Diary Dates

**Feb**
- Thu 25: Fathers Association Barefoot Bowls
- Fri 28: School Assembly 3pm

**Mar**
- Tue 1: Swimming begins Grade 1
- Tue 1: School Council 7.15pm
- Wed 2: Parents in the Classroom 3.45pm
- Tue 8: PTA, Buildings & Grounds, Education & Policy Sub Committee Meetings
- Fri 11: School Assembly 3pm
- Tue 15: School Council 7.15pm
- Wed 23: Curriculum Day
- Thu 24: End of Term Early Dismissal 2.30pm

Message from Principal

Hi Everyone

Thank you to all those who attended our Meet the Teacher Interviews and our Peppercorn BBQ. Thank you to our wonderful PTA team for organising the BBQ and thank you to all those who volunteered to assist. I often hear from Principals in other schools about how hard it is to get parent assistance and attendance at events. We should all be very proud of our own school community and the level of support and involvement we have from our staff, students, parents, carers, friends, grandparents and the list goes on!

**OVAL UPDATE……WE ARE GETTING CLOSE!**

There was a great level of excitement as the trucks arrived to drop off lots of large white cylindrical rolls. Then there was even more excitement when the rolls were unwrapped and the artificial turf appeared! This means we are nearing the end of the project and it won’t be long until we have our new oval ready for play! It will be fun watching over the next few days as the surface “grows” in size and we start to see how amazing this space will look.

**STAFF CAR PARK ENTRY GATE**

I need to remind all parents and students that the staff car park gate on Peel St is strictly for staff entry only. I have witnessed many students and parents accessing the school via this gate and this puts student safety at risk. Our staff uses this entrance to drive in and out of and because our car park is so small we have to park multiple cars behind each other. This means that it is very difficult to move our cars in and out without also adding students walking amongst the cars as well. I have even seen parents
access the gate using the keypad code. This is not permitted and I ask for your cooperation in this matter by walking the extra 50 metres down the road to enter via the school gate near the gym. If everyone follows this rule then our students will not be put at risk.

C.A.R.E. PROGRAM TOPIC OF THE WEEK
This week in our C.A.R.E. Program we are focusing on TEAMWORK. Teamwork is really important at Kew PS because when we learn and work together we can learn more effectively and get a job done more quickly. When we work together, we can teach each other new skills as well as learn new skills from each other. Being part of a team means that we must all try to do our best so that the team does well. Our motto for this week: Together Everyone Achieves More.

This motto is a great way to highlight one of the best reasons to develop teamwork. Good teamwork skills help to provide an environment (whether it be in a classroom, on the sporting field or in any walk of life) where all members of that team can flourish and achieve something bigger and better than they could do on their own.

This week - the home school partnership challenge is to talk about and list all the teams that members of your family are part of. What is your role in these teams? What do you do to ensure that each of these teams are successful?

Our focus on teamwork relates to all of the C.A.R.E. values of our school and with the effort of all students, all staff and all parents - we can continue to make Kew Primary the best team to be a part of.

SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
Another key part of our home school partnership is ensuring that all of our students attend school each day and on time. Attendance and punctuality is incredibly important for all students at our school. DET has also recently released new guidelines around student attendance. It is a requirement for parents to notify the school any time a student is absent from school. For extended periods written permission must be sought from the Principal seeking approval.

In general, it is expected that Principals would excuse absences for:
- medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate;
- bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend Sorry Business;
- school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes;
- cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance;
- family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.

When a student is absent, parents are able to email notification of this, provide a written note or you can even use the Skoolbag App which has an Absentee Form under the eForms tab.

T.A.S.K. PROGRAM
One of my key focuses as Principal of Kew Primary is to ensure that as a school we use student achievement data effectively to inform and drive what we do in our classroom programs. We also have a strong focus on ensuring the very best start for students at our school. Last year we implemented a new program known as our TASK Program (Targeted Additional Support @ Kew).

Our TASK program is designed to ensure that early readers who need some extra support are provided with a structured program every day that focuses on their needs. The program was very successful in 2014 and 2015. As a result we will continue to implement it this year. In fact, in 2016 we have been able to extend the scope of the support offered.

A letter with more detail about the program was sent home with all students that are currently involved in it.

Task will be coordinated by Robin Grace, Shelley Ware and Ali Duffy and involve classroom teachers and parents. Students on the program will be constantly tracked and monitored so that the best results can be achieved. Our TASK program is one of my commitments to ensuring that students at KPS achieve their very best outcomes.
OPTIONAL EXTRAS AT KPS

At KPS we provide an extensive range of extra-curricular activities as part of our classroom and specialist curriculum program. These include Action Teams (Student Leadership Program), Kewriosity, CARE Program, camps and much more.

We also provide a range of “optional extras” that students can pay to participate in. These include instrumental music lessons, drama club, chess club, tennis lessons and sports activities organised by external providers but take place at Kew Primary School.

It is not too late to enrol in any of these programs. Please collect a flyer from the office or keep your eye out in our newsletter for more details.

KEWFEST 2016

On Tuesday 15th March, Kew Primary School is hosting a Photography Exhibition by James Smart, winner of the National Geographic Photo of the year Award in 2015. “The last residents” photographs and words about Kew Cottages by Grace McKenzie will also be part of the display. The exhibition will be held in the gym from 7pm – 10pm.

KEWfest 16 Kewmunity Day will be held on Saturday 19th March, 2016 at Victoria Park, Kew. As part of the day’s activities, there will be an Awakening of the Dragon as part of the festivities and students from all local schools are invited with their families to help chase the dragon around the park. Students are also encouraged to come dressed up as their favourite character to participate in the parade.

Details are as follows:
Date: Saturday 19th March, 2016
Time: 12.00pm sharp
Where: Victoria Park, Kew, in front of the main stage

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student. For primary school students this is $125 per year.

The fund is available to parents or guardians with a Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC). If you would like more information please contact the school office or www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February so that payments can be made from March 2016. Schools can accept parent applications up until 3rd June 2016.

Be Worthy!
PS – not long till Round #1!
James Penson
Message from Assistant Principal

In many of my newsletter articles I have written about safety in and around Kew PS for all the students, teachers and support staff as well as our many parents, visitors and contractors who regularly attend the school. One requirement for any visitor to the school is to sign in at the office and wear a visitors’ lanyard while on site so it is clear to everyone that you will be working at Kew PS in some capacity. This is a necessity for parents who are working in classrooms as well as the many contractors who are completing maintenance work etc. at the school. Parents who are going on excursions, whether on foot or by some form of transportation, are still required to sign in the visitors’ book at the office. In the event of an emergency situation occurring at the school, we need to account for all students and adults on site and the visitors’ book is vital in such situations.

This brings me to my next request which is that parents who are bringing their children to school late must sign the “late to school book “, that is also at the office. No students are to sign this form.

Likewise, if students are leaving early, parents must sign the “early leaving book” which is also at the office. The class teacher is then to be given the resultant tear out slip and this has to be kept as a legal requirement by DET. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sally Marsh and I will be running a “Parents in the Classroom “, information afternoon on Wednesday March 2nd at 4:00-5:30pm in the Junior School Hall. We would love to see many of you attend this session because parent help is a vital aspect to many of our learning programs. Sally and I try to make these sessions informative as well as fun. A flyer is being sent home today about this session, so please avail yourselves of this opportunity.

In week seven, beginning Monday 7th March, the specialists timetable will change because it is Planning Week. In Planning Week all learning teams are given a full day to plan together and to devise the curriculum they will be teaching in the following term. Students will get to have their specialist sessions during that week but it may be on a different day at a different time. Some students do find changes like this challenging so please reassure your children that this change is for one week only as their teachers will do likewise.

Robin Grace

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Kew Primary School Blog

Are we going nuts? This week on the blog I look at the issue of food allergies.

All contributions to the school blog are welcome (and I’m more than happy to assist with images and editing). If you’ve got something you’d like to share (even simply an idea for a blog post), please drop me a line at: katrina.w@ozemail.com.au

Katrina Whelen
Come along and catch up with the Dads at Kew Primary School, New Fathers, Grandfathers, etc., particularly welcome 😊. Great new venue this year with lights and a wagyu burger included.

This is a great chance to meet and network with other Fathers and meet the Principal, James Penson.

To Book :  [http://www.trybooking.com/KJNY](http://www.trybooking.com/KJNY)

WHEN:  Thursday 25th February 2015

TIME:  6.00 to 9.00 pm Barefoot bowls

Includes a Burger

Cold Drinks at Bar prices, First hour drinks are Complimentary!

WHERE:  MCC Kew.

397 Barkers Rd Kew VIC 3101 P: 03 9817 3936

COST:  $40  per person

Includes a Bowls Coach and Bowls fee plus a Wagyu Burger, Salad, Chips and a beer plus a $5 to the school.

CONTACTS:  Rodney Thomson : 0401 890 005

Michael Senyard : 0416 076 519

To Register your attendance :  [http://www.trybooking.com/KJNY](http://www.trybooking.com/KJNY)
Program Update

Hi everyone,

Another week has rushed past at OSHClub as we explored our environments, formed learning relationships and extended our thinking. Learning through play is an essential part of our development and the OSHClub children have had lots of opportunities to do so. In our home corner the children have been exploring dramatic play through role play, improvisation and sharing roles. Being involved in dramatic play assists the children in forming relationships and how to deal with conflict. Scout, Amelie, Panya and Sohia have been seen running a café in the play area communicating effectively to one another as they share interactions.

In the gym we’re continuing our play based learning relationships in our afternoon gym games. Gym games are a great way for the children to refine their gross motor skills. On Monday Callum, Ashton and Fearghas started on the line for Chinese walls, racing back and forth as the other children sprinted to the other side.

We were also involved in an amazing art challenge this week, we had five to six children in each group and 30 minutes to create a masterpiece of our choice. Different groups explored different themes from cars to dinosaurs, from robots to pirate ships, each group covering the brief in their own way.

Thank you for sharing another week with us OSHClub, we love watching you grow and learn!

(A kind reminder to all families that the program doesn’t open until 7:00am and we cannot accept children before this time, please also ensure that you have signed in their child before leaving)

Have a great Week!

OSHClub team

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Next Week’s Activities

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Parent Information

OSH program phone: 0400 394 489
Coordinator: Harriet Cousins-Palmer
Assistant: Niki, Lauren
OSHClub Head Office: 03 85649000

All families must be enrolled to attend the program, remember this is Free!! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
Second Hand Uniform Shop

The next second hand uniform shop will be held on Tuesday 1st March 2016, outside the library!

We have an extensive range of good quality summer and winter clothing at greatly reduced prices! All items in the shop are priced at approximately 80% below the current RRP.

All stock is laundered, in good condition, and ready to wear!

All proceeds from the school uniform shop go towards the school! Help support us, and grab yourself a bargain!

The uniform shop runs on the first Tuesday of each month. If you can’t make it to a sale day you can contact me or the school office with your request & size. Orders will be filled with the best quality available stock and left at the office for your collection and payment.

Caroline Vernon  carolinevernon@yahoo.com.au  0412 043 996