

BILLY TEA



BUSH BAND



BUSH DANCING



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

November 16th, 2022

Issue no: 17

Principal's Report

An emergency evacuation was not something I was expecting when I arrived at school on Friday 5th November. Student and staff safety was top priority for the Incident Control Centre, and they were concerned about the impact of a continual high river, which they were expecting to peak, had on the banks of the levee. I would like to thank the local community who have worked tirelessly over the last few weeks making sure our community continued to be safe. Steve and Diesel have spent many hours with the help of the Koondrook Fire Brigade keeping an eye on the pump and the levee.

Thank you to all the parents for coming and collecting your children under these stressful circumstances and for your continual support. Thank you to the staff for their help in carrying out the evacuation and ensuring the children remained calm and safe.

As part of the school closure, we were able to use the Tuesday as our Curriculum Day, which means now there will be school as normal for all students on Friday 2nd December. During this day the staff evaluated our 2022 Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) and commenced the planning of the 2023 AIP.

New Preschool

It has been a long process however in the next couple of weeks we will see work commence on the new preschool. Fencing will be installed around the worksite. The front gate will need to be repositioned and a new temporary entrance will be established between the stumps and the trees at the front of the school. The arbour will be dismantled and will be rebuilt at part of the new entrance to the school. Work will begin on establishing the foundations ready for the module building to be moved into position using a crane. They are still hoping that the new preschool will be operational at the start of next year.

Dates to Remember

Term Dates 2022

Term 4 ~ October 3rd – December 20th

School Dates to Remember

November 22nd – Prep 2023 Transition 11am – 2pm
 November 22nd ~ 23rd – Yr. 6 BHS Transition
 December 1st – Yr.3 Bendigo Discovery Centre Excursion
 December 6th – Prep 2023 Transition 11am – 2pm
 December 7th ~ 9th – 5/6 Camp @ Burnside
 December 7th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 8th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 9th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 13th – Step-Up Day
 December 13th – Yr. 6 @ KTHS
 December 14th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 14th – Yr. 6 Graduation
 December 15th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 15th – Picnic on the Green
 December 16th – Swimming 11:00am-1:00pm
 December 19th – Curriculum Day (Staff First Aid Training)

Assemblies

November 25th – Grade 1/2 to present item

Book Club

This is the last Book Club for the year. Orders are due in by 30th November. If parents would like us to keep books and pick them up themselves, just send us a note and we'll give you a call when they arrive.

Year 3 Excursion to Bendigo

We have organised an excursion to the Bendigo Discovery Centre on Thursday 1st December for the Year 3 students. Students have received a permission note that needs to be returned. The cost of the excursion is \$80. Students who had paid for the camp will have money redirected to pay for this excursion.

Transition Days

Yesterday we welcomed the students starting Prep in 2023 for their first transition day. Everyone was so busy we forgot to take some photos! Hopefully next week, Tuesday 22nd November, when we welcome the children back for their second day, we will take a few snaps then.

Students attending Barham High School in 2023 will be taking part in two transition days next Tuesday and Wednesday. Students may catch the bus over to Barham from Koondrook PS. The bus will leave Koondrook at 8:35 am.

Mosquitoes

The high number of mosquitoes continue to be a problem. Last Friday after school the Shire came and sprayed the trees and shrubs, and fogged the area. This has meant that there has been a slight improvement. It would be a great idea to make sure the children have repellent on before they come to school. The children may bring their own supply of **roll-on** repellent.

Student Leadership

The Year 5 students are preparing their leadership speeches for the roles of school captains in 2023. On Monday 12th December the students will present their speeches to the students in Years 3-6. Miss Bradford, Mr Monaghan, Eve and Thomas will then hold short interviews with the students.

Covid

Please be aware there is a rise in cases again in the area. Please make sure you continue to test your children if they have Covid symptoms. The Education Department recommend that students who test positive isolate for 5 days and do **not** attend school until their symptoms have resolved. You need to notify the school as we still need to report cases on the portal.

Billy Tea Bush Band

Today the Billy Tea Bush Band surprised us with a free concert. We were hoping to have the band visit the school earlier in the year. On Monday morning I received a phone call from Michael asking if we would like a free concert. They were in the area and decided to visit several schools that have had to cancel their bookings due to Covid and the floods. We are hoping that they will be back next year so we can enjoy a whole day program learning some dances and participating in a community bush dance.

Assembly

Our next Assembly will be held next Friday, 25th November at 3pm on the BV. Grade 1/2 will be presenting the item.



Picnic on the Green

On Thursday 15th December we will hold our Picnic on the Green celebration. For our new families, Picnic on the Green is where we celebrate the end of a school year with items performed by the students and Awards are given to the Grade 6 children for excellence in areas of Sport, Academic, Citizenship and the Trevor Gibson Award. Families can bring a picnic tea and everyone gathers on the grass. Hoping the mosquitoes won't be too bad!



School Council

The school council will meet on Monday night at 7:30pm in the Year 4 classroom.

Swimming Program

This year our Swimming Program will be held during Week 10 and Week 11. Children in P/1/2/3 will attend 6 lessons and Year 4/5/6 children will attend 3 lessons due to camp. Pool entry will be \$2.50 (unless you have a season ticket for the pool) and bus cost will be \$2.00 per lesson. Lessons will take place from 11:00am - 1:00pm.

We would appreciate any parent helpers to run the program. Parent helpers will need a current Working with Children card. Parents are able to apply online for a free Working with Children card. If you can help with the swimming program please see Amanda. Dates for the swimming program are below:

Wednesday 7th December - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday 8th December - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Friday 9th December - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Wednesday 14th December - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Thursday 15th December - 11:00am - 1:00pm

Friday 16th December 11:00am - 1:00pm

The children will travel to the pool by bus, leaving school 15 minutes before their lesson. This year I have been successful in obtaining a grant that will help towards the cost of the bus. As part of our Sun Smart Policy **all** children will be required to wear a rashie or a t-shirt while swimming in the water. Children will get changed into their bathers at school and then change back at the end of the swimming session at the pool. They will need a bag to put their wet clothing into. Children will need bathers, towel, sun cream and goggles (if they want). Children with long hair will need to make sure their hair is tied up to help with their swimming.

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 next year. Thank you.

Curriculum Day

Monday 19th December is a **pupil free day**. The staff at Koondrook Primary will be joining Murrabit Group School to complete First Aid training.

Year 6 Graduation Dinner

Each year the Year 6 students celebrate the end of their Primary schooling with a dinner with family and staff. This year's Graduation Dinner will be on Wednesday 14th December at Tudor Tavern.

Smile Squad

The Smile Squad van will be back on 12th December to finish up the last few appointments.

Watering over the Holidays

During the holidays we need help watering the pot plants, vegetable garden, the gardens near the BV, the front of the school and the Preschool. It would be a shame if all our hard work wasn't cared for during the summer break. We are establishing a roster for the Summer holidays. If you can help out please send Amanda a text so we can establish a roster.

Changes to Victorian School Term Dates 2026

There have been changes to Victorian school term dates for **2026**. This will provide an opportunity for Victorian communities to participate more broadly in the 2026 Commonwealth Games.

The 2026 Commonwealth Games will take place across regional Victoria from Tuesday 17th March to Sunday 29th March 2026, with Geelong, Bendigo, Ballarat, Gippsland and Shepparton hosting a range of activities and events for 20 different sports and 9 para-sports.

The 2026 Victorian school term dates are:

- Term 1: Tuesday 27th January to Friday 13th March 2026
- Term 2: Monday 30th March to Friday 19th June 2026
- Term 3: Monday 6th July to Friday 18th September 2026
- Term 4: Monday 5th October to Friday 18th December 2026.

For the list of school term dates until the end of 2030, refer to [School term dates and holidays in Victoria](#).

Our School Values

We have decided to add our 'Value of the Week' to the newsletter so that the community can see what we are working on in school. You can see this week's below.

Amanda Bradford

Koondrook Primary School

Value of the Week

Term Four Week 7 & 8

For the next 2 weeks we are focusing on

Resilience -

It's a busy time of year with testing and it's important to try your best. Especially after we have had disruptions in the school. What does this look and feel like? What can you do to build your resilience?

Resilience



Respect

Responsibility Resilience

MACC Art

This Semester we have explored activities linking art making to literature - making meaning and expressing thoughts about whales and ocean pollution, life in Antarctica and having resilience and determination to cope with life's challenges. We explored collage, drawing, using plasticine and making relief print rubbings.

This term we are experimenting with printmaking techniques and representing imaginary creatures in artworks. We have explored different printmaking processes using various equipment and found objects. This has been a positive experience for the children, who have particularly enjoyed Gelli-printing so far. The plan is for students to print an image of a creature that they make up onto a fabric bag.

Unfortunately, our Grade 5/6 excursion to the Bendigo Art Gallery has been postponed to 2023. Wishing everyone all the best for the end of the year.

Ms Bentley

SANTA PHOTOS

5th Dec 4-5.30pm
12th Dec 4-5.30pm
14th Dec Pet session 5.30-6.30pm
17th Dec 10am-12pm*
18th Dec 2-4pm*
21st Dec Pet session 5.30-6.30pm
* both pet and/or children

@ The Little Blue Book Shop
Wellington St, Kerang
cost \$10
6x8in. (per photo)
extra copies \$5ea
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Photos taken by Tracy Roberts
NO BOOKINGS NECESSARY

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MARC Library Information Term 4

This term in Library we have been looking at the Young Australians Best Book Awards (YABBA) shortlist, voted for and by students. We have also been becoming familiar with Orbit the new online catalogue and search program. Prep, 1 & 2's have been learning about parts of books i.e. back/front cover, spine, blurb etc. Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6 have been learning about the Dewey Decimal System and where to find books on the shelves. **Helen McLaren (MARC Teacher)**

YABBA Shortlist

Picture Story Books



Younger Readers



Older Readers



JAPANESE ENCEPHALITIS VIRUS (JEV) VACCINATION CLINICS



Gannawarra Shire and North Loddon residents eligible to receive a Japanese Encephalitis virus vaccine can now access the vaccine through local immunisation providers for free. Call to make a booking.

NDCH Medical Clinic
Ph: (03) 5452 1366

Kerang Medical Clinic
Ph: (03) 5450 8060

Boort Medical Practice
Ph: (03) 5451 5220

Ochre Medical Centre Cohuna
Ph: (03) 5456 2609

Gannawarra Shire Council
Ph: (03) 54509333

JEV vaccine is now available for anyone aged two months or older who lives or works in any of the high-risk local government areas (Gannawarra & Loddon) AND:

- Spend significant time outdoors (four or more hours per day), for unavoidable work, recreation, education or other essential activities, OR
- Are living in temporary or flood damaged accommodation (e.g. camps, tents, dwellings exposed to the external environment) that place them at increased risk of mosquito bites, OR
- Are engaged in the prolonged outdoor recovery efforts (clean up) of stagnant waters following floods*

* Vaccination can be administered after arrival in flood affected areas to those from other regions deployed for prolonged recovery efforts

Residents are encouraged to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes by limiting outdoor activity when mosquitoes are most active, wearing long, loose fitting clothes, and applying a mosquito repellent to exposed skin when



PROTECT YOURSELF FROM THUNDERSTORM ASTHMA



- 1 Speak to your doctor or pharmacist about what you can do to protect yourself this pollen season.
- 2 Learn the 4 steps of asthma first aid.
- 3 Be aware of thunderstorm asthma forecasts during pollen season.



Protect yourself this pollen season.
Managing asthma and allergies matters.
Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au for more information.

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4 STEPS OF ASTHMA FIRST AID



1 Sit the person upright



2 Give **4** separate puffs of blue/grey reliever puffer
– Shake puffer
– Put **1** puff into spacer
– Take **4** breaths from spacer
Repeat until **4** puffs have been taken
Remember: **shake, 1 puff, 4 breaths**

OR give 2 separate doses of a Bricanyl inhaler (age 6 & over)
or a Symbicort inhaler (over 12)



3 Wait **4** minutes
If there is no improvement, give **4 more separate puffs of blue/grey reliever** as above
OR give 1 more dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort inhaler



4 If there is still no improvement dial Triple Zero (000) for an ambulance
Keep giving **4 separate puffs every 4 minutes** until emergency assistance arrives
OR 1 dose of Bricanyl or Symbicort every 4 minutes – up to 3 more doses of Symbicort

Call emergency assistance immediately. Dial Triple Zero (000):

- If the person is not breathing.
- If the person's asthma suddenly becomes worse, or is not improving.
- If the person is having an asthma attack and a reliever is not available.
- If you are not sure if it's asthma.
- If the person is known to have anaphylaxis – follow their Anaphylaxis Action Plan, then give Asthma First Aid. Blue/grey reliever medication is unlikely to harm, even if the person does not have asthma.

Protect yourself this pollen season.
Managing asthma and allergies matters.
Visit betterhealth.vic.gov.au or call 1800ASTHMA (1800 278 462) for more information.
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