



# Cycle 2, 2018 newsletter



Surf's Up!

Benita, Tate, Xavier, Isabelle, Aerin, Abbey, Georgia, Jasmine & Geoff

## Significant Dates for Cycle 3, 2018

### Birthdays

#### April

Nathanael, Scarlett & Nick

#### May

Eli, Ebony, Abby & Fiona.

Monday 16th April **Student Free Day**

Tuesday 17th April **First Day of Cycle 3**

Wednesday 25th April **ANZAC Day Public Holiday**

Friday 11th May **PIVS Community Dinner**

Tuesday 15th, Wednesday 16th,

Thursday 17th May **NAPLAN**

Friday 18th May **Last Day of Cycle 3**

## Meet the Mentor Abigail Browne

### What was it like for you at school?

For the most part I loved school. Upon reflection I would say that my love of school started in my early years. I was lucky enough to be in a P-2 and 3-5 composite with the same two teachers. School became my second family where I had a very close relationship with my teachers and friends. It was much like the Village School in this sense. It was in these early years that I decided I wanted to grow up and be a teacher.

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

Yes absolutely! I would have loved PIVS. One of the things that was always difficult for me at school was having to sit still all day unless we had sport. I have always had boundless amounts of energy and always struggled with this. PIVS has so many opportunities to move and explore which is something I would have really benefited from in school.

### What other careers have you had?

I have worked across many industries, both in Australia and abroad, including operating my own business as a fitness coach, working within the tourism industry as a travel agent and in hospitality during university. Some highlights of my teaching career have been volunteering in African Schools both in Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as the challenge of casual relief teaching in the United Kingdom.

### Why did you want to work at PIVS?

I just love what PIVS is all about, the fact that students are given the tools to help create their ideal learning environment and follow their interests is awesome. Also, I crave adventure and to be working in an environment that supports and encourages adventure and exploration is amazing. I feel that all kids should be given as much opportunity as possible to create their own world, and PIVS allows this to happen in a very organic, supported way.

### What do you enjoy so far about working at PIVS?

I enjoy the variety every day brings. No two days are the same...not even close, and I honestly love this. I love the way each cycle brings with it new PLPs and adventure. I love that I get to teach across all levels and build relationships with all the kids and staff. I love that we all collaborate on a daily basis and work as a team. I love the kids and all their quirks, they make me laugh every day and I LOVE that I don't have to make lunch every day. As Confucius says, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life". I feel that I have done this at PIVS.



## Koonwarra School Visits by Abby

In the last two weeks of Cycle Two, I was lucky enough to spend my Tuesday mornings at Koonwarra Village School. This was a great opportunity for me to experience a Village School that is a few years ahead of PIVS in its development. Seeing how far KVS has come from their early days to where they are now 7 years on, is truly beautiful and very inspiring. Not only aesthetically, with strikingly designed and purpose-built buildings and extensions, but also with the smooth sailing of day-to-day activities for students and mentors, who work both collaboratively and independently in such a seamless motion. Thank you to Sarah and Brent who shared some of their knowledge, assisting me to develop as a Village School Mentor. I have learnt so much in my visits that I can't wait to roll out at PIVS.

## Swimming PLP

This Cycle it was back to Wonthaggi Bass Coast Aquatic and Leisure Centre for our Swimming PLP for Levels 2 and 3. There



was lots of excitement that was not just about going for a swim! The bus trip to Wonthaggi each session was also a highlight, especially when we borrowed the Phillip Island RSL bus. So many discussions were had about the bus's features and benefits, with the automatic sliding door a definite fascination.

The students really love the water. Fun times were had doing laps, being mermaids and dolphins, monkey moving along the edges of the pool and having plenty of super, splashing fun. All this and so much more as they've expanded upon their water safety knowledge and awareness.

## Surf's Up by Jess

It was Week One, our wetsuits and towels were packed. Lunch was scoffed and we were on our way to Smiths Beach for our first session of the highly anticipated Surfing PLP. Geoff and Benita were eagerly waiting in the car park for our arrival and the children were so excited that they sprinted down to the beach, foamies under their arms. We warmed up under grey skies and talked about the skills that we were going to be practicing over the coming weeks and then into the glorious big blue we paddled!



Alby, Abbey, Aerin, Geoff, Georgia, Isabelle & Jasmine



Georgia & Xavier



Aerin surfing in on a wave.



Heading down to the beach with confidence.



Practicing on the sand.



Here we go....!

Paddling, where to position ourselves on the board, arching our backs, shifting our balance, popping up and keeping a low centre of gravity. So much to learn! And so much FUN!!

In Week Two, we headed to YCW for a completely different surfing experience. Blue skies, long spilling waves and party waves galore!

In Week Three, the conditions were looking great for Shelley Beach. It was so great to be able to head to the other side of the island and to experience surfing at three different locations in completely different surf conditions. This last Friday was such a great afternoon, with the children really getting comfy on their boards. They loved having the rest of the school meet them on the beach and could have surfed all afternoon long. Bliss!

## Younger Years Update by Emma

Although it was a short cycle, the Younger Years managed to fit a lot in. In Cycle 2 we started a 'Very Hungry Caterpillar' theme which was weaved in to different learning areas. We made a big Hungry Caterpillar for the front room that showed the days of the week, which helped us with our special maths topic of 'Time'. The Hungry Caterpillar theme also inspired us to think about our food choices, and this led to a fun afternoon making food faces and different food-based artworks with Jess. We have been talking about healthy food choices and have been exploring this in a fun way through craft and by helping to prepare our food in the kitchen.



This cycle, the Younger Years group were also involved in the Hair Styling PLP with Sarah Azzato (Xavier and Ruby's mum), which was a fun way to spend some time with the Older Years groups and to learn some new skills. Another exciting part of Cycle 2 was our first beach afternoon as a group. The Foundations and Level 1s had the best time all travelling to the beach on the bus together, playing in the sand and eating some yummy birthday cupcakes. Cycle 3 will be another exciting few weeks as we move on to learning about contracts and participating in more Out 'n' Abouts.

## Nature Kids by Nick

Nature Kids walk to Kitty Miller Bay  
Tate, Isabelle, Xavier, Jasmine & Willow.



Nature Kids Out 'n' Abouts this cycle took us to the beach to explore these natural ecosystems and examine human impacts on them.

The younger group visited Berry's Beach to look at the impacts of rubbish. As a team we combed the beach, finding rubbish ranging from water bottles and plastic containers to tiny plastic pieces the size of a grain of sand.

The older group travelled to Kitty Miller Bay to discover the world of marine biology. Hoping to explore rockpool ecology, we were disappointed to find the rockpools underwater. Instead, we walked over to the wreck of the SS Speke and speculated about the life histories of the marine species we found washed up on the beach.

## Science Camp by Nick

Cycle 2 saw the inaugural joint PIVS and KVS Science Camp! Students from both schools got to know each other through natural world adventures and exploration. Huntsman holding and 'marshmallow tiggly' were additional highlights.

In our 2018 Science Camp we stayed at Marlay Point on the banks of Lake Wellington in east Gippsland. As our introduction to studying wetland ecosystems, we made an in-depth examination of the Heart Morass wetland system.

To begin our investigation, we took samples for water quality; testing for turbidity, salinity and pH. Following this, we began catching and identifying the area's terrestrial and aquatic animals. We found a range of bugs including a variety of spiders, mayfly larvae and dragonfly nymphs. Identifying these was especially exciting as we got to look at the bugs under a microscope and get a glimpse into their world.

After this we travelled around the wetlands looking for bird species. Using binoculars, we looked at the diversity of birdlife. The highlight was being able to view a pair of White-Bellied Sea Eagles soaring above the waters. The Heart Morass was a fantastic place to learn about and experience wetlands and we were very thankful for the opportunity.

Science Camp was an awesome trip and provided us with an opportunity to expand our knowledge of the natural world. I am looking forward to the 2019 Science Camp and the possibilities it will bring.

Flick, Abbey, Aerin & Willow taking a stroll.



## BCSC Planned Activity Group Visit by Jenny



Xavier, Tate, Jasmine, Willow, Aerin, Abbey, Georgia & Isabelle learning the 'Fruit Salad' song.



All so engaged in conversation and card games.



Tate having a lovely chat.

The connection between PIVS and our older friends continued when the older PIVS students visited the senior citizen centre this cycle. The BCSC Planned Activity Group thoroughly enjoyed mixing with the level 4-6s from PIVS. On our arrival, we were greeted warmly and with much anticipation. The students assembled plates of scrummy morning tea which Jess had thoughtfully prepared. Soda water from the soda stream was a hit, many opting for this to replace their usual cuppa. The students took orders and handed around refreshments, with animated conversations interrupting the normal quiet buzz. Card games were the focus for this visit; UNO and a form of card Bingo. The PAG members and students sat side-by-side and the connections between young and old were heartwarming.

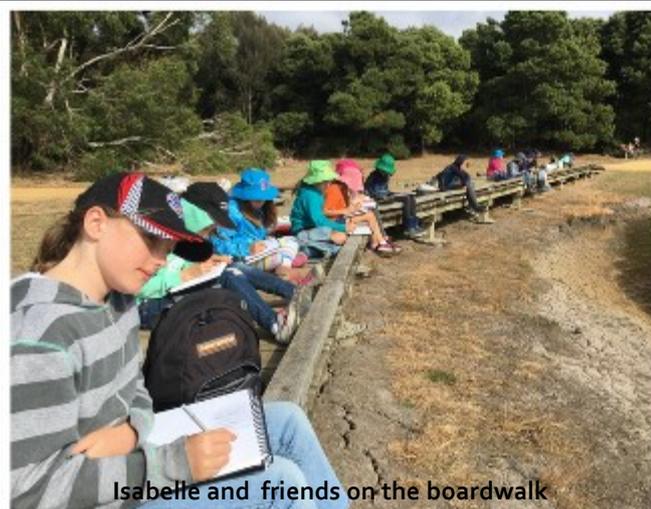
Singing was once again a feature with Lorraine leading the chorus. Time flew and before we knew it we were on our way back to school. We are all looking forward to our visit next cycle!

## Cycle 2 Nature Journaling with KVS

Once again the PIVS and KVS students came together for Nature Journaling. The Levels 3-5 and 5-6 from both schools headed out on separate occasions to the Wonthaggi Wetlands Reserve; a beautiful local wetland area with plenty of birdwatching opportunities and so much more.

Nature Journaling is dedicated time for students to explore and really observe their surrounds. They are able to

be in the moment, and to reflect on and relish the finer details of their discoveries. They learn to observe, document and connect with the world around them.



Isabelle and friends on the boardwalk



Students with Sarah from KVS



Aerin

## Older Years FAMP Reflections by Jenny

"Zzzzzzz, Morning! Did I tell you about FAMP 2018? It is the best thing ever..... ", and so our FAMPING experience began to be recorded on paper. The older students opened their FAMP recounts with some fascinating 'sizzling starts':

"Everybody please get ready for swimming," boomed Sarah's voice through the megaphone."

"Ba Boom Ba Boom rattled the car down the dirt road..."

"My anxiety levels were building..."

Hyperboles and special memories formed the basis of their initial drafts, which were reworked and edited to produce final copies.

The Older Years written recounts were also complemented by a variety of other presentation types including comic strips, detailed illustrations, speech bubbles intermingled with photos and digital technology, as well as sequence pictures. The discussions and banter round the camping experience were enriching and expressed the students' warm approval. It was evident FAMP was a huge success!



## School Hats

by Fiona



Remembering to bring a hat to school or knowing who's is who's can sometimes be a problem. Well... not anymore! This cycle we worked with Cassie Wright (a teacher and friend of both Village Schools) to select or produce a design which Cassie then cut out of vinyl and ironed onto our hat with each one becoming a unique expression of our style. Please make sure these hats stay at school throughout the year.

## Hairstyling PLP by Jess

This cycle, Sarah Azzato (Xavier and Ruby's mum) joined us on Monday afternoons to share her ripper hairdressing skills. We had such a keen response to this PLP that we split into two groups to hone our skills in combing, parting, plaiting, braiding and up-styling. We also had a super group of willing models in the Younger Years group that helped the keen stylists get as much practice as possible. The children have definitely picked up some tricks of the trade during the cycle, and their eagerness often spilled over into morning tea and lunchtimes. Fun times!



Jess & Indah



Ruby & Camila



Camila & Jack



Sarah, Eleanor, Lois,  
Chloe & Scarlett



Fenna & Fiona

## PLPs' Next Cycle

**Self-Defense**

with Pete Wolf

**Netball**

with Jenny & Jess