



KAROONDA AREA SCHOOL

Issue 3 | 20th February 2024



Key Term Dates

School Photo Day
22/2/2024

Sports Day
29/2/2024

Student Free Day
1/3/2024

Interschool Athletics Day
12/3/24

Governing Council AGM
19/3/24



Principals Message

Jacob Dawson – Principal

Welcome to the first full school newsletter for 2024. It has been a positive and busy start to the year as students get settled into their new year levels. We welcomed a number of new staff to our school and the increase in student learning is clearly evident as I walk through classes, seeing the smiles on students faces as they are engaged in the new subjects and styles of learning.





Principals Message

Jacob Dawson – Principal

Swimming Carnival & Pool Opening

Friday 9th February saw our annual Swimming Carnival. A massive thank you to all the families and community members who packed the shelter to watch the events. The atmosphere continues to build each year in the new facility as a number of records continue to be set. A highlight was the Junior School Splash events in the lead up to lunch, watching them demonstrate the confidence they are building as a result of our dedicated staff taking them into the pool in the first 2 weeks of the year.

Last Tuesday saw the District Council hold the official pool opening ceremony, with state MPs Mr Adrian Pederick and Mr Tim Whetstone in attendance. It was clear listening to the speeches that the pool has been a long and difficult project to see completed and we are very grateful to all who worked tirelessly to fundraise and see this facility built. Last week also saw the school take over the chemical testing and cleaning of the pool from the Council. We continue to work with the District Council to improve how the pool is used and are looking to provide more access to the community.



Sports Day & Student Free Day

A reminder from the Week 2 update that there has been a change to the draft dates for Term 1 due to changes in the staff training that was booked, which impacts on the date previously sent out for Sports Day. The updated dates are:

February 29th Sports Day
March 1st Student Free Day

We understand this may cause some difficulties for families who may have planned ahead for Sports Day, however this change was unavoidable and addresses issues we had last year with multiple Fridays missed in Term 1. Given this will be the second year in a row that Sports Day is held on a Thursday, I expect that next year will follow the same pattern with a student free day on the Friday.

School Office Hours

As for any business, the school also has hours that our front office and phones are staffed. Families and community members are reminded that the front office is open from 8:30am to 4pm each day. Our SMS attendance line, emails and Daymap are accessible at all times to get messages through to us, understanding that staff will respond during their working hours as soon as they can.

Parent Portal for Daymap

For families who may have missed the information session at our Open Night, we have opened the parent portal for Daymap. This platform provides one place for all school reports, communication, student progress, homework and more, which we believe will support families in not having to go through multiple different avenues to reach teachers or check their children's progress across different classes.

To access Daymap for the first time, parents can follow these steps:

1. Load the website: <https://kas.daymap.net/daymapConnect>
2. Scroll down and click "Forgot your password"
3. Enter your email address which you have provided to the school and the ID number of one of your children (students can access this from their Daymap portal or the front office can provide this code to you upon request).
4. You receive an email to set up a password, then you are ready to use.

If you would like support or have any issues, please contact the front office where one of our friendly staff can help.

Book Packs & School Fees

At the most recent Governing Council meeting, it was raised the short timeframe and notice about the book packs for 2024. We wish to acknowledge and thank Miss Emily Edwards for using her weekend the day before school started to go to Adelaide and collect missing supplies from our stationery order – without this there would have been difficulty starting the year. It is this level of commitment and dedication that our staff continue to show as we have transitioned into the new year.

I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our acting Finance Officer Lindy Lehmann who worked quickly to get 2024 school fees out to families, on top of finishing off the end of year processes and getting the new year ordering underway. The professionalism of our office team is outstanding and they are continuing to improve our processes and procedures to lift our school in line with expectations for all schools.

Enjoy reading this week's newsletter and we hope to see you at the upcoming Sports Day.

Jacob Dawson
Principal



Primary School

Rebecca Eli – Deputy Principal

A Little About Me

It has been wonderful meeting many of you in my first four weeks at Karoonda Area School. Thank you for making me feel so welcome.

I arrive at Karoonda after 23 years in varied roles across a range of school contexts within the Department for Education. Having taught in both metropolitan and country schools, very early in my career I gravitated back to country school contexts and have remained. Across my time in education I have worked as a classroom teacher, wellbeing leader and Assistant Principal in large Area Schools.

Most recently I have worked with the Literacy Guarantee Unit within DfE and the Murray Bridge 2 Portfolio, working alongside teachers and leaders across the state in understanding and delivering high quality Literacy instruction in the early years of schooling. This work has also spilled into the inclusion space in supporting older students struggling with increased literacy demands into upper primary and middle school.

Again, thank you for welcoming me to KAS, I am looking forward to the accomplishments and challenges that lie ahead.

Reception – Julie Boughen

What a wonderful start to the school year Receptions! It has been exciting settling into our newly renovated, Early Years Hub and experiencing some inquiry play lessons with the pre-schoolers. It hasn't taken long for the children to embed classroom routines, enthusiastically engage in and happily complete learning area tasks. It was great to see some of you at our Open Classroom Evening and at Splash Carnival. I know personal and work commitments do not always allow for attendance at these events, so thank you. Highlights of weeks one - three were learning experiences such as swimming lessons, Splash Carnival and Pancake Day. In other lessons we have been keeping our discussion times and more passive learning short to cater for 4 - 6 year old attention spans. STEM, Maths, English, The Arts and History have generally involved hands on active learning which the children love. The children are enjoying their lessons of German, Music, P.E. and Health, which are taught by other teachers. I am looking forward to building upon this great start to the school year Receptions!





Middle School

Jake Rogers – Middle School Leader

Hello parents, students and community members. Whilst it has been a considerably busy start to the year, there has been a lot of positives to celebrate. It has been great to see our new staff building effective relationships with our middle school classes and integrating comfortable and engaging classroom set ups for students to enjoy. The buzz and excitement as a result has been clear to see and has contributed to a largely positive vibe throughout the middle school corridor in the first three weeks.

Daymap

With our learning platform Daymap now available for parent/caregiver access, I'm looking forward to seeing higher levels of communication, involvement and support of student learning between teachers, students and parents/caregivers. Please contact the front office if you are struggling to sign up from the instructions in this newsletter.

Middle School Assemblies

The middle school will be participating in middle school assemblies twice per term to celebrate the range of successes of our students. A range of classwork and other learning activities will be shared during this time, with parents, caregivers and community members more than welcome to attend. Awards will be given to students for demonstrating school values (respect, honesty & success), academic successes and the Resilience Project concepts of gratitude, empathy and mindfulness. The first middle school assembly for term 1 will be held in Week 6. More information regarding a specific time will be announced soon.

SRC (7-12)

Congratulations to the following students who were elected as SRC representatives for their classes. They will hold these positions for the entirety of 2024.

Year 7:	Noah/Arabella	Proxy: Greta
Year 8:	Maddison/Ruby	Proxy: Grace
Year 9:	Ivy/Harrison	Proxy: Ashton
Year 10:	Eloise/Anthony	
Year 11:	Isobel/Morgan	Proxy: Kyron
Year 12:	Shantal/Leah	Proxy: Tara

I look forward to the positive leadership and contributions that these students can demonstrate to move our school forward.

Pastoral Care

This year, middle school students will be engaging with two lessons of Pastoral Care. These lessons will consist of The Resilience Project (Monday), and Career Ed (Thursday). I look forward to working with middle school staff and classes to connect these important programs to their everyday lives to enhance wellbeing and mental health, and creating opportunities for students to explore future pathways in the workforce.



Senior School

Alex Pfeiffer – Senior Leader

The start of the year in Senior School has been a prolific display of the nature of the school. With the introduction of several new teachers, the students have responded well to this change with multiple new topics being taught in the Senior School. I am eager to find out what awaits for the rest of the year.

House Captains

What a busy few weeks we have had in Senior School at Karoonda! In week 1, House Captains were voted in by their relevant houses, Billiatt and Lowan. All students who were nominated spoke to the whole group about why they should be voted as one of the leaders of the school.

In Billiatt, Tara and Eloise were voted in with Heath as Vice. As for Lowan, Shantal and Leah are house captains with Bronte as a Vice.



Swimming Carnival

Friday week 2, we hosted our annual swimming carnival. The day was a tremendous display of sportsmanship, competitiveness and teamwork. Billiatt were the eventual winners in what was a very close carnival overall with participation of almost every student being a highlight of the day.

The Medal winners in each age group, along with some other strong swimmers, then went on to represent Karoonda at the Interschool Swimming Carnival in Week 3, Friday. All of the KAS students represented the school with pride and dignity. A special mention to Coco, Leo and Eloise who managed to receive individual medals for their age group on the day.

We now look forward to SSSA Swimming in Adelaide with Eloise, Harry, Isabel, Ivy, Tara, Mitchell and Shantal all selected to represent our zone. The busy times definitely do not stop with pre-athletics day events occurring next week on Monday and Tuesday, then flowing on to one of the biggest events in the KAS calendar year – Athletics Day.



Wellbeing

Emily Edwards – Wellbeing Leader

I am delighted to welcome our students and families back for another exciting school year filled with growth, learning, and resilience.

As we embark on the new year, it's crucial to emphasise the importance of wellbeing in shaping positive experiences for our students. In my role as Wellbeing Leader, my main focus is to ensure the holistic development of each student, fostering a school environment where they feel supported, valued, and empowered to thrive.

In essence, my goal is to foster a positive and inclusive school environment that promotes not only academic success but also emotional and social growth. I work closely with students, families, teachers, and other staff members to create a holistic approach to wellbeing. This encompasses physical health, emotional resilience, social connections, and a sense of belonging.

This year, we are excited to continue our journey with The Resilience Project, with the aim to introduce the principles of The Resilience Project to our parents and the wider community. The Resilience Project, founded on the pillars of gratitude, empathy, and mindfulness, aligns perfectly with our commitment to nurturing resilient and emotionally intelligent individuals.



The Resilience Project is committed to teaching positive mental health strategies to prevent mental ill health and build young people's capacity to deal with adversity.

Teachers and students will engage in weekly lessons and activities around the key principles of Gratitude, Empathy, Mindfulness (GEM), and Emotional Literacy to build resilience.

As partners in your child's education, we invite you to join us on this journey. Check out their website for more information and check out TRP@HOME a place filled with inspiration and activities for the whole family, to help improve your wellbeing and build resilience. Also, look out for further information about future workshops, resources, and activities that I will be providing throughout our newsletters, to help you support your child in developing resilience and positive mental health.

I also encourage open communication. If you have any concerns about your child's wellbeing or suggestions for how we can enhance our support systems, please do not hesitate to reach out. Your partnership is crucial in creating a school environment that truly cares for the whole child.

Let's make this school year a celebration of growth, resilience, and wellbeing. Together, we can create an environment where every student feels valued, supported, and ready to face the exciting challenges that lie ahead.

Wishing you all a fantastic start to the new school year!



Preschool

Karlie Naulty – Preschool Teacher

Our first days of play and learning for 2024 have been filled with excitement and joy. There has been lots to discover and do as the children explore our beautiful new preschool environment.

Our focus for the start of the year is to build a sense of belonging in the new space, developing friendships amongst peers and exploring our feelings.

We have enjoyed the reception class joining us for learning through play sessions each morning, an inquiry project on seeds, lots of sensory experiences, learning songs, dramatic play and visiting the library!



Music

Cathy Miegel – Music Teacher

Thank you to the school community for welcoming me. I am very excited about widening the Music program here at Karoonda. The Lower Primary classes have displayed great enthusiasm for their class Music lessons.

Students from Year 5/6 have elected to be part of the Instrumental Music program. We have 21 students learning flute, clarinet, guitar, bass guitar and drums, with a weekly lesson. Three Year 7 students have also joined the clarinet group. The students also have a weekly Beginner Band session and were very pleased with their ability to play a song together in their first session, which they called "KAS Pioneers" (These students are the pioneers of the Music Program).

Seventeen students from Year 4-6 have elected to be part of the Primary Choir. The students will be preparing for the Murray Mallee Festival and the Year 5/6 students will have the opportunity to perform at the Adelaide Festival.





Community Library

Allison Boughen – Teacher Librarian

Library Staffing

I am thrilled beyond measure to assume the role of Teacher Librarian at Karoonda School Community Library. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to expand my knowledge, connect with community members, and embark on new learning experiences. Karen Norman, our Community Library Assistant, is a familiar presence within the library. Please feel welcome to drop by and greet us, whether to discover your next captivating read or simply engage in conversation with our staff. We eagerly await your visit!

Library Lovers Day

We had some activities in the library last week to celebrate Library Lovers Day. Library Lovers Day is celebrated internationally each year on 14th February. It is a day to honour libraries, librarians, and library lovers, and the valuable roles that libraries play in our lives.

Storytime at the Karoonda Library

We had our first Story time session of the year and had 13 children attend. We celebrated Library Lovers Day a little early by reading "Bo Loves Books". We had special Story time Star, Braxson not only had been to 40 Story times, it was also his birthday. Story time is held on even term weeks during the school year. We look forward to seeing you there. Please note the change of date to Friday.

Premier's Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is a literacy engagement program that was introduced by the Premier in 2004 to encourage students to read more books, enjoy reading and improve literacy levels. The challenge requires students to read 12 books between the beginning of the school year and early September. The end date this year 6th September 2024. For further information see your classroom teacher or go to: <https://premiersreadingchallenge.sa.edu.au>

Opening Times

Monday 8:30 am – 5 pm

Tuesday 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Wednesday 8:30 am – 5 pm

Thursday 8:30 am – 3:30 pm

Friday 8:30 am – 5:00 pm

Contact Details

Website & Catalogue:

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