Important Dates for Cycle 5, 2021

Monday 12th July
Wednesday 14th July - Friday 16th July
Wednesday 21st July - Friday 23rd July
Tuesday 3rd August
Thursday 5th August
Thursday 12th August
Friday 13th August
Saturday 14th August - Sunday 23rd August
Thursday 19th August
Friday 20th August
Monday 24th August
Saturday 28th August

First Day of Cycle 5
Tarra Bulga Camp (Lv 3-5)
Walkerville Camp (Lv 3-6)
Sun Room Out & About Group 1
Sun Room Out & About Group 2
Winter Gathering
Student Free Planning Day
Cycle Break
All Day Dress Rehearsal & Full Performance, "The Nameless Princess"
All Day Dress Rehearsal & Full Performance, "And They All Lived.."
First Day Cycle 6
Foster One Act Play Festival
This cycle in the Sun Room we were thrilled to have wonderful and magnificently well-stocked hospital for us all to play in.

The Sun Room and Triskel students had a fantastic time bandaging limbs, assessing injuries, popping into the X-ray machine for a diagnosis, and performing vital operations.

We had a ball checking for heartbeats and the very special visit from Kelly’s very pregnant daughter, Lexie, allowed us to hear a baby heartbeat whilst in the womb which was a stellar moment!

We also had a few babies born in the Sun Room Hospital, and the after care for these newborns babies was delivered with care and excellence!

Thank you to Lisa Shannon who helped us source bandages, syringes, and all the extras that made the Sun Room Hospital so special.

We extended our hospital learning into literacy by drawing our bodies and labelling a variety of body parts.

The Foundation students had a laugh finding their rainbow words hiding in the books of Dr Seuss and in their own readers.

In maths, the Foundations delved into the wonderful world of subtraction with a mix of kinaesthetic learning and by using our fabulous Sun Room resources.

The Level One students explored non-fiction, planning and writing a great information text about their favourite animal.

Level Ones also made and used number lines to solve simple problems and a range of strategies for addition and subtraction. We also explored the attributes of 2D shapes, identifying shapes around us and using shapes to create images.

All in all, it was a such a fun cycle, and we are so excited about what next cycle might have in store!
What a time to be alive! At the start of the cycle, the mentors were gifted with a breathtaking rainbow on planning day. This must have been a sign of the magic that was about to happen for the cycle ahead.

While there were some speed bumps along the way, caused by a snap lockdown and power outage, the Triskels came together and produced a celebration night that will be one to remember!

The wonders of the Art-Shed provided a spectacular experience for Celebration Night, as there was some wonderful creativity on display in the form of all kinds of underwater creatures. The students, under the support of Shan, were hard at work producing this art over the past couple of cycles, and every piece was part of making the night more special!

Something new that was introduced within the Triskel space in Cycle 4 was grouped ongoing-task blocks. This has been super beneficial for supporting the students with staying on top of their ongoing tasks. It’s something that we will continue with moving into the next cycle, to allow the Triskels a greater deal of support and structure surrounding their weekly tasks.

Some passion projects are starting to take shape for the Level 3s and 5s, which saw them engaging in various activities, including clay making, building an A-frame ramp, coding, textiles, drawing and lots more. The Level 4s and 6s will be continuing their projects in Cycle 5, where there will no doubt be plenty of new sparks flying after the 2-week cycle break.

On a lovely wintery night, the Level 2’s indulged in a delicious dinner at Trulli’s in Meeniyan.

Unfortunately, we were not able to hold the Level 2 Sleepover Challenge this cycle due to COVID restrictions, however that didn’t stop the Level 2’s from enjoying a special night together.

After strolling through Nivarna Park and playing amongst the trees, we ventured into Meeniyan to feast on some tasty pizza!

We then made a stop in at the gelati bar, enjoying a double scoop!

We look forward to holding the Level 2 Sleep Over challenge as soon as possible.
What was it like for you as a child at school?
I was super happy leading my own play, so I struggled with the structure of mainstream education, but I loved art, music and reading PLUS I had good, solid friendships which I look back on with a lot of fondness.

If you were a child at KVS, would you like this school. Why?
I would have LOVED this school as a kid. My imagination and creativity would have thrived in this environment and the way the school is structured would have suited me perfectly.

Why did you want to join the Mentor team at KVS?
A good friend encouraged me to apply for the job as she felt it would be a good fit. I really like being helpful and I believe strongly in the KVS philosophy, so I think she was right!

What are a couple of your favourite things to do?
I like singing & playing guitar, quietly meditating, and being helpful to others 😊
It’s been a fun and varied cycle in Kitchen/Garden, with plenty going in the lead up to Winter Solstice...

Whilst the garden slows down a lot at this time of year, we have nonetheless enjoyed some late autumn/early winter delicacies. Broccoli shoots were one of the big highlights. We also had a big crop of cabbages, a first harvest of our beets, and ongoing supply from the parsley forest.

What’s Up and Coming?
We’ve got a few exciting things in the ground for Cycle 5. Our winter greens (coriander, dill, rocket, lettuce) will be approaching harvest, our beets will be ready to go, and we should have sugar snap peas and broad bean tops available soon too. There will also be some familiar veggies with our silverbeet, rhubarb, kale, broccoli and cabbages still providing.

Rainy Day Cooking
With inclement weather comes opportunities to get into the kitchen and support with morning tea and lunches. We made a delicious buttery fried rice one week and a pumpkin, sweet potato and carrot soup the next. On both occasions students battled some ferocious onions! The effort was worth it though, as both dishes proved popular at lunch.

Getting Ready for Celebration Night
We put in a big effort in Week 4 to start getting the garden ready for Celebration night. The Level 2 to Level 5 groups did a great job of mulch some of the muddier sections of the garden. They practiced using a loaded wheelbarrow and utilising garden forks. Meanwhile the Foundies and Level 1s did a fantastic job of designing some new vegetable signs to help families identify what plant is where.
This cycle we focused on drawing techniques, observation as well as exploring paint pens. First we practiced finding the base shapes in our reference photos, then we tried to draw lightly and loosely. We chose the lines that were most accurate and honed in on the finer details such as whiskers, expression and angles. Once the students were happy with their sketch, they coloured it in. We did not focus on colour matching, instead we had fun with the funky colours Posca’s have to offer.

The beauty of paint markers is that you can have great control over your lines, and you can layer colours without waiting long for it to dry. Once finished, we decorated some pots as the students really wanted to try Posca’s on a variety of materials.

I think they look amazing!
We headed up to Gelantipy for a day of connecting with horses and learning how to work with the horses to ride on some trails.

We learnt how to prepare the horses to be ridden, how to put on the saddles and how to brush the horses.

We all got on a horse and began our first trail ride. After a lunch by Little River Falls, we went into the paddock to play a few horsey games.

We then headed back out into the bush for a more extensive trail ride before packing up the gear and helping get the horses ready for the night.

An opportunity arose to spend the following day white-water rafting down the Snowy River. While we prepared for a cold day, we got down to the river and were met by sunshine and a perfect river level for the days paddle. We managed to see a lot of Platypus and worked in two teams to get the rafts down the river!

It was awesome to go on each of the activities and experience the Snowy River region in different ways!
This cycle in Cog & Con we have been focussing on growth mindset and building a stronger connection as a group.

Growth Mindset is a practice that is integrated fluently into our teaching and learning environment every day at KVS.

We are learning to look at the way fixed mindset and growth mindset play out in our lives, and how we can grow as individuals and together as a community.

Some of the skills we have talked about are flexibility, patience, inclusiveness of others, empathy, taking a risk to be yourself and allowing yourself to make mistakes and learn from them. We began a ritual each week, of connecting in a circle time at the start of each Cog and Con presentation.

This intentional practice allows each person in the circle the opportunity to share and listen to each other. A space to connect and learn things about each other that we might not know.

It was wonderful how creative and sparky everyone was with their answers and how ready they were to share. Cycle 4 certainly helped us practice patience and flexibility, but it was also full of rich laughs and connection!

FAREWELL EVIE

This cycle we farewell Evie Speed who is moving to Powlett River Primary School.

We wish her the best of luck at her new school!
I love Celebration Night! For me, this was the event that made me finally feel like things were settling into our new normal.

I know it requires lots of extra preparation time for the mentors and students at a busy time of year, but every time it happens, I see so much pride and joy in the students as they show their families all that they have achieved. This time was no exception!

As warm soup filled hungry bellies people explored our spaces: the garden, the BAS, the Art Shed, Base Camp and the asphalt.

The idea is that work is displayed in a way that inspires conversation, questions, and a deeper understanding of what our program looks like.

From the underwater art world, to the reflective comments about how students had felt about their learning, to the Passion Project Flow Diagram: these experiences allowed the students to discuss and share their school experiences.

I look forward to our end of year celebration!

CELEBRATION NIGHT  by Sarah