“Keep your eyes on the stars, and your feet on the ground”
- Theodore Roosevelt

Important Dates for Cycle 1, 2021

Wednesday 27th January
First day of Cycle 1, Levels 1—6
Thursday 28th January
First day of Cycle 1, Foundations
Monday 8th February
Board meeting (6.00—8.00pm)
Wednesday 17th—Friday 19th February
FAMP, Cape Paterson Caravan Park
Monday 22nd—Friday 26th February
Cycle Break

Birthdays celebrated in January & February
Elena, Lara, Charlotte, Martha, Thomas, Amelie, Sophie, Evie N, Lauren & Eamon

2020 Graduates — Seth, Lenny, Siera & Blake
And that’s a wrap! Cycle 8 was so great in the Sun Room, as we had the delight of greeting two new students to KVS, Jules and Amelie, and had a fabulous time getting aquatinted. We also had the immense pleasure of conducting transition sessions for the 2021 Foundations. We welcomed Atticus, Clancy, Eddie, Lainey, Nelle, Tasman, Raynia, Evelyn and Duncan to our Sun Room. And guess what? Every single one of these students are siblings to current KVS students! We had a wonderful time with games and art, Lego and books, chats and laughter, and it felt like we’d known each other for an age. The Foundations had a fantastic time this cycle becoming author of their own books, creating a narrative, illustrations, front, and back cover and beautiful end papers. The results were stunning. Level Ones celebrated the growth that they had made over the year and focused on preparing for the epic journey of becoming a Triskel.

We finished off the cycle with an Out ‘n’ About with a trip to Inverloch Beach. We were blessed with a warming sun as we wet our toes, built sand castles, played in the park, and enjoyed hot chips. What a year 2020 has been! Memorable to say the least. As we say farewell to 2020, we are all looking forward to the summer season and more adventures in 2021.
Wilson Promontory was calling so the Level 2’s packed up the bus and headed down to enjoy the magical beauty of the Prom! As we knew we were going to be all tucked up in a nice warm group lodge we had a day packed full of adventures to do. First up, we had heard on the grapevine that there may be some new baby emus that we could see, so we ventured toward the northern end of the prom hopeful to cast our eyes on some beautiful baby emus. After seeing lots of wallabies on our emu quest, we walked into the Lily Pilly rainforest walk to go and admire the vast array of the different plants and animals we could find. This walk took us most of the afternoon and it was great to see everyone completing the challenge of a six-kilometre walk. Great job team!

Our evening was filled with exploring Tidal River and Norman Beach, watching a beautiful sunset whilst splashing our way through the little waves found on the beach, we even saw a wombat walking along the beach! Our final day came with long swims in Tidal River and watching lots of Yellow Tailed Black Cockatoos fly overhead. A great way to spend time together in one of the final camps for the year!

**Welcomes & Farewells**

This cycle we welcomed Amelie Hawkins and her parents, Madeline and Kirk, to the KVS Community. After a successful trial period, Amelie will join us in Level 1 in 2021. Please extend a warm welcome to Madeline, Kirk and Amelie when you see them around the school!

We also extend a warm welcome to Daylene Bolch in her capacity as Passion Projects and Literacy Mentor in 2021. Daylene’s children, Jules and Rohan, will be joining her at KVS next year. Jules will be in the Sun Room as a Level 1 student and Rohan will join the Triskels as a Level 4.

Farewell to Level 3 student, Clover Cocks. Clover will be starting her new school in 2021. We wish Clover good luck and happiness.

The end of Cycle 8 also saw us say ‘Goodbye and Good Luck’ to KVS staff members Jenelle and Clarky who are both starting new adventures in 2021!
The emphasis in Triskellion this cycle has continued to be around reconnection, as well as the completion of shared projects. We have also made time and space to reflect on the year that has been, as well as begin to cast our minds forward to the one that awaits us in 2021.

Even as we are winding down, we have still found a way to fit in all manner of exciting things, like our Graduate Camp, Health Camp, graduation performance rehearsals, epic poetry sessions, personal reflections on the semester, summer garden planting, a variety of sparky construction projects, end of year clean-ups, and preparations for our graduation evenings. But amongst the hustle of all of the above activities, what has really brought everyone together has been the shared desire to reconnect and enjoy each other’s company after the restrictions we experienced earlier in the year.

I’d like to extend a big thank you and congratulations to all of our students and their families for the way you have managed the many challenges that the year has presented. We at KVS wish you all a wonderful summer break, and with a renewed sense of optimism, we are all looking forward to seeing you all in early 2021 to greet what lies ahead.

It has been a crazy year for our Graduates! We decided that they needed a decadent camp to make up a little bit for such a disconnected level 6 year. We hired a house in Sandy Point, complete with a pool table that provided hours of entertainment, including an intense pool competition for a statue named ‘Kenny’ that we found in the Op Shop.

A lavish three course banquet was cooked by Henry and I on the first night, we dressed up in finery that we had all purchased at the Op Shop. We went on a 3 hour cruise around Wilsons Prom, complete with dolphins playing around the boat and seals! We filled our hours with surfing, dancing in the ocean at sunset and eating, particularly spectacular South Melbourne Dim Sims.
Well, what a busy finish to the year! Within the hustling and bustling nature of Cycle 8, the students and I were able to complete heaps of projects. These included a half pipe/mini ramp, revamp the greenhouse and move the bee fence ready for their relocation. All the materials for these projects had been organised last cycle, so that when we returned, we could get stuck straight into them.

The first build was the half pipe, and it was the brainchild of Asha and Gus. They had been hoping to build it as apart of their Passion Projects pre-COVID19. The construction took three days, with lots of different students contributing to its development. Some may say the building was their favourite part, but from what I can see, using and sharing the ramp with others has been beautiful to watch. Almost as quickly as it took to build, students had learnt to drop in, rock to fakie and for most, pick up a new hobby.

Health Camp by Sarah
Health Camp was an idea that started in 2019, and it was so well received by the students that we have decided to include it in our regular camp program. The idea is for the Level 5 and Level 6 students to spend time away from school discussing the physical, emotional and social changes that start to happen around this time.

Being away from school, allows us to create a unique space for some of these more interesting conversations. The format is conversational, with plenty of time for reflection, connection and questions. We have delicious food, an anonymous question box and we stay in a lodge. We may also have eaten ice-cream for breakfast. Next year we will be separating the Level 5 and Level 6 Health Camps, and running a two night camp earlier in the year for the Level 6 group and a one night camp for the Level 5 students later in the year.
It was the last event of 2020, the Graduation Celebration! The weather was balmy, as our Level 3 to Level 6 families lounged on picnic rugs listening to the Triskels performance, some shared poetry and a spine-tingling piano performance. We said farewell to Jenelle and John over dinner and then said goodbye to our four amazing graduates as we feasted on an incredible shared dessert.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our amazing mentor team for their work in 2020, to the KVS Board for their on-going support, our families and all of the students who have journeyed with us in this crazy adventure of a year. For me, personally, this has been such a year of growth and reflection, and as I turn my mind and heart to 2021, I feel excited to gather up our learnings from 2020 and carry them forward into the tenth year of Koonwarra Village School.

I hope you all have a beautiful summer break and we will see you next year.

Sun Room Celebration Picnic by Kelly

We all enjoyed a wonderful night celebrating the end of an unusual school year for F-2 students. Many hours of rehearsals ensured a wonderful performance for all the friends and family who had gathered on picnic rugs. Level 2 students kicked off the entertainment with a singing, dancing and visual rendition of ‘Born to be Brave,’ sharing thoughts from around the school community on what it means to be brave. There were smiles all round and the dance moves were top class.

The Level F-1 students took to the stage in brightly coloured costumes for their interpretation of the much-loved classic picture story book, ‘Room on the Broom.’ Cole narrated with confidence, pausing to allow the actors to say their lines. Lead roles included Evie the witch, Billi the cat, Reuben the dog, Dan the frog and Martha the bird, surrounded by wonderful supporting roles, which included all students.

As the story goes, the witch befriended a small menagerie which joined her on her broomstick through the sky, only to meet with disaster. As a terrible monster, played by Patrick, Connor and Thomas, threatened to have witch and chips for its tea, something even scarier rose from the swamp. After rescuing the witch, the cauldron was lit, and a spell brewed a brand-new broom. The performance was followed up by a relaxed family picnic, with great music, great company and a spectacular dessert buffet organised by Jacqui and Lucy.