Cycle 4, 2022 Newsletter

Scenic cruising at Wilsons Prom

Important Dates for Cycle 5, 2022

Monday 11th July  
First Day of Cycle 5

Friday 22nd July  
Village High Transition Day (Group 1)

Friday 29th July  
Village High Transition Day (Group 2)

Tuesday 9th August  
Sun Room Out & About

Thursday 11th August  
Whole School Winter Gathering

Friday 12th August  
Student Free Planning Day

Saturday 13th August to Sunday 21st August  
Cycle Break

Monday 22nd August  
First day of Cycle 6

"Keep your face always toward the sunshine and shadows will fall behind you"
- Walt Whitman
At the Out N About this cycle we were very lucky to visit Phil and Danielle, at Lacy Jewellery Studio, where students experienced a fascinating behind the scenes glimpse into the process from raw materials such as gold, silver and gems to the glittering jewellery in the shop cabinets.

Students also had a wonderful time at Meeniyan Art Gallery admiring the work of local artists and creative jewellery makers.

Other highlights of the cycle were a feather mask-making session and an alien dance show in two acts!

In Literacy the Sun Roomers read Horton Hears a Who, All Bodies are Good Bodies, and Arno and his Horse.

Specialist Maths was an exploration into the fabulous world of location (near, far, under, over), whilst the Level Ones delved into our new place value modelling materials.

It was a short cycle but seriously fun and we look forward to more adventures in Cycle 5!

Have a great break, Sun Room Families.

This cycle we went down the pit for some serious mining in the Sun Room Sparks area.

The students mined for gold, silver, and other precious gems in the specially designed darkened Sun Room caves only to emerge and create jewellery!

There was an array of gems to mould into beautiful jewellery that was for sale at the store, and we made some pieces to go home.
Wow, this has been a crazy busy cycle as we reach the conclusion of Semester One.

It has been a great cycle of adding the finishing touches and bringing projects to an end. Our level 3-6 students have been finishing off their Historical Fiction adventure, which started in cycle 2 when we looked at historical fiction texts in our reading presos. It then moved into cycles 3 and 4 as we researched our chosen historical topic and wrote our very own piece. I really enjoyed embarking on this journey with the students. I learnt about the Emu War, The Blackness Castel (the Ship that Never Sailed), tigers escaping during the Ballarat Gold Rush, Tony Hawk, Zara Rutherford flying around the world, and so many other cool and fascinating topics. We have some very active researchers and inspiring writers here at KVS, and it was great to see their projects come together.

The end of cycle 4 also signals the time to put our magnifying glasses away and say goodbye to our art theme inspired by insects and mini beasts. Our student lead Celebration Night Art PLP team did an amazing job brainstorming display and layout ideas that would proudly showcase all the incredible art pieces. The Art Shed looked terrific on the night, full of fabulous creepy crawlies.

It was a fantastic vibe at KVS this last week as students put the finishing touches on their tasks for the Celebration night displays. What an excellent opportunity for them to share all their outstanding work from the semester with their loved ones.

The Triskel team would like to say thanks for a great start to the year. We look forward to working with you next cycle and hearing all about your winter break when we return.

CELEBRATION NIGHT ART
On Thursday the 16th of June, the Level 2 students arrived at school with excited energy, as they eagerly anticipated the extravagant night of pizza, movies and pillow fights which awaited them.

The Level 2 Sleepover is the first opportunity for Triskel students to experience what it's like to be on a KVS camp, and to begin dipping their toes into some of the challenges and independence that comes with sleeping away from home.

As the sun began to fall, we waddled down to the back of the school to enjoy the warmth of roasted marshmallows over the school firepit. Only once our bag of treats had run empty did we then begin to set up our beds and sleeping arrangements in the BAS.

Following pizzas and ice-cream for dinner, we cozied up to watch Woody save Buzz Lightyear in Toy Story.

Once the movie had finished, there were some very sleepy eyes to be seen, and so it was off to brush our teeth and jump into bed for a restful night of sleep.

We awoke nice and early, all ready to snack on a delicious breakfast of pancakes, before jumping on the bus to head to Philip Island. We arrived at Clip ‘n’ Climb for a short but exhilarating rock climbing adventure before it was back on the bus for a round of ten-pin bowling. Bowling proved to be a high-octane and passionate pastime for mentors and students alike, and when Angus scored a strike the whole of Philip Island knew about it!

The Level 2 students did such a fantastic job over the span of the sleepover, showing a great deal of resilience and independence – with many citing their experience as ‘the best night ever’.

A special thanks is also extended to our two student mentors in Sophie and Asha, who were awesomely supportive over the course of the night and Out ‘n’ About!
In the second week of Cycle 4 on a particularly wet day a busload of Triskel students headed out towards Mirboo North and surrounds to visit a range of forests in search of fungi. We were joined by a very knowledgeable mushroom forager in Simon Marshall (an accomplished farm and landscape designer and father of Woody and Rosie). We were open to finding both edible and non-edible mushrooms, but our main intention was to enjoy learning about the complexities involved in both foraging for mushrooms and successfully identifying them.

During our time in the pine forest we were lucky to come across a wide range of edible and non-edible fungi, especially given that it was already quite late in the season for edibles. We found a nice selection of Saffron Milkcaps and Slippery Jacks, which we harvested and brought back to the kitchen, and we also came across a range of non-edible varieties, including the impressive Amanita Muscaria, a well-known red mushroom with white spots. Students also learned some valuable lessons about how challenging it can be to correctly identify fungi given how their appearance changes over their lifespan and how different varieties can appear very similar and can be hard to distinguish.

We also visited a native forest in the area and stopped off at Mossvale Park. Students were able to spot and familiarise themselves with a much broader variety of fungi in these locations. We were all very excited to discover a small path of ‘Death Cap’ mushrooms under Scarlet Oak at Mossvale park, which served to underscore the importance of having sufficient expertise when foraging!

All in all, it was a wet and wonderful day spent in our local forests and woodlands. I’d like to extend our special thanks to Simon Marshall for volunteering his time to be our resident expert and guide for the day!
With colder temperatures and less available light, the KVS Garden has slowed right down over the last cycle, but the winter crops are happy and we have been keeping up with the weeds so far.

The garlic plants are looking strong, we’ve got some very healthy-looking broccoli developing, the climbing peas are beginning to make their way towards their trellis, the broad beans are up and about, and we’ve also got some beetroots and carrots waiting for some more sunlight to continue their development.

The rosellas have had another party in our green manure beds, digging up much of the oat seed, although the majority most of the crop has remained undiscovered.

On two days this cycle students were given the option to go on an indoor rock climbing Out 'n' About. This was very popular and every seat on the bus was filled both days.

We went to Bayside Rock, Carum Downs and spent the afternoon challenging ourselves on the climbing walls and exploring through the pitch black ‘cave’ system that had been built behind the rock climbing wall.

On the second outing we drove to Clip ‘n' Climb, Phillip Island and tried to make it to the top of all climbs which were made up of all sorts of interesting holds.

Everyone really enjoyed the speed climbing wall and some friendly competition.
On what looked to be the clearest day of the week we dressed up in giant poncho raincoats and climbed aboard the Prom tour boat. However, we soon found ourselves holding onto our seats in what felt like a very wild ocean, and we were assured that it was very safe. The students really enjoyed visiting seal colony and skull rock.

Before heading home, we walked out to Pillar Point and enjoyed the stunning views and across to Squeaky Beach.

A highlight for the students was trying to entice the local rosellas to land on their arms and head.

The Level 5-6 students bundled up in all their warm clothing and headed off to a wintery and cold Wilsons Prom for 3 days. Luckily, they had a warm cabin to stay in to get out of the elements.

On the first day we went on a lovely walk along Lily Pilly Gully and spent the afternoon exploring the giant boulders of Squeaky Beach.

Celebration Night

PASSION PROJECTS

Wilsons Prom Camp

by Tom

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We excitedly welcomed our Triskel families with bright smiles and colourful displays to our highly anticipated Celebration Night!

The Art Shed was abuzz with sounds of winged critters and creepy crawlies, where luminescent wings fluttered around the room and the stage became home to a spectacular array of spiders in many different colours and sizes.

The sounds of the whirring wheat mill and oat roller filled the air in the Lib as we shared our favourite foodie moments in the KVS kitchen and kitchen garden over the year so far, while next door in the BAS, Passion Projects were a crowd favourite; few could resist a delicious sample of Sophie’s famous cookies, eyes lit up at the prospect of wheely adventures on the brightly decorated skateboards and Dan’s billy cart; and hearts melted imagining a puppy snuggling down for the night in one of Izzy’s puppy houses.

We then took a moment to reflect on our student intentions at the Cognition & Connection display, learnt a little more about our students with their About Me posters and the walls of the BAS came alive with photos and memories of our many KVS adventures over the first half of the year.

Over at the camps display, the camp fire was crackling and families gathered around its warmth to roast marshmallows and watch the projected photo display of our camping adventures so far this year, it’s always amazing to see just how many camps we can squeeze into the weeks!

We ended the evening with wrapping our hands around warm mugs of soup made from our kitchen garden harvest with decadent brownies and muffins for dessert, all made with love in our kitchen by Declan and Leah supported by our students.

What will the next half of the year bring? We can’t wait to find out!