Cycle 2, 2022 Newsletter

Important Dates for Cycle 3, 2022

Tuesday 19th April
First Day of Cycle 3

Monday 25th April
Anzac Day Public Holiday

Tuesday 26th April to Thursday 5th May
Little Desert & Grampians 10 Day Camp

Monday 9th May to Friday 13th May
NAPLAN Week (L3 & L5)

Tuesday 10th May
Sun Room Out & About (Group 1)

Thursday 12th May
Sun Room Out & About (Group 2)

Monday 16th May to Thursday 19th May
Licola Camp (L5 & L6)

Friday 20th May
Student Free Planning Day

Monday 30th May
Cycle Break

First day of Cycle 4

"If you have good thoughts they will shine out of your face like sunbeams and you will always look lovely" - Roald Dahl
Cycle 2 Overview - by Sarah

This cycle has felt like our first normal cycle in a long, long time! A flurry of camps (three in total), out and abouts, PLPs....it feels like a normal pre-covid rhythm at long last. Our Information Nights were well-attended at the start of the cycle, and many of our level 6 students and their families attended an Information Night at Village High School for prospective 2023 level 7 entry.

This cycle we would love to see more families come and volunteer in our Wednesday Lunch Program, it is a great way to meet the students and become more involved in the day-to-day life at school.

Cycle 3 is shaping up to be action-packed! We will be running two camps for Triskel students: a 10-day journey to Little Desert National Park and the Grampians and a 4-day camping trip to Licola! We have some exciting out and abouts in the pipeline as well.

At our latest staff planning day, we reviewed our emergency management plan and we will be talking to students about running an emergency drill this cycle. It is worth noting that we have a number of asthmatic and anaphylactic students this year, so if you are on site and you notice a student that appears to be physically compromised, please alert a mentor as soon as possible.

We are all looking forward to a productive and exciting cycle 3.
Cycle 2 came and went on a Summer breeze!

The Sun Roomers spent the bulk of their days outdoors under trees having a grand time getting reacquainted. There were innumerable games of arch tiggy, marshmallow tiggy and lava monster, plus endless negotiations with rock-paper-scissors! (The only civilised way to settle a disagreement).

In the Sun Room we continued our investigation into Tiny Town with many a plane taking off and endless re-arranging of buildings! We even tapped into the theme with our first Out ‘N’ About for the year, with a sojourn to Korumburra. There we prowled the streets looking in shops and pondering the nature of all the businesses around us. One group even had a trip to bike store and saw the back of house mechanics which was so cool. At the park we encountered a Monster named Mo (OK, it was Iggy and Ro’s dad) who kept the Sun Roomers scampering in every direction.

Back at home base it was awesome to get into the swing of the cycle, getting creative with Trace in Art, digging with Angus in Kitchen Garden and getting active with Jacqui in PE. In Humanities, Kelly explored the wide world of bathers through the ages, whilst in Specialist Maths the Sun Roomers played with shape, creating stunning displays for our walls. It all went by in a flash and sooner than we knew it, the cycle was kaput.

The Sun Room team hope all the Sun Room families have a sparkly break and we are looking forward to Cycle 3 adventures!
Wow, what a cycle it has been for the Triskel space! Whilst Cycle 1 was used as an opportunity to reconnect and get back into the swing of things, Cycle 2 has been full steam ahead!

This cycle has seen a flurry of awesome opportunities for Triskels to engage in, with three different camps, surfing and snorkelling PLPs, the School Strike for Climate, a trip to local farm, and a beach-day for Level 2s! All of this out-n-about activity proved to be awesomely enjoyable; it seems wild to think we fit it all into the space of five short weeks - but even more wild to consider how much we still managed to achieve whilst at school!

Within the Triskel space, our learning programs booted back into full gear, with our key learning areas of Literacy, Numeracy and Cognition and Connection (Cog/Con) all introducing new content across the cycle. We also saw some old favourites return this cycle – the return of Art (held by Trace and Daylene) and Digi-Tech (held by Nick Pattison from Village High School). Triskels have begun creating their own personalised art folios which will serve as a way of storing their art projects throughout the year – it’s been great to watch the way that the creativity has been flowing throughout the Art Shed!

From the Triskel team, we wish you all a relaxing cycle break, and we can’t wait to see what comes our way in Cycle 3!

Walkerville Out & About
- by Thomas

There was a high level of excitement on the bus as the Level 2's left school, headed for Walkerville with mentors, Trace and Thomas, the focus for the day was on beach exploration and having fun.

The weather was stunning with glassy oceans and patchy sun, perfect for playing along the shoreline, building sandcastles, and exploring rockpools. A highlight for the day was sneaking through sea caves where we found a bat hanging upside down and we also spotted a seal playing in the ocean on our walk past the lime kilns.

Before long it was time to pack up and get back on the bus. We stopped in at Cape Liptrap lighthouse where the students were in awe of the views over the ocean and were intrigued by the lighthouse. We then headed back to KVS after an action packed day of exploration and connection.
The first two cycles of the year have been jam-packed in the garden. We’ve been enjoyed some wonderful synergy between the kitchen and garden this year, with Declan and Leah bring their passion and talent to the program. We have begun to venture outside of KVS for further inspiration with our Flock, Stock and Basil farm tour, and our intention to hold an inaugural KVS Pasata Day. Whilst we’ve had to be more flexible with these plans that we had hoped, we are all energised to continue making more food-based connections in our bioregion and facilitate a diverse range of rich experiences for students and the KVS Community more broadly in the future.

We have enjoyed some great harvests, including a bumper crop of carrots, heaps of beans, a basil forest, too many zucchinis, and a great crop of eggplants and celery, and it’s been wonderful to see them preparing in great variety of ways! We also encountered some significant challenges, with the cooler summer making things pretty tricky for some of our crops, particularly the tomatoes. Our resident family of rodents also had a significant impact, accounting for all of our corn crop, most of our capsicums and a great many of our tomatoes! Now that these summer crops are on the way out we are busy prepping our garden beds for Winter crops of garlic, brassicas, peas, broad beans and leafy greens.

As late Summer turns to Autumn the kitchen garden is slowing down. Angus is looking forward to putting some beds to rest and running fewer beds for some slower growing winter veg. While he does that, in the kitchen we will count, preserve and enjoy the bounty that has been flowing in thick and fast! Tomatoes, peppers, eggplants, greens, carrots, zuchs, cuecs, onions and more have been the backbone of inspiration thus far this year. I know most of us wish Summer went for ever, there are a few who will welcome soup season! Our new friends and “Flock Stock & Basil” have really helped stock the KVS kitchen with great seasonal produce and the kids love it! Helpers of all size and ages and have made the kitchen what it is. And its great!
On Friday the 25th of March a team of us from Koonwarra Village School joined forces with others from Phillip Island Village School, Village High School, “Fridays for the Future” campaigners, and other local schools to participate in the local “School Strike 4 Climate”. On this day hundreds of thousands of other students across the world also participated in this strike demanding climate justice and asking world leaders to “fight for people not for profit”.

From designing their slogans for their placards to talking to the general public and news crews, our students showed exemplary communication, team building, critical analysis and organisational skills. Their passion for caring for our environment and taking action was wonderful to see.

**Students strike for climate change**

ON FRIDAY, March 25, “Fridays for the Future” campaigners were joined by local primary and high school students for “School Strike 4 Climate”.

“Joining hundreds of thousands of students across the world in the global climate strike, students are demanding world leaders fight for people – not profit. ‘It means everything to have the students here today, it’s their own future,’ Fridays for the Future activist, Jasmin Harrison explained.

‘They’ll have to cope with the climate disasters that are increasing in frequency.’

‘Choosing where the sea, there is no planet B and students and residents from across the district stood on the corner of Graham Street and McBride Ave in Wonthaggi, receiving good news and cheers from drivers.

‘The more pressing concerns of our modern world, the useless government should be doing more sooner,” Marli Somoza, 16 and Maracopa Front of Park Creek added.

“We are living on this planet as if we have another one to go to, we need to take action now,” student Malony stated.

‘No more oil, keep the carbon in the soil.’

Fridays for the Future was established in November 2018. 2 per cent decrease in emissions by 2030 is simply not good enough, students say.

They’re demanding net zero by 2050 – which means no new coal, oil or gas projects including the Adani mine. 100 per cent renewable energy generation and extraction by 2030, and the formation of a fund for job creation and training for all affected workers and their communities.

“We are protesting for our future, we need action now,” Thyn Brendley concluded.

“We have to fight climate change like we actually want to win.” C106_1322
PASSION PROJECTS- by Craig

Get ready, it’s Cycle 2 and time for Passion Projects! During this cycle, students were invited to share their project ideas with me and throughout each day I cherished ‘sparky’ conversations with so many students. There was a healthy scope of different ideas, from craft businesses to anime comics to model aeroplanes. It’s precisely this variety of pursuits that reminds me that everybody’s ‘sparky seed’ is beautifully unique and deserving of some tender nurturing. In collaboration with our students, we have seven Passion Projects that are being actively supported and at least five more that are of a self-paced, independent nature. As an example of a self-paced Passion Project, a student is currently writing her own fantasy novel. These students are going to have informal check-ins to keep support available and to keep things chugging along. In comparison the seven supported projects are in need of more complex support, these projects might require specific resources, tools or expertise.

Okay, let me share with you what some of the students have got started with. We have two social enterprises, businesses that use their profit for positive social impact by donating a portion of their profits to charitable organisations or projects; two woodworking projects, a DIY skateboard and a birthing den for a dog; an electronic model aeroplane project; an up-cycling fashion project; and finally a school flying fox project. How exciting do they sound? Each of these projects are well underway and will continue into next cycle. Stay tuned to Facebook and future newsletters to see how these sparky seeds take root and blossom into some magical fruit. If you’re filled with a sense of intrigue and are feeling sparked yourself about any of the project ideas, please reach out to me. Maybe you could lend your own passions and join in with some magical moments.

WASP ART

Izzy
Matehya
Rosie
On Thursday 23rd March a group of Triskels headed out to a local farm in Tarwin where it was proposed we would harvest tomatoes that we would turn into Passata to stock our kitchen.

We made the short drive to Tarwin where we met farm owners Chris and Anna along with Farmer Rich. Unfortunately there were no tomatoes left to harvest, so they kindly offered for us to harvest potatoes instead. The students were very excited when they heard Chris mention piglets so off we “trotted” to find around 12 baby piglets who enjoyed multitudes of belly rubs whilst basking in the sun.

After exploring the rest of the farm we headed to potato land and got our hands dirty searching for the buried gems. Some were huge, some were tiny and some were very oddly shaped. We managed to fill two big bins full of spuds to bring back to Koony.

On our way out some of our crew spotted capsicums and chilies and a couple were brave enough to start eating the raw red chillies. All in all it was a very rich afternoon out and it was lovely to support one of our local farming communities. A big thankyou to Max (Rosie and Woody’s mum) for organising the afternoon and coming along with us.
During this cycle students were given the option to attend both surfing and snorkelling PLPs occurring over 3 weeks. The focus was on having fun in the ocean whilst building on skills each week. These activities were so popular that there was enough interest for two groups in each activity.

**Surfing:** Each week we headed to Inverloch surf beach either for a morning or afternoon surf session. On the first day of surfing, we were incredibly lucky with good weather conditions, small waves, light winds, and sunny skies. Perfect for the first time.

The following week was more challenging with larger waves and more difficult conditions. Level 5-6 students rose to the challenge and showed skill progression and comfort in the ocean.

Level 3-4 students spent more time on the sand each session practising standing up onto their feet and other surf skills before heading into the waves. Occasionally boards were ditched, and body surfing was preferred by all.

**Snorkelling locations are much more weather dependent, with consideration being given to tides and the wind. For the first session we chose the sheltered waters of Shack Bay. Students learnt how to properly fit a mask and use a snorkel before getting in the water to explore what lies beneath the surface. Unfortunately, strong winds on the second attempt had us rethinking entering the ocean so, instead we chose to walk to Point Smythe near Venus Bay, the tall banksia trees providing shelter. In the final week, we again faced strong winds but found some calmer waters at Flat Rocks near Inverloch, even spotting a stingray.**
The first camp for the year was to Bear Gully in the Cape Liptrap Coastal Park. It was relaxed and slow paced with lots of time spent exploring rock pools, the little creek next to our campsite, playing card games and talking around the campfire.

Day 1 was focussed around setting up the campsite, remembering how to set up our tents once again, inflating sleeping mats and pulling out our sleeping bags. After a tour of Bear Gully to get a feel for the place the students quickly gravitated to the shallow creek spending much of their time exploring.

In the afternoon we ventured out onto the beach for a walk, although we did not get very far from our campsite as we were quickly distracted by the rockpools. It was a cold and windy day with a wild ocean crashing, the students maintained their enthusiasm despite the cold conditions.

On day 2 the students woke up early when the sun came up, we all enjoyed a delicious pancake breakfast with fruit and maple syrup. Following this we jumped onto the mini bus headed for Walkerville. The conditions were perfect with sunny skies and a calm ocean. First stop was a swim; however, the water was much colder than it looked, a walk along the shoreline over rock pools and squeezing through caves was a highlight of the morning. A final swim before returning to Bear Gully for a late lunch.

The afternoon was spent either playing cards, eating more food, and playing in the creek. For dinner we ate potatoes roasted in a camp oven on the fire and played the ever popular game ‘mafia’ until it was dark.

The final day began with french toast for breakfast, and an easy morning packing up in preparation to return home. Then we said goodbye to Bear Gully with a final walk on the beach before driving back to KVS.
This was an extra special camp with 4 birthdays celebrated during the week.

On day 1 after setting up our tents the students enjoyed climbing trees, playing cards and exploring. The afternoon was spent at Tidal River, it was incredible to watch the incoming tide completely change the river from a stationary trickle, filling quickly from bank to bank, to become a fast flowing river.

Before our eyes the oncoming ocean water flooded in creating a fun current to float on providing endless entertainment.

On day 2 we piled into the bus and drove up to the northern part of the Prom, walking to Vereker lookout with stunning views in all directions, with the opportunity to explore around some gigantic granite boulders along the way.

On day 3, we started our day with a pancake breakfast and had hot chips for lunch in celebration of all the birthdays. Later we inflated our boats, put on life jackets, and headed for Tidal River where we had beautiful views of Mt Oberon reflected in the river as we paddled upstream. The paddle ended with boats being capsized and most of the group trying to fit onto one boat all at once.

The final day was spent packing our tents away and tidying up the campsite. On our drive out of the Prom we stopped at the wildlife viewing area to go for a walk and were lucky to have a flock of curious emus venturing close to our group.

An experience to remember for years to come was the bioluminescence in the river at night. The river and sand on the bank glowed and sparkled and every splash and footprint left behind what appeared to be a trail of sparks and light.
This cycle the Level 6 cohort participated in a Leadership Program, culminating in a 3-day immersion. We defined leadership simply as, ‘something you can do to make a positive difference’, making it something that is accessible to anyone, anywhere, irrespective of position and title, and also something that is active (and therefore a choice), rather than an expectation or obligation. From Weeks 1 to 4 we focused on a variety of interconnected skills that are required for leadership action of this sort, such as noticing, making sense of noticings, and taking action. We spent a lot of time cultivating our group awareness and connection, as well as taking time for personal reflection and introspection.

The intention of the camp was to create a safe space for Level 6 student’s to explore ‘leadership’ in real time. This kicked off early on with our student-led grocery shopping in preparation for our dinners (also student-led). After arriving and settling in at our lodge in Waratah North, we spent much of the first day cultivating a sense of connection within the group. This included some fun activities, like ‘monkey movement’, and ‘lions vs. gazelles’, which were a hit, as well as some more familiar group games that we had practised throughout the cycle.

On the second day the group embarked on a short trail walk at Wilsons Prom in some fairly inclement weather. We completed the Lilly Pilly Gully circuit and spent a good amount of time at the turn-off to Mt. Bishop, coming to a consensus decision about whether to climb up to the summit or return to the bus. On the final day we enjoyed some more role-play activities and, after a clean up, spent the afternoon at Sandy Point reflecting on our own experiences during the camp and making a short speech in front of the group.

Congratulations to all the Level 6s for your willingness to challenge yourselves throughout the program!
Well done! :-)

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**Level 6 Leadership Camp**