Welcome
Happy New Year to all Karoo families. Our students have settled in very well and the transition sessions have certainly helped students to feel confident and ready to start 2016. We appreciate the support and encouragement that parents have given to their children as they approach the next step in their school lives.

Staffing
We have welcomed back Mrs Alison Sullivan as Linda Matheson was not able to recommence start of Term 1 as she is still recovering from a very painful and serious foot operation. We have also welcomed Leanne Gunn who will be working in administration and we have three fourth year student teachers - Morgan Ray, Kayla Chetkett and Cara Leigh.

Listed below is our staffing for 2016:

Principal Class: Irene Harding and Leanne Vines
Business Manager: Sue Baxter
Administration: Anna Nicolas, Karen Sexton, Leanne Gunn and Magdalene Patsalis

Teaching
Prep: Sabine Elliott, Karen Corrales, Jess Turner, Kim Davidson
Year 1: Bruce Armstrong & Michelle Dodds, Ann Marie Arnold, Linda Matheson, Tracy Uwins
Year 2: Julie Macdonald, Michelle Davies, Di Eva
Year 3: Monique Watson, Tanya Mollica, Cass Bionik
Year 4: Simone Vitas, Joshua Maroney, Rosemary Denman
Year 5: Deborah Thompson, Lynne Lambert & Michele Murray, Alex Watson, Fiona Marker - Numeracy and Literacy
Year 6: Emma Finnerty, Robyn Mowat, Amy Ellis - Numeracy and Literacy

Art: Kim Cunningham
Music: John Oldham and Jemimah Main
P.E.: Sharon Lee, Fiona Marker & Jemimah Main
Indonesian: Saw Bee Lim
Library: Michelle Mitchell
Science (Year 5 & 6): Bruce Armstrong - 1 day

Education Support: Jayne Hagan, Kerry Legg, Joyce Young, Marina White, Robyn Vincent, Lindsey Whitehouse and Sanya Gabriel

Out of School Hours Care
Co-ordinator: Melissa Newlands
Assistants: Ashlee Gardam, Michelle Coulson, Rosana Mantzouranis, Andrea D'Souza and Moira Duggan

School and House Captains
At Monday's assembly we will be giving badges and acknowledging our captains, monitors and Junior School Council representatives. All families are welcome to attend. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for Leadership roles this year.

School Captains: Aimee B (6F) and Fletcher L (6M)
House Captains: Murrindal— Olivia S (6M) and Jordan P (6F)
Keilor— Brianna W (6F) and David M (6M)
Wyandra— Logan M (6F) and Callum V (6M)
Baringa— Cassidy F (6F) and Tony W (6M)

Captains:
Junior School Council Captain: Emma L (6M)
Visual Arts Captains: Lilian M (6M), Sroflyth M (6M), Indiana D (6F) and Aaron L (6F)
Performing Arts Captains: Kara O (6M), Madison Z (6F) and Dean M (6M)
ICT Captains: Amaya P (6M) and Daniel A (6M)
Science Captains: Gemma M (6M) and Jeremy L (6M)
Library Captains: Olivia W (6M), Sarah C (6F), Ryan H (6M), Ella C (6F), Mitchell G (6F) and Sarah A (6M)
Environment Captains: Liam M (6F) and Liam S (6M)
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT CONTINUED

School Council Elections
School Council is a body of parents and staff representatives who meet regularly during the school year. The council operates within a legal framework of regulations and constituting orders.

Karoo School Council has ten parent representatives and five staff representatives, including the principal. A term of office is two years and each year half of the Council positions will be open for election. Karoo has five parent school council vacancies and three DEECD vacancies.

The process for Council elections will commence next week on Monday 8th February with nomination forms being available at the office. If nominations match vacancies then those people are duly elected. If nominations exceed positions then we go to a school election.

Please note – all nomination forms are for general positions as school councillors. The forms must be signed by the nominator and the person nominated. School Council elects the office bearers.

Below is the School Council election time-line.

School Council Election Timeline
Monday 8th February: School Council – Call for Nominations
Monday 15th February: Nominations close at 4 pm and assessed to determine if a ballot is required
Wednesday 17th February: List of candidates posted
Monday 22nd February: Ballot papers prepared and available at office
Tuesday 1st March: Ballot closes at 4 p.m.
Thursday 3rd March: Vote count and declaration of poll

School Council Meeting: Date to be determined and co-option of community members

Getting To Know You Interviews
Getting to Know You interviews have been allocated for Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th February. Notices will be sent home today with the relevant information. The purpose is for every family to meet with their child’s teacher and to establish understandings, awareness and a swapping of information to build home school relationships. This is not a teacher report relating to your child. It is a chance for you to give information about your child to the teacher. Prep teachers will not be holding Getting to Know You interviews as the Prep parents will have the opportunity to chat to their child’s class teacher on their SEA testing day.

Bookings can be made online and will be open from Thursday 4th February at 5:00pm to Friday 12th February at 4:00pm. Simply log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the code LMJAX, find your teacher and book a time. Confirmation emails will be sent. If you do not have access to a computer, please come into the office where we will have one available to use.

Hoax Calls
A number of people may have heard media reports about hoax telephone calls some schools received last week. In case of any danger we enact our Emergency Management plan. The Department of Education has sent the following email:

“This morning a number of Victorian schools received threatening phone calls. Each of the schools immediately reported the phone calls to police, and initiated their Emergency Management Plans.

Police subsequently attended each of the schools. Police have informed the Department that schools in other states and countries have received similar phone calls in the past 24 hours.

As always, the safety of our students and staff is our number one priority.

Despite the fact that this incident turned out to be a hoax, I reinforce that all threats need to be taken seriously and emergency management plans enacted accordingly.

If you have any further questions, please contact your regional office.
Bruce Armstrong Acting Deputy Secretary”

Car Parking around the School
As our new parents may be unaware (and as a reminder to our existing families), the 2 minute parking zone is effective from 8:15-9:15am each school day in two places—on Karoo Road (near the school crossing) and on Murrindal Drive (one near the childcare centre and one near the crossing). These spaces are for drop offs only. Parents are asked to check the parking signs to ensure they are not infringing parking laws.

The staff car park is not to be used for parent parking or student drop off/pick ups. The milk bar car park and Kellbourne Childcare Centre’s car park are not to be used for school parking. We also ask that you show courtesy to our neighbours and do not park across driveways. There is always ample parking along Murrindal Drive, Karoo Road and on Kellbourne Drive (on the other side of the reserve), a short walk from school gates. Please use school crossings if parked on opposite side of the road. Knox Council regularly monitors the area and issue fines.

School Crossings on Karoo Road and Murrindal Drive are manned before and after school each day. The Karoo Road/Murrindal Drive roundabout causes particular concern with young children crossing the road at the roundabout without parent supervision. Children do not understand the traffic flow around roundabouts and have in the past crossed when it was not safe to do so. For the safety of your children please supervise when crossing and do the right thing when parking.

Accident Insurance
The Department of Education has requested that we remind parents that there is no individual student accident insurance coverage. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Should parents wish to acquire insurance it needs to be done privately. JUA Underwriting Agency are one facilitator of such cover and if interested more information is at www.studenthealth.com.au

Visitors to the School
A reminder that all visitors to the school must report to the school office to sign in before heading to the classrooms.

Dogs
A reminder that dogs are not permitted in the school grounds.

Term 1 Calendar
A list of scheduled events will be listed in next week’s newsletter and will appear on our website and Tiqbiz.
**Assistant Principal’s Report**

Welcome to back to our students and their families, and a special welcome to our new students.

Karoo Primary School takes great pride in providing a safe and supportive learning environment for all students. Of utmost importance is the wellbeing of every student; this includes their physical, social and emotional wellbeing. At a whole school level we have developed a Student Wellbeing Policy; this was amended in line with DET Guidelines last year. It is available on our school website. In classrooms and specialist programs the students work together to develop a Positive Classroom Plan. We value student input and by encouraging all students to work towards common and acceptable goals we are working towards instilling our school values.

We provide additional support to students and their families. Karoo has the services of a Psychologist from OnPsych who is available on a Friday at the school. These services require a parent permission form and a Mental Health Plan from the GP, this allows you to benefit from Medicare. Please see me if you require more information.

This year we have a new DET Speech Pathologist, Della O’Brien who will be working with identified students on a Thursday. We also have been allocated a new school nurse, Caryn Pearson who will see the Preps in August, however she is available at other times if needed.

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**OFFICE NEWS…**

**Newsletter Distribution**

Our newsletter is available for distribution as either a hard copy sent home with your eldest child each Wednesday or emailed to you each Wednesday. Please complete the reply slip overleaf indicating your preference. All families will receive a hard copy today. If you received an emailed version last year, you will continue to do so from next week unless you notify us otherwise. Please make sure you let us know of any changes to your email address at any time throughout the year. Newsletters are uploaded to Tiqbiz and the Karoo website each Wednesday afternoon (and can be found under the ‘Newsletter’ tab on our website).

**Excursion Payments**

Please take careful note of the dates that payments are due for excursions and incursion. Payments and forms will not be accepted after the due date written on the form. 2016 CSEF forms are now available from the office for eligible families (see note below).

**Asthma Action Plans**

Coming home shortly to students known to have asthma will be the new School Asthma Plan to be completed by parents. These plans must be completed each year to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child’s condition and medication. Please complete it and return it to the office as soon as possible so we may update our medical records. Thank you to those families who have already done so. If your child has recently been diagnosed as an asthmatic and you have not completed an Asthma Action Plan previously, please notify the office.

**Student Medications**

If your child needs to take medication whilst at school (eg antibiotics or panadol) please be aware that a Medication Permission Form must be completed and signed by the parent prior to us administering the medication. Medication must be supplied by the parent and needs to be in its original packaging. Permission forms are available from the office and under the ‘Health & Wellbeing—Student Health’ tab on our website.

**Birth Certificates and Immunisation Certificates**

It is a DET regulation that all students provide a copy of their Birth Certificate and Immunisation Certificate upon enrolment. Several of our students have not submitted copies of these. If this applies to your child, a note will be sent home shortly requesting this paperwork be supplied.

**Permission to Publish and ICT Permission forms**

If you have not yet completed these forms for your child, a copy of the form will be sent home for completion and return.

**Student Details Updates**

It is extremely important that your contact details are kept up to date. Student Details Update letters will be sent home with each individual child throughout Terms 1 and 2 (beginning with the Year 6s). Please return the forms to the school (even if no change is necessary), noting any alterations clearly in a coloured pen. If your details change at any time throughout the year (including emergency contacts) please ensure you notify the office immediately.

**Student Absences**

It is a DET regulation to provide a note to the school if your child is absent. These notes must be kept for 7 years. Explaining the absence verbally to your teacher does not meet these requirements. It is not necessary to phone the school office on the day they are away, unless there is a specific medical condition that we need to be aware of.

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**CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)**

To apply for the SCEF please come in to the school office and request an application form.

- Funding available for holders of a valid means-tested Centrelink Health Care Card, Veteran Affairs Gold Card, Pensioner Concessions Card or foster parents.
- Must provide a copy of your valid card with your completed application form to be eligible. Cards must be valid as at 27th January and/or 11th April 2016.
- Applications for payment in March close 29th February 2016. Applications made after this date will still be accepted up until 3rd June, however payment will not occur until the end of June.

For more information visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef or see Anna in the school office.

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Leanne Vines - Assistant Principal

Thank you, Office Staff
**District Swimming Competition - Thursday 25th February**

The District Swimming Competition takes place on Thursday February 25th at Monash Aquatic Centre in Glen Waverley between 1:20 and 3:30pm. Many students have indicated their interest in being a part of the team. These students have taken home a form on which to record their 50m times for the stroke events they would like to be considered for. **Not all students will be able to participate and that is why sending along their times is important.** Students who turn 9-13 may compete in up to 2 individual events and 1 relay event. Events are 50m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, freestyle and medley relay events.

If you would like your child to be considered for the team please record their times for 50m on the form provided with this newsletter and return it to Mrs Lee by Monday February 8th. Please consider that your child must be able to competently and confidently swim 50m so that races are completed reasonably promptly and your student is not distressed when trying to complete their event. Students who are successful at District level will be invited to the Division Swimming Competition. Parents are asked to transport their child to and from the pool and to stay at the pool for the duration of the competition.

If you have any questions, please see me before or after school.

**PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE FOR THIS EVENT – THURSDAY FEBRUARY 25th**

Sharon Lee - PE & Sports Co-Ordinator

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**


**Waverley Victory Football Club**—Information Day on Sunday 7th February from 10am-2pm at Brandon Park Reserve, 659 Ferntree Gully Rd, Glen Waverley. Free sausage sizzle. Offering girls & boys the chance to participate in soccer in a fun, friendly & safe environment. Sat morning—small sided (5 -8yrs) Coerver, Sunday (Girls & boys teams): U7-U11 Miniros, U12-U16. For further info visit www.waverleyvictory.com.au or contact Lino Del Papa on 0418 561 363 or Darren Corbett on 0403 258 441.

**Netball Victoria—Rock Up Netball** Netball Victoria are running a **FREE** four week netball program for women at Knox Netball Centre, 9 Dempster St, Ferntree Gully on Mondays 15th, 22nd and 29th Feb and 7th March from 9:30-10:30am. Rock Up Netball (RUN) aims to provide females 15+ with a low cost ‘pay as you play,’ easy and informal opportunity to play netball in an enjoyable environment at the level they desire. Developed in conjunction with VicHealth with the aim to increase female participation, RUN creates a distinct difference from ‘regular’ netball in the format it currently exists. To register: www.rockupnetball.com.au or contact 9321 222.

**Net Set Go! Introduction to Netball for 5-9 year olds**—Come and join the fun at Knox Regional Netball Centre. Net Set Go (5 to 9 year olds) Thurs or Fri 4:15pm – 5:00pm. Learn the skills and how to play the game prior to joining your local club. Ball, T-shirt and Melbourne Vixens offers with first 2016 enrolments. Small groups – fun games and activities with experienced coaches. To find out more log on to www.knoxnetball.com.au; email knox.netball@knox.vic.gov.au or phone: 9785 7191.


**Rowville Football Club**—Junior Registration Day on Sunday 14th February at Eildon park Club Rooms from 10am-12pm. Registration fees apply. Offering to all new U8s a registration pack valued at $40. For enquiries and registration requirements & info please email registrations@rowvillefc.org.au

**Anchor Kinship:** Anchor is a not-for-profit, community based organisation. Kinship care is provided by a family member, close friend or other significant person in a child’s social network, when the child cannot live with their birth parents. The Anchor Kinship Care Program recognises the ongoing stresses that kinship carer’s face. In response, Anchor runs two courses for kinship carers as a way of providing a space for carers to meet and gain support. Eastern Kinship Care Network will run monthly activity and 2-course meal from 12-2pm at Glen Park Community Centre, 30 Glen Park Rd, Bayswater Nth. Anchor Kinship Carers Support Group meet twice a month at Lilydale Lake Community Room, Swansea Rd, Lilydale from 10am-12pm where you will meet other kinship carers and share the joys and challenges of being a kinship carer. Morning tea provided. For all meeting dates and other information, contact Jessie Lobley (Information and Advice Practitioner, Anchor) on 9801 1999.

**St John's Netball**—Interested in playing netball? Come and join us—new players welcome. U11 modified to open. Registrations close 13th Feb. Visit the webpage stjohnsnetballclub.wordpress.com or contact Maryanne Archer on 9756 0096 or email regsecretary.stjohnsnetball@gmail.com.

**Lysterfield Wolves Junior Football Club**—Registration Day Sunday 14th February at Lakeside Reserve 9-11am. Visit the website to download a registration form at www.lysterfieldjfc.org.au or contact Rohan Young on 0412 377 866 for all enquiries. This year entering a team in the EFL Under 12 Girls Competition—contact Tanya Carroll on 0414 417 810 or tanya@lysterfieldjfc.org.au.

**Scoresby Magpies Junior Football**—2016 Junior Football Registration Day on Sunday 14th February from 10am-2pm at Scoresby Football Club, Exner Reserve, 752 Stud Rd, Scoresby. Free sausage sizzle and drink. Registration fees apply. Scoresby Auskick—registrations also taken so come down and secure your spot for season 2016. Queries to info@scoresbymagpiesjuniors.org.au

**Billanook College—School Tours:** A co-educational school of the Uniting Church, early learning—VCE. School at Work Tours at 9:30am on 9th Feb, 17th March, 17th June, 3rd August, 11th October and 22nd November (bookings essential). Saturday Morning College Tours at 10:15am on 27th Feb, 7th May and 3rd September (bookings essential). Contact Billanook on 9725 5388 or visit www.billanook.vic.edu.au.

**FOUND:** A bicycle was left in the school grounds over the weekend. If anyone has lost one, please contact the school office (9759 6222) with details.
CANTEEN NEWS...

Canteen is open for lunch orders & recess counter sales every day. Please make sure you use the latest menu (Summer 2015-2016) when ordering. Canteen menus available at the office. Special ‘Meal Deals’ are also offered throughout the year for students to order if they wish.

Simple steps to placing a lunch order:
- Write child’s name, grade and room number on a brown paper bag (suitable size to hold lunch items)
- Write the canteen items to be ordered along with the price of each item on the bag.
- Write down total and enclose the correct money securely inside the paper bag.
- Lunch orders are placed in their classroom lunch tub at the start of each day. Lunch tubs are collected by each class just prior to lunch eating time and orders handed out in the classroom.
- If you do not have a paper bag, write order on an envelope and enclose the money inside. Add ’paper bag’ to your order.

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking day is Monday. If your child has a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites or Youthsaver account and you wish to do their banking through the school, simply send along their deposit book with deposit slip complete and correct money secured in the pocket of the yellow folder. This is a deposit only service. Spare deposit books and yellow folders are available from the office. If you do not have one of the above accounts, you can go to any branch of the Commonwealth Bank to open one. If you have any queries, please see Magdalene at the office.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Eldest Students Name: ................................................................. Grade: ..............................
Parent Name: .................................................................Email address: .................................................................

I would like to receive the newsletter via email instead of a hard copy

☐ I received it electronically last year and would like to continue to receive it by email

Please return this form to the school office. Don’t forget to update your email details with us if it changes.

EXPRESSON OF INTEREST FOR KAROO SWIMMING TEAM 2016

Student’s Name: ................................................................. Class / Year Level .............................
Date of Birth ................................................................................ Squad Swimmer..... Yes/ No

Please tick the events/stroke s your child would like to enter (if you have a time recorded for your child please include this):

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I am able to arrange transport for my child to Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre on Thursday February 25th 2016.

Yes / No

Please circle)