Hi everyone,

This has already been a term of new adventures and new beginnings. We have welcomed Aaliyah and Aldous into Kindy and have started an Occasional Care service for children between the ages of 18 months and 3 years. So far Brooklyn and Jay have taken part. I’ve attached a leaflet explaining this programme. If you have any questions about how to access this programme please see Mrs Helen and Mrs Renee. Photos to come in next newsletter.

On Monday I went to a meeting of all principals across the state with Tony Harrison who is the Director of DECD. Tony outlined the focus for the coming year as excellence in learning in all schools particularly using data about each child’s learning to ensure that we help them move forward.

Closing the gap between Raukkan children and mainstream students continues as our highest priority. As our motto says by working together we can do anything. The children’s classroom agreements include Personal Best. The children are encouraged to measure their achievements against what themselves not focusing in what other children can do.

We are continuing with Jolly Phonics and Grammar for all Pondi and Kungari students. No:ri and Pondi children also share a Pre-Lit exercise 3 times a week. The older children are all using the Lexia programme to polish their literacy skills while some of them are working with Miss Tahlia, Miss Lyticia and Mrs Cowan on the MultiLit intensive programme.

This term all teachers and SSOs are doing 2 full days training through Learning 4 All. This training teaches new skills for us all to work with children who struggle with different aspects of learning. To be able to ensure all staff members can do the training we have to share the load around so you may find that your children are occasionally working with someone new.

All schools in the Coorong Mallee Partnership will have a student free day on Thursday 2nd April. All the teachers will meet at Karoonda to take part in Australian Curriculum professional development.
Swimming

The swimming lesson programme is in full swing now. It’s great to see all the children developing their confidence as well as their skills.

Last Thursday we participated in a swimming Carnival at Coonalpyn Pool with Coonalpyn and Geranium Schools. It was a great day. The children from all 3 schools had a chance to see friends they made on camp last year and have fun in the water. It was really well organised and all children were encouraged to have a try at all events. Two teachers were in the pool for every event which allowed the children to really challenge themselves and do their personal best.

After lunch there were some formal, timed events to allow year 5 – 7 students to record times for eligibility for the Upper South East Swimming Carnival. Peyton qualified for 3 events which is a terrific achievement – well done

Attendance

An important ingredient in children’s learning progress is consistent attendance - ideally: Every child at school Every day. Teachers plan each day so that children revise, strengthen and build on the learning of the day/s before. When a child is away this steady process is interrupted and they can miss out on key ideas and often feel embarrassed because they have fallen behind other children. Sickness can affect all of us but would ask your support in ensuring your children are at school on every day possible. Last year our attendance goal was 93% but we only got to an average of 90%. This year we want to smash the target.

Governing Council

Governing Council plays a really important role in setting the path the school follows. It would be great if all families were represented on governing council. We will be having an AGM on Thursday March 5th at 3.30pm. Current Governing Council members, Rose Rigney, Verna Koolmatrie and Janis Koolmatrie would be happy to talk to you about what being on Governing Council means and would really appreciate your support.

HEALTH

There have been a lot of changes to the Student Support. In term 4 last year all specialist positions, eg. speech therapists, psychologists, attendance officers etc., were declared vacant. While some positions have been filled in other cases there are still positions without a person allocated. For us this means that teachers are continuing to modify learning experiences for each child while we wait for new support staff to be named and new assessments cannot be scheduled.

If you have any concerns about your child’s health particularly if you think it may be stopping them learning please come and let us know. We will raise concerns with support staff but can also assist you to contact or other organisation. The most important thing is that the children receive support as quickly as possible.
**Signs of the week**

All of us are learning to sign key words. When we sign as we make the sign we also say the word at the same time. We are gradually building up a range of signs. We will include a few signs in each newsletter so that you can join in with us.

- **Finished**
  
  ![Finished Sign](image)

  **finlah** Extend right thumb—rock formation, several times, sideways.

- **More**
  
  ![More Sign](image)

  **more** Cup right hand and place fingertips on centre chest—move hand forward.

- **Sit down**
  
  ![Sit down Sign](image)

  **sit** Place open right hand on back of open left hand and move formation down, slightly.
### MARCH
- **Monday 2**\(^{nd}\) Swimming
- **Thursday 5**\(^{th}\) Swimming
- **Friday 6**\(^{th}\) Excursion to Road Safety unit Adelaide and Police Horse Centre

- **Monday 9**\(^{th}\) ADELAIDE CUP HOLIDAY
- **Wednesday 11**\(^{th}\) MAS athletics
- **Thursday 12**\(^{th}\) Swimming

- **Monday 16**\(^{th}\) Swimming
- **Thursday 19**\(^{th}\) Swimming
- **Friday 20**\(^{th}\) Harmony day

- **Monday 23**\(^{rd}\) Community Health Immunisation Day
- **Monday 23**\(^{rd}\) Swimming 12 - 3
- **Thursday 26**\(^{th}\) Swimming
- **Friday 27**\(^{th}\) Country swimming carnival

- **Monday 30**\(^{th}\) Swimming (Last session)

### APRIL
- **Thursday 2**\(^{nd}\) Partnership Student Free Day
- **Friday 3**\(^{rd}\) Good Friday

- **Monday 6**\(^{th}\) Easter Monday
- **Tuesday 7**\(^{th}\) Hearing programme