Karoo News

Term 1 Week 3

Principal’s Comments

Student Council Representatives
On Monday Mrs Mowat presented badges to the Student Councillors, who were chosen by their classroom peers for exhibiting the Karoo values and for being able to represent student voice at Student Council. Congratulations to our 2017 Student Councillors.

Twilight Sports—Tuesday 14th March
The Twilight Sports will be held on Tuesday 14th March (not 16th March as listed in last week’s newsletter). Our captains have been working on the chants for their teams and we will publish these next week. Mr Maroney will assist the students to prepare for the events in PE and we will set up some practise sessions for chanting! It was a great event last year and the KPA has preparations underway for a lot of food stalls with pre-ordering to occur to save time on the evening. Keep the date clear in your calendar.

Student Uniform-Sun Smart
Please remind your child to bring a hat to school and to wear it as we are a SunSmart school, even if the weather does not always indicate summer. Please note that school socks should be white, bottle green or black.

School Council Elections
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 two DET vacancies. The process for Council elections commenced on Monday 13th February with nomination forms available at the office. If nominations exceed 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. Parent info flyer attached and available at the office.

School Council Election Timeline
Monday 13th February: School Council –Call for Nominations (forms available from the office)
Monday 20th February: Nominations close at 4 pm and assessed to determine if a ballot is required
Wednesday 23rd February: List of candidates posted
Monday 27th February: Ballot papers prepared and available at office
Tuesday 7th March: Ballot closes at 4 p.m.
Thursday 9th March: Vote count and declaration of poll
AGM and School Council Meeting: Monday 27th March at 7pm

Getting to Know You Meetings
Thank you to the families who attended Getting to Know You Meetings this week. If you have missed a time please contact your child’s teacher to arrange a mutually convenient time via the telephone or in person.

Irene Harding
Principal

Student Council. Congratulations to our 2017 Student Councillors.

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Irene Harding
Principal

Twilight Sports Carnival
After the success of last years’ Twilight Sports Carnival, we will be holding the event again on Tuesday 14th March from 5:00-7:00pm.

The emphasis is always on FUN, not individual performance, and we will again be having events such as tunnel ball, egg & spoon races, relays, and rob the nest. Students will participate is House teams and there will be an overall House winner at the end of the night. Students can wear their House colours to school that day as well as to the carnival, and extra points will be awarded to the most ‘colourful’ House!

A sausage sizzle, drinks and icy poles will be available for sale both as a pre-order prior to and also on the night, this year we will be having multiple food stalls as well as a dedicated pre-order table to make the lines much shorter!! There will be plenty of opportunities to help out on the night, and information about this will be sent out via your Class Rep over the coming weeks. Bring on the fun!

Janelle Toh (KPA President)

Wednesday 15th February, 2017

Karoo Calendar

FEBRUARY 2017

Thursday 16th February
‘Meet & Greet’ with Rhonda Luttrell (Student Wellbeing Officer) - 9am in staffroom

Monday 20th February
School Council nominations close at 4pm

Wednesday 22nd February
KPA Second Hand Uniform Sale 2:30-4pm in courtyard (donations now being taken)
School Council Candidates posted

Thursday 23rd February
District Swimming Competition

Mon 27th February
School Council ballot papers available at the office
Year 5 Camp Information Night
School Council meeting—7pm

MARCH

Thurs 2nd—Fri 10th March
Life Ed Van visits

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY
Mon 20th February—Prep-Y2

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

Term Dates 2017
Term 1  31 Jan—31 Mar
Term 2  18 Apr—30 Jun
Term 3  17 Jul—22 Sept
Term 4  9 Oct—22 Dec

IMPORTANT DATES - CAMPS
2017 Year 5
‘City Experience’ Camp
Term 1:  20th—22nd March 2017
2017 Year 6 Camp
Term 2:  8th—12th May 2017

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.
The Positive Parenting Telephone Service is organised by Gateway Health. The service is for parents, grandparents caring for the grandchildren and carers of children aged 2 to 10 years. The phone service is a 30 minute session with a trained Parent Educator over an 8 to 10 week period in addition to completing written and practical tasks based on readings or online modules. This is a free service and has daytime, evening and Saturday morning appointments available. For further information please see the attached flyer, call 1900 880 660 or www.gatewayhealth.org.au

Getting to Know You meetings were held this week, many thanks to the parents who attended these meetings. The staff benefit from the conversations they have with you and they use this information to ensure we are providing your child with a safe and engaging learning environment. Interestingly there are always commonalities that are discussed in relation to how parents can help their children at home.

Building resilience is the focus of our school Wellbeing Programs; these include Tribes (in Terms two and three), Circle Time, Clock Buddies, School Leadership roles and Student Council.

The information below is from an article Building Resilience in kids www.parentingideas.com.au

How parents can teach their children resilience, the four basic skills are independence, problem solving, optimism and social connection.

Some children are resilient by nature, they get straight back up after a setback or disappointment. Unfortunately not every child has such natural resilience. Research informs us that resilience can be nurtured and developed particularly when parents themselves show resilience and they actively foster it in their children. Parents can promote resilience by having a positive attitude yourself, allowing your child to be an active participant in the family and provide strategies to assist your child to cope when things don’t go their way. Promoting resilience in children is not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic.

G.A.T.E.WAYS
This year the theme for the G.A.T.E.WAYS Term 1, Eureka Program is ‘Cool Science’. This Eureka program explores some ‘cool’ aspects of science which will fascinate students and stimulate their further interest. Students will participate in three hands-on, engaging workshops which will encourage students to question, experiment, make discoveries and to explore some intriguing topics. There will be plenty of ‘cool’ hands-on activities, discovery and fun! Please see your class teacher if you would be interested in your child attending. Places are limited!

Year Levels: 1, 2 and 3 Venue: Mountain Gate PS, Ferntree Gully Cost: $99.00 Date: Wednesday, 8 March
Year Levels: 4, 5 and 6 Venue: Mountain Gate PS, Ferntree Gully Cost: $99.00 Date: Thursday, 9 March
PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS NEWS

Karoo Cross Country for Years 3-6
Friday March 10th — Wear Your House Colours

Our annual school Cross Country is in just over 3 weeks’ time. The students will run with their age and gender group around the 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 running clothes eg. a t-shirt, shorts, socks etc. 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. Please find below the approximate times and lap requirements for the Karoo Cross Country.

Cross Country Running Times
9:15am – 12/13 y.o. boys start
9:30am - 12/13 y.o. girls start
9:45am – 11 y.o. boys start
10am – 11y.o. girls start
10:15am – 10 y.o. boys start
10:30am – 10 y.o. girls start
10:40 am – 8/9 y.o. boys and girls start

Please note that these are approximate times and may vary.

Cross Country Lap Requirements
1 lap (8 and 9 year olds)
2 laps (10 year olds)
3 laps (11 and 12/13 year olds)

PARENT HELPERS NEEDED FOR KAROO CROSS COUNTRY

The Karoo Cross Country is in just over 3 weeks time. To conduct our Cross Country safely and effectively, we need approximately 15 parents to assist on the day. If you are able to assist us around the course between 9:00-11:30am on Friday March 10th, or the backup day, Wednesday March 15th, please complete the slip and return it to the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Josh Maroney
PE & Sports Co-Ordinator

Introducing the Karoo Book Worms Club

Every Tuesday and Friday, during the first half of lunch, the library will be open to all students. There will be book related activities, games, story time and lots more fun to be had.

This week the students made a bookmark. On Friday there is going to be a story time session.

The Library captains, Lucy, Teia, Shehara and Paige will be on hand to help.

See you there!

LOST PROPERTY — COMMUNITY CENTRE

Open Before & After School: Mon-Wed 8:45-9am & 3:30-4:45pm
Open During School: Mon—Wed 1:30-1:40pm

No Visitors during class time please!
Please ensure your child’s name is clearly labelled on all uniform so it can easily be returned to them.

NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL

Parent name: .............................................................. Email: ..............................................................
Child’s Name .............................................................. Grade: ....................

☐ I am happy receiving only the Tiqbiz version (no hard copy or email)
☐ I received the newsletter by email last year and would like to continue to receive it
☐ Yes I would like to start receiving the newsletter via email instead of a hard copy
**DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES**

We are using a new curriculum called the Victorian Curriculum. The Victorian Curriculum has introduced Digital Technologies. In Digital Technologies (DT), students use computational thinking and information systems to analyse, design and develop digital solutions. The DT curriculum recognises that coding (programming) as one of the skills to support learning in this area.

Across all primary year levels, all students need to undertake at least 10 hours of coding as part of their DT learning. You will notice the language change from ICT or Information Communication and Technology to Digital Technologies throughout the year. We will also update our school website to provide our school community with resources and information regarding coding.

At Karoo, we are committed to ensuring that our students meet all curriculum requirements and have the opportunity to excel. We hope to offer a club throughout the year relating to coding.

If you’d like some further information see:


Kimberley Cunningham
On behalf of the DT/eSmart Strategic Team

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**INDONESIAN NEWS …**

On Monday 13th 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 practised hard during several lunchtimes 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)

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**ZOOPER DOOPERS FOR SALE—50c**

Tuesdays and Thursdays
from 3:30-3:45pm during Term 1

We will be selling Zooper Doopers for 50c 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!

Year 6 students.

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**KAROO HOUSE POINTS**

BARINGA 22
MURRINDAL 22
KELLBOURNE 25
WYANDRA 25

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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.
Positive Parenting Telephone Service

This program is offered to parents, grandparents caring for their grandchildren & carers of children aged 2 – 10 years

Our free ten week program aims to assist you to:

* Develop a stronger and more positive relationship with your child/children
* Encourage behaviour you want to see in your children
* Manage everyday behaviour problems
* Set rules & limits
* Teach new skills

This program is completed via a workbook or online modules which are supported by weekly phone calls with a trained parent educator. All of this can be done from the comfort of your own home at a time that suits you.

Interested?

For more information please phone 1800 880 660

ENROLMENTS TAKEN ALL YEAR ROUND

Enrol now and make a positive start last a lifetime

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Free Dental Care is not just for Health Care Card Holders.

The Child Dental Benefit Scheme introduced by the government on January 1st 2014, is continuing. It entitles all eligible children aged 2-17 years old to general dental care up to the value of $1000 over 2 years. Families who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A or a relevant Australian Government payment will receive a letter outlining their eligibility.

Children and youth who attend public dental clinics will incur out of pocket expenses with the Child Dental Benefit Schedule.

Our normal dental care continues to operate for all 0-12 year old children and eligible 13-17 year old youth at no cost. Youth must be a holder or descendant of a health care or pensioner concession card holder, in out-of-home care provided by Department of Human Services or in Custodial Care.

Following their treatment, your child will be placed on our patient recall system and receive a reminder letter when their next appointment is due.

Please do not hesitate to phone the reception staff at EACH Dental if you require any further information about our dental services.

Thank you for your assistance.

EACH Dental
1063 Burwood Hwy, Ferntree Gully, 3155, Phone: 9757 2200

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ONLINE MUSIC SOLUTIONS

Following the wonderful performance at our last assembly, 2017 enrolment forms are now available at the school office.

★ Kool Keyboard
★ Grouse Guitar
★ Swinging Strings
★ Woodwind and Brass
★ Dynamic Drums
★ Dynamic Drums

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Understanding AUTISM seminars

With Dr Amy Wilson
(S.A. Hons, PhD)
Sociologist and parent of a child with autism (ASD)

Join Dr Amy Wilson in an affordable and easy to understand seminar on the topic of understanding autism. Whether your interest in autism is personal, profession or commercial, I have a seminar which provides information that really helps you!

Early Bird prices range from a low $13 to $23 per session.

Confirmed Dates:

- Burwood: Saturday 6 May and Tuesday 9 May
- Geelong: Saturday 3 June and Monday 5 June
- Warrnambool: Saturday 14th and Monday 16th October
- Bendigo: Saturday 29th and Monday 31st October

(noting in Albury, Tumut, and Shepparton in mid stale 7C 7)

Gift Tickets also available.

EACH SEMINAR OFFERS YOU THE OPPORTUNITY TO:

- Learn effective strategies to provide support
- Hear ‘real life’ stories from a parent of a child with autism
- Discuss and share ideas with peers

TOGETHER WE CAN TEACH OUR COMMUNITIES TO:

- Understand autism
- Accept difference
- Provide empathy and support
APPENDIX A: SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS – INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

WHAT IS A SCHOOL COUNCIL AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within state-wide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

WHO IS ON THE SCHOOL COUNCIL?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

- A mandated elected Parent category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

- A mandated elected DET employee category – members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of the school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- An optional Community member category – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

WHY IS PARENT MEMBERSHIP SO IMPORTANT?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

DO I NEED SPECIAL EXPERIENCE TO BE ON SCHOOL COUNCIL?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. Councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

HOW CAN YOU BECOME INVOLVED?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

WHAT DO YOU NEED TO DO TO STAND FOR ELECTION?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a nomination form receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

REMEMBER

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to school council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal for further information.

**This flyer is also available at the school office**