



Together We Learn

KOO WEE RUP Primary School

December 2023



Christmas Carols

Monday 18th December

From 5pm Family Picnic (BYO Food/Drinks) 5:30pm Class Carols

Christmas Raffle drawn throughout the night

Please return all raffle tickets, sold or not, by Thursday 14th December

Principal's Message

The final newsletter of the year seems to have come around very fast. It has been a year with much to celebrate here at Koo Wee Rup Primary School, both academically and on the sporting field. This year has seen a number of our sporting teams, and individuals, represent our school proudly and successfully; it has been great to collect a few pennants and certificates that will take pride of place in our new gym. Academically we have seen some tremendous learning growth in a number of our students which is truly something to celebrate. We established our high ability program for Writing and had a number of students participate in sessions to extend and challenge their thinking. I look forward to seeing this evolve and grow next year. We revegetated our Bandicoot habitat, have had a kindergarten built and are now well on the way to having our new gymnasium. We have also introduced a music program through JP Music this year which has been well attended and will continue in the new year. It has been a busy year here at KWRPS.

With just over two weeks to go, we do have a number of exciting events and activities still to come. On Monday the 4th our Grade 3/4 students headed off to ScienceWorks. This is followed by the first of our transition sessions, is being held today, which I will talk about a bit more below.

On Wednesday 6th we will be celebrating our annual Italian Day. This is always an exciting day with students encouraged to dress up either in Italian colours or something that represents Italy. During the day students will participate in Italian based activities, attend an Italian performance, all topped off with a slice of pizza and a gelato! A big thank you to Ms Donisi for organising Italian Day for us all.

On Friday 8th we will have our final assembly for the year. This is always an extra exciting event as we announce our student leaders for the new year. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank and congratulate all of the current Grade 5 students that applied for a 2024 leadership role. The teachers and I have been thoroughly impressed by the calibre of the applicants which made the final decision making process extremely difficult.

Our Student Voice group have worked really hard this year to try and promote nightly reading. Each term, the Student Voice group have gathered ideas from their peers for a reward for achieving the milestone of 50 nights of reading in a term. This year has seen movie afternoons, free dress days, and for this term, an extra play time. Students that have achieved 50-nights of reading in Term 4 will be acknowledged at the final assembly.

Week 11 continues to be action packed with our Grade 5/6 students attending the Surf Program on Wednesday 13th followed by our Grade 3/4 students on the 14th for their body-boarding surf program. In previous years this has been a terrific event for our Grade 5/6 students so hopefully our Grade 3/4s will enjoy it just as much. Fingers crossed for some nice beach weather

One of the highlights of the year is also one that is usually filled with emotion and that is our Grade 6 graduation. This will be held on Thursday the 14th with official proceedings kicking off from 6:00pm. I know the teachers are busily preparing for this special night. A big congratulations to all of our graduating Grade 6s. I am incredibly proud of each and every one of them and really look forward to their special night.

Principal's Message

The final Friday of the year, the 15th will see our Grade 6 students enjoy their Celebration Day at Gumbuya World.

Class parties will be held on Monday the 18th. As we have done in previous years, the school will supply a small pack of treats for students to enjoy with their class. A note has been sent home through the Portal with further information. The students have all been practising their end of year Christmas carol in preparation for the Christmas carols and picnic which will be held that night. Families are encouraged to bring along a picnic to enjoy on our oval from 5:00pm with the Carols commencing from 5:30pm. Please bring your own chairs, picnic rug etc.

Our teachers have been busily completing end of year assessments and writing your children's end of year reports. These will be distributed to all families via the Parent Portal on Tuesday the 19th.

This afternoon our students participated in their first whole school transition session. During this time, students met their 2024 teachers and worked with their 2024 classmates. The class composition is not 100% set in stone at this stage and some minor tweaks may occur prior to the full-day transition session next Tuesday, the 12th. Some students will come home today mentioning some new names to our school as we do in fact have some staffing changes heading into the new year. Below is an overview of the 2024 teaching team at KWRPS.

Foundation

Foundation R - Miss Tayla Robinson

Foundation L - Miss Sarah Lamanna

Grade 1/2

1/2H - Mr Matthew Hodgson (4 days) and Mrs Daniella Remnant (1 day)

1/2K - Mrs Tanya Kendrigan (3 days) and Mrs Daniella Remnant (2 days)

1/2C - Miss Amanda Coleman

1/2D - Miss Brianna DeRycke (New to KWRPS in 2024)

Grade 3/4

3/4C – Miss Samantha Cattle

3/4G – Mrs Lisa Giles (4 days) and Ms Jessie Irvin (1 day)

3/4B – Mr Jackson Brown

3/4N – Ms Julia Nicholas

Grade 5/6

5/6B – Miss Georgina Bulmer

5/6A – Ms Sharlene Macasey

5/6L – Ms Theresa Lowe (New to KWRPS in 2024)

5/6K – Mrs Briana Kirkby (New to KWRPS in 2024)

Specialists

Italian – Ms Maria Donisi

Art – Ms Jessie Irvin

DigiTech – Mrs Lisa Sargent

Phys. Ed. – Mr Steven Dillon (2 days) and Mrs Marlee Adams (2 days)

Tutor – Mrs Geordie Rodda (3 days)

Principal's Message

With a number of new faces coming into the school in 2024, it does mean that we must farewell some others. The following staff will be leaving Koo Wee Rup Primary School at the end of the year:

Miss Kate Marshall to Pakenham Springs Primary School

Miss Sarah Griffith to Orchard Park Primary School

Mrs Adele Dundar to Grayling Primary School

Miss Lauren Misso to St. Ita's Primary School

Mrs Sue Edwards to Wonthaggi Primary School.

Additionally, Miss Lucy Waldock has taken a year's leave to explore teaching in Queensland.

I'd like to thank all of our outgoing staff for their contributions to our school during their time working here. I wish each of them the very best with their new roles.

The builders have been working very hard to remain on schedule with our gymnasium build, despite some challenging weather. Between now and Christmas the builders will have the frame arrive and are hoping to have this lifted into place before Christmas. Over the Summer break they are planning on having the main roof installed so we can all expect the project to look quite different by the time we all return in 2024.

The Cardinia Shire has changed their rules regarding the manning of school crossings at the end of each term. You may have noticed through the year that our Term 3 end of day moved from a 2:15pm finish to a 2:30pm finish. This is due to the fact that the Shire will not allow crossing supervisors to commence work prior to this time due to some school zones (40 km/h) within Cardinia Shire being timed to begin from 2:30pm. We are in a unique situation in that Moody Street, where our crossing is located is a constant 40 km/h zone. Even with this in mind the Shire will not supply crossing supervisors due to their blanket rule. This was discussed at School Council and it was approved for the school to hire a traffic controller for the last day of school to man the Moody Street crossing. This enables us to maintain our 1:30pm finish on the last day of Term 4. It is important to note that this only applies to the Moody Street crossing. Other school crossings in Koo Wee Rup will not be manned until 2:30pm.

As we do head into the Summer break, I'd like to remind all families to remain safe on and around our roads. A number of times I have spoken to the children at assembly regarding travelling to and from school safely. In recent times I have had a number of local residents, including a bus driver from next door report dangerous situations that have come very close to tragedy with students from our school. Please remind your children to use footpaths and designated crossings where they can, to ensure they look both ways before crossing roads and to be especially diligent when riding a bike or scooter. After some of our Student Voice representatives spoke at assembly about the importance of wearing helmets, I am pleased to be seeing more students wearing their helmets when riding their bikes and scooters to school. I encourage you all to follow this up with your children so as to keep them safe and protected in the case of an accident.

Principal's Message

Finally, I'd like to extend a warm thanks to our parent community for what, I feel, has been a really positive year here at Koo Wee Rup Primary School. It has been great to see so many families take time out of their own schedules to engage in events such as the Mother's Day afternoon tea, Father's Day breakfast, our Art Show, various open nights and our The Fathering Project events. Parent involvement in these events, and in your children's school life in general, adds a deep layer of enrichment. I look forward to seeing you all at some of the exciting 2024 events we have in the planning.

In 2024 the first day for students in Grades 1 to 6 is Wednesday 31st of January. Our Foundation students will begin the following Monday after teachers have completed their start of school assessments.

From me to you, I hope that all of our Koo Wee Rup Primary School families have a safe and enjoyable Christmas. Please take the time to relax and recharge when you can and I look forward to an exciting 2024.

Take care,
Ben Zimmerle
Principal

'Footsteps into Foundation 2024'

Koo Wee Rup Primary School strives to ensure we provide a positive gateway into lifelong education for your child. We prioritise the wellbeing of our students with the understanding that this underpins children's ability to engage fully in the learning process.

In the classroom we challenge our students academically through a differentiated approach to teaching, ensuring that the individual needs of all students is catered to. Our curriculum and way of teaching is constantly evolving so that our teaching and learning programs are developed in line with current research into educational 'best practice'.

Our school motto of 'Together We Learn' is embedded through a strong professional learning program for all teachers to constantly reflect and build on their teaching practice.

Our 'Footsteps into Foundation' transition program has been established for new Foundation enrolments as a bridge between kindergarten and primary school. The program involves 9 planned transition sessions as well as a parent information session. As Principal of Koo Wee Rup Primary School, I invite you to visit our welcoming and friendly school and see for yourself the high quality teaching and learning programs on offer for all students.

To arrange your personal tour, please contact the school on 5997 1272.



Moody Street, Koo Wee Rup 3981
Website: www.kooweerupps.vic.edu.au

Term 3 Transition (2:15 – 3:15pm)

Wednesday 2nd August

Wednesday 16th August

Wednesday 30th August

Wednesday 13th September

Term 4 Transition (1:45 – 3:15pm)

Wednesday 18th October

Wednesday 1st November

Wednesday 15th November

Wednesday 29th November

State-wide Transition (9am - 1pm)

Tuesday 12th December

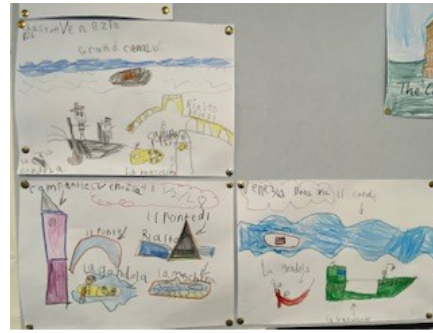


Phone: 5997 1272
Email: koo.wee.rup.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Specialist Update - Italian

Mamma mia! Hard to believe the end of the school year is fast approaching.

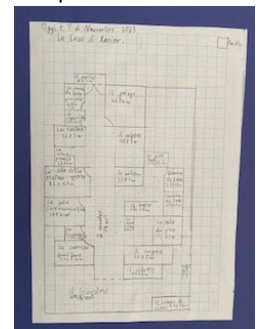
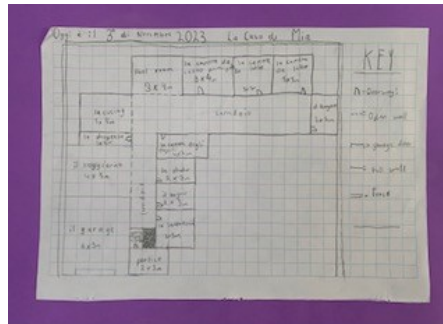
The students in Foundation to Year 2 have thoroughly enjoyed our unit on cultural awareness. We explored the map of Italy, identifying that it is in the shape of a long-legged boot and then using this knowledge to locate it on a map of the world. We learnt about some famous Italian icons such as the Colosseum, the Leaning Tower of Pisa, the volcano of Pompeii and the city of Venice famous for its canals and gondolas.



During our unit on famous Italian people, the Year 3/4 students explored and identified the accomplishments and inventions of Leonardo Da Vinci, a prominent Italian figure from the 15th Century. We investigated the components of a biography and were able to identify that a biography is simply the story of a real person's life, it includes their major accomplishments, essential dates and it consists of facts. The students then researched and collated relevant information on a famous Italian person of their choice and recorded the information as a biography. They did an awesome job!



With the support of interactive apps and Google Translate the Year 5/6 students explored the grammatical structures of the Italian language around the vocabulary for different rooms in a house. They worked on designing and then drawing up a floorplan of a house using the scale 1cm=1m on grid paper and used the vocabulary they had learnt to correctly label the rooms in Italian. I believe we have may have some budding architects in the making!



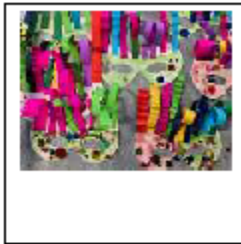
We are all so very excited about our upcoming Italian day taking place on Wednesday 6th December. The students will be involved in a range of Italian activities throughout the day, enjoy a slice of pizza and a gelato for lunch and get to watch a magic performance by Luigi Zucchini. It is going to be Fantastico!

Buon Natale e Buon Anno!

Signora Donisi

Specialist Update - Art

Term 4 in ART



Foundation students experienced their first whole school Art Show at the beginning of the term. They have continued to identify warm and cool colours and shades in art works. In September and October, they explored the theme of Spring, then later looked at Italy for inspiration. In celebration of Italian Day, they explored 3D paper techniques and the Venice Carnival, where they created masks for the occasion.



Year 1/2 students prepared for the Annual Art Show at the start of the term. They then explored clay, by rolling a slab and making a face by imprinting, mark making and joining a 3D nose. They painted these in beautiful Viponds paints and are very much looking forward to sharing them with their family and hanging them in their homes. Students then planned and constructed Modroc sculptures inspired by Italian fruits, vegetables and gelato in celebration of Italian Day.



Year 3/4 students contributed and prepared for the Annual Art Show at the start of the term. They then moved on to Mosaics, where they looked at Roman examples and contemporary works for inspiration. To a guideline, they planned and created their individual paper mosaics with their own subject matter. Student ideas were taken into consideration while planning the 'themes' of the three collaborative ceramic mosaics for the Bandicoot Garden, where all students tiled and worked on them cooperatively. These will be later installed on the Library wall once they are grouted.



Year 5/6 Students shared installation and display ideas for the Annual Art Show, where they cooperatively 'played' with their own and peers art pieces to show ideas and unity as a whole. They moved on to exploring Roman, historical and contemporary mosaics, where they contributed to the design brief of 'what makes a good mosaic'. Students planned an individual paper mosaic that was meaningful to them and cooperatively contributed to the three ceramic Bandicoot mosaics. They finished off by celebrating the year with the Street Art themed Year 6 Totem Pole and/or a miniature wooden painted fence.

Specialist Update - Physical Education

Term 4 in Sport was a busy and successful term for our students at Koo Wee Rup Primary. The Senior School boys made it through to the regional stages for the T/20 Cricket Blast. Outstanding achievement. Our senior school students competed in the Inter-School Sports carnival. All students competed with great sportsmanship and leadership skills. We were crowned champions for the T/20 Blast & T-Ball division. Summer is coming, which means we are stoked to be heading to Inverloch for the "learn to surf and beach safety program". This year our Middle School Students will also be attending.

In PE, our students have been working hard on delivering the basic skills required for striking and fielding games whilst competing in game sense activities. Our Foundation and Juniors have been refining their fundamental motor skills whilst keeping in team challenges such as the 'Pipeline Relay' challenge which has been a fan favorite.

What an outstanding year we have had in PE. Our students have represented the school proudly in many events and tournaments. 2024 will be an exciting year with our first Learn to Swim program being planned. All F-2 students will receive a week of intense swimming practice whilst our 3-6 students will continue with our surf/beach safety programs.



Specialist Update-Digitech

We have had such an exciting year in Digi Tech! It has been another fantastic year teaching and learning Digi Tech with the students at KWRPS in 2023. This year, we moved out of the Pod in the BER building and into a new classroom, what a difference! We have created such a lovely learning space and enjoy being able to come together comfortably on the floor as well as being able to spread out around the room. We welcomed some amazing new resources this year including some new robotics for the Junior Students and some incredible digital microscopes which were a hit with all year levels!

Thank you to all of the students for your positive attitudes when coming to Digi Tech! It really is such a pleasure working with you all and I am very excited for what we will be exploring and learning about in 2024.



A reminder over the holidays to be a responsible digital citizen during your screen time; use your **legs** to stand up for yourself and others, your **hearts** to make sure you show care for how you treat others online, your **arms** to reach out for help and balance your screen time, your **feet** to be careful of your digital footprint and your **guts** to trust your instincts and use your devices safely. Remember to check out <https://www.common sense media.org/> to learn more about online safety and education, as well as being a fantastic resource for checking classifications and details about movies and games.

LEGO Spike:

Students from year 3/4 had their turn at using our LEGO kits this term. They were assigned a partner and kit which they needed to be responsible for to ensure all of the pieces remained organised.

Students needed to work cooperatively to follow the steps to complete the build using an app and then how to connect different motors and sensors to operate their construction. We created cars, security sensor lights and rides which we then needed to code in different ways using block coding. Students learnt how to create multiple sequences of code in order to operate different parks within the builds. It was so impressive to see the students working together with such exceptional cooperation skills and working to support each other.

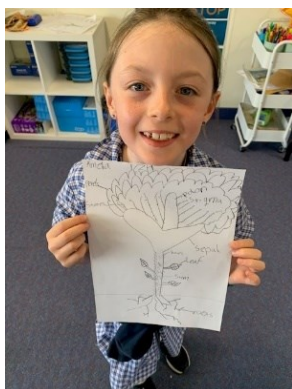
Students particularly enjoyed adjusting their builds by adding personal touches and decorations to turn their builds into their own creations.



Specialist Update-Digitech

Digital Microscopes:

Students in years 1-6 had the opportunity to explore our new digital microscopes. We looked at different objects and textures, looked for dirt and germs that are unable to be seen with the natural eye. Students learnt about how different microscopes are used for different purposes and how they are used in real life situations such as scientists, doctors and pharmacists. We learnt about different features of plants, animals and insects as well as learning new vocabulary, facts and scientific names.



Congratulations to our award winners



Important Dates

A reminder that families can check their calendar of events in the Sentral Parent Portal for upcoming events

Breakfast Club 8:15am every day

School Assembly: Friday 8th December

Uniform Shop Opening Hours:

2:30-3:30pm Friday 8th December

9:30-10:30am Tuesday 12th December

Keep your eye on the Sentral Parent Portal for January opening days.

Wednesday 6th December

Italian Day

Tuesday 12th December

Statewide Transition Day. Year 6's attend their 2024 Secondary school

Wednesday 13th December

Year 5/6 Surf Program

Thursday 14th December

Year 3/4 Surf Program
Year 6 Graduation

Friday 15th December

Year 6 Celebration Day World

Monday 18th December

Class Parties
Christmas Concert

Tuesday 19th December

Reports sent via Sentral Parent Portal

Wednesday 20th December

1:30pm end of term dismissal.