

P
R
E
P
S

2
0
2
1



School
Captains

2021

Koondrook Primary School respectfully acknowledges the traditional custodians of the land on which we stand. We pay respects to the Barapa Barapa Elders past, present and future.

Koondrook Primary School

KPS: Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

January 28th, 2021

Issue no: 1

Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2021 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. I would also like to welcome Miss Millie Dean to the Koondrook Primary Teaching Staff.

Let's hope that we will have a 'Covid Normal' year! We are happy to be able to welcome parents back on site; we just ask if you are going to be onsite longer than 15 minutes that you sign in at the office.

Staff for 2021

Miss Amanda Bradford - Principal

Mrs Sophie Lake - Learning Specialist, Literacy Coordinator - Monday/Wednesday/Thursday

Mrs Kate Bartels - Foundation

Miss Chloe Reither - Years 1/2

Miss Millie Dean - Years 2/3

Mrs Rebecca Meek - Year 3/4

Mr Bernie Monaghan - Years 5/6

Ms Janine Fletcher - Literacy Support, Wellbeing - Thursday/Friday

Mr Leigh McLaren - P.E.

Mrs Helen McLaren - MARC Library - Tuesday

Ms Sally Bentley - MACC Art - Monday

Karen Naismith - Classroom support/Library/Newsletter

Shane Guerra - Classroom support - Wednesday-Friday

Mrs Judi Ficken - Office each Tuesday and Thursday.

Terry will visit each Thursday to sort out all our computer issues.

Dates to Remember

Term Dates 2021

Term 1 ~ January 28th – April 1st

Term 2 ~ April 19th – June 25th

Term 3 ~ July 12th – September 17th

Term 4 ~ October 4th – December 17th

Public Holidays

March 8th – Victorian Labour Day

June 14th – Queen's Birthday

November 2nd – Melbourne Cup

School Dates to Remember

February 4th – Swimming

February 10th - Swimming

February 15th – School Council Meeting

February 18th - Welcome BBQ

February 26th – Cluster Swimming Sports @ Koondrook Pool

Assemblies

February 5th – Preps & Buddies



Newsletter

This year we will be publishing the newsletter fortnightly. The newsletter will be emailed to families and will also be available on the school webpage. If you would like a printed copy you will need to let Karen know.

If there is any other important information need to be sent out Amanda will let you know by text message.

Covid Update

We will continue to follow health measures recommended by the Victorian Chief Health Officer. These include:

- All unwell staff and students must stay home. If your child develops symptoms of a fever, chills or sweats, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, runny nose, loss of smell or taste they should get tested at a coronavirus testing facility and stay home. This is for the benefit of everyone.
- Social distancing between adults.
- Parents may come onsite but need to sign in at the office.
- The children and staff washing their hands and sanitising regularly.
- During Term 1 we have received funding to have cleaning of high touch points during the day.
- All children need to bring a drink bottle to school each day.

Student Lunch Boxes

We have two students who are anaphylactic to nuts and fish. We are asking parents not to send tuna, salmon, nuts and nut-bars in children's lunchboxes. We are not banning peanut butter and Nutella sandwiches but children will need to let teachers know if they have them for lunch. Thank you for your assistance in ensuring no fish, nuts or nut products are sent to school and we appreciate your support in providing a safe and allergen free environment.

Holiday Thanks

Thank you to those 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.

Welcome BBQ and Classroom Information Session

On Thursday 18th 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. Classroom information sessions are:

5:10 pm - Foundation

5:30 pm - Years 1/2

5:50 pm - Years 2/3

6:10 pm - Years 3/4

6:30 pm - Years 5/6

6:00 pm sausage sizzle – the school will provide a sausage 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 text 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.

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 hot weather.

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 0429329183. Unexplained absences will be followed up each day by the school as per the Education Department policy.

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 fill in a medication permission form at the office.

Foundation/Prep Students

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

Over the next few weeks Mrs Bartels will be conducting a literacy and numeracy survey with each Foundation student. It is a good chance for Kate 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.

Swimming Program

The swimming program will take place on Thursday 4th and Wednesday 10th February between 11:00pm - 1:00pm. The students will participate in a 30-minute lesson with the main focus of preparing for the cluster swimming sports. The children will travel to the Koondrook Pool by bus.

Year 3/4 will leave school at 10:45am.

Year 2/3 will leave school at 11:15am.

Year 1/2 will leave school at 11:45am.

Prep/Year 5/6 will leave school at 12:15pm.

All children need to bring their bathers/rashie/t-shirt, towel and sunscreen. **All** children will need to wear a rashie in the water.

The cost of the bus is \$2.00 and pool entry is \$2.50 unless you have a Koondrook Pool Membership.

The Murray Plains Cluster Swimming Sports will be held at the Koondrook Pool on Friday 26th February.

Please sign a green school permission envelope and return with pool membership number or pool entry money \$7:50 plus \$6.00 for the bus. The Preps will only get one practice in before the sports.



Head Phones and Art Smock

The school supplies most resources that students need for their learning. However, we ask that each student has their **own** headphones and art smock. The students require headphones when they are using programs on the computers and iPads. The MACC Art program commences on Monday so students will need to make sure they have an art smock or old shirt to cover their uniform.

Camps, 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.

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.

School Fees/Parent Payments

The essential educational items fee structure for 2021 is set at \$160.00 per child. It is now open for payment and is **compulsory**. Any family who feels they may experience difficulty paying the fee should make a time to speak with Amanda personally. A copy of the school's Parent Payment Policy is available from the office or our website. The various payment options are:

Option A: Full amount at the beginning of Term 1

Option B: Quarterly payment at the beginning of each Term

Option C: Half yearly payment (beginning of Terms 1 & 3)

Option D: Other payment arrangements (please notify the school of your proposed arrangement).

This fee covers:

- \$40- MARC Library
- \$40 MACC Art fees,
- \$10 Essential Assessment Computer subscription
- \$20 Athletics Computer subscription
- \$10 Reading Eggs Computer subscription
- Student supplies- coloured pencils, pens, grey-lead pencils, exercise books, scrap books, classroom diary, glue sticks and other classroom supplies.

Emergency Contact Information

Students from Years 1-6 will have their emergency contact detail forms sent home this week. **Please check that the information is correct, alter if necessary and send back to school even if no changes are made.** It is **essential** that the school has the correct phone, allergy and asthma details.

Local Excursions Permission

Attached to this newsletter is a Local Excursions Permission Form. Please fill in and return to school asap.

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.
- The school values are respect, responsibility and resilience.

Book Club

During the school year your children will receive Scholastic Book Club catalogues. There is no obligation to purchase items. If you do purchase items and want them for a gift, just let the school know and we won't send them home with your child.



Stephanie Alexander Garden and Cooking Program

Each week 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. We will be running the program from 9:00 until 10:00am on Wednesdays.

Start of the school Day

Children are asked not to arrive at school before 8:40am as the yard is not supervised until then. The 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 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!**

Mobile Phones

There is a mobile phone policy for **all** government schools. The policy means phones brought to school must be switched off and stored securely during the school day. The aim of this policy is to provide:

- a safe environment to learn without inappropriate mobile phone use (including cyberbullying) or distractions
- greater opportunities for social interaction and physical activity during recess and lunchtimes.

In emergencies, parents can contact their children through the school office.

Toys at School

Any toys/personal items brought to school are not the school's responsibility. Electronic items of all types must remain in a student's backpack unless specifically allowed in the classroom by the classroom teacher. Students are encouraged to leave all toys at home as they are often lost, damaged, or can cause disruptions to learning.



Camps in 2021

We are hopeful that our camping and excursion program will return to normal.

This year the Year 5/6 students will be heading off to Canberra for a week with Cohuna Consolidated, Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville Primary Schools. The expected cost will be approximately \$600.00 depending on fundraising.

The Year 3/4 students will join the Cluster Schools - Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville and attend the Pioneer Settlement for an overnight camp. The expected cost will be approximately \$180.00

The Year 5/6 students also have the opportunity to apply for the Education Department Sommers 9-day camp at the end of Term 3.

Review Family Fire Plans

With the resumption of school, it is a timely reminder to review and update family fire plans. As per the schools OH&S schedule, a practice school fire drill will be scheduled in February.

Koondrook Primary School is classified as a BARR School

Schools, kindergartens and child care facilities at high risk of bushfire are placed on the Department's Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). Inclusion on this register is a trigger for the school, kindergarten or child care facility to pre-emptively close on days declared Code Red in their Bureau of Meteorology district. We will advise the school community as soon as possible after the Department contacts us. Notification of these days will be sent out by text message and a notice will be placed on our Facebook page. Please remember if I send out a text asking you to reply it is **important** that you respond as soon as you can.

Monday Lunches

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. A new menu price list is attached to the newsletter.

School Council

School Council will meet at 7:30pm on Monday 15th February. Shortly we will be holding School Council Elections and 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.



Try Girl Guides In 2021!



For Girls Aged 5 – 18 years old
**Why not try Gumnut Guides,
Brownie Guides, Guides or Rangers**
FREE for the whole of Term 1

Fun &
Games

Craft &
Songs

Adventure
& Life Skills

Cooking

Camping

- ✓ Girl Guides ran during lockdown here in Kerang throughout COVID-19 via Zoom, giving girls meaningful activities to occupy their time.
- ✓ Face to Face activities have now re-commenced
- ✓ Make new friends and explore something new.
- ✓ Develop self confidence through games, activities and service.

When: *Every Monday during school terms*
Re- Commencing Monday 8th February 2021

Time: *From 4pm onwards (depending on age)*

*For more information or to book your place:
Contact: Julie Davey 0427 522 438*

Adults don't have to miss out on the fun!
Interested in helping? Contact Julie



Kerang, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill Catholic Parishes News

Due to Covid 19 and lockdowns, communication with local schools was not possible in 2020. Therefore, if there is any child in grades 3 or 4, in either of the three parishes, who missed receiving the sacrament of Reconciliation last year, and who wishes to prepare for the sacrament, please contact Parish Priest Father Novelito Lim on 54521041, or email stpatker@bigpond.com or contact Christine 0400 301 674. Preparation will occur in March.

Thank You.

Kind regards,

Rev Fr Novelito Lim
Parish Priest
St Patrick's, 90 Nolan Street, Kerang
St Mary's, 95 King George Street, Cohuna
St Patrick's, 5 Victoria Street, Pyramid Hill
Phone: 5452 1041/ 0450185021
Email: stpatker@bigpond.com



Kerang, Cohuna and Pyramid Hill Catholic Parishes are committed to child safety. We believe all children have the right to feel safe and be safe.

Mates Hotel Raffle

Each month the school is rostered on to sell raffle tickets at Koondrook Royal Mates Hotel. Most families are rostered on once per year. We need to sell tickets from 5:00pm - 8:00pm. This is a fantastic fundraiser for the school and we appreciate the support of the families and Mates Hotel.

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 generally not pay for any loss/damage to such property.

Student Banking

We are no longer able to offer school banking.

Amanda Bradford



Water Aerobics-Kerang



Time: Monday nights 5.00pm to 6.00pm

Dates: 2020-16th November-14th December inclusive
(5 sessions)

2021-11th Jan-1st March inclusive
(8 sessions)

Cost: \$10 per session (pool entry extra)

Instructor/Register: Merril Scriven

Ph. 0419 325 294 Email: mfscriven@westnet.com.au

Venue: Kerang Swimming Pool, Shadforth St Kerang



CONTACT:

Koondrook Primary School
Murray Parade Koondrook,
PO Box 8, Koondrook, 3580

Phone - 03 54532428
Fax - 03 54531147

Website: koondrookps.vic.edu.au
E-mail: koondrook.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au