Kerribana Primary School

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# Little Yarns

*Issue 15 | 15th October 2026*

## Calendar of Events

| | |
|---|---|
| 15 Oct | Year 3 Excursion<br>Upper Hume Division Basketball |
| 15 & 16 Oct | Year 4 Camp |
| 16 Oct | Regional Athletics |
| 19 Oct | School Council Meeting |
| 17 Nov | Foundation Transition<br>Foundation Information Evening 5pm - 6pm |
| 19 Nov | Real School's Parent Evening |
| 23 Nov | School Council Meeting |
| 24 Nov | Foundation Transition |
| 27 Nov | **Wodonga Gold Cup Public Holiday** |
| 30 Nov | Year 6 Graduation & Whole School Presentation Assembly |
| 1 Dec | School Concert<br>Foundation Transition |
| 7 - 11 Dec | Year 6 Head Start |
| 8 Dec | Statewide Transition Day |
| 17 Dec | Last Day of Term 4<br>End of Term BBQ<br>Early Finish 2:15pm |



## *From The Principal*

Dear Kerribana Families,

### *Celebrating Everyone's BEST!*

At Kerribana Primary School, our values are:
B – Be Brave and Participate
E – Encourage Everyone's Best
S – Speak Kindly and with Care
T – Treat All with Respect

Our staff notice students who display these values to a high level. We record when we see children living these values in their interactions, efforts and personal bests. When a student has recorded 5 examples of actioning one of the values, we present them with a BEST Badge of Recognition.

Congratulations to our next cohort of students who received a BEST Badge at our Assembly on Monday:

- Hallie A – Encourage Everyone's Best
- Ivy C – Speak Kindly and with Care
- Millie E – Treat All with Respect (second badge!)
- Jaxon T – Treat All with Respect

We also have some students who will be receiving their Kerribana Reading Recognition Ribbon for achieving 200 nights of reading this year!

## *From the Principal continued*

### *Staying Safe at School*

Unfortunately, we have had some students who have been unsafe outside the school grounds. Students have been dropped off at school and then are walking out of the school grounds. This includes students walking across roads during early drop off time. When students arrive to school, they are to enter the school grounds and STAY WITHIN the school grounds, where we can supervise them.

Further, if your child regularly rides to school from the Kinchington Estate, please speak with them about how they use the road. We have had numerous reports recently of students riding unsafely and not being aware of their surroundings.

### *Thank You*

To the Lavington Lions Club for their recent donation of books. We will be stocking up the library, as well as offering free books to students - keep an eye out for further details.

### *Dates For Your Calendar*

- Friday 16th October – Regional Athletics
- Friday 27th November – Wodonga Cup Public Holiday (Pupil Free Day)
- Monday 30th November – Year Six Graduation and Whole School Presentation Assembly
- Tuesday 1st December – End of Year Concert at Wodonga Senior Secondary College

With kindness,
Fran Waterman
Principal



# Year 6 Graduation

Our graduating class of 2026 will be celebrated at our whole school Presentation Assembly on Monday 30th November at 9am.

Please see the attached flyer for more information.

# Staffing Update

At the end of Term Three, we farewelled two staff members. Colin Chambers was successful in obtaining a music teaching position at another school; we wish Colin the very best and are sure his students will flourish under his expertise.
Emma Polkinghorne also decided to step away from Kerribana PS and return to her previous school. Thank you Emma for your time at KPS.

As such, Jan Johnson will remain in 56A for the rest of 2026. Jan has been guiding this class beautifully and they are in excellent hands for the rest of the year.

Tania Worrall has offered to step into the vacant Music Specialist position. From Week 3, Tania will use her passion for the arts and work with the whole school to continue their music education, and coordinate the end of year concert.

Moving into 56C will be a new teacher, Ana Maria Gonzalez. Ana has been the Leading Teacher at Wodonga West Primary School, and has a passion for inclusion and empowering students. Ana will be here to meet the students on Friday 16th October, before starting in the 5/6 Pavilion from Week Three. We warmly welcome Ana to Kerribana.

# Fun Fact!

Instead of using a tongue, butterflies stand on leaves to taste them with special sensors on their feet.

# Friendology

Kerribana has signed up to Friendology, including URSTRONG.

URSTRONG is all about empowering kids with friendship skills, while providing the adults in their lives, both parents and teachers, with a common language to support them.
Kids learn what's normal in a friendship, the difference between healthy and unhealthy friendships and how to stand up for themselves with kid-friendly concepts.

Over the coming weeks, we will be sharing some of the concepts with you. First up, Friendship Fires.

# When Another Parent Brings You a Friendship Fire! (Part 1)

***How to stay in your role as a Friendship Coach...without making the Fire bigger!***

There are few things that activate our protective instincts faster than hearing that our child has done something hurtful. Maybe another parent approaches you at pick-up. Maybe you receive a text; "Just wanted to let you know what happened between the kids today..." And...cue the Mama/Papa Bear reaction. Your heart rate goes up. Your defences kick in. You want to explain, investigate, defend your child, or perhaps march straight home and demand answers. I get it. Nobody is objective when it comes to their own child. We love them fiercely and we're wired to protect them. But when it comes to everyday Friendship Fires® (our coined term for conflict in a friendship), this is exactly the moment when we need to remember our role.
You are the Friendship Coach. Your child is the player. And often, the very best coaching happens from the sidelines.

## Why Kids Are Afraid to Tell Us

One of the biggest reasons children hesitate to tell their parents about Friendship Fires is simple: they're worried we'll get involved. They worry we'll call the other parent. Email the school. Confront the friend. Send a text. Make it awkward.
In other words, they're worried we'll make the Fire bigger. And, I'm afraid to say... sometimes we do. (Parents and teachers are guilty of this!) Our involvement can unintentionally send children the message: You couldn't handle this without me.
Instead, we want our children to hear: "You've got this. I'm right here on the sidelines, but you're the player. You can do it!"
That's the heart of being a Friendship Coach. We listen. We empathise. We help them make sense of what happened. We remind them of the strategies they know. And then, whenever it is safe and appropriate, we let them practise. Because friendship skills are just that: skills. Children develop them by using them.

## When Another Parent Brings You a Friendship Fire

This is where things get tricky. When another parent tells us our child has done something wrong, two parents are now looking at the same situation through two very different (and very emotional) lenses. Neither parent was likely there. Neither parent is completely objective. And both love their child fiercely.
Psychologists have long studied our tendency to give negative information disproportionate attention and weight – often referred to as a negativity bias. Negative impressions can be quicker to form and harder to undo. So, when someone tells you, "Your child excluded mine," it can be surprisingly easy for one moment to become a judgement about a child: She's controlling. He's mean. She always causes drama.
Whoa. Hold up. We're talking about a child. Suddenly, we're no longer talking about something a child did. We're deciding who that child is. That's a very unfair leap. (*Part 2 next fortnight*)

# Thunderstorm Asthma Season

Grass pollen season in Victoria usually runs from October to December. During this time, asthma and hay fever symptoms can get worse. There is also an increased risk of thunderstorm asthma.
Ten years ago, Melbourne experienced the largest thunderstorm asthma event in the world. Thunderstorm asthma can be sudden and serious. It can be life-threatening, especially if a person's asthma or hay fever is not well controlled.

Kerribana Primary School will have measures to keep our school community safe.
Many of our staff are trained in asthma first aid. We will monitor VicEmergency for thunderstorm asthma warnings. When needed, we will keep students indoors if the weather forecast shows a higher risk.

Managing asthma and allergies matters. During this pollen season, there are some things you can do to protect yourself and your family:

- If your child has ever had asthma, talk to your doctor about your Asthma Action Plan and to make sure symptoms are well controlled.
- If your child has hay fever, talk to your pharmacist or doctor about a hay fever plan and check if you need an asthma reliever puffer.
- If your child has cough or wheeze with hay fever, talk to your doctor to make sure they don't also have asthma.
- Take asthma medication as directed by your doctor, as the good control of symptoms can prevent thunderstorm asthma.
- Follow the VicEmergency website or app. Where possible, avoid being outside during thunderstorms – especially during the winds that come before the storm. Go inside and close your doors and windows. If you have your air conditioning on, turn it to 'recirculate'.
- Know asthma first aid. If you are not sure if someone is having an asthma attack, you can still use a blue asthma reliever puffer.

For more information, speak to your doctor. You can also:

- speak with an asthma educator on 1800 ASTHMA (1800 278 462). This is a free service from 9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday
- refer to Better Health Channel. This includes information in different languages.






# School Preparations for the Bushfire Season

Each year, we undertake a range of activities to ensure the safety of our school and to prepare for bushfires and grassfires.
An important part of this process is communicating to parents what will happen when certain fire danger ratings are issued to help ensure the safety of students and staff.

Our school has been identified as being at risk of bushfire or grassfire and is a **Category 4** school.
Our school will close on a day forecasted as Catastrophic fire danger rating in the North East fire district.
Closure of the school due to a Catastrophic fire danger rating will be enacted when the Bureau of Meteorology forecast and related public safety messaging are confirmed. Due to uncertainties in the forecast, the timing of this confirmation may vary.

Information regarding potential or confirmed Catastrophic fire danger days will be communicated to you by Xuno.

It is also important to be aware that:

- No one will be on site on days where the school is closed due to a forecast Catastrophic day.
- Out-of-school-hours care will also be cancelled on these days.
- All bus routes that travel through the Catastrophic area will be cancelled.
- School camps will be cancelled if a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast for fire weather district in which the camp is located, or if the travel involves passing through areas that have Catastrophic fire danger.

As part of preparing our school for the fire season, we have updated and completed our Emergency Management Plan.

What can families and the school community do to help us prepare?

- Ensure we have your current contact details, including your mobile phone numbers.
- Keep in touch with us by reading our newsletters and Xuno communications, and by talking to your child's teacher.
- Make sure your family's bushfire survival plan is up-to-date and includes alternative care arrangements if our school is closed due to Catastrophic fire danger. Further information can be found on the CFA's website.
- Action your family's bushfire survival plan if your own triggers are met. Our school community may be spread out across many areas and some families may be at higher risk than others. Your family's safety is critical, so please let us know if you are actioning your bushfire survival plan and if your children will be absent on these days.
- If your child is old enough, talk to them about bushfires and your family's bushfire survival plan.

Families are encouraged to action their Bushfire Survival Plan on Catastrophic fire danger rating days in their district. The safest option is to leave the night before or early on the morning of the Catastrophic day. On such days, children should never be left at home alone or in the care of older children.

You can find more information on emergencies, warnings and preparedness actions here:

- VicEmergency app – that can be downloaded on your android and iOS mobile devices
- VicEmergency Hotline (1800 226 226)
- Website https://emergency.vic.gov.au
- Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/vicemergency)
- Twitter (https://twitter.com/vicemergency)
- ABC local radio, Sky News and other emergency broadcasters

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**What is the department's policy?**

The Department of Education annually assesses the fire risk of all schools and early childhood services with the support of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). They are allocated a category of risk (categories 0 to 6). Schools and services that are Categories 0-3 are published on the Bushfire At-Risk Register (BARR). Schools at some risk of bushfire and grassfire are published on the Category 4 List.

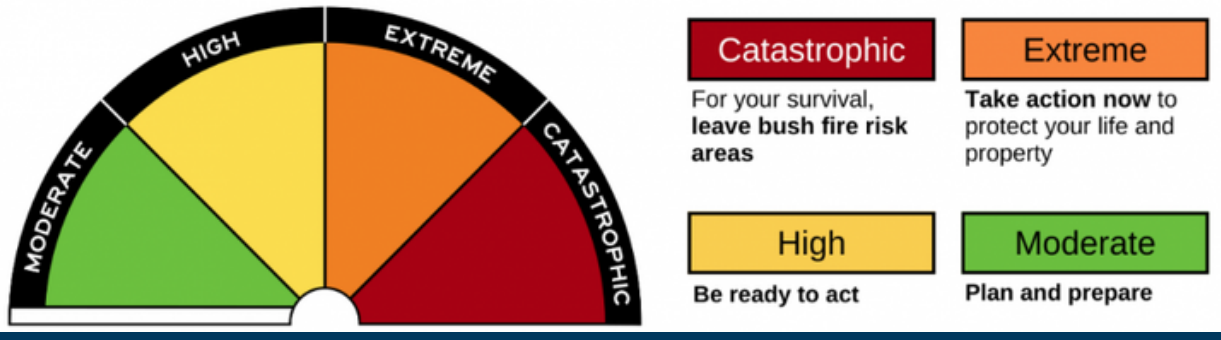
The department's Bushfire and Grassfire Preparedness Policy requires all schools and early childhood services on the BARR and the Category 4 List to close when a Catastrophic fire danger rating day is forecast in their fire weather district. All school bus routes which travel in or through a district with Catastrophic fire danger must also be cancelled.

The policy also requires that schools at the highest risk of bushfire (those in Categories 0, 1 and 2 of the Bushfire At-Risk Register) enact pre-emptive action plans based on the fire danger forecast for their Local Government Area (LGA).

**Who issues fire danger forecasts?**

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) provides public fire danger rating forecasts each day of the fire danger period using fire weather district areas. In Victoria, there are 9 fire weather districts, which are based on Local Government Area boundaries.

The department uses these forecasts when supporting schools to enact their pre-emptive bushfire actions plans.



# SunSmart School

Kerribana PS is a member of the Cancer Council Victoria's SunSmart School program.

This means that all students are required to wear a hat anytime they are outside during Terms 4 & 1. Please ensure your child brings a named hat every day to school.

SCHOLASTIC Book Clubs

Issue #7 of the Scholastic Book Club is out now! Catalogues have been sent home with students.
Students can purchase books via the online platform LOOP, or by completing the paper form and returning it to school with the correct money.
All orders must be submitted by Thursday 22nd October.

# Lost Property

Lost property is located in the foyer at the Office in the green ottomans.
If you are missing any items, please come in and have a look. All un-named items will be donated to charity.

Please also ensure ALL school items are clearly named, so any lost items can make their way back to the rightful owner.

# State Schools' Relief

State Schools' Relief is a not-for-profit organisation. Their aim is to ensure all children have equitable access to school uniforms.

If you are struggling with the cost of uniforms, State Schools' Relief will supply uniforms for your child/ren.
Items they are able to supply include; jackets, polo tops, tracksuit pants, coats and shoes.

To access this service, please email the school on:
kerribana.ps@education.vic.gov.au
Attention: State Schools' Relief
In your email, please state the specific items and sizes required, and your order will be delivered to the school.
Logo items can be purchased from Beleza School Uniforms or B-Cut Uniforms using the voucher provided.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Office.

STATE SCHOOLS' RELIEF



## Contact Us


(02) 5024 5005
29 Jennings Boulevard, Leneva
kerribana.ps@education.vic.gov.au
www.kerribanaps.vic.edu.au
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www.instagram.com/kerribana.primary.school

KERRIBANA
PRIMARY SCHOOL

# Year Six GRADUATION

Our Year Six Graduation will be the key component of our 2026 Presentation Assembly.

**MONDAY 30TH NOVEMBER** 2026

**9:00AM – 10:30AM**

**GYMNASIUM AT KERRIBANA PS**

Year Six students are invited to dress as formally as they wish.

Up to four parents may attend for each Graduating Student.

Parents and family are invited to stay for the Graduation Cake and Photos following the Ceremony.

After the ceremony, the Year Six students will share a Graduation Lunch.

Invitations and more details to come shortly!

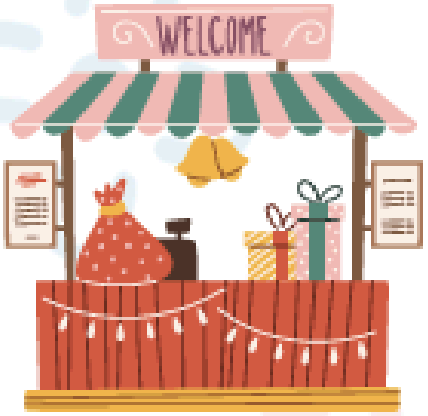
Kerribana VILLAGE
Parents Families Friends Community

# TERM 4 UPDATE

HELLO!

For those new to our school, Kerribana Village (KV) is our parent and community group, bringing families together to support our school and create special memories for our students.

What a busy Term 3 it was at KV! We loved celebrating 100 Days of School with our Foundies, Father/Special Persons Day, and of course, our ever-popular end-of-term BBQ.




A massive thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to make it all happen. From organising and packing to cooking, running stalls and helping behind the scenes, every contribution makes a difference. Thank you for helping make KV such a wonderful community!

If you are wanting to get involved or help out during events this term please get in touch with Office who will put you in touch!

## HELP US PLAN FOR 2027!

As we start planning KV events for next year, we'd love to hear from our school community about what's working well and what we could do differently.
Scan the QR code to complete our short, anonymous survey and share your thoughts.
Your feedback will help us shape our events for next year.
We'd love your input!

## DATES FOR THE CALENDAR

**6TH NOV**
**Christmas Raffle Commences**

**9TH DEC**
**Christmas Raffle Concluded**

**11TH DEC**
**Chrismas raffle drawn and prizes sent home**

**17 DEC**
**End of term lunch**

## A REMINDER ON OUR PURPOSE

Our Purpose is to reinvest our fundraising proceeds back into school events for all children to enjoy.

To create specialness and memory making wonderment.

To create a sense of community and to have fun!

# CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Kerribana Village are seeking donations from local businesses for the 2026 Christmas Raffle major prizes.

Goods, services and vouchers will be gratefully accepted.

Please contact Shannon on 0447851520

Kerribana VILLAGE

Parents Families Friends Community







# Community Annoucements

