Important Dates for Cycle 4, 2021

First Day of Cycle 4
Wilson's Prom Health Camp
Level 2 School Sleep over
Level 2 Walkerville Out & About
Sun Room Out & About (Group 1)
Sun Room Out & About (Group 2)
Netball Friendly
Queens Birthday Public Holiday
Level 5 & 6 Horse Riding Camp
Triskel Presentation Night
Family Interviews
Student Free Planning Day
Mid Year Break
First Day Cycle 5
Level 3-5 KVS/PIVS Camp 1
This cycle in the Sun Room we had an ace time playing, exploring and investigating the Sun Room Super Supermarket. Set up for the cycle, this was a delightful creation focussing on all aspects of the shopping experience. Children selected and purchased goods with our magically modified Sun Room money, worked shifts the front register and restocked the shelves. The supermarket also provided ample opportunity to interact with others, learn the art of compromise, and reset goods daily so that they were orderly and appealing. The Sun Roomers and Triskels had oodles of fun and the imaginary play was a joy to behold.

Our Out ‘n’ About it was an extension of the shopping experience and we travelled to Leongatha in two smaller groups.

We purchased stamps at the Post Office and mailed our hand-written letters, and visited the Health Food Store to purchase an array of goodies that we turned into shared platters for an afternoon feast! The Leongatha Art Gallery welcomed us, and students browsed some incredible art. We finished the outing by visiting the Information Centre.

The Foundations had a great cycle as they continued their exploration into literacy using, sand, mud, chalk, playdough, and on occasion pencil, to create words and letters. We also explored where to find common words that we know in our favourite books. Level 1 students have been exploring the 44 sounds which make up our words, writing sentences with boundary punctuation, finding words on the word wall, and making plausible spelling choices in independent writing.

As a cohort we finished the cycle with ‘Wind in the Willows’ and were gifted with window art of beloved characters drawn by Kelly's granddaughter Layla. All in all, it was a thrilling cycle, and we are all excited by the possibilities that await us in Cycle 4.
What was it like for you as a child at school?
I used to love school, especially during the primary years. I went to school in Malaysia for the first half of my primary school days and came to Australia when I was in grade 4. So many happy memories for me during my school years and I wish I could go back to being a kid.

If you were a child at KVS, would you like this school. Why?
I used to be pretty motivated to finish my work on time so that I didn’t get my recess or lunch taken away from me, as I felt it was the best part about school. If I was to think like how I was when I was a child again, I would be basing if I liked KVS purely based on the how recess and lunch is played out, so it’s a big yes from me.

Why did you want to join the Mentor team at KVS?
Every time I walked through the gates of the school during my 3rd year placement and doing one day a week last year, I felt happy. I felt that the school had an amazing team where everyone got along, which was lead incredibly well. This place is full of positive energy and good vibes which was why I knew I wanted to join the mentor team.

What are a couple of your favourite things to do?
I really enjoy learning a new skill and overcoming the challenge of getting out of the "beginner" stage when you take up something new. My favourite things usually change every few years, right now it's surfing and free diving.
Cycle 3, where did the weeks go? Although it was a very productive cycle, it seemed to fly by.

This cycle, we welcomed Ross into the Triskel Space, who worked alongside Angus and Scotty while completing his final placement. Thanks for all you contributed during your time with us, Ross.

The central theme for reading presos this cycle was Shared Inquiry. It was wonderful to see students creating a safe environment where ideas could be explored and discussed as they thought deeply about the text and themes being studied.

Writing and Humanities joined together this cycle and continued to build upon the themes studied in Cycle 2. Students in levels 2-4 chose an Australian landmark to research and write an information report on and level 5 and 6 students each chose a country that interested them. Students worked hard to draft, revise and edit their reports and have created and published high-quality information reports. The students are eager to share these with you all during our presentation evening. After reading so many beautiful reports, I now feel I know so many more facts about our wonderful Australian landmarks and Countries from across the globe. I almost feel like I have been out and about travelling.

Each time I walk into the Art Shed, I continue to feel in awe of the incredible art being produced in there. The students’ individuality, creativity and patience can be seen in all the unique pieces. It is an honour to be invited to have sneak peeks of the process in which an artist can feel such a mix of emotions from joy and excitement to vulnerability as they take creative risk and try new thing. This is a credit to Shan and the students for creating such a safe place for creative expression and exploration.

Triskel students have been rocking the asphalt as they continue to show quiet determination as they finetune and attempt new tricks on their skateboards and scooters. Some students have been playing broom hockey, while others have also been busy choreographing dance routines or writing plays. If you wander around the school grounds, you will also notice an entire village taking form as students have taken to building elaborate cubbies and dens equipped with a currency and bartering system. I look forward in seeing what Cycle 4 brings 😊.
This cycle we kicked off our Crochet PLP. Although crochet looks like an easy craft, it is actually quite tricky to get the technique of holding your yarn whilst maintaining the right amount of tension so that your work isn’t too tight or too loose, therefore our first few sessions were all about getting the feel of the yarn between our fingers and just practicing our “chain” stitch over and over and over again.

It was beautiful to sit back and watch groups of children “yarning over” in the cosy corner and chatting amongst themselves.

In weeks 3-5 we broke into varied groups depending on our skill level. The younger ones were happy to sit and finger knit whilst the older group began creating beanies and gloves.

We now hope to continue mastering our craft with a lunchtime group each week. Overall I’ve been super impressed with their dedication and persistence and cannot wait to see more.

**Birthdays** - *by Shannon*

In Cycle 3 we celebrated April & May birthdays.

**Happy Birthday**
Harri, Bohdi, Lexie, Eddie, Atticus, Jules, Evie J, Matthew, Stuart, Phoebe, Rohan and Ted.
Dan P, Makenzi and Soph had a belated celebration as they missed out last cycle.
We’ve had a wonderfully productive time in the garden this cycle prepping beds and sowing our remaining winter crops whilst maintaining the veggies that went in the ground in early autumn.

Meanwhile, the kitchen team (Lucy and Jacqui) have done amazing job using the last of our summer crops to create delicious and nutritious morning teas and lunches for everyone.

WHAT WENT IN THE GROUND

Sugar Snap Peas (bush type)
Snow Peas (climbing type)
Broad Beans (first sowing)
Annual greens:
  - Coriander
  - Dill
  - Rocket
  - Lettuce
  - Endive
  - Spring Garlic

WHAT HAS FEATURED IN THE KITCHEN?

- Our last tomatoes in many-a-toastie/roastie (depending on your preference!)
- All of our leeks were used up in soups and stews.
- Rainbow chard, which featured prominently in Jacqui’s veggie lasagne!
- Sweet Potatoes! We had a great first harvest and there are still some left…. The seed came from Cassie and Aiden – thank you!
- Our Rhubarb crop was all used up in two serves of stewed rhubarb for morning tea (thanks Lucy!)
- The salad greens, which included mizuna, rocket and pak choy, were all used up in a variety of salads throughout the cycle.
- Last, but not least, our herbs, including basil, coriander, parsley, sage, and chives, were used in all sorts of lunch dishes. The last of our basil was dehydrated for future use.

Thanks to all our students for your hard work this cycle!
Last year I applied, and was successful, in receiving a scholarship from the International Forest and Nature Therapy Association to study to become a Forest Therapy Guide.

This is a six-month training program that started with a five-day immersive experience in Warburton, and continues online. The training involves planning and guiding people through an experience, in which the forest provides therapy.

There are incredible health benefits from spending time amongst the trees, and part of my training will involved offering free 3 hour walks to the KVS parent community, keep an eye on the Facebook page for the dates.

This course will allow me to bring a new range of skills and perspectives to our outdoor education program.

I would like to thank Susan and Dieter from IFNTA for this opportunity, and Alyson Skinner, the chairperson of the KVS Board for supporting my application.

Have you noticed the giant pots in the Art Shed this cycle? They have been ever evolving over the cycle, transforming into colourful and quirky art creations.

The mosaic PLP has been so much fun! Students have been cutting the tiles and using a hammer to create more random shapes, designing, and then filling all the space in with their tiles.

The pots will be completed over the next few weeks and ready to put out the front of the BAS for all to see.
On Tuesday the 4th of May, we had Abby from Netball Victoria come and hold a clinic from level 2-6. Abby and Kristen held two mixed groups. Levels 2-4 and Level 5-6, practicing similar skills to our weekly sessions and then playing a game of Netball numbers. The students were enthusiastic and engaged in these sessions and displayed confidence in their skills.

Heading into Cycle 4, the students will be practising their Netball skills as a weekly activity with some of the students joining PIVS for a Netball friendly in June.

The past cycle, levels 4-6 have been developing their Netball skills. The students have been developing confidence in their own skills in passing the ball and shooting goals, collaborating in small group games and learning how to play a variety of positions on the netball court.

An adventure road trip to Kangaroo Island saw eight students and Henry and Sarah travelling over to the island for ten days!

On the following pages, the students have put together a few sentences from some of the highlights they experienced on the camp.
While we were away I got to go fishing for the first time. There was a really cool sunset while we were fishing and the fish kept stealing my bait! We also went to a Raptor show which was cool. - Dusk

The bus trips were actually great, as it was a good way to socialise with people that normally I wouldn't get to. It was a great way to strengthen connections with others. It was also a way to find out more about people as we got a lot of time to talk in depth. I have come away from the experience knowing people much more than before which was super nice! - Hannah

So we went to Raptors Domain on Kangaroo Island. It was really cool there as we got to learn lots about all the different birds. It was awesome to do it on Kangaroo Island as there were lots of birds that were endemic to the island. We all got the chance to hold a bird and see them up close. Some were very pretty and it was fascinating to see them. I held a Frog Mouthed owl, and my favorite was Willie the Wagtail who came for mealworms and he wasn't even a part of the show! - Indigo

It was super fun to take photos at Remarkable Rocks, they were super cool I would definitely go back. It was a massive rock formation that had all different shapes and sizes, there were caves and the rocks made great lounge chairs. It was on the edge of Kangaroo Island and the rock formation was just above the sea! - Lexie
Fishing at Kangaroo Island was fun as we got to go to new places that we had never fished before. We also managed to catch a few Australian Salmon which was super cool as this was the first fish that I had caught! Along the trip we adventured to the Honey farm on Kangaroo Island to look around at how they made honey, we saw the Queen Bee in a glass hive and we ate some delicious honey ice cream :) - Jimmy

When we had big driving days, we got the chance to stop off at lots of different skate parks and playground, and check out some new sites and see all of the different play equipment. When we went to the Redwood forest it was big, dark and very very quiet. The trees were super tall! I liked going down to the river and getting my face and legs covered in mud. I liked all of the different campsites, and having time to explore around them. It was awesome to get the chance to stay away from home for 10 days, at times it was challenging but it was really cool that we all got through it. - Asha

On our last night we camped at Warbuton along the Yarra River, we had a nice warm fire and saw a really cool duck that kept coming to our campsite. Before venturing back to school, we stopped off at the Redwood Forest. This was a plantation of massive sequoia trees that we walked through, it was very quiet amongst the trees and there was a river running through the forest. - Jacob

On Kangaroo Island we went to Seal Bay to do a guided ranger tour. We walked along the beach with Sea Lions, as we were walking down the track we saw a pup sea lion and it was really really cute! We saw seals surfing on to the beach through the waves and there was a big bull seal scaring all of the females off. It was really amazing to see sea lions as this is one of the only places in the world that you can go on to the beach with these sea lions in the wild. - Ruby