Principal's Comments

Getting to Know You and Pop into Prep
Pop into Prep was a huge success with the Prep teachers and parents meeting their new Preps. It was a great time for people to meet and greet and to share stories about their children’s start at school. Through our Getting to Know You interviews, teachers have really appreciated parents’ chats about their children’s goals, areas of strength and development. If you have not been able to meet with your child’s teacher, please ring or make a mutually convenient time to meet. Home – school partnerships are essential for our children's happiness and success at school.

Year 5 Camp Information Evening
We will be holding an information session about the Year 5 Camp: Melbourne City. We are asking all families to complete and return the expression of interest form attached to this newsletter.

Time: Wednesday 24th February at 7:00 p.m.
Where: Year 5 and 6 Learning Common

This year’s Year 5 Camp Program will be held in Melbourne City and the dates are Monday 11th April to Wednesday 13th April, being the first three days of the first week of Term 2. We will be staying at CYC City, 538 Collins St, Melbourne as this facility comes highly recommended and is designed for school groups with rooms catering for 4 – 6 students with an en-suite bathroom in each room.

Mrs Watson and the Year 5 team have put in a lot of time planning this new camp experience, which resulted from parent requests via School Council, replacing the Beechworth Camp which offered only a small focus on Australian history. The city experience will provide a visit to the Melbourne Museum, class on ‘How Melbournian’s earned their living’; a Melbourne Walking Tour; the Chinese influence during the Gold Rush and today’s culture as presented at the Chinese Museum; the story of Ned Kelly at the Old Melbourne Goal; colonisation at the State Library; the indigenous connection to the Land and Country at the Botanic Gardens; and a modern twist at the National Gallery of Victoria with the Andy Warhol display; plus arcade games and ten pin bowling.

Twilight Sports
Karoo will be holding a Twilight Sports Carnival on Wednesday 16th March from 5-7pm. We will be encouraging students to wear their House colours to school and for the carnival. Each student will have the opportunity to participate in 4 events to earn points for their House. Some of the events will include: egg & spoon race, tunnel ball, 3-legged race, 50m dash and skipping race. This will be a fun, community event and all students and families are encouraged to come along and join in. There will be a sausage sizzle as well as drinks and icy poles available for sale. More information will be sent out over the coming weeks.

No Roads Education Project - Kokoda
The students and staff certainly enjoyed the dynamic experience of hearing and seeing the performance of the Papua New Guinea porters. We welcomed our 2015 School Captain Rhianna Little and her family to the school to share this special visit. It was at Rhianna’s instigation that the school began supporting No Roads. Please see the attached thank you letter from No Roads and photographs from PNG.

Irene Harding
Principal

International Competition and Assessment for Schools (ICAS)
Karoo is again providing the opportunity for students to sit the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS is organised by the University of New South Wales and allows students in Year 2 to 6 to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. The subjects for assessment are Digital Technologies, Science, Writing, Spelling, English and Mathematics.

Further details and permission notes are available from the office. If you wish for your child to participate in one or more of the assessments please note that payment and permission notes are due on Tuesday 15th March.

Fiona Marker
ICAS Co-ordinator

Wednesday 17th February, 2016

Karoo Calendar

FEBRUARY 2016

Monday 22nd February
Family Life incursion—Years 5&6

Tuesday 23rd February—Thurs 3rd March
Life Ed Van

Wednesday 24th February
Year 5 Camp Info Evening 7pm

Thursday 25th February
District Swimming Competition

Monday 29th February
Family Life incursion—Years 5&6

MARCH 2016

Friday 11th March
Karoo Cross Country (Years 3-6)

Monday 14th March
Labour Day public holiday

Tuesday 15th March
ICAS forms & payment due

Wednesday 16th March
Coach approach—Year 3
Year 5 Camp—final payment due

Thursday 24th March
Twilight Sports Carnival—5-7pm

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY

Monday 22nd February (Y3-6)

CAMP PAYMENTS

Year 5 Camp
Deposit ($95) due 17/2/16
1st instal ($100) due 2/3/16
2nd instal/bal ($100) due 16/3/16

Term Dates 2016
Term 1 28 Jan—24 Mar
Term 2 11 Apr—24 Jun
Term 3 11 Jul—16 Sept
Term 4 3 Oct—20 Dec

Reminder ...
SCHOOL HATS
ARE COMPULSORY IN TERMS 1 & 4

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors to the school must sign in and out at the office, and collect a green visitor’s badge. These badges help the students and staff identify you as an ‘authorised visitor’.

Please remember to return the badge when you sign out.
A note from Rhonda Luttrell  
Student Wellbeing Officer at Karoo Primary School

I would like to invite parents to join me each THURSDAY from 9am in the staff room for a “Cuppa and Chat”. I will be facilitating discussion around various topics and will invite guest speakers to join us from time to time. Please feel free to come and say hello and find out more about my role in the school, I look forward to meeting you.

This week’s topic:  
“Promoting Independence in your Child”.

Encouraging independence in children is not just good training for adulthood. It is one of the best ways to promote self-confidence. When we teach children to do jobs for themselves we demonstrate our faith in them and send a powerful message that they are capable. Our actions definitely speak louder than our words.

I will also be commencing some lunch time activities on Thursdays; “Friendship Circles”; which will be fun and designed to encourage positive friendships and team work. These activities will be open for students in Grades Prep to 4. I will announce these activities on the day.

 Regards, Rhonda

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PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS NEWS

Karoo Cross Country Friday March 11th
Wear Your House Colours

Our annual school cross country will go ahead in just over three weeks’ time. 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 upcoming newsletter.

★ PARENT HELPERS NEEDED ★
FOR KAROO CROSS COUNTRY

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 Friday March 11th, or the backup day, Friday March 18th, please complete the slip and return it to the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

District Swimming Competition Team Selection

Students who have been selected to participate in the swimming competition will bring home a notice on Thursday or Friday this week. Most students have selected freestyle as the event they would like to enter. There are only 2 freestyle events for each gender and age group and the 4 x 50 metre relay. So unfortunately not all students can be placed in their preferred stroke event. Also there were a large number of 9/10 year olds who expressed an interest in being in the team, which is wonderful, but unfortunately many will not be able to be included in the team. As mentioned, priority was given to students who have provided their times. The notice and $5 event fee is due to be returned to school by next Tuesday February 23rd.

Sharon Lee
PE & Sports Co-Ordinator

Is your Lollipop person the sweetest?

Nominate your Lollipop person for the 2015/2016 School Crossing Supervisor of the Year award.

Pick up a nomination form online at schoolcrossingsvictoria@gmail.com

Your support of this program will help ensure your School Crossing Supervisor is shown the appreciation they deserve for their commitment to the ongoing safety of our children.

Year 5 Camp Information Evening

Wednesday 24th February at 7:00pm in the Year 5 & 6 Learning Common

We will be / we will not be (please circle) attending the Year 5 Camp information evening.

Parent/s Name: _______________________________ Class: ____________ Signed: ____________________

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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 on 11th March

☐ I am also free to assist on backup day of 18th March
IRABINA AUTISM SERVICES

Offering many fun & interactive programs to suit all ages and abilities. For more info on any program/event call 9720 1119 or visit www.irabina.com

Exciting upcoming events in 2016

Irabina Auskick 2016—An autism specific football program
Alex Kelly (Language & Speech therapist) - Professional workshop
Irabina Golf Day 2016 (March 21st)
Disclosing the Diagnosis Workshop
Irabina Superhero Fun Run –3rd April at the Tan Track
Irabina Parent Committee (email melissak@irabina.com for more info)

School Holiday Programs—March/April 2016

Intensive Holiday Program
General Holiday Program
Primary School Age: Lego Club
Grade 3-6: iPad club
Any Age: 3 Intensive Aquatic

COMMUNITY NEWS

EASTERN DISABILITY HOUSING NETWORK—CARERS EXPO—Friday 19th February from 9:30am-12:30pm at Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Highway, Wantirna Sth. A FREE event for parents/caregivers of people with a disability. Are you accessing all of the supports and services for which you are eligible? Come along and be better informed about what options exist, be better able to get the support you need including signing up for services if you are ready. All welcome. Please RSVP to Peter Johnston at peter.johnston@knox.vic.gov.au or call 9298 8819.

KNOX SCHOOLS EXPO 2016—Thursday 17th March at Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy, Wantirna Sth from 5:45-8:45pm. Annual information night for parents/guardians of Years 5&6 children changing to secondary school in 2017/18. Q&A panel session will discuss critical factors when selecting a school and strategies to assist students with transition. For more info contact Knox City Council Youth Services on 9298 8533 or email angela.thurbon@knox.vic.gov.au. Bookings not required.

BMX COME AND TRY DAY—Saturday 20th February at Knox BMX Bunjil Way, Knoxfield. Kids Session—Rego 3:45pm and ride 4:15-5:30pm. Adult Session—Rego 5pm and ride 5:30-6:30pm. Come in long sleeve shirt, long pants and covered shoes. Bring your bike and helmet (or we have bikes, helmets and gloves to borrow).

OASIS OTTERS SWIMMING CLUB—Community Swimming Carnival for ages 6-14 on Saturday 5th March from 3:00-6:00pm at Noble Park Aquatic Centre, 9 Memorial Drive, Noble Park. All levels of swimmers welcome—25m and 50m events in freestyle, breast stroke, back stroke & butterfly. For entry form and further details visit www.oasisotters.swimming.org.au or email oasisotters@gmail.com.

Neither Karoo Primary School nor the Department of Education endorses the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by Karoo Primary School or Department of Education for accuracy of information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking day is Monday. Please ensure your deposit slip is completed & the money is secure in the folder. New folders & deposit books available if required.

LOST PROPERTY—ROOM 7

Open at the following times:

Before School: Mon & Wed 8:45-9am
After School: Mon to Wed 3:30-3:45pm
During School:
Mon to Wed 1:30-1:40pm only

(No Visitors during class time please!)

UNIFORM

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

Open:
Monday - Friday : 8:30am-4:30pm
Saturday: 9:00am-1:00pm

Uniform List available from office.

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 at the office.

INDONESIAN NEWS …

On Monday 15 February at the school assembly, some boys and girls from Year 2 performed Tahun Baru Cina on the angklung. The song is about Chinese New Year celebrations. The students practiced hard during several lunch times to get the song right and they gave a good rendition of the song at assembly. We are very proud of their achievement.

Ibu Lim
Indonesian Teacher

SIGN UP NOW FOR MUSIC LESSONS 2016

Dear Parents and students,

Lessons in Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Strings Brass and Woodwind are once again available this year. Instruments are available for hire or purchase at discount rates. Families wishing to participate in any of these programs will need to get themselves an enrolment form from the school office, have a parent fill it in and either leave it at the office or post it directly to Online Music Solutions.

Information about the programs may be found on the reverse side of the enrolment forms (also visit www.musiclessonvideos.net). All families will be directly contacted prior to the lesson commencement date to confirm the lesson time and details.

Note: Students from 2015 need to re-enrol to continue in 2016. All enquiries please phone 98746667 or email oms@bigpond.net.au

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 Concession 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.
Hi Karoo Primary,

We would really like to thank you for your support of the No Roads Education project in sending supplies into the villages along the Kokoda Track. The huge amount of educational materials your school community collected will really help improve the lives of the students in Papua New Guinea. Currently, only 2% of students that begin school complete Year 12, this means that many adults are not well educated, with only 40% of adults in PNG literate. You very generous community have helped in getting basic educational items to these people in one of the remotest places in the world, helping students continue on their educational pathway.

Here are a few photos of the students and teachers receiving these supplies. We hope you enjoyed the porters visiting the school.

Thank you all again for your support, it has made a real difference to the people of PNG along the Kokoda Track.

Dan Hogarth
Project Manager—“No Roads Education”