

KOONDROOK PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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New School

It is official; we are getting a new school! In mid May I received an email with the news and the amount. Last week I had a visit from the project manager and an architect. We have a choice of design from a few templates that have already been drawn up.

As this year's school numbers are low we have been offered classroom space smaller than we now have. I am busy trying to convince the department to build a bigger school rather than bring in a portable when our numbers do rise again.

Sadly our current school will have to be demolished. School Council has called a public meeting to discuss the implications of a new school. The meeting will take place at 6.30pm and is open to all interested community people.

School Reviews

We have completed our school reviews and have come through the process with some satisfying outcomes. One of our strengths is the success of our foundation years which then holds our students in good stead for their later learning. Some of the comments in the report include:-

As evidenced in the school data, Koondrook Primary School is consistently clearing required benchmarks in the early years, and when intervention is required the school has been able to address the matter effectively.

Through discussion with school leadership and class teachers, a number of conclusions may be made about the factors that contribute to this success. These may be concisely listed as:

- A *literature rich* school environment
- *High level of training* for both teaching and non teaching staff. Assess to quality professional development of staff is highly valued and regarded as the most important element that will improve staff teaching practice and in turn result in improved student learning.
- The *professional relationship* among staff, especially around issues of assessment, coaching, shared decision making and the sense of team.
- The *whole school commitment* to improvement in literacy and numeracy.
- *Accurate data* collection, recording and analysis.
- *Smaller groupings* enabling focused teaching and intensive intervention support with individual students.
- The *Prep-2 grouping* appears to give the incoming Prep students a flying start as they are surrounded by models that are well established in classroom routine and practices.



The reviewers were very impressed with our school location and the learning opportunities our students have.

Our future directions will be a strong focus on the individual learning needs of every student supported by technology. We were asked what will student learning at KPS look like in 4 years time. Who knows? We didn't have Interactive whiteboards, wikis, nings, blogs and netbooks 4 years ago! What we can do is make sure our students are literate, numerate, compassionate and capable of accepting change. I would hope the school would be offering personalized learning in a unique location.

Hot Lunches

Winter coincides with the opportunity to provide hot lunches at school. We have a pie warmer here and students can bring lunch from home to be warmed for lunch. Lunches need to be wrapped in foil or placed in a heat proof container which has the child's name clearly printed on the outside.

Please be mindful of healthy eating when preparing lunches and give consideration to the everyday and occasional food categories.

The pie warmer is available Tuesdays-Fridays.

STUDENT FREE DAY

A statewide student free day will be held on **June 12th**. This day has been set aside for assessment and reporting. Students are not required to attend school on this day.

Year 6 Transition

Barham High School invites parents of Year 6 students to an introductory meeting at Barham High School next Thursday 11/6/09. This meeting will start at 7.00 pm and will include an orientation tour and the opportunity to meet the Year 7 advisor for 2010 Mr Yu.

Newsletter Deadline: 7 am Wednesday mornings.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- June 12th Student Free Day (Assessment & Reporting for staff)
- June 15th - Public Meeting @ 6.30pm.
- June 15th- School Council
- 18th June Public Speaking competition 3-6
- 19th June Assembly P-2 to host
- **26th June - Last Day Term 2, 2.30 dismissal**
- **13th July- Term 3 commences**
- 13th July - School Nurse visit
- 21st/22nd July 3/4 Sleepover
- July 27th - Parent/student puberty information night

School Uniforms

Winter stock - Vests, Beanies, Long Sleeve Polos, Pants (Straight Leg, Cuff and Bootleg)
Also we still have 4 winter dresses - size 6,8,10 and 16.
Also, also we have lots of second-hand uniforms for \$2.00 each.
See Mrs Ficken on Tuesdays & Thursdays.

AFL GAME - Sunday June 28th

North Melbourne v Western Bulldogs at the MCG.
The Warrnambool Rotary Clubs have once again contacted The Kerang Rotary Club to organize this free trip for the Primary School age Children here in the country, and drought affected area.
We are offering 4 adults and five students the chance to attend. You need to keep in mind that School Holidays start on Friday 26th of June.

Please complete the form below if you are interested in attending by tomorrow. Sorry about the short notice.

I would like to be considered in the draw to attend the AFL Footy match on June 28th.

Ministerial Announcement

On Tuesday 16th, Cindy Broad, will be in Koondrook at 1.30pm to make an announcement about significant funding for Koondrook. The community is invited to the event to be held at the BBQ shelter, weather permitting. If you wish to attend contact the Shire office for catering purposes.

This Week in the Garden

Today the Thorns [Jack P, Mark DH, Sam Mc and Matthew T] cooked a food called Cheats Spanikopita. It looked and tasted delicious.

The ingredients were olive oil, 1/2 cup of sliced leeks or about 1/4 cup of diced onion, fresh dill, fresh parsley, 250 grams fresh spinach, 125gms feta cheese, 2 eggs, salt and pepper and puff pastry. The end product looked really yummy.

We didn't actually go outside for gardening because it was all wet and mucky, except for the Gorilla Gardeners [Nick M, Morgan T, Tyler P and Tameane H] who had to take photos of people working, cooking and a photo of what the rain has done to the dirt roads. Everyone else stayed inside and looked at all types of gardening tools except one group who went and wrote letters.

Tameanne Hammond

Pictured below is Jack preparing spanikopita.



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