From the Principal

Fintona Girls' School has a strong and rich history spanning 122 years and last week we celebrated Founders' Day with a special Founders' Day Assembly titled, The Leading Women of Fintona. Students from Prep to Year 12 assembled with special guests, Mrs Margaret Ross, Ms Julie Goldsworthy, Mrs Joan Gowdie and Mrs Sue Woolley in attendance. Girls from the Junior, Middle and Senior School shared with us a snapshot of these amazing women and their contribution in shaping Fintona as we know it today.

It is important that we take the time to both reflect on and share the history with our girls and broader community. Here are some snippets from the presentation made last week.

This year we celebrate 122 years of Fintona Girls' School. We need to praise and thank the women who have led Fintona throughout these past 122 years as we look forward to building the future.

Annie Hughston, Principal* 1896-1933

Annie Hughston, with her brother William, envisaged establishing a school for girls in Camberwell. From a humble beginning in Mayston St Camberwell in 1896, fourteen girls sat around a table waiting to be divided into classes. So began Fintona. Annie Hughston’s teaching experience, combined with that of her brother, promised to prospective parents that the education Fintona offered would be academically sound. It was a huge challenge for Annie Hughston as it was in the middle of a severe economic depression and there were 43 private girls’ schools registered in Victoria so the competition to succeed was overwhelming.

Miss Hughston was the moving spirit behind all the school’s activities. She was always there guiding everything and everybody, knowing everything and everybody. She had exacting, perhaps even severe standards of work and efficiency, but she exacted nothing beyond what she herself gave.

Miss Hughston fostered a strong social service commitment in her students. Instead of a Valedictory Evening celebrating the academic success of the students Fintona ran a stall, the profits of which were donated to the children’s wing of the Austin Hospital.

To establish and lead one’s own school demonstrated not only determination but perseverance and women’s rights were foremost in Annie’s mind. In 1891, Annie signed the Women’s Suffrage Petition requesting women’s right to vote.

The teaching at Fintona was known for its thoroughness; Miss Hughston believed that foundations for education should be carefully established; each pupil should master one stage before proceeding to the next. Teachers were expected to be specialists in their area of the curriculum. Health was considered important and Fintona engaged in inter school sport as early as 1905, winning the School’s Basketball Competition Shield in 1912.

Isobel Macdonald, Headmistress* 1921-1924

Miss Macdonald’s brilliant teaching was characterised by her ability to encourage an opposing view and to develop independence of thought. She pioneered Experimental Education which involved less formal teaching; instead students investigated facts for themselves with teachers guiding students to resources. The House system was also introduced in 1923.

In 1924 Miss Macdonald stated, “the true difficulty of education today is that no one really knows what we are preparing these girls for… There is urgent need that our schools shall produce a new type of educated woman whose influence will be felt in every department of life. Women are going to need more intelligence and a broader outlook, more poise and adaptability and a far more delicate sense of justice. They must be ready to undertake responsibility and to undergo patiently the necessary training for it.”

Miss Hughston took charge once again, 1925-1927.

Marjorie Black*, Headmistress 1927-1930

In 1927 Miss Marjorie Black became Headmistress and brought much energy to the school. She championed bushwalks, mothercraft lessons and sex education. She also introduced a school council and advocated the development of social skills and self discipline. She held morning parades where uniforms were inspected, introduced a choir and Fintona’s distinctive brown uniform.

Jeannie McCowan*, Headmistress 1931-1934
Unfortunately Jeannie McCowan’s years as Headmistress were not successful. It was a difficult time, the Great Depression was upon us and Miss McCowan was a poor disciplinarian so the tone and spirit of Fintona declined markedly. With falling enrolments, financial woes, an unpopular headmistress, an ageing principal and no succession plan, the future of Fintona looked bleak in 1934.

“The old order changeth…yielding place to the new…”, Alfred Lord Tennyson

Margaret Cunningham*, Principal 1934-1962

Margaret Cunningham was a source of inspiration and strength. Employed in 1929 as a teacher on a yearly salary of 134 pounds ($270 dollars), Margaret had taught science and was housemistress of Ower. In 1930 she was told there was no place for her on the staff but Margaret stood her ground and taught domestic science to the students in her nearby flat. By 1934 Margaret was determined to open her own school and she saw Tourmont, 79 Balwyn Rd Balwyn where Fintona stands today.

Miss Cunningham purchased Fintona from Annie Hughston in 1934. Soon renovations began, and after many obstacles Fintona began at 79 Balwyn Rd where it continues today.

Margaret Cunningham was fiercely independent and broke away from the Presbyterian Church connection but continued its affiliation with Christian values. Miss Cunningham introduced Hobbies Day to improve morale, she purchased another school St Duthas and combined the two.

Miss Cunningham was ambitious and required space for her ideas. She subsequently purchased Glencairn, then Millamo, the site of the Junior School. She also introduced annual testing to ascertain the achievement levels of students and was most concerned about the health of her students. School was extended to 5 pm every day with academic subjects taught in the morning and afternoons providing an opportunity for the girls to develop their physical and creative talents. Miss Cunningham also abolished homework in the Junior and Middle School with no homework over the weekend for Senior girls.

Margaret Cunningham endeavoured to introduce a curriculum to equip the girls for life and was considered to be ahead of her time. She was progressive and endeavoured to provide a well-rounded education. She tried to inculcate a sense of care and duty to those in the wider community. She also introduced the Senators system in 1958 in order to allow every girl an opportunity in a leadership role.

She was appointed an OBE for her services to education and in 1961 she formally handed over the school to the Old Girls and established the Board of Management of Fintona Girls’ School.

Elizabeth Butt, Headmistress* 1963-1990

Miss Elizabeth Butt was appointed by Margaret Cunningham as the next Principal of Fintona. During Elizabeth’s principalship she developed associations with external educational institutions to keep informed about educational advancements. Elizabeth Butt inherited a successful template and adhered to it. She worked hard to employ excellent teachers, remembered to appreciate all those who contributed to the success of Fintona and worked steadily to acquire properties to ensure Fintona’s economic future. The Margaret Cunningham Wing was built as was the Elizabeth Butt building during her principalship. Many changes were made due to increasing government regulations. In 1973 an alternative uniform was introduced allowing girls to wear corduroy jeans, windcheaters and duffle coats. Miss Butt became the second longest serving head of the School and the only one to date who was an Old Fintonian. Elizabeth Butt received a Medal of the Order of Australia in 2001 for her services to schools and educational leadership as Headmistress of Fintona.

Deborah Seifert, Principal 1991-1999

Mrs Deborah Seifert believed strongly in the importance of education and treated everyone with respect and consideration. The first complete year of VCE coincided with Mrs Seifert’s first year and under her leadership academic results rose further and, by 1997, Fintona was in the top 8% of the state in VCE results and in ensuing years many Premiers Prizes were gained by Fintona girls. Outdoor Education programs were introduced as was the Connections program and there was a keen sense of purpose and involvement in all the teaching and learning being undertaken. The Elizabeth Butt Public Speaking Competition was introduced and the formalisation of the relationship between Fintona and Yokohama Eiwa began.

In 1994-5 the blue uniform was reintroduced. The Centenary Music Building was built and the school was organised into three sections: Junior, Middle and Senior School.

In 2016 Dr Seifert was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia recognising her significant service to education through a range of teaching, consultative and administrative roles, and to the community.

Karen Starr, Principal 2000-2005

In 2000 Dr Karen Starr was appointed as Principal and she worked at steadily increasing enrolments which was crucial. Fintona’s excellent academic results continued. During Karen Starr’s time at Fintona the Writer’s Festival and House Music were introduced.

Suzy Chandler, Principal 2006-2017

Under Mrs Suzy Chandler’s leadership the ELC was constructed at 82 Balwyn Rd and in 2010 the Margaret Ross Health and Well-being Centre was opened. The third major building was the development of the Art Precinct. Academic results continued to improve. Connection with Danila Dilba, an Indigenous Australian Health Service in Darwin began and World Challenge was introduced in 2008. New Overseas trips were encouraged as were
exchanges to international schools. An annual school play was introduced. The beautification of the Fintona grounds continued and the future of Fintona was bright.

Fintona has remained true to its philosophy of its original Principal, Annie Hughston. It is a school dedicated to the education of young women, encouraging the girls to think for themselves and have a concern for others; two philosophies each Principal has fostered in Fintona students.

It is due to the dogged determination and commitment of these women who have led Fintona since its inception to the present day who have provided a willingness to contribute to and develop educational practice as well as have a vision for the education of girls that have enabled Fintona to become the leading educational institution that it is today and will be in the future.

What a privilege it is to follow in the footsteps of these Leading Women.

* Between 1896 and 1990 Principal was the owner of the School and the Headmistress was the term used for the women who were in charge of the school and managed it on a daily basis. In 1991 the term Headmistress was replaced by Principal.

Ms Rachael Falloon
Principal

Term Dates 2018

**Term 2** (11 weeks)
Friday 29 June - End Term 2

**Term 3** (9 weeks)
Monday 16 July - Staff Day
Tuesday 17 July - Start Term 3 (students return)
Friday 14 September - End Term 3

**Term 4** (10 weeks)
Monday 8 October - Start Term 4 (students return)
Monday 5 November/Tuesday 6 November - Mid Term Break
Wednesday 12 December - End Term 4
Thursday 13 December - Staff Day
Friday 14 December - Staff Day

Term Dates 2019

**Term 1** (9.5 weeks)
Friday 25 January - New Staff Day
Monday 28 January - Australia Day Holiday
Tuesday 29 January - Staff Day
Wednesday 30 January - Start Term 1 (Prep-Year 12 students return)
Thursday 31 January (ELC-Year 12 students return)
Friday 5 April - End Term 1

**Term 2** (9 weeks)
Monday 22 April - Easter Monday
Tuesday 23 April - Staff Day
Wednesday 24 April - Staff Day
Thursday 25 April - Anzac Day Holiday
Friday 26 April - Start Term 2 (students return)
Friday 28 June - End Term 2

Upcoming Events 2018

**Term 2**

**Wednesday 30 May**
Parent Seminar - Alannah & Madeline Foundation
Parenting in the Digital World (Years 5-12)
7.00pm-8.00pm
Theatre

**Tuesday 19 June**
Voice & Guitar Soiree
7.00pm-8.30pm
Reid Studio

**Friday 15 June**
Report Writing Day
Student Free (ELC-Year 12)

**Wednesday 27 June**
Fashion Runway
6.00pm-7.00pm
Corbett Lyon Gallery, Art Precinct

**Term 3**

**Friday 27 July**
Dads' Beef & Burgundy Night
6.30pm-late
Reid Studio

**Wednesday 15 August**
Parent Seminar - Parent/Child Relationships with Catherine Manning (Years 5-12)
7.00pm
Theatre
Term 3 (9 weeks)

Monday 15 July - Staff Day
Tuesday 16 July - Start Term 3 (students return)
Friday 13 September - End Term 3

Term 4 (10 weeks)

Monday 7 October - Start Term 4 (students return)
Wednesday 11 December - End Term 4
Thursday 12 December - Staff Day
Friday 13 December - Staff Day

Senior School

Year 12 Real Life Skills

In Tutor group this term, the Year 12 students have continued to benefit from the Real Life Skills program with presentations on budgeting by Ms Melissa Yuan, insurance by Ms Katrina Brennan, tax by Mr Chris Williams and travelling overseas alone and on a budget by Ms Lauren Norman and Ms Philippa Elder. The presentations offer the students valuable information and resources and an opportunity to discuss the key issues.

NAPLAN

Year 9 students completed their NAPLAN tests on Tuesday 15, Wednesday 16 and Thursday 17 May. They are commended for the respectful, calm and positive approach they took in undertaking these tasks. They will receive feedback later in the year.

Year 10

Following the challenge of the Year 10 Outdoor Education Camp, in which our students showed a strength of character and a capacity to work through difficulties, a tutor year level session dealt with the idea of resilience, or the capacity to recover quickly from life’s setbacks.

Students thought about and discussed whether resilience is something you either have or do not, or if it is something that can be developed. Overwhelmingly, the students agreed that it is something that can be improved or enhanced with practice. We then looked at ways of building resilience and developing coping strategies.

Students at Fintona are able to build resilience by working through difficulties and facing challenging situations in a supportive environment. Having practice at working outside their comfort zone, they gain self-esteem and are more able to deal with adversity. Allowing students to feel discomfort and experience struggle actually gives them the skills they will need to cope with challenges later in life. We need to resist the temptation to rescue them and allow them the opportunity to solve their own problems to enable them to grow.

Many Year 10 students took on the role of tour guide for our recent Tour Morning and we commend them for their maturity and presentation skills in this role. Many prospective parents comment on the impressiveness of our students as they lead the tours through the School and we value their time and input.

Year 9 to Year 11 Examinations

Students in Year 9 to Year 11 have received a copy of the examination timetable for the Semester 1 examination period. Year 11 students are reminded that where possible, they are to attend their Unit 3 / 4 class during the examination period but are also reassured that their Year 12 class will not complete new work in the lessons they are unable to attend.

Year 9 and Year 10 students do not need to attend on the days that they do not have examinations; if they have an examination in the morning or afternoon, they need only attend for the examination; if they have two examinations they must remain at school in the time in-between. There is an allocated study room for each of these year levels in the Butt Building during this period; this room is for quiet study and is not a room for food or drink, as it is a classroom. Students may eat in the Tuckshop or the school grounds. Students must wear school uniform to examinations and carry their materials in a clear plastic pocket, including a clear water bottle. They are reminded to arrive in plenty of time to any examination, to be mindful of other students in the examination setting and refrain from disrupting other areas of the School.

Ms Katrina Brennan
Vice Principal/Head of Senior School
The Wizard of Oz is Coming to Fintona

More often than not, the one thing we spend our entire lives searching for is already staring us in the face. All we need is the helping hand of a friend to show us the way. Dorothy’s journey from Kansas to Oz and back again is the perfect example of this quest to discover the one thing we already have. Home. Home is our family and friends. Home is standing strong and being proud. Home is liking yourself. Home is knowing that you are enough.

However, sometimes you need to leave “home” to fully appreciate it. Joining Dorothy on her journey of discovery are Scarecrow, Tinman, the Cowardly Lion and her trusty companion, Toto. Each of whom are also searching for something they already have: brains, a heart and courage.

As Dorothy and her friends make their way along the yellow brick road to see the Wizard, they encounter many colourful creatures and fantastical places. They also find themselves at the mercy of the Wicked Witch of the West who will stop at nothing to snatch up Dorothy’s ruby slippers – a magical gift bestowed upon her by Glinda, the Good Witch of the North.

Infused with contemporary dance, live music and memorable performances of beloved characters, Fintona Girls’ School production of *The Wizard of Oz* promises an enchanted evening that you will not want to miss. Read More

Pictured: Poster design by Grace Stevenson (Year 11)

Mr Jason Forrest
Performing Arts Co-ordinator (Drama)

ENGLISH NEWS

Competitions

Start writing! Take out those pens, open those laptops and begin an essay, a poem or a work of short fiction. There are so many opportunities available to Fintona students to participate in and achieve that wonderful feeling of knowing your work has earned public commendation. Parents – you are eligible to enter some of these awards too! Here are a few to consider:

The John Button Essay prize has an Open and a Student category. Only two students per school may enter (Years 10–12 below the age of nineteen). Essays can be written on any aspect of Australian political life or policy and must be between 1800-2000 words. The prize is $2500 for the winning student and $2000 for the school. See Mrs Jennifer Johnstone if you are interested.

The Dorothea McKellar Poetry Award is now open and running until the end of June for primary and secondary students. There is an optional topic for entrants to consider and the website has plenty of helpful resources. Please note that students cannot enter the competition themselves. They need to submit work to their English teacher who will register on their behalf.

The La Trobe University Young Writers’ Award is now open for Year 10 students, inviting submissions of short fiction or a poem 800-1000 words. The theme is ‘One year later’. Students win cash prizes. Entries are open until 16 July 2018. 

The Horne Prize is named for Australian writer Donald Horne and offers $15,000 for an essay on Australian Life. Essay length is no more than 3000 with the submission deadline 17 September.

The Boroondara Literary awards receive entries for poetry and short fiction. Students from Years 7–12 may enter with the deadline being 31 August 2018. There is also an Open category for short stories.

Ringing Voices is Fintona’s own annual writing anthology that publishes the best of student writing in any genre from Years 5-12. Proofread your work and send it to your teacher or Mrs Jennifer Johnstone for consideration. The deadline is the last week of Term 3.

The Elaine Boucher Writing Award is the School’s annual prize for the best short fiction written by students and is open to girls in Years 5-12. Submissions must be received by the end of August 2018.

Please ask your English teacher if you have any questions pertaining to these awards.

Mrs Jennifer Johnstone
English Co-ordinator
We Need Your Old Postage Stamps

Trachoma is the world’s leading infectious cause of irreversible blindness. Australia remains the last developed country in the world where this disease is still considered epidemic, persisting in some of our outback indigenous communities. Your used postage stamps are valuable because when they are collected they can be sold in bulk to dealers globally.

Rotary is currently campaigning to ‘End Trachoma in Australia by 2021.’ If you would like to help this important cause, please save your postage stamps. They can be dropped at Reception during business hours. The campaign will be ongoing. Thank you in advance for your support.

MUSIC NEWS

Battle of the Bands

The battle has begun, with the annual Battle of the Bands being held on Monday 14 May at assembly. Year 7 students worked towards this event during their classroom music program and performed the following songs to an audience of peers and staff:

- TWILC  Superheroes by The Script
- 7ACKC  Pompeii by Bastille
- TKEMA  Fight Song by Rachel Patten

The adjudicators comprised Ms Rachael Falloon, Mr Jason Forest, Mr Gavin Williams and Music Captain, Xenia Zubenko, awarded 7ACKC with their rendition of Pompeii, the winning band. The audience had the opportunity to vote for their favourite and this year they agreed with the judging panel, giving the most popular vote to 7ACKC. Congratulations to all Year 7 classes for their hard work and participation.

Pictured: Annabelle Lee (Year 7)

Ms Elizabeth Exintaris
Music Teacher

Road Safety Rules

In a recent issue of the News Bulletin, parents were reminded to observe traffic and parking regulations. Recently, the School received the following email from the City of Boroondara Traffic Team, which serves to also remind parents of the necessity to adhere to road safety rules:

To Whom it may Concern

I wish to advise that Council officers have recently observed illegal parking behaviour in the vicinity of Fintona Girls’ School on Balwyn Road, Balwyn. This parking behaviour has predominantly included vehicles parking on the nature strip, south of Millah Road.

Any vehicles parking on the nature strip are doing so illegally and in contravention of the Road Safety Road Rules 2017 and may be subject to enforcement action. Given the proximity to the School and the intensity of parking activity in this precinct during morning and afternoon school peak periods, it is necessary that all road users observe posted parking restrictions and applicable Road Safety Road Rules.

On this basis, it is requested that correct parking behaviours be reinforced to the school community given this observed behaviour. Your assistance with this matter is appreciated.

Co-ordinator Traffic
City of Boroondara

COMMERCE NEWS

Commerce Week - Lemonade Stand Game
On Friday 11 May, seven teams of entrepreneurs got together to make and sell lemonade as part of Commerce week. Each team was given $10 as capital in order to fund their enterprise and the taste test proved to be a success. Students were required to make and market their product, including providing advertising for their business in order to boost sales.

The girls raised $349 in profits all of which are donated to our indigenous charity – the Danila Dilba Health Service in Darwin.

The winning team was the Year 6 ‘Munkins’ who raised a total return of $95. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of the girls and to have them actively engaging in running their own small business.

Pictured: Entrepreneurs at work

**Mr Chris Williams**
**Commerce Co-ordinator**

**Share Market Gurus**

The Year 9 Financial Literacy classes and a number of other interested girls from across the school competed in the ASX Schools Sharemarket Game this semester. Concurrently with playing the game, the Year 9s were learning about share market investment in class.

For ten weeks, the students made investment decisions about which shares to ‘buy’ with their virtual $50,000 cash portfolio, and whether to ‘hold’ or ‘sell’ them. Students worked in small groups to research companies listed on the Australian Securities Exchange (ASX). Girls were able to make numerous ‘trades’ over the duration of the game, choosing to sell their share holdings and buy into other shares at times when they thought they might be able to maximise their portfolio’s value.

Some students were extremely successful with their investments. The leading student syndicate at Fintona was the ‘24K’ team, comprised of Somerset Draper and Chiara Lucas. Over the ten week game, they turned their initial $50,000 into a portfolio worth $54,015.34. That’s a profit of more than 8% in ten weeks – a rate of return most investors would be very happy with! 24K’s best-performing stocks were Wisetech Global and Xerox. One of the keys to their success was their willingness to spread their risk by diversifying. The girls are to be commended on their achievement – they were ranked 89th in Victoria, out of a pool of 5253 players across the state!

Other honourable mentions go to Caroline Pearce and Arianne Thomas of ‘Cashed Up’, whose final portfolio was worth $52,562. Overall, more than 63% of the Fintona players ended the game ‘in the black’ – with a portfolio worth more than their initial investment.

By the end of the game, the average value of portfolios across all players in Australia was $49,900, and 70% of Fintona players had portfolio values above the average.

The months when the game was played this year was a period of great volatility in the market, with portfolio values fluctuating wildly. By the end of the game, the average value of portfolios across all players in Australia was $49,900, and 70% of Fintona players had portfolio values above the average.

Students enjoyed the challenge. One student commented: ‘I find it interesting how the prices go up and down when you invest in shares.’ Her classmate said ‘I really like how we are able to regularly monitor our share investments. It makes me feel a bit adult. It’s a really good application of what we’re learning – we get to put it into practice.’

**Debating the Constitution**

On Friday 11 May, the Year 10 Australian Politics class participated in a Regional Schools Constitutional Convention, hosted by Strathcona Baptist Girls’ Grammar. The Conventions are run under the auspices of the Victorian Students’ Parliamentary program. Their aim is to provide students with the opportunity to discuss contemporary social and legal issues, especially those relating to the Australian Constitution.

Dozens of Year 10 students from a variety of local independent and government, single-sex and co-ed schools participated in the Strathcona event. They spent the day discussing and debating the topic ‘That Australian should amend its Constitution to mandate an equal representation of males and females in Federal Parliament.’

The day opened with presentations on the topic by three eminent guest speakers. State Member for Hawthorn and Shadow Attorney General John Pesutto spoke of his experience in Victorian Parliament, and gave his thoughts on the proposal. Jess Wilson, a member of the Young Liberals and former staffer for Josh Frydenberg, spoke about her research into the barriers to women gaining entry into parliament. Former state Minister for Education and Women’s Affairs, Mary Delahunty, provided her own perspective on the importance of having women in parliament and fully participating in public life. The speakers gave the students a lot to think about in their deliberations.

Students then worked in groups smaller groups, undertaking more in-depth investigation into one aspect of the issue. After putting forward their group’s proposal on the topic, it was time for students to get up on the ‘Soapbox’ and present their individual views. The debate was vigorous, passionate, and at times heated.

Ultimately, the proposal was defeated, with the amendment failing to gain a ‘double majority’ – the majority of conventioners voted No, and no ‘state’ or ‘territory’ voted in favour of the amendment.

The Fintona students were keen participants in all aspects of the day. They contributed very positively to the debate in small groups, and some were confident enough to mount the ‘Soapbox’ and argue their own position in front of the whole Convention. They gained some very valuable insight into the
challenges of bringing about political change among a diverse population, and indicated in selected reflections included below:

I really enjoyed the opportunity to meet people with similar interests as myself and to discuss topics of national interest with others who had different opinions. Sophie Ganeson

I met lots of like-minded people and got to see the views of a range of individuals with different upbringings to see how such things as religion, family life and schooling affected their ideas on society and liberties. Rachael Flynn

I really enjoyed the final session of the day (Soapbox) because I found it very interesting to hear a diverse range of opinions on the topic and appreciated that people were not afraid to express their honest view on various issues. Lucy Boyce

I liked seeing people articulate their views and opinions during the Soapbox session, and I learned about what is needed to progress change. Emmanuelle Zapris

Hearing other peoples’ ideas, even the ones that were controversial, was very interesting. Hanna Monos

Ms Timmee Grinham
Commerce Teacher

Economics Debate Competition

On Sunday 20 May, Fintona hosted the inaugural Economics Debating Competition inviting a number of schools around Melbourne to engage in a rigorous discussion around many of the economic issues facing our society today. We welcomed students from Scotch, PLC, and Melbourne High, amongst others. Students were asked to consider issues such as the level of migration in Australia as well as the role of government in responding to unemployment, along with debating if we should be cutting company taxes or not.

Both Fintona teams won their first round of debating and after close second round losses just missed out on making the finals. Melbourne High School was the winner of the completion with a strong showing throughout the day.

Not only did students benefit from participating in their own debates, but also from listening to opposing points of view on many of the economic problems facing Australia and the world and how they may be solved.

Pictured: Molly Horan, Nikkita Chandnani and Kathryn Demtschyna

Mr Chris Williams
Commerce Co-ordinator

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Fintona has a Second Hand Uniform Shop that provides parents with the opportunity to recycle uniform items that are in good condition. This in turn, allows parents to purchase items at approximately half the recommended retail price. All profits go towards the School’s fundraising.

The Shop is run by volunteers and is in need of some extra help. Volunteering is a great way to contribute to the School and provides an opportunity to meet members of the Fintona community. The time commitment is not onerous, but reliability is required. Please see the attached information and schedule and if you have some spare time, please contact the Shop Convenors, who would love to hear from you.

Read More

fintonaswapshop@fintona.vic.edu .au

Ms Annie Lewis
Shop Convenor

FROM THE SCHOOL COUNSELLOR
Mental health is becoming a more talked about issue as it is related to many larger topics within society. Books, movies and TV shows can often be used as conversation starters about mental health. 13 Reasons Why is a series on Netflix that depicts strong emotions and themes of bullying, rumours, rejection and social isolation, whilst focusing on a high school student who has committed suicide. Concerns surrounding the subject matter in the first season, prompted Headspace to collaborate with Netflix, prior to the release of the second season last Friday. This has been in an effort to generate more helpful conversations about the themes in the show and to promote help-seeking behaviour. Headspace are a large organisation that specialise in mental health for young people and have a variety of resources for parents.

If your daughter has expressed an interest in 13 Reasons Why, these practical tips from Headspace and ReachOut may be helpful, to help her make sense of the show and manage any challenging thoughts and feelings:

1. 13 Reasons Why is rated MA 15+ and is inappropriate for a younger age group. If your daughter is older or you decide they can watch it, then watching the show with them can give opportunities to discuss the themes.
2. Be assured that talking about suicide will not put the idea in their head. By demonstrating that you are comfortable or knowledgeable talking about mental health or suicide, teenagers are more likely to open up during a tough time. For support with these conversations ReachOut and Headspace have informative online resources.
3. Talk with them about the issues raised and check in with how they’re feeling. There is information and discussion guides including conversation starters about the show on 13ReasonsWhy.info
4. Encourage your teenager to have breaks between the episodes – do something enjoyable or watch something funny.
5. Discuss who they feel comfortable talking with for support if they were going through a tough time – family, friends, support services – school counselling, Headspace, ReachOut, Kids Helpline, Lifeline.

Please feel free to contact me to discuss the show or about having mental health related conversations.

Mrs Fiona Stekhoven
School Counsellor

Uniform Rules

Wearing school uniform is part of being a student at Fintona and an ambassador for the School. Students should be neatly dressed, well-groomed at all times and take pride in their appearance. It is expected that:

* Hair style and colour should be appropriate for school wear; no extreme styles or unnatural colours.
* Hair should be tied back if longer than the top of the collar line.
* Full uniform is to be worn, when arriving and departing from school and in the street, including the blazer.
* Students should not mix their sport uniform with their day uniform.
* Plain black leather lace-up or T-bar school shoes, clean and in good repair, are to be worn.
* Year 12 students may not wear their Year 12 Rugby Top as the outermost garment outside the School grounds.
* Cosmetics or coloured nail polish are not permitted.
* Multiple ear piercings or facial piercings are not permitted.
* Small studs or sleepers may be worn.

Parents are reminded, in particular, that a suitable length for the winter skirt is knee length. Please ensure that your daughter is adhering to the uniform rules. Your co-operation is appreciated.

Ms Katrina Brennan
Vice Principal/Head of Senior School

Mrs Trish Leigh
Head of Junior School

Art Stars

The stars, with pure light ...
Three Dimensional Form

For this task, Year 8 students were required to establish and employ triadic and complementary colour schemes in order to create the illusion of three dimensional form. Students began this task by building their own of abstract sculptural form from Duplo building blocks. This enabled them to work from life, strengthening both spatial awareness and powers of observation. Acrylic paint was used to create the works.

Pictured: Work by Keira Xu, Ai-Vi Le, Ruth Wu and Alice Hu

Mr Brit Biviano
Art Co-ordinator

Middle School

Middle School girls have continued to enjoy a variety of exciting and worthwhile activities both in the classroom and outside of it.

A group of 16 Year 7 girls participated in the da Vinci Decathlon this week. This interschool gala is run in the spirit of an Olympic Decathlon, with events of an academic nature. The 2018 theme was ‘Surrealism – Distorted Reality’ and the ten disciplines were Mathematics, English, Science, Code Breaking, Engineering, Philosophy, Creative Producers, Art and Poetry, Cartography and General Knowledge. The girls demonstrated many skills during the day including great team work and co-operation, problem solving ability, ingenuity, and higher order thinking skills. One of the teams received a Gold Award for the Science component of the competition. They are all to be congratulated on their effort in representing Fintona.

All the Year 7 girls thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity of participating in the annual Battle of the Bands competition last week. 7ACKC came out victorious with their rendition of Pompeii, however each group did extremely well and co-ordinated their instruments beautifully. Congratulations girls on your hard work and commitment.

Following the House Cross Country competition, a group of Year 4, 5 and 6 girls were selected to participate in the SSV Cross Country event. All the girls ran impressively. The GSV Preliminary Cross Country event was held last Tuesday and also saw many Middle School girls producing personal best times and recording well deserved results. All the girls are to be congratulated not only on their fine efforts, but their sportsmanship and team spirit that was evident during both events.
This week, 15 Year 8 girls are participating in the World Scholars’ Cup, an exciting celebration of learning. This is the first time Fintona has entered this competition and the girls were certainly very excited to be part of this. We wish them well and eagerly await their thoughts and stories next week.

Pictured: Girls from 7KEMA practising for Battle of the Bands

Ms Trish Leigh
Head of Middle School

Junior School

Assemblies

This week we enjoyed hearing from a number of girls and teachers about the many ’actions’ that they perform every day that contribute to their learning or to making the world a better place for someone. During this PYP Assembly, some of the things mentioned included the Year 1 mums supporting the St.Kilda Mums organisation and the various actions taken as a result of the learning in the PYP Unit of Inquiry. Action is a vital part of the learning process in the PYP framework as it encourages critical and creative thinking as well as the articulation of one’s learning through purposeful, tangible means. I would like to thank Miss Nina Manning, the PYP Co-ordinator, for her organisation of this assembly.

Last week the Junior School held a Talent Show at lunchtime. As a result, some girls were invited to perform the following morning at the Assembly which showcased their many talents. The girls performed with confidence and enthusiasm as they delighted in performing to their peers and parents. The audience expressed their appreciation through thunderous applause which motivated the performers further. I would like to thank Ms Monique Plummer and Year 4 student, Tong Tong, for their organisation of this assembly.

Hours of Supervision – Very important!

We have noted lately that some girls are arriving before the supervision in the Junior School commences. Please note that the girls are only supervised by staff from 8.15am each morning. If you arrive earlier than that time you must remain in the courtyard with your daughter until 8.15am. If you need to arrive earlier than this time and are unable to remain with your daughter, please book her into Before School Care as staff supervision is unavailable. After school, girls who are not picked up by the end of the supervision time at 3.40pm will be taken to After School Care and may be picked up from there. I thank you for your co-operation.

Report Writing Day

Please note that Friday 15 June is a Report Writing Day and students from ELC to Year 12 will not be attending School on that day.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Please be reminded that Parent/Teacher Interviews will take place in the Junior School on Tuesday 26 June for class teachers and Wednesday 27 June for class teachers and single subject teachers. Bookings will again be made online through infintona. You will receive an email with details early in June. These interviews are an opportunity to discuss your daughter’s progress. Junior School mid-year reports will come home with your daughter on Friday 22 June.

Ms Eleni Goulas
Head of Junior School

Transdisciplinary Learning

The term ‘Transdisciplinary learning’ is used by the IB in the Primary Years Program (PYP) to describe the way teaching and learning takes place across a number of disciplines or subject areas. Setting up learning engagements and inquiries this way ensures that the learning of content takes place in context. An example of this would be the Mathematics the Year 2 class are beginning to understand. Our inquiry into the planets and our solar system has given us the context to understand negative numbers, such as when dealing with planet temperatures as well as numbers on quite a large scale, and when discussing the distances planets are from the sun (think millions of kilometres!). Whilst these mathematical concepts are found in the Year 4 curriculum, through our inquiry we are given the opportunity to begin to make sense of these concepts.

The Prep class has been busy inquiring into the way children play has changed over time. They have been given opportunities to play ‘old’ games, like snakes and ladders, to develop their counting skills in Mathematics. They have also enjoyed playing games such as hopscotch that develops locomotion skills like hopping and jumping. Not to mention the social skills of turn taking and emotionally coping with losing a game.

The Year 3 class have been busy inquiring into the connections between forces and motion. During their Physical Education lessons, they have been learning striking games, for example T- Ball. Mrs D’Angelo has been able to reinforce their classroom learning about levers and apply it to T- Ball. The students have applied their knowledge of levers to their battling skills to enable correct technique and maximum force.
There are many other examples of how your daughter’s education moves beyond the confines of traditional subjects or disciplines to provide them with context to make sense of complex content and the world they live in.

Ms Nina Manning
PYP Co-ordinator

Year 4 Excursion to Science Works

Last Thursday Year 4 travelled to Science Works to engage in three learning experiences. Sports works allowed the girls to try a range of physical challenges and measurements of their physical skills. This extended our inquiry into ‘Who we are’ and maintaining a healthy body in class and in Physical Education. The Lightening Room’s engaged learning about electricity for our future inquiry into ‘How the world works’ and how energy takes many forms and can change:

As I took a seat in the Lightening Room, I admired the models soon to be struck by lightning. The whole set up was behind a big cage, a Faraday Cage that protects the audience from the electricity. The set up was like a little town of fake people, cars and aeroplanes. In front of the huge cage were four small tables. On one table there was a piece of toast stuck in a toaster with a metal knife jammed in it. The second table contained a box with electric wires, a light globe and a jar of pickled onions. On the third table there was a shallow box of counters, two balloons and a long piece of wire. The last table had what looked like a big silver globe balanced on a stand. Our scientist guide taught us about positive and negative charges. She taught us how they separate from each other if the charges are the same, and that they attract each other if they are different. Helen and Emily were chosen to demonstrate this. Our guide gave Emily a counter that had a positive sign on it and Helen with a negative sign. They ran towards each other as if they were magnetic charges, then the guide gave Emily a negative one and they both separated.

Then Elise was chosen as a volunteer. She was told to stand on a stool next to the interesting machine that looked like a silver globe. Our guide told her to put one hand on the globe and hold a counters in her other hand. She turned the machine on and all the counters whizzed out of Elise’s hand as her hair also started to lift up. Our guide told us this was because there were positive charges in our body and also in the silver globe so the magnetic charges were separating.

Our guide taught us about materials that insulate and materials that conduct electricity. An insulator is something electricity doesn’t flow through and conductors are something that electricity flows through easily. Wood and plastic are insulators, metal is a conductor. We made a circuit that hit up a light globe. She taught us about the plastic that coats electric wires insulates them. She said that in a toaster there is no plastic coating on the wire so if you stick a knife in you can get an electric shock. She also showed the safety switch that stops power surges.

Jayda volunteered for her hair to be rubbed by balloons; afterwards her hair was sticking up at odd angles and the balloons stuck to her hair and the Faraday cage. This was because of static electricity.

Our guide showed us lots of cool experiments but what we were really looking forward to was the lightening! She told us to block our ears and when the lightening started I was a bit frightened but also excited. Huge strikes of lightening boomed and flashed inside the cage. We observed the colours of lightening and noticed how the lightening liked to find the quickest way down to the ground. We also observed the models that were safe. The aeroplane was safe because its’ shell acts as a Faraday cage; so was the car. The golfer wasn’t safe because he was making himself tall by holding his metal golf club up. Tall things like the tree attracted the lightening. I learnt a lot in the Lightening Room. Lexi

The Pumping Station is where Melbourne’s waste water was pumped up to Braybrook before flowing to Werribee for treatment and filtering into clean water. This will inform our future inquiry into ‘Sharing the planet’. The Pumping Station was a big, old building at Science Works. We stepped into a dimly lit room and all that we could see was a long ramp. We walked all the way down and entered a room called the Boiler Room. We were given iPads containing questions for a scavenger hunt to learn about the Pumping Station.

The scavenger hunt allowed us to go back up the ramp to look for answers outside and in the Engine Room. We found out that in the late 1800’s, the government decided to build the station to move the sewerage. By doing this the city was able to overcome the public’s health problems. We also learnt a lot more from the tour lady and the factual signs and photos. I found this such a fun and enjoyable way to learn about the Pumping Station. Nati

National Simultaneous Storytime

National Simultaneous Storytime is held annually by the Australian Library and Information Association. Every year a picture book, written and illustrated by an Australian author and illustrator is read simultaneously (ideally at the same time on the same day) in libraries, schools, pre-schools, childcare centres, family homes, bookshops and many other places around the country. This year, Wednesday 23 May at 11.00am was the chosen date and time to share Tony Wilson’s book, Hickory Dickory Dock, a wonderful rhyming story based on the traditional Nursery Rhyme, Hickory Dickory Dock...which I’m sure you had already predicted!!

By participating in this special day we aim to promote the value of reading and literacy, recognise the work of Australian authors and illustrators and share in the experience of sitting together as a Junior School and enjoying a storybook at the same time as children all over Australia.

This year, girls in Years 1 to 4 gathered with ELC and Prep ‘Buddies’ in various locations to share Hickory Dickory Dash. The Year 2, 4 and Prep girls
held their sessions in the Library and joined their buddies to work on a craft activity relating to the story.

I am sure this story will remain a favourite for some time and our Library copy of Hickory Dickory Dash will be visiting many of your homes in the future! Happy reading.

Pictured: ELC and JS ‘buddies’ enjoying the craft activity associated with the Storytime

Ms Robyn Sundberg
Junior School Librarian

**Early Learning Centre**

**Healthy Lunch Boxes**

The foods our children eat provide their body with the nutrients needed to stay healthy. Good nutrition is the balanced eating of a variety of foods. This is especially important for children because they need extra nutrients for the growth and development of both their bodies and brains.

Research has shown that when offered a variety of healthy foods, children can and do make good choices. It is also important to give preschool children a good start to healthy eating because most children have formed lifelong eating habits by school age.

We feel that our ‘Healthy Eating and Active Play Policy’ is necessary in the context of current research which advocates the importance of establishing healthy eating patterns in childhood as a way of promoting life-long health and wellbeing. This policy also supports our commitment to ensuring the children participate in regular active, physical play.

With this in mind, we ask that you please consider the items placed in your child’s snack and lunch box, ensuring that your child has a variety of well-balanced food choices, which may include fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, cheese and wholegrains. Pre-packaged foods can often contain hidden sugar, salt or fat so we encourage you to look carefully at the ingredients of these items before offering them to your child. We understand that a treat will occasionally be included in your child’s lunchbox however, we will encourage your child to eat this last, after they have finished their other items.

If you would like to read more about this topic or are looking for some healthy lunch box ideas, please visit the ‘Get up & Grow’ website from the Department of Health: [http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/phd-gug-hw05](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/content/phd-gug-hw05)

**Hello Photo**

By now you should have received communication from Hello Photo regarding the ordering of your child’s photographs. All families that registered for individual photos have been sent an email to view their child’s private album. If you believe that you have not received anything from Hello Photo please check your spam folder or get in touch with Hello Photo via email at hellophotomelbourne@gmail.com. Hello Photo have asked that all purchases be finalised by June 4.

**Report Writing Day**

Just a reminder that Friday 15 June is a school wide Report Writing Day and students from ELC to Year 12 will not be attending school or the Early Learning Centre on that day.

Pictured: Olive Cotterell enjoying some healthy fruit from her snack box

Ms Cara Mearns
Head of Early Learning Centre

**Tuckshop**

**Middle & Senior School**

Our Tuckshop staff, Niki, Sam and Steve provide great coffee, hot chocolate and interesting, affordable and healthy meal choices, made fresh daily. Please come to the Tuckshop and introduce yourself, have a coffee and try some of the delicious food on offer. To find out what is on the menu and how to order [Read More](https://fintona.myshopify.com/). Please Note: Orders must be placed by 8.30am on the day the lunch is required. Contact Mrs Sue Peat in the Junior School Office if you have any enquiries, phone 03 9864 6800.

**ELC & Junior School**

Order lunches online [https://fintona.myshopify.com/](https://fintona.myshopify.com/). Please Note: Orders must be placed by 8.30am on the day the lunch is required. Contact Mrs Sue Peat in the Junior School Office if you have any enquiries, phone 03 9864 6800.
Community Notices

Celebrating National Reconciliation Week

National Reconciliation Week, Sunday 27 May to Sunday 3 June, celebrates the rich culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. To mark this important week, Isaiah Firebrace will perform at the Hawthorn Arts Centre. Isaiah, a Yorta Yorta man, won the X Factor in 2016 and represented Australia in the Eurovision Song Contest in 2017. Details are as follows: Sunday 27 May, 8.00pm, Hawthorn Arts Centre, 360 Burwood Rd, Hawthorn

Tickets: Full $29, Concession $25 (under 16), Family (one adult and two concessions) $64
Book online at www.boroondara.vic.gov.au/arts or phone 9278 4770

Other Areas

Uniform Shop
Buy and sell second-hand uniform items. See information, schedule of operating hours and form Read More

Community Contacts
Fintona Parents' Association, Friends of Music and Friends of Rowing, Read More

Fortnight Ahead
See what is happening in the weeks ahead. Please Note: Parents can access the School Calendar via inFintona Read More

OHSC
Permanent and casual places available in Out of Hours School Care, Read More

Middle & Senior School lunches and snacks Read More
ELC & Junior School lunches, order online https://fintona.mycanteen.co Read More

Check notices sent home and when to return them to School, Read More

www.fintona.vic.edu.au
A CONSISTENTLY HIGH ACHIEVING INDEPENDENT GIRLS’ SCHOOL