Diary Dates

May

Tues 10  Community Forum 7pm  Parent Feedback School Review

Wed 11  Meet the Principal  afternoon tea 2.15 - 3.15pm

Mon 16  Meet the Principal  morning tea 9.15 - 10.15am

Wed 18  Michael Ymer (maths)  Parent Evening 7pm

Fri 20  Parents Social Evening at QPO

Jun

Thu 2  Curriculum Day - no students at school

Fri 3  Lap-a-thon

Mon 13  Queen’s Birthday

Term Dates 2016

Term 1: 27 Jan to - 24 Mar
Term 2: 11 Apr - 24 Jun
Term 3: 11 Jul- 16 Sept
Term 4: 3 Oct - 20 Dec

Message from Principal

WRITER OF THE WEEK

A Soldier’s Mark - By Ella Gill (3/4S)

I have fought.
I have saved.
I have survived.
I have served.
I have seen.
I have made.
I have felt.
I have left.
I have killed.
I have lost.
I have supported my country.
I have left my mark.

THANK YOU TO OUR KEWMUNITY!

How good is it to be a part of the Kew Primary School community. Our recent House Cross Country event was superbly organised by Clare Connor and her team of staff and parents. There has been a wide variety of excursions including our Middle School’s trip to the Museum that have really added to our Inquiry units. Our Year 6 team have completed an amazing leadership Inquiry based on a Billy Cart race and how good was race day?! Studley Park Kinder enjoyed using our facilities, especially our new oval, a couple of Sundays ago. Most of all though I see our students really engaged in their learning each day. This has been particularly evident on the school tours I have been hosting. It has been very impressive observing the way in which all of the classes across our school run literacy and numeracy sessions.

I take this opportunity to thank all of our school community for the continued enthusiasm, positivity and above all your commitment, input and contribution. Well done to all of our staff on their focus on improving the teaching and learning in each classroom, each program, each day. Thumbs up to all of our parent helpers who ensure that our Kewmunity continues to be worthy!

PARENT COMMUNITY FEEDBACK FORUM

Thank you to those who have RSVP’d to our Feedback Forum next Tuesday 10th May from 7pm - 8.30pm. In preparation for this event I have been analysing the results of the recent parent feedback survey. We had 20% of our families complete this which provides a suitable sample size. Overall the feedback and data was very positive. For example 98% of parents who responded believe that the school is always striving to improve and 97% of parents believe their child/ren enjoys their learning.
There was also very interesting and valuable feedback around some of the things we do well, some things we can improve on and how we might begin to shape the next chapter of our school in our new strategic plan 2017 – 2020.

I encourage you to attend our feedback forum and it would be great to have a large number of parents attend. Please see the flyer in this newsletter for more information and the reply slip. A baby sitting service will be available for those who require it. Advanced bookings should be made at the office.

If you can’t make the evening event, I will also be hosting two Meet with the Principal events with a similar focus. These are an afternoon tea from 2.15pm on Wednesday 11th May and a morning tea from 9.15am on Monday 16th May. Both events will be approximately an hour. If you plan on attending please email me so that I can order the right amount of scones or muffins from our canteen! penson.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

**EDUCATION WEEK**

It sounds a bit corny, but every week is Education Week at Kew Primary School. Officially though this week is celebrated between the 15th and 21st May.

At KPS we will celebrate this via an invitation to our open classrooms from 9am to 11.00am on Wednesday 18th May. There will also be a school tour at 9.30am and then morning tea at 11am. Whilst this tour is predominantly aimed at new and prospective parents, I encourage any of our existing parents who want to find out more about what is happening across our school to join us.

We will also be hosting a Home School Partnership Event on Wednesday 18th May at 6.30pm. This will be hosted by Michael Ymer, a maths consultant we have been working with over the past 3 years. Michael ran a similar session last year and the feedback was extremely positive. If you missed it last time – make sure you don’t miss it this time.

**NATIONAL WALK TO SCHOOL DAY**

National Walk Safely to School Day (WSTSD) is an event aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people, and creating a sustainable environment in which regular physical activity can take place.

This year schools can take part in WSTSD on Friday 20 May by encouraging parents and carers of their school community walk to school with their primary school age students to reinforce safe behaviour and a healthy lifestyle.

Children up to 10 years old should hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road and Walk Safely to School Day asks everyone accompanying their child to help foster the vital road-crossing skills they will need as they become mature adults.

Walking to school not only helps build an understanding of our state’s public transport system it will help reduce our young people’s future dependence on cars as a way of getting around and create regular walking habits at a young age.

**NAPLAN TESTING**

Next week our Year 3 and 5 students will complete the NAPLAN tests. I know that many of our students get nervous during these tests but it is important to remember they are just one test on one particular day (or four test over 3 days!).

I have included a “Surviving NAPLAN” article from Andrew Fuller in this newsletter. As a clinical psychologist, Andrew Fuller works with many schools and communities in Australia and internationally, specialising in the wellbeing of young people and their families. He is a Fellow of the Department of Psychiatry and the Department of Learning and Educational Development at the University of Melbourne.

NAPLAN results are also just one small part of the overall assessment and data collected across our school. Our teachers work very closely together in their unit teams to use a wide range of assessments to build up an accurate picture of student achievement and student learning needs, including other formal assessment tools (many of which are completed online) and daily classroom observations. We are proud of the way we collect, analyse and
then use this wide range of assessment measures to ensure that all of our classroom programs meet the needs of our students.

**TV DISPLAY**

We have large TV screens positioned outside the office and in the Junior School Hall. These are being used to highlight and share some of the events and activities happening around our school. At the moment they have a display from our House Cross Country day. The displays will be changed regularly. Our students are certainly enjoying seeing themselves in action! Please feel free to have a look whenever you can.

**DO YOU HAVE A CHILD TO ENROL IN PREP NEXT YEAR?**

This week a letter is being sent home to families that may have a younger child at home ready to start school in 2017. Although this is early in the year, forward planning is very important for our school and I ask that if you do have a child entering Prep in 2017 that you enrol now.

This is important because there has already been very strong interest in our school during organised school tours. I need to determine what our Prep numbers from existing school families will be so that we can establish how many Prep students we can enrol from outside current families and possibly from outside our traditional school catchment zone. It will also assist me in my forward planning of class numbers, sizes and the structure of our school next year.

Enrolling now will assist me in continuing to implement our improved transition program for our students. To do this I will continue to work with our local kindergartens and child care centres to build strong links and facilitate a high level of communication and cooperation.

Once again we will operate a very extensive Transition program. Part of this will be the “Step into Prep” program that will commence early in Term 4. The “Step into Prep” sessions will operate for an hour a week over approximately 5 weeks in the lead up to our whole school transition ½ days that will start in early December. The sessions are designed for students to build familiarity and confidence. They will give our staff the opportunity to make connections with our future students and organise the most effective class group structure for 2017. The sessions will be based on developmental play and introduce some beginning literacy and numeracy style activities and games.

**HAPPY MOTHER’S DAY**

I hope all of our mothers have a very special Mother’s Day on Sunday. Thank you to our PTA for organising our Mother’s Day stall and raffle (and of course many of our PTA are mums themselves!). I know that bringing in a wallet or purse, selecting a gift and spending money is a really special highlight for many of our students.

Mums are very good at looking after everyone else’s needs before their own. Mother’s Day is a good reminder for us to do something extra special for them. Let’s all really show our appreciation for everything our mums, grandma’s, aunts and special friends do for us!

**CARE PROGRAM - TIP OF THE WEEK**

Developing resilience in our students has received increased attention over recent years. This is because in many ways—resilience is a key building block or foundation stone in the development of positive mental health. Young people have always needed coping skills to deal with life’s challenges, but there is an ever-increasing body of evidence from many different disciplines that suggests that the world of today’s young people is different from that of previous generations.

**What can we do about all of this??**

The environmental factors that promote resilience include connectedness to school, positive family and peer relationships, links with the community and having a sense of purpose. This is backed by another layer of protective factors built around personal and social skills of the individual, including optimistic thinking, being emotionally literate and having positive self-esteem.
Building resilience is an important aspect of developing as a person. If we develop strong coping skills it is more likely that we will attain greater emotional wellbeing. Coping skills provide us with behaviours and attitudes for making our lives as learners in the classroom, friends in the playground and family members at home happier. Most importantly developing resilience and positive self talk enables students to manage difficult situations and disappointments, leading to enhanced life skills.

In one of our recent CARE Program sessions, students explored the metaphor of a bouncing ball or basketball to help them understand what it means to be resilient. When something is resilient, it is elastic and capable of returning to its original shape after being stretched, squashed or bent. A rubber ball or basketball is resilient. It bounces back (and usually the harder it is bounced or thrown down—the higher it comes back up).

The challenge this week is to try to remember to be that rubber ball. When you are down—bounce back up to your original height. Use positive self-talk and remind yourself to concentrate on the good things and have a laugh!

Why not have a talk at home around the dinner table about times in your life when you have felt disappointed, missed out on something or things have not turned out quite as expected. What did you do? How did you react? How did this effect you?

KEWRIOSITY PROGRAM PARENT PARTNERSHIPS TERM 2
For the next round of our Kewriosity program we are further developing our home school partnership to include and utilize the expertise and assistance of our parents, carers and community members. If you have a particular area of expertise e.g. Science or Performing Arts etc. that would add value to the learning experiences we provide students and you have the time to commit to attending during the program please complete this form before Monday 9th May.

http://goo.gl/forms/jmR8y2205m

A staff member will then contact you if we have a Kewriosity group to match and organize arrangements. Please note that the Kewriosity program will run on a Friday afternoon from 1.30pm - 2.30pm from 13th May until the 10th June (5 weeks). There will also be a Kewriosity showcase assembly on the 17th June.

Be Worthy!
Happy Mother’s Day
James Penson
Principal

Kew Primary School Blog

This week on the blog it’s all about leadership in action - with wheels.

I’m looking for contributions! If you have something to share, please drop me a line at: katrina.w@ozemail.com.au

Katrina Whelen
Message from Assistant Principal

Each year DET schools in Victoria are mandated to submit their emergency management plans online and practise a lockdown and whole school evacuation. On Tuesday, this week we had our first emergency management practise which was a lockdown and I am happy to report that this was completed in a quiet and orderly fashion. All staff calmly explained the situation to their students so as not to alarm them unduly. A number of staff in each building are required to ensure their area of the school was locked and then ring the office to report this. The lockdown took only 5 minutes from when the warning bell sounded to when the last staff phone call came through to the office. It was a great effort by students and staff alike.

Celebrating students’ efforts, whether it is in the academic, social or sporting arenas takes many forms. What are they I hear you ask? Of course, our whole school assembly often showcases students who have done well in the sporting area, others who have shown their social awareness by raising funds for charities and still others present literacy or inquiry results either via an iMovie or hard copy display. This celebration of students’ achievements starts early with the Prep students talking in front of the whole school about their WALTs (What we Are Learning Today) and what a great opportunity this is for them to improve their speaking and listening skills. Other forms of celebrating student successes are classroom and corridor displays. You only have to walk along the corridor outside the middle school rooms to see an amazing array of student work on display there. Further examples of celebrating the many talents of our students can be seen in the Visual Art displays throughout the school, and samples of student work can be found in individual classrooms as well as the Library. Whenever you get the chance at drop off or pick up times, please wander around the school and cast a keen eye over these student endeavours which celebrate each child’s success, creative thought processes and persistence in completing tasks, in their very own unique way.

Making mistakes is all part of life’s experiences but I am not sure many of us understand the value of those mistakes in a child’s life. Getting everything right will make a child learn but the real depth of learning comes from getting things wrong. For example, if a student here at Kew PS makes a mistake they are asked to reflect on what the mistake was, how they can rectify the situation and where to they need to look for the correct information to do this or who to go to seek advice. Google will provide some of the answers but it does not provide a student with the thinking processes and persistence to reflect on these situations and learn from them.

*It’s not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves that will make them successful human beings*’ Ann Landers

This quote really resonates with me because as a school we need to skill up our students to not only accept when they get things right but learn from the inevitable mistakes they will make. We need them to understand that mistakes are all part of the learning experience and this is the very challenge of learning. As parents you have an important role to play here as well, by talking through issues with your child and getting them to reflect on mistakes, not making a big deal out of it or trying to smooth the way so that they do not experience setbacks of any form. The term that comes to mind when parents do this, is “helicopter parenting”, and yes as parents, we naturally all want to protect our children. However, there is a vast difference between protecting our children and giving them permission to make mistakes and to learn from these, especially in our success driven society. How you react when your child makes a mistake, will impact on your child’s ability to resolve the problem for themselves. Let’s all work together to enable them to cope with life’s ups and downs, not disable them to be able to move forward following the experience of a setback.

Finally to all our Mums at Kew PS, I hope you enjoy a lovely Mother’s Day and get to spend some quality time with your family. For me I am going to spend time with my Mum in Bendigo and as my daughter is an avid pescatarian, I am guaranteed that bacon will not be on my breakfast menu.

Robin Grace
Preparing for NAPLAN

Let's start by letting you know what NAPLAN is not. It is not a measure of how intelligent you are. It is not a measure of what you are capable of. Your results on NAPLAN don't effect if you pass the year or not.

I could tell you as a psychologist that your results on NAPLAN aren't worth worrying about, but I'm not sure you are going to believe me. So if you have ever felt butterflies in your stomach or a headache whenever you think of a coming test or NAPLAN, the ideas in this paper are for you.

Everybody gets stressed.
Everyone gets stressed during tests and exams, even the people who say that they don't. Look around in a room where people are doing a test or exam. Even those people who are yawning, looking bored or stretching and looking as cool as cucumbers, are stressed.

That means everyone has to learn how to cope with these feelings. It is not just you!

Stress can block your memory, give you a queasy tummy, make you lie awake at night, give you a dry throat or a headache- these aren't nice feelings to have.

Get Stressed
The first strategy to dealing with stress is to get stressed. Huh? Makes no sense? Let me explain.

Stress feels yucky but it is actually your body’s way of preparing you to perform at your best. Blood gets pumped to your arms and legs, your heart speeds up, and non-essential services like your digestion slow down- you are ready to take on the world. So stress might feel unpleasant but realising that it is your body’s way of revving you up and helping you to perform at your best, will help you to keep these feelings in perspective.

Write Out Your Worries
The second strategy to deal with the stress of an upcoming test or exam is to grab a piece of paper one or two days before the test and write down all your concerns about it. Write out an answer to the question, “What would happen if I fail this test?” (Even though you can’t fail NAPLAN). Then write out an answer to the next question, “If I did fail what would happen then?” Read your written answers aloud to yourself.

Even if doing well is really, really important to you, knowing your fears will calm you. Answering the question, “If I did fail, what would happen then?” helps you to make a back up plan.

Chew Something.
Ok you’ve done all of that and you still feel nervous. The third strategy is to eat or chew on something either before or during the test or exam. Check with your teacher that chewing something is allowed in test and exam rooms. If chewing is not allowed, at least chew something just before entering the test. Some jellybeans or fruit would be ideal.

Stress happens when we feel we are in a dangerous situation. It is an automatic process that we can’t completely control. Eating or chewing on something sends a signal to your body that says, “Well, if I’m chewing something I can’t be in total danger, so relax a bit.”
Focus on now.
Stress can spin your head. It can have you thinking all sorts of weird ideas. Stress can have you remembering that time you failed all those years ago or that time you were so embarrassed by something. Stress can also blow things out of all proportion and have you predicting bad things in your future.

The past is no longer with you and the future hasn’t happened yet. Worrying has never changed anything in the past and predictions about the future are usually wrong.

Doing well on a test or exam means you need to focus on the question in front of you now. Keep reminding yourself, “What do I need to do right now?”

Build Momentum
Answer a question that feels easy first off in a test or exam to build up your confidence.

Breathe Out - S L O W L Y
When you feel stressed one of the fastest ways to calm down is to breathe out slowly. We all have a calm down system that is controlled by our breathing. If you breathe out and count silently to yourself, “one thousand, two thousand, three thousand”, you will start to feel calmer.

Stand tall walk proud
Your brain is incredibly intelligent. In fact, you possess at the top your neck, humanity’s latest upgrade- the most intelligent brain in all of history.

But! Your brain is also incredibly stupid. It believes what you tell it. This means if you stand-up and maintain a powerful posture your body sends a signal to your brain that tells it you are feeling in charge of things and it can reduce your stress hormones.

Look after yourself
Breakfast- eat “brain food” the morning before. Have a higher protein, lower carbohydrate mix at breakfast. That means less toast and more eggs.

Drink water- water lowers your levels of cortisol that causes stressful feelings. Avoid energy drinks as they rev you up and may interfere with your levels of concentration.

Sleep well- try to get a good night’s sleep the night before. If you are feeling really worried, set an alarm so you can wake up early and feel awake and eady .

Make yourself smarter
The biggest obstacle you face in doing well at a test or exam is not your brain. You have plenty of intelligence. The big issue is your level of anxiety.

If you take the time to prepare for the test or exam and use the strategies suggested in this sheet, you will perform at your best.

Keep Calm and Carry On
You have many, many skills that will NOT be assessed by NAPLAN. Tests and exams are important, but they are not the big predictors of life success.

Do your best and prepare as well as you can but don’t make the mistake of thinking that your score on NAPLAN is a measure of your intelligence or predicts your future.

Andrew’s most recent book is “Unlocking Your Child’s Genius” (Finch Publishing, 2015).
COMMUNITY FORUM
MAY 10TH @ 7PM in the Senior School Classrooms
SCHOOL REVIEW 2013 - 2016
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW STRATEGIC PLAN 2017 – 2020

One of the great things about our school is the high level of parental involvement and input we enjoy. This input is also an important part of shaping the future direction of our school. On Tuesday 10th May at 7pm – 8.30pm we will be holding a Community Forum to consult with members of our school community as part of the self-evaluation process in our School Review this year. (DET schools complete a detailed review every four years).

The forum will be an opportunity for me to share some of the actions and strategies that we have implemented in trying to reach our strategic plan goals, question and evaluate the effectiveness of these and begin to shape the next chapter of our school. It would be great to have a large number of parents and carers attend this event.

During the forum the agenda will be as follows:

- Brief overview of the school review process  
- Presentation of parent feedback from the recent survey  
- Parent response to this survey data - questions, ideas, feedback session #1  
- What have we achieved so far? Overview of school data trends, staff analysis and actions 2013 - 2016  
- Parent response to data sets and actions - questions, ideas, feedback session #2  
- Developing a shared vision for Kew Primary School 2020 and beyond  
- Summary and where to next

If you have any other feedback about the organisation of the evening please contact me at the school.

James Penson
Principal

SCHOOL REVIEW PARENT FEEDBACK COMMUNITY FORUM – REPLY SLIP
TUESDAY 10TH MAY 2015 - 7PM – 8.30PM

Child’s Name:  
Grade:  
Parent’s Name:  
☐ I will be attending the School Review Parent Feedback Community Forum on 10th May 2015.

☐ I have the following questions that I would like answered / or I would like the following information to be presented: 

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Library News

Book Fair – Wednesday 11th & Thursday 12th May

Next week there will be a Scholastic Book Fair in the library before and after school.

Premiers’ Reading Challenge Update

267 students are registered for the challenge so far which is a greater number than the last few years. So far more than 100 books have been read and verified. Watch the progress chart in the library as this number grows.

There is still plenty of time to register and get reading.

Scholastic Australian Kids & Family Reading Report

Last week Scholastic Australia released the Australian Kids & Family Reading Report which explored family attitudes and behaviours in Australia around reading books for fun. The survey results from the sample families found many of the results we would expect but a few are worth remembering:

- Children love being read books aloud - partly because it was a special time with their parents. Often parental reading stopped at age 6-8 and children wished it had continued.
- Children enjoyed reading more if they chose their own books.
Kew Primary School Parents’ Social

Parents and carers are invited to catch up with drinks and canapés at

QPO

Corner High St and Cotham Rd, Kew

Friday May 20th
7.30pm – 12.30am

Tickets: $29 for canapés and a drink (present your ticket at the bar to redeem)

https://www.trybooking.com/LJFX
(Includes $2 Trybooking fee)

Last day to book Wednesday May 18th

For more information, email kewprimarypta@yahoo.com
Office Support / Administrative Position

Vacancy - Office Support/Administrative Position

Hawthorn, Victoria - Part Time: 20 - 24 hrs/wk

Experienced, confident person with excellent communication skills, competent in Microsoft Office, including Access data entry, required for a medium sized, well-established music education service provider.

The successful applicant will pride themselves on detail, accuracy and reliability and work well as part of a team. A musical background would be an advantage.

Please email your resume to: employmentapps.cms@bigpond.com

Applications close. Friday 13th May 2016

Applicant Declaration

A. That all statements provided in this application and any attached papers are, to the best of my knowledge, true and accurate in every respect. I understand that any statement I make (or information I knowingly withhold) which is found to be false or misleading as to the substance of my application, will constitute grounds for termination of any contract of employment entered into.

B. That I am required to produce, at interview, documentary evidence of my identity and educational attainment.

C. I declare that the qualifications I have asserted to have are genuine and acknowledge that false claims may lead to my dismissal and/or prosecution for any relevant offense

PHYSICAL AND INHERENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE JOB

- Frequent sitting eg. when completing paperwork / administrative tasks
- Frequent periods of data entry via a computer keyboard and frequent periods of telephone use
- Occasional overhead reaching eg. when accessing equipment and resources from storage
- Occasional carrying eg. when carrying equipment and resources from storage
- Occasional crouching / squatting positions eg. when accessing equipment and resources from storage
- Occasional manual manipulation of packaging materials and stock items eg. dispatching orders
Homestay hosts wanted

Local cultural exchange opportunities
Auburn High School has a growing and well supported international student programme. Currently, we are inviting families to express their interest to host our students who will be arriving in mid July 2016.

For families who are particularly keen to include students into their school aged children’s daily life, this is a valuable cultural exchange opportunity. Young family members will be benefited by interacting with a wide variety of cultures and languages showcased by our vibrant international students.

The ideal hosts will be families who want to support our international students by helping them to improve their English, engage them with our Australian culture and treat them as part of your extended families.

Our student(s) will normally be staying from 6 months to 2-1/2 years.

Auburn High School is centrally located in Burgess Street Hawthorn East. The campus is well serviced by a number of transport options: Bus number 624 Kew – Oakleigh, Tooronga station, Auburn station and trams 70 and 75 running along Riversdale Road

For details of tax free remuneration, role and conditions, please contact: Edmund Chow, coordinator of the overseas student programme on 9804 6344 / 04 25 749 198 or chow.edmund.e@edumail.vic.gov.au.