

A letter from the Principal



Dear Parents, Teachers and Students,

Wow! What a fantastic year for everyone at PPS! We are so proud to be involved in such a connected, vibrant and enthusiastic school community. 2018 was an exciting year in so many ways and we wanted to thank everyone for their outstanding efforts throughout the year.

This sense of community is evident throughout the year and is most evident during our vast array of special events such as the Carnival, Special Friends Day, and Pearcedale Cup. Of course, last night's wonderful Christmas Carols evening was another highlight.

Pearcedale Primary School children attended numerous camps - Year 3 went to The Briars, Year 4 travelled into the city for an Urban Camp, in Year 5 the children went to Waratah Bay for a beach camp and the Year 6 students travelled all the way to Canberra. Some of our Band members attended the Music Camp culminating in the most amazing musical performance in a combined concert with other schools on the Peninsula. Finally some children had the opportunity to learn to ski at Mt Buller! Thanks to all of the staff and parents who attended these camps. Your dedication is appreciated by all!

Our school has participated in a wide range of events throughout the year notably Wakakirri and the Energy Breakthrough Human Powered Vehicle Challenge. In Wakakirri an "army" of students performed their amazing story about the red panda. Congratulations to the team who made this story come alive. Pearcedale were chosen to Perform at the Palais in the state finals and although they did not ultimately win the overall story of the year title they were superb! The HPV team together with a huge contingent of parents and under the leadership of Mr Morrison went to Maryborough to participate in a 14 hour endurance race. Although the school team did not win, they represented both themselves and the school brilliantly –champions in our eyes! Our Auslan choir has also represented our school brilliantly performing at various community events.

Who could forget the Kidsmatter Daywhat an amazing experience for both the children and parents to learn about mental health, resilience and most importantly supporting each other. Of course no-one will forget the colour run...what a day!

We worked tirelessly and become more sustainable during 2018 with a particular focus on waste. Great gains were made reducing the amount of waste and increasing recycling and composting. Receiving a sustainability award from Casey Council highlighted our achievements and growth in this important area.

Academically we were delighted by a number of outstanding achievements in particular the development in our children's reading. A particular focus in 2018 was to improve our overall reading results and also bring back a love of reading. In NAPLAN Pearcedale students in Year 3 and 5 were assessed to be above the state average! Thousands of new books were purchased for new classroom libraries thanks to an awesome effort at our Walkathon.

2018 was a huge year in achieving the plans to redevelop the external play areas. Carnival and other fundraising money has been saved over the past few years to achieve an amazing range of improvements. The greatest was, of course, our new artificial grass oval and adjacent playing areas following the demolition of the old hall. A new sandpit and shade sail structure was also built

thanks to the Ellis family who coordinated this project. New play equipment has been added to an existing playground. Next month the eagerly anticipated shade sails for the middle and rear playgrounds will finally be installed. Last night we got to perform on our new stage area and when the surrounding gardens are completed this will be a wonderful new area for children to interact in.

Tragedy befell the school community with one of our beautiful Prep students dying in a terrible accident at Bonnie Doon. The community rallied together for the family and our ongoing support and thoughts will always reach out to Liam's family.

This week we farewell a number of staff who are departing Pearcedale Primary.

Lisa Stanborough has been the Business Manager at our school for the past 20 something years and has made the decision to finish working (not retiring!) and spend more time with family and friends. Lisa is one of the most compassionate and caring people who will be missed by all!

Kym Gilchrist has also been at our school for over 20 years has taken on a new challenge as Learning Specialist at Langwarrin Park. Kym will be missed by all... a fine teacher, dedicated leader who always puts children and their learning first.

Sasha Fritchley has also been connected to Pearcedale for a very long time both as a student and a teacher! Sasha has also received a promotion into a Learning Specialist role at Ballam Park Primary. Her passion, drive and positivity is the hallmark of this fine teacher. Good luck!

Benn Harper is returning to his former school where he was an Integration aide and will be sadly missed by our communityhe will definitely make an impact – but this time as a fabulous teacher!

Claire Harden has been at our school for the past 6 months and we wish her well in her teaching career. It has been wonderful having you teach at our school.

Charlotte Wearne, Caitlin Wieckowski and Jill Appleton will be leaving us for 12 months. Charlotte is off to the Northern Territory to teach in a remote school. Caitlin is broadening her teaching practice spending a year at Moorooduc Primary School, and Jill is travelling overseas to Prague and will be teaching overseas. Exciting adventures for these three staff!

Merry Christmas everyone! Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to returning to school in 2019 ready for an even more successful year!

Simon Anderson

