Principal’s Comments

Karoo’s Top Results
The Australian Curriculum and Assessment Reporting Authority publishes the latest data for 10,000 Australian schools on the My School website each year. The 2016 update will take place on Wednesday 9 March and will include: eight years of performance data, 2015 school profile, 2015 NAPLAN results and school financial information.

Since 2013, ACARA has released information on schools that demonstrate substantially above average gain as students’ progress from Year 3 to Year 5 and from Year 7 to Year 9.

This year, Karoo Primary School has been identified as having achieved substantial growth in NAPLAN scores compared to: previous years, schools with similar students and other schools with similar NAPLAN average score start points. In addition, identified schools had to have a matched cohort of students across two NAPLAN periods (Years 3 to 5) of at least 70 per cent.

ACARA’s letter stated: I am pleased to advise that ACARA has identified your school as having demonstrated substantially above average gain in NAPLAN results.

On behalf of ACARA, I would like to extend my congratulations to you and your school community on this achievement. Gains of this magnitude are significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledgement.

We are thrilled with this acknowledgement of the hard work of teachers and students in striving to achieve personal best results. Our whole school approach to literacy and numeracy which includes: Learning Intention, CAFÉ Reading, Sound Waves Spelling and Grammar, Problem Solving and Fundamental Numeracy skills have certainly contributed to the success in this area.

The results show a high standard of achievement but most importantly show the extent of growth of all students no matter what their level of achievement. Apart from academic learning, Karoo embraces developing the whole child from creative - expression in the visual and performing arts, physical and sporting skill development and appreciation of diverse cultures.

The news on ABC or SBS will highlight the schools achieving these results.

Camps, Sports and Excursion
Parents are reminded that if you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for the CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. 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 Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student misses out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government’s commitment to breaking the link between a student’s background and their achievements.

The annual CSEF amount per student is: $125 for primary school students

Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the CSEF website. Applications close 3 June 2016.

Karoo Calendar

MARCH 2016

Friday 11th March
Twilight Sports Food Pre-order forms & payment due

Monday 14th March
Labour Day public holiday

Tuesday 15th March
ICAS forms & payment due
Easter raffle tickets & money due

Wednesday 16th March
Coach Approach—Year 3 Year 5 Camp—final payment due
Twilight Sports Carnival—5-7pm
(Easter raffle drawn)

Thursday 17th March
Karoo Cross Country (Years 3-6)

Monday 21st March
School Council and AGM—7pm

Tuesday 22nd March
Easter Special Lunch—Prep-Y2

Wednesday 23rd March
Easter Special Lunch—Years 3-6
KPA Second Hand Uniform Sale
2:30-3:45pm

Thursday 24th March
Last day of Term 1
(students dismissed at 2:30pm)

NO SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
next week due to public holiday

CAMP PAYMENTS
Year 5 Camp
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.

STOP
SOME PARENTS ARE DOING THE WRONG THING—
ITS TIME TO STOP!

We have had a series of complaints from frustrated parents of our school community and neighbours in surrounding streets regarding parking at pick up and drop off times.

For the sake of the safety of our students and as a courtesy to our community please respect the rules:

- OBSERVE the 2min parking time limit where marked.
- DO NOT park in or use the staff car park at any time during school hours (disabled car park is to be used by holders of a disabled sticker only).
- DO NOT park across driveways under any circumstances.
- USE school crossings when crossing the road.

Knox Council has been notified of these issues and more regular checks will be made by their officers. Fines will be issued by them for by-law infringements.

Phone: 9759-6222 Fax: 9759-6211 Email: karoo.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Web: http://www.karoops.vic.edu.au
**Community Support**
The school community has been strongly supporting our efforts to raise funds for the school; we have received many contributions for the Easter Egg Raffle. Please continue to support your child/children’s House by making a small donation and also by buying raffle tickets. The students receive points for their House and the winning House will be rewarded. Come along and cheer on your child/children at the **Twilight Sports on Wednesday 16th March** — you may also be fortunate to win one of the Easter Raffle prizes drawn that night! Thank you to KPA, School Council and Class Reps for the thorough planning and preparation for the Twilight Sports, we are looking forward to this community fun event. More details to come.

**Mr Alan Tudge**
We were delighted to welcome Mr Alan Tudge, the Federal government member for Aston to our whole school assembly on Monday. Mr Tudge helped our captains Aimee and Fletcher present the awards and spoke glowingly of the behaviour, attitude and learning of our students. We appreciate Mr Tudge taking the time to be part of our school community.

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**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS NEWS**

**Summer and Will at Region Swimming Competition**

Summer M and Will V had excellent results at the Division Swimming Competition, finishing 1st and second, respectively, in their events. They swam on Monday at the Region competition and again swam to the very best of their ability. We are very proud of these two students who have represented the school, Rowville District and Eastern Metropolitan Region most capably.

**Karoo Cross Country — Rescheduled to Thursday 17th March**
Due to the hot weather expected on Friday, we have decided to postpone the Karoo Cross Country until Thursday March 17th. The wellbeing and safety of the students, teachers and our parent volunteers is our first consideration. Hopefully the new date will be a much milder day weatherwise. If parents who have offered to help, could indicate on the slip with this newsletter if they are still able to assist on the 17th, that would be appreciated. I will contact, via a group text, parents whose phone numbers I have asking them to indicate their availability on March 17th. Any parents who are now available due to the change of date, please return the assistance slip to the main office.

**Hockey and Soccer Clinics**

During Week Five, Year 4 classes, 5W and 6M had Hook Into Hockey sessions, which focused on participation and the basic skills of hockey. A flyer went home with all the students who attended the sessions, detailing the Hook Into Hockey program, which is similar to the Milo Cricket and AFL Auskick programs. I have made extra copies of the flyer for any students or parents interested in finding out more about this sporting program. The flyers are in the ‘Sport’ notice holder outside the main office. Over the past 2 weeks all classes (except Prep) have attended Mini Roos soccer clinics during their PE session. Rob, from the local soccer club Knox United, has delivered these sessions with great enthusiasm. Many of our students are already well acquainted with Rob as members of the soccer club.

**Little Athletics Achievements**

Chloe J and Sophie J are Little Athletics members at Knox, with the Rowville Lakes group. They had some significant achievements over the weekend. On Saturday Chloe achieved a gold medal for 400m and 600m distances, a silver for the 200m sprint and a bronze for the 800m walk. Sophie achieved a silver medal for the 400m and bronze for the 1100m walk. On Sunday they both received a participation trophy in their age group, with Sophie also receiving a silver medal for 20 personal bests and Chloe a gold medal for 30 personal bests. It is great to see students striving to do their best with their outside sporting interests. Here is a photo of Sophie and Chloe with their stash of medals!

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**CLASS AWARDS**

**Years 3—6**

**Week Ending—4th March, 2016**


**ICY POLES FOR SALE**

$1:00

Every day after school 3:30-3:45pm  
(In the Courtyard)

Starting from next Tuesday 15th March, we will be selling icy poles for $1.00 after school in the Courtyard. The money will go towards the Year 6 Graduation. So please help support the Year 6s in their final year of primary school.

Thank you!

Lilian and Madison on behalf of Year 6 students.
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 next Tuesday 15th March.

Fiona Marker - ICAS Co-ordinator

EASTER SPECIAL LUNCH

Preps—Yr 2: Tuesday 22nd March
Years 3-6: Wednesday 23rd March

Pre-orders now being taken (forms sent home today). Order forms and correct money due back to the office no later than Wednesday 16th March.

A note from Rhonda Luttrell

Student Wellbeing Officer at Karoo Primary School

What a great start we had for our lunchtime program, “Friendship Circles” which began on Thursday 18th February. We will continue to meet during lunchtime on Thursdays, listen for the announcement.

An invitation to school parents to attend a special morning tea on Thursday 17th March 9am to 10am. I will host this morning, and facilitate a workshop/discussion which will focus on the issues around “Grief and Loss”. We will meet in the staff room where we can also enjoy a cuppa and some yummy morning tea (featuring Easter buns).

Helping children deal with fears:

Many children have fears that surface at various times in their lives. Some, such as fear of the dark are common in children at certain ages. Sometimes fears are triggered by an event or an unfortunate accident. For instance, if a child is bitten by a dog when young, he or she may be afraid of all dogs. Well-publicised tragedies, which feature on our news bulletin regularly, may also increase a deep feeling of fear and anxiety. Helping children cope with their fears requires time and exploring the issues they are facing at this time.

Just a reminder: I work at the school Monday and Thursday 8:30am to 4pm. I invite parents to catch up with me in the staff room each Thursday between 9 – 9.30am for a “cuppa and chat”.

Regards, Rhonda

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

Neither Karoo Primary School nor the Department of Education endorses the product 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.

2016 Karoo Primary School Easter Raffle

Karoo Parent’s Association wish to invite the Karoo Community to support their ‘house’ and support their school.

Suitable donations:
- Easter Chocolates
- Easter Craft
- Easter decorations
- Easter storybooks
- Baskets or gift boxes suitable for packaging

Donations can be made to your ‘house colour box’ in the courtyard before school or in the Year 5&6 Learning Common at lunch eating time (1:30pm). Points will be awarded to each ‘house’. Donations will be received up until Wednesday March 16. All prizes will be drawn at the Twilight Sports evening Wednesday March 16.

Thank you for your support.

Happy Easter
**LOST PROPERTY**

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!)

**STUDENT BANKING**

Student Banking day at Karoo is Monday.

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

**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.

**TWILIGHT SPORTS — FOOD PRE-ORDER FORM**

Parent Name: ___________________________ Contact Number: ___________________________

Eldest student’s name: ___________________________ Grade: ___________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ITEM</th>
<th>COST</th>
<th>QUANTITY</th>
<th>SUBTOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sausage in Bread</td>
<td>$2.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soft drink/Juice/Water</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>TNT</td>
<td>$1.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chuppa Chups</td>
<td>3 for $1.00</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Family Meal Deal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$20.00</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>5 x Sausage in bread</td>
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<td>5 x Chuppa Chups</td>
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Total $ ___________________________

Completed forms and money due back to the office no later than Friday 11th March 2016.

**KAROO CROSS COUNTRY—RESCHEDULED TO 17TH MARCH**

Name: ___________________________ Phone: ___________________________

Child’s name: ___________________________ Class: ___________________________

☐ I am able to assist at one of the checkpoints around the course on Thursday 17th March (new date)