Planning for the 2013 school year is well underway. One important element in our planning is the surety around the school enrolment next year. As school funding depends on the enrolment in the last week of February each year, (census day), it is imperative that we do not over-estimate our enrolment. To do so would give a wrong indicator of the realistic level of funds the school is to receive from the government. We now know our 2013 Prep intake but we do need to hear from our current families that will not have children at Kew next year. If you are planning to move children to another school next year please contact us in the office to let us know of your changed plans. The entitlement to the number of teachers is dependent upon our enrolment. Please assist us with this information if this request applies to your family. The school’s Finance sub-committee will meet shortly to draft the school’s 2013 budget once all budget requests have been received by our business manager, Faye Pattie.

In the past two weeks Robin Grace and me have shared morning tea with parents of next year’s Preps. The meetings have been well attended, with parents expressing confidence in the school and the varied programs that their children will be offered, especially in their child’s first year at school. I visited the ‘new Preps’ in the classrooms of our current Preps and noticed how settled they were working alongside this year’s Preps-some were wearing items of their new school uniform already.

This week the curriculum leaders met with me to begin shaping the next Strategic Plan for the school based on the recommendations from last term’s Review Report. This team will meet again to finalise the draft before sending the draft to school council for council’s input and endorsement. Teachers are currently working to finalise a vision statement for the school and as I have indicated, I will publish the draft for school community comment in the newsletter once we have a succinct statement of the school’s purpose.

A reminder: Children should now be wearing the school hat each day of the week for all outdoor activity and when on camps and excursions. Please make sure that hats are clearly named so that they can be returned to their owners if found around the school. Only the school hat is acceptable-no fashion statements please. The school hat has a brim to ensure that the sun is kept off the face. If your child needs to wear sunscreen please make sure that it is brought to school. At school we do not provide sunscreen because of the number of children with skin allergies. Hats are to be worn until the end of the first week in May each year, consistent with Cancer Council recommendations. Children without hats at school are required to move to the shade offered by shelter shed until a hat is provided. It is pleasing to see the number of children already wearing hats—staff too are setting a fine example by wearing hats as well.
Message from the Assistant Principal

As you would be aware this time of year in a primary school is particularly busy because of all the planning that has to happen so that the following school year (2013) will get off to a very smooth start. Budgets need to be submitted, staffing needs to be organised and, of course, classes need to be sorted so that all students have at least one friend in their new class group. In November, at a date to be announced, parents will have the opportunity to write or email Barry Archibald or myself about issues pertaining to their child. This is a chance for parents to provide information to us that will help with drafting classes for 2013. These issues can be about friendships that either work or are counterproductive to learning, emotional needs as well as social needs. Please note that it is not an opportunity to request a particular teacher! It will be a matter of reading the newsletter and noting that particular date.

One of the most enjoyable aspects of getting organised for a new school year is seeing all the “soon to be Prep children” arrive at school in their various groups to experience life in a Prep room. All, I am pleased to inform you, arrived smiling and ready to take part in the activities that had been organised for them. There were no tears just wide-eyed enthusiasm and it was a pleasure to witness. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Faye Rodgers who coordinated these events and to Sue Clayton and Sally Downer who so ably supported her and this transition program. The Ambassador Leaders group also need to be thanked for directing parents to the various rooms. They did so in a thoughtful and courteous manner which is all we ask of our student leaders at Kew PS. Great work everyone!

The life of an Assistant Principal can vary enormously from day to day and in my role I am often asked to step into other situations to fill a staffing need as was the case last week when I became crossing lady for the morning. I must say it is a great way to greet parents and students at drop off time and to wish them well for their day. One student was smiling when he saw me and what he said to me made my day. Ethan from 309, without prompting just said the following, “School rocks! Ms Grace,” wearing a huge smile as he said it. That is so what I want to hear from the students who come to Kew PS, full of enthusiasm, having high expectations of what their school can offer them. So like you Ethan I too think “School rocks”.

Robin Grace

LIBRARY NEWS

Premiers’ Reading Challenge

We are still waiting patiently for the ‘Premiers’ Reading Challenge’ certificates. They should arrive soon.

Overdue books

If you have received an overdue notice a HUGE thank you to the parents who have solved the problem by either replacing lost books with another (new or used), reimbursing the school for the cost of the book or simply coming in to the Library, having a look and finding them. Young children often return the books to the shelf in the early stages, when learning how to use the Library or they may not have used the scanner properly. So thank you for that.

Up and coming Book fair.

We will have a Book Fair in the Library on 15th – 20th of November so pop that date in your diaries. We look forward to seeing you then. Thanks.

Shelley Ware
Ministry Of Dance Excursion

A group of 40 students from Years 4, 5 & 6 expressed interest and this week attended an excursion to the Ministry of Dance Studios in North Melbourne.

Here students took part in a studio tour, a group warm-up and two one hour dance lessons in the styles of jazz and hip-hop run by professional choreographers. The day concluded with an industry talk with a professional dancer and the chance to watch full-time dance students participate in their daily dance lessons.

The students who attended ranged in ability with some already participating in weekly dance lessons and some who had never experienced a formal dance lesson before. However this posed no problem on the day as all students were exceptional in the execution and effort they put into the lessons and should be so proud of their involvement.

The day was full of highlights and arguably the most memorable was a special visit from the Ministry founder and director Jason Coleman who stepped into one of our workshops to say “Hi” and have a photo.

Congratulations to all students for their outstanding participation and behaviour on the day. It was so fantastic to see so many students (and staff!) joining together and enjoying their love of dance!

Tahnee Planner, Performing Arts Teacher
BUDDY CHOIR NEWS
You can still join...we will be performing at the Junior production, on 28th and 29th November so download the song from iTunes and grab the words off the internet. It’s easy! Or come and see me and I will give the words of the song to you!

The song we are learning is “Change” by Carrie Underwood

KPS PTA FUNDRAISER
ARE YOU HELPING YOUR FRIENDS AND FAMILY GET READY FOR THE SUNNY DAYS AHEAD AND BEING SUNSMART?

THIS IS THE LAST WEEK AND WEEKEND – HOW MANY MORE ORDERS CAN YOU GET BY THE 29TH of OCTOBER?

All the Kew PS kids should aim to sell as much sunscreen as possible for the direct benefit of our school. You have 3 more days to get as many orders as possible.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

Please be sure to complete order forms correctly with your full details: Name, Class, and Phone Numbers.
Take full details of your buyers to ensure they receive the product they ordered. Delivery date to be announced.
Cash and Cheque only. Make sure exact and correct money is attached to your order forms in an enclosed envelope with your full details as above.
Return your completed order forms and monies to the KPS office by the 29th October.
Extra copies of sunscreen order forms are available at the KPS office.

Don’t forget that every seller will receive a support wristband and the top selling class will have an ICE-CREAM PARTY provided by CONES at 836 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn. Please help support this KPS family business in return for the generous contribution.

On that note the KPS PTA appreciates all the effort and support from our KPS families and community. Every bit counts to help improve our children’s school and learning environment.
Uniforms

The short sleeved polo shirts in the Second Hand Uniform Shop have now all been sold - we need more!!

Should you have any uniform items (especially summer uniforms) in good condition that your child has outgrown and no longer needs, we would be grateful if you were to donate these items to the Uniform Shop. We also need more school hats & school bags....

* * Due to the Melbourne Cup public holiday - the Uniform Shop will be open after school on Thursday 8th November.

For any enquiries, please call Nikki on 0417 527 365
Nappy Education Forum

Tuesday 30 October, 10.30am to 1pm

This forum provides a chance for new and soon-to-be parents to explore the range of nappy systems now available. Join others for an impartial discussion on all types of nappies, including the newer cloth and compostable nappy options. Babies and toddlers welcome.


Jenny Bicknell

Sustainability Education Officer
Good Vision for Life

Did you know that along with allergies and asthma, eye disorders are the most common long term health problems experienced by children? Good vision is important for educational, physical and social development and to help young people reach their full learning potential.

Many young people experience undetected vision problems as they often assume that how they see is normal. The good news is that once detected, most eye problems are easy to correct. Incorporating regular eye examinations into your general health routine – just like visits to the dentist - can help to detect vision problems as well as other eye conditions that can threaten the health of eyes.

Signs your child may have a problem with their eyes include:

- Complaints of headaches or sore eyes
- A turned eye, red or watery eyes, and frequent blinking
- Delayed progress in reading ability
- Poor hand-eye coordination
- Skipping lines, losing their place or omitting words when reading
- Sensitivity to light
- Squinting when reading or watching television
- Difficulty recognising familiar people in the distance
- Difficulty concentrating.

Children’s eyes should be checked regularly throughout their school life, and immediately upon noticing any problems with their eyes or vision. You can see an optometrist without referral from a doctor, and most consultations attract a Medicare rebate. Visit www.optometrists.asn.au for more information on the things you can do to protect your eyes and to search for an optometrist in your area.