



Together We Learn

# KOO WEE RUP Primary School

February 2024

We have had a successful start to the year with the Foundation students settling in well to school routines. Each day, the students have started the day with a Morning Circle, in which they greet each other by name, choose values, set learning expectations and have a game.

In Reading, classes have explored concepts of Print, such as where the front and back covers are located, which way to turn pages and how to find the title. From here we have discovered three ways to read a book, along with how to read with a buddy so both partners can see.



Students have also been working on writing, including using the correct pencil grip and writing our names the school way, that is, using lowercase letters with a capital letter at the beginning.

In Maths, we have explored numbers - what they look like, how to write them and where to find them in the real world.



One of the most exciting parts of the first official week of school has been the Swimming Carnival. The weather was beautiful and although the water was cool, there were plenty of joyful smiles around. It was terrific to see several parents coming to watch their newly turned Primary School children on the day!

Students have enjoyed creating a water-inspired craft in their classrooms to celebrate the fun we had at the swimming carnival.



## Principal's Message

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A big welcome back everyone! We have had a very smooth and positive start to the 2024 school year. Our Foundation students have settled in very quickly and should be congratulated on their start to school.

Over the Summer break we had two of our students recognised in the annual Koo Wee Rup Australia day awards. A big congratulations to Eli Spicer and Zac Laing. Both students should be incredibly proud of this accomplishment which comes as no surprise as both boys acquit themselves in a mature, respectful and responsible manner day in, day out. Well done Eli and Zac, we are incredibly proud of you both.

Whilst talking about the Summer holidays, it is pleasing to announce that the kinder is now open. It is great seeing it operational. The centre is operated by an organisation called KU Children's Services who are looking forward to building a positive partnership with our school. The gymnasium project has progressed well over the break. This week the roof has been completed and a significant portion of the external brickwork has also been completed. The project is still on track for a July / August completion which is very exciting.

Last Wednesday, we held our annual swimming carnival at the Koo Wee Rup Pool. We were very fortunate to have nice weather for the day and it was great seeing our students have so much fun in the water. A number of students demonstrated terrific resilience as they pushed through and challenged themselves to compete. Some of our students performed exceptionally well and will progress to the District stage of competition. More information regarding the next stage will be provided to qualified students soon.

This Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> of February, we will be hosting our third Curriculum Day for the year. This day will be focused on supporting our teachers and Education Support staff to strengthen their Maths teaching. Their Care will be available for students that require supervision on the day.

In the absence of our school canteen we have secured the services of a food van caterer who is going to provide canteen service for us whilst the new canteen (as part of the gym) is being built. This will begin from February 23<sup>rd</sup> and run each Friday, offering a similar menu to our previous canteen offerings. Orders are to be made via Qkr before 6pm the night before!

Coming up on the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, we will be having our school photo day. Personalised order forms were sent home last week, if you are unsure of your code, please contact the office. It is crucially important to arrive on time on school photo day to prevent the disappointment of children missing their class photo. The day is tightly scheduled and there will not be the opportunity to retake class photos due to lateness. Please ensure your children wear full school uniform on this day.

## Principal's Message

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The Fathering Project is continuing again this year with our first event coming up on the 6<sup>th</sup> of March. For those that are new to our school, The Fathering Project is an organisation that aims to support schools to engage dads with their children's school. Through the year we run a range of events which are a lot of fun. Students are encouraged to come along with their dad or another father figure in their life. This could include a grandparent, a teenage brother, an uncle or any other male that plays a significant role in their life. I look forward to seeing many of our KWRPS dads at the events through the year.

Late in Term 1 we will be holding our main fundraising event for the year, the Colour Explosion. This event is always a lot of fun. This year the date for the event will be Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. A big thank you to our Parents and Friends group who organise this event each year. More information to come home soon.

Parent helpers are always greatly appreciated in schools. If you are interested in becoming a parent helper in our school please see your child's classroom teacher. All volunteers will need a current working with children card. There are always many jobs we'd love some help with from listening to students read, to laminating, support with Breakfast Club and many more.

As we do start into the new year I will take this opportunity to provide a few reminders. We have a no-dogs on school grounds (during school times) policy. This is to ensure the safety of all students. I appreciate your cooperation with this. Next is in regard to carparking. I ask that parents please abide by signage around the school, including not using the bus zone as a carpark. I also remind families that the staff carpark is not for parent use. When picking up and dropping off students please refrain from walking through the carpark. Again, this is to keep your children safe. Finally, a reminder that students should not be arriving at school prior to 8:40am unless they are attending before school care or Breakfast Club. The first staff member is on before school yard duty from 8:40am. Following these simple rules will help us keep all members of our school safe.

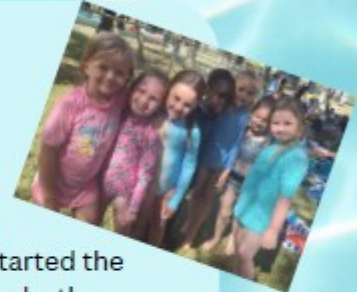
Take care,

Ben Zimmerle



# Junior School Update

## Year 1/2 Newsletter



The students of year 1 and 2 have made a splash and started the school year swimmingly! After walking over to the pools, the students got ready to dive in, first there was a wading race, then some kickboards and noodles. They practised ducking and diving to collect golf balls on the bottom of the pool and finally they had a whole lot of fun playing and splashing around with their friends. The students had a fantastic time and showed a lot of resilience throughout the day, especially when they got a bit cold while waiting for their next turn.



The 1/2 students have settled into their new classes fantastically. Many children have been building new friendships with members of their class, finding new people to chat and play with. We have jumped straight into our year of learning. Students have started learning about how to choose 'Good Fit' books that they can have in their book boxes for Read-to-Self and Read-to-Buddy time. We have written recounts of the swimming carnival and about our school holidays. In Maths we have been learning about the days of the week, the months of the year and how to read a calendar for the year ahead. This has been fun as there are always lots of exciting events for us to look forward to throughout the year!



# School Community News

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## Annual privacy reminder for our school community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the Schools' Privacy Policy and the Schools' Privacy Collection Notice.

Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn. We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education] safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using [Microsoft 365/Google Workspace for Education], please contact the school. For more information about privacy, refer to: Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents.

This information is also available in ten community languages:

- \* Amharic
- \* Arabic
- \* Dari
- \* Gujarati
- \* Mandarin
- \* Somali
- \* Sudanese
- \* Turkish
- \* Urdu
- \* Vietnamese

# School Community News

Please be aware if your child is new to Koo Wee Rup Primary School (including Prep students of existing families) you will need to submit an application. Application forms have been sent via the Sentrql Parent Portal or are available from the office.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

### CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors. Excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works while sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are a part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF is provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:

- \$125 for primary school students
- \$225 for secondary school students

### HOW TO APPLY

New applicants should contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from the website below.

If you applied for CSEF at your child's school last year, you do not need to complete an application form this year unless there has been a change in your family circumstances.

You only need to complete an application form if any of the following changes have occurred:

- **new student enrolments;** your child has started or changed schools this year.
- **changed family circumstances;** such as a change of custody, change of name, concession card number, or new siblings commencing this year.

Check with the school office if you are unsure.



### MORE INFORMATION

For more information about CSEF visit:  
<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/programs/Pages/csef.aspx>



# School Community News



## KU Koo Wee Rup Kindergarten

**Open Days:** Thursday and Friday 9:30am to 11am

KU Koo Wee Rup Kindergarten provides FREE early education for children aged 3 and 4 years old.

- ✓ Qualified, caring and experienced educators
- ✓ An educational, play-based curriculum
- ✓ An engaging and natural play area
- ✓ A focus on social, emotional and physical wellbeing
- ✓ A full transition to school program
- ✓ Located alongside Koo Wee Rup Primary School

### KU Koo Wee Rup Kindergarten

28-34 Moody Street (access via Maughan Road)  
Koo Wee Rup VIC 3981  
T 03 7003 1704 E [ku.kooweerup@ku.com.au](mailto:ku.kooweerup@ku.com.au)  
[www.ku.com.au](http://www.ku.com.au)

To find out more,  
scan here



# School Community News



**CALM SPEAK SPACE**

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

*Calm Speak Space is a counseling service that offers professional support from registered psychologists and Accredited Mental Health Social Workers. We provide emotional and mental health support to individuals who are facing personal challenges or difficulties.*



### Our Service:

- ✔ Individual Adult Counseling
- ✔ Individual Child/Adolescent Counseling
- ✔ All appointments via Telehealth

### Why Choose Us

Calm Speak Space is passionate about providing high quality service in a way which is:

1. Accessible- All appointments are Telehealth, so you can attend on you phone from anywhere!
2. Affordable- **Medicare Bulk Billing for concession card holds.** Only \$35 out of pocket for non-concession card holds

Approved provider





### Book an appointment or Contact Us :

 [www.calmspeakspace.com.au](http://www.calmspeakspace.com.au)

 [info@calmspeakspace.com.au](mailto:info@calmspeakspace.com.au)



## School Community News

# SEEKING JUNIOR NETBALLERS

**Nyora Netball club is on the look out for enthusiastic juniors aged 10-13 to join us for the 2024 season.**

**All experience and skill levels are welcome.**

**Guaranteed game time**

**Training is held  
Thursdays,  
5:30pm at Nyora  
Netball Courts,  
Grundy Avenue,  
Nyora**

A great way to make new friends, try new skills and keep active. With junior functions like movie nights and sleepovers, you're bound to have a blast. Come down and meet the teams and coaches and join in the fun.

Contact Hailey on 0481278432 or [nyorafncjuniornetball@gmail.com](mailto:nyorafncjuniornetball@gmail.com)

## School Community News



Attention all parents and aspiring musicians! Are you looking for a fun and exciting activity for your child? Look no further because the JP Music Academy has just what you need!

We are thrilled to offer a special 4-week course for anyone interested in exploring the world of piano or guitar. This is the perfect opportunity for your child to discover their hidden musical talent and see if they have a real passion for playing the guitar.

At JP Music Academy, we understand that kids can be indecisive these days. That's why we want to make it easy for them to try something new without any commitment. Our experienced instructor will guide them every step of the way, making learning the guitar a breeze.

Your child will not only learn how to play their favorite songs but also develop essential skills such as focus, discipline, and creativity.

Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! Enrol your child in our 4-week intro course today. Who knows, they might just unleash their inner rock star. See you soon!

**NEW 4 WEEK  
INTRO COURSE- \$80  
ENROL HERE**

[www.jpmusicacademy.com.au/schools](http://www.jpmusicacademy.com.au/schools)



# School Community News

Saver Plus supports people to develop life-long savings habits. It's been running for over 20 years and more than 58,000 Australians have participated. It's delivered by Brotherhood of St. Laurence, The Smith Family and Berry Street. It's funded by ANZ and Department of Social Services.



To be eligible for Saver Plus, people need to meet these requirements:

- Be 18 years or older
- Have a current Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card
- Have a child in school, starting school next year, or be studying yourself
- Get a regular income (can be you or your partner)
- Agree to join in free online financial education workshops

[saverplus.org.au](http://saverplus.org.au)



## Parenting and Mental Health

**A six-session parenting program for parents or carers of children aged 0-18 years.**

The group promotes respectful, caring, and nurturing relationships between parents and their children, whilst supporting parents experiencing mental health difficulties.

Our Parenting and Mental Health program is facilitated in partnership with FaPMI (Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness) and input from a Consumer Consultant from the Mental Health program at Monash Health.

The program aims to:

- Provide a supportive learning environment for parents to develop new skills
- Learn more about brain development and how this influences a child's thoughts, feelings, and behaviours.
- Provide information, support and ideas to help parents remain calm when challenging behaviours present
- Explore ways of increasing self-care and wellbeing.

**Cost**  
Free

**Date**  
Every Tuesday

6<sup>th</sup> February - 19<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
[No group - 27<sup>th</sup> February]

**Time**  
10am until 12:30pm

Light refreshments will be served

**Venue**  
Strathaird Family & Community Centre  
106-108 Strathaird Dr,  
Narre Warren South

**Get in touch**

**Bookings Essential**

Please call the Group Workers on 03 5990 8400 to register, or email: [groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org](mailto:groupwork.south@vt.uniting.org)

[unitingvictas.org.au](http://unitingvictas.org.au)



The Victorian FaPMI Program  
Families where a Parent has a Mental Illness





## 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 23rd February  
 Friday 8th March  
 Friday 22nd March

**Uniform Shop Opening Hours: 2:30-3:30pm**  
 Friday 23rd February  
 Friday 8th March  
 Friday 22nd March

Wednesday 28th February School Photos  
 Monday 25th March Colour Explosion  
 Thursday 28th March Easter Parade / End of term dismissal