Message from the Principal

STUDENT FOR A DAY

Last week I was able to step back into the world of being a Year 4 student by spending an entire day with the students in 3/4S. It was a fabulous experience that was also very informative. I was lucky enough to spend some time in a French lesson and I got the chance to learn some chords on the ukulele as part of a rehearsal for the Twisted whole school music concert.

Recess was a challenge and I only just made it through playing soccer...the end of recess bell really saving me here. Then it was time for maths, lunch, more play and then an afternoon of Inquiry.

The day was full of learning and 3 aspects that I took away with me were:

1. Our teaching programs are really well organised. As a student I experienced a strong sense of order, structure, well embedded processes and classroom routines. The students were very engaged, friendly and there were many examples of them supporting and helping each other throughout the day. As a student it confirmed to me that our school really is a great place to learn.

2. The school day is long! It is hard to focus and concentrate all of the time. It was great to have activities mixed up with movement, short breaks and all of the other strategies teachers use to help students keep focus and momentum during the day. I feel for our students who are highly programmed with lots of outside of school hours activities, especially those who attend various schools on the weekends e.g. language schools. Whilst it is important to have outside interests and extra-curricular activities, it is also important to have some unstructured free time. Kids need to be kids from time to time!

3. Students get asked hundreds of questions each day. I had almost forgotten how many teachers fire out in our classes each lesson. It was also very hard to stop work when you are in the zone and the teacher asks you to come to the floor. I just wanted to keep going with my work!

Thank you to Shenel Raif and all of the students in 3/4S. I was made to feel very welcome and a part of the team. It was a great class to be part of.

PRINCIPAL FOR A DAY

On Friday, we welcomed Miss Curry, Master Liang and Miss Gill as Principals for a day. Here are their reports:

Elise Curry 3/4 S - Report as student principal

I had the most amazing time as principal for a day. I enjoyed sharing how hard Mr. Penson works with my colleagues and seeing students from a principal’s perspective. As principals we did almost anything from paperwork to eating in the staff room. When we were walking around Kew Primary I was amazed how every single student was focused and the
majority of the school had their heads down working. Paperwork may seem boring but it was actually quite fun. Ella, Alan and I helped Mr. Penson complete the school census in which I found out a lot about the school. One of the highlights of being principal was eating in the staff room. The staff room was loud and full of chatter but everyone was talking to us, which was really special. Later in the day we contributed in a 5/6 Olympiad maths lesson. It was fun correcting peoples work and seeing what we could be learning next year. I really enjoyed teaching Mr. Penson’s CARE group because everyone showed so much respect it was awesome. I loved starting assembly as Mr. Penson does every week. We wrote a script and spoke to the whole school.

I am very grateful for this opportunity and all thanks to Mr. Penson.

Allan Liang 3/4S

Report as Student Principal for a Day!

On Friday, me (Master Allan Liang), Miss Ella Gill and Miss Elise Curry were student principals for a day.

I woke up at home very excited. I got dressed, had breakfast, gelled my hair and went to school not to be a student, but to be the principal.

When I got to school, I dumped my bag in the principal’s office, found my name tag, and then realised I was a bit late. I found the real principal, Mr. Penson, waiting outside with Miss Gill and Miss Curry.

I caught up with them, and we walked around to all the classes saying hi and introducing ourselves as new principals. Then we went back to our office to do a census, plan for Mr. Penson’s Year 5 - 6 Olympiad Maths Group and think of some ideas to improve our school. We came up with the idea to input a SRC program along with upgrading and improving our home learning.

Then the bell went for recess. Me, Miss Gill and Miss Curry put on some baggy orange vests and went out on to the oval. We caught some Grade Ones throwing sand, but that was pretty much it. Halfway through recess, we went into the staffroom to catch up on Olympic News and have our morning tea.

Then the bell went and we went to teach Mr. Penson’s maths group. We got the privilege to correct their maths sheets and discovered some corrections. It was fun also writing on the whiteboard. Then it was lunch, and I had chess to attend.

After lunch, we half taught Mr. Penson’s CARE group, and half wrote our speech for assembly. After that, we went back to the office to update our speech, and went to assembly a bit early to practice our speech. It went smoothly, and it was fun.

Overall, I think we had an awesome experience being the principals, and would love to have that privilege again.

LEARNING WALKS – FEEDBACK FROM A GRAND PARENT

Last week I hosted our first Learning Walk for parents. The aim of this being to share more of what we are doing in our classrooms. I regularly host school tours for prospective parents and thought that it would also be a good opportunity for our current parents to find out more about our teaching and learning programs.

I have included some feedback from Caroline, a grandparent to 3 of our students, Reuben, Thomas and Lydia, who attended the recent Learning Walk. Caroline is also Vice Chair of Governors at St Johns CE VC Primary School in Clifton, Bristol in the UK.

“Dear Mr Penson

I just wanted to thank you very much for the Learning Walk last week. I really enjoyed seeing the school and was very impressed – a lovey calm atmosphere, focussed classes and lovely classrooms – and some great ideas for maximising learning. Sorry to hear that funding is as much of a problem as in the UK!

We have to give feedback on any Governor Training we have done, so I am writing up a report of my visit, as I think we
can learn so much from sharing ideas from other schools.

I hope the Learning Walks will grow in popularity as it is so important for parents to get a whole-school perspective.”

TWISTED CONCERT
Our students are now in the last week of rehearsal and the excitement is building. Good luck to all of our performers and in particular our Senior School students who are taking a lead role.

NAPLAN RESULTS
This week the results of the 2016 NAPLAN tests will be sent home to parents. I have also sent home a letter to the whole school outlining these results. In short, we are really proud of our NAPLAN achievement data and the results are reward for the significant work of all of our staff. It is great to know that what we are doing is working and this will only help us to maintain our focus even more.

It is also important to remember that NAPLAN is just one small part of the assessment data collected across our school. In fact we have a very detailed assessment tracking system that has been developed by our staff. We use this data to plan the teaching and learning across our teams. This is why you will often see groups of students moving from class to class for specific and targeted literacy or numeracy sessions. In this way we are able to utilise the expertise of all the teachers in an area of the school e.g. Junior School. Interestingly the data we use each week is “real time” and “triangulated”. This means we use multiple forms of feedback about each student to inform our teaching program. NAPLAN on the other hand is just one test on one day.

ARE YOU LEAVING OUR SCHOOL IN 2017?
If you are intending to leave our school next year (other than our current Grade 6’s of course!) please let me know. I am currently confirming our enrolment numbers for next year and starting to think about possible class structures for 2017.

PARENT REQUEST PROCESS FOR TRANSITION INTO 2017
Very early next term we will begin the process of finalising our school structure for 2017. Considerations around the social, emotional, academic and physical needs of each of our students will form part of this process. Parents are able to make requests for consideration when placing their child into their 2017 class. These requests will only be accepted in writing and must be received by Friday 27th October. Please note that requests with respect to individual teacher allocation and for specific placement into a composite or straight grade will not be considered.

Details relating to the school organisation, classes of children, and the allocation of teachers will be released to parents and students prior to our first transition sessions on the 6th December.

LONG SERVICE LEAVE
Tomorrow is actually my last day for the term! I am taking some long service leave and will return for the first day of Term 4. During this time, I will be traveling with my family to Dubai and Abu Dhabi to visit my brother and his family who have been living there for a number of years. He tells me it is 40-50 degrees there each day at the moment! After a week there, we travel to Cape Town, South Africa to visit a friend who I lived with in London for a year when I first began my teaching career (way back in 1998!). We are also heading to Kruger National Park and visiting some other areas of South Africa before a week in Mauritius on the way home. I know my girls are excited about the trip because they packed their suitcases last weekend and I have been tripping over them at the front door ever since!

The school will be in very good hands with Robin Grace and also Sally Marsh and Andrew Wood who will be the Acting Principals and Assistant Principals. Robin will also be on leave in the last week of this term and the first 2 weeks of Term 4 so Sally and Andrew will get a great opportunity to step up!

Be Worthy and see you back in Term 4!
James Penson
Principal
Message from the Assistant Principal

Excitement is building amongst our Year 6 students as the time for their camp to Canberra draws near. Last night a number of Year 6 students along with their parents attended an information evening regarding this Canberra camp. Sonia Hocking, Andrew Wood and I were able to provide information about the accommodation, the program, the many points of interest that the students would be visiting and all the hands-on experiences as well as the fun down time activities. A number of our students have special dietary needs and these will all be catered for by the camp where we will be staying. The teachers who will be attending the camp are Sonia Hocking, Andrew Wood, Blair Erwin (who will be replaced by a CRT) and me along with parents Nicki McConnon and Simon Odicho.

It seems to be a week of excitement building because as the final practises take place for our Twisted Production, the extra energy and atmosphere at Kew PS is palpable. The teachers and students have been working so hard to ensure “Twisted” is a success. With any production as large as this a number of staff take on leadership roles and becoming the driving force behind the scenes encouraging all staff members to get on board so to speak as well as ironing out any problems whilst keeping communication happening. I need to acknowledge the concerted efforts of the following staff - Clare Connor, Jacki Hopkins and Shenel Raif. They have worked tirelessly with Thomas Bradford from Little Rockers to ensure that all students get to perform in a production that we can truly claim as ours. “Twisted” takes place at the newly renovated Renaissance Theatre at Kew High School next Wednesday 24th August. There are two performances, the first starting at 6:00pm and the second at 7:45. I must admit I can’t wait to see the show all come together and see our Kew Kids perform at their best.

Robin Grace

Kew Primary School Blog

More magical maths, this time from a parent perspective (thanks to Prep parent, Stefan Walter).

Do you have something you’d like to share on the blog? All contributions are welcome. Please drop me a line at: katrina.w@ozemail.com.au

Katrina Whelen
Family Reading Afternoon

The reading afternoon was well attended with about 30 families coming in to share stories. Please visit the library to view more photos of the reading families.

Book Week Dress up Parade

Only one week until the parade – in an extended assembly on Friday 26 August students will parade their costumes. If you require some inspiration for your costume this blog has some great ideas.


Premiers’ Reading Challenge Update

The PRC will finish on 9 September so it is important to log all your books and I will verify them. So far the students have read more than 4000 books. Keep reading!
Student’s Showcase

By the Students

Middle School has been learning about Mapping and Location during Maths. Use the clues given to find the hidden people/ objects on the map below.

OF THE STUDENTS

KidsFest was so much Fun!! Year 3 and 4 students looking after their cake and sweet stall.

FOR THE STUDENTS

Can you work out the riddles below? Write your name and answers on a piece of paper and put into 3/4K’s pigeon hole. There will be a small prize for the first correct answer!

1. What has a face and two hands but no arms or legs?

2. What has to be broken before you can use it?
OUR RESIDENT FEATHERY FRIENDS

There is a roster for looking after the chickens each weekend. We have a fantastic group of families that come in to collect the eggs, ensure the chickens are fed and have enough water and often let them out for a run. If you are not rostered on for the weekend, you are welcome to check in on our feathery friends but please leave the feeding and egg collecting to the designated family.

Thank you.

Le Francais à Kew PS

Students in levels 3 & 4 have been researching Les Jeux Olympiques Modernes and their founder, Baron Pierre de Coubertin. Here’s a sample of Vrai/Faux questions created by our students in class last week. Test your knowledge and bring your answers to your next French lesson.

Amusez-vous bien! Madame T

Vrai ou faux?

Les cinq anneaux olympiques représente les cinq continents du monde
Baron Pierre de Coubertin est le père des jeux olympiques modernes
Les jeux olympiques 2016 ont lieu du 4 au 30 août
Les olympiades estivales se tiennent tous les six ans
Michael Phelps est le nageur le plus titré de l’histoire des jeux olympiques

Also, when watching the Olympics, listen out for the official announcements in French.

Amusez-vous bien! Madame T
FATHER’S DAY STALL 2016
Thursday 1 September

The 2016 Father’s Day and Special Person’s Day stall will be held in the Junior School Hall on the morning of Thursday 1st September.

There will be a choice of gifts priced at $2, $4, $6 and $8.
Gift bags will also be available to purchase ($1).

If you are able to assist with setting up or selling at the stall, please sign up at https://www.volunteersignup.org/QDB4W or contact tanialim@iinet.net.au

The stall is not just a fund-raising endeavour, but is aimed at providing a convenient and cost-effective opportunity for the children to choose their father/grandfather/ special person a gift – and they absolutely LOVE doing this!

Please support the Kew Primary Father’s Day stall!

Mums and Dads! Do you want to volunteer in your community but are time poor? Casserole Club may just be perfect for you!

Casserole Club allows its volunteers to assist in their community using as minimal time possible whilst still creating a big impact from the work they do.

We match people in the Boroondara area who would like to share an extra portion of their home cooked meal with an older person in their neighbourhood who may not be able to cook for themselves regularly.

This is a great opportunity to assist in your community, meet new and interesting people and to show your children the value of volunteering.

To find out more information please go to www.casseroleclub.com.au or call Lana Barnett at the City of Boroondara on 03 92784777.
**Father’s Day & Special Person’s Breakfast**

You are invited to join your child for a special breakfast, to enjoy being together, and to celebrate with other Dads and Special Persons.

Thursday 8th September from 7.30am

To be served outside canteen

Bookings available now via [https://www.trybooking.com/MMPA](https://www.trybooking.com/MMPA)

Select your own & your child(s) menu when booking on-line

- Adults - Bacon & Egg roll & coffee $8
- Kids - Bacon & egg roll & hot choc $6
- Croissant, butter, jam & hot choc $6
- Fruit skewers $3

Adults - Fresh coffee - coffee cart

Kids - Hot chocolate - canteen

To be served outside canteen

Book by midnight Sun 4th Sept

No late bookings this year

[https://www.trybooking.com/MMPA](https://www.trybooking.com/MMPA)

Booking confirmation required when collecting breakfast

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-if you would like to volunteer to help cook breakfast on Thursday 8th September 6am - 9am please contact Fiona.Hollingsworth@hotmail.com
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