



School Council President's Report – February Meeting

Dear KPS Community,

Following our February School Council Meeting — the final meeting of the current Council — please find a summary of updates below.

School Council elections will take place in March, with nominations due by 4:00pm on Thursday 12 March. There are four parent vacancies and two staff vacancies. If you are interested in joining School Council for a two-year term, please complete the nomination form shared via Compass or collect one from the school office. Being part of School Council is a valuable way to contribute to the governance and future direction of our school, and we warmly encourage community members to consider nominating.

Principal's Report

The Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0 is now embedded across the school. Our continued focus is on integrating our Learning Dispositions into daily classroom practice through learning intentions and success criteria. Learning intentions describe what students are expected to learn, while success criteria outline how they will know they have achieved it. Our Learning Dispositions are: Curious, Creative, Collaborative, Adventurous, Problem Solver and Resilient.

An exciting initiative underway is the development of a Learning Dispositions school song, complete with actions to help build school spirit and engagement. Learning Dispositions Awards will also be presented at assemblies to recognise and celebrate positive learning behaviours.

Our wellbeing focus continues, including strengthened partnerships with external services to better support students and families. Staff professional learning this year has included targeted wellbeing sessions, and Education Support staff recently completed professional development focused on strategies to further support students with ASD and ADHD. Feedback indicated this session was highly valuable.

The Wellbeing Team has also been conducting Student Support Group (SSG) meetings — collaborative discussions between families, school staff and other support services to review progress and plan targeted supports for individual students with disability or those in out-of-home care.

This year we are introducing an additional assessment measure. DIBELS will be implemented across the school to strengthen literacy data collection and early intervention processes.

Current enrolments stand at 301 students. Census Day occurred last week, and enrolments as of this date determine our School Resource Package (SRP) funding for the year.

Trina, our school nurse, has been conducting Prep health screenings. This free, basic health check is a valuable service, and reminders will be sent to families who still need to complete documentation should they wish to participate.

We thank Vanessa for stepping into the Business Manager role during Deb Allshorn's recent leave and for doing an excellent job ensuring continuity.

Throughout the term, a range of school activities have taken place or are planned, contributing positively to student engagement and community connection.



Finance

The Finance Sub-Committee met in February to review recent financial reports, staffing credits, receipts and grant updates.

Based on 2025 estimates, we are projected to operate at a deficit again this year. However, we are awaiting more accurate figures from the Department of Education now that the February census and confirmed enrolments (301 students) are finalised. Once received, we will be able to share a clearer projected position.

Disability Inclusion funding applications will be lodged for newly eligible students who already have education support in place. Once approved, this funding will help reduce the projected deficit by offsetting support staff costs that have already been incurred.

Reconciliations for camps, fundraising and uniform trading were reviewed. The 2026 volunteer register has been reviewed, and policies scheduled for review remain up to date.

The Draft 2026 Annual Master Budget was reviewed and approved at our November 2025 meeting. The finalised budget, including the 2026 Equity Budget, will be presented to School Council for approval following SRP reconciliation after the February census.

Parents & Friends (P&F)

The P&F AGM has been rescheduled to Thursday 5 March at 9:00am in the staffroom, where new office bearers will be appointed. The P&F warmly invites new members to get involved in planning fundraising and community events.

Upcoming events that all families are encouraged to attend:

- Working Bee – Sunday 15 March from 10am, focused on commencing the Mobok garden/outdoor classroom area near the kinder car park.
- Welcome BBQ – Friday 20 March from 5pm.

A blender has been purchased for the canteen using allocated P&F funds.

The Year 5/6 team has expressed their appreciation for the newly updated books purchased with P&F funds at the end of last year. These provide a broader range of readers for students and are already supporting curriculum implementation.

Grounds & Facilities

The bore system for the oval is now fully operational. However, due to limited summer rainfall, a significant water bill was incurred to maintain the oval through its first summer. The oval has held up well, with only minor cracking appearing on the northern side of the oval, where remedial works will be undertaken.

As part of our community outreach, we have been pleased to support various sporting teams in using the oval and courts. All groups have been respectful of the school grounds.

Planning continues for the installation of new seating platforms in the Mobok garden area, which will form an outdoor classroom and play space. These will be installed at the working bee on 15 March. The garden component will be addressed at a later date when planting conditions are more suitable.



Sustainability

Our Garden & Sustainability group includes eight enthusiastic Grade 3–6 students this year, led by Mrs Tracey and supported by Mary, our dedicated community volunteer. The garden is thriving, and students recently worked with local specialist (and KPS parent) Duncan Cocking to learn about pruning fruit trees, further building their knowledge and practical skills.

After losing worms in one bin over summer due to extreme heat, new worms have been purchased. The team is now planning strategies to better protect them next year.

We were proud to have our gardening program featured recently in the Sunbury and Macedon Ranges Star Weekly as part of a story about the ResourceSmart School program.

Canteen

Despite lower enrolments in 2025 compared to the previous year, canteen sales increased.

To support rising costs, small pricing adjustments to selected menu items have been approved by School Council. Hot chocolate will be introduced during Terms 2 and 3 as a seasonal treat.

Sarah Lockhart will shortly introduce a new initiative, a monthly Multicultural Meal or Snack celebrating the diverse backgrounds within our KPS community. Families will be invited to contribute recipes that reflect their cultural heritage, encouraging community involvement and cultural appreciation across the school.

Communications

Late in 2025, a survey was circulated seeking feedback on camps and a proposed model to reduce staffing and Time in Lieu costs associated with camps. To help ensure our students can continue to attend school camps, we explored the feasibility of including one or more carefully selected camp volunteers (parents, guardians, casual relief teachers or other trusted adults) per camp.

Survey responses were very positive:

- 100% of respondents rated their child's previous camp experiences as good or excellent.
- 96% agreed camps are a valuable experience.
- 96% supported KPS offering camps in Years 2, 4 and 6.

Families highlighted adventure activities, social connection, independence and personal growth as key benefits.

A small number of responses raised thoughtful considerations about timing and readiness for younger year levels, which will inform future planning.

89% of respondents supported the proposed volunteer model to help reduce the increasingly prohibitive costs associated with staff Time in Lieu and Casual Relief Teacher backfill. It is important to note that KPS teaching and support staff will remain the primary supervising adults on all camps, and clear criteria for selecting volunteers has already been established.

Sixteen parents expressed interest in volunteering for future camps. Clear communication around roles and responsibilities will ensure camps continue to run safely, smoothly and as rich learning experiences for students.

As this was the final meeting of the current School Council, I sincerely thank all members for their time, dedication and contributions.



If you are interested in contributing to this work, please consider nominating for School Council.

Thank you for being part of our engaged and supportive school community.

Katy McGrath

School Council President

katy.mcgrath@education.vic.gov.au