Principal’s Comments

As we commence our second week of school I would like to thank the teaching staff, office staff and our ES team (support staff). Their contributions have ensured we have had a positive start to the year.

Timetabling change
At the beginning of each school year we endeavour to set the curriculum timetables in advance, however there are many variables to consider. The students have been extremely resilient and cooperative as we establish new routines.

This year we have commenced having some specialist programs at a reduced time of 40 minutes (PE, Music Science and Indonesian). Art remains at one hour. The purpose of the change was to ensure student engagement in the programs. The current timetable provides teaching staff at each year level to have planning and meeting time during the school day. This is in line with DET guidelines which encourages staff to meet, plan, discuss and moderate student work during the school day. Shared time ensures staff are all available and allows after school meeting times to be reduced.

Staff will continue to attend meetings on a Monday evening.

Staff Professional Learning
This week the staff participated in Professional Learning relevant to one of our students who has Down Syndrome. The school has become a member of Down Syndrome Victoria to support the student and his family. In my ten years at Karoo this Professional Learning was one of the highlights. It was not only engaging in relation to a student with Down Syndrome but also enhanced our understanding of ensuring we cater for all students. At Karoo we pride ourselves on supporting all students and being inclusive.

This year staff will participate in a range of learning to ensure we continue to provide the best learning opportunities for all students. Research indicates that whole school Professional Learning provides optimal outcomes for teachers and students. The opportunity to discuss, share and learn from others is invaluable.

Class Reps Program at Karoo
Class Representatives is an initiative that was introduced at Karoo in 2014. Through the compilation of parent contact details, Class Reps help to enhance and promote parent involvement and a sense of community within the class, year level and the school as a whole.

Parent class representatives are important links for information and representation purposes, as well as contact points for parents. By working together parent class representatives can create a solid basis for life in the class. The organisation of get-togethers with the families of the class means that parents get to know one another. This climate of trust has a positive effect on students and their schooling.

To launch the Classroom Representative Program at Karoo for 2018 we seek to compile a Class Contact List for each class. A ‘sign-up’ sheet will be available in your child’s classroom next week during Getting to Know You interviews. For each class we require a Class Representative who is responsible for disseminating information via email. If you are interested in this role please indicate on the ‘sign up’ sheet or speak to the class teacher.

Please note: due to privacy and confidentiality we are no longer able to use the previous year’s contact lists. It is a requirement that parents ‘sign up’ each year.

‘This Class Contact List is provided to class families only and must be treated as confidential. Details on this list are to be used only by parents/guardians to facilitate connections between students and families. These details must NOT be used for any commercial, marketing or advertising purposes, or to further personal agendas or items’.

... continued overleaf
**INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FOR SCHOOLS (ICAS)**

Karoo is again providing the opportunity for students to sit the International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS). ICAS allows students to gain a measure of their own achievement in an external testing situation. Each child involved will receive a Participation, Merit, Credit, Distinction or High Distinction achievement certificate and an individual report. Year 2 students can participate in the curriculum areas of English, Mathematics and Science. All curriculum areas are open to students from Year 3 to Year 6.

If you wish for your child to participate in one or more of the assessments, the costs and sitting dates are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Curriculum Area</th>
<th>Cost</th>
<th>Sitting Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies  (Years 3 to 6)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science (Years 2 to 6)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th May</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling (Years 3 to 6)</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Wednesday 13th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing (Years 3 to 6)</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>Thursday 14th June</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English (Years 2 to 6)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 31th July</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics (Years 2 to 6)</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 14th August</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that some assessments are more expensive due to a different marking process. Please see the office for a permission form.

Payment and permission notes are due on or by **Thursday 15th March 2018**: **NO LATE FORMS CAN BE ACCEPTED.**
MUSIC NOTES ...

A TIME FOR INTERESTED KAROO STUDENTS TO TRY A STRINGED INSTRUMENT

At lunchtime on Wednesday 14th February interested students are invited to try their hand at playing the violin or cello!

Our tutor Peter O’Shea will again this year be offering tuition through Online Music Solutions lessons.

The session will be an opportunity for interested students to hear Peter play (as well as try the instruments themselves). If you have any queries you can contact me at school (or Justin at Online Music Solutions 9774 6667)

John Oldham,
Performing Arts Teacher

CAMP, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to eligible families to assist with expenses relating to camps, sport and/or excursions ($125 is payable per student).

IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE APPLICATION PROCESS FOR 2018

Parents who received the CSEF in 2017 DO NOT need to complete an application form for 2018. The school will automatically apply on your behalf.

If you are applying for the CSEF for the very first time, please come into the school office and collect an application form for the school to submit on your behalf.

ELIGIBILITY

- To be eligible for the fund, a parent/legal guardian of a student must be a holder of a valid means-tested Centrelink Health Care Card, Veteran Affairs Gold Card, Pensioner Concession Card or be a temporary foster parent.
- You must provide a copy of your valid card with your completed application form (first time applications only).
- Cards must be valid as at 29th January 2018 (Term 1) and/or 16th April 2018 (Term 2).
- Applications will be accepted up until 22nd June with payments commencing from March onwards.

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

CANTEEN NEWS ...

Canteen is open for lunch orders & recess counter sales every day. Please make sure you use the latest menu (Summer 2017-2018) when ordering. Canteen menus available at the office. Special ‘Meal Deals’ are also offered throughout year for students to order if they wish. Lunch orders may be placed either manually or online.

To place a lunch order manually:
- 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 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.

To place a lunch order online:
- Visit www.quickcliq.com.au
- Log on or, if you are not already registered, ‘sign up’ by completing the registration form and follow the prompts
- Ensure you have added a student
- Select the ‘Meal Order’ tab to order from your canteen
- Order at a time that suits you, with direct debit convenience
- No lunch orders can be accepted online after 9am for that same day’s lunch

More information on how to place orders online can be found on the QuickClq website or contact QuickClq directly by email - info@quickcliq.com.au.

If you have any questions regarding the Menu Items, please feel free to come and see me at the canteen.

Dianne Richards - Karoo PS Canteen Manager

LIBRARY NEWS

We are looking forward to another great year in the Library. Congratulations to the 2018 Library Captains - Hannah, Neve, Kaitlyn and Matthew.

We are lucky enough to now have over 15000 books available for the students to borrow. Books are normally borrowed for 2 weeks and can be renewed if not finished by then. Students cannot borrow if they have any overdue books.

We ask that every student in the school has a library bag. This is important as the bags help to protect our books.

Every Tuesday and Friday for the first half of lunch the library will be open for the students to participate in a range of activities. In line with the Karoo Literacy focus, our aim is to encourage every student to develop a love of reading.

Starting Monday 5th March and finishing on Friday 26th October Karoo will be participating in the Karoo Read to Succeed Challenge. We look forward to the whole school participating. Stay tuned for more information.

Happy reading,
Mrs Mitchell and Mrs Austin

PE & SPORTS NEWS

Parent Helpers Needed for Karoo Cross Country
The Karoo Cross Country is in 6 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 9am and 11:30 on Friday March 9th, or the backup day, Wednesday March 14th, please complete the tear off slip in this newsletter and return it to the office. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

Karoo Swimming Team
Expressions of interest for selection into the Karoo Swimming Team are due back this Friday 9th February (please use the tear off slip in this newsletter).

Josh Maroney
PE & Sports Co-ordinator

MUSIC NOTES ...

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The session will be an opportunity for interested students to hear Peter play (as well as try the instruments themselves). If you have any queries you can contact me at school (or Justin at Online Music Solutions 9774 6667)

John Oldham, Performing Arts Teacher

Our 2018 Library Captains
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. 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 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 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 Digital Technologies & Media Permission forms
This form is being sent home this week to all students. Please complete, sign and return the forms to the school as soon as possible.

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.

Chicken Pox
We have had a case of chicken pox reported in the Year 1 level. If your child is unwell, the best place for them is at home. If you have any health concerns regarding your child, please contact your medical practitioner.

Thank you, Office Staff

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY TOMORROW
THURSDAY 8th 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 day. You do not need to return the order form if you order online.

Bonus: 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 8th 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.

If you have not already done so, we recommend you sign up with FlexiBuzz to receive event reminders, newsletters and messages from your year level. It’s quick, easy and free!

Sign up for FlexiBuzz on your mobile phone or PC in 4 easy steps

1. Sign up for FlexiBuzz and then login
Search ‘FlexiBuzz’ in your app store or go to web.flexibuzz.com and click ‘Sign Up’

2. Connect to Karoo
Select the ‘Search’ icon and select ‘Schools, Primary’; select Karoo Primary School from the results.

3. Select your communication groups
Click the ‘Add’ icon beside the communication groups that apply to you.

4. Get started
Click the ‘Home’ icon to view our recent posts. Access the Calendar, Canteen Menu and Uniform list as well as receive messages and reminders.

** Remember to update your Flexibuzz year levels so you receive the latest information (eg if your child was in Prep last year, make sure you have Year 1 this year).
OMS flyer now available from the school office.

- Wide variety of instruments including keyboard, guitar, violin, cello, drums, saxophone, clarinet, flute and trumpet.
- Instrument Hire is available
- Written reports at end of each semester
- End of year concert to showcase student’s skills

★ New for 2018 ★
Enrolments now taken online only, regardless of instrument!
Simply log only www.onlinemusicsolutions.com.au
For more information phone OMS on 9874 6667 or email oms@bigpond.net.au

TERM 1 ASSEMBLIES ... now Fridays at 2:30pm
9th February (Years 3-6)  2nd March (Years 3-6)
16th February (Prep-Year 2)  9th March (Prep-Year 2)
23rd February (Whole School)  16th March (Year 3-6)

LOST PROPERTY—COMMUNITY CENTRE

Open Before & After School: Monday, Tuesday and Friday
8:45am and 3:30pm
Open During School: Monday, Tuesday & Friday
1:30–3:00pm (lunch eating time)

Please ensure all school uniform items are clearly named—all named items are returned to the student same day as handed in where possible. No Visitors during class time please!

ADVANCE NOTICE

CRICUMLAY DAY
MIDNONG 5th MARCH
(no students at school)

COMMUNITY NEWS

ANGLICARE VICTORIA—PARENTING SESSIONS
- Back to Basics Parenting
A program for dads, mums and carers of children 5-12 years. Explores the difference between discipline and punishment, kids’ behaviours and looks at ways to strengthen your relationship with them. Tuesday 13th Feb—13th March (5 sessions) from 7-9pm at Belgrave South community House, Gilmore court, Belgrave. Free of charge—bookings essential.
- Strengthening Parent Support Program
Peer support group for parents and carers of children age 0-18 with a disability or developmental delay. Busy? Tired? No time for yourself? You’re not alone. Come and have a cuppa and a chat with other parents. Share stories, frustrations and ideas and be ready to some laughs too. Ringwood location: 2nd Tuesday of every month (except school holidays) Feb 13th; March 13, May 8th from 7-8pm at Central Ringwood Community Centre, Rosewarne Lane, Ringwood. Free of charge—bookings essential. Lilydale location: 4th Friday of every month (except school holidays) - Feb 23rd, March 23rd, April 27th, May 25th from 10:30-11:30am at Anglicare Victoria, 47-51 Castella St, Lilydale. Free of charge—bookings essential.

MINI HOOPS BASKETBALL—After school basketball clinics for beginners 4-12 years old! Every Friday of the school term 4.15-5.15pm at Rowville Sports Academy (Rowville Secondary College, Humphreys Way, Rowville). Cost: $10 per session (payment for full term required). Enquiries to Alex Palazzolo either at the Rowville Sports Precinct or via email palazzolo alex.p@edumail.vic.gov.au or for further enquires contact 9755 4563.

OUTER EASTERN MELBOURNE YOUNG ENGINEERS—Learn with LEGO Based Modelling. The Young Engineers Program explores science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) through the use of LEGO based educational kit. For ages 7-12yrs. Sessions run on Wednesdays 4:00-5:15pm from Feb 14—March 21 at Rowville Library, Stud Park Shopping Centre, Rowville. $99 for all 6 sessions. Enrolments essential. Go online at www.trybooking.com/THVX or email oeyoungengineers@gmail.com.

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 completed deposit slip and correct money secured in the pocket of the yellow folder. This is a deposit only service. 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 Kerry or Anna at the office.

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.

EXPRESSIION OF INTEREST FOR PARENT HELPER AT KAROO CROSS COUNTRY ON 9TH MARCH 2018

Parent’s Name: .................................................................................................................. Phone Number ..............................................
Child’s Name ...................................................................................................................... Class …………………
I can assist on (please tick): ☐ Both days ☐ Only Friday March 9th ☐ Only Wednesday March 14th

EXPRESSIION OF INTEREST FOR KAROO SWIMMING TEAM 2018

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)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event/Stroke</th>
<th>50m Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freestyle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backstroke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Breaststroke</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Butterfly</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I am able to arrange transport for my child to Monash Aquatic and Recreation Centre on Thursday 22nd February 2018
Yes / No
(Please circle)