



KAROONDA AREA SCHOOL

Issue 4 | 19th March 2024



Key Term Dates

Governing Council AGM
19/3/24

Primary Choir Workshop
25/3/24

Easter Holidays
29/3/24 – 1/4/24

3-Way Learning Conversations
2/4/24 – 3/4/24

End of Term 1
12/4/24

Beginning of Term 2
29/4/24



Principals Message

Jacob Dawson – Principal

Welcome to this week's newsletter. It's been a packed few weeks since our last newsletter with several key sporting events taking place and NAPLAN underway. It was so great to see increasing numbers of parents, grandparents and community members in attendance on Sports Day to cheer on and support our students. It was so great to see that Lowan were able to break their drought and take home the trophy – a very special moment for the Year 12 house captains who had never seen their team win in the time they have been at school. I trust you will enjoy reading the many different elements of this newsletter, showcasing the broad range of our school.





Principals Message

Jacob Dawson – Principal

Governing Council AGM

The Annual General Meeting for the school's Governing Council is tonight (Tuesday 19th March) at 5:30pm in the School Community Library. The meeting includes presentation of the Annual Report and election of Governing Council representatives. This is followed by the first meeting of the elected council. I thank the existing GC members for their support over the past 12 months and a special thank you for the service of any who have decided not to re-nominate.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing started last week and for most students concluded yesterday (18th March). After some technical difficulties during the practice test 2 weeks ago, the tests this past week have run smoothly. It is a credit to our students how calmly and politely they completed the tests, following the instructions of their teachers and doing their best. For those students who missed one or more of the tests, we will be completing catch up sessions this week. The student results will be sent home to families later in the year once we receive them.

3-Way Learning Conversations

On Tuesday 2nd & Wednesday 3rd April, we will be holding our annual interview nights from 3:30-6pm. This year we have modified the format to improve connection with our student's daily learning, making them 3-way conversations, where the student, parent/guardian and teacher discuss their progress. Bookings will be made via Daymap to enable all families to select times that suit them. Information about how to do this will be sent home this week. If you need any support or the available times don't suit you, please contact the front office and the team will help you book in.

Staffing

Across the state and nation, there continues to be difficulties in filling teacher and support staff vacancies. At Karoonda, we are very grateful to have a number of our vacancies filled from 2023 and are continuing to seek further staff and upskilling of those available. We acknowledge that this can be unsettling for our community and are trying our best to fill all positions and stabilise our roles. In addition to the shortages experienced across the board, KAS has continued to increase student enrolments since 2023 and with this comes further pressure to get enough staff to work with our students and provide the support every child deserves, whilst managing some students coming with complex behaviours. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we continue to navigate our growing school in these tough staffing times.

Parent Portal for Daymap

A reminder for families who may have missed the previous newsletter or haven't connected yet, we have opened the parent portal for Daymap this year. 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.



Preschool

Karlie Naulty – Preschool Teacher

The preschool has been a hive of activity so far this year. The preschoolers have been enjoying our daily learning through play sessions with the receptions, we have visited the library, JP playground and cheered on the big kids at sports day! We have been cooking, creating self-portraits, exploring a variety of sensory experiences, working together to complete tricky tasks and learning how to play board games. We warmly welcomed Mallee Kids to the preschool last week and look forward to them continuing to have regular visits at preschool.

In literacy, the children have been practising how to identify rhyming words, clap the syllables in their names and work on their oral language skills through dramatic play, singing and retelling stories.

In numeracy, we have been counting, measuring, making patterns and sorting items by colour and size.

All of this wonderful learning takes place through intentionally created play based experiences.





Primary School

Rebecca Eli – Deputy Principal

It is always busy in schools with teaching and learning but the start of 2024 has been particularly productive. The beginning of term 1 was an exciting new chapter for the school with the opening of the long-awaited, redeveloped preschool and Junior Primary learning hub. This achievement stands as a testament to the dedication of our entire school community. We acknowledge and extend gratitude to the previous and present staff and the Governing Council whose hard work, foresight and commitment is evident in the project.

Swimming Carnival and Sports Day also offered an opportunity for our students to excel beyond the classroom. Congratulations to Lowan for their first win in many years at Sports Day. It was heartwarming to witness the enthusiastic participation from all members of our school community, showcasing not only physical abilities but also the spirit of sportsmanship. A particular mention must go to the Reception students. It's always exciting, heartwarming, and entertaining to see our youngest learners participate in the excitement of their first official event and running in a straight line! A special mention also for the highly anticipated annual highlight: the staff, student, and parent race. This event never fails to elicit cheers and laughter as participants of all ages join in the friendly competition, reinforcing the strong bonds that unite us at KAS.

Over the past two weeks our years 3 and 5 students have also been participating in NAPLAN which is a national assessment program designed to evaluate the literacy and numeracy skills of Australian students annually. NAPLAN offers insights into students' progress in essential areas such as reading, writing, and numeracy, aligning with national proficiency standards. Whilst NAPLAN is a valuable tool for assessing educational progress, it supplements rather than replaces ongoing teacher assessments and provides parents/carers with an additional perspective on their child's learning journey within the school curriculum. At KAS communication about your child's learning is regular and proactive with Traffic Light reporting occurring twice a term via Daymap and parent-teacher interviews scheduled for week 10 this term.

Speaking of which, we are excited to announce an important update to our school's approach to parent-teacher interviews: the introduction of Three-Way Learning Conversations. Traditionally, these conversations have been solely between parents and teachers. However, in our ongoing commitment to embedding student's voices in their learning, we are revising this format to include your child as an active participant. Currently, our teaching team is collaborating to develop strategies for scaffolding students to articulate their strengths and goals effectively during these conversations. Over the coming weeks, we will be working closely with students to empower them to confidently contribute to the discussions about their learning progress. More detailed information about the selection of interview times will be sent home soon. We are confident that these Three-Way Learning Conversations will foster even greater collaboration and understanding between students, parents, and teachers, ultimately enhancing the educational outcomes for students. We look forward to meeting with all families during this time.

Wishing all families, a happy and safe upcoming Easter break.

Reception – Julie Boughen

What a busy time we have experienced since the last newsletter. Throughout that time the children have increased their familiarity with the school routine and have been working well and doing their best.

I was very proud of all the Receptions during Sports Day. What a great display of cooperation, barracking, listening and participation. It is a long morning for young children. Thank you to the Reception families for your support on the day.

We are approaching the end of our first units of work within History and STEM. This week we will be decorating our party hats for either sunny or rainy days, after lots of work on materials and their properties, and completing our History unit about families.

Week 8 during InitialLit also sees us studying our fifth letter name and linked sound and eighth tricky memory word. We finally will be able to make some words to read by joining the sounds the children have learnt. To do this we are also continuing to practice our blending of sounds for reading and segmenting of sounds to spell the words as well. Along with this the children are learning the school way of handwriting the letters.

Within maths we are continuing to study growing our forward counting sequences, ordinal numbers, representing numbers with various materials, using ten frames and counters to show ways of making two groups to represent 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, recognition of numerals and to write the numerals the new way/ school way. In other maths topics, we have studied capacity, yes and no data collection questions and simple displays, long and short times, day and night and days of the week.

We are continuing to enjoy our play with the Preschoolers on at least two morning lessons per week and the children are looking forward to some Easter themed learning during week 9.

Year 1/2 - Bridey Merritt

It has been a very busy start to the year to say the least. Students have participated in Swimming Carnival, Sports Day, SANFL clinic and most importantly SO MUCH LEARNING!

In Mathematics, we have been learning about partitioning numbers, numbers on a number line, counting on, and forming our numbers correctly. Students have played many games to consolidate their knowledge in these areas and had so much fun the process.

In Art, students have been learning how to mix primary colours. First, we did some experimenting mixing colours. We then created an artwork only using primary colours to mix the colours that we needed using a pallet and lots of patience.

In STEM, students have been learning how to use their laptops (year 1s only used iPads last year so it was a big learning curve). They can now confidently navigate many aspects of their laptops and are further developing their skills using Makers Empire. We have also been learning about basic needs of animals and humans and the difference between needs and wants.



Middle School

Jake Rogers – Middle School Leader

Hi students, parents, caregivers and community members. It sure has been a very busy couple of weeks with interschool athletics and our year 7's and 9's completing NAPLAN testing. The persistence and focus demonstrated within the NAPLAN sessions clearly showed the considerable dedication our middle school students have towards their learning.

It was also great to see the positive attitudes expressed towards our first middle school assembly that was held last Thursday in the gymnasium. Congratulations to the award winners (recorded below), as well as our newly established year 7-12 SRC team who were presented with their badges at assembly. From the two SRC meetings already conducted this term, it is clear to see that we have a committed middle/senior school group this year. The presentations of projects, performances, artwork and general learning further showcased the engaging learning experiences occurring at Karoonda Area School.

Middle School Assembly Award Winners

Value Award – Honesty

Year 7 – Jasba
Year 8 – Ruby
Year 9 – Ivy

Encouragement Awards

Year 7 – Tyson
Year 8 – Jessica
Year 9 – Steffanie

Value Award – Respect

Year 7 – Bella
Year 8 – Shay-lee
Year 9 – Melissa

Value Award Success

Year 7 – Alba-Murray
Year 8 – Macy
Year 9 – Angus

Home Group Award

Year 7 – Lorenzo
Year 8 – Mitchell
Year 9 – Marcus



2024 Middle/Senior School SRC Reps and Executive Committee

President – Shantal
Treasurer – Morgan

Vice President – Jessica
Secretary – Ivy

Year 7 – Arabella & Noah
Year 9 – Ivy & Harrison
Year 11 – Isobel & Morgan

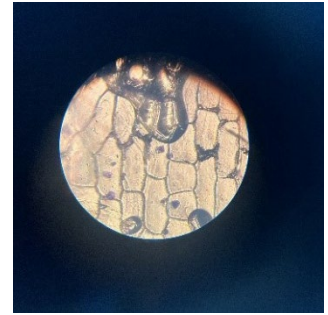
Year 8 – Maddison & Ruby
Year 10 – Eloise & Anthony
Year 12 – Shantal & Leah



Year 8 Science – Georg-Jah Mitchell

In our Year 8 science class, we have delved into the fascinating world of cells. During one of our practicals, we utilised light microscopes to examine onion cells.

Peering through the microscope, we observed essential structures such as the nucleus, cell wall, cytoplasm, and cell membrane. These organelles are vital components found within plant cells.



Middle School English & HASS – Karen Lienert

In year 8 HASS, students have been learning about 'The Renaissance' this term. We have investigated some significant individuals and their substantial impacts on the Renaissance, such as Leonardo da Vinci, and Pico della Mirandola. We have also looked at how art, science, education, politics and humanism affected the change in the Renaissance and has continued to make an impact in the way we live our lives today.

Students have been working on improving our writing of Narrative texts this term. Our main focus has been on setting and characters.

Year 8's have been using our Group Novel of 'Runt' by Craig Silvey and are writing a children's picture book on the main character; a stray dog. We are hoping once these are finished, we can share them with the students in the primary classes. We are seeing many similarities between the town that the group novel is set in and our own town of Karoonda.

Year 9's have been reading a group novel called 'The Book Thief'. Our focus has been on characterisation. Students have chosen one character and will be completing a character analysis in the coming weeks, but so far have developing their analytical skills by taking notes about their chosen character.

Students are also completing a weekly journal writing task where they can write for 15 minutes about any topic of their choice or a writing prompt if they are stuck with what to write about. It is a lovely way for me to learn more about each of them. In our English lessons, we have a word of the day, which are words they may or may not have heard but can use in their writing to make their writing more technical and increase their vocabulary.



Senior School

Alex Pfeiffer – Senior Leader

Athletics Day at Karoonda came to an end in week 5 with Lowan breaking more than a decade long drought. The day was a success across the school with multiple records getting broken in every age group. It was fantastic to see so many community members supporting and volunteering throughout the day. Students who excelled in events were then lucky enough to be selected in the Interschool Athletics Carnival at Tintinara. With over 50 students selected, this was Karoonda's largest representation for some time! We finished the day as overall runner-up in the Handicap Shield. Special mention to Coco (Age Group Winner) and Lily (Runner-Up Age Group Winner). We now look forward to the SSSA Athletics in Adelaide with 8 students selected to represent our zone.





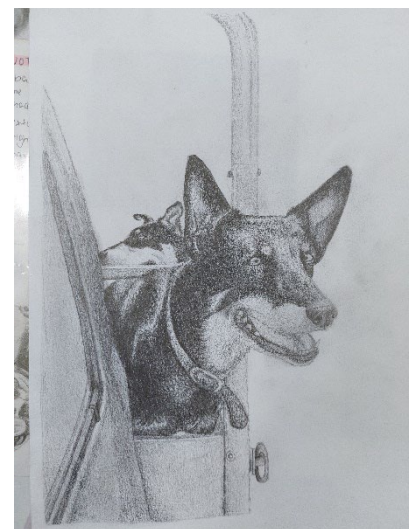
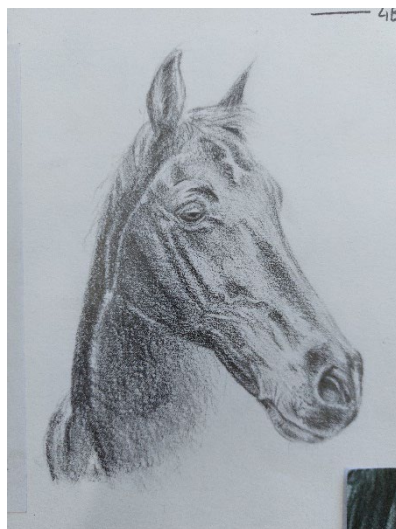
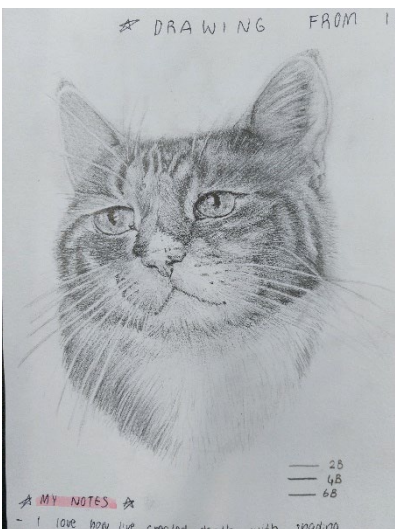
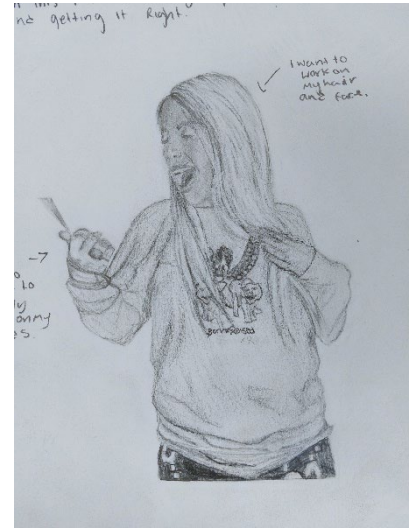
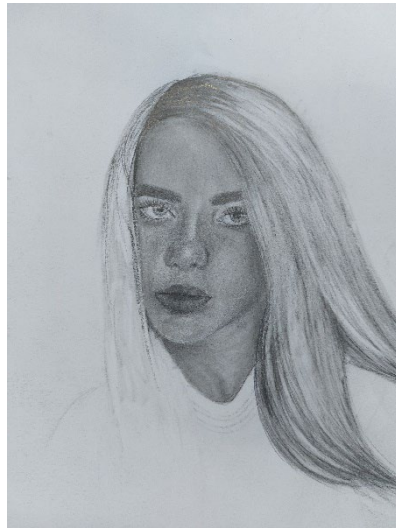
With all the sport happening in term one, it is pleasing to see that teaching and learning is still paramount in the classrooms. Across the Senior School, I have noticed many exciting units of work and assessment pieces taking shape. In particular, Senior School Art.

Senior School Art – Cindy Rooke

The Year 11 art class have been working on designing surfboards with a particular group of consumers in mind, as stated in their design brief. They are currently designing their final pieces and are nearly ready to start painting their surfboards. They have also been developing their art terminology, which has enabled them to talk about their own artwork using analytical language.

The Year 12 art students have been working on their folio for their first major artwork. This involved an initial brainstorm and then a visual brainstorm. Students were asked to bring in five images (original or found) that they thought were interesting. These images have made the basis for their beginning work.

They have since researched artists of interest and then worked in the style of those artists. Students have already experimented with different grades of pencils, charcoal and acrylic paint.





Wellbeing

Emily Edwards, Karen Norman
Wellbeing Team



As the Wellbeing Leader at our school, I want to emphasise the importance of connecting with your children and checking in with them regularly. In today's fast-paced world, it can be easy to get caught up in our daily routines and responsibilities, but taking the time to connect with our children is crucial for their overall wellbeing and development.

Building a strong connection with your children starts with open communication. Encourage them to share their thoughts, feelings, and experiences with you without judgment. By creating a safe space for them to express themselves, you are fostering a sense of trust and understanding in your relationship.

Checking in with your children goes beyond asking about their day at school. Take the time to engage in meaningful conversations with them about their interests, worries, and goals. Show genuine interest in their lives and be an active listener. This not only strengthens your bond with them but also helps you better understand their needs and concerns.

In addition to verbal communication, non-verbal cues also play a significant role in connecting with your children. Pay attention to their body language, emotions, and behaviours. Sometimes, a simple hug or a reassuring smile can convey more than words ever could.

Remember, connecting with your children is an ongoing process that requires time, patience, and effort. By prioritising their emotional wellbeing and fostering a strong parent-child relationship, you are laying the foundation for their success and happiness both in and out of school.

Together, let us create a supportive and nurturing environment where our children feel valued, heard, and loved.

Strategies for Parents to Connect with Their Children

1. **Quality Time:** Set aside dedicated time each day to spend with your children, engaging in activities they enjoy. Whether it's playing a game, reading together, or going for a walk, quality time strengthens your bond.
2. **Open Communication:** Encourage open and honest communication with your children. Create a safe space for them to express their thoughts and feelings without fear of judgment.
3. **Active Listening:** Practice active listening by giving your full attention when your children are speaking. Validate their emotions and show empathy towards their experiences.
4. **Family Meals:** Make an effort to have family meals together. Use this time to connect, share stories from the day, and engage in meaningful conversations.
5. **Routine Check-ins:** Establish a routine of checking in with your children daily. Ask about their day, any challenges they faced, and what made them happy. This shows them that you are interested and available to support them.
6. **Shared Interests:** Discover and participate in activities that interest your children. Whether it's a hobby, sport, or art project, sharing these experiences strengthens your connection.
7. **Express Affection:** Show affection through words, gestures, and physical touch. A simple "I love you" or a hug can make a significant impact on your child's emotional wellbeing.
8. **Create Traditions:** Establish family traditions that bring you closer together. This could be a weekly movie night, a monthly outing, or a holiday tradition that your children look forward to.

Remember, every child is unique, so find strategies that work best for your family dynamic. By prioritising connection and communication, you are building a strong foundation for a healthy and supportive relationship with your children.



Community Library

Allison Boughen – Teacher Librarian

Storytime

In Week 6's Storytime, we explored the world of "Sloths." We compared our own movement and the slow, deliberate pace of these creatures. Observing a short video of sloths in action, we marvelled at their leisurely demeanour and talked about some of their features. Wrapping up our session, we read a book "Sloths Love to Party." Each child received a craft pack to fashion their own sloth, and Addy's enthusiasm shone as she proudly showcased her creation later in the day. Additionally, we commemorated Emilia's 10th Storytime milestone by presenting her with a certificate of recognition and allowing her to select a special keepsake book. Our next Storytime awaits in Week 8, on Friday, March 22nd, at 10:15 am. Hope to see you there!



International Women's Day

On Friday, March 8th, 2024, the world celebrated International Women's Day (IWD), honouring the myriad achievements of women in social, economic, cultural, and political spheres. This significant day serves as a rallying cry for advancing gender equality. In alignment with the Karoonda-East Murray District Council, the Karoonda School Community Library paid tribute to IWD by showcasing a diverse selection of books catering to all ages. Additionally, we highlighted profiles of remarkable women from across the globe who have made significant strides in their respective fields.

Premier's Reading Challenge

This year's challenge has begun. 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 to improve literacy levels.

To complete the Premier's Reading Challenge, students need to read 12 books between week 1, term 1 and week 7 term 3.

1. Every student will need a Student reading Record. Class teachers and/or English teachers will have a copy.
2. Read 12 books. Eligible books include e-books, audio books, class/shared reading, prescribed books from school, non-fiction books, books read as research for assignments or books in another language.
 - a. Reception to Year 6: Students must read 8 books from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist and 4 personal choice books.
 - b. Years 7-9: Students must read 4 books from the Premier's Reading Challenge booklist and 8 personal choice books.
 - c. Years 10-12: Students must read 12 personal choice books.
3. Complete the Student Reading Record with the title and author for each book. A parent, caregiver, teacher or librarian must sign off on each book to verify it has been read.
4. Pass on the completed Student Reading record to the school's Premier's Reading Challenge coordinator by 6th September 2024 – Mrs Allison Boughen (Library).
5. Receive an award late November.

In the library we have an empty bookcase awaiting students to complete the Premier's Reading Challenge. As each student completes The Challenge, students will be given the 'spine' of a book to write their name and add to the bookshelf. In 2023, 53% of students completed the challenge. This year we are looking to improve on that. Happy reading!