

*Kororoit Creek Primary School respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays respect to the ongoing living cultures of First Peoples.*

**IB LEARNER  
PROFILE  
ATTRIBUTES**

- INQUIRERS
- KNOWLEDGEABLE
- THINKERS
- COMMUNICATORS
- PRINCIPLED
- OPEN-MINDED
- CARING
- RISK-TAKERS
- BALANCED
- REFLECTIVE



**New Stop and Go Zone on Leichhardt Avenue**

Some of you may have noticed yesterday afternoon that the council has put up signs for a new ‘Stop and Go Zone’ at the back of the school on Leichhardt Avenue.

My apologies if this has caused any confusion, I was not made aware the signage was going up yesterday.

Please see below some important information regarding our new Leichhardt Avenue Stop and Go Zone. The zone is designed to improve traffic flow and safety during drop-off and pick-up times. By designating a specific area for quick stops, we aim to reduce congestion and ensure the safety of all students and pedestrians around the school premises. The Stop and Go Zone is marked in red on the road on Leichhardt Avenue at the back of the school and labelled with clear signage.

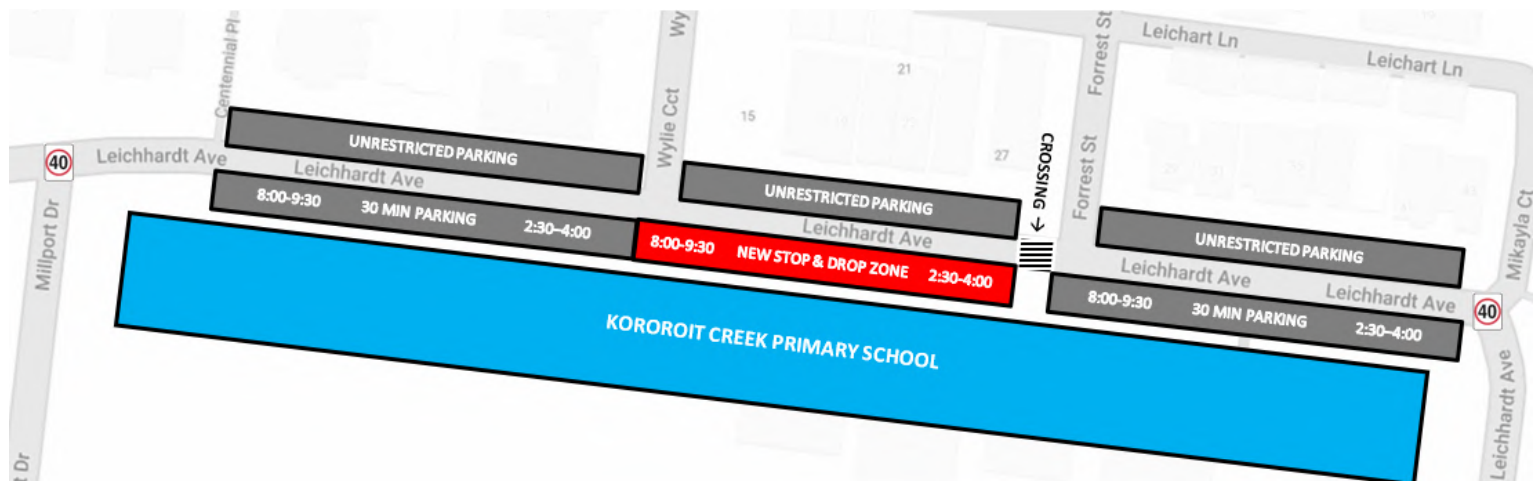
**IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- It is important to follow the designated signage and markings within the Stop and Go Zone.
- The Stop and Go Zone is operational between 8:00-9:30am and 2:30-4:00pm.
- During designated times parents are asked to pull into the zone only for drop-off or pick-up purposes and to refrain from parking or leaving their vehicle unattended.
- Please do not park in the Stop and Go Zone while waiting for your child to come out after being dismissed.
- Please support with keeping the traffic moving by promptly dropping off or picking up your child and then exiting the area.
- Always yield to pedestrians and please be vigilant of children crossing the road.

School staff will be present to monitor the Stop and Go Zone and ensure compliance with the rules. Any violations may result in warnings or enforcement measures to maintain safety and efficiency.

As always, we encourage parents to provide feedback on the effectiveness of the Stop and Go Zone. This could include suggestions for improvements or concerns about its implementation.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasise prioritising safety at all times, both within the Stop and Go Zone and throughout the school vicinity. Please ensure you are adhering to speed limits, using designated crossings, and modelling safe behaviour for our children. Thank-you for helping us ensure a smooth transition and a safer environment for everyone.



## Message from the City of Melton: Keeping our children and school crossing supervisors safe



City of Melton

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Our school crossing supervisors play an important role in supporting the safety of our children. Help keep our young people and school crossing supervisors safe by:

- 🚧 slowing down and being prepared to stop safely before the crossing
- 🚧 obeying the school zone speed restrictions - 40 km/h speed zones are in place between 8am and 9.30am in the morning and 2.30pm and 4pm in the afternoon around schools.

Remember, when flags are displayed at a crossing, you must stop for all pedestrians who are waiting to cross or have started crossing. You must remain stopped until the crossing is clear.



### Introducing our 2024 School Councillors

The School Council Ballot votes have been counted and we are pleased to announce that Alyssa Carmichael, Danielle Verdoorn, and Zeljka Charles have been elected as our School Councillors. Thank-you all for stepping-up for the role, I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

KCPS School Council: Danielle Verdoorn, Alyssa Carmichael, Zeljka Charles, Brooke Thomas, Jonas Gomez, Leesa Cilia, Alan Noye, Bethany Riseley

### Reading Open Morning

Thank-you to all of our families who attended our Reading Open Morning yesterday, it was wonderful to see so many families come in and join in a reading session in the classroom.

### 8:50am school start time: Thank-you!

Thank-you to everyone for your support with our new bell times. Please remember that your child needs to be in their classroom ready to learn by 8.50am. As advised in our last school newsletter, any students arriving after 8.50am will now receive a late pass.

### Importance of students being at school

Please remember attendance is crucial to children's success at school. When children have days off, over time this can add up and contribute to missing out on significant learning in the classroom. It is incredibly important that students are attending school each day unless of course, they are unwell.

At the end of this newsletter, I have included some important information from the Department that I would encourage you all to read and be aware of. The 'Every Day Counts' fact sheet was designed to give you, as parents and carers, an insight into the impact that missing one or two days of school can have on a child over time.

We will be tracking attendance closely and will be in contact with families as necessary to determine if there are any supports that might need to be put in place. Please remember that if for some reason you are having trouble getting your child/ren to school each day, reach out to either myself or one of my Assistant Principals so that we can support you.

## NAPLAN

Over the first six weeks of term our year three and five cohorts have been preparing for the NAPLAN assessment. NAPLAN is a nationwide standardised test that students sit to gauge their achievement and national proficiency. NAPLAN begins on the 13<sup>th</sup> of March and will conclude Monday the 25<sup>th</sup> of March. Some of the work that has been done in class this term has included:

- Typing skills and familiarisation with the online platform
- Building stamina
- Text innovations
- Looking at the structure of narrative and persuasive texts
- Small group reading instruction based on 2023 data
- Numeracy questions being unpacked and discussed as a class

We wish all of our year three and five students' luck over the testing period.

## Hair bows and accessories

Your support and cooperation is critical in ensuring that our children represent the school in a positive way by wearing the full and correct school uniform. If your child chooses to wear hair accessories including bows, headbands, scrunchies, etc. please ensure that they are in the school colours.

Have a great fortnight,  
Bethany

## DATES TO REMEMBER

- 7 March** – Democracy – Community & Me Incursion (Grade 4)
- 7 March** – Divisional Swimming (selected students)
- 8 March** – Democracy – Community & Me Incursion (Grade 4)
- 8 March** – ACMI Excursion – H24, H25, H26 & H31
- 8 March** – Interschool Sports Round 5 (Away at Derrimut Primary)
- 11 March** – Labour Day Public Holiday, no school
- 15 March** – Interschool Sports Round 6 (Away at Deer Park West Primary)
- 25 March** – Sibling Photos
- 27 March** – VHAP Literacy Masterclass
- 27 March** – KCPS Family Picnic and Community Market
- 28 March** – End of Term Assembly at 12.45pm. Prep-Grade 3 in the Gym
- 28 March** – Last day of Term 1, students are dismissed at 1.30pm
- 15 April** – First day of Term 2



*For more dates, please view our School Calendar via Compass or the homepage of our website*  
<https://kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au/>

*Please check our Parents Page for our weekly year level updates, swimming timetables, camp dates, Curriculum Days, and more!* <https://kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au/parents/>

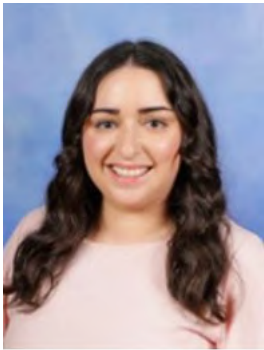
*Visit our Community Page for local community events and business flyers*  
<https://kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au/community/>

## Hello from our Leading Teachers...



**Hollie Winfield**

Hello, I am so excited to be beginning my 2nd year working within the KCPS community! This year, I will continue to work as a Leading Teacher supporting the teaching and learning within classrooms from Prep to Grade Six. With the support of the Leading Teacher team, we will also guide the delivery of our Literacy and English as an Additional Language (EAL) teaching across the school.



**Melissa Nelson**

Hello everyone, I am thrilled to embark on my new journey this year as an Acting Leading Teacher! Having accumulated diverse experiences within various teams and year levels over the past 5 years, I am now eagerly embracing the opportunity to coach teachers and collaborate with students throughout the entire school. Alongside the incredible Leading Teachers, my responsibilities this year extend to implementing the Attributes in Action and taking on the role of the Victorian High Abilities Practice Leader.



**Curtis Goodfellow**

Howdy, I am excited to be starting in a new role this year as an Acting leading teacher. Over the years at KCPS I have worked in a variety of roles across the school and I am looking forward to bringing this experience to coaching and planning with teams. With the Leading Teachers this year we are working towards building Science and Technology across the school as well as working with our Student Leadership Team.



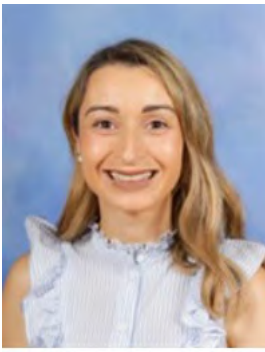
**Megan Kennedy**

Hi KCPS community! I'm incredibly excited to be able to continue to work with the students, staff, parents and other members of our wonderful community as a Leading Teacher. In my role I have the privilege of being able to work with students across Prep to Grade 6, supporting teaching and learning. In collaboration with the other members of the Leading Teacher team, we will continue to support our students as mathematicians to build their skills, knowledge and understanding within Numeracy. I'm looking forward to another great year of many achievements and lasting memories to be made!



**Natalie Petrovski**

Hi KCPS community! I am grateful to be spending another year of many, working with you all. My role this year as an Acting Leading Teacher involves working with a range of teachers across the school, as well as leading the wonderful VHAP program. I'm also lucky to be learning lots through my role as a Marrung Champion, particularly around how to embed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives within our learning and teaching community. If you have any feedback or ideas, please feel free to say hello - I'm all ears!



### **Sarah Garcia**

Hello KCPS community. I am so pleased to be continuing my work alongside the other Leading Teachers, supporting staff and students in order to positively impact teaching and learning across the school. As well as this coaching focus, I am really excited to embark on my additional role of Mental Health and Wellbeing Leader for KCPS as part of the Mental Health in Primary Schools programme. I look forward to an exciting year ahead.

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## **Mental Health in Primary Schools:** *Mental health and wellbeing referrals*

At Kororoit Creek, we are incredibly lucky to be equipped with many resources and staff who bring with them a wealth of knowledge. Emily Hogan (school counsellor) and Maria Luca (school counsellor/social worker) both work full time hours at Kororoit Creek and are part of the team specifically focused on supporting students mental health and wellbeing. In order to support the mental health concerns of our students, we have a referral process in place. Please see the referral process below. If you have any queries, please reach out to Sarah Garcia.

Staff member observes mental health concern in student.



Staff member completes KCPS mental health and wellbeing referral form.



Referral is received by Sarah Garcia.



Mental health and wellbeing referral is reviewed at an allocation meeting between Sarah, Emily and Maria.



Student is allocated accordingly. This could include, but is not limited to (internal) immediate intake, being added to a waitlist or consideration for external support.



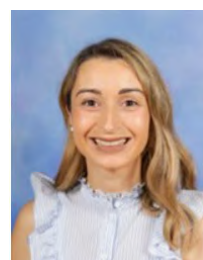
Staff member notified of outcome and communication made with parents/guardians as necessary.



Emily Hogan



Maria Luca



Sarah Garcia

# GRIP Leadership Conference

Two weeks ago, all school captains participated in a GRIP leadership interactive conference at the Melbourne convention and exhibition centre where we learnt about how to step up, and be a leader. There were four different presenters talking about how to step in, step out, step closer and step up. You may be wondering what that means and today we are going to explain to you what they mean.

**Stepping up** is using your talents to make a difference.

What is using your talents?

Everyone has a talent that you could use to make a difference

**Stepping out** is trying new things.

What is trying new things?

We learned to be Risk-Takers by stepping out of our comfort zone and giving everything a try and especially trying new things that could help benefit our school community.

**Stepping closer** is Befriend others.

What is befriending others?

We learned to be caring by making sure everyone is included and feels welcomed at our wonderful school.

**Stepping in** is Making a impactful difference /Helping others

As captains, we learned that a change can be small and big. Such as Talking in assembly to spread awareness or helping someone in need. These two are both effective ways that you can make a difference and we can make a difference too.

The second thing we learnt about was the sacrifices that leaders need to make a difference. A leader isn't just someone with a badge is it someone that takes ownership and pride of their community. Some sacrifices that we all have to make are giving up things for more important reasons or putting others before ourselves and not always expecting something in return.

Thirdly, we learned how we could step forward. We worked on ways that we can increase something already good at our school, something that needs to improve and how we can impact something outside of our school. We also engaged in leader's qualities and characteristics that good leaders portray.

Lastly, during our break times all the captains participated in an activity called loud noises. Loud noises was a fun interactive game that happened three times throughout the entire conference. In loud noises, we did things such as guess the singer, we watched short film clips and role plays and played many different games.

We ended our wonderful time at GRIP on an amazing note.

GRIP was an amazing experience, and we are so happy to share it with you all!

From Apeksha, Sanjana & Sienna on behalf of all captains



# Support Services

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific support services can be found at the following link:  
<https://www.vacca.org/page/contact/needng-help-now>



## **Lifeline**

**13 11 14** (24 hours, seven days a week)

Online Chat: [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)

Lifeline is a national charity providing all Australians experiencing a personal crisis with access to 24 hour crisis support and suicide prevention services.

Region: National



## **Kids Helpline**

**1800 551 800** (24 hours, seven days a week)

Online Chat: [kidshelpline.com.au](http://kidshelpline.com.au)

Kids Helpline is Australia's only free, 24/7 phone and online counselling service for young people aged 5 to 25

Region: National



## **1800RESPECT**

**1800 737 732** (24 hours a day, seven days a week)

Online Chat: [www.1800respect.org.au](http://www.1800respect.org.au)

A confidential information, counselling and support service for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic or family violence and abuse.

Region: National



## **Beyond Blue**

**1300 224 636** (24 hours, seven days)

Online Chat: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

Beyond Blue provides information and support to help everyone in Australia achieve their best possible mental health.

Region: National



## **ParentLine Victoria**

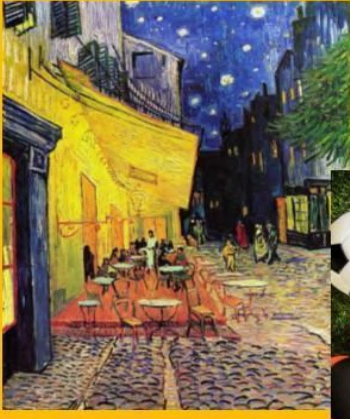
**13 22 89** (8am - midnight, seven days)

Parentline is a phone service for parents and carers of children from birth to 18 years old. They offer confidential and anonymous counselling and support on parenting issues.

Region: Victoria

# Specialist News

Bonjour!



**MUSIC** During this term, the grade five students have begun a unit based on the concepts of 'responsibility' and 'mastery'. As a tuning in experience, students used their prior knowledge to create a mind map of how responsibility might look and function within a music ensemble. They then implemented some of these ideas within their first group practice session. Throughout this unit, students will develop their skills and knowledge around roles and responsibilities within an ensemble and continue to develop their guitar playing skills. Students will be working towards a performance at the end of this unit.

**PE** Over the last few weeks, the preps, ones and twos have been exploring the art of Australian Football with the AFL Victoria program. The students have been honing their skills of kicking, handballing and marking as well as playing fun games where they are moving around with a football in their hands and having to avoid others. The students are learning the importance of repetitive practice to help them to refine their skills and gain confidence with a football. This provides the platform to develop their fundamental motor skills such as catching, jumping and running.

**FRENCH** This term, grade 6 students are exploring French history and geography. They started off by learning about all the different French speaking countries around the world, and why these countries use French as their national language. Students understood that colonisation impacted the way people live and how it created a new way of using the language, such as the emergence of French creole on African islands, Quebecois in Canada, and even French slang in France with the increase of immigration throughout the years.



## **ART**

In Art, the grade four students have been inquiring into landscapes. They have explored the elements of a landscape including the foreground, middleground and background, as well as the horizon line. Students have been experimenting with making the items in their landscape larger and smaller to emphasise objects that appear closer and further away as well as where to place these objects in their work. Next students will be using this knowledge to create their own abstract landscape artwork.







## EVERY DAY COUNTS

# EVERY DAY COUNTS

## PRIMARY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

## SCHOOL IS BETTER WHEN YOUR CHILD IS THERE

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates.

It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

## IN VICTORIA SCHOOL IS COMPULSORY FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 6 -17 YEARS

### Student Absences

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and developing good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

**Family holidays** - It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term. If you are planning to go on holiday during term time, make sure that you talk to your child's school in advance, and work with them to develop an absence learning plan.

**"Day off"** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.



## EVERY DAY COUNTS

**School refusal** - School refusing children will experience significant emotional distress not only when going to school but also at the thought of going to school; they may be absent from school for weeks or even months at a time. School refusal differs from truancy as children generally stay home with the knowledge of the parents and despite their best efforts to encourage their child to go to school. See: [My child or teenager has anxiety](#)

## BEING AWAY FROM SCHOOL FOR ONE DAY A FORTNIGHT EQUALS MISSING 1.5 YEARS OVER 13 YEARS OF SCHOOL

### If your child is away

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

Inform the school

- Speak with your child's classroom teacher and find out what work they need to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, **every day counts**. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Training Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Chronic or ongoing attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice being issued to parent/s.

If you're having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

### Top attendance tips for parents

- Schools want to work in partnership with parents – act early if you have any concerns by contacting your child's school and asking for advice and support
- Remember that every day counts
- There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes and their social connectedness
- Talk positively about school and the importance of attending every day
- Open and prompt communication with your child's school about all absences is a good idea
- Avoid making routine medical and dental appointments during the school day or planning family holidays during the term
- Seek help from your school if you are concerned about your child's attendance and wellbeing. Schools want to work in partnership with parents to support student attendance and wellbeing.

### Further information

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit:

<https://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/teachers/studentmanagement/attendance/Pages/improve-attendance.aspx>