

Our



School



Leaders



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

February 10th, 2021

Issue no: 2

Principal's Report

It was wonderful to see so many parents at our first Assembly last Friday. It was terrific that we could welcome parents back on the school grounds instead of televising our assembly through Webex. Thank you, Mr Peter Walsh MP, for coming along to present the student leadership team with their badges.

Information Night and Welcome BBQ

On Thursday 18th February we would like to invite all families to a Welcome BBQ 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. The times for the 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

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

Thanks to all who have texted me numbers attending. There is still time to let me know so we can work out how many sausages we need to order.

I need a couple of people to help with the cooking of the BBQ. We plan to start cooking at 5:30pm so the sausages are ready by 6pm.

Student Pick-Up and Drop Off

Parents are reminded that for **safety** reasons the staff car park is **not** to be used for picking up or dropping off students. Special circumstances can get permission, so if you think you have a valid reason for doing this please see Amanda.

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 15th – School Council Meeting

February 18th - Welcome BBQ

February 26th – Cluster Swimming Sports @ Koondrook Pool

Assemblies

February 19th – Grade 3/4

March 12th – Grade 1/2

March 26th – Grade 5/6

Forks and Spoons



If your children need a spoon or a fork to eat their food/lunch we are requesting that you send one with them. Our supply in the staff room is disappearing!!



(even after being replenished! ☹️)

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 and Facebook page. If you would prefer a printed copy you will need to send a note to school to let Karen know. If there is any other important information needed to be sent out Amanda will let you know by text message. Any other notes or permission forms will be sent home as needed.

Absences

Attendance at school is crucial to student achievement. If your child is absent it is a Departmental requirement that Parents notify the school on the day of the absence. Please text me on 0429329183 to notify me of your child's absence. Unexplained absences will be followed up each day as per Department Policy.

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

Reading at Home

It's great to see everyone settling back into school life. It is also really important that a routine at home is in place to support the work being done at school, such as nightly home reading and homework. Reading with your child at home is hugely beneficial throughout primary school. But why is it so important? Research has typically found that shared reading experiences are highly valuable for young people. Benefits of shared reading include facilitating enriched language exposure, fostering the development of listening skills, spelling, reading comprehension and vocabulary, and establishing essential literacy skills. They are also valued as a shared social opportunity between parents and their children to foster positive attitudes toward reading.



 **WHY READ FOR 20 MINUTES A DAY?**

Regular reading impacts a child's success at school. If not addressed early the educational gap widens...

STUDENT A	STUDENT B	STUDENT C
20 MINUTES PER DAY	5 MINUTES PER DAY	1 MINUTE PER DAY
1,800,000 WORDS PER YEAR	282,000 WORDS PER YEAR	8,000 WORDS PER YEAR
Scores in the 90th percentile	Scores in the 50th percentile	Scores in the 10th percentile

So, how do you make a child a better reader?

READ MORE!

 



NDCH

Northern District Community Health

NDCH-your first port of call in the pursuit of good health!

Meet The Team!

Each week the team at NDCH bring families health information, updates and tips through your school newsletters so we thought we would introduce you to the team behind the newsletters!



Em

Em has been working in health promotion at NDCH for 3 years. Em's interests include promoting healthy eating, increasing physical activity levels, supporting good mental health and improving gender equity. As a mother of 2 school aged children, Em loves being able to share tips to support families with their health and wellbeing.

Matt

Matt has been working in health promotion for 2 years. He does all the online versions of our newsletter inserts that can be seen on the Northern District Community Health page. Matt will continue to work with young people creating and promoting youth events as well as promoting positive mental health and wellbeing. Matt also enjoys making health promotion videos that make people laugh. Matt has a boy in grade 3 at Swan Hill, who he often uses as a test audience.



Rachel



Rachel is a new addition to the team this year. She has recently finished up working in Health Promotion in Swan Hill. Previously she worked with the Geelong Football Club to start the 'Healthy Heroes' program for students in grades 3 and 4. This program was recognized as a highly commended program by Vic Health! Rachel will work on the Achievement Program and Smiles for Miles program.

www.ndch.org.au

Online safety for parents and carers

Use the tabs below to find the content that is right for you,
otherwise go to <https://www.esafety.gov.au/parents>
The following buttons take you to new content:

[The big issues](#)

[Skills and advice](#)

[Children under 5](#)



Webinars for parents and carers

Join one of our webinars for parents and carers, at no cost.

These live webinars explore the latest research and they are a great way to learn how you can help your child develop the skills to be safer online.

All sessions are delivered by eSafety's expert education and training team.

eSafety's parent guide to cyberbullying and online drama

This Safer Internet Day 2021 webinar will look at how parents and carers can support young people to have safe and respectful online relationships and what to do if things go wrong.

It will cover:

- starting conversations with your child about their online friendships and positive ways to deal with changing relationships
- understanding the rights, laws and community expectations that govern social media use
- where to seek help if your child is involved in a cyberbullying incident.

The webinar will include case studies, research and targeted advice so you can support the young people in your life to have safe, enjoyable online experiences.

REGISTER NOW

Dates (Australian Eastern Daylight Time):

Monday 15 February 12.30 to 1.30 pm

Monday 22 March 12.30 to 1.30 pm

[eSafety's parent guide to cyberbullying and online drama \(PDF, 631.94KB\)](#)

Dream Seeds

Dream Seeds is a 90-minute workshop designed for year 5/6 students in rural primary schools across Victoria. Developed and presented by a passionate team of post-secondary school students from rural Victoria, it aims to build aspiration, resilience and connection for rural students leaving primary school, to better prepare them for secondary school and the challenges they may face. Importantly, it is derived from research which shows that a student's aspiration and agency to engage in learning and goal setting needs to develop before the end of primary school. The program's original activities and games build knowledge and skills to help the young students create personal visions and practical pathways towards positive futures. Using rural experience and youth to develop and present the program means that the program is authentic and speaks to the heart of growing up in a rural community, while allowing students to see the countless opportunities this can lead to later in their lives.

The Year 5/6 students will be participating in this program with the students from Murrabit Group School on Wednesday 17th March here at Koondrook Primary.

School Council

The next meeting of School Council will be held on Monday 15th February at 7:30pm in the staff room.

School Councillors

I would like to thank the current members of School Council for their contribution to Koondrook Primary School. Each year half of the School Council need to reapply. This year Tracy Brennan, Tim Millard and Stephen Ralston are completing their 2-year term. We have 4 parent vacancies for a 2-year term. We will be looking for current members to renominate or other members of the school community to nominate for School Council. Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

If you would be interested in being part of our School Council please see Amanda for further information.

Working with Children Checks

There are often activities and excursions where we rely on parent help. As you are aware, in order to help out with any activities, all volunteers must have a current Working with Children Check. It is free to get one and you can apply online or go to the Post Office and apply there. They do take several weeks to process, so now is the perfect time to get one if you would like to help out this year. If you are unsure how to go about it please make time to see Amanda for help.

Assembly

Our next school assembly will be on Friday 19th February at 3:00pm on the BV.

Child Safe Standards

The Child Safe Standards form part of the Government's response to the recommendations of the Victorian Parliamentary Inquiry into the Handling of Child Abuse by Religious and other Non-Government Organisations. The *Betrayal of Trust* inquiry. The 7 standards and principles of inclusion set out the requirements for Koondrook Primary School and all organisations that work with children. The Child Safe Standards are a set of principles that require organisations working with children to implement strategies to prevent child abuse. Note that child abuse includes Physical child abuse, Child sexual abuse, Grooming, Emotional child abuse, Neglect, and Family violence. The Standards aim to create child safe cultures and environments. Since 1st August 2016, all Victorian schools have been required to comply with the Child Safe Standards. Ministerial Order 870 gives detailed information about how the Standards should apply in schools. Schools must comply with the requirements of the Ministerial Order, and school councils should become familiar with its contents. As such, each year Koondrook Primary School receives training on the Child Safe Standards.

COVID reminders

We again have to remember that extra care is to be taken in these COVID times. We will continue to follow the recommendations of 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 helps everyone.
- Social distancing between adults.
- Parents may come on site but need to sign in at the office or sign in by scanning a QR code which are displayed on a number of windows around the school.
- The children and staff must wash their hands and sanitise regularly.
- All children need to bring a drink bottle to school each day.
- Masks must be worn inside the building if not teaching.

Amanda Bradford

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