



Relieving Principal's Message

A message from Ruth

Hello parents and friends of Karonga. Welcome to our term 1 week 7 newsletter. We have started a very exciting partnership with the Australian Catholic University (ACU) who will be placing pre-service teachers who have shown interest in working in special education, into Karonga School. This term we are welcoming three Year 2 pre-service teachers who will shadow our experienced teachers in order to see great practice and to understand communication and management strategies. The staff are also benefitting from Professional Learning delivered by the university staff around coaching, mentoring and supporting pre-service teachers which is very thought-provoking for us. This is terrific recognition by the education department that Karonga has great practice, which should be shared with those entering the profession!

I am looking forward to seeing as many families as possible attend the Harmony Day luncheon on Thursday March 21st – a highlight of our school calendar. It is the day which signifies the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Karonga, representing so many diverse cultures, always marks this special occasion: the food is always amazing, the atmosphere so friendly and the ethos of the multi-cultural gathering so convivial. Do lock the date and 12 noon time into your calendars- it is an event not to be missed.

Student Achievement

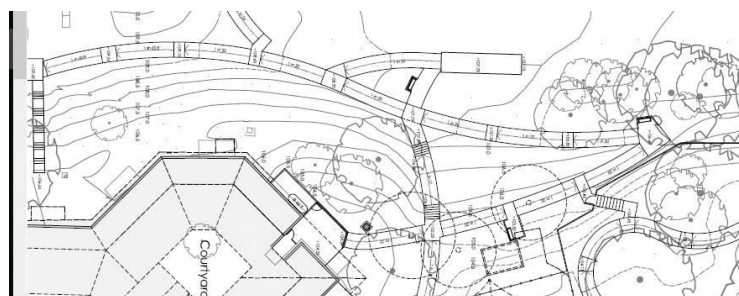
Principal and PBL Recipients

Room	Principal	PBL
1	Jackson	Massa
2	-	Omar and Jaehyun
3	Genevieve	Ria and Yeting
5	Winfred	Sharon and Gordon
6	Sadev	Sarah and Meena
7	Harry	Om
8	Lachlan	Talia and Elijah
12	Christopher	Oscar
13	Oras	Timothy
14	John	Joel and Jonathon

Wheelchair Access Ramps and Pathways

Parents and community members may be aware that after some discussion we have been funded for works to begin on ramps and pathways to improve the accessibility of the oval area which includes the sports oval, tennis courts, olive grove and mixed fruit orchards. Access to these areas has been limited by a steep path and inaccessible links to the rest of the school. This week we met with the contractors tendering for

the ramp works to the oval. We expect works to be started by the end of Term 1 and then finished by the middle of term 2 assuming no unforeseen delays. There will be some impact on access and egress to the school from Pennant Parade and the works will affect our use of the oval / bike track and associated areas. The access ramps/pathways and stairs as per the map below will provide smooth access from the base of D block adjacent to the counsellors office and gently move up the side of the hill and back towards the tennis court. Students who are wheelchair users or students with mobility impairment will all be able to use these paths. The gradient of the pathway has been specifically designed for a gradual inclination to suit our students but also to fit neatly into the existing landscape. Our assets services officers and the folk managing the contract work have been impressed with the detail and scope provided through the P&Cs Community Partnership Building Grant that was obtained in 2015-16. The landscape architecture has been carefully thought through and is reflective of the needs of our students. Very exciting news and certainly happening very quickly.



Calendar

March

Thursday 21 st	Harmony Day Lunch
Friday 29 th	Key Word Signing Course for parents

April

Tuesday 2 nd	Vaccinations – Year 7
Friday 12 th	Last Day of Term 1

Room 2

Pragati and Jenny

Room 2 students have had a productive start to the year.

Students have settled well into the class room and are accessing different programs spread across the school week.

We continue our focus on 'The Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Framework' and its expectations of being Kind, Safe and Learning during our daily teaching and learning activities.

Students have been displaying safe behaviour by dressing in appropriate gear for their Work Education Life Skills program, and by following safety directions in using different equipment to complete small tasks.

They have also been learning to use the gym equipment safely. Jaehyun particularly likes using the bike and has been working towards gradually increasing his exercise time to 10 minutes.

Tomochika has made pleasing progress in performing the laundry job around the school as he learns to manoeuvre the laundry trolley and to follow directions to hang up the washing.

Bavan has taken well to the senior lunch room setting, where he gets to sit alongside his peers for lunch.

Omar has shown interest in the seed propagation program and is learning to set up and pack away the tasks on finishing the activity.

Some other activities that have kept Room 2 students extremely busy this term are Swimming, Music Therapy, cooking, and daily walks on the oval.



Above left: Jaehyun during the Work Education Skills program
Above right: Omar safely using the school gym equipment

Music Therapy

From Jann

During our first five weeks we have been focusing on singing, making shapes with our mouths, using nonsense words and lots of repetition of lyrics.

Needless to say we have heard new voices from Louisa and Phoebe, pitch imitation from Ria, Meena and Jake and a variation on "scatting" from Winfred, Joey and Kugan.

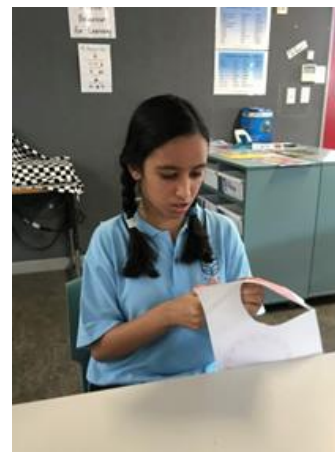
The songs we are singing are *Hey Jude*, *Let It Be*, *Best Day of My Life*, *Shotgun*, *When I Was a Child* and *Country Road*. Most of these songs have "scatting" phrases embedded in them which help with speech and voice production. Parents may enjoy singing these songs with their children encouraging repetition.

The highlight of the term has definitely been Jaehyun playing the melody line of *Pachelbel's Canon*. Amazing performance!!

New Student – Emaan

From Linda, Relieving Assistant Principal

Emaan is in Year 7 and has re-joined Karonga School this year. Emaan is a happy and diligent student who enjoys swimming, writing, playing musical instruments, gardening and reading with her friends in the playground. Emaan has also joined the Karonga singing choir. She looks forward to signing choir practise every week and especially likes it when they do an ABBA song. She has settled very well into Room 1 with many of her old friends



Giddy Up to the RDA!

From Shani Kennedy



Above: Genesis and Julie enjoyed horsing around in Room 8

There were no long faces as Karonga horse riders-in-training got ready for the Riding for the Disabled (RDA) program at Marsfield Park

Seven students from Rooms 7, 8 and 13 practiced for the big event by wearing bike helmets in their classrooms (as a replacement for horse riding helmets) and being stable while on the hobby and rocking horses.

There was no jockeying for position as the RDA program will take 16 weekly sessions of 45 minutes. Hoofing it to the nearby arena will be a walk in the park as the students will travel in a Karonga P&C mini bus to the RDA centre at Marsfield Park.

The Karonga staff involved will be taking turns to accompany our students throughout the program. Suzanne, our much appreciated volunteer bus driver will be there every week. Tally ho Karonga!



Left: Geonwoo, Oras and Timothy from Room 13 quit stalling and got off their high horses.



Room 8 are going GR8!

From Shani and Mandy

Room 8 has been setting up house and getting reacquainted with old friends this term. We have missed our classmate, Lachlan who has been unwell for some weeks.

We have also been very grateful to two of our wonderful volunteers at Karonga who have gone out of their way to help us. John, has given a fabulous make over to the doll cot seen in the photo below. He also restored the rocking horse shown in the RDA article photos. Suzanne has been helping in the classroom and also driving the bus to the RDA. Thank you very much for your time and effort!

This semester in Room 8, we will be exploring the world around us. We started with things in our classroom that you can find at home.



Above: Elijah was happily testing out the comfort of sleeping on sequin-cushions. He likes relaxing on different surfaces.

Genesis (right) did a great job eating toast with a fork using his non-dominant hand while sitting safely at the dining table. He has begun to try new food varieties.



Julie (right) was wearing an apron around her waist to keep dry when she gave one of the Room 8 babies a warm bubble bath. She has been developing positive relationships with those around her.





Above: Talia was enjoying the rough texture of the bright yellow netting material, perhaps for new curtains? She began walking and climbing in the last two weeks and is very keen to take advantage of her new found freedom.

Key Word Signing Course for Parents

****Change of Date****

Please note that there has been a change of date to the Key Word Signing Course. All other details remain the same.

The new date is Friday 29th March

There are still vacancies. Please contact the school office for further information.

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Eastwood Patchwork Quilters Raffle 2019

\$2 a ticket
Drawn 5th May, 2019

Prizes

1st Modern colourful Queen size quilt
2nd Kaffe Fassett floral Queen size quilt

Proceeds to Allowah Children's Hospital

For over 60 years Allowah has been supporting children with complex disabilities and medical needs.

Allowah is a modern and bright facility in Dundas Valley, NSW. It supports children and young people from birth to the age of eighteen who have moderate to severe disabilities and medical needs – such as genetic or chromosomal disorders, birth trauma, cerebral palsy, head injuries, and conditions acquired after birth.

Raffle tickets are available at the office desk at Karonga.

