

28 January 2026

**IB LEARNER
PROFILE
ATTRIBUTES**

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

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

Welcome back to 2026

Welcome back to school, and welcome to the start of a brand new year! I hope you all had a happy and refreshing break and are feeling ready for the exciting months ahead.

Thankfully the weather has cooled down a bit for our first day of school. It has been wonderful to see our students returning with smiling faces and lots of stories to share. To our families who are new to our school, a very special welcome, we are so pleased to have you join our community and look forward to getting to know you.

A new school year brings fresh beginnings, new friendships, and many opportunities to learn and grow. Our staff have been busy preparing for our students return and we are committed to making sure every child feels safe, valued, and encouraged to do their best each day.

We are proud of the strong sense of community at our school and value the partnership we share with families. Your support, involvement, and communication make a real difference, and we look forward to working together throughout the year.

I am excited about the year ahead and all that we will achieve together. I wish all our students a happy, successful, and fun year of learning.

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 The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.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.

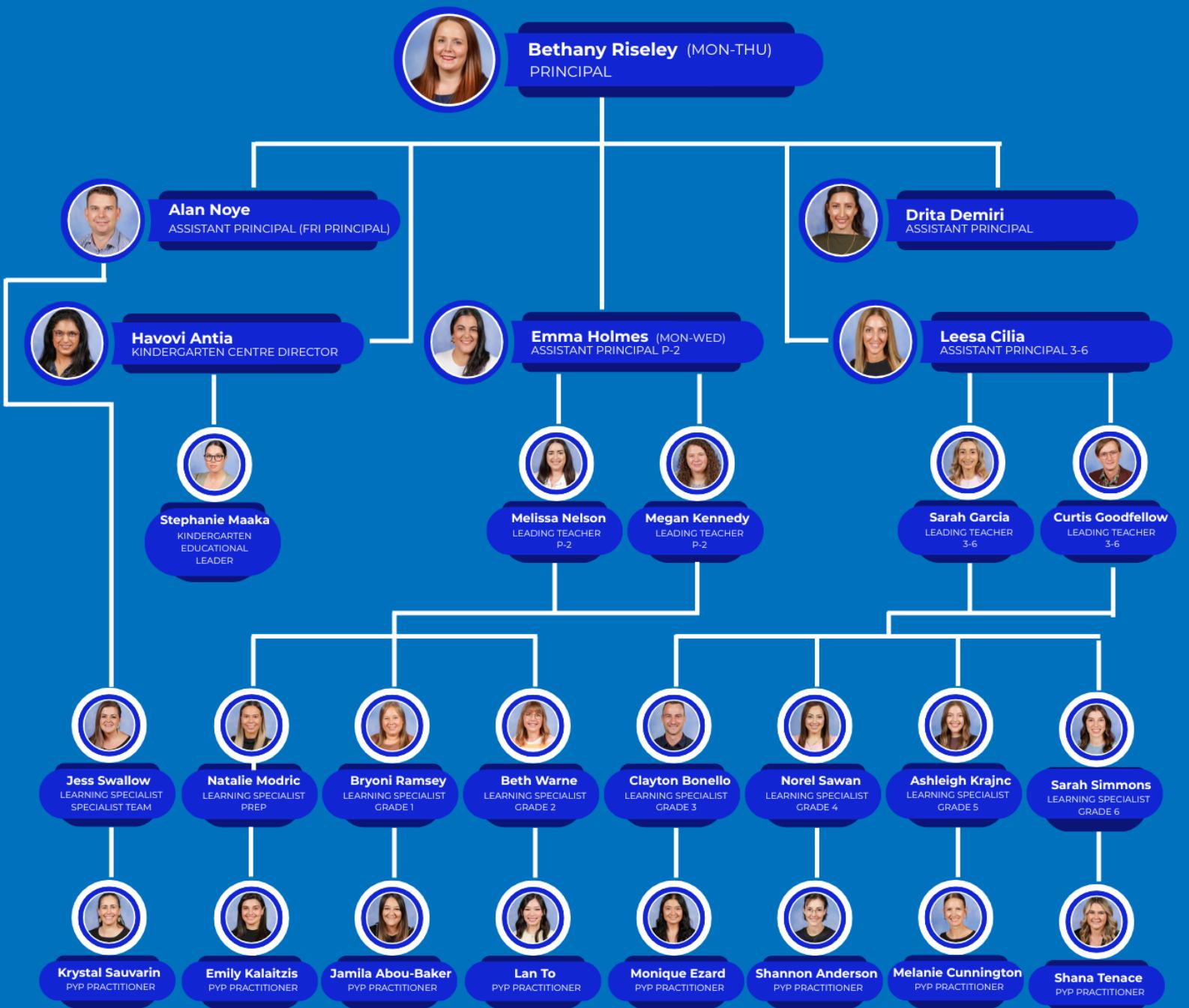
For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' Privacy Policy — information for parents](#). This information is also available in eleven community languages:

- Amharic
- Arabic
- Chinese
- Dari
- Gujarati
- Mandarin
- Somali
- Sudanese
- Turkish
- Urdu
- Vietnamese

2026 Leadership Structure and Contacts

Please find our 2026 Leadership Structure below, it will guide you in who you can contact, should you need to speak to a member of our team. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us with any questions, ideas, or concerns.

KCPS LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE 2026



You can contact us via:

School email	kororoit.creek.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Prep email	prep@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 1 email	Grade1support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 2 email	Grade2support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 3 email	Grade3support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 4 email	Grade4support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 5 email	Grade5support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Grade 6 email	Grade6support@kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au
Phone	(03) 8358 0600

Canteen

You can find an updated canteen price list and instructions on how to set up an online ordering account on our website at the following link: <https://kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au/parents/#canteen>.

Please don't forget to update your child's homeroom for 2026 before placing an order.

DATES TO REMEMBER

28 January 2026 – First day of school for Year 1-6 students

28-30 January 2026 – Prep Testing

2 February 2026 – First day of school for Prep students

2 February 2026 – Special Captains Badge Assembly at 2.30pm. Years 4-6 in the Gym

2 & 4 February 2026 – Swimming commences for Year 4-6 students

4 February 2026 – Prep testing. Prep students do not attend school today

9 February 2026 – Prep Parent Morning Tea at 9am

16 February 2026 – Assembly at 2.30pm. Prep-3 in the Gym

18-19 February 2026 – School Photo Days

18 February 2026 – No swimming today due to school photos, make up lesson scheduled 25/03

2 March 2026 – Assembly at 2.30pm. Years 4-6 in the Gym

9 March 2026 – Labour Day Public Holiday. No school

16 March 2026 – Assembly at 2.30pm. Prep-3 in the Gym

16 & 18 March 2026 – Swimming Showcase

23 March 2026 – Make Up Swimming Lesson for the lesson missed due to Labour Day 09/03

25 March 2026 – Make Up Swimming Lesson for the lesson missed due to School Photos 18/02

31 March 2026 – Sibling Photo Day

2 April 2026 – End of Term Assembly. Years 4-6 in the Gym

2 April 2026 – Last day of Term 1. Students are dismissed at 1.30pm



For more dates, please view our School Calendar on Compass and our website
<https://kororoitcreekps.vic.edu.au/parents/#calendar>

Please view our Parents Page for weekly year level updates, swimming timetables, camp dates, curriculum days, canteen information, information on available support services 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/>

Follow us on Instagram! <https://www.instagram.com/kororoitcreek.primary.kinder/>

Mental Health in Primary Schools Program

In recognition of the important role schools play in supporting the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people, the Murdoch Children's Research Institute and the Melbourne Graduate School of Education developed the Mental Health in Primary Schools (MHiPS) program.

With Kororoit Creek Primary School being situated in the Melton region, we have been implementing components of the program since 2023. Part of this includes assigning a mental health and wellbeing leader (MHWL) to implement a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing for students, staff and families. The MHWL is **not** a clinical role. Rather, the role is designed as a preventative to mental health concerns and to promote pathways to support students.

Sarah Garcia, one of our Leading Teachers is Kororoit Creek's MHWL. MHWLs are qualified teachers who receive training from the Faculty of Education at the University of Melbourne, and professional development through learning communities. As the year progresses, the MHWL will work to:

- Build the capacity of school staff, in particular classroom teachers, to identify and support students with mental health concerns in the classroom
- Provide support to staff to better identify and support students with mental health needs
- Maintain clear pathways for referral for students requiring assessment and intervention and monitor and evaluate student progress

Message from Sarah Garcia:



I have been a part of the KCPS community since 2013 and in the MHWL role since 2024. I really look forward to continuing my work with classroom teachers, our school counsellor, students and families to support students' mental health needs, as necessary. I am keen to continue to develop my skills and knowledge further and continue our work related to mental health and wellbeing. As the year goes on, I will share material that you may find supportive. If you see me out in the yard, please come and say hello, it would be great to meet more of the wonderful families who make up our school community.

At Kororoit Creek, we are incredibly lucky to be equipped with many resources and staff who bring with them a wealth of knowledge. Drita Demiri (Assistant Principal) leads and supports the wellbeing team and Emily Sammut (school counsellor) is part of the team specifically focused on supporting students' mental health and wellbeing.



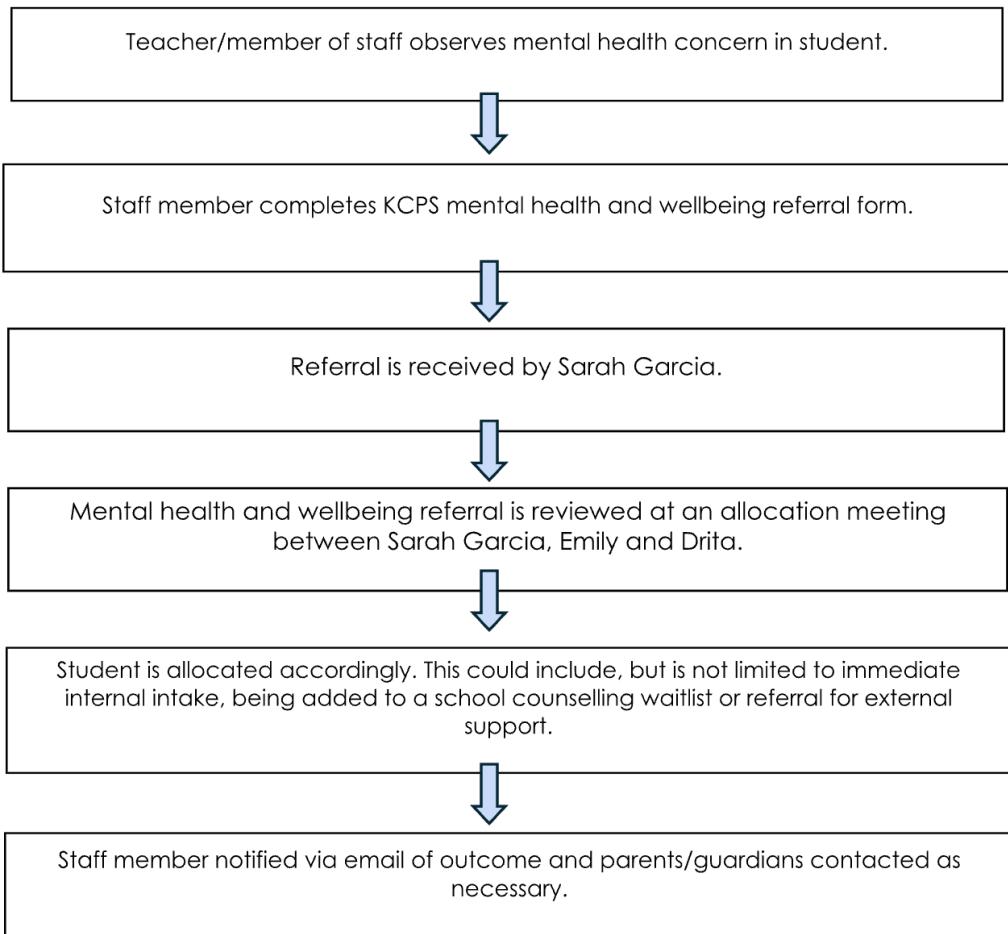
Emily Sammut



Drita Demiri

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.

Mental health referral process



Animal-assisted therapy program

Last year, Kororoit Creek were successful in gaining a grant from the Department of Education specifically funding animal-assisted therapy programs. We are excited to inform you that we will be providing an animal assisted therapy program through 2026 via Calm Kids Counselling. The program will be running on Wednesday's for between 6-9 weeks per term. Two mental health professionals, Jodee and Sharon, will be coming on site with their therapy dogs, Ranger and Arte, to facilitate wellbeing groups.

For Term 1 (Wednesday 18th February – Wednesday 1st April), two programs will be running:

Calm Kids- This program teaches children to understand big feelings and emotions, and develop practical coping strategies through interactive activities with dogs.

Paws and Restore- The Paws and Restore program focuses on emotional regulation and mental health support for students through therapeutic interactions with the dogs. It provides students with a break from the classroom environment to decompress and reset emotionally. The students are given space to simply be with the therapy animals in whatever way feels right to them. This may include teaching the dogs a trick, doing a mindfulness activity, taking the dogs for a walk in the school grounds or learning some relaxation strategies with the dogs.

Only a small number of students will be able to participate in the programs and this will be decided upon by the School Improvement Team. Consent forms will be provided to families who are being considered for the Calm Kids program as each term progresses. All students will be provided with an opt-out consent form for the Paws and Restore program as this group may vary week to week. If you have any queries or concerns please contact Sarah Garcia.

Read on below to find out more about animal-assisted therapy programs and to put a face to the counsellors and dogs.

Animal Assisted Therapy Programs

Our animal assisted therapy programs provide supportive, engaging experiences where children work alongside certified therapy dogs in a safe and nurturing environment. Each program is designed to help students develop important life skills through positive interactions with our Certified Therapy dogs and experienced handlers.

What to Expect

All programs are delivered by Registered Counsellors and qualified Animal Assisted Therapy practitioners with Certified Therapy dogs that meet strict health, temperament and training standards. Sessions are conducted in a safe, supervised environment and are tailored to meet the developmental needs of participating students.

Students will engage in age-appropriate activities that may include:

- Gentle interactions with therapy dogs (patting, grooming, walking)
- Structured games and activities

- Mindfulness and calming exercises
- Group discussions and reflection
- Creative activities that incorporate the therapy dogs

Safety and Wellbeing: Student safety and comfort are our top priorities. All activities are supervised and students are supported to participate at their own pace. If at any time a student feels uncomfortable or needs a break, they are encouraged to communicate this to program facilitators. Sessions are conducted during school hours in a confidential, designated space on school grounds compliant with Child Safe regulations.

Participation: Students are encouraged to actively participate; however, all activities are voluntary. We aim to create a positive, pressure-free environment where every child feels supported and valued.

Benefits of Canine-Assisted Therapy

Animal Assisted Therapy has been shown to provide a range of therapeutic benefits for children and young people. These may include:

- Increased sense of calm and relaxation
- Enhanced emotional wellbeing
- Improved social skills and communication
- Increased motivation and engagement in therapeutic activities
- Opportunities for non-verbal expression and connection
- Reduction in stress and anxiety

Therapy dogs can help students feel more at ease, build trusting relationships and support emotional regulation during sessions. The presence of a calm and friendly animal often creates a more engaging and supportive environment for personal growth and development.

Therapy Dog Teams

Jodee and Ziva



Sharon and Arte



Support Services

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific support services can be found at the following link:

<https://www.vacca.org/page/contact/needling-help-now>



Lifeline

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

Online Chat: 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

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

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

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

Region: National