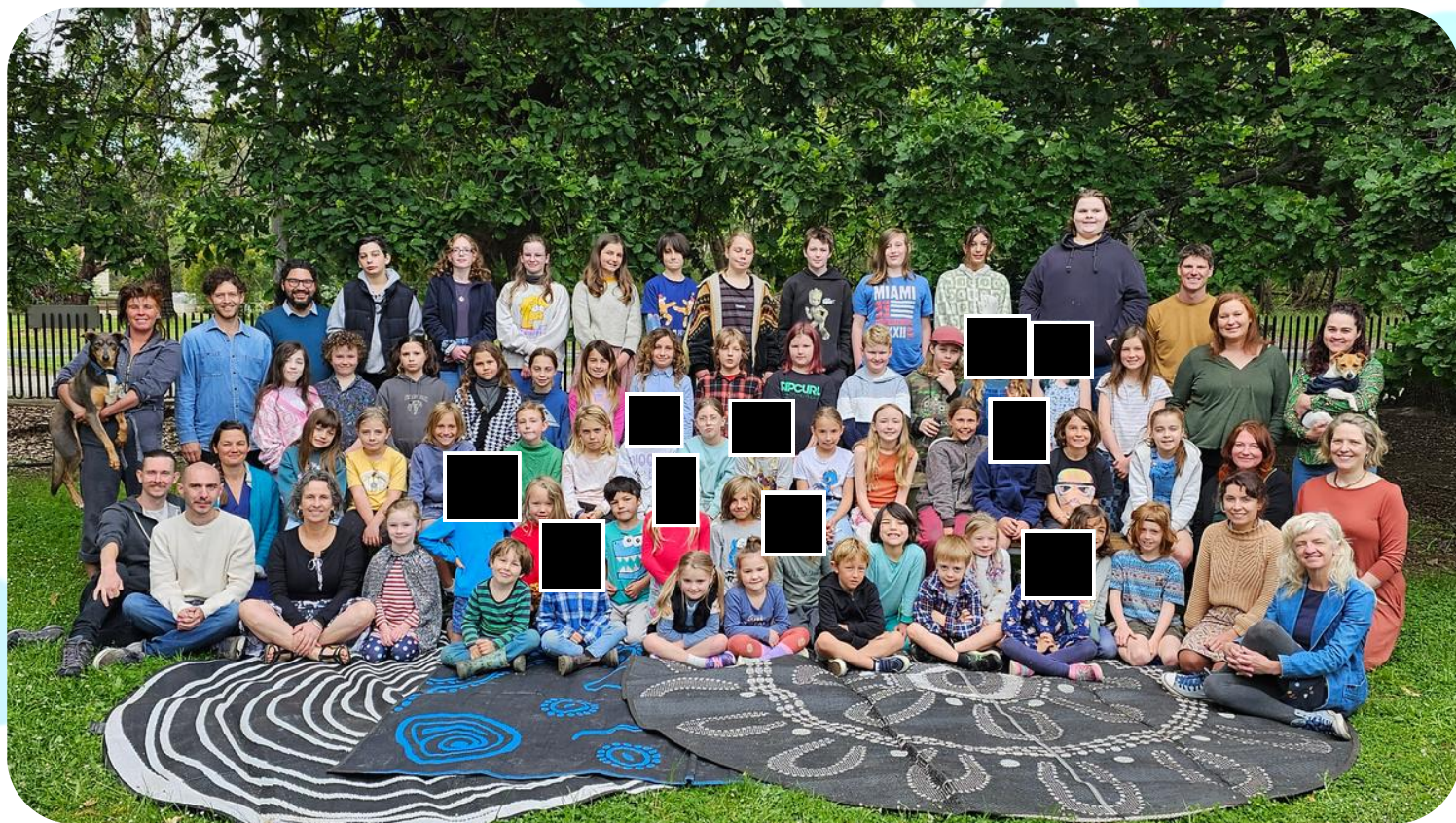




Cycle 8, 2023

Newsletter



Important Dates for Cycle 1, 2024

Wednesday 31st January	First Day of Cycle 1 (Level 1 to Level 6)
Thursday 1st February	First Day of Cycle 2 (Foundation)
Thursday 22nd to Friday 23rd February	SCAMP
Monday 26th Feb to Friday 1st March	Cycle Break
Monday 4th March	First Day Cycle 2
Tuesday 19th to Friday 22nd March	Inverloch FAMP

"Be mindful. Be grateful. Be true. Be kind "
- Roy T Bennett



It's hard to believe the school year is over! It's been a big year filled with change and learning, and, as usual, our final cycle was punctuated with significant occasions and events.

As usual, we ensured there was time allocated to adventuring and exploring new horizons. We enjoyed some great day programs, including disc golf and surfing, whilst our Level 6 cohort headed out to East Gippsland for their Graduate Camp.

Our Literacy team also embarked on a week-long Reading PD in Melbourne, learning tools and strategies for embedding phonics instruction into our curriculum.

We had a lot of fun in our last few weeks of school, tying up various loose ends, tasks and projects, prepping for events, and ensuring plenty of time for fun with a host of dynamic group games with a distinct predator/prey theme! The Triskel Showcase Night was a significant milestone and once again highlighted the hard work and creativity that our students have invested in throughout the semester. The students made excellent hosts as they shared their learning experiences with their families.

It's always memorable when we can come together as a whole community, and Celebration Night was a fitting finale for the year. The student performances were lots of fun and full of character, and the graduation ceremony marked a significant milestone for our Level 6 students who will begin a new chapter in their respective journeys next year.

As we wrap up our last cycle, it comes with a sense of satisfaction and appreciation. I want to thank our families for their ongoing support of and investment in our community, our students for their trust, willingness to take risks in their learning and sense of fun, and our staff for their generosity and consistent efforts all year. It's the combined efforts of our entire community that make Koonwarra Village School such a special place.

As we head into a well-deserved break, I wish everyone a restorative and joyful summer. I'm looking forward to reconnecting in the new year for another chapter in the Koonwarra Village School story.

Welcome to KVS
Russo Family





And it's a wrap! Wow that felt like a fast one!

The Sun Room students were all ablaze this cycle as they continued to explore space and basked in Summer sunshine. Drawing club was held under the trees and we were fortunate enough to have Yasmine with us over the cycle, who drew fabulous pics with kids and provided cool tunes!

In literacy we examined the book "Oh! The places you'll go". We ruminated on the places we'd like to go to in Summer and in our imaginations. For Orla, this was another trip to Cairns and for Lindsay it was meeting with his many eyed monsters. Wednesdays were grand with co-operative games like Go Birding, Sticky Wicky Club and that eternal favourite, the Sun Room Sandpit!

The Level 1 students had ample opportunities to trial life as a Triskel and all rose to the task, while the Foundations ruminated on life as a Level 1 student!

The Sun Room students practiced assiduously for their Celebration Night performance. Congratulations to all students for their performance on the night, as it really was very beautiful. A huge thank you to Max for her grace and enthusiasm, as we could not have done it without her.



Have a great Summer break and we will see you all in 2024!

 Lizzie, Kelly
Max & Trace

DISC GOLF

Students had the opportunity to try out disc golfing on a purpose built course in Tarwin Lower. Disc Golf is played like traditional golf but instead of using a ball and clubs players throw a frisbee with the objective of completing each 'hole' in the fewest throws, frisbees are thrown into specially designed baskets.

There was a strong competition with scoring taking place with the fewest throws winning overall. However, many students did not score, opting for a more relaxed game. There were three groups in total this cycle that played disc golf and they all had a great time.

SURFING

There were two surfing sessions this cycle with students heading to Inverloch to learn to surf. The waves were great for beginners and after getting into wetsuits and carrying the boards onto the beach the students had a quick lesson on how to stand up and catch a wave.

Everyone really enjoyed surfing and some managed to stand up for the first time. Once they had enough, the boards were dragged up onto the shore and everyone went bodysurfing until they were tired, before getting changed and going back to school.



Garden Update



by Max

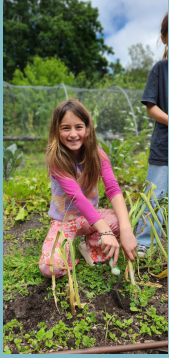
The end of 2023 in the KVS garden and I couldn't be prouder of the students hard work.

The garden is looking beautiful with all the summer seedlings planted; capsicums, eggplants, tomatoes, potatoes, cucumbers, zucchinis, pumpkins, beans & corn.

We have had new compost bays & two new veggie beds built this year too, plus the addition of 12 fluffy chickens, a biodynamic gardening workshop & we grew 257 kg of food! Congratulations to Mergie who won our produce guess at 260kg.

It has been a fun & productive year, and I look forward to sharing in the harvest when we return after summer. Happy holidays & growing everyone.

Garden Gallery



L6 METUNG GRAD CAMP by Sarah

We headed to Metung with our Graduates for four days on our final camp of the year. The focus of the camp was a visit to the luxurious Metung Hot Springs. With our own private lounging dome, we frolicked for hours between the sauna, plunge pool and a variety of heated bathing pools.

Our accommodation was a house nestled in the township and provided a great space for lots of chill time and conversations. Just Dance was a big hit on this camp, as was the ever-present games of Mafia.

On our last evening we shared delicious wood-fired pizza and reminisced about each student's journey through KVS. Each student picking three highlights from their time at school, and three things they would miss the most.

Thomo and I were both pumped that Camps appeared many times on both lists!





Every corner of the Triskel learning spaces were transformed into moments of beauty with a semester's worth of artistic projects on display at this summer's Showcase Night. After a collective effort getting the space spick and span, KVS beamed with student work from the semester to be shared with parents and the wider community.

In the Triskel space, the numeracy pod presented student work displaying scale and ratio to enlarge a favourite cartoon character. The space also presented students' humanities projects, including the Level 3s and 4s deep-dive into endangered animals from the Americas, and the Level 5 and 6 crew investigating a favourite landmark outside Australia.

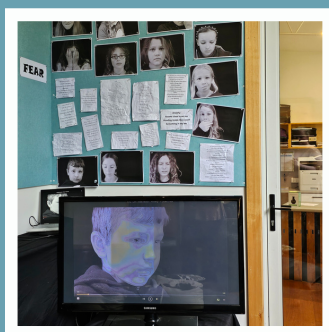


In the library and main space, the students' literacy projects were on show, including poetry, comic books, and a food writing unit of student recipes. The library presented a collection of poems exploring 'shadow emotions', such as fear and anxiety through poetic devices and accompanying art displays. In the main space, the steps of the 'BAS' were donned with a string of student recipes full of fun foodie adjectives, while the Level 2 pod was decorated with original characters, storylines, and pops of colour in student comic books.

The corner of the BAS was also a burst of colour with students sharing their intentions for the Semester in Cognition and Connection. From sustained attention to organisation, students outlined their priorities in statements and expressive pastel drawings.

Across the walkway, the Art Shed transformed into our own pop-up shop of handmade clothing designs featuring lino and foam-cuts as well as tie-dye colour swirls, the bounty of the garlic harvest in the Kitchen Garden, and a highlight reel of fun times and smiles on out-and-about and camps.

Last, but not least, Leah and Dec wowed us with never-ending fresh focaccia and dips with the kids (and parents) getting the opportunity to decorate the pan with flowers and edible herb foliage. The slow-paced event and welcome warm weather was a nice opportunity to enjoy the fruits of our labour and celebrate our school.





Celebration Night

by Scotty



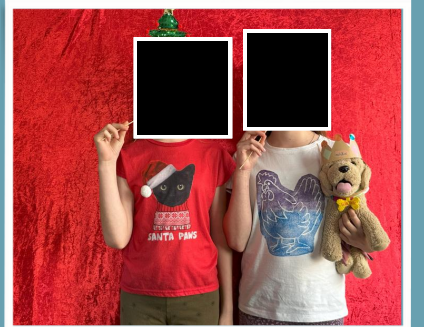
That's all, folks! 2023 is officially done and dusted. The KVS tradition of Celebration Night is one of our most important - it serves as a celebration of all the members of our community - from staff, to parents, to students and the wider community. And in particular, it celebrates and farewells our amazing Level 6 graduates.

The formal festivities of course began with the Sunroom performance. And what a start to the night this was, as our foundies and Level 1s 'flowed' their way across the asphalt, before finding themselves centre stage to perform their rendition of 'This Little Light of Mine'. While the Sunny performance provided a tranquil and heartwarming start to the night, the Triskels quickly upped the energy, as they headbanged and air-guitared their way through the Triskel performance. Perhaps we'll never hear 'Smells Like Teen Spirit' again without immediately thinking of tomatoes, avocados, mosquitoes and bambinos... While the Triskels may have forgotten what the original lyrics even were, we sure won't forget the Level 6s, or the way they power-posed at the apex of the performance!

Following on from dinner and some yummy desserts (thanks Leah and Dec!), we found our way into the Art Shed for the Graduates slide-show. Angus presented a slide for each student, featuring cutesy 'progress' shots of the students from the time that they began at KVS, to their final year. Of course, another long-serving tradition at KVS is that each graduate is presented with a word which captures the essence of who they are. As we highlighted and stopped to appreciate each individual graduate, they stepped on stage to receive their Graduate quilts - created with prints from KVS staff and students. We have to of course give a big thanks to Daylene for being the main driver of putting together the quilts, as well as Trace for working with the students to create their prints. Thanks also go out to Maxine, Kelly and Leah for helping with the final touches in the lead up to Celebration night!

Finally, the night wrapped up with dancing, photo-booth snapshots and final farewells. Thank you and farewell to all of our graduates and families who won't be returning in 2024, but we hope to see you pop in at some point next year! For those who will be returning, we wish you a fantastic summer break, and look forward to seeing you return for an awesome start to 2024!

PHOTOBOOTH FUN



Farewell & Good Luck!



Good luck Thomo in your new position at Bass Coast College!

The team at KVS wish you all a very happy summer break!