Dear Parents,

Big Write & VCOP Across The School - A Method for Raising Standards in Writing

Your child may come home and tell you that they are using VCOP in their writing at school...but what is it? This year we have seen some amazing results and improved knowledge from our students whilst implementing the VCOP program at Kilberry Valley.

Just this week I have been so impressed with some of the Year Prep writing that I have been shown by extremely proud students.

Our staff have undergone professional development and mentoring sessions to implement the VCOP, but I am sure some of you will be wondering what your students are talking about when they refer to the VCOP activities.

I hope this summary helps.

Ros Wilson has been in the education sector for over 45 years, working as a teacher, advisor and consultant in the United Kingdom and various other countries. On assessing over 20,000 pieces of children’s writing across all year levels, she developed the Assessment Criterion Scale to standardise testing. Collectively, she noted four generic targets that either grew, or were ‘absent’ as the pupil’s writing skills developed. These were identified as Vocabulary, Connectives, Openers and Punctuation, or the VCOP.

Each letter of VCOP stands for an aspect of writing that will help students improve their writing in every subject.

V = Vocabulary (the words they use in their writing)

We call them WOW words! For example: instead of using the word ‘nice’, we could use other more interesting words such as ‘beautiful, stunning, fantastic’ etc.

C = Connectives (we call them joining words)

These are words we use to make our sentences longer. For example: ‘and, because, but, so, when, then’. The words come in the middle of sentences, e.g. ‘When I stared out of the window I felt angry because I saw my bike was broken.’

O = Openers (we use these words to open or begin our sentences)

For example: ‘I, My, When, First, Suddenly’ There are many more openers. We encourage the children to use a different opener to start each sentence in their writing.

P = Punctuation (the marks we use to help our writing make sense!)

The students begin to use full stops, capital letters, exclamation marks and question marks, commas, ellipsis etc.
**Principal’s Message**

Why have I used these colours to highlight the letters? Ask your children for an explanation! They should be able to talk you through it.

Big Write and VCOP is:
- a fast paced, fun filled writing program that is based around TALK! At the heart of Big Write is the development of the ‘writing voice’
- heavily resourced with classroom activities, assessment and feedback on how to improve writing standards across the school

The Assessment Criterion Scale:
- has been adapted to suit the Australian National Curriculum
- is designed to provide the teacher and student with a step by step approach on how to improve their writing
- creates consistency and confidence across the school in our marking of writing
- becomes a guideline for planning and setting goals to help ‘every’ student move to the next stage of ‘their’ writing
- raises the bar in student achievement as it allows the students easy access to the next level of learning
- is formative assessment for teachers, and self assessment for students
- makes summative assessment more accurate and clear across the school
- is linked to the Australian National Curriculum.

We are very excited with the results in student writing we are witnessing this early in the introduction of VCOP across the school. I hope this has given you a snippet of information about the program and I encourage you to talk to your children about it .......... maybe they might even teach you how to play Sensei Says!

If you have any queries please contact your child’s teacher.

**Victorian Autism Conference**
As a follow up from last week’s article regarding the Inclusion Program at Kilberry Valley, 30 staff members are attending all or part of the Victorian Autism Conference to be held next week in Melbourne. We are looking forward to the opportunity to increase our learning as a staff.

**Parent Opinion Survey**
If you were one of the ‘chosen few’ who were randomly selected to receive the annual Parent Opinion Survey I would ask you to fill in the response sheet and return it to school by Friday so they can be returned to the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development for collation.

**Footy News**
SO CLOSE to top spot – only one goal short!!!! But it’s now a 3 way split at the top of the ladder.

But what a game of football! It’s unusual me saying this, but no matter which way the final result went – it was a great game to watch with both Sydney and Hawthorn having their spurts of brilliance. Fortunately the Hawkers had a longer one than the Swans throughout the final two quarters to come away with a hard fought and well deserved win.

Only a few weeks to go in the season and a tough run home for the Hawks. A trip to Tasmania this weekend will see a game against the Western Bulldogs. A tough one but I am sure we will come out with a win. Go Hawkers!

Have a great week and keep smiling!

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Neil Cunningham
Principal
Prep AM   Kevin T
Prep CM   Liam
Prep PD   Rahul
1CC       Tyler
1CS       Tyler
1CT       Mobina
1JT       Emily
1LG       Tharusha
1LT       Paige S
1RB       Marley
2CT       Kishara
2DK       Louisa
2JB       Tijay
2SD       Jayden
2AS       Gabriela
3JC       Shevin
3JP       Samantha
3JW       Mobin
3RC       Erin
3SW       Tyler
3YH       Aqilah
4JR       Ryder
4TT       Jasmin
5AC       Taylor
5CA       Jacob
5JS       Nathaniel
6AH       Kiara
6JM       Yasemin
6KJ       Brodi
6PP       Vindya
6RB       Miah
Art       Rhylee (2JB)
Art       Jonathan (3YH)

STUDENT OF THE WEEK

28th July to 3rd August 2014

Rahul 0PD
Aara 1CC
Shahil 1CT
Arsalan 1JT
Codi 1LG
Naseem 2JB
Jaicen 2AS
Joel Joy 3RC
Eternity 3RC
Hamdan 3SW
Eren 4JR
Pamadhi 4LK
Ethan 4LM
Luke 5AC
Dineth 6AH
Yi Tong 6PP

WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK
We would like to remind parents who are interested in helping at the school in any way, that you will require a Working With Children Check.
YOU CANNOT ASSIST IN ANY CAPACITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL UNLESS YOU HAVE A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK. THIS INCLUDES EXCURSIONS, INCURSIONS & CLASSROOM HELP.
There is no cost involved.
Application forms can be accessed by visiting the Department of Justice website at www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow the link for Licences and Certificates.
Once you have received your Working With Children Check card, bring it to the office to register and wear the card whenever you volunteer at the school. This will ensure an even greater level of security for your children.
THANK YOU

ABSENCE NOTIFICATIONS
REMINDER TO PARENTS:
If your child is absent from school, please ring the school office on 9702 8688 on the morning of the absence or send a note with the student on the day they return to school.
CERES – Grade 6 Excursion

On Wednesday the 23rd of July, 6AH, 6JM, 6KJ and 6PP went on an excursion to CERES in Brunswick as part of their Inquiry unit on sustainability. The students participated in a variety of hands on learning to see how they could have less impact on the environment through their decisions and saw a variety of different energy types. Australia has one of the world's largest ecological footprints (a measure of human demand on the Earth's ecosystems) per capita, requiring 6.6 global hectares per person. Over 50% of Australia's footprint is due to greenhouse gas emissions, with the average household emitting around 14 tonnes of greenhouse gases each year. So What?

If all countries consumed the resources that we Australians do, it would take the biocapacity of three earths to support their lifestyle. The message is clear and urgent. Each of us can make some simple changes that will add up to a great deal of relief for our increasingly fragile planet.

What did we learn:
- Trees turn into fossil fuels after many years.
- The sun can be used to boil water by using mirrors to direct its energy.
- The difference between renewable and non-renewable energy resources.
- Even small appliances on standby can use lots of energy.
- Burning our fossil fuels is creating harmful gases.
- How we can reduce our impact on the environment.
- The balance of industry, consumers and the environment.

What we enjoyed:
- Making the waterwheel work and see how it produces energy.
- Exploring the sustainable house and seeing what changes we could use when we make models.
- Learning about how different fossil fuels are made.
- Using different solar powered gadgets.
- Learning about biomass energy.
- Using a bicycle to power a tv and dvd player.
- Seeing how the steam engine worked.
- Calculating our classes impact on the environment using the ecological footprint.

By 6AH, 6JM
The first day of school was January 29th and the 100th day of school was celebrated by the Year 1s on Wednesday, July 23rd. The students investigated the number, 100 through a range of learning tasks and challenges. Students were asked to bring 100 items from home and used these to weigh, count and sort into groups of 2s, 5s and 10s.

1CT and 1JT enjoyed playing maths games, such as Race to 100, flipping a coin 100 times and predicting how many heads and tails would come up, counting and graphing shapes, reading and writing 100 words and doing puzzles which had 100 pieces.
Healthy Recipe of the Week
Ms Suffern’s Whole Grain Salad

- 1 cup cooked whole grain (such as brown rice, wild rice, millet or barley),
- 1 scallion, sliced
- 1 small celery stalk, sliced
- 1/2 bell pepper, seeded and chopped
- 1/2 cup mandarin oranges
- 2 Tbsp. raisins
- 2 Tbsp. toasted nuts
- 2 cups lettuce greens (mixed or romaine)

**Dressing:**
- 1 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1 Tbsp. cider vinegar
- 1 tsp. orange or mandarin juice
- 1/2 garlic clove pressed
- 1 tsp. low sodium soy sauce
- dash of salt & pepper

**Directions:**
In a small bowl add the grain and all other ingredients, except the lettuce. Toss with the dressing and let sit for at least few minutes for flavors to meld. Sprinkle dressed ingredients onto the lettuce. If needed, drizzle a little more olive oil and vinegar over the salad.

**KVPS Staff and families please email:**
cavanagh.jacqueline1@edumail.vic.gov.au
with any recipes for healthy meals or lunches.

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**BREAKFAST CLUB**
This FRIDAY there will be FREE toast for ALL students!

**Time:** 8:30-8:55am
**Day:** FRIDAY mornings
**Place:** New Gym
**Cost:** FREE for all students
10c for all additional meals

We are always looking for parent helpers. If you have a current WWCC (Working With Children’s Check) and would like to help us out on FRIDAY Mornings please contact Mrs Cavanagh in the new Gym.

(Please note that this is a non profit program- all money collected is spent on buying items for our Breakfast Club)

PEANUT ALLERGIES: Unfortunately we are unable to offer Breakfast Club to children with nut allergies. Although we do not serve ‘nut foods’, we cannot guarantee that our kitchen is complete ‘Nut Free’

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**HEART FOUNDATION WALKING CLUB**
When: Every Tues & Thurs @ 9:15am
Where: Outside the front office
Contact: Abi 0423963403

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**KIDS IN THE KITCHEN**
Get the kids to help cook at home as it will help teach them where food comes from, how to measure, count, read, time and follow directions. It also allows for the introduction of new flavours as kids are more likely to eat food that they have helped prepare. Cooking is an important skill to teach children in this age of increasing take away and convenience eating. Remember to be patient. The mess and extra time needed will be worth it!!

One idea is to begin the cooking experience with the food shopping. By encouraging them to help you, they will become familiar with a wide range of foods which will promote variety in their dietary intake. Teach them about choosing fresh fruits, vegetables and seasonal foods.

For more recipes visit www.nutritionaustralia.org

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**APPLE MUESLI MUFFINS**
- 1 1/2 cup muesli
- 1 cup self raising flour
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 cup grated apple
- 1/2 cup sultanas
- 1 egg beaten
- 1/3 cup oil
- 1 cup milk

Add liquid ingredients to dry ingredients and mix until combined. Spoon into greased muffin tins. Bake at 190°C for 30 minutes or until golden. Makes 12.

**TIP:** Make mini muffins for little hands and tummies. Mini muffin tins are available from kitchen retailers.

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**HEALTHY WEEK**
MRS CAVANAGH

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**HAVE A HAPPY AND HEALTHY WEEK**

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**HEART FOUNDATION WALKING CLUB**
When: Every Tues & Thurs @ 9:15am
Where: Outside the front office
Contact: Abi 0423963403
An Afternoon With Dad @ KVPS.

Kilberry Valley Primary School would like to invite all fathers or special male friends of our students to attend our ‘Afternoon with Dad’ day on Friday September 5\textsuperscript{th} 2014 to celebrate Father’s Day. The day will begin after lunch at 2.00pm on 5\textsuperscript{th} September where fathers will be invited into the classroom to participate in activities with their child.

*Senior Classes Timetable (Grades 3-6): Fathers will be invited into the classroom from 2:00pm till 2:40 pm and will then be invited to attend the senior school assembly or grab a coffee at 2:45pm on this day.

*Junior Classes Timetable (Prep, 1, 2): Fathers will be invited into classrooms from 2:30 till 3:30 on this day.

Hope you will be able to attend and spend this afternoon with your child.

Community Involvement PLT @KVPS.
FUNDRAISING NEWS
OUR SCHOOL RAFFLE 2014

THIS WONDERFUL FUNDRAISING ACTIVITY ENDS THIS FRIDAY, 1ST AUGUST SO WE ARE ASKING ALL FAMILIES TO PLEASE RETURN ALL MONIES AND ALL RAFFLE TICKETS (SOLD AND UNsold) TO SCHOOL

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR FAMILIES WHO HAVE RETURNED THEIR MONEY AND TICKETS!

YOUR SUPPORT HAS BEEN AMAZING!
Kilberry Community Carnival Update

We are currently looking for the following:
Stall holders! If you have a home based business or know someone who does, and would like to hold a stall at our Carnival, please send an expression of interest to Jacinta.kcc@gmail.com with your contact details and a description of the goods you would like to sell. No email? Then pick up an expression of interest form at the office & drop it back when completed.
Companies or small businesses that can help with: general sponsorship to assist with the running of the event, donation of BBQ supplies (sausages, bread sauce etc) loan of equipment to be used on the day. ie marquees, trestle tables
If you can assist, please also contact Jacinta Parkinson at Jacinta.kcc@gmail.com
After School Care provides a safe environment for children to explore and play.

About the program

After School Care promotes a healthy and active lifestyle, encourages friendships and supports children to develop new skills – all while having fun.

Kilberry Valley Primary School has partnered with Camp Australia, the leading provider of before and after school care in Australia. This high quality program embraces the schools values and builds on your child’s educational experience and individual interests.

The program combines active games with planned and unplanned play, quiet time, homework time and a healthy snack. Every day is an adventure led by enthusiastic Camp Australia staff who are on a mission to bring smiles to kid’s faces. As trained educators, we know lots of different ways to help your child get the most out of their day and feel good about themselves.

Key information

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hours</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Full Fee</th>
<th>Out of Pocket*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Before Care</td>
<td>7:00 AM - 8:45 AM</td>
<td>$16.37</td>
<td>$5.22 to $8.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>After Care</td>
<td>3:30 PM - 6:00 PM</td>
<td>$22.96</td>
<td>$7.24 to $11.48</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Additional fees apply for casual bookings and Vacation Care onsite/offsite excursions

Next step

Find the after school care link on your school website and click through for more information.

or

visit www.campaustralia.com.au and enter your school name in the school finder.

Notes on Fees and out of pocket: *

1. The Child Care Benefit (CCB) is income tested and scaled, resulting in a reduction of between 0% and 80% of the fees.
2. The Child Care Rebate (CCR) is income tested and is available to almost all Australian families. It provides a rebate of 50% of fees owing after the CCR has been calculated and considered.

So that the CCB and CCR can be automatically applied to your account you will need to provide your Centrelink Customer Reference Number/s (CRN/s) during the registration process. These can be obtained from the Family Assistance Office on 13 61 50.

We look forward to caring for your children

www.campaustralia.com.au | 1300 105 343
KILBERRY VALLEY NOTICES SENT HOME
The following notices have been sent home to families and require your prompt attention:

DISTRICT ATHLETICS CARNIVAL GRADES 4-6 (SELECTED STUDENTS ONLY)
Final payments and consent forms due by Wednesday, 6th August, 2014. The cost of this excursion is $8.

GRADE 1 MELBOURNE ZOO EXCURSION
Final payments and consent forms due by Friday, 8th August, 2014. The cost of the excursion is $28.

GRADE 3 CAMP (MT MORTON)
Consent forms and a non-refundable deposit of $50 MUST be received by Friday, 8th August, 2014. The final costing for camp will be determined after this date. Final payments will be due by Friday, 12th September, 2014. Students who do not return consent forms and payments by the closing date for incursions/excursions will not be able to participate in the activity. We would appreciate your support and co-operation with these matters. Thank you.

LATE PAYMENTS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED

Coming soon!!
New to Kilberry Valley P.S
Martial Arts Class for Beginners.

A New Beginners Class has been added to our current training schedule. Karate has proven methods to help develop confidence, motivation, fitness, posture and self defense awareness.

Start Date: 12/8/2014
Class Time: Tuesday’s 6.30pm -7.30pm
K.V.P.S : Old Gym Hall
(First lesson Free)
To Reserve your place please call John MacDonald on 0413 724 012 or WWW.LFP.COM.AU

Kilberry Valley Primary School
ADVERTISING
Please Note:
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WELFARE CORNER
Supporting learning in the home
For some areas of learning, children may need lots of support. This is especially the case when they are learning new things. As children’s abilities develop, they gradually become more independent in their learning and parents and carers can start to reduce their direct involvement. Parents and carers can assist children to think through tasks to support their learning and build independence. Teaching children thinking skills can also help children to become independent thinkers and learners.

Some other ways parents and carers can support their children’s learning include:
- Provide a challenge that is just beyond what your child can already do easily by him or herself
- Giving prompts
- Asking questions
- Showing the steps involved
- Praising you child for attempting the task, not just succeeding
- Watching to see if your child is struggling or becoming frustrated, as these may be signs that the task is too hard

Zania Cope-Assistant Principal

CHANGE OF CLOTHING FOR STUDENTS
We would like to remind parents to provide a change of clothing in children’s school bags (preferably some clean underwear, track suit pants, shorts or a dress).

This is handy for ALL children in ALL grade levels as it makes them feel less stressed if they require a change of clothing owing to an accident.
We ask for your co-operation with this matter as our Sick Bay is unable to cope with the large volume of people requiring changes of clothing.

THANK YOU

DIARY DATES—TERM 3
Friday 29th August—Curriculum Day.
Students do not attend.
Monday 15th-Thursday 18th September
School Musical

Parents, for the sake of our students, please model good road user behaviour especially around the school.
Children and young people will copy the example you set!