead teacher at FCS), Sport, Spelling, or sidestepping those completely to go on an outing to Fitzroy our students relished this positive vibe; made possible by the goey mass of fun, activity and connection that this camp provided.



Tahlia (KVS), Jasmine & Isabelle



Tate & Xavier working at the soda stall.



The crew tackling Xavier to the ground.

The mega match in play



A thumbs up from Nate, a great game by all!



PIVS and KVS Soccer Match by Nick

This cycle, we saw the second interschool sports match between PIVS and KVS, this time facing off in soccer. After two cycles of practice, the team was eager to put their skills to the test. Meeting at Wonthaggi, both teams were in good spirits. It was an overcast day and both schools knew the stakes. From the start the game was close; both teams desperately vying for success. There were many feats of athleticism with both schools scoring some magnificent goals. As the clock ticked, PIVS took the lead and were able to defend it till the final siren! The game was won and both teams displayed their sportsperson-ship, congratulating one another on a great game.

Farm School by Jo

Cycle 7 saw the commencement of a new Out 'n' About program; Farm School! This wonderful new addition to our weekly activities was created to embrace the students' passion and enthusiasm about being in nature and with animals, which was evident during our Farming PLP.

Every Monday afternoon, a group of eager students from Levels 2 and 3 have been going to Jo's farm for Farm School. As part of these visits, the students have been involved in the construction of a chook pen, which will house one of the young roosters from PIVS that needs his own space. Students have used a range of tools and learned a variety of new skills; such as measuring timber, drilling pilot holes, fixing timber together and stapling chicken wire and mesh. They have enjoyed seeing the construction progress each week and are well over half-way to creating their masterpiece!

When they're not busy on the tools, the Farm School students love spending time with the farm animals. Many of the students have said this is a highlight of their week. The bond they have developed with the animals is truly heart-warming. The students love feeding, patting and caring for the goats, sheep, ponies and pig.

Before heading back on the bus, everyone enjoys afternoon tea together, which the students help prepare. The atmosphere and relationships that are shared at Farm School are very special. We look forward to continuing Farm School next cycle and finishing our first project of creating a chook pen!

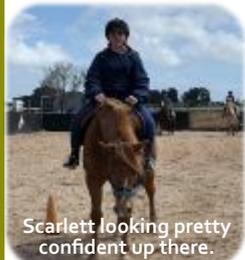


Kiva Project by Craig

Over the past cycle the Level 5/6 students have been engaging with a project on micro-finance and connecting with people around the world. Through a website called KIVA, our students have had the opportunity to read through the stories of hundreds of people who do not have access to reputable financial services; in a bid for the students to engage with a person, idea, goal or situation that they feel they wanted to help with. The educational aims for this project have been interwoven into a rich, real-world experience that I have relished seeing our older years students getting their teeth into. In the end, each student presented to their group the details of a person and loan proposal that they wanted to give to. Once presented, each student logged onto KIVA and actually loaned \$25 to their carefully chosen person and their goal. What a joy it was as a mentor, to hear the students' reflections about the great feeling of giving with intention and changing lives.

Horse Riding PLP by Jenny

The horse riding PLP in Cycle 7 was a huge success. So much so, that we have decided to extend the students' experience. The first two weeks of Cycle 8 will give each group another chance at perfecting the skills taught by Mark, Di and their team at The Horse Workshop in Bass. Matching each student to a horse, taking into account size, temperament and initial attraction, ensured that each student felt comfortable and enjoyed their time. It was really heart-warming to watch the connections between horses and riders grow. The broad grins said it all; from grooming the ponies, styling their manes and tails complete with braids, clips and ribbons, to unsaddling, brushing and feeding each mount. The expert advice and care by the instructors resulted in growing confidence and improved riding skills for all. By the end of the second 45 minute session, all students were trotting, many of them on their own without lead ropes; an amazing feat considering it was a new experience for most of them. Callum's words summed up the experience "I had a terror smile on my face when I got on the big horse, Tom, but it changed to a happy smile after I started." Remember to come and have a look at the photo display on the Imaginarium wall; there are many happy smiles looking right back at you – they were having the time of their lives. What wonderful opportunities PIVS provides!!!



Digital Filming by Fiona

This cycle saw our vision of a whole school film project come to life with focussed and fun photographic sessions. After preparing storyboards and scripts, sourcing costumes and props, and deciding on locations, each group brought their plans to life through either a 10-12 image slide show or 3-4 minute film.

Some productions were contained to studio (Yellow Room) sets while others headed outdoors around our school grounds and off-site into homes, farms, the beach and the high school building. We all learnt a lot about the technical aspects of photography, editing, sound recording and how it can take many attempts to land a great shot. This project was a real highlight of this semester and will definitely be a regular feature of the PIVS program.



Film Night Community Dinner by Lien

The velvet curtains were hung, the red carpet was rolled out, popcorn and 'spider' ingredients were readied and the dinner tables were decorated, all in preparation for the inaugural PIVS Film Night! The PIVS community came together in Cycle 7 for another great potluck dinner, followed by the exciting premiere of slideshows and movies prepared by students from Foundation to Level 6. The diversity of the students' creations was heartwarming and impressive, with the 'sparks' of different groups of children being artfully reflected in their works. The pride of the film creators of all ages as they introduced their movies was beautiful to watch. The audience loved the different offerings, and there were many big laughs. Our first exploration into student film-making was a great success!



The red carpet awaits your arrival.



Jo & Aerin preparing for the premiere.



Happy popcorn munchers ready for the viewing.



Angelo & Xavier ready to eat.



The best place to eat in town for our PIVS community.

Congratulations to our PIVS Water Week Winners

This year's Westernport Water National Water Week poster competition once again displayed the creativity and thoughtfulness of local primary school children, including our very own PIVS students. Students created posters that demonstrated why water is so important to them and their environment from a local perspective. This year the theme was 'Water for me, Water for all'; highlighting why water is important to themselves and the local environment.



Jacque
Grade 1 & 2 Winner



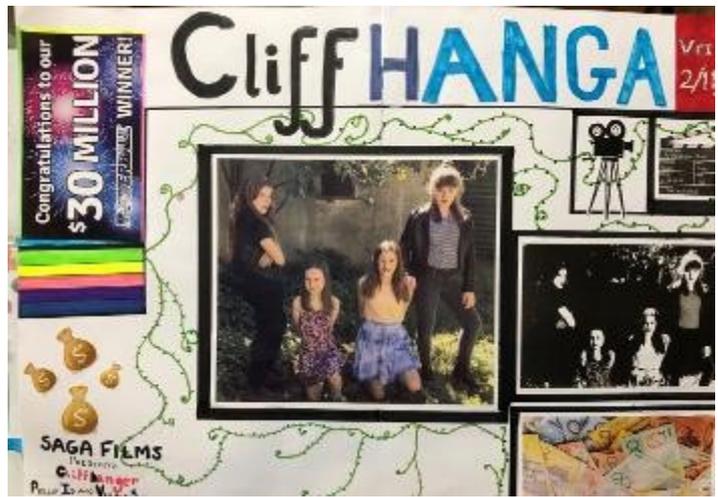
Angie
Grade 1 & 2 Runner Up



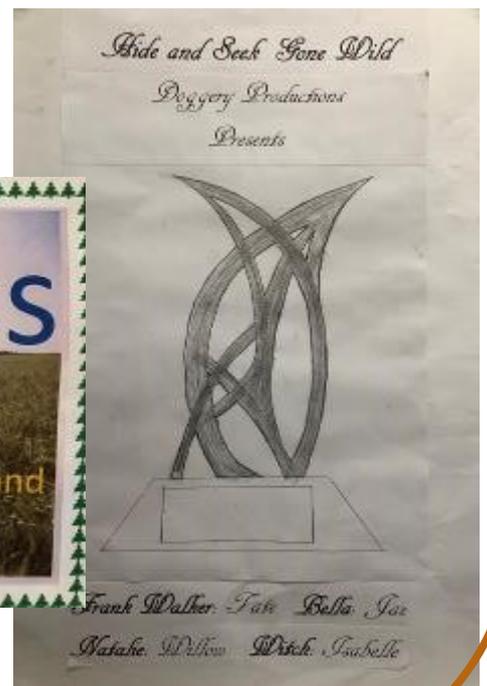
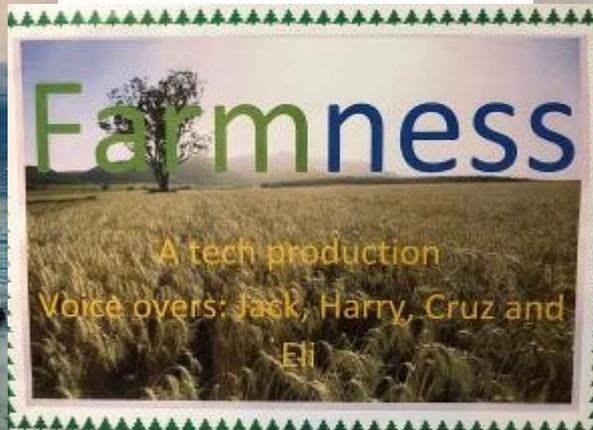
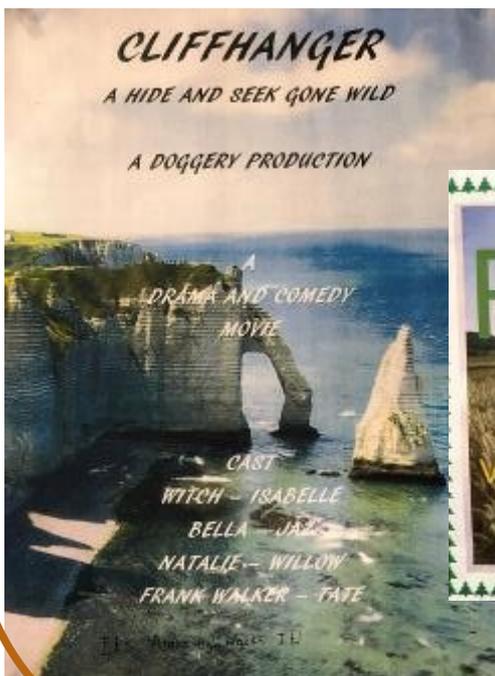
Isabelle
Equal Grade 5 & 6
Runner Up



Aerin
Equal Grade 5 & 6
Runner Up



Film Posters



Kimochis by Emma

This cycle, the Foundation and Level 1 students have been learning all about the Kimochis. 'Kimochi' means 'feelings' in Japanese, and the Kimochis are a set of characters who all have their own unique personalities. The Kimochis are used as a tool to support children's learning in identifying and expressing feelings, working through conflicts, and building social and emotional intelligence. The Foundation and Level 1 students have been reading the books about each character and have been involved in discussions and role plays to work through the social and emotional experiences that occur within these stories. The students have been identifying with different characters and have produced some fantastic writing pieces around themes and feelings such as worry, frustration, inclusion and kindness.

Well done to all Foundation and Level 1 students, its amazing to see how your writing skills have developed over the year.



'Describing words about Cloud'
by Oscar.

Welcome to PIVS by Emma

This cycle was the beginning of the 2019 Foundation transition program. The new students have been getting to know our school environment, other children and mentors. We have been doing some fun craft activities, reading stories and playing outside. Transition sessions will be running throughout Cycle 8 as we prepare for an exciting new beginning next year.



Our transition students with busy threading hands.



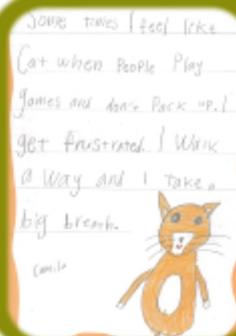
The transition students learning about PIVS lunches



Emma with Lexie, Isla, Cordelia, Isis, Rhian & Zen.



'How to help Bug'
typed on the computer
by Ben.



'Sometimes I feel like Cat when.'
written by Camila.

Kitchen Garden—Apron making by Jess

This cycle, with the re-introduction (and keen-ness!) of lunch helpers, all students were given the option to make an apron. We worked with a basic pattern and instructions and students were given a choice of fabrics and a range of finishing touches. It was great to see students so proud of their unique work, and to now see them wearing their creations whilst helping to prepare lunch. It certainly makes for a colourful kitchen!



Camila expertly operating the sewing machine.



Riven looking proud of her efforts.



Lois closely observed by Eli.



The finished products ready for use.

Bear Gully Camp by Nick

Another year, another Bear Gully Camp! 2018 has already seen many exciting and memorable camps, however, Bear Gully holds a special place in the PIVS world. Being the third year of this camp, there was much anticipation amongst the campers, especially those for whom it was their first experience!

Leaving on Monday morning, we arrived at the campground and were greeted by torrential downpour. Using all our tent-putting-up knowledge, we may have managed the most quickly erected tents in history! Following this feat, we spent the afternoon getting comfortable with the surroundings and walking along the beach. As night came, so did a feast of fire-roasted potatoes, which were perfect for the occasion. Slowly we all made our way to slumber, having completed our first day.

Day two brought improved weather and high spirits. Once we'd organised ourselves after a night of perpetually falling off our sleeping mats, we headed to the Walkerville South Beach. Walkerville South has just about everything a beach should; soft sand, still water, rocky outcrops and huge caverns. Together we adventured up the beach to brave the caverns and were not disappointed. The limestone hollows were as dark and as frightening as ever!

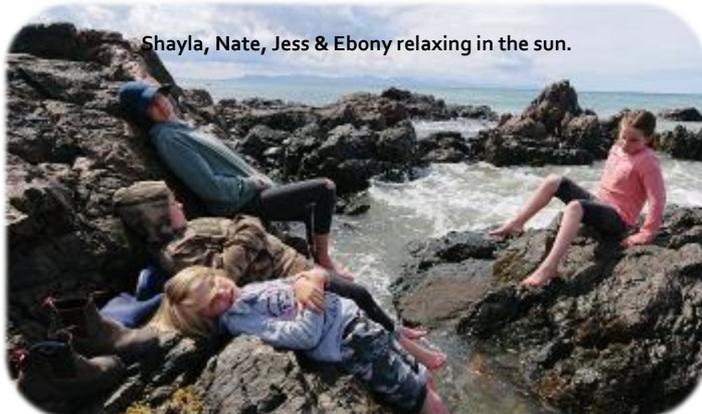
Following the spelunking, the water was calling. Swimming and stand-up paddle boarding were a fantastic way to while away the lovely morning sun. After the beach we headed back to camp, having lunch and re-energising. With charged batteries, it was time for a game of Weinberg's Treasure (a classic PIVS game that all should be happy to explain with glee). This capped off what had been another great day on camp.

On our third day, we got our heads down and packed up what was quite an extensive camping set up. This is never the most fun part of camp, but everybody worked together and eventually we got there. To say goodbye to another year of Bear Gully we all headed down to the beach, lazing around and soaking up the morning sun. Another year, another Bear Gully! Go Narwhals!

Go Narwhals!
Fenn, Jess, Willow, Aerin, Callum,
Shayla, Olive & Ebony



Shayla, Nate, Jess & Ebony relaxing in the sun.



Ben checking out the action.



Moto GP by Jess

With Phillip Island buzzing around Motorcycle Grand Prix time, we had a group of students keen to check out the action at the track. Lucky us, that the track is just up the road! The students were each given a super cool trackside handbook which they excitedly worked through and then we ducked up for a sneak peek at the action.

Unfortunately, there was an oil spill (and a comedy of errors to follow) that meant we had to wait quite a long time for the bikes to begin, but we were patient, happy to be part of the buzz, climbing trees and chatting to friendly spectators. Thankfully, we saw some zooming bikes (up close!) before heading back to school for lunch.



Super keen for the race to get started.

PLPs Next Cycle

**Horse Riding
& Grooming**
with Jenny

GLEE Club
with Jo and Fran