

Principal's Report

Teachers completed the final round of collaborative learning walks during Term 3. The rounds focused on activating prior knowledge, explicit teaching and reviewing learning, all practices aligned with the Victorian Teaching and Learning Model 2.0.

The learning walks gave teachers dedicated opportunities to observe practice across different classrooms, learn from one another and reflect together on what is working well. Staff reflections were very positive, and the process highlighted strong consistency in teaching and learning approaches across the school. Teachers particularly valued seeing their colleagues' approaches in action, while students responded positively to having other teachers visit their classrooms.

The next phase of the STAIR project commenced on 14 September. Led by Deakin University, the project explores ways to strengthen student physical activity, engagement and wellbeing through research, data and student voice. Staff and project partners have begun examining data collected from students. The data indicated that KPS students eat a considerable amount of fruit, although vegetable consumption was relatively low. Boys reported considerably more hours of physical activity than girls, prompting further consideration of how many Years 4 to 6 girls participate in sporting teams and what physical activity looks like for students outside school. Active transport to school was also lower than hoped.

The STAIR findings are being considered alongside the Years 4 to 6 Attitudes to School Survey. The two sets of results aligned closely, strengthening confidence in the findings. Pleasingly, the data also indicated a high level of student pride in KPS.

At the next STAIR meeting, a group of Student Council representatives will be invited to discuss the results. Students will be asked what they think about the findings, what they would like to see happen and what actions the school could introduce to improve the identified areas. This provides a valuable opportunity for students to help shape future wellbeing and engagement initiatives at KPS.

Preparations are also underway for the school's next review, which will inform the next four-year School Strategic Plan. The school is working with EduPoint consultant Shane Crawford to examine data and prepare ahead of the formal review process. Early in Term 4, PLC leaders will identify four or five priority areas for focused learning sprints that the school can continue to refine before the review.

KPS enrolments reached 308 students in 2026, with 15 additional students welcomed during the year. At the time of the meeting, 29 children were enrolled to begin Prep in 2027. The school will retain two stand-alone Prep classes, and the broader 2026 class structure is expected to be maintained in 2027.

Term 4 will provide many further opportunities for students, including regional and division sport, the Year 6 camp, French Day, the Visual Arts Exhibition, the KPS Colour Run, Year 6 graduation and end-of-year celebrations. It has also been wonderful to see Student Council members enthusiastically help shape the activities and opportunities available at the school.

Mr Rayner acknowledged that Term 3 had been a demanding one and thanked staff for the way they worked together and supported one another throughout the term.

Council also noted Jane Turner's resignation and agreed to send a letter thanking her for more than 20 years of service to KPS. Jane was recognised as a creative and collegiate teacher who brought warmth and positivity to the staffroom, as well as a passionate advocate for teachers and staff. Her contribution to sustainability, including helping establish the Gardening and Sustainability Student Group and encouraging recycling practices across the school, leaves a lasting legacy at KPS.

Finance

Council received and accepted the August financial reports, including account balances, receipts, payments and the updated budget position.

The budget deficit had reduced further to approximately \$126,000 and is expected to continue decreasing before the end of the school year.

Council approved the continued use of Maxim Office Group as the school's book and stationery pack supplier for 2027. Only minor changes to the packs are proposed, with costs expected to remain between approximately \$60 and \$100, depending on the year level.

The proposed voluntary parent contribution for 2027 remains unchanged at \$150 per student. Consideration of the 2027 Parent Payments documentation was held over until the next meeting so the school can use the Department of Education's updated template.

Council also reviewed the school's cleaning arrangements. The Department's cleaning allocation has not kept pace with current market rates and operating costs. Following consideration of the available options, Council approved the appointment of a new cleaning provider.

Parents & Friends

Parents & Friends continue to deliver a busy program of community and fundraising activities. The Father's Day Stall ran smoothly and received positive feedback from students and families.

The new KPS Krew merchandise was officially launched at the Daffodil Parade and was very well received. The T-shirts and tote bags look fantastic, and sales have continued to grow. The pulled pork roll and cake stalls were also successful, while the parade itself attracted strong participation and community support, and KPS being awarded 'Best School' entry.

The recent Trivia Night brought together approximately 50 people and was another successful social and fundraising event.

Final Term 3 fundraising figures were still being completed at the time of the meeting, but a strong contribution towards the new Gaga Pit was anticipated. The working bee on Sunday 18 October will also help prepare the site for installation. Thank you to everyone who has contributed their time, ideas, donations or practical support to bring this student-inspired project closer to completion.

Grounds & Facilities

Council approved a 12-month agreement with a local contractor for grounds and building maintenance. The contractor is familiar with KPS and the maintenance requirements of the new oval. Engaging a local provider is also expected to improve communication and responsiveness.

New soft fall was scheduled for installation during the school holiday period to improve the safety and usability of the prep playground equipment.

Families are encouraged to attend the Working Bee scheduled from 10am this Sunday 18 October. Many hands make light work so even if you're able to come for an hour that will make a difference.

Sustainability

The Gardening and Sustainability Student Group welcomed Nicole Howie from River Detectives to discuss how pollution enters stormwater systems and what communities can do to protect rivers and oceans. Students then tested water collected from the Campaspe River and developed a stronger understanding of what each result indicates about the health of local waterways and river life.

The group also received a visit from Graham Stockfeld, President of Turtles Australia. Students learned about turtle species found in the local area, how to identify them, how to help keep them safe and what to do if they encounter an injured turtle. Graham brought several live local turtles, giving students a memorable opportunity to observe them closely.

Students have continued collecting and sorting rubbish, supporting a whole-school clean-up and preparing the gardens for the warmer growing season. Council again acknowledged the valued support of local volunteer Mary White, who continues to guide students in growing produce in the school gardens.

Canteen

A proposed price increase for canteen items will be presented at the next School Council meeting. This follows the review reported in August, which identified higher electricity costs, increased wages and general inflation as contributing to rising operating costs.

Communications

Council discussed the Department of Education Parent/Carer Opinion Survey. A total of 49 responses were received, representing participation from 23 per cent of eligible families.

This was below the 30 per cent participation rate required for the results to be formally reported as representative of the school community. However, the feedback received remains valuable and will contribute to discussion and planning as the school prepares for its 2027 review. Thank you to every parent and carer who took the time to share their views.

School Camps

Council reflected on the recent Year 2 and Year 4 camps and acknowledged the significant commitment of staff in making these experiences possible. Both camps gave students valuable opportunities to build independence, strengthen relationships, experience new things and create lasting memories with their classmates.

Council also approved the program for the upcoming Year 6 camp. The camp promises to be a wonderful city adventure, with an exciting range of activities for students to enjoy together. It will be a memorable highlight of their final year at KPS.

Early planning has commenced for camp venues and arrangements for 2027.

Thank you to everyone who contributes in so many different ways to the KPS community. We look forward to sharing a busy and positive final term together.

Katy McGrath

School Council President

katy.mcgrath@education.vic.gov.au