Welcome to the 2018 School Year

Welcome back to Koondrook Primary School to all our existing families and a special welcome to the 22 students and families in our Foundation/Prep class, as well as Alice in Year 2, Ella and Shakira in Year 3. I would also like to welcome Miss Chloe Reither to Koondrook Primary.

Staff for 2018

Miss Donehue will teach the Foundation class. Mrs Lake will also teach Foundation and the Year 1-2 class on Wednesday and Thursday, on Tuesday she will run our PE and PMP program across the school. Miss Altimari will be teaching the Year 1-2 class, Miss Reither will be teaching the Year 3-4 class and Mrs Callow will be working with the Year 5-6 class on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs McLaren will be here with the MARC van each Monday for Library Literacy lessons and Miss Bentley will visit with the MACC van for Art lessons. Mrs Jones will take music each Tuesday. Mrs Naismith will offer teacher and student support, coordinate the Library and Newsletter. Mrs Ficken is in the Office each Tuesday and Thursday. I will be teaching Years 5-6 on Monday and Tuesday and hopefully I will be able to take Reading Recovery as well as offering support across the school as needed. Terry will visit each Thursday to sort out all our computer issues.

Holiday Thanks

Thanks to all the families who popped in over the holidays to mow and water the lawns and the gardens. We really appreciate all the help parents volunteer to help maintain the fantastic facilities that we have here at Koondrook.

Holiday Thanks

KPS: Where the pursuit of excellence is encouraged

Koondrook Primary School

January 30th, 2018

Principal’s Report

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Swimming Program
The swimming program will take place on Thursday 8th February and 22nd February. The children will travel to the Koondrook Pool by bus. All children need to bring their bathers, rashie/t-shirt, towel and sunscreen. If there are any parents who are available to help out with the program your help would be appreciated. Please see Amanda.
The cost for each swimming day is $2 for the bus and $2.50 pool entry unless you have a Koondrook Pool Membership. Cluster Swimming Sports will be held at the Koondrook Pool on Tuesday 27th February.

Welcome BBQ and Classroom Information Session
On Thursday 1st February we would like to invite all families to a sausage sizzle and classroom information session. Information sessions will take place in the student’s classrooms. This is a chance to meet the teachers, hear about expectations and ask questions.

5:30pm - Foundation and Year 5-6
5:50pm - Years 3-4
6:10pm - Years 1-2
6:30pm - Sausage sizzle – the school will provide sausages in bread. We would love some people to help cook the BBQ.

Mobile Contact
Please add my number to your phone list: 0429329183. I ask new families to send me a test with your mobile number so I can update the school contact list. You may be contacted for a variety of purposes: to share a special moment or achievement of your child, to remind you of upcoming events or to send important information. This is vital in the hot weather due to the fact that we are a Bushfire Code Red school.

Mates Hotel Raffle
Each month the school is rostered on to sell raffle tickets at Mates Royal Hotel, Koondrook. Each family is rostered on once per year. We sell tickets from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. This is a fantastic fundraiser for the school and we appreciate the support of the parents and Mates Hotel. It is our turn at the Hotel this week so we have rostered on the Azzopardi, Robertson, Sims and Puddick families.

Start of the School Day
Children are asked not to arrive at school before 8:40am, as the yard is not supervised until then. Classroom doors will not be opened until 8:40am. We understand there are times when children may need to arrive at school before 8:40. If this is the case please call the school to make this arrangement.

School Council
The School Council will meet at 7:30pm on Monday 19th February. Shortly we will be holding School Council elections and we will be calling for nominations. This is a great chance to become involved with the school and we value the input and support of all families.
**Stephanie Alexander Cooking and Garden Program**

Each Tuesday the children from Years 3-6 take part in the gardening and cooking program. The children work in small groups and each week they rotate through the activities. We are looking for parents/grandparents who can give an hour of their time each week to help with the program. During Term 1 we will be running the program from 9:00 until 10:00am.

**Absences**

A reminder that attendance at school is vital for all students. Every day counts and it is not okay to be away unless the child is ill. Please contact the school on 54532428 or send a text to Amanda on 0429329183. The Education Department have updated their policy, therefore the school has to follow up unexplained absences each day.

**Medications**

All families with students with asthma and allergies MUST provide a new management plan by the end of February signed by a doctor. If you require the school to give your child medication please send in a medication permission form.

**Emergency Contact Forms**

Students from Years 1-6 will have their emergency contact detail forms sent home today. Please check that the information is correct and alter if necessary. **It is essential that the school has the correct phone, allergy and asthma details.**

**Foundation/ Prep Students**

Foundation students are **not** required at school on Wednesdays for the month of February.

Over the next few weeks Miss Donehue and Mrs Lake will be conducting a literacy and numeracy survey with each Foundation student. It is a good chance for Kate and Sophie to get to know the children one on one and a good opportunity for parents to have a quick chat before or after the interview. A letter has been sent home indicating interview times.

**Monday Lunch**

On Mondays the children may order lunch from the Koondrook General Store. Orders need to be made directly with the store and payment needs to accompany the order.

**Drinks**

Students MUST bring along a drink bottle of water to have on their tables. It is very important that students drink lots of water, especially in this hot weather.
School Uniform
Children are expected to wear school uniform at all times. State School Relief can help with school uniforms if needed. Please see Amanda if you require assistance. Please make sure you name all school uniforms!

Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)
School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors; excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum. CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities. If you hold a valid means-tested Concession Card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. An application form is attached with the newsletter.

Personal Property at School
Personal property is often brought to school. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and other such items. We would like to remind parents that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development or the school does not hold insurance for personal property brought to schools and it will not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

Ambulance Cover
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs, unless the injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of a Department or School Council employee or volunteer. Please note that if an ambulance is called for your child this also is not covered by the school. We recommend that all families have Ambulance cover as this can become very costly.

Year 5-6 Urban Camp, 26th-28th March
This term the Year 5-6 students will attend the Cluster Camp with Gunbower, Leitchville and Murrabit Primary Schools. The students are attending the Urban Camp in Melbourne. The cost of the camp is $265.00 plus $20 can be taken as spending money.

Student Banking
Student banking is done on Thursdays. Information on how to join this program if you are interested will be sent home.

Book Club
Scholastic Book Club catalogues are sent home monthly. You can get quality books for children at reasonable prices. There is no obligation to purchase.

School Purpose and Values
The beginning of each year is an ideal opportunity to remind ourselves of what we define as the purpose and the values we hold as a school community.
At Koondrook Primary School our purpose is to:
• Provide a supportive, safe and secure learning environment that promotes thinking, creativity and individuality.
• Provide high quality programs that engage our students in their learning and instil the essential skills that will enable them to reach their full potential; supporting and extending them in all forms of academic, social, creative and physical endeavours.
• Create a resilient school community where all students develop independence, emotional intelligence and social competency as they strive to achieve their full potential as 21st Century learners.
• Provide a stimulating and supportive environment for all teachers; and assist, inform and involve parents and the greater community of Koondrook.

Congratulations
Over the holidays there has been a few new babies born. Mrs. Ficken became a grandmother with little Georgie Grace arriving, Jo Keath and Josh Forster have welcomed baby Madeline and the McInerney family have welcomed baby Charlie. Congratulations to all!

Amanda Bradford