

# Karoo Parents' Association

## What does KPA do many of you might ask?

*Well I am here to tell you all the things that they have helped with, organized or had input into in the last 12 months, and the list is surprisingly extensive.*

The year began with helping to cover new books for the library and take home books. The preps needed new badges made (that were a little sturdier than the paper ones) by a group of willing helpers.

One of the KPA mums has taken over the Scholastic book orders and will co ordinate this in the future so that we can continue to offer this service to families.

Everywhere you looked on the Mother's Day or Father's Day stall you found a smiling KPA member helping out. They did everything from setting up tables and serving kids to packing up, and one member coordinated the whole Father's Day stall. She did everything from ordering and sourcing items for sale to arranging the stall itself. With suggestions from other members it was decided to run the Father's Day stall over 2 days allowing the children more time to select an appropriate gift. A display in the library window of the available gifts and prices prior to the stall allowed parents the chance to look, and maybe prompt children what to buy. Not that we can tell our children anything!!! Both these initiatives were warmly received by both staff and parents. The selling of leftover stock the next day was also great for a few people who forgot money on the day or really liked our gifts and wanted to purchase extras.

When KPA first started back up 3 years ago the idea of second hand uniforms being available was discussed. We tried a few options but none seemed to take off. So again this year the subject was discussed and a new approach of having an actual stall that parents could come to and purchase items was decided on. Again one of our loyal members took this under her control and has now managed to not once but twice, successfully run a second hand uniform sale. While the purpose of this venture was not to raise funds but more about giving families a chance to get uniforms at a cheaper price, we managed to raise in excess of \$500 which goes back to the school to be able to give our kids the best possible equipment and resources. Great Job.

In the past we have held Australia's Biggest Morning Tea with money raised going to Cancer Council. This year with the highlighted subject of organ donation, KPA decided that Kidney Health Australia in association with the Zaidees Rainbow Foundation would be much more close to our school community. Again this was run by one of our valuable KPA members and what an amazing job she did. The shoelaces sold out before the week was out and the morning tea was enjoyed by many.

Teacher Appreciation day is now held in October every year and KPA started the initiative last year. Again this year it was taken onboard with a willing KPA member coordinating this event. This was no small job and it was handled with expertise and wonderful commitment. Every teacher in the school received a small booklet with comments from their class and the specialists received one with comments spanning the whole school. Along with these wonderful words from students, a small cupcake was presented to the teachers to say thank you for everything they do for our kids and for the school overall. The KPA members then baked, made and whipped up a delicious morning tea and lunch for all the staff to enjoy. Everyone involved said that it was a fantastic day and the teachers all felt very special.

The State election this year provided our school an opportunity to capture the attention of other members of our community not just the school parents, so a sausage sizzle and cake stall were arranged. The fundraising committee took control of the sausage sizzle but left the cake stall in the hands of KPA. Again one of our awesome KPA members took control and arranged everything from distribution of plates to manning of the stall all with the help of KPA. The school community really got behind this event and it was amazing to see the staff room tables full of yummy goodies and handmade treats. Obviously the community enjoyed this as by the time I walked up to vote and buy my goodies the cake stall had sold out. Great work by everyone.

The KPA are expert tea and coffee makers and can always be found in the staff room helping out with prep transitions, open night and anytime they are asked. This year due to the warmer weather and to capture the few parents who maybe didn't feel comfortable coming to the staff room, an outdoor drink stand was put up in the court yard and refreshingly enjoyed by many. There were a number of prep transitions this year and everywhere you looked there was a friendly KPA member willingly lending a hand or giving friendly advice.

Many of you may not even know but there have been stairs installed in the brick wall outside Room 7. This allows the children to access their class room via these steps instead of having to jump down from the artificial turf. This all happened from a conversation had at a KPA meeting. Class Reps also came about because of conversations had at KPA meetings. KPA continually discusses how we can make it a bigger, better, more fun, and a more social group for you to be involved in.

So whilst we are just a group of parents who like to have a chat and maybe enjoy a good meal or two, we have contributed to the school in more ways than we could have imagined when we started this up again 3 years ago. To think this is how far we have come in 3 years makes me wonder how much further we can go in the next 3. So next time you see a notice that there is a KPA meeting don't think oh just another boring meeting, come along and have a say in what you want to see happen in your school. You never know you just might have an amazing idea that nobody else is brave enough to suggest but could be the thing that makes Karoo Primary even more awesome than it is.

**‘Make KPA part of your parenting journey’**

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