Welcome
Happy New Year! to all Karoo families and a very warm welcome to our new families.
The transition programs which Karoo operates have prepared our students for their new classes
and new friends. A very smooth start and we value the support and encouragement from parents
with naming and covering books and having your children motivated and excited to start school. It
was lovely to see so many families and grandparents sharing the start of the school year.
On behalf of all staff I would also like to thank the many families who wrote personal notes, cards
and provided thoughtful gifts at the end of the year. We appreciate your kindness and generosity.

Getting To Know You Meetings
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 2nd February at 5:00pm to
Friday 10th February at 4:00pm. Simply log on to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and enter the
code daud5, 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.

Staffing
Listed below is our staffing for 2017:

Principal Class: Irene Harding and Leanne Vines
Business Manager: Sue Baxter
Administration: Anna Nicolas, Karen Sexton, Leanne Gunn and Magdalene Patsalis
Prep: Karen Corrales, Jess Turner, Mirella Irving
Year 1: Tracy Uwins, Ann-Marie Arnold, Robyn Durrand, Naomi Simpson & Jenimah
Main (both working 3 days, so the class will have the two teachers on Wednesday)
Year 2: Di Eva, Michelle Davies, Libby Hands, Monique Watson
Year 3: Fiona Marker, Cass Blonik, Claire Moyle
Year 4: Kim Davidson, Rose Denman, Deborah Thompson
Year 5: Julie Macdonald, Alex Watson, Robyn Mowat
Year 6: Emma Finnerty, Tanya Mollica, Simone Vitas
Art: Kim Cunningham and Bruce Armstrong (Prep Art—one day)
Music: John Oldham and Amy Ellis (Term 1)
P.E.: Josh Maroney and Michelle Dodds
Indonesian: Saw Bee Lim
Science Years 5 and 6: Bruce Armstrong - one day
Teaching Enrichment: Sharon Lee, Amy Ellis, Lynne Lambert and Michele Murray
Student Wellbeing Officer: Rhonda Luttrell
Education Support: Jayne Hagan, Kerry Legg, Joyce Young, Marina White, Robyn Vincent,
Lindsey Whitehouse, Sanya Gabriel, Michelle Mitchell and Sue Austin
OSHC Co-ordinator: Melissa Newlands
OSHC Assistants: Michelle Coulson, Rosana Mantzouranis, Andrea D’Souza and Tim Lai
School and House Captains
At Monday’s assembly we will be giving badges and acknowledging our captains. Families are
welcome to attend on Monday. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected
for Leadership roles.

School Captains: Danielle C and Sam K
House Captains: Murindal: Charlotte S and Jack M Kellbourne: Nina P and Matt H
Wyandra: Vanessa H and Cooper G Baringa: Taylah R and Daniel J
Student Voice Captains: Poppy G and Aidan S
Visual Arts Captains: Jessica S, Shaye P, Jenna B and Ashlyn J
Performing Arts Captains: Abigail B, Owen C, Lucinda S and Anneshae P
ICT –eSmart Captains: Marcus G and Bailin Y
Science Captains: Olivia W and Sam V
Library Captains: Paige H, Shehara J, Lucy J and Tiah W

...Principal comments continued overleaf
**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT CONTINUED**

**Car Parking around the School**
As our new parents may be unaware (and as a reminder to our existing families), the 2 minute parking zones are effective from 8:15-9:15am each school day in three places—on Karoo Road (near the school crossing) and on Murriindal 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 Kelbourne 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 Murriindal Drive, Karoo Road and on Kelbourne 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 issues fines.

School Crossings on Karoo Road and Murriindal Drive are manned before and after school each day. The Karoo Road/Murriindal 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 or ambulance cover. 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.

Private property brought to school by students or visitors is not insured and the Department does not accept any responsibility for any loss or damage. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises.

**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.

**Newsletter and Notices on Website**
The newsletter is a valuable source of information about school news, events and happenings. Please ensure you read it each week and make a note of important dates in your personal diary. A copy is uploaded to our website each week for your information (use the quicklink ‘Newsletter’). Copies of all excursion notices sent home will also be available on our website (use the quicklink ‘Notices and Forms’).

Irene Harding - Principal

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**Assistant Principal’s Report**

Welcome 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.

Leanne Vines - Assistant Principal

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

To apply for the CSEF, please come into the school office and collect an application form.

Please note that you must complete a new form each year.

- Funding of $125 per student is available for holders of a valid means-tested Centrelink Health Care Card, Veteran Affairs Gold Card, Pensioner Concession Card or foster parents.
- You must provide a copy of your valid card with your completed application form to be eligible.
- Cards must be valid as at 30th January 2017 (Term 1) and/or 18th April 2017 (Term 2).
- Applications for payment to be made in March close Friday 17th February 2017.
- Applications will still be accepted up until 23rd June, however payment will not occur until July.

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

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**STUDENT BANKING**

Student banking day is Monday. If your child has a Commonwealth Bank Dollarmites or Youthsavver account and you wish to do their banking through the school, simply send along their deposit book with completed deposit slip 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.

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**CANTEEN NEWS …**

Canteen is open for lunch orders & recess counter sales every day. Please make sure you use the latest menu (Summer 2016-2017) when ordering. Canteen menus available at the office. Special ‘Meal Deals’ are also offered throughout 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 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 lunch. 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.
OFFICE NEWS…

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. 2017 CSEF forms are now available from the office for eligible families (see note accompanying). If you are paying by cash please provide the correct money as change is not always possible. Please remember credit cards can only be used for payments $10 and over.

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.

Anaphylaxis and Allergy Action Plans
Students known to have allergies will receive this week either a red Anaphylaxis form or a green Allergy form to be completed and signed by your medical practitioner. It is a DET requirement that these plans are completed each year. Thank you to the families who have already done so. Once complete, please bring into the school office along with any medication required and ask to see Karen Sexton. If your child has been diagnosed with an allergy since the end of school last year please come in and collect a form.

Student Medications
If your child needs to take medication whilst at school (eg antibiotics or paracetamol) 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 on our website under the ‘Health & Wellbeing—Student Health’ tab.

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.

Thank you, Office Staff

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS COMING
(order forms home today)

THURSDAY 9th FEBRUARY

Dress:: Clean and tidy as per school uniform guidelines—no sports tops to be worn.
Hair: Neat and swept off face.

Online Orders: To pre-order online, take your personal Order and ID Numbers found on your order form and go to www.schoolpix.com.au. Orders can be placed online up to 2 working days after photography. You do not need to return the order form if you order online.

Remember: All orders placed online before midnight on photography day will receive a free 20cm x 25cm black and white portrait print.

Manual Orders: Complete your order form and return with payment to school ON PHOTOGRAPHY DAY.

Sibling Orders: For a special photo of your children together order online by 10am on 9th February. Alternatively collect a Sibling Order Form from the office or download it from the SchoolPix website and return it on photography day. Only siblings that place an order will be photographed.
**PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS NEWS**

**District Swimming Competition—Thursday February 23rd**
The District Swimming Competition takes place on Thursday February 23rd at Monash Aquatic Centre in Glen Waverley between 1:10 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. Students who are turning in between the ages of 9-13 in 2017 may compete in up to 2 individual events and 1 relay event. **Not all students will be able to participate and that is why sending along their times is important.**

The District Swimming Competition events are 50m freestyle, backstroke, breaststroke and butterfly, in addition to freestyle and medley relay events. Please consider that your child must be able to competently and confidently swim 50m so that races are completed reasonably promptly and your child 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 would like your child to be considered for the team please record their times for 50m on the form below and return it to Mr Maroney by Friday February 10th. If you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact Josh Maroney.

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**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**LYSTERYFIELD WOLVES JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB**  Registration day will be held on Sunday 12th February at Lakesfield Reserve 10 – 11:30am. Visit us at www.lysterfieldjfc.org.au to download a registration form or contact the registration officer Rohan Young on 0412 377 866 for all enquiries. This year they will be entering a team in the EFL Under 12 Girls Competition—contact Rohan Young for further information or email: secretary@lysterfieldjfc.org.au

**WAVERLEY VICTORY FOOTBALL CLUB**—Information Day at Brandon Park Reserve, 659 Ferntree Gully Rd, Glen Waverley on Sunday 12th Feb from 10am-2pm. Sat morning—small sided (5-8yrs) Coerver; Sun (Girls & Boys teams): U7-U11 MiniRoos and U12-U16. For more info contact Darren Corbett on 0403 258 441 or Simon Cuce on 0409 667 790 or go to www.waverleyvictory.com.au or . Register your interest at www.waverleyvictory.com.au/2017-wvcf-information-request.html

**KNOX FESTIVAL OF TENNIS**—4th to 12th February. Knox Tennis clubs invite you to come and join in 9 days of family fun! Attend your local tennis club during the festival or go to www.tennisknox.org.au to find your local club and a list of their activities.

**MUSCILLO TENNIS ACADEMY:**
—NEW MUSTA HOT SHOTS TEAM COMPETITION If your child is already involved in the MUSTA Hot Shots program, this is a a fun way for kids to get into team tennis . Kids learn the basics of game play and scoring. Teams are made up of 3 players (both boys & girls); enrol by yourself, with a friend or in a team of 3. All individual enrolments will be matched into a team by MUSTA. Team ladders, trophies and prizes! Commences Friday 3rd February, Friday 5:30 - 6:30PM (7-12yrs) and 6:30 - 7:30PM (9-14yrs). Register your interest & enquiries to Laura admin@musta.com.au or 0478 097 377

—AUS OPEN SUMMER SPECIAL - ADULT FITBIT CARDIO TENNIS Enrol with a friend for Term 1 and both receive 25% off. Fitbit Cardio Tennis is a mix of cardio workouts and a range of fun tennis drills, all done to music and in a social fun environment; open to players of all ages and abilities. All equipment supplied. Cardio workout times: Mondays 7:30 - 8:30pm, Wednesdays 6:15 - 7:15pm and 8:15 - 9:15pm, Thursdays 9:30 - 10:30am and Fridays 1:30 - 2:30pm and 7:30 - 8:30pm. Register your interest and further enquiries to Laura admin@musta.com.au or 0478 097 377

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR PARENT HELPER AT KAROO CROSS COUNTRY ON 10th MARCH 2017**

Parent’s Name: .......................................................... Phone Number ..........................................................

Child’s Name .............................................................. Class....................

I can assist on (please tick): ☐ Both days ☐ Only Friday March 10th ☐ Only Wednesday March 15th

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**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR KAROO SWIMMING TEAM 2017**

Student’s Name: .......................................................... Class / Year Level .........................

Date of Birth: .......................................................... Squad Swimmer.... Yes/ No

Please tick the events/strokes 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 Thurs 23rd February 2017

Yes / No
(Please circle)