Professional Development
On Monday the staff participated in two Professional Learning activities. We were entertained and enlightened by two presenters from the Dispute Settlement Centre of Victoria, who focussed on conflict management, and recognising and dealing with a range of difficult situations.

Professional Learning Teams
Staff also work in Professional Learning Teams; this year our teams are Literacy, Numeracy, Wellbeing, Inquiry Learning and Community. Professional Learning Teams (PLTs) are an approach to school improvement where groups of teachers work collaboratively at the school level to improve student outcomes. Professional Learning Teams in schools start from a simple idea: students learn more when their teachers work together. Some of the work staff will be undertaking this year in their PLT will include auditing resources, analysing student achievement data to support curriculum planning and to further engage students in their learning.

This year we have established two new teams: Inquiry Learning and Community. Inquiry Learning is in response to the need to assist students to become responsible learners, to deepen their understanding, to master skills, it also allows students to become active learners rather than the teacher providing the information and all the answers. The following quote reiterates the value of inquiry learning for students.

‘Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn’ …Benjamin Franklin

The role of the Community team is to expand the Karoo community as a learning community. This will provide opportunities for students to learn with others from different year levels and to recognise, acknowledge and celebrate local and wider community events.

Literacy, Numeracy and Wellbeing are directly related to our school AIP (Annual Implementation Plan) which has been developed to meet the needs of our students. Our one year focus is to improve student’s comprehension skills. Comprehension skills are important for all learning and have a specific connection to Numeracy (reading worded maths problems) and other areas of the curriculum. Our Wellbeing focus is to establish a school based curriculum program to assist students to develop their resilience skills. When we talk about resilience we are talking about a child’s ability to cope with ‘ups and downs’, to bounce back from challenges they experience. Building resilience in children helps them to develop skills and habits that will assist them to deal with challenges and adversity later in life.

Throughout the year there will be updates from the PLTs, keeping our school community informed.

Karoo Clean Up Day
Our first whole school community event was on Friday 2nd March, when dressed in their house colours, the students enjoyed having lunch together. The purpose of the event was to be part of Clean Up Australia day; we started with our own community. Students eagerly picked up papers, autumn leaves and bundles of sticks. The courtyard and pathways were swept of leaves too. The students’ keenness and enthusiasm continued all the way to the rubbish dumpster as bin loads of rubbish were emptied. Many students asked if they had to wait for another year to have this much fun!!! I am suggesting we make use of our Year 6 Environment team to make these events more regular. Thanks to the Karoo kids and staff for a great effort!

School Council Elections
Nominations for the 2018 School Council closed at 4 p.m. on Tuesday. The nominations matched the vacancies so the following candidates are duly elected. Congratulations to the parent and staff candidates who have been elected to 2018 Karoo School Council:

Parents:
Andrea Haley, Fiona Robinson, Rebecca Young, Danielle MacLeod and Mark Oudshoorn

Staff:
Fiona Marker and Matt Leeson.

Our AGM is on Monday 26th March, followed by the first meeting for the 2018 School Council. We appreciate the contribution of parents to school council and in so many diverse roles of support and assistance across the school.

School Assemblies—whole school event every week!
Assemblies are an important aspect of school life for our students, whether it be receiving a class award to acknowledge their efforts, performing the National Anthem as a member of the music group, sharing sporting achievements, making announcements as well as listening to and celebrating the successes of others. Further to the change of time of our school assemblies the staff have discussed the value of having the whole school assemble together every week. Therefore every assembly on a Friday at 2.30 p.m. will now be a Whole School event. Please check the newsletter, diary notes and Flexibus for assembly dates. We intend to have more community events on a Friday afternoon too.

Leanne Vines—Acting Principal

Phone: 9759-6222 Fax: 9759-6211 Email: karoo.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au Web: http://www.karoops.vic.edu.au

Wednesday 7th March, 2018

Karoo Calendar

MARCH 2018
Friday 9th March
Karoo Cross Country (Y3-6)
Monday 12th March
Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 13th March
State School Spec Rehearsal (all day at Karoo Gym)
YS & 6 Family Life
Thursday 15th March
ICAS forms & payment due
Tuesday 20th March
YS & 6 Family Life
Wednesday 21st March
Prep Grandparents Day (9:15-10:15am)
Thursday 22nd March
Twilight Sports (5:00-7:00pm)
Monday 26th March
Student Council—PJ day (Royal Children’s Hospital fundraiser)
School Council AGM—7pm
Tuesday 27th March
Canteen Special Lunch—Prep-Y2
Year 4 Coach Approach
Wednesday 28th March
Canteen Special Lunch—Y3-6
Year 2 Commonwealth Games Day
Year 6 Coach Approach
Thursday 29th March
Karoo Run 4 Fun event
Last day of Term 1
(students dismissed at 2:30pm)

APRIL
Monday 16th April
First day of Term 2

Term Dates 2018
Term 1 30 Jan—29 Mar
Term 2 16 Apr—29 Jun
Term 3 16 Jul—21 Sept
Term 4 8 Oct—21 Dec

STUDENT BANKING

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

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.
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

SCHOOL RUN 4 FUN
Thank you to date for your support with our School Run 4 Fun. Fundraising is full steam ahead!
How are you tracking towards your fundraising goal? If you haven’t already, create a Profile Page at www.myprofilepage.com.au. There are some awesome features like setting your fundraising goal by choosing your favourite prizes. You can also register for online fundraising – it’s the key to your success! Share your Profile Page to family and friends anywhere around the world and request support! The average raised is over $120 per student. Don’t forget to see if you’ve won FREE sponsorship donations by using your unique code on page five (5) of the Sponsorship Form. The highest fundraising student at the completion of the fundraiser will go into a draw to win a HUGE Apple Prize Pack. Happy fundraising!

PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAYS
In the weeks until the end of term, you may notice that your child’s teacher is at school but not teaching in the classroom for the day. All teachers in Victoria are now entitled to one day out of the classroom each term to work towards Department of Education and Training and school priorities, aiming to increase student outcomes. Karoo teachers are starting their Professional Practice days this week.

RETIREMENT
Over the past two and a half years we have been incredibly fortunate to have Rhonda Luttrell as our Chaplain. Great news for Rhonda, but sad news for us, is that she will be retiring at the end of Term 1. Rhonda has worked closely with students, building trusting relationships to support their emotional wellbeing. She has made an amazing contribution to assist in improving student engagement and connectedness, as well as providing a safe, inclusive and supportive learning environment. She has been a great asset to our school and will be missed by many students and staff members.
Rhonda will be finishing on Monday 26th March and we would like to invite parents for a ‘Cuppa and Chat’ to farewell Rhonda from 9.45am to 10.30am. We wish her all the best in her new adventures.

Fiona Marker
Acting Assistant Principal
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>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Digital Technologies</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 8th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 3 to 6)</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 29th May</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 2 to 6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling</td>
<td>$12.00</td>
<td>Wednesday 13th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 3 to 6)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>$18.00</td>
<td>Thursday 14th June</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 3 to 6)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 31st July</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 2 to 6)</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>$9.00</td>
<td>Tuesday 14th August</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Years 2 to 6)</td>
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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.

KAROO CROSS COUNTRY FAQ

How many students make it through to District Cross Country?

Karoo P.S. can take 8 students per age level and gender however, the first 6 across the line in the Karoo Cross Country have an automatic invitation to the District Cross Country and the final 2 spots are special consideration selections that could be used. Please see below for more information.

What if students are absent for Cross Country?

If students have School Sport Trials, are absent due to sickness or are unable to compete at the Karoo Cross Country they will get the opportunity to apply for special consideration in making the Karoo Cross Country team that competes at the District Cross Country competition. If successful in their application these student/s can be chosen as part of the special consideration selections. For example, if Student A is at a School Sport Victoria trial on the same day as the Karoo Cross Country they must apply for special consideration (using the form below) no later than one week after the Karoo Cross Country.

How are the special consideration selections chosen?

Previous performances at the Karoo Cross Country, school related long distance events and/or external running achievements will be the basis for the special consideration selections.

**Example A:** Student A was absent due to School Sport Victoria trials however, they previously came 2nd in the 2017 Karoo Cross Country and have the 3rd best time in the 800 metre time trial held at school they would be a candidate for a special consideration selection.

**Example B:** Student B was absent due to School Sport Victoria trials however, they previously came 12th at the 2017 Karoo Cross Country and have the 23rd best time in the 800 metre time trial held at school they would not be a candidate for a special consideration selection.

What if there are no special consideration applications?

In this case the first 8 across the line will be selected to compete at District Cross Country.

How do I apply for special consideration?

Forms are available at the school office.

Josh Maroney
PE & Sports Co-ordinator
**CAMPS, 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 29 January 2018 (Term 1) and/or 16 April 2018 (Term 2).
- Applications will be accepted up until 22nd June with payments commencing from March onwards.


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**SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB**

New Scholastic catalogues will be sent home this week. Orders will be taken up until **Wednesday 14th March**.

Please note...

- Please complete all details on order form, especially name & grade.
- Please make cheques payable to **Karoo Primary School**.
- Sorry, no late orders can be accepted.
- Online orders submitted after the due date will be held over to the next issue.

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**CLASS AWARDS**

**Prep— Year 2**

**Week Ending—16th February, 2018**


**Year 1**: Jack D, Sophie B & Bree T—1D, Alyssa H, Tate B & Cooper M—1SM, Luca D, Maya L & Matthew B—1S.

**Year 2**: Kane T & Isabel K—2W, Zahi S & Jake C—2H, Taji B & Penny R—2D, James M & Nevaeh W—2E.

**Indonesian**: 1S and 2D

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**CACTEEN 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 the 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:

- 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 on the same day’s lunch.

More information on how to place orders online can be found on the QuickClik website or contact QuickClik 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**

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**EASTER SPECIAL LUNCH ORDER**

**Preps—Year 2**: Tuesday 27th March 2018

**Years 3—6**: Wednesday 28th March 2018

Order forms and $6.00 (cash only) to be returned to the Canteen by **Wednesday 14th March**.

50c from each lunch order will be donated to the RCH 'The Good Friday Appeal' on behalf of the school.

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**ADVANCE NOTICE**

**LABOUR DAY**

Monday 12th March (no students at school)

**LAST DAY OF TERM**

Thursday 29th March (students dismissed at 2:30pm)

**YEAR 5 CAMP**

Mon 16th to Wed 18th April (final payment due 26th March)

**YEAR 3 CAMP**

Thurs 26th to Fri 27th April (final payment due 16th April)

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**NEWSLETTER PRODUCED FORTNIGHTLY**

Available on our website, through Flexibuzz and emailed to each family.

Please ensure your email address details are always up to date!
KAROO IS PARTICIPATING IN COLES SPORTS FOR SCHOOLS

Coles Sports for Schools is back to help Aussie kids stay fit and healthy. When you shop at Coles, you’ll receive Sports for Schools vouchers that Karoo Primary School can exchange for sports gear.

For every $10 spent at Coles, you will receive one Sports for Schools voucher. The more vouchers you collect, the more sports gear we’ll receive. Every voucher you donate to your school can be redeemed for leading brand sports equipment. Please start collecting today and drop off any vouchers you receive into the collection box in the office area.

COMMUNITY NEWS

KNOX SCHOOLS EXPO is an annual information night for parents/guardians of Years 5 & 6 children changing to secondary school in 2019/20, or for those with younger children who like to plan ahead. Have conversations with stallholders from Knox Secondary Schools and Community Organisations, then hear from Guest Speaker, Rod Dungan, about ways you can support your child through the transition from primary to secondary and explore considerations when selecting a secondary school. There will then be another opportunity to visit stalls.

When: Thursday 15 March 2018 at Knox Civic Centre, 511 Burwood Hwy Wantirna South from 5.45-8.45pm (bookings not required)

For more information contact: Angela Thurbon, Knox City Council Youth Services on t: 9298 8000 or e: angela.thurbon@knox.vic.gov.au or visit: www.knox.vic.gov.au/SchoolExpo

LYSTERFIELD AUSKICK starts 21st April 2018 at Lakeside Reserve, Lakeside Drive, Lysterfield from 9:30am to 11:00am. To register go to www.afflaukick.com.au/register and select Lysterfield as your Auskick Centre. Please note that all registrations have to completed and paid online. Your Auskick pack will be delivered to your home address. Enquiries: Brad McNay on 0409 149 868

BORONIA SOCCER CLUB—JUNIOR SOCCER: Join us every Wednesday at 6pm (from 31st Jan 2018). Improving new skills and making new friends. U7-U12 boys and girls. Fees apply. For more information call Simon Hum 0423 460 937 or visit their website at www.boroniasoccerclub.com

SCORESBY MAGPIES AUSKICK—Register now for 2018. Held at Carrington Park Reserve (next to Bunnings) on Saturday mornings from 10-11:30am from Sat 21st April to Sat 11th August. First 30 kids registered will get a 50% refund. For more information contact Sarah Bramhall on 0402 274 224 or email scoresbyauskick@gmail.com.

ST SIMONS OSHC—VACATION CARE: 3rd—13th April 2018. Different program each day including ‘Commonwealth Games’, ‘My Kitchen Rulez’, creative artist, Pyjama Madness, Terrarium workshop and excursions to adventure playground and cinema. Program runs from 8:00am-3:45pm—1:30pm Monday, Tuesday & Friday

*No assembly 29th March due to early finish time for last day of term

ROWVILLE SECONDARY COLLEGE

INFORMATION NIGHTS

Rowville Institute of the Arts
Monday 30th April

Rowville
Maths & Science Academy
Wednesday 2nd May

Rowville
Sports Academy
Monday 7th May

Rowville
General Excellence
Wednesday 9th May

OPEN NIGHTS

Eastern Campus
Monday 19th March

Western Campus
Wednesday 21st March

To register... SCHOOL HATS ARE COMPULSORY IN TERMS 1 & 4

All bookings phone 9755 4555

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. 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).