Our new enrolment at KPS!

Many families may already be aware that prior to Christmas there was a little red puppy by the name of Marley coming in and out of my office at different stages. At that point Marley was just 9 weeks old. She is now almost 5 months old and has successfully graduated from puppy school over the summer break.

I am excited to announce that Marley is now an integral member of our staff at Korumburra Primary School.

Marley has been welcomed by the school community with open arms and there has been no shortage of students willing to care for Marley over the school day.

There has also been a big line up of parents offering to babysit Marley. Thank you for your offers of support.

Marley is classed as a ‘care dog’ and her role in the school is diverse. Already Marley has been hard at work putting smiles on the faces of students, staff and parents. She has already, on numerous occasions, offered her support and friendship to some of our students that, at different times, need something soft and cuddly to help calm them down in challenging situations. Marley will also offer her services as a reward to classes. She will also be available to listen to students read. There is evidence to suggest that reluctant readers are more willing to read to a pet as it provides an opportunity for the student to feel more comfortable and confident without the fear of being judged.

Well Done Award Winners Monday 17th February
(see list of winners on back page)
At School Council last night we discussed the protocols and procedures that will ensure both Marley’s welfare and also the students’ welfare. In the coming week, all students will be informed of the important rules to follow in regards to Marley.

Marley is a cross-breed (spaniel/poodle) and is rated as number 1 in the top 10 breeds for being non-allergenic. This means that Marley is the most likely breed not to cause allergies in humans.

Despite these safeguards if you do not wish your child to be in contact with Marley please let me know as this will not be a problem. Please see Marley’s profile below for more information.

Marley’s Profile:

Breed: Cavoodle (Cavalier King Charles Spaniel x Miniature Poodle)
Size: Adults will range in height from 30-35 cm (12-15’), the smaller size an influence from the Cavalier contribution.
Temperament: Following on from the success of the Spoodle (a Cocker Spaniel x Poodle), breeders of the Cavoodle set out to bring out the best of the Cavalier and Poodle breeds and produce an intelligent, compact and healthy little animal with a wonderful temperament.

So why choose these particular breeds? The Cavalier is one of Australia’s most popular purebred dogs, and rightly so. Deliberately bred as a companion dog, it has an adorable temperament and is gentle and compliant around children. The Miniature Poodle is another popular small breed and is known for its intelligence and loyalty.

It is important to note that this is an introductory message about Marley. I will provide more information about her in upcoming newsletters. If you have any queries about her please don’t hesitate to contact me.

It is also important to note that our School Council has agreed that we will be a ‘1’ care dog school and the ultimate responsibility lies with me as the Principal. At this stage, our current policy for parents visiting the school is that their dog must be on a lead and kept outside of the school grounds. Thank you for your support with this.

Nathan Pirouet
Principal
It's been another big week at K.P.S. with many events keeping us all on our toes.

We've had a Parents & Friends Meeting on Monday which nearly filled the Staffroom, our new Lunchtime Dance group program for Years 1-3 students started on Monday, our staff began a review of our practices and beliefs about spelling led by Jacqui Rothvier and Nigel Kilpatrick, our Active After School Programs continued with Golf Skills on Wednesday and Soccer on Thursday, many students represented KPS in the Woorayl District Swimming Carnival at the Korumburra Pool on Wednesday and this Friday we have our School Photos! Wow, what a week!

Woorayl District Swimming Carnival
This annual inter-school swimming carnival was run in rather different weather conditions to those of the previous weeks with wind, showers and even thunder & lightning! Overall, the KPS team came 4th but all our children did their very best to achieve success for themselves and our school. Due to their success, a number of our team members will now progress through to the Division Swimming Carnival to be held on Friday 28th March. Congratulations to Mrs Shelley Snooks for her organisation of this event and our students who competed so well.

Early Years Assessment
Our teachers in Years Prep – 2 continue to do their comprehensive assessment of each child in their class. The Prep teachers have been conducting these tests on a Wednesday when the Prep students don't attend while teachers in Year 1 & 2 have been given time during each week to complete their assessments. Thank you to Brenda Jones and Jacqui Rothvier who have covered Year 1 & 2 classes to allow this vital testing to occur. With each test taking over an hour per student to administer, it is a time consuming process to complete a whole class but the information gained from the sessions provide a valuable starting point for each child's school year.

School Council
This week’s School Council meeting saw many items discussed including the re-roofing of the buildings housing the Year 3 & 4 classes, our Year 4-6 netbook program, our School Phone App, our school dog Marley, the Kids Matter Student Welfare framework, school finances, capital works and much more. We have a number of School Council members who are retiring at the end of their current term of Office soon and we will have our new School Council operating after our March elections. More details regarding this will be made in future newsletters.

School Photos
Our annual school photos day is tomorrow, Friday 21st February. This is always a fun but hectic day! We look forward to seeing all our students looking their absolute smartest ready for our photos. Don't forget to practise those smiles!

Your Child’s Teacher
Please don’t forget that if you have some important information that you believe would assist your child’s teacher to support your child’s learning, now is a good time to make an appointment to speak with them. HAVING this information can be vital to allow the teachers to provide the best possible learning opportunities for your child. Appointments can be made through the School Office. Note that more formalised discussions will take place later this year.

Uniform
It is so pleasing to see all our students in their school uniform. It really does make us look like we are one big ‘family’. But, I ask all parents to please write their child’s name on their windcheater/jumper on the waist or wrist bands as well as the tag at the neck. This way, we can ensure that when it is misplaced, we can easily return it to its owner.

We often see our girls coming to school wearing nail polish after special events. However, we ask that parents make sure that the nail polish is removed in readiness for the return to school.

School App
Don’t forget to stay up to date with all the latest news about all things KPS via our school app which is downloadable through the App Store.

Arriving at School on Time
Thank you to the parents that ensure that your children arrive at school on time. Teachers’ instruction to the students at the beginning of the day is crucial for setting the scene for the learning that will occur throughout the day. All evidence shows that a settled beginning to a school day greatly enhances the child’s potential for learning.

Assembly
I would like to thank the parents that arrive on time to attend our school Assemblies. Your co-operation enables us to start them very close to 9:00 am sharp and helps to ensure that our Assembly runs smoothly. We ask that parents not come into the Gym before the students enter for Assembly as our Year 6 presenters and organisers are often practising and getting the Gym set up in readiness. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Spot Mr Gray’s Spelling Mistake
Did you spot the deliberate spelling mistake in my last report? If not, the error was in the word ‘holiday’ which I mis-spelt as ‘holday’. Great spelling mistake spotters were Gina Tanoa, Shyanne Post, Sophie McKenzie and Kai Misawa. These 4 super spellers will receive a prize from me in the near future. Good luck spotting my mistake in this report.

David Gray
Assistant Principal
Senior Department News

It has been another busy few weeks in the Senior Department here at KPS! Continuing from our newsletter two weeks ago, homework is now in full flow. Students took home their Reading Diaries, Soundwave words and Numeracy worksheets earlier this week and are off to a positive start for the year! Students have been reminded to try their best on all homework tasks and if they’re having difficulties in completing these tasks, to let their teachers know before the due day.

The Year 5’s have been busily slipping in to their daily routines. They’ve focussed on a number of different activities this week, including word-work, rocket writing, quick daily Maths and their ‘Dream Holiday’ passion projects. Some of the ‘Dream Holiday’ projects have included the Eiffel Tower made from icy-pole sticks, whimsical trips to Paris and NBA games in LA! They’re all looking fantastic and some of the research skills and methods used to gather information and data is of an exceptional standard. We’re looking forward to getting a few of them on display soon!

The Year 6’s have started the year learning about Australia and its cities, landmarks, states and territories, including the surrounding waters. They’ve looked at works particular to the Australian culture and the poems of Banjo Patterson. They’ve also set some important learning goals, allowing them to monitor their progress throughout this term. The Year 6 area has also been decorated beautifully with the students personal mottos, used to inspire and encourage them in achieving their goals. Cyber safety has also played a part this week, focussing on ‘how to keep ourselves safe when using technology’, ready for the transition to secondary school next year.

Finally, both Years 5 and 6 were lucky enough to participate in a ‘hockey clinic’ earlier this week. Each class had a 50 minute session and practised the basic skills used in hockey, including dribbling the ball, passing and defending. It was a great activity and if students are interested in continuing to practice these skills, they should check out ‘Leongatha Hookin2Hockey’ at the Leongatha Secondary College, starting on February 25th at 5.30pm. For more details call Ged Grimwade on 0402 254 008.

So overall a busy week! Keep up the good work Years 5 and 6...

The Senior Department Team

Middle Department News

Netbooks
The Year 4 students have been using their Netbooks regularly and becoming familiar with the programs which will assist their learning as well as understanding the care and responsibility for these new machines which they will have for the next 3 years. A meeting for Year 4 parents will be held early in March after which time the Netbooks will be able to go home with the students.

Winter Olympics
Last Friday, Year 3 students took part in some fun and exciting ‘dry’ Winter Olympic events. They participated in ‘skiing’ as well as ‘bobsled’ activities. Medals were awarded to the following students who demonstrated great speed and skill:

- **Slalom skiing:** Gold Medal-Liam Dole, Silver Medal-Felicity Fox, Bronze Medal-Ryan Mostert
- **Speed skiing:** Gold Medal Bronte Whyte, Silver Medal- Liam Dole, Bronze Medal- Liam Richards and Hamish Boys
- **4-Person Bobsled:** Gold Medal Beau Grabham Andrews, Angus Mitchell, Bronte Whyte, Riley Sullivan

Some more events will take place next week and we are looking forward to another exciting afternoon.

Reading Club
Congratulations to the students who have been attending Reading Club on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday mornings at 8:30 in the school Library. Students are encouraged to attend these sessions to get some extra assistance with their reading and Mrs Jones is always looking for new faces. Regular library sessions are happening for each class and home-borrowing and home reading are expected of all Year 3 and 4 students as part of their weekly routine.

Nigel Kilpatrick
Department Manager Level 3/4
This week our Year 4 students joined with over 17000 other students in Victoria to participate in the Safer Internet Day. We were part of an online gathering of schools, and took part in an interactive presentation delivered by Greg Gebhart from Cybersmart. Our students were amazed at some of the facts and figures relating to how fast the internet is developing and growing. We participated in discussions around how to keep ourselves safe online, and talked about what actions we could take to make the internet a safer place for everyone.

Our students have been reminded of how important it is to talk to an adult if they feel uncomfortable about what they might see or read on the internet. This is especially important at home where the content filters and firewalls are not as strict as at school.

Laurie Bier
ICT Coordinator

**ICT News**
A big welcome back to all our parents and friends, and an especially big welcome to our new parents of the school. We hope you come to love the place as much as we do!

We held the first meeting for the year last Monday, and it was standing room only. Literally! Thank you all for that fantastic vote of support for P and F, and we hope to see you at future meetings, if you are able to make it.

We welcomed Jodie Olden and Michelle Burgess to our meeting this month who, along with our Principal Nathan, spoke to us about ‘Kids Matter’, which is being implemented by a team of teachers and parents at KPS. I’m sure you will hear more about this elsewhere so I won’t explain it here, except to say that we saw a great video on the importance of children’s wellbeing in the way they learn, and it will be great to see this concept implemented at KPS in the coming years.

We also talked about the upcoming Coal Creek Farmers Market, on Saturday March the 8th, at which P and F are holding a food stall - selling sausages, egg and bacon rolls, cordial, and some local produce. If you are free, please come along and support your town, and more specifically your school, by wandering around the market and purchasing some locally-grown goodies. (You are also welcome to help with the BBQ while you are there, if you have time!).

Next month is our Annual General Meeting, where we will be electing the committee for the next 12 months. It is a very short meeting, and is followed by our normal monthly meeting, where we will be particularly focussed on the BBQ/coffee/muffins stall which P and F will be running at the Aths Sports on 27 March. Stay tuned for an appeal for helpers for that one!

Finally, a bit of housekeeping as a result of the form you would all have seen on book collection day. We now have an extensive list of email addresses for people who would like to be kept in the loop about upcoming P and F events, and any help we may need. An email has been sent out to those on the list, but just to make sure we have all details correct, could you please contact us at belindamn@netspace.net.au if you have not received our short email, or if you now want to be added to the list.

Thank you, and I hope to see you at our AGM in March.

Pee-Wee Lewis
President, Parents and Friends.
**Music News**

A big welcome back to all the students, parents and teachers at KPS. It has been so lovely catching up with everyone and hearing all about your musical adventures over the summer holidays!

Music at KPS has sprung into action with instrumental lessons starting in full this week. We have the following instrumental teachers once again, the wonderful Jenny Gray teaching Guitar 3 days a week, Britt Lewis teaching Voice, Max Donohue-Corr teaching Drums and lastly Justin Abicare teaching Woodwind. Soiree nights will be held at the end of Terms 2 and 4 this year.

I would like to congratulate each and every student for the way they have come into music classes this year. I have been very impressed by the amount of enthusiasm and positivity each and every one of you has put into your learning and participation thus far. Congratulations and thank-you for making good choices to further your own success in learning music at KPS. Keep up the good work, and I look forward to a very fun-filled and positive year with every student, teacher and parent alike.

This year is a production year, and I would like to ask if any individuals have any stories or photos about the Karmai Giant Worm Festival to please email me on smith.gabrielle.h@edumail.vic.gov.au as I, along with a friend of mine, will be creating a production based on the festival and its influences on our community.

Lastly I would like to acknowledge Maddy Smith, Maddy Fletcher, Chloe Allman and Zahli Butler for their success in running the new Dance Club on a Monday at lunchtime. We all look forward to watching your performance at the end of Term 1. Congratulations on creating opportunities for Year 1s – 3s to perform and have a creative outlet. Hats off to you girls - you are wonderful leaders for your school community.

**Art News**

We’ve had a great start to 2014 in the Art Room. We began with many students working on pieces to enter into the Korumburra Show, which you may have seen if you braved the heat and popped into the Pavilion on Saturday 8th of February. We had great success with many of our students being awarded prizes for their work. We will congratulate the award winners properly at Assembly tomorrow, but all students did a great job and should be very proud of their efforts.

Just for your information, we have made some changes to our days in the Art Room this year. Rachel Warren is working on Tuesdays and Fridays, teaching Years 4, 5 and 6. I am working on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, teaching Years Prep, 1, 2 and 3. Hopefully this helps if you want to see either of us about anything.

A Friendly Reminder
The Art Room does not provide art smocks. Thank you to everyone who has already brought an art smock to school. If you have not already done so, can you please send a suitable, named art smock along to school as soon as possible. Bought, waterproof ones are great (especially for younger students), but an old shirt or T-shirt are also more than adequate and generally preferred by older students. Thank you for your assistance with this. Together, hopefully, we can keep your child’s uniform clean!

Fiona Simcock
Art Teacher
Woorayl District Swimming Sports

On Wednesday 19th February KPS had a team of 36 swimmers head down to the Korumburra Outdoor Swimming Pool to compete in the Woorayl District Swimming Sports.

The morning was very pleasant and we foolishly thought that the forecast rain would not arrive, but by the fourth race the first drops of rain started to fall. Our swimmers were up against some tough opposition from the local surrounding schools stretching from Mirboo North through to Nyora and Inverloch. Our swimmers all did a fantastic job of completing their races to the best of their ability.

Congratulations to the following students who now progress through to the South Gippsland Division Swimming Sports on Friday 28th March at the Korumburra Swimming Pool.

Milly Enbom, Macie McNaughton, Tom Crocker, Blake Webb
Sophie McKenzie, Maddie Smith, Oliver McLean, Britney Viney Walker
Darci Holmes, Jake Anthony, Mitchell Nicholas, Tyler Newton

Thank you to:
Jacqui Rotthier and Di Wilshaw for supervising the students on the day.
The parents who volunteered to be timekeepers for our school.
Jo Holmes who came to the pool to help me set up and was there at the end to help pack up.
The Korumburra Swimming Club for letting us use their shade tents.
Bill Jeffs, Ross Besley, Karen Walters and Gary Adams who all volunteered time out of their busy days to assist with official duties.
The teachers from surrounding schools for their assistance.

Aquatic Education Program

All students in Years 3-6 should have received a note about the Aquatic Education Program which is due to start on Thursday 27th February.

This year we have been fortunate enough to get the services of instructors who are all Austswim qualified. While this has created a slight increase in the cost of the program I believe the students will benefit greatly from the expertise of these teachers.

Swimming, water safety and knowledge of the water are all very important skills which I believe every child should learn. Even though your child may have swimming lessons in the heated pool, it is a far different experience performing these skills in an outdoor pool environment.

Please check the timetable for your child’s lesson times.

Shelley Snooks
PE Coordinator
Multi-Age (Composite) Classes

The information below is taken from the 1997 DET Report on Multi-Age Classes. Our school in 2014 has 5 year 1/2 classes. This excerpt seeks to clarify some of the issues.

Report Conclusions
Multi-age classes are a necessary pattern of organization in many government and non-government schools across Australia, especially in rural areas. They will continue to be a significant proportion of classes formed in schools.

While in larger schools, forming classes by years is the more common practice, multi-age classes are usually formed because of the uneven pattern of enrolments at the school.

Sometimes, however, these classes are formed for educational reasons in schools where it is considered that mixing children of different ages is educationally and socially advantageous.

There is an increase in the number of schools choosing to introduce multi-age class groupings on the basis of the belief that they provide a better match structurally with a curriculum grounded in developmental learning principles.

The move to arrange the English Kindergarten to Year 6 syllabus in stages with related learning outcomes has encouraged some schools to arrange their classes on the basis of stages rather than ages.

More schools are forming multi-age classes, not because they have to, but because they want to.

Research continues to confirm that multi-age classes do not disadvantage students academically and may benefit them socially and emotionally.

Moreover, a growing number of teachers and principals believe that forming multi-age classes on sound educational principles (rather than as just a reaction to administrative necessity) results in academic benefits to students. The difficulty which continues to confront research in the area is the number of variables which could account for improvement or deterioration in student learning.

Researchers have a similar difficulty with the issue of the workload associated with teaching multi-age classes. Some teachers, particularly those teaching a multi-age class for the first time, reported an additional workload. Others who identified a predominantly student-centred approach did not believe that multi-age classes created more work than a “straight” Year class, where the teacher was balancing whole-class activities with flexible group activities to address a range of abilities and interests. The range of academic abilities in a “straight” Year class could be wider than that in a multi-age class, depending on the criteria for placing students in the multi-age class. The selection of students, individual teaching styles and experience are important influences on the workload of teachers.

Successful Practices – Excerpt
The key finding of this report is that the type for class organised will not determine either educational advantage or disadvantage. Important success factors for multi-age classes will include the degree of commitment of teachers, the acceptance and support of parents and, above all, the quality of classroom teaching.

Multi-age classes can encourage student-centred learning, widen choices for placing students in classes and facilitate the flexible progression of students through a curriculum organised in stages and associated learning outcomes.
Calendar of Events 2014

- 21st February: School Photos
- 27th February: Water Safety Program 3–6
- 28th February: Division Swimming Sports
- 3rd—7th March: Water Safety Program 3–6
- 11th—14th March: Year 6 Prom Camp
- 12th March: Regional Swimming Sale
- 27th March: House Athletic Sports
- April 4th: Term 1 ends.
- April 22nd: Term 2 starts
- 29th April: State Swimming MSAC
- 1st May: Regional Tennis
- 6th May: District Athletic Sports
- 8th May: Individual State Team Trials
- 28th May: House Cross Country
- 5th June: Division Cross Country
- 19th June: Regional Cross Country
- 23rd—25th June: Year 5 Urban Camp
- 10th—12th September: Year 4 Allambee Camp
- 15th—16th October: Year 3 Camp Phillip Island
- 23rd October: Year 2 Sleepover

K.P.S.
a
UNITED
Community
School
WELL DONE
AWARDS

Matt Allen
Shannon Dubignon
Rory King
Mackenzie Purcell
Piper Harding-Matuk
Levi Clarke
Sway Wilson
Dylan Stewart
Aaron Lopez-Freeman
Poppy Stewart
Alex O’Neill
Mac Jiang
Oscar Matthies
Josh El-Ali
Fraser Shaw
Kaylah Thomas
Callum Olden
Kiera Witton
Cassidy Patten
Emma Gardner
Emily Bowcher
Lisa Terry
Flynn Cameron
Kayla Sendek
Reuben Foster
Charlee Walker
Jack Mortimer
Lily Jacobs
Jessica Anthony
Lachie Shaw (abs)

COME AND PLAY SOCCER!!
PLAYERS OF ALL AGES AND ABILITIES ARE
INVITED TO COME AND JOIN THE FUN AT:

KORUMBURRA CITY SC
Regeneration day is Sunday Feb 23rd at Korumburra
Recreation Reserve 10am - 12 noon

We have teams ranging from small-sided girls and boys through to Mens and Womens Seniors playing in the South Gippsland Soccer League. Korumburra City SC is a family-friendly club and a great environment to learn the game in. Bring the kids along, get fit and have fun!! For more information call Greg on 5657 3132 or Leanne on 56573117.