

Cycle 2, 2024

Newsletter



"Having a break from our work, to enjoy the glorying classical days,
making bright memory, is what we call a festival.

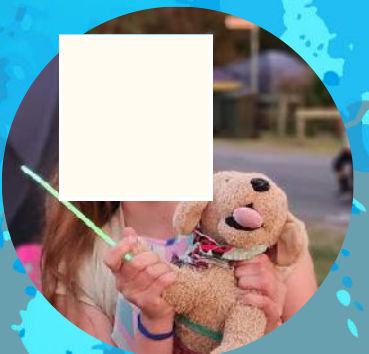
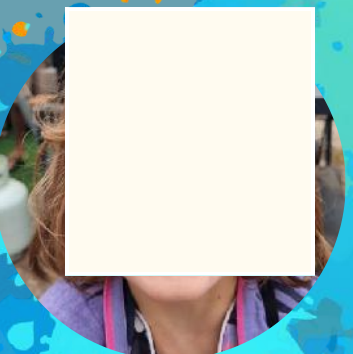
Wearing the heartening attire, lighting the soulful diyas,
making the house shine as bright as the sun, is what we call a festival."

- Manvi Rawat

Important Dates for Cycle 3, 2024

Monday 15th April	First Day of Cycle 3
Wednesday 17th April to Friday 19th April	L6 Leadership Camp
Thursday 18th April	Bush Regeneration PLP
Friday 19th April	Meeniyah Art Cube Setup Out & About
Friday 19th April to Monday 29th April	Meeniyah Art Cube Display & Out & Abouts
Tuesday 23rd April	Public Information Session
Wednesday 24th April	Bush Regeneration PLP
Thursday 25th April	Anzac Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 30th April	Meeniyah Art Cube Packdown Out & About
Wednesday 1st May to Friday 10th May	L5/6 10 Day Camp (South Coast NSW)
Thursday 2nd May & Thursday 9th May	Bush Regeneration PLP
Thursday 9th May	Sun Room Incursion
Wednesday 15th May	Day Program (L2 - L6)
Friday 17th May	Student Free Day (Planning Day)
Saturday 18th May to Sunday 26th May	Cycle Break
Monday 27th May	First Day of Cycle 4

FACES



Cycle Two Reflections

by August

There is really only one lens through which to reflect on our second cycle of the year—the FAMP-coloured lens! Cycle Two had three distinct phases: Pre-FAMP, FAMP, and Post-FAMP.

Pre-FAMP got off to a cracking start with preparations getting underway, although our rhythm was somewhat interrupted by the reality of NAPLAN falling in Week 2. Triskel students embraced their NAPLAN practice in Week 1 and applied themselves wonderfully in Week 2 during the testing period. The well-worn ritual of a morning lap of the KVS Wilds followed by a hot chocolate well and truly lives on, although students were not at all impressed when a second test in the one day did not result in a second hot chocolate. I have later learned that this is standard practice. At least I'll know for next year!

And then it was all about FAMP! And what to say about FAMP 2024? It was another amazing event, full of all the FAMPy bits we all know and love. I especially enjoyed seeing new families embrace the spirit of the event and thoroughly get amongst the festivities. Hats off again to Sarah, our FAMP Enchantment Coordinator, for driving the show so brilliantly. Thanks again to the KVS team for your investment in our community. Thanks to all the families for volunteering and getting around it all. And finally, thanks to our amazing students for bringing the fun and the joy.

Then came Post-FAMP - the afterglow. It was fun to return to school and swap stories with other tired FAMP-goers of the FAMP that was. There was also plenty of work to be done in the last couple of shorter-than-usual weeks, which kept us all really busy. And now the memories of late summer swims and warm afternoons have given way to cold nights and the return of some very welcome rain. The ground is a little softer now as we turn our attention to Cycle 3 and new adventures.





Sun Room Update



Pasta? Pizza? Chinotto? Are we somewhere on Lygon Street? No! The Sun Room team feasted all March at the Sun Room Italian Restaurant. The pizzas were piping hot, and the service was exemplary! Students swapped roles between pizza maker, pasta sorter, waitress, customer, and dishes doer, which were not as popular as being a customer! 😊

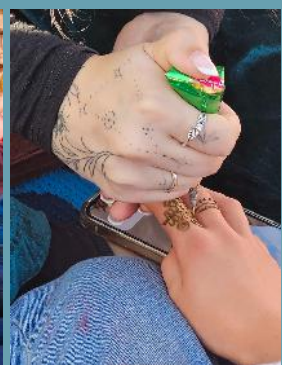
The Sand Pit also remained a favourite place during Sparks time to dig waterways under bridges, build volcanoes and occasionally become covered in a slurry of unidentified substances!

In Literacy, students explored sound-letter relationships and learned high-frequency words from a variety of texts. Humanities involved a glorious investigation into family trees and the foods we love.

We also had a wonderful time investigating toys from the past and comparing them to our current favourites, and it was fun finding out which kinds of toys have been around for a very long time, like the doll and the humble stick!

We all had a glorious time at FAMP. The Sun Room students loved the quiz, beach play and the outdoor film night.

Wishing all our families a well-deserved cycle break.
Lizzie, Kelly, Max and Trace



F
A
M
P

Triskel Update by Farrah



The Triskel crew hit the ground running, infusing new energy and enthusiasm into their learning amidst a busy cycle marked by FAMP and precious end-of-summer beach days.

After a gentle start in Cycle 1, during which they became familiar with Ongoing Tasks such as Maths Mate and Independent Reading, the Triskels had their first taste of new learning in their Key Learning Areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Cognition and Connection and Humanities.

In Literacy, the Triskels got comfy in their new Literacy Pod with their mascots, Lizard Jeffrey and Wombina the Wombat. Students leapt into the year exploring news articles and interviewing skills, impressing this mentor with their first vox pop interviews about friends' FAMP experiences.

In Numeracy, Scotty led the count with times table practice games and place value activities. The Triskels had fun playing Kaboom and exploring BIG numbers with many zeros.

Cognition and Connection facilitated ongoing connections to self and place, with students creating thoughtful and creative responses to 'home' and their place at school. The students' acrostic and haiku poems about their favourite KVS trees were so beautiful that we look forward to displaying them at the next Showcase!

Finally, Humanities got off to a comprehensive start with an inquiry into major events in Australian history, including the arrival of First Nations people to the continent and the arrival of Europeans many many years later. Students uncovered key events, timeframes and dates, as well as some key people from these periods.

Early signs show we're in for a big year of creative and fun learning in the Triskel space.



Kitchen

FAMP

Day Program: Beach

by Dan



Triskel students were eager to make the most of the last remnants of Summer on our four distinct beach adventures this cycle. Some students leaned into their known joys and comfort zones, while many tried and experienced things for the first time, pushing their boundaries and opening new horizons.



A few groups had the opportunity to get up close and personal with the majestic Smooth Rays of Inverloch jetty. The large females can get up to 350kg, which we found can feel rather imposing, especially when they are moving swiftly towards you! I'm sure I'm not the only one who has come away from these close encounters with a new sense of appreciation of and connection with these wonderful creatures.



Jumping featured heavily for most of the avid adventurers, with low tides adding to the challenge and excitement of flinging ourselves off the jetty. We discussed and demonstrated safety precautions so we could embrace this near universally loved activity without incident.

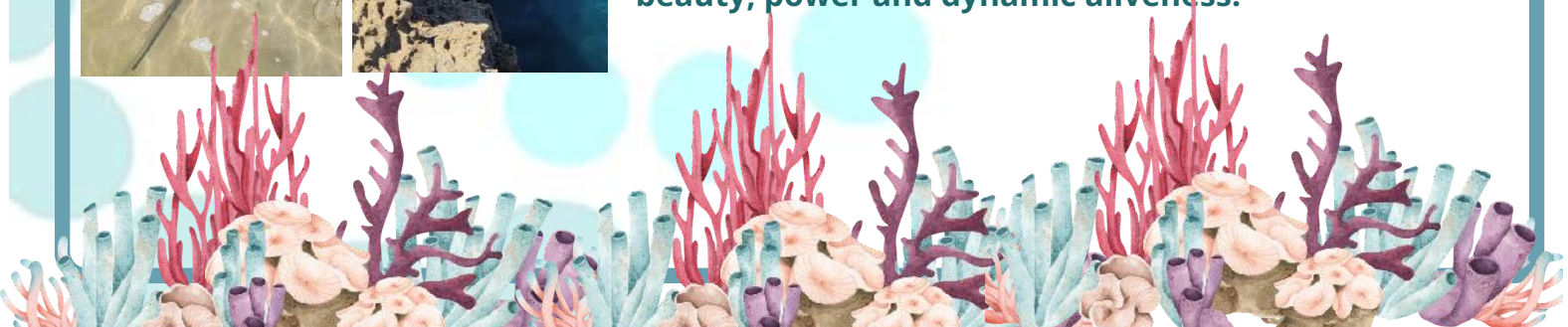


One group was lucky enough to have perfect conditions at The Oaks for jumping into and snorkelling in the rockpool in the westerly headland. Some students have already recruited their parents to take them back to this stunning spot! We will undoubtedly be back for future adventures!



Among the many other highlights of this cycle's program were rock hopping, rockpool rambling, investigating caves, drifting with the outgoing tide, walking a section of the Bunurong coast and being barked at by a lazing seal!

These adventures reminded me how much I love our coast and what a joy it is to share and experience its beauty, power and dynamic aliveness.





Kitchen Update

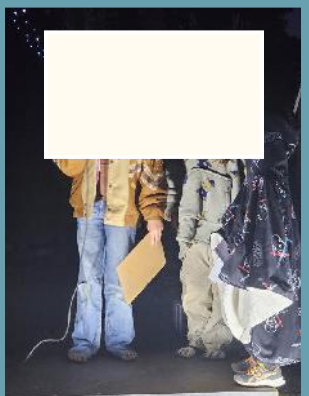


The first two cycles of the year have been industrious and inspired in the KVS Kitchen. As usual, our seasonal menu has showcased Leah's flair for abundance, Declan's knack for creating perfectly balanced salads, and a wonderful selection of produce from our garden, thanks to Max and our students.

One of our lunch highlights this cycle has been our spontaneous 'Pizza Days', which have been met with much fanfare. The pizzas are evolving too, from a baseline 'delicious' to 'watch out, Trullis!'.

Nothing quite showcases our beautiful kitchen offerings quite like FAMP! We were treated to some incredible breakfast spreads, colourful lunches and extraordinary dinner options. The excitement on the faces of the students was evident at every mealtime. Thanks to our amazing kitchen volunteers at FAMP also - it was a shared effort and a perfect demonstration of why we see our kitchen as the heart of our school.

FAMP Quiz





Passion Projects

by Mo



A glorious flotilla of new Passion Project ideas has descended upon us these past two cycles!

- An upgrade to our KVS skate ramp, including a resurface & extension/upgrade of the drop!
- Several stall ideas, including stunning handcrafted jewellery, sweet & spicy treats, delicious dried fruit cups & scented bath bombs!
- A DnD-inspired balrog statue (possibly carved from wood!)
- A wolf-themed human hidey-hole carpentry build
- A banana apocalypse-themed video game
- Multiple PC building concepts + second-hand parts hunt
- An illustrated novel, Intergalactic Zoo, starring Super Chicken & Sidekick
- A custom colourful nails business
- A thrifty threads online shop front

These new ideas join a few Passion Projects continuing from last year, including:

- An outdoor peaceful water environment (not a frog pond)
- A couple of billy cart builds
- A beautiful illustrated children's storybook
- The Coco Queens & Q&E's Sweet Treats will return!



**FAMP
BASE
CAMP**

FAMP

- by Sarah



Oh, what a FAMP it was! The glorious spread of Base Camp, filled with music and bubbles and the joyful sounds of people SSUPing their little hearts out. The race of people over the carefully crafted Sneak course, the disco vibes, the extraordinary levels of participation in the Quiz... We loved it all!

Connection and community are the keywords of FAMP as we come together to share four days of feasting, laughter and play. FAMP is the beating heart of KVS, the essence of our school distilled into a unique and slightly quirky experience that we drink down eagerly.

The week started slowly, with plenty of Base Camp Time and our first trip to the beach. Whether it is enjoying a relaxing massage, sipping a chai, or playing a game of chess, we like to ease in gently at FAMP! The Wild Ones Disco reverberated through the ocean air on that first night as feet beat on the ground and we raised our arms high.

Tribe Walks connected us to place and others as we wound our way through the beautiful coastal scrub. Community singing and an open-air movie allowed us to relax before winding up for some of the more electric events. Sneak, which is always a great favourite, was epic yet again, with Declan taking out the hotly-contested Mentor run. The final night was the eagerly-as-ever anticipated Quiz Night.

A few highlights included Connor's extraordinary whip-cracking and the sheer number of Foundation students who were willing to come up on stage. And who could forget the Sandcastle (That-Is-Not-A-Sandcastle) Competition, the final event on the FAMP timetable? The beach was filled with industrious builders who shared their carefully crafted stories about the incredible creations that emerged!

A huge shout out to our kitchen team for their extraordinary efforts in feeding us with such bounty. To all the vollies, mentors and families who help create the experience of FAMP, thank you for all you brought and shared.

Till next year,
FAMP Enchantment Coordinator

Looking Ahead

	Sun Room	Triskelion
Cognition & Connection	Kimochis	Nonviolent Communication & Restorative Practices
Literacy	Letter-Sound Relationships & Letter Formation (F)Phonics, Blending, Segmenting & Sightwords (L1)	Sound to Symbol Phonics, Decoding & Sightwords (L2)Informative Texts, News Articles & Interviewing Skills (L3-6)
Numeracy	Addition, Symbols, Counting Patterns, Money (F)Subtraction, Place Value, Counting Patterns, Money (L1)	Subtraction, Place Value, Times Tables (L2)Addition, Subtraction, Fractions (L3-L4)Multiplication, Division, Fractions (L5-L6)
Humanities, Science & Digital Technologies	Life Cycles, Seasons & Weather Patterns	Australian History (cont.)
Art	Birds - Sculpture, Inks, Clays & Groupwork	Birds - Sculpture, Inks, Clays & Groupwork (L2-L4)Slowmotion (L5/6)
PE	Collaborative Games & Skills-Based Rotations	Soccer, Kick-ball & Football
Kitchen/Garden	Autumn Planting - Garlic, Broad Beans, Peas & Green Manures	
Sparks/Passion Projects	Pet Shop & Veterinary Clinic	x5 Ongoing Projects from 2023x7 New Projects 2024
Out & Abouts, Day Programs & Camps	Pet Shop Incursion	Leadership Camp (L6)10-Day Camp (L5/6)
PLPs	N/A	Bush Regeneration PLP

Koonwarra Village School respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of the South Eastern Kulin Nation - the Bunurong People. We extend this acknowledgement to the neighbouring Gunaikurnai people.

We pay our respects to their Elders, past and present, and recognise their role in caring for Country over tens of thousands of years.

We acknowledge our true history and appreciate the significance of our connection to place as we live, work, play and walk together.