

Welcome ALL TO KPS 2023!



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 1st, 2023

Issue no: 1

Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2023 School Year

Welcome back to Koondrook Primary School to all our existing families and a special welcome to the 17 students and families in our Foundation/Prep class and Pippa and Willow in Year 4, Noah and Breeze in Year 6, Indi in Year 5 and Mahli in Year 2. I would also like to welcome Ms Jude Warren, Sarah Turvey and Mandy Champion to the Koondrook Primary Teaching and Education Support staff. Let's hope we have no interruptions this year and we will have a Covid and flood free year!

Just a couple of reminders - the children have to stay inside the gate until parents arrive at home time. If you are parked across the road, parents have to come across to pick their children up. Children who travel on the bus need to let Karen know if they're not going to be on the bus, saves a lot of wasted time searching for children.

Newsletter

This year we will continue to publish the newsletter fortnightly. The newsletter will be emailed to families, uploaded to Facebook 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 needed to be sent out Amanda will let you know by text message.

Emergency Contact Forms

All students 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 numbers, emergency contacts, allergy and asthma details. ***We need these back by Friday 10th February please.***

Dates to Remember

Term Dates 2023

Term 1 ~ January 30th – April 6th
Term 2 ~ April 24th – June 23rd
Term 3 ~ July 10th – September 15th
Term 4 ~ October 2nd – December 20th

Public Holidays

March 13th – Labour Day
April 25th – ANZAC Day
June 12th – King's Birthday
November 7th – Melbourne Cup

School Dates to Remember

February 2nd – Swimming
February 3rd – Swimming
February 8th – Swimming
February 8th – Parent/Teacher Interviews
February 14th – Swimming Trials @ Kerang
February 16th – Billy Tea Bush Dance
February 17th – Swimming
February 24th – Cluster Swimming Sports
March 15th ~ 17th – NAPLAN Yrs. 3 & 5

Assemblies

February 10th – Prep providing the Item
March 3rd – Yr. 1/2 providing the Item
March 17th – Yr. 4/5 providing the Item
March 31st – Yr. 2/3 providing the Item

Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on Wednesday 8th February.

Staff for 2023

Miss Bradford - Principal
Mrs Lake - Learning Specialist, Literacy Coordinator, Disability and Inclusion – Monday~Thursday
Mrs Meek – Foundation
Ms Selleck - Years 1/2
Ms Warren - Years 2/3
Miss Wilson - Years 4/5
Mr Monaghan - Years 5/6
Miss Dean - Tutor Program, LOTE – Auslan - Thursday/Friday
Mr McLaren – PE - Tuesday
Mrs McLaren - MARC Library - Tuesday
Ms Bentley - MACC Art - Monday
Karen Naismith - Classroom support/Library/Newsletter
Danielle Tuck - Classroom support
Sarah Turvey - Classroom support - Wednesday and Friday
Di Schier Classroom support - Monday and Tuesday
Mandy Champion - Classroom support - Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday
Mrs Ficken - Office each Tuesday and Thursday
Anthony and Shane will visit on Mondays to sort out all our computer issues.

Foundation/Prep Students

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

Over the next few weeks Mrs Meek will be conducting a literacy and numeracy survey with each Foundation student. It is a good chance for Bec 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 2nd, Friday 3rd, Wednesday 8th and Friday 17th February between 11:00am - 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 4/5 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 and 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 per day and pool entry of \$2.50 per day unless you have a Koondrook Pool Membership.

The Murray Plains Cluster Swimming Sports will be held at the Koondrook Pool on Friday 24th February.

Please sign the pink permission note that was sent home and return with the payment or pay online.

Monday Lunches

On Mondays the children may order lunch from Curry on the Murray. Orders can be made directly with Curry on the Murray or placed in the box at the office door. Payment needs to accompany the order. A menu with price list and 'how to order' form has been sent home.



Assembly

We have our first Assembly for this year on Friday 10th February at 3pm on the BV.
The Preps will be doing the item.

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 see Karen or Amanda for a medication permission form.



Billy Tea Bush Band Family Night

On Thursday 16th February we will welcome the Billy Tea Bush Band to Koondrook Primary. During the day the children will participate in a number of workshops and a concert with the band. In the evening we are inviting families and grandparents to join us for a Picnic Tea followed by a Bush Dance. This is an opportunity for the whole school community to come together. 6:00pm Picnic Tea. 6:30pm - 7:30pm Bush Dance and concert. The cost for the students is \$10.00 per student.

Head Phones and Art Smocks

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.

Student Lunch Boxes

We have three students who are anaphylactic to nuts. We are asking parents not to send 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 nuts or nut products are sent to school and we appreciate your support in providing a safe and allergen free environment.

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.

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 maintain the fantastic facilities that we have here at Koondrook.

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 8:40am. 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 20th February. We will shortly 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.

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.

Help Needed

We need some help to move the wood from the trees they cut down for the preschool building. Has anyone got a tractor with forks that can help us out? Please contact Amanda or Diesel.

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 9:00am until 10:00am on Wednesdays during Summer.

Safe Practice

As is good safe schools' practice, if you or a carer drop off or pick up a child late/early please fill in the book on the front office ledge. Please communicate through the school landline 0354532428 or mobile 0429329183, as well as communicating with the classroom teacher.

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 has been sent home to families.

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.

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 the month of February.

Camps in 2023

We are hopeful that our camping and excursion program will not have any interruptions this year.

This year the Year 5/6 students will be heading to Canberra with Cohuna, Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville Primary Schools. The expected cost will be approximately \$650.00, depending on the cost of the bus. The Year 3/4 students will also join the Cluster Schools- Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville, although we are still working through options for a camp. The approximate cost will be \$250.



School Fees

Koondrook Primary is looking forward to another great year of teaching and learning and would like to advise you of our school's voluntary contributions for 2023 is \$160.00 per student. Schools provide students with free instruction to fulfil the standard Victorian Curriculum and we want to assure you that all contributions are voluntary. Nevertheless, the ongoing support of our families ensures that our school can offer the best possible education and support for our students. We want to thank you for all your support, whether that is through fundraising or volunteering your time. This has made a huge difference to our school and the programs we can offer. Koondrook Primary School makes every effort to keep parent contributions to a minimum by sourcing affordable items and activities for our students.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
<u>Classroom consumables, materials and equipment:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Integrated studies• Literacy• Numeracy• Science Students' book packs including pens, pencils, rulers, scrapbooks, graph books, writing books, exercise books, journal books, diaries, display folders, markers, erasers, scissors, document wallets, writing paper, supplies for classroom/buddy cooking, classroom art and craft materials, materials for completing projects including paper, cardboard, paint and other materials.	\$50
<u>Online learning subscriptions:</u> Contribution towards the cost of online learning including - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading Eggs/Express• Mathletics• Essential Assessment• Literacy Pro	\$30
<u>Art (MACC):</u> Consumable items include - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art paper, paints, workbook, craft supplies and materials etc.	\$40
<u>Library (MARC):</u> Consumable items include - <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Workbook, cover paper and some craft supplies• Contribution towards the cost of maintaining and purchasing books for the Library Van	\$10 \$30

Payment Methods

Items can be paid by **cash**, **cheque** or electronically via **direct deposit**.

Privacy Collection Statement – Information for Parents and Carers

During the ordinary course of your child's attendance at our school, school staff will collect your child's personal and health information when necessary to educate your child, or to support your child's social and emotional wellbeing or health in the school context. Such information will also be collected when required to fulfil a legal obligation, including duty of care, anti-discrimination law and occupational health and safety law. If that information is not collected, the school may be unable to provide optimal education or support to your child or fulfil those legal obligations.

For example, health information may be collected through the school nurse, primary welfare officer or wellbeing staff member. If your child is referred to a specific health service at school, such as a Student Support Services officer, the required consent will be obtained. Our school also collects information provided by parents and carers through the School Entrance Health Questionnaire (SEHQ) and the Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) Transition Form.

Our school may use online tools, such as apps and other software, to effectively collect and manage information about your child for teaching and learning purposes, parent communication and engagement; student administration; and school management purposes. When our school uses these online tools, we take steps to ensure that your child's information is secure. If you have any concerns about the use of these online tools, please contact us. School staff will only share your child's personal or health information with other staff who need to know to enable the school to educate or support your child, or fulfil a legal obligation.

When our students transfer to another Victorian government school, personal and health information about that student will be transferred to that next school. Transferring this information is in the best interests of our students and assists that next school to provide optimal education and support to students.

In some limited circumstances, information may be disclosed outside of the school (and outside of the Department of Education and Training). The school will seek your consent for such disclosures unless the disclosure is allowed or mandated by law.

Our school values the privacy of every person. When collecting and managing personal and health information, all school staff must comply with Victorian privacy law. For more information about privacy including about how to access personal and health information held by the school about you or your child, see our school's privacy policy: <https://www.education.vic.gov.au/Pages/schoolsprivacypolicy.aspx>

Throughout this notice, 'staff' includes principals, teachers, Student Support Service officers, youth workers, social workers, nurses and any other allied health practitioners and all other staff at our school. This includes employees, agents and service providers (contractors) of the Department, whether paid or unpaid.

Mosquitos

The school is in a high-risk zone for mosquitos. We have had the school sprayed. The Shire is conducting weekly testing traps and analysing any mosquitos they catch. They will also fog the school area when required. The department has strongly suggested that parents put repellent on their children before they come to school. Children may bring a roll-on repellent that they can put on at 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.

Covid Update

We will continue to follow health measures recommended by the Department. We still have rapid antigen tests which we will give out to students. If your child contracts Covid it is strongly advised that they do not attend school for 5 days.

Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, and the Air Purifiers will be running every day to minimise the risk of infection.

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.

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 or damage to such property.

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.

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; assist, inform and involve parents and the greater community of Koondrook.
- The school values are respect, responsibility and resilience.

Amanda Bradford

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