

School Council President's Report

Dear Kyneton Primary School community,

It's been a busy and productive term so far, and I'd like to share some key updates from our recent School Council meetings.

Extraordinary Meeting – School Camps

Earlier this month, we held an Extraordinary School Council Meeting dedicated to discussing how we can continue offering high-quality school camps in a financially sustainable way. We are pleased to confirm that our planned Year 2, Year 4 and Year 6 camps will go ahead in 2025. We'll share more details of our discussions shortly and will be seeking additional input from you via a survey in the coming weeks.

Principal's Report

With Mr Rayner currently on holidays with his daughter in Scotland, Mrs Arnephy presented the Principal's Report on his behalf.

We heard about the school's focus on strengthening feedback practices across all year levels. Students are being supported to develop skills in giving and receiving constructive feedback – a key High Impact Teaching Strategy. High Impact Teaching Strategies are instructional practices that reliably increase student learning wherever they are applied. This work around feedback is helping students take greater ownership of their learning, and our consultant from EDUPoint Professional Learning has noted that consistent approaches are being implemented across classrooms. You'll hear more about this in an upcoming newsletter.

The school has also been conducting Progressive Achievement Tests (PAT) in Reading and Mathematics. These assessments, developed by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), help teachers identify where students are at in their learning and inform future planning.

There has been a change this year in the way the Department of Education requires mathematics to be reported. With the full implementation of the Victorian Curriculum Version 2.0, the previous reporting categories – Number and Algebra, Measurement and Geometry, and Statistics and Probability – will now be consolidated into one overall teacher judgement for Mathematics.

Prep enrolments for 2026 have begun to come through, and current school families will shortly receive a reminder to enrol any children starting Prep next year by 25 July.

School Finances

Council received an update on the school's financial position. At this stage, Kyneton Primary is forecasting a budget deficit of approximately \$275,000 for the 2025 school year. This is primarily due to a decline in enrolments from 330 students in 2024 to 308 in 2025, which has significantly impacted the school's funding under the School Resource Package (SRP).

As the drop in enrolments has been spread across all year levels, the number of classes and staffing levels have remained similar to last year. In addition, some Disability and Inclusion (D&I) funding left

the school with departing students, while new D&I funding applications for current students are still being processed by the Department.

The school's carry-forward surplus from previous years has also been reduced by the \$50,000 contribution to the recent oval rejuvenation project.

In more positive news, the school has received \$40,000 in Flexible Work for Classroom Teachers funding, which will support job-sharing staff by allowing for more shared planning time.

While the forecast deficit is concerning, we understand this is a situation that many schools face under similar circumstances. We are seeking strategic financial advice from the Department of Education to help manage this carefully and explore options to reduce its impact.

Uniform Supplier Update

Our uniform supplier AGS Prints has sold the distribution side of their business, A Plus, to Lowes, which comes into effect from 1 July. There will be a shift in how families can purchase uniforms. Lowes will offer 20% off days a few times a year and also offer a rewards card program. Further details around how uniforms can be purchased from 1 July will be sent out via Compass shortly.

Parents & Friends Report

Thank you to our Parents and Friends group for their tireless work this term. The Mother's and Carer's Day stall was a big success. While not intended as a fundraiser, this event gave students the opportunity to purchase a gift for the special person in their lives.

The election day sausage sizzle raised close to \$2,000. These funds will go toward new KPS-branded marquees and improvements to the Mobok garden – wonderful enhancements to our school grounds and events.

We acknowledged the small but dedicated group of families who consistently contribute to school working bees, and encourage more families to join the fun at the next working bee on Sunday 10 August.

Sustainability Report

Our student Garden and Sustainability group, along with two of our school captains, recently took part in a walking excursion to the Kyneton Botanic Gardens to celebrate the 162nd anniversary of the planting of a historic oak tree.

Managing rubbish around the playground remains a challenge. While waste generated by classrooms is being well managed, most litter seems to be coming from lunchbox items brought from home. Mrs Tracey will be discussing strategies to reduce this with the Garden and Sustainability group at their next meeting.

Principal Contract Renewal

Early in Term 1, School Council participated in the contract renewal process for Mr Rayner, whose current five-year contract is due for renewal in October.

Parent members of School Council provided feedback to the Regional Director for the North Western Region, focusing on the Department of Education's leadership domains – particularly around the implementation of our School Strategic Plan and Annual Implementation Plans.

Principal contract renewals also consider the annual Principal Performance Development Cycle, feedback from the Department's Senior Education Improvement Leader, and other relevant data points.

On 20 April, I received confirmation from the Regional Director that Mr Rayner's contract will be renewed for a further five years. We congratulate Mr Rayner and look forward to his continued leadership of Kyneton Primary School.

National Volunteer Week

Last week was National Volunteer Week – a perfect opportunity to recognise the many volunteers who support our school!

As a School Council, we reflected on the incredible collective impact of volunteer efforts at Kyneton Primary. This non-exhaustive list highlights just some of the contributions that enrich our students' school experience:

- Student volunteers who give up their lunch breaks to support the Play Program and help in the canteen
- The many "Honey helpers" who care for our wellbeing dog Honey
- Parent and community classroom helpers
- Turning Pages literacy volunteers
- Breakfast Club and canteen volunteers
- Parents who support with excursions, swimming programs, and sporting events
- Our wonderful pianist Mary, who accompanies the school choir
- Our Parents & Friends Association and all who contribute to working bees, fundraising event coordination and staffing, support at school events, Mother's and Father's Day stalls, grant writing, and creating opportunities for social connection
- School Council members
- The unseen extra efforts of our dedicated teaching and support staff

On behalf of School Council, thank you for everything you do to help make Kyneton Primary School a vibrant, welcoming community.

Should you ever want to contact School Council please feel free to get in touch with me via katy.mcgrath@education.vic.gov.au, or you might catch me in the playground.

Katy McGrath

School Council President