



# Cycle 7, 2017 newsletter



Whole school photo 2017

*Birthdays  
celebrated  
in October/  
November*

Daniel,  
Ruby Alaska,  
Ruby-May,  
Nico, Dusk,  
Jemimah  
and Jonah

## Important Dates for Cycle 8, 2017

Monday 20th November  
Monday 4th December  
Friday 8th December

Tuesday 12th December  
Wednesday 13th December  
Thursday 14th December  
Friday 15th December

Monday 18th & Tuesday 19th December

**First day of Cycle 8**  
**Student Free Day for Report Writing**  
**Board meeting (9.00am)**  
**Parent meeting (2.00pm)**  
**Concert of KVS musicians (2.00pm)**  
**Triskel Presentation Night**  
**Beach Day Inverloch (10.00am—2.00pm)**  
**Student Free Day**  
**Graduation Evening (from 5.30pm)**  
**Student / Parent / Mentor Interviews**

*'Continuity gives us roots; change gives us branches, letting us stretch and grow and reach new heights.'* Pauline R. Kezer

## Fitzroy Community School Camp *by Marni*



Animal Ball



Wandering down Brunswick Street



Siera & Minna hanging out

Ten students headed off to visit Fitzroy Community School (FCS) in Week 4 this Cycle. Brad and I were very impressed to see how well our KVS students integrated into FCS life. The school runs out of two terrace houses in Fitzroy and has around 70 students. They also have another campus in Thornbury which we dropped into on our way home. We were pleased to catch up with the students who visited our school earlier in the year and also make some new friends.

Some of the highlights of the camp were a game of animal ball in the park; exploring the school at night with its many rooms and staircases; new classes such as Chinese; experiencing school from a new perspective and of course heading out for dinner and riding trams! We have brought back a number of inspiring ideas and hope that this will be a long-term friendship between our schools. A big thanks to FCS for making us feel so welcome!

## Nature Journaling *by Marni*

Nature Journaling this Cycle has been in our 'big backyard' the Koonwarra Nature Reserve. During Week 3, Level 2-6 students participated in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. This data collection exercise utilises a very user-friendly app and runs each year across the country. Some KVS students have participated with their families in the past and were a great help in identifying species in the Reserve! We were spoilt for bird life and had a hard time recording every species in our 20 minute timed sessions. Our most abundant bird species was the friendly Crimson Rosella. Over the week we counted 43 different bird species and a total of 309 individual birds!



Ruby T & Sophie



Aleni, Ruby Alaska, Minna, Hannah, Ruby May, Mak & Georgia

The last couple of Cycles has seen groups of students from Levels 1-6 hammering, sawing, drilling, busily constructing billy carts and seeing their designs come to life. The Level 1s and 2s have been working off a design sourced from the internet. They have really enjoyed the opportunity to use a range of tools and work together to see the design come to life.

The Level 3s-6s have had to design their own carts, source materials from second-hand outlets and then adjust their design to accommodate the materials they could procure. This has resulted in a range of challenges, but also some excellent learnings in flexibility, creative thinking and problem-solving. With the results coming to fruition, we are eagerly awaiting six varied, wild and wonderful machines to race around the school during Cycle 8.



Indigo



Jensen & Nico



Jemimah

## Billy Cart PLP *by Brad*



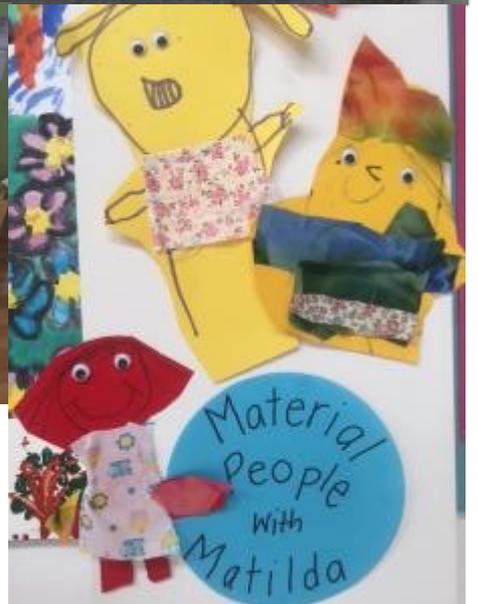
Mak, Sophie, Siera, Georgia & Ruby May



Jensen's 4-square PLP



Fin & Asha at Fin's Marimba PLP

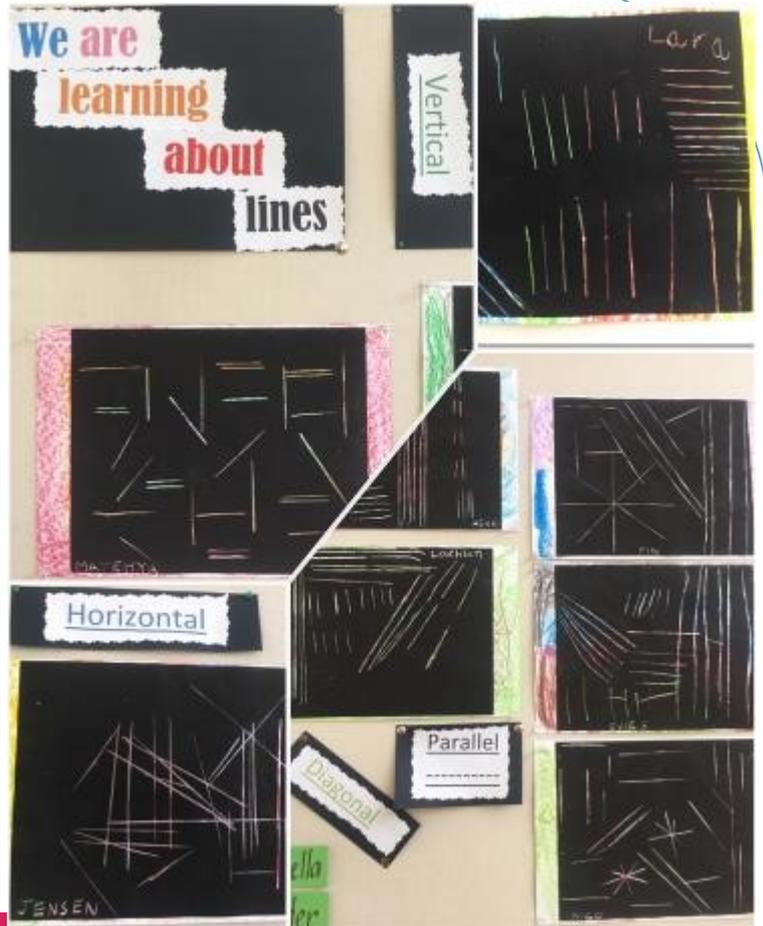


Student-led PLPs have continued in the Sun Room this Cycle. We have learnt some great new skills from these sessions and presenters received awesome feedback such as "epic PLP!"

## Student led PLPs

Please enjoy the full display of all the PLPs in the Art Shed.

## Specialist Maths by Sarah



In the Sun Room specialist maths program we explored lines of all sorts (parallel, diagonal, vertical and horizontal), as well as two-dimensional shapes. The students followed a list of secret instructions to create fantastic shape animals!

## Ukelele PLP



Tanya Nolan has been running the Ukulele PLP during Cycle 7 and it has been a popular PLP, particularly with the Sun Roomers.

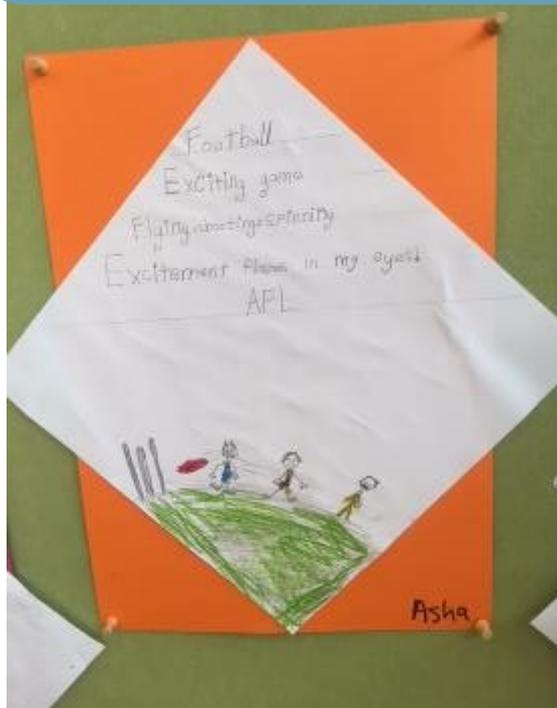
## PLPs Cycle 8

*Billycart Making* continues with Brad  
*Ukulele Lessons* with Tanya Nolan  
 and more  
*Student-Led PLPs* by and for Sun Roomers

The whole school explored poetry in writing this Cycle. A range of poetry styles were explored including cinquain, irregular odes and free verse. Students from Levels 1-6 participated in our Poetry Cafe, where all students chose a poem of their own to read, and listened to other students work, whilst sipping hot chocolate and munching on popcorn.

## Poetry Café

by Sarah



The Sun Roomers have been studying Japanese artist Yayoi Kusama. Dinah shared her special book which provided a personal background on our focus artist. Inspired by Yayoi's 'Dotted Pumpkin 2011', the Sun Roomers created some great paintings.



We have also enjoyed learning new Japanese games each Thursday. 'Ohajiki' has become a fast favourite.



J shares a proud moment as she enjoys using the

Montessori 100's board as part of mathematic activities!



Fin and his family returned from their huge Australian adventure. It has been fascinating to hear about the incredible distances travelled, along with some favourite stops such as Karijini National Park.

## Sun Room by Jasmine

## Humanities *by Scott*

This Cycle, the humanities focus for Level 4-6 students was on the early events within Australian history. To begin this, each student (either individually or in a group of up to three), formed their own 'big question'. This question had to be open-ended, and was formed to help us find out more about an interesting topic of our choice for the Cycle.

For some students this meant looking at the events and significance of the first fleet, as they wrestled with questions such as "What was life like for Australian convicts?" and "Were the convicts really 'bad' people?".

Others looked more closely at some of the celebrations within Australia, such as Australia Day, and the different perspectives surrounding it. This involved looking at some of the controversy surrounding this holiday, and how it is affected by the history of British transportation and Australian Indigenous history.

Students are using a variety of creative and interesting methods to present their projects. For example; Jonah and Tayla have begun creating a podcast episode about the effects of the Industrial Revolution on Australia; Tahlia and Greta are creating an old-styled journal from the perspective of a convict on the first fleet, using coffee-stained paper to great effect; Mila and Lola are creating a video documentary discussing the events of the first fleet.

These are just a few examples of the wide array of approaches that students have utilised to present their work. We look forward to sharing the finished products with families at the presentation night in Cycle 8.



Mila & Lola



Greta

Tayla & Jonah

## Finalist 2017

 ResourceSmart  
Schools Awards

Hot on the back of last year's nomination, KVS was again a finalist for the ResourceSmart School Awards, in the energy category for our solar dehydrators / ovens project.

Although we didn't take out the award for our category, with over six hundred

schools participating in the program across the State, and dozens applying for an award, it is a great achievement for KVS to be one of five finalists two

years in a row. We had a great day, with six students braving an early morning start to travel to the Melbourne Museum for the Awards ceremony.

The awards were hosted by Costa Georgiadis from ABC's Gardening Australia program and whilst entertaining, the highlight was undoubtedly exploring the Museum. This included viewing the eels and participating in reed weaving with Koorie women in the Bunjilaka Gallery. With students offered a handful of reeds to take away with them, they capped off an enjoyable day by practicing their weaving skills all the way home in the back of the car. We hope to be back again next year.



Mila, Yasmin, Indigo & Emelia



Indigo, Jonah, Costa, Merve, Mila & Yasmin

## Archery by Brad

Perhaps it is the power of the bow and the ability to fire an arrow, perhaps it is the mystique or the links with mythology, or perhaps it is simply good fun, but I don't think anyone would have predicted how much of a hit archery would be with students of all ages across the school.

Andrew Postma from Arrows Across Australia travels the country teaching school kids of all ages, and we enjoyed his presence at KVS for two days in Weeks 3 and 4, offering two slots for every student in the school, plus additional sessions after school for those who signed up. I was very impressed at both the skills they displayed, and their enthusiasm for the sport. You could say "Archery really hit the target!"



Rubylou, Ruby T, Siera & Sophie



James, Will, Daniel, Greta & Erica



Georgia & Evie Joy



Jonah



Picking the right bow



Mak

## Grade 6 Camp by Brent

Spirits were high as our crew of seven set out for the bushy village of Walhalla. James' guitar was a feature throughout camp and our first singalong happened in the bus ride up. When the road started to weave and wind around the mountains, we knew that we were close. We set up camp at the secluded Chinese Gardens and couldn't help but compare Walhalla to the Shire out of Lord of the Rings. The sounds of the heritage train tooted and our first adventure was a return trip to Thomson River where we saw many streams and waterfalls etched through the forest. Later that night, we slipped into the Wally Pub for a meal, which turned into a bit of a feast.

Rampant excitement was building at camp in the morning knowing that a visit to the Lolly Shop was next on the agenda. Sadly, the shop only opened on the weekends and Wednesdays but the king parrots put on a show for us by eating from our hands as we ambled through town. We scaled the heights of the sloping cemetery and then tunnelled our way into the mountain through a mine shaft. Some great questions were asked and it was a grand experience to get a feel for what life would have been like at the time. Under the evening stars, we played music and made jaffles around the campfire. It was a fitting moment for the Grade 6 students to reflect on their time at KVS and the next chapter in their journeys!



Walhalla railway



Erica, Yasmin, Will, James & Daniel



Daniel, James, Will, Yasmin & Erica



James & Will

## Meet the Mentor Scott Egan (joined KVS as Assistant Mentor in July 2017)

### What was it like for you as a child at school?

I really loved Leongatha Primary School. Mostly what I remember is based on the time I spent in class. I was lucky enough to have a great selection of teachers, which made learning incredibly interesting and enjoyable. In terms of subjects, I really enjoyed reading and writing. The last few 'Harry Potter' books were just coming out and I was utterly addicted!



Scotty

### If you were a child at KVS, would you like this school. Why?

Absolutely! I think the amount of diverse learning opportunities are amazing. PLPs are a very unique experience that I haven't witnessed in any other schools I've been to. I think it's fantastic that the students have such a large say in what happens in the school. Being able to make meaningful choices in your own education is incredibly important!

### What other careers have you had?

Until very recently, I've been working at the IGA supermarket in Leongatha. I worked there for eight years (since I was 14), so it did feel a bit strange to leave after all that time. I originally started working there to get some extra money while I was in school and university, but I made some great friends there that I won't forget!

### Why did you want to work at KVS?

I originally came to the school on a three-week university placement in 2016. I didn't know where I wanted to do my placement, but my dad worked on putting in some of the new buildings at KVS, and that's how I found out about the school. I came here at the end of last year, and quickly realised that it was my favourite school I'd ever worked in!

### What do you enjoy so far about working at KVS?

My favourite part of KVS is working with all the amazing people. I love finding out more about the students' interests and getting to know more about their personalities and humour. The team environment amongst the mentors and staff has been incredibly supportive, and they've all helped me grow a lot as a teacher. All the families have been really supportive and welcoming as well!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Evie Scarlett

Ruby Alaska

Daniel

Nico

Violet

Matehya