

# Welcome, and Welcome Back!



*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

**Respect – Responsibility – Resilience**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**'Where the Pursuit of Excellence is Encouraged'**

**Issue no: 1**

### Principal's Report

Wow, and just like that, the holidays are over and we are back at school for the first week of the 2025 school year!

Welcome back to our students, staff and Koondrook Community! It has been lovely to see old friends and new, (staff and students) reconnecting and sharing news of their holiday adventures over the last couple of days. Our Year 1-6 students have settled in incredibly well today and are enjoying the opportunity to begin a new year of learning.

Tomorrow we will welcome our 12 new Prep students and their families to Koondrook PS. I can't wait to see what they will achieve throughout their Primary School journey!

We also have several new families, and we welcome them to our Koondrook Community. Make sure if you see a new face around the school, reach out and say hi, give them a big smile and a warm KPS welcome!

I would like to extend a warm welcome to Kyle Morris, Michelle Nayler, Kate Callow, Jodi Webb and Jess McNeil to the Koondrook Primary Teaching and Education Support staff. Welcome back Mrs Gardner from family leave.

#### Mobile Contact

Please add my number to your phone list: 0429329183

I ask new families to send me a text with your mobile number and name 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 BARR School.

### Dates to Remember

#### Term Dates 2025

Term 1 – January 29<sup>th</sup> ~ April 4<sup>th</sup>

Term 2 – April 22<sup>nd</sup> ~ July 4<sup>th</sup>

Term 3 – July 21<sup>st</sup> ~ September 19<sup>th</sup>

Term 4 – October 6<sup>th</sup> ~ December 19<sup>th</sup>

#### Public Holidays

March 10<sup>th</sup> – Victorian Labour Day

June 9<sup>th</sup> – King's Birthday

November 4<sup>th</sup> – Melbourne Cup

#### School Dates to Remember

February 3<sup>rd</sup> – Swimming

February 20<sup>th</sup> – Swimming

February 28<sup>th</sup> – Murray Plains Cluster

Swimming Sports @ Koondrook Pool

March 7<sup>th</sup> – Curriculum Day, No Students

#### Assemblies

February 7<sup>th</sup> – P/1 to Perform Item

March 14<sup>th</sup> – Grade 5/6 to Perform Item

March 28<sup>th</sup> – Grade 4/5 to Perform Item

#### Foundation/Prep Students

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

## **Staff for 2025**

Miss Bradford - Principal

Mrs Lake - Learning Specialist, Literacy Coordinator, Disability and Inclusion - Monday-Thursday

Mrs Meek – Foundation/Year 1

Miss Green - Year 1/2 - (Monday, Tuesday and Friday)

Mrs Gleeson – Year 1/2 - (every 2nd Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday)

Mrs Nayler - Year 3/4

Miss Archibald - Year 4/5

Mr Morris – Year 5/6 (Monday and Tuesday)

Ms Callow – Year 5/6 - (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday)

Mr Morris - Well-being – Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Mrs Gardener - Tutor Program, LOTE – Auslan -

Mrs McLaren - MARC Library - Tuesday

Gretel - MARC Van borrowing - Friday afternoons

Ms Bentley - MACC Art - Wednesday

Karen Naismith - Class room support/ Library/ Newsletter

Danielle Tuck - Classroom support

Sarah Turvey - Classroom support - Thursday and Friday

Di Schier - Classroom support – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Mandy Champion - Classroom support - Mon/Tues/Thurs/Friday

Jodi Webb - Classroom Support - Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Jess McNeil - Classroom Support - Monday and Friday

Judi Ficken – Office Manager - Tuesday and Thursday.

Donna Miles - OHS and Office - Monday

Anthony and Shane will visit each Monday to sort out all our computer issues.

## **Communication**

Our student management system/platform is **SENTRAL**, and is our main communication tool with families. It will provide you with information about upcoming events, permission forms and, in the future, student reports. It is essential that all parents are connected to this platform. If you are having difficulties, please contact Donna at the office on a Monday.

If you are not already connected to our **Facebook Page**, make sure you jump on and follow. This is where we celebrate day to day happenings and many great school highlights!

Our school **website** also provides detailed information about our school, programs and procedures. So, feel free to check it out, it is a useful resource if you are seeking out additional information about our school. You can also check out our Koondrook Kids song!

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 prefer a printed copy, you can send a note in or let Karen Naismith know. Families who got a printed copy last year will still get one, just let us know if you don't require it any longer.

## **First Assembly**

Next Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> February, will be our first whole school assembly, where we celebrate our Students of the Week and present our Student Leaders with their badges. The Prep/1 Students will be presenting the item. We try to have Assemblies every fortnight but it doesn't always work out with other things clashing. All classes will get a couple of turns a year to perform an item. Families are welcome to attend. Assembly is at 3:00pm on the BV (Back Veranda).



### End of School Day

The end of the school day is quite busy out the front of school. If you park across the road, **parents need to walk across** and pick up your children.

### 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.

### 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 update student absences on the Sentral platform. 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 signed by a doctor by the end of February. If you require the school to give your child medication, please fill in a Medication Authority Form at school.

### 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.

### Monday Lunch Orders

On Mondays the children may order lunch from the Koondrook General Store. Orders can be made directly with the Store by 9am or placed in the box at the office door. Payment needs to accompany the order. A menu price list is attached to the newsletter and/or sent home.

### 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. If your child has lost or damaged their school hat, you will need to purchase another one from the school. **Please make sure you name all school uniforms!**

### Swimming Program

The swimming program will take place on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February and Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> February between 1:00pm-3:00pm. 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.

Years 4/5 will leave school at 12:45pm.

Years 3/4 will leave school at 1:15pm.

Years 1/2 will leave school at 1:45pm.

Prep/1 and Years 5/6 will leave school at 2:15pm.

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 28<sup>th</sup> February.

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

### Zone Swimming Trials

Students in Years 3-6 may participate in the Zone Swimming Trials to be held in Kerang on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> February. Parents will need to arrange transport for their students if they want to participate. Students need to be able to swim 50 metres.

### Parent Teacher Interviews

Parent Teacher interviews will take place on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 2:00pm-5:30pm.

These 10-minute appointments will provide you with the opportunity to meet your child's teacher and share any relevant and important information about your child and their learning styles. Students will attend school on that day and participate in tabloid sports. We encourage **all** families to make the most of this opportunity.

A booking form is attached to the newsletter or will be sent home for you to fill in your preferred time.

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



## 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 2025 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.

<b>Curriculum Contributions - items and activities that students use, or participate in, to access the Curriculum</b>	<b>Amount</b>
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**.

## School Saving Bonus

There is more information further in this newsletter regarding the \$400 School Start Bonus.

## 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.

## 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.

## Stephanie Alexander Kitchen 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.

## School Council

The School Council will meet at 6:30pm on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> February.

We will shortly 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 us know and we won't send them home with them.



### Holiday Thanks

Thanks to all the families who popped in over the holidays to 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. Thank you to Diesel and Kathy for making sure the grounds and the school were looking great for the start of the school year.

### Thank You, Diesel

Diesel has looked after our school grounds and been a part of the school council, both as a member and as President, for 19 years. We have been so fortunate to have him as a parent who has been so involved and given so much to the school. We really appreciate **all** you have done and your friendly drop-ins and chats with myself and the staff. Thank you, Diesel! Diesel has handed over the 'looking after of the grounds' to Spud Woolhouse, so I would like to welcome Spud to the school team.

### Personal Property at School

Personal property is often brought to school. This can include mobile phones, watches, 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.

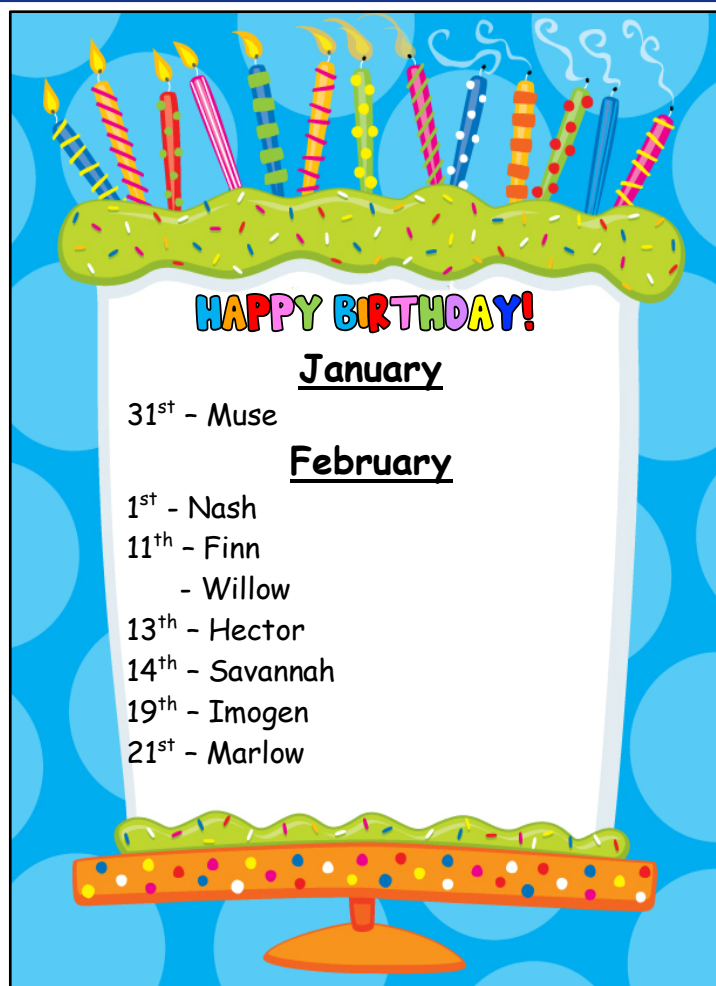
### Toys at School

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.

### 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.



### **School Saving Bonus \$400**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We realise how confusing this process is for everyone, it is for us also. The Bonus can only be spent on Uniforms and activities (camps and excursions).

As we have our own uniform store, the simplest process for families would be to allocate the entire \$400.00 to activities, this will send one transaction to the school and we can then allocate uniforms or camps and excursions. This will ensure you will have access immediately to the entire \$400.00.

An email was sent in November with a code, if you have not received it please check your JUNK or quarantined emails for something from:

[noreply@comms-mc.education.vic.gov.au](mailto:noreply@comms-mc.education.vic.gov.au)

If you still can't find it, you will need to send an email to [school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:school.saving.bonus@education.vic.gov.au) or call on 1800 338 663.

The bonus expires at the end of June.

### **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 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 21<sup>st</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **Camps in 2024**

This year the Year 5/6 students will be heading to Canberra with Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville Primary Schools. The expected cost will be approximately \$650.00 depending on the cost of the bus and any fundraising efforts.

The Year 3/4 students will join the Cluster Schools- Gunbower, Murrabit and Leitchville at Camp Kookaburra on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> April- Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> May. We will let you know the cost as soon as possible.

*Amanda Bradford*

#### **CONTACT:**

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