

## **School Council President's Report – June Meeting**

Following our June School Council Meeting, please find a summary of updates below.

### **Principal's Report**

Council received an update on learning, engagement and wellbeing.

The school's Annual Implementation Plan mid-year monitoring report has been discussed with our Senior Education Improvement Leader from the Department of Education. This process provides an important opportunity to reflect on progress against the school's goals and priorities, and to identify areas for continued focus in the second half of the year.

Throughout Term 2, staff Professional Learning Community (PLC) inquiries supported teams to focus on the additional data needed to inform Semester 1 reporting and student learning progress. Each year-level PLC determines its own inquiry focus, so it was pleasing to see strong alignment across the school around literacy assessment, reading progress, moderation and using evidence to plan next steps for students.

The Prep team focused on phonics and blending, supporting students to accurately blend known consonant and short vowel sounds to read CVC words. The Year 1/2 team worked on developing a consistent system for assigning reading progression points by bringing together a range of student assessment data. The Year 3/4 team focused on administering and analysing DIBELS data and participating in moderation to support consistent, evidence-based judgements. The Year 5/6 team also focused on DIBELS, using the data to plan targeted literacy strategies for identified student groups.

Council discussed the value of PLC inquiries as a practical and collaborative way for staff to explore, test and refine teaching approaches. Working in smaller teams creates space for teachers to reflect on practice, analyse evidence and trial strategies that directly support student learning.

Alistair also reflected on KPS's intentional approach to classroom set-up and teaching practice. Classrooms are designed to support both individual learning needs and collaboration, allowing students to understand themselves as learners while also coming together as part of a class community. This reflects a broader school approach where students are supported to recognise how they learn best, take responsibility for their learning, and understand that what works for one learner may look different for another. Each classroom is its own learning community within the broader school community.

Together, this work reflects the school's ongoing commitment to evidence-informed teaching practice, consistent assessment approaches and using data to support student learning growth.

Council also received an update on two important student wellbeing and engagement measures.

Students in Years 4–6 have participated in the STAIR study, led by Deakin University, which aims to improve the health and wellbeing of primary school students across Victoria. Students completed an anonymised short questionnaire about areas such as physical activity, screen

time, sleep, eating habits and wellbeing. The findings will be shared with the school and may help guide future wellbeing initiatives and targeted supports.

Students in Years 4–6 also completed the Attitudes to School Survey, an annual Department of Education survey that gathers student feedback about their school experience. This survey provides valuable insights into areas such as engagement, wellbeing, relationships, teaching and learning, and helps schools understand student perspectives to support positive learning environments. The leadership team and staff will review and reflect on the survey data in Term 3, with key findings and any areas for further focus to be reported back to School Council.

Parent–teacher interviews will take place on 22 July. These meetings are an important opportunity for families to discuss their child’s progress and achievement, reflect on Semester 1 reports, and identify areas for continued growth and support for the remainder of the year.

Council also noted that Deb Allshorn will be retiring at the end of Term 2. Deb has given 16 years of service to Kyneton Primary School and has made a remarkable 40-year contribution to the Department of Education. Deb has played an important part in the school’s history and will be missed. Council noted the thoughtful succession planning that has supported this transition, and congratulates Vanessa Fisher on stepping into the Business Manager role and Bree Warner on increasing her hours in the office to further strengthen the administration team. School Council warmly thanks Deb for her dedication and support, and wishes her the very best for her retirement and future adventures. Council also reflected on the contribution Deb’s husband Grant has made to the school community through his past maintenance work at KPS.

## **Finance**

Council received the April and May financial reports, with account balances, receipts and payments reviewed as part of the financial overview.

The school continues to monitor its 2026 financial position carefully. The updated budget position reflects a current deficit, and credits were also discussed. Disability Inclusion Program funding has been approved for a number of students, with an additional two to four students potentially eligible for further funding.

Council also reviewed and approved the 2026 Master Budget. There were a small number of variances from when the draft budget was presented in November, including additional budget lines for donations and fundraising activities. Discussion around Casual Relief Teacher costs confirmed that spending is currently below the projected budget for this time of year.

A number of financial authorisation changes were also approved following Deb Allshorn’s upcoming retirement. These changes ensure the appropriate staff members have access to banking, purchase order and purchasing card systems so that school financial processes can continue smoothly.

## **Parents & Friends**

Parents & Friends met on 20 May, with a strong turnout.

Planning is underway for an August Trivia Night, with a fun dress-up theme and raffle also being planned. This will be a great opportunity for the school community to come together while supporting fundraising efforts.

A potential KPS merchandise line, designed by a Parents & Friends member and to be produced by a local supplier, was also discussed. This will be progressed further in consultation with Alistair and Vanessa before plans are announced to the school community.

## **Grounds & Facilities**

Four picnic tables have been delivered and installed outside the Prep rooms. Council discussed the possibility of future fundraising to support the installation of shade structures over these tables.

The oval was temporarily closed to allow for maintenance and recovery following the recent excessive rainfall. More broadly, a range of maintenance works are currently being undertaken across the school.

Planning is also progressing for the proposed Gaga Pit, with a meeting scheduled with a contractor to discuss site selection and placement within the school grounds.

## **Sustainability**

The Garden and Sustainability team has been working diligently to reduce litter in the schoolyard and minimise waste going to landfill.

The school has recently purchased three new 100-litre bins, with students actively involved in labelling them and determining appropriate locations around the grounds. Waste at school is being carefully sorted into FOGO, worm food, recycling, soft plastics and landfill, with the goal of ensuring very little waste ultimately goes to landfill.

Ongoing education, improved signage and regular reminders are helping students understand and participate in these efforts. The introduction of a weekly Green Award has also had a significant impact, with more students choosing to collect litter during recess and lunchtime. This has resulted in a noticeable reduction in yard rubbish.

The vegetable gardens remain highly productive, with Sarah incorporating the harvest into items such as rhubarb muffins, rhubarb icy poles and green tomato ketchup. The Garden and Sustainability team also recently used produce to make rhubarb crumble.

KPS remains actively involved in both the River Detectives program and the ResourceSmart Schools initiative.

Planning is also underway for an upcoming tree planting day on Monday 27 July, when 50 recently donated trees will be planted. Adrian Perry has kindly agreed to coordinate the preparation work, including arranging the digging of holes before the event.

## **Canteen**

There were no major canteen updates this month, however the canteen continues to be an important and valued part of school life.

It is lovely to see the ongoing connection between the canteen, student learning and the garden program, with school-grown produce being used in creative ways.

### **Communications**

Council discussed the timing of parent–teacher interviews, including whether these are best held at the end of Term 2 or the beginning of Term 3.

Parent representatives expressed a preference for interviews being held at the start of Term 3. This allows families time over the holidays to read and reflect on student reports, and provides more time for parents and carers, particularly those with work commitments, to plan ahead and secure a suitable interview time.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to the life of Kyneton Primary School. Wishing all families and staff a safe and rejuvenating holiday break.

Katy McGrath

School Council President

[katy.mcgrath@education.vic.gov.au](mailto:katy.mcgrath@education.vic.gov.au)