

Welcome to 2024



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 31st, 2024

Issue no: 1

Principal's Report

Welcome to the 2024 School Year

Hello and welcome to the first newsletter of 2024. I would like to welcome back our existing families, as well as a warm welcome to the 13 students and families in our Foundation/Prep class and Charlotte in Year 6, Kane in Year 5 and Seth in Year 4.

I hope everyone had a relaxing holiday break and are excited about the year ahead. I would like to welcome our new staff member, Miss Kelsey Archibald, to the Koondrook Primary Teaching Staff as our new Year 3 teacher. Welcome Donna Miles who will be supporting work in the office on Monday and Thursday. Donna has joined us from Ultima Primary School. I would also like to welcome Mr Colin Rhode to Koondrook for the first two weeks of Term while Mr Monaghan is on Long Service Leave.

It is exciting that we now have the new portable for Year 4/5 and that we have our Project Space back for our Library and as an area that can be used by staff and students. We have installed 2 interactive boards in the Year 4/5 and Year 3 Classrooms. We are still waiting on delivery of new desks for the Year 4/5 classroom.

Holiday Thanks

Thanks to all the families who popped in over the holidays to water the gardens and pot plants. We really appreciate all the time parents volunteer to help maintain the fantastic facilities that we have here at Koondrook. Thanks Kath and her helper Elektra for the work you put in making sure the school is clean. Thank you, Diesel for all the effort you put into watering and mowing the lawns each week, making sure they always look spectacular.

Curriculum Day

There will be no school for students on Monday 12th February. All staff will be working with a consultant, Matt Knight, on reading Strategies.

Dates to Remember

Term Dates 2024

Term 1 ~ January 30th – March 28th
Term 2 ~ April 15th – June 28th
Term 3 ~ July 15th – September 20th
Term 4 ~ October 7th – December 20th

Public Holidays

March 11th – Labour Day
April 25th – ANZAC Day
June 10th – King's Birthday
November 5th – Melbourne Cup

School Dates to Remember

February 8th – Swimming, 11am-1pm
February 9th – Swimming, 11am-1pm
February 12th – Curriculum Day
February 13th – Zone Swimming @ Kerang
February 19th – Zone Swimming @ Swan Hill
February 22nd – Swimming, 11am-1pm
February 23rd – Cluster Swimming Sports @ Koondrook Pool
February 29th – Parent/Teacher Interviews
March 4th ~ 8th – Cottage by the Sea Camp, Yrs. 5/6
March 13th ~ 18th – NAPLAN, Yrs. 3 & 5

Assemblies

TBA

Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF)

The Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) is 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. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child. The annual CSEF amount per student is \$125 for primary school students.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms will be sent home to all new families and to existing families who have new students starting in 2024. If you believe you are eligible for the CSEF fund and do not receive a form, please contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form.

If you have any queries in regard to CSEF, please contact Judi at the school office.

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.

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.

RESPECT

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 Catastrophic 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.

School Council

The School Council will meet at 6:30pm on Monday 19th February. Soon 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.

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.

Monday Lunch

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 price list is attached to the newsletter.

Bus Travellers

Children who travel on the bus to/or from school need to bring a note for their teacher if they are not going to be on the bus or are going home with friends. It is essential that we know how, or where, your children are going home. Time is wasted looking for children who are not on the bus when we haven't been informed. If it's a last-minute decision, could parents/carers please wait for your children at the bus stop so they can be marked off the roll accordingly. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. I thank the families already doing this.

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 2024 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. We charge the fees instead of asking Parents to supply a book list. A breakdown of costs is in the below table.

Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum	Amount
Classroom consumables, materials and equipment • 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
ONLINE LEARNING SUBSCRIPTIONS: Contribution towards the cost of online learning including - • Reading Eggs/Express • Mathletics • Essential Assessment • Literacy Pro	\$30
ART (MACC): Consumable items include - • Art paper, paints, workbook, craft supplies and materials etc.	\$40
LIBRARY (MARC): Consumable items include - • 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**. **To pay by direct deposit, please complete the following steps:**

* **Clearly identify your family name.**

* **Account name: Koondrook Primary School Official Account**

* **BSB: 063542**

* **Account number: 10029491**

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 next week so students will need to make sure they have an art smock or old shirt to cover their uniform.

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.

Covid Update

We will continue to follow health measures recommended by the Department. If your child contracts Covid it is strongly advised that they do not attend school for 5 days. We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection.

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 11:35am-12:35 on Wednesdays.

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.

Staff for 2024

Amanda Bradford - Principal
Sophie Lake - Learning Specialist, Literacy Coordinator, Disability and Inclusion - Monday - Thursday
Rebecca Meek – Foundation/Year 1
Frith Selleck - Years 1/2
Kelsey Archibald - Year 3
Kate Bartels - Years 4/5
Bernie Monaghan - Years 5/6
Jude Warren - Tutor Program, Science - Monday and Thursday
Helen McLaren - MARC Library - Tuesday
Sally Bentley - MACC Art - Wednesday
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/Wed
Kat McLean – Classroom Support - Thursday
Rianna Matuch – Mental health and Well Being - Thursday
Judi Ficken - Office - Tuesday and Thursday
Donna Miles – Office, OHS - Monday and Thursday
Anthony and Shane will visit each Monday to sort out all our computer issues.

Start of the school Day

Children are asked not to arrive at school before 8:40 am 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.

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 5453 2428 or send a text to Amanda 0429 329 183. Unexplained absences will be followed up each day by the school as per the Education Department policy.

Late Arrival or Early Departure of Students

Students arriving late to school or leaving early must be signed in/out at the school office. When dropping off late or collecting students early, parents must report to the office first and have their children signed in to or out of school.

RESPONSIBILITY





Student Lunch Boxes

We have 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.

Swimming Program

The swimming program will take place on Thursday 8th February, Friday 9th February and Thursday 22nd 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 3 will leave school at 11:15am.

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

Prep/1 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, pool entry of \$2.50 unless you have a Koondrook Pool Membership.

The Murray Plains Cluster Swimming Sports will be held at the Koondrook Pool on Friday 23rd February.

Please sign the permission note and return payment or pay online.

Zone Swimming Trials Kerang

Students from Years 3-6 who can swim 50 metres (confidently) are welcome to try out for the Zone Swimming in Kerang on Tuesday 13th February. Events include freestyle, breaststroke, backstroke and butterfly. Relay events will also be run on the day. Parents will need to take the children to Kerang.

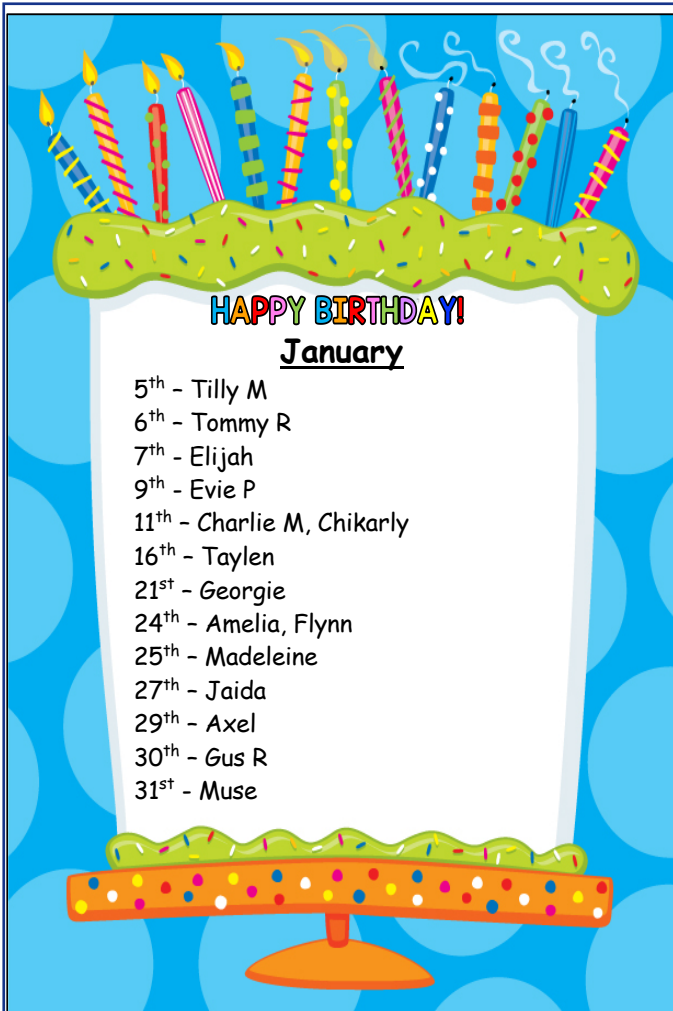
Zone Swimming- Swan Hill

Zone swimming will be held in Swan Hill on Monday 19th February. Students who qualify at the Kerang Zone Trials may enter on the day. Parents will need to take their children to Swan Hill.

Emergency Contact Forms

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 numbers, emergency contacts, allergy and asthma details.

RESILIENCE



Remember — Hats ON Term 1!

All students need to have a school hat for Term 1. Hats can be purchased through Mrs Ficken in the office. Please ensure all uniform items are clearly named!



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! Please note, black leggings or shorts are not part of our school uniform.**

Mobile Phones

Due to Education Department and Koondrook Primary School Policies, students are not allowed to have a mobile phone at school. If your child needs a mobile phone for after school activities, they must hand in their phone to the teacher. If you or students need to contact each other, please call my phone or the school phone line. Students only have to ask if they need to contact their parents and I can arrange the call.

Amanda Bradford

FIRST AID – STUDENT MEDICATION

Just a reminder that any students at Koondrook Primary School who have a medical condition including: diabetes, allergies, anaphylaxis, asthma, epilepsy or any other specific medical condition that requires monitoring are required to provide the school with an **Action Plan** to help meet the specific needs of your child. This is required for the commencement of the 2024 school year and Action Plans need to be updated every year. Please contact Karen if you have any questions.

If your child has to take **any** sort of Medication, this must be kept safely in the **OFFICE** and dispensed by a first aid officer at the time nominated by parent on medication permission form. Forms can be obtained from the office. All medication must be in the original packaging. (If medication is not in original packaging staff are unable to administer this medication to students).

Medication is not to be kept in school bags.

Communication

- **Newsletter**

We will be publishing the newsletter fortnightly. The newsletter will be emailed to families and will also be on the school webpage and Facebook page. 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.

- **Mobile Contact**

Please add my number to your phone list – 0429 329 183. 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 at Risk School. If you receive a text message it would be helpful if you could reply so I know the text message has been received. A thumbs up or smiley emoji would be ok.

If you have any questions or concerns, the class teacher is your first point of contact. Please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher to organise a mutually convenient time to chat. Likewise, please don't hesitate to contact me if there is something you would like to discuss. I appreciate time with parents and look forward to those conversations.

- **Parent Teacher Interviews**

Parent teacher interviews will take place on Thursday 29th February.

Water Bottles

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.

CONTACT:

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E-mail: koondrook.ps@education.vic.gov.au