



Principals Message

What a wonderful Maths' Night we had last night! It was warm but all the parents and students who came along enjoyed doing the rotation of activities. Please check out the photos attached to this newsletter. Thank you to our Primary Maths and Science Specialist teachers Kate Novak and Felicity Creighton for their planning and preparation.

Thank you to all families for the fantastic way you are sending your students to school. They are looking wonderful in their uniforms and very well protected wearing their hats in the heat we have experienced. A reminder to all families that our shorts, skorts and pants colours are bottle green and grey – black is not our uniform colour. We have our first Excursion early March for our Grade 5 students and it is a prerequisite of attendance to be in full school uniform.

Our wellbeing Hub has some good quality second hand uniform, or we can assist families if this is required. Please reach out to the Wellbeing team if you need support with start up for your student.

Canteen update

As you may be aware, at the present time Raye's role has changed. Raye is providing limited over the counter stock – zooper doopers, slushies etc during first recess.

We are trialling over the next three Thursdays to work with Bullwinkles Food Van to supply a lunch order option to our students once a week. Tara will park her food van onsite and will collect orders on the day. Students will have their orders and money in an envelope and hand in to the food van which will be located near our canteen. Parents who may wish to pay online can come to the van and place an order in the morning. Please see the menu information attached later in the newsletter.

Assembly: School and House Captains

This week at our assembly we will be introducing our new Foundation students and all Staff across the school. There will be no Principal Awards this week. All families are always invited to join us for assemblies on Friday between 9 and 9:20 am.

School and House Captains announced at Assembly this week. The calibre of the speeches given last week was outstanding. I would like to congratulate all students who put their hand up for a 2026 leadership position. We will have four School Captains who will share the load across the year. We will have two House Captains in each house who will support us with the selection of "Hour of Power" activities on a Wednesday afternoon. They will also support the borrowing of sports equipment.

In saying this, what we encourage is that all our Grade 6 students are leaders across our school. Our saying is you do not need to be wearing a badge to be a leader, our Grade 6 students set the tone within the school yard and in their actions. It is very pleasing to observe just how well our Grade 6 students have started the year.

End of Day Pick Up

We are a very supportive school community and we have families who know each other and support each other. This is fantastic and I love working in this school environment. But if you see a student not picked up and you feel the parent is late, please direct them to the yard duty teacher at Olympic Pde / Freeman Dr. gate or bring them to the office.

Last week we had a student taken home via the park by a well-intentioned family and this caused stress for the child's parent who arrived late to pick them up. This does happen too frequently, sometimes children will tell you a story that sounds plausible but unless you have had direct confirmation with the child's family, please bring them to the office.

Continued.....

School Council 2026

Please find some information below about our School Council and its purpose.

This year, the following positions are open for nomination.

- 4 Parent Vacancies
- 1 Community Member Vacancy

I invite you to nominate for the Kangaroo Flat Primary School Council. To do this, please contact the office to request the nomination form. Nomination forms must be submitted to the office by 4pm on Wednesday 25th February. School Council meets at least 8 times a year at a time set at the Annual General Meeting.

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the broad direction of a school, in accordance with Ministerial Order 1280 Constitution of Government School Councils, and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. In doing this, a school council may directly influence the quality of education for students.

Who is on the school council?

For most primary school councils, there are several possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected parent member category** – members of this category generally comprise more than one third of the council's total membership. Department employees can be parent members at their child's school providing that they are not engaged in work at the school.
- **A mandated elected school employee member category** – members of this category make up no more than one-third of membership. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category** – members are co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experience. Department employees are not eligible to be community members.
- A small number of school councils have nominee members.

For all schools with a Year 7 and above cohort, there is an additional category of membership:

- **A mandated elected student member category, two positions.**

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills and a range of experiences and knowledge that can help inform and shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable skills and knowledge to the role, however, in order to successfully perform their duties, councillors may need to gain some new skills and knowledge.

It is important to have an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*.

School councillors must comply with the Code of Conduct for Directors of Victorian Public Entities issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** – be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty
- **act in good faith in the best interests of the school** – work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds
- **act fairly and impartially** – consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self-interest
- **use information appropriately** – respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available

- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** – accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school
- **use the position appropriately** – not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage
- **act in a financially responsible manner** – observe all the above principles when making financial decisions
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** – know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** – set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable.

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

- a. the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or
- b. the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

By participating in, and voting in the school council elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

What do you need to do to stand for election?

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations in Term 1 of each year. Council elections must be completed by 31 March, unless varied by the Minister for Education.

If you stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or, you can nominate yourself in the parent member category. You can only be nominated by another member of the same category that you are eligible for (e.g. a member of the parent electorate may only nominate another parent of that electorate).

Department employees with a child enrolled at a school where they are not engaged in work, are eligible to nominate for parent membership at that school.

Return your completed nomination form to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt via post, email or by hand delivery.

Generally, if there are more nominations than vacancies a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

- Consider standing for election to school council.
- Ask the principal for instructions if you are not sure what to do.
- Be sure to vote if the election goes to ballot.
- Contact the principal if you are unsure about what is required at any stage of the election process.

Continued.....

Annual Privacy Reminder for our School Community

Our school collects and uses student and parent personal information for standard school functions or where permitted by law, as stated in the [Schools' Privacy Policy](#) and the [Schools' Privacy Collection Notice](#). Our Photographing, Filming and Recording Students Policy which can be found on our website, describes how we collect and use photographs, video and recordings of students. The policy also explains when parent consent is required and how it can be provided and withdrawn.

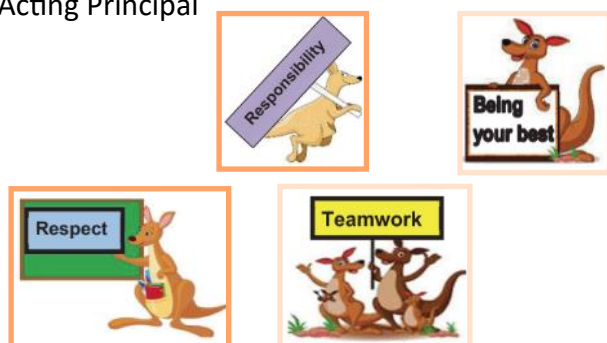
We ask parents to also review the guidance we provide on how we use [Google Workspace for Education](#) safely at the school and what parents can do to further protect their child's information. If after reviewing the guidance, you have any questions or concerns regarding your child using Google Workspace for Education, please contact the school.

For more information about privacy, refer to: [Schools' privacy policy: information for parents](#). This information is also available in ten community languages.

Regards,

Faye Martin

Acting Principal



Term 1 Calendar Events		
Monday	2nd March	Current Foundation Students Information Night
Tuesday	3rd March	Grade 5 Sovereign Hill
Wednesday	18th March	Youth Leadership (Selected students Melbourne)
Thursday	19th March	Whole School Athletics-information to follow soon
Monday	23rd March	Grades1-6 Swimming-information to follow soon
Tuesday	31st March	School Photos-information to follow soon
Thursday	2nd April	Crazy Hair Day Fundraiser for BCH Bendigo Children's Ward Last Day of Term 1
Monday	20th April	First Day Term 2 All Students

Leading Teacher Melissa Cusack, Mathematics Learning Specialist Kate Novak,
Literacy Learning Specialist Brooke Cole and Inclusion Leader Kim Anketell,



Acting Principal Faye Martin, Acting Assistant Principal Melissa Cusack and
Principal Kelsey Chaffey-Jones.



Administration and OH&S Rebekkah Gieschen, Office and Accounts Manager Ange Jobe and
Business Manager Maree Wayman.



Wellbeing Team

Speech Therapist Vikki Stone, Student Wellbeing and Attendance Coordinator Rose Lynch and Inclusion Leader Kim Anketell



Small Group Learning at KFPS

At Kangaroo Flat Primary School, we provide extra support in literacy and numeracy for students who need it. Our Small Group Learning Team works with students four times a week in small groups. In Grade 1 and 2, MiniLit (Meeting Initial Needs in Literacy) helps build reading skills like sounds, phonics, vocabulary and comprehension, while in Grade 3 and up, MacqLit (Macquarie Literacy Program) strengthens reading and spelling.

In Numeracy, some students join the hands-on Bond Blocks Maths Program, which runs alongside Victorian Department of Education lessons to build confidence with addition, subtraction and problem-solving. These programs give students extra practise and support to grow in confidence and feel capable in their learning.

Tania Riddick – LITERACY, Rebecca Picken – MATHS, Amelia Dunne – LITERACY and Michele Chng – LITERACY.



Hello from the 2026 Foundation team! Sonia (Mrs Rodgers) and Amanda are in Room 9, while Alisa (Miss I) and Jo are in Room 10. Foundation has had a fantastic start to the year. We have spent the first few weeks getting to know the students and what they need to feel safe and supported at school. Our key aim has been introducing the school-wide and year level expectations and routines, so that students can focus on being their best. We have had lots of opportunities to play, make friends, and have already started learning some literacy and numeracy concepts!



Grade One

Our Grade 1 students have had a great first week back! Teaching in Room 7 is Miss Plain, with Lachlan supporting students as our Education Support staff member. Mrs Sutton and Mrs Novak are the teachers in Room 8, with Tammie as Education Support. The children have settled in beautifully, spending time getting to know their teachers, classmates and classroom routines. This term, students will be learning about Local Places, exploring the ancient world of Mesopotamia, and investigating forces in science with Push and Pull. We'd also like to remind families how important home reading is in Grade 1, with an expectation that students read at least four nights per week. A big thank you to the families who have already begun home reading — your support makes such a difference! Please remember to send reader bags to school each day. We're really looking forward to a busy and exciting term of learning together!



We are so proud of how all our Grade 2 students in Rooms 5 and 6 have settled in over the first two weeks of the year. Across both rooms, Mrs Daff, Lucy, Miss McKellar, and Anam (Wednesday to Friday) have been building a nurturing, calm, and caring learning space where a love of reading is already shining, alongside the growth of confident and connected learners. We are encouraging every Grade 2 child to read every night at home as we continue to strengthen reading skills. The Grade 2 team are very excited to build on our unit of 'The Gold Rush' and start 'Important Places' soon.



Hello from the Grade 3 Team,
Room 14: Lana Marsh
Room 13: Annie Serjeant and Tania Riddick
Room 12: Matt Giles and Emily Swain

Grade 3 has had a fantastic start to the year as we have loved getting to know each other and sharing our holiday adventures. We have enjoyed building friendships and learning more about our classmates. We have been focusing on understanding the KFPS matrix and what it means in our daily learning. Together, we have been discussing and sharing our thoughts and knowledge about respect, responsibility, and teamwork. When we follow all of these, we are being our best and becoming star learners.



ur Grade 4 students have had a fantastic start to the school year and have settled back into their routines with confidence. They have been working hard to learn and follow both school and classroom expectations, showing positive behaviour and a great attitude toward learning. It has been lovely to see students listening carefully, supporting one another, and taking pride in their work. The Grade 4 classrooms have been filled with enthusiasm, kindness, and a strong sense of teamwork, creating a welcoming and positive learning environment for the year ahead.



Grade 5 Neighbourhood

Room 3 & 4 have settled into the school year. We have discussed our school matrix and understand the expectations for our room in regards to daily organisation duties. We have began working in our new Maths books and learning about place value to one million. Our topic for our Literacy block is the Victorian Era: Looking back in the 1800's. We are looking forward to our upcoming excursion to Sovereign Hill on Tuesday 3rd March.



Meet your Grade 6 team for 2026! This year in Room 1 we have Mr Hansen and Kylie. Mr Hansen's favourite hobbies are skiing and looking after his bees. Kylie enjoys drawing and writing, as well as mindfulness time. Next door in Room 2 for this year we have Ms Hendy and Angus. Ms Hendy enjoys camping by the river, and Angus loves playing basketball. We all look forward to helping our wonderful Grade 6 students be their best this year, and we can't wait to see the progress they all make!



SPECIALISTS



This is our specialist team for 2026.

RUSSELL PETERSEN, TEAGAN AINSLIE, HELEN PYERS, JESSICA DELLOW

ICT

We have started our learning in ICT this year by developing the fundamental skills for using digital devices with our learning. Mr. Petersen has been teaching at KFPS for a few years and has an interest in technology that helps students to solve many problems they may encounter.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In PE, we have started the year off with some team building games to help classes form connections. We have also been exploring short games and movement activities that students can use in their classrooms for brain breaks. Miss Ainslie is looking forward to a great year in PE!



VISUAL ARTS

After working as a classroom teacher for many years, this will be Ms Pyers' second year as the Art teacher at KFPS. She loves encouraging children to explore their creativity and likes to celebrate effort over perfection. This week, students have started practicing art room routines and drawing self portraits.



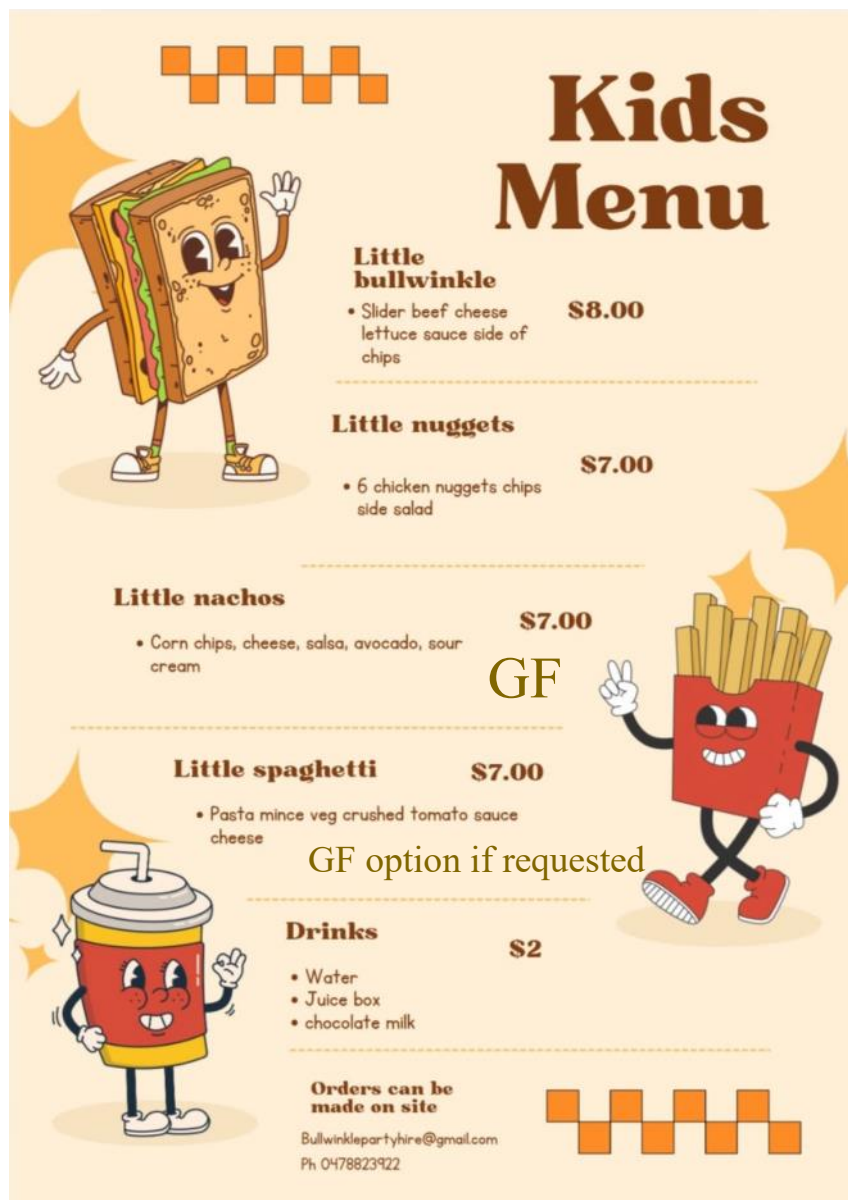
MUSIC In Music this year is Mrs Dellow, she has been with KFPS for several years and loves to dance and have fun playing lots of instruments. Her favourite instrument to play is the drums. We have started the year playing the hand bells and our new Foundation students have been using percussion. We have also looked at the ways we can be our best in the Music room.



CHINESE

Over the past two weeks, students learned to introduce themselves and about Chinese New Year. Some classes made Chinese paper cuttings, and some classes created square, red paper decorations, often featuring gold printing, to express good fortune, happiness, and prosperity. Other classes performed the traditional story of Nian.





Bullwinkles Food Van will be offering lunch orders for the following dates:

- Thursday 12 February
- Thursday 19 February
- Thursday 26th February

The van will be parked onsite near the canteen and will take orders directly from there.

Please include the correct money with the orders. Bullwinkles own Eftpos will also be available from the van.

Please note: pre-orders can be dropped off at the office but no KFPS Eftpos or school vouchers will be available for Bullwinkles lunch orders.

Thank you.

Raye

Kangaroo Flat Primary School will endeavour to accommodate all requests for specified dietary requirements (food allergies and/or intolerances).

We cannot guarantee the absence of allergens due to potential trace allergens in the work environment and supplied ingredients.

This includes but is not limited to common allergens, like nuts, egg, dairy or gluten.

CONTACTS @ kfps

Acting Principal:
Faye Martin
Kelsey Chaffey-Jones

Acting Assistant Principal:
Melissa Cusack

Business Manager:
Maree Wayman

Administration:
Ange Jobe
Rebekkah Gieschen

OSHC: Camp Australia
1300 105 343
Breakfast Club:
EVERY DAY
Commencing at 8.30am–
8.45am

Help Lines:
Nurse-On-Call (1300 60 60 24)
Lifeline (Ph 13 11 14)
Parentline (Ph 13 22 89)
Kids Helpline (Ph 1800 55 1800)
Beyond Blue (Ph 1300 22 4636)

2027 Foundation Students – Enrolment

If you know anyone with a child starting school next year, please remind them to complete the application form to attend our school.
Application forms can be collected from the office or downloaded from our school website.

School Office Hours: 8:30am-3:30pm

School Hours:

Gates Open 8:30am

8.40—8.50am Classroom Open
(parents to exit school grounds before 8:50am please)

8.50am Bell

8.50-11.20am Learning Session 1

11.20-11.30am Lunch: Supervised Eating

11.30-12.00pm 1st Lunch Recess

12.00-1.30pm Learning Session 2

1.30-2.00pm 2nd Lunch Recess

2.00-3.00pm Learning Session 3



For all general enquiries
contact our friendly
Customer Care Team

☎ 1300 105 343

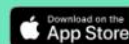
✉ oshc@campaustralia.com.au

🕒 Monday – Friday: 5AM – 9PM
(AEDT)

🕒 Weekends: 7AM – 9PM (AEDT)

(Opening hours exclude National
Public Holidays)

Registering is easy via our
app



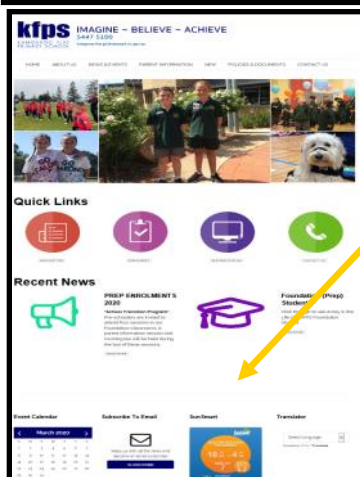
KFPS Website:

Have you looked at our Website? Subscribe and receive an email to link you to the latest e-news. Go to:

<https://www.kangarooflatps.vic.edu.au>

Click onto the 'Subscribe' link. Your request will be accepted after verification by and then you'll be right to go.

This is a great way to always stay up to date with all of our events and to see the newsletter.



SUBSCRIBE HERE

60-80 Olympic Parade, Kangaroo Flat 3555
Phone: 5447 5100
(Absence Message Service: 5447 5100 Press 1)
www.kangarooflatps.vic.edu.au
Email address:
kangaroo.flat.ps@education.vic.gov.au

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund

APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School Ref ID

Applicant details

Surname	
First Name	
Address	
Town/Suburb	
State and Postcode	
Contact Number	

Centrelink pensioner concession **OR** Health care card number (CRN)

 - - -

OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner (Gold Card)* **OR** ☐ Special Consideration**

*Applicants must provide a copy of the Veteran Affairs Gold card.

**Out of Home Care applications must include a letter of support from the institution facilitating the arrangement (for example, Mackillop Family Services or the Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH)) as evidence of the arrangement and must be no more than 18 months old).

Student details

Child's surname	Child's first name	Student ID	Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)	Year level

Declaration

I authorise the Victorian Department of Education (DE) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry about my Centrelink customer details and concession card status to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Victorian Department of Families, Fairness and Housing (DFFH) to provide the results of any enquiry to DE regarding temporary care orders. I understand that:

- DFFH or Centrelink will use information I have provided to DE to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DE personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.
- This consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.
- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DFFH and provide it to my child's school so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.
- If I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DE.
- Information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to DFFH and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You can request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant _____

Date ____/____/202__

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund eligibility

Applications must be submitted to the school as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

Where a school or family is unsure if the concession card is eligible, they are encouraged to submit the application into the CSEF system for validation.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.

Those who are eligible to apply for the CSEF **must meet both** of the following two criteria or be eligible for special consideration.

Eligible means-tested cards

Only financially means-tested cards are eligible.

Eligibility date

Eligibility will be subject to the parent/carer's concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink (refer to the department's policy, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\)](#)), on either the first student day of Term 1 or Term 2.

Criterion 1 – General eligibility

The applicant must be one of the following:

- a parent or carer who is the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card
- a student over 16 years who is considered a mature minor and holds a valid concession card (such as a Youth Allowance Health Care Card). Applicant to use the 16 and over application form. For guidance on assessing whether a student is a mature minor, refer to the department's policy on [Mature Minors and Decision Making](#)
- a parent or carer whose child is 16 or over and the beneficiary of a financially means-tested card but are not considered a mature minor. Applicant to use the 16 and over parent consent form.

For students over 16 years of age and where the eligible card is in the name of the student, the fund is only granted to that student, not their siblings.

Criterion 2 – Be of school age and attend a Victorian school

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a registered Victorian school.

CSEF is not payable to a student attending pre-school, kindergarten, TAFE or who are home schooled.

Special Consideration

A special consideration eligibility category exists to assist families and students in certain circumstances. Applications should be made through this application form. For more information, refer to: [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Eligibility](#).

Payment amounts

The CSEF is an annual payment paid directly to the school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child. Please refer to the department's policy for the current rates and more information, [Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund \(CSEF\): Payment amounts](#).

How to complete the application form

Note: all sections must be completed by the applicant.

1. Complete the APPLICANT DETAILS section.
Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office as soon as possible and no later than the end of Term 2.

Privacy Statement

The Department of Education is committed to protecting your privacy. All information collected will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Data and Protection Act 2014 (Vic) and the Health Records Act 2001 (Vic). This personal information is collected to assess your eligibility to receive a CSEF payment. Your data is securely managed and only shared with Centrelink and DFFH when necessary for business operations or legal compliance. By submitting this form, you consent to our data practices. For more information regarding correction to your personal information or the handling of personal information please email csef@education.vic.gov.au. For more information about the departments privacy policy, please visit: [Schools' privacy policy | vic.gov.au](#)

ATTENDANCE PRIZES

If you are here on time every day 5 days a week you are in the draw.

There are 3 prizes per week:

Foundation-Grade 2

Grades 3 & 4

Grades 5 & 6.

Classroom prizes will be held fortnightly.

End of each term, there will be our major prizes for those who have attended 100%, along with our most improved student.

We understand absences due to medical appointments or illness, these students are still in the running for a wildcard.



KFPS VALUES

Respect

Teamwork

Being Your Best

Responsibility

Breakfast Club.

8:30am – 8:50am.

Mon-Fri

We are now 5 days a week!