We thought it would be a good opportunity to explain to you how we are developing a learning community in the Level 4 ‘Learning Centre’. As educators, our goal is to assist students to achieve their full potential in a positive, stimulating environment. A learning community’s core purpose is to create an environment in which our students feel secure and free to learn. Our ‘Learning Centre’ encourages and directs the children to take responsibility for their learning and interaction within the classroom. We as class teachers, work with them to identify the rights and responsibilities of an effective learning community.

This model of classroom organisation has many benefits. A great deal of research has been conducted into cooperative or collaborative learning, and the more recent findings are that learning is a highly social and interactive process.

We believe that the carefully planned structure and organisation of the curriculum within the ‘Learning Centre’ is providing the children with the opportunity to work independently, within small groupings, home groups and as whole year levels. We also draw on the expertise and strengths of each teacher, to plan and instruct collaboratively which gives students the unique opportunity to interact and learn from all six teachers. This facilitates the development of the whole child as a lifelong learner: socially, emotionally and academically.

The curriculum program has been planned to cater for the varying needs and interests of all our students. To do this successfully primarily their home teacher is closely monitoring the children. We then discuss the most appropriate learning strategy to support and extend their learning.

We are very aware of the physical structure of the large flexible classroom space and are using it to our advantage.

Please feel free to pop in and ask any questions. We will continue to keep you informed on the activities occurring in the ‘Learning Centre’.

Melissa Hayes, Gayle Bennett, Patricia Incerti (Year 5 Class Teachers)  
Jaci McCoombe, Chrystal Sumpton, Clare Connor (Year 6 Class Teachers)

iPads @ Q

With both the leasing agreement and outright purchase prices going home with students, the excitement of our new endeavour at Kew Primary School is beginning to build. The students’ eager anticipation for their long awaited iPads is gaining momentum!

All staff members of Kew Primary School are now armed with the powerful iPad and ready to face any challenge that they are confronted with. The passion and commitment in which the staff have displayed is phenomenal and they cannot wait to use their tools alongside their students and share all the wonderful possibilities that are available to them.

The staff have been attending weekly meetings which are skilling them up with lots of information about how the iPad can be used in the classroom, but we all know that when our students finally have their tools, they will be teaching us a thing or two!

In Level 4 we would like to thank you all for the support we have received and the enthusiasm from parents and students alike. It is an exciting time and we are looking forward to offering our students many authentic learning experiences as we continue this exciting journey!
Buddies

The Year 5 and 6 students have been participating in a Buddy program since the beginning of the year. The Year 5 students take on a Year 1 buddy and the Year 6 students take on a Prep buddy. All the students involved are extremely enthusiastic about the time they get to spend together and look forward to their weekly meetings.

During the buddy sessions lots of different activities take place (often organised by the older students.) Some things we have done include... making poppies for Anzac Day; playing Tee Pees and Indians on the oval; dancing in the gym; telling stories and Easter present hunts.

Term 1
‘At a Glance’

- Swimming program
- Summer Interschool Sports
- Gala Day
- Leadership Program
- Equality = Harmony, Integrated Unit
- Buddy Program

Homework

Our students have very busy lifestyles, often greater “social lives” than their teachers. As a result many of them need help to organise their time and homework routines to ensure they keep on top of due dates and homework tasks.

Some simple tips that you can help with at home:

- Prioritise commitments for each week
- Timetable regular homework times on a weekly planner
- Set small goals to complete tasks and avoid overwhelming tears and last minute cold sweats!

At school we are constantly encouraging students to take responsibility for, and show initiative in their learning. When it comes to homework, this means asking their teachers for help, before the due date. Homework should not be stressful for any member of the family, so encourage your child to plan to do some homework during the week.

- Introduced ‘Literature Circles’ and ‘Writer’s Notebook’
TERM 2, Curriculum

Our Integrated Studies this term is based on the broad concept of ‘Change’, with a focus on Australian History from the First Fleet to Federation. During this unit of work our students will develop an understanding of the characteristics of people who initiated change and shaped our history, significant events in Australia’s history and the ‘pioneers’ who followed their dreams regardless of hardship, opposition and sometimes an unfriendly environment.

On the 24th April, all Year 5 and 6 students travelled to Sovereign Hill in Ballarat. Regardless of the inclement weather all students were able to participate fully in the activities on the agenda. The underground mine visit was a highlight as well as panning for gold. The enrichment program provided in the schoolhouse was informative and insightful for the children. To have the staff and volunteers on the site comment on the good behaviour of our students was a reflection on how involved and interested they were.

The students are now involved in researching a significant person in Australia’s history over a three week period as homework. They are also working with a partner during class time to research a major event in Australia’s history. Each team will eventually construct a diorama for our ‘Museum in Motion’ night on Thursday 14th June when they will present their work to visitors and dress up as the pioneer they researched.

Prior to this night all our students will visit ‘Melbourne Museum’ to view the displays and observe how this facility has been developed to benefit all visitors.

By learning about significant people and events in our history our students will have an appreciation of the hardships and obstacles many have had to overcome to make our country what it is today, and how they could possibly take action themselves to shape our history in the future.
Year 6 students have been busy working in their Leadership Groups on various projects throughout Term 1 and 2.

Here is a run down on what each group is up to!

**Ambassadors:**
This active group has consistently been in the spotlight with their regular job hosting the weekly School Assemblies. They have also implemented projects associated with ANZAC Day, Mother’s Day and the Kew Festival. The Ambassadors will have their work cut out for them next week when they host proceedings for Education Week Tours of the school.

**Paparazzi:**
This Action Team has been busily preparing many programs to be implemented this term. The School Website will see a remarkable improvement when the Paparazzi team members regularly update the site and communicate with the local community. Weekly sports reports will also see a technological change in readiness for school assemblies and members from this team will also be ‘up skilling’ students in the Prep classes.

**Student Voice Action Team:**
Students from this Action Team have been regularly checking and responding to the Suggestion Box located just outside the office. Students of Kew PS are encouraged to put their suggestions (for improvements of the school and its programs) in this box. A flow on effect from this has been the development of a Student Representative Council (SRC). All classes have two representatives to attend regular meetings, facilitated by the Student Voice Action Team, to discuss issues and events.

**CARE-ing @ Kew:**
This lively group has been busy developing the CARE Program ready to be implemented on Monday 21st May. They have assisted in the planning of sessions to be carried out by the Year 6 Students and have demonstrated this lesson to the Year 6 Group. The girls were also instrumental in raising money for Harmony Day and promoted this day well to the school community.

**Sports Action Team:**
These four groups entertained the school community very well during their introductory presentations last term. They were well prepared for
their assault on the House Cross Country and ensured all participants were well organized and cheered across the line. This group has many projects in the pipeline for Term 2 and 3.

**Smartie Arties Action Team:**

The Smartie Arties have had a number of projects on the go. They are hoping to host a talent show next term, and are currently planning the ‘Artist @ Kew’ Program. Students within this Action Team will be hosting at least two art lessons across the school. These lessons will enable the team to share their skills and develop their own public speaking and organizational skills.

**Green Thumbs:**

The Green Thumbs have almost finalized the plans for the vegetable garden ready to be implemented late in Term 2 and early into Term 3. They are very excited to start and will be putting their ‘Green Thumbs’ into action soon! This group is also promoting a ‘clean school’ with a weekly timetable for Levels to clean the yard.