Principal’s Comments

School Council Elections

Congratulations to each of our four candidates in the school council election process. It is wonderful to have so many parents interested in being involved with the school. This was an amazingly close voting pattern, but as a result of the School Council election process we are able to congratulate Tegan Crick and Jo Hough, and thank sincerely Andrea Haley and Rebecca Young for their keen interest in our school. We were delighted to have a large number of parents voting. We really value your interest and support in the school.

School Council will now discuss and decide on a member to co-opt for one year to replace Justin Gray who has resigned from council due to an overseas posting.

At the final meeting of the 2014-2015 we farewelled three outstanding school councillors: School Council President Jo Scott, Simone Lancashire, President of Karoo Parents Association, and our School Council Treasurer Justin Gray.

Jo has been a very dedicated school council president who is a person with fantastic ideas and determination to achieve wonderful results that help unite the community. One of the biggest events that Jo oversaw was the 21st Birthday celebration in 2013. We have truly valued her guidance and support in achieving the best possible outcomes for our students and for ensuring that Karoo families feel connected and united as a school.

Justin Gray brought to school council an extraordinary ability to look at the finances of school council and then present the information with graphs and charts that helped the council to have a clear understanding of the school’s financial position. Justin asked relevant questions ensuring due diligence in all school financial operations. It was one of Justin’s initiatives that saw the school grants become a community involvement process which resulted in the Greenscape Project getting underway. Apart from finance Justin worked hard enlisting a talented consultant to build the effectiveness of school council governance and to facilitate an interest in community involvement.

Simone Lancashire has been an inspiring member of school council with the genuine motivation to make Karoo a wonderful environment for students, teachers and families. Simone has a wealth of ideas that are well founded and thought through. She is an incredibly hard worker who initiated teacher appreciation, enhanced the prep transition program, and contributed to fundraisers such as Mother’s and Father’s day stalls. I have always known that I can rely upon Simone to have the best interest of the community at heart and that is her motivation and drive.

We are an amazingly fortunate community to have the support of such talented individuals. We thank them sincerely for their contribution. We look forward to continued support from them and send our best wishes to the Gray family.

Annual General Meeting followed by School Council meeting is on Monday 23rd March at 7:00p.m.

Irene Harding - Principal

Wednesday 4th March, 2015

Karoo News

Term 1 Week 6

INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS & ASSESSMENT FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS) 2015

For over thirty years The University of New South Wales has run the International Competitions and Assessment for Schools (ICAS). ICAS provides students in Year 2 to Year 12 the opportunity to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. We will be offering Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics. All participating students receive a certificate and individual student report. If you would like your child/children to participate in ICAS this year, payment/permission notes are now available from the office. All payments due back no later than Monday 23rd March.

Fiona Marker— ICAS Co-ordinator

Karoo Parents’ Association

AGM— Thursday 5th March at 9:00am … all welcome

A reminder that our next KPA meeting is our AGM. Please come along to the staffroom to enjoy a cuppa, a catchup and hear what is currently going on throughout the school.

LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY—MONDAY 9TH MARCH

NO STUDENTS AT SCHOOL

Phone: 9759-6222    Fax: 9759-6211    Email: karoo.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au    Web: http://www.karoops.vic.edu.au
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS NEWS**

Karoo Cross Country Thursday March 19th ...

Wear Your House Colours

Our annual school cross country will go ahead in just over two weeks. The students will run in their age and gender group around the 1 lap (8 and 9 year olds), 2 lap (10 year olds) and 3 lap (11 and 12/13 year olds) course. One house is declared the winning Cross country house, so the students are representing their school house when they run. The students may wear a t-shirt or top in their house colour for the Cross Country. Hopefully this will help to promote some healthy competition between the houses and allow those students and parents watching the races to cheer for their house’s runners, even if they do not know the runners by name. Further details about the event will be given to the students in PE sessions and next week’s newsletter.

Parent Helpers needed for Karoo Cross Country

This year’s Karoo Cross Country event is due to be held on Thursday March 19th. To conduct our Cross Country safely and effectively, we need a few parents to help out on the day. If you are able to help out around the course, between 11:30 and 1:30 on Thursday March 19th, or the backup day, Thursday March 26th, please complete the slip and return it to the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Sharon Lee

PE & Sports Co-Ordinator

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

ALL STARS BASKETBALL CLUB –U8s Extravaganza and Bring-a-Friend night Thursday 12th March at St Josephs at 5:30pm. Have fun, play games, win prizes and work on your basketball skills. Sign up available on the night. For more info or to register your attendance please email rosevanholsteyn@bigpond.com

KNOX SCHOOLS EXPO—Information night for parents of Y5&6 children going to secondary school in 2016/7. Meet reps from Knox secondary schools with a Q&A session at 7pm discussing factors to consider when choosing a secondary school. Thursday 12th March from 6:30-8:30pm at Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna South. For more info contact Natalie on 0417 346 863 or email stsimonsknights@gmail.com.

ST SIMONS COMMUNITY FOOTBALL CLUB Teams available from U8s—U17s for boys, and girls teams for U12’s and U16s. Registrations now available via web www.stsimonsknights.org.au. For more info contact Sharon on 9298 8533 or email stsimonsknights@gmail.com.

MINITENNISWORLD - 4 week Summer Special $48 for 4x30min or $64 for 4x45min lessons. Free racquet and t-shirt. For more information call 0422 848 356.

THE BASIN MUSIC FESTIVAL—20-22 MARCH 2015

A wide range of live music, over 100 performances, in seven venues (five of them free!), including the main outdoor stage in the park. Food and market stalls surrounding a great playground. Music all day Saturday, from 11 am to 10 pm with an emphasis on rock n roll on the free outdoor main stage in the evening. Sunday is family day, with live music all day 11:00 am to 10 pm in the pubs. Weekend pass $20 for paid venues; children under 12 free. For more information about the program, prices, and special events, please see the web site www.TheBasinMusicFestival.org.au

Location: In the heart of The Basin, where Mountain Highway meets Forest Road (Melway 65 G7)

**LUNCHTIME CLUBS AT KAROO IN TERM 1**

Monday: Decoder Club with Mrs Mowat in Room 11

Wednesday: Gardening Club with Mrs Corrales in Room 24

Thursday: Book Camp with Mr Maroney on the reserve

**Elizabeth**

**LOST PROPERTY—COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Open Before & After School: Mon-Thurs 8:45-9:00am and 3:30-3:45pm

Open During School: Mon—Thurs 1:30-1:40pm

**UNIFORM**

Klad Sport, 2/8 Macro Court, Rowville
Ph: 9763 0266

**St Simons Vacation Program**

**Monday 30th March  – Friday 10th April 2015**

Early Bird Bookings close 13th March 2015

Come along and enjoy the holidays with your friends at St Simons Vacation Care Program. The program is open from 8am -6pm from Monday 30th March to Friday 10th April inclusive. There will be exciting excursions to Jump Deck, the movies and a sports extravaganza run by Proactivity. Drumming experts will bring the rhythm of Africa to the program. Plenty more themed days such as Comicon/Superheroes, The Amazing Race, Grand Prix, loads of Easter activities and a giant Easter egg hunt. Don’t miss out! To make a booking please call: (03) 9763 0136 or email: admin@zubees.com.au

**TIQBIZ ... RECEIVE SCHOOL NEWS VIA YOUR MOBILE OR PC**

Follow the 4 easy steps and you’ll be notified of our news, messages, events and communications.

1. LOG-IN : Open Tiqbiz and register/log-in.
2. FIND: Click the ‘Find Boxes’ and type Karoo Primary School into the search bar. Select us from the results.
3. TICK: Click the grey tick on the boxes that apply to you. When the tick turns green, you’re connected.
4. INBOX: Click on the Inbox icon. This is where you will receive our instant messages, news and events.

**KAROO CROSS COUNTRY**

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Child’s name ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

☐ I am able to assist with the cross country at one of the checkpoints around the course.