What a great start

Probably the very best start we have had in years. All grades are very settled and the yard is the same. It is nice to see the great quality of work our students are doing in class. I am very proud of our children.

Art supplies

If you have anything I can use in the art room I am happy for you to drop it off. I am after anything please send it along. Egg cartons are a great help as we not only build with them but we also use them as paint pallets.

Camps, Sports & Excursion Fund (CSEF)

The Victorian Government will assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps & sporting activities. If you hold a current Centrelink Concession Card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. Payments of $125.00 per child will be made directly to the school during Term 1. If you haven’t applied for the grant please call by the office as soon as possible to pick up an application form. Thanks, Pauline

Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club is on every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 8:15 to 8:45. All welcome. Today we had pancakes to celebrate Shrove Tuesday. Yesterday the SDS students did the same. It is so good to see our classroom kitchen in action.

Absences and being late

It is not okay for your child to be away from school unless it is an approved absence. If your child is ill or has a medical appointment please contact the school on the day your child is away. We have an absence line so you can leave a message for this. If you and your child is going on a holiday you need to get approval from the Principal and have your child’s teacher arrange for work to be completed while you are away. Being away for a birthday or picking someone up from the airport is not an approved absence. If your child is late for school you need to sign your child in at the office with the explanation as to why. If your child has an unexplained absence or late morning the school will contact you. At the end of each fortnight a letter may also go home with your child asking for an explanation. All absences stay on your child’s record. If you have any questions please contact us.

Hoax Phone Calls

Over the past few weeks some Victorian schools have received hoax bomb threats. Our school has not received such a call but we wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year. Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority. If you have any questions please contact us.

Open Afternoon

The date for our Open Afternoon has been changed. It will now be on Monday, 22 February 3.30pm—5.00pm. Please use this time to look around the school and to meet your child’s teacher. I will also be cooking some pancakes. See you then.

Mick Cowden
We were very excited this week when we saw an article about our breakfast club in the Department of Education and Training’s bulletin. Here is what they wrote along with one of the photographs that was taken.

**Breakfasts at Karingal Heights get boost from School Breakfast Clubs Program**

For one school, breakfast clubs both free up money at home and ensure children start the day with full tummies.

Holding a breakfast club for the students at Karingal Heights Primary School became a personal project for principal Mick Cowden. The club was initially created by a group of parents at the Frankston school with the assistance of a cereal company. Mr Cowden soon joined in the management of the breakfast club, which ran three times a week for students, some of whom had come to school hungry.

He saw a significant portion of his school turn up each time.

‘On a good day, we could get upwards of 30 students and had 113 kids last year,’ Mr Cowden said. ‘We were getting 25 per cent to 33 per cent of students turning up to breakfast.’

In the early days, Mr Cowden used to go out and buy about 12 litres of milk a week and, once a month, he would roll up his sleeves, don an apron and fry up some homemade pancakes for the kids. Despite all of these efforts, there just wasn’t enough food for the 30 to 40 students regularly attending.

And yet, there was still a need to keep a breakfast club running.

The vision for Victoria as the Education State is one where every student has an equal right to the knowledge, opportunities and skills they need to shape their lives. With one in seven children arriving at school hungry, the Victorian Government is taking action to reduce the impact of disadvantage.

Identified as one of 500 schools in need, Karingal Heights now receives breakfast supplies under the Victorian Government’s $13.7 million School Breakfast Clubs Program. Managed by Australia’s largest food welfare agency, Foodbank, with the help of the DET’s Engagement, Inclusion and Support Branch, the program aims to provide a healthy breakfast to students who have gone without by delivering supplies to the schools who need it most.

‘It took the pressure off at home,’ Mr Cowden said. ‘If they were eating with us, it freed up money for their families.’

Karingal Heights held their first breakfast under the program on 1 February, where special guests joined about 25 kids — not to mention Principal Cowden himself — turned up to enjoy a delicious round of pancakes.

‘New little kids came in, the preppies. They just couldn’t believe they could get pancakes,’ Mr Cowden said.

With the welcome addition of canned fruit, more cereal and free milk, Mr Cowden is happy to know these students aren’t starting their lessons with an empty belly.

‘The kids love it. We appreciate any parents willing to come along and assist us,’ he said. ‘There’s no doubt that we can run the breakfasts for the year under the new program.’
Welcome back to Kerryn’s Corner for another year. We have had a fantastic start to the year with new families joining us, 15 new prep children and 16 children from the SDS. I have been especially pleased with how all of our KHPS children have welcomed everyone.

School Nurse

Next week Kate, the DET school nurse will be visiting our prep children as well as those she missed out on last year. Kate will check your child’s sight, hearing, listen to them speaking and other general health matters. Please return all the health checks to school as soon as possible as Kate will be here on Friday to collect them.

Uniforms

Many people have been looking for school uniforms. If you have any part of our uniform that your child no longer needs and it is in good condition, please leave it at the office so that we can pass it on. We really appreciate it.

No Hat, No Play

Many children are coming to school without an approved school hat. Children who do not wear a hat to school must play under one of the shaded areas.

Book In BedTime

There was an interesting article in the Herald Sun recently, highlighting the value of reading with your school-age children nightly, before bedtime. Not only does it help with developing good bedtime routines but more importantly the research shows that children who are read to each night outperform their classmates in areas of language and literacy.

(Source: Herald Sun, Tuesday 8th February, 2016, pg. 15)

Website

I hope you have all looked at our new website. We will soon be going paperless with all information about us being posted there. More information to come.

Canteen

Canteen begins this week. Attached to this newsletter is a canteen list. Remember to place your order in a brown paper bag and send to school on Friday morning. Please note there has been a slight increase due to the cost of items.
The Alannah and Madeline Foundation’s Better Buddies Program is an initiative designed to create friendly and caring primary school communities where bullying is reduced.

Through 'Better Buddies', children in their first and last year of primary school buddy up and learn the values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility. The children learn these values through formal and informal activities, including their interactions with the mascot Buddy Bear, our giant, fun-loving and caring purple bear.

Last Friday, Prep/1L and 5/6D met their new buddies for the first time! The students spent the session getting to know one another through reading storybooks and fun developmental play activities.

Kids Tennis Foundation and our coach Les Waugh

Les has been a professional tennis coach for well over 30 years. He is contracted by Kids Tennis Foundation and will be taking tennis at KHPS for the next two years. The school pays a nominal fee to the Kids Tennis Foundation and our students are coached by Les free of charge. For term 1 it will be 5/6D and for term 2 it will be 4/5C. Les will then continue

**SEASON 2016**

**KARINGAL NETBALL CLUB**

Needs you!!

Are you aged 6 1/2 & up

Boys welcome and must play to 13 years of age.

On-line registration available at

www.karingalnetballclub.com.au

Training Tuesdays 4:00 pm – 5:15 pm

Game Days Saturday commencing March 2016

**Jubilee Park Netball Courts**

Training will be from February 9th Karingal Football Club, Ballam Place – Narangga Crescent

Frankston as Jubilee Park courts

Are having a refit and when finished training will resume Tuesdays, back at Jubilee Park.

All new registrations welcome!

www.karingalnetballclub.com.au

Manda: 0415 954 197

Kerric: 0416 031 838

Vicky: 0404 091 668

**GIRL GUIDES**

Friendship, fun, challenge and achievement!

OVERPORT Guides welcomes girls aged 5-12

Meetings are at the Dalcahome Park Guide Hall, Wednesdays 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Our units are open to new members at any time.

You are welcome to visit a unit to see how you like it.

Adults also welcome as members & volunteers in a number of roles.

Contact: District Manager, Deb Abbas 9877 5709

Laura Ames: 0414 512 715

Email: frankston@guidesvc.org.au

Girl Guides Website: www.guidesvic.org.au

Helping girls and young women grow into confident, self-respecting, responsible community members