Message from the Principal

Welcome to the newsletter this week. We are now well and truly in the rush to the end of the term and as usual there is a hive of activity across the school. A sample of some of the many extra-curricular opportunities we have at KPS was showcased at our assembly last week. We had a violin duet performance, students sharing their writing, sports reports and students sharing information about our leadership program. Kew Primary is certainly a vibrant and engaging place to learn (and work!)

SCHOOL DISCO REMINDER
Friday June 17th - Just over one week until we turn the gym into disco central!
The Prep & Junior school disco will be from 5pm – 6.15pm and the Middle & Senior school disco will be from 6.45pm – 8pm. Keep a look out for the flyers coming home soon. Please click on the link to book tickets. https://www.trybooking.com/LVRQ

WRITERS OF THE WEEK
This week it was too hard to choose a single writer so I selected two classes instead!

Well done 2DP & 2BN
This is a photo of the display outside their classrooms. Make sure that you come and have a good look during our Write Night next Wednesday evening 15th June at 6.30pm.

THANK YOU GAYLE BENNETT
Early next term we will say farewell and thank you to Gayle Bennett who will be retiring on the 14th July. On behalf of our whole school community I take this opportunity to thank Gayle for her substantial service and contribution to our school. Gayle moved to Kew Primary School in 1993 and she has undertaken many important roles in that time. Most importantly she has always been dedicated to the students in her classes and ensured that a very comprehensive and effective learning program has been implemented.

We wish Gayle all the very best as she begins a new chapter in her life. We also look forward to her possibly spending some days in our school as a CRT when she is available.

Entertainment Books
For sale at the Office for $65
Digital membership available
20% from each book sold goes to the school

Term Dates 2016
Term 2: 11 Apr - 24 Jun
Term 3: 11 Jul - 16 Sept
Term 4: 3 Oct - 20 Dec
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT – WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Over the past few weeks I have been fortunate to spend time with Simon Breakspear at the Boroondara Network Conference and with Hamish from No Tosh on our Curriculum day. The interesting and affirming thing that I noted was the similarity and synergy in the messages they both delivered. Although schools organisations are very complex, the process or focus around school improvement can be distilled into 3 specific focus areas:

1. Maximise learning. Focus on priority learning areas by reducing distractions and other areas that take time and energy away from this.
2. Grow expertise by deepening the level of professional learning.
3. Cultivate team – develop and build teams of teachers and develop collective efficacy.

This message is also matched with an article that recently appeared in The Age around the formula for the perfect school principal. The research presented in this article suggests that principals can significantly boost their students grades if they set goals, promote professional development and encourage interaction between staff. I am pleased to report that these have all been the highest priorities for our school over recent years. If you want to read more please follow the link:


POSITIVE PLAY SPACE (OVAL REDEVELOPMENT STAGE 2) – CONCEPT DESIGN

At our last Buildings & Grounds meeting, Sarah Smith (landscape architect, passionate natural play space designer and parent!) presented a concept design as part of the redevelopment of our oval – stage 2. The concept and ideas were very impressive and I know that the Buildings & Grounds team were very excited and can’t wait to deliver the project. Our students are also waiting very patiently and have already started to use this space in some very creative ways.

The design includes a large section of natural grass, significant sand play zone, bush garden, open woodland and water/dry creek bed. It features many of the required elements that promote positive and creative play. The space will support the full implementation of our positive play environment and program. This has been a long time in the making after significant consultation with our students, staff and parents. In fact, Melissa Hayes who has been one of the key drivers of this initiative reminds me regularly that this started over 4 years ago. The school was also awarded a Bendigo Bank community grant to purchase items such as blocks and recycled materials for students to use in their play. These items are now sitting in the positive play shed and waiting to be unleashed!

At our School Council this week, preliminary approval was granted for community consultation for 2 weeks with the view to develop a detailed design and quotes to complete the work. If you are interested in viewing more of the concept design, copies are available at the office. If you have any specific questions, ideas or feedback please contact me prior to 23rd June.

penson.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
The current budget for this project is $50,000 after several large and very generous donations, school budget funds and fundraising via our lap-a-thon. After this consultation period, the design will be finalised and submitted to School Council so that the plan and contractor can be approved and work can commence as early as possible.

**THANK YOU LAP-A-THONERS!**

Last Friday was a great day for our school. It was wonderful to have all our students outside together running, jogging and walking on our new oval! There was a real sense of community spirit and activity as our school came together to raise funds towards landscaping and developing our positive play space.

Thank you to our PTA for organising the event and to the many parent helpers who assisted on the day. A special thank you to Melanie Eades for co-ordinating the event.

It is now vital that all students return their sponsorship form and monies. The online system has also worked well, however all the individual forms still need to be returned so that we can tally the funds raised and organise the prizes. The last day for this is tomorrow, Friday 10th June.

Hopefully, in our newsletter next week we will be able to announce the final tally.

**SCOPE EDUCATION**

On Tuesday our Year 4’s and 5’s were lucky to experience working with ScopeIT Education. This was the first step for our school in sampling the new and exciting world of coding and 3D printing. I sat in on one of the classes and the level of engagement and focus of our students was sensational. It was great to see how students can be the creators of tech and not just consumers of it. Coding is an important part of the wider STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) curriculum and we will be exploring effective ways to implement this across our school. A big thank you to Michael Hwang from ScopeIT (and KPS parent) for providing this opportunity.

**COMPULSORY & VOLUNTARY FEE REMINDER LETTERS**

Over the next few weeks letters will be sent home to families reminding them of any compulsory or voluntary payments that are overdue. Over the past years our School Council and the Finance Subcommittee have worked very diligently to ensure that our school develops a strong financial position. Currently we have under 60% of our families who have contributed to our school by paying the full amount of voluntary payments. Last year this figure was over 75% so we still have some work to do. These funds are vital for our school as they are spent on library resources, ensuring our grounds are maintained and that we can complete projects such as our positive play space.
and the installation of air-conditioners.

**TERM 3 COST LETTERS**
In the last week of this term our Term 3 Cost letters will be sent home. The payment date attached to these costs will be the first Friday of Term 3. This will provide families with 3 weeks to organise the payment. The charges listed will include the Junior Rockers Music Concert, Storyteller for Book week and other events organised for each year level including some camp payments. These events are organised on a user pays basis. Students will be unable to attend if payment has not been received prior to the due date or before the date of the event itself.

**VARIATION TO SCHOOL HOURS DAY – 3 WAY CONFERENCES**
Our School Council has approved a “Variation To School Hours Day” for Thursday 4th August. This is the Thursday of the 4th week back in Term 3. On this day students will only attend school from 9am through til 12pm. All students will be dismissed at 12pm.

We will be running 3 Way Conferences from 12.30pm until 7.30pm on that day. A letter with more information including the details of the booking process will be sent home early next term.

Out of School Hours Care will be available from 12pm on this day (and as per usual before school as well).

**REPORTS COMING SOON!**
As I write the Semester 1 reports are being proof read. They will be sent home on Wednesday the 22nd June which is the last Wednesday of the term. This will be the last time hard copy reports are sent home. In the future these will be accessible via the parent portal on COMPASS.

**LAST DAY OF TERM – FINISH AT 2.30PM**
A reminder that on our last day this term, Friday 24th June we will finish at 2.30pm. There will be an assembly prior to this at 2pm.

Be Worthy!
James Penson
Principal

Kew Primary School Blog
What got our students running in circles last week? Find out on the blog.
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
Message from Assistant Principal

How time flies when you are having fun! This very old saying certainly does ring true when you consider it was almost a week ago when we were enjoying beautiful weather and taking part in our Lapathon. It was certainly a fun filled event where all students got to run, walk, talk and laugh around the designated tracks. James was running with the older students and setting the pace, motivating students to go that one more lap and other staff members ran with their students, encouraging them and praising them for their efforts. Parents as well as staff members were ticking off the lap sheets, enjoying the spectacle happening before their very eyes. I must admit I was even motivated to run a number of laps myself, just to test the track, of course! Parents, also, joined in the event with their children, running alongside them. What a feel good time it was and what a great way to raise money for the next stage of the oval refurbishment and how exciting is that going to be. Please check out the plans for this next exciting stage at the main office. Many of you may not realise but there was a lovely synergy to this Lapathon, as the whole oval creation was set in motion by some senior students who, in 2012, wanted to raise money for the school oval. They organised the first Lapathon and their aim was to raise enough money for a running track and to coin another old saying- the rest is history! Not only did we have loads of fun but we raised money as well so thank you to all our staff and parent helpers on the day and to all the sponsors who pledged their financial support to our Kew Kids. The final tally of money raised will be known very soon.

No doubt some of you would have been watching the “Education Revolution”, a four part series being shown on the ABC on Tuesdays and if you haven’t then I do suggest it is worth catching up on. The essence of the program is how teachers at a school in Berwick, with very poor academic results, turned the students results around and now this school is performing in the top 20% of all secondary schools in Victoria. This is a remarkable result and one vital aspect of this turnaround was the literacy program and having all students read authentic texts. It is a simple but effective strategy which results in students becoming far more literate and above all, able to learn. Here at Kew PS we are way ahead of the game because this strategy has been embedded here for years! All teachers develop their literacy programs in their teams when they are planning together and their reading and writing programs are pitched at a child’s zone of need. Reading materials are levelled so that students can develop reading and comprehension skills, using texts that support their current abilities but also provide challenges for them to increase their skills in these areas. Likewise, teachers design writing tasks in a similar fashion. Writing has been a focus for all teachers this year and to showcase our students’ efforts we are holding a “WRITE NIGHT” next Wednesday 15th June between 6:30- 7:30pm. Please make the effort to come to the school because our students want to show you what great writing they are capable of. All students will be given a “WRITE NIGHT” booklet today which they are to bring back to school when they accompany you to this special event.

Robin Grace

2nd volunteer needed to help out with Second Hand Uniform Shop

Can you help out by sorting clothes and/or running the stall?

It takes just a few hours each month and hours are flexible to suit your schedule

Please contact carolinevernon@yahoo.com.au (0412 043 996)
Australia : Story country
BOOK WEEK 2016

Be a part of this year's library display
Decorate your gum leaves
Colour, paint, collage or decorate however you wish
Cut them out and bring them to school
Drop them into the collection boxes at the Library or Office.
Kew Primary School Fathers Association

A social evening for Kew Primary School Fathers to bring a mate, meet some great blokes, relax and enjoy some footy, a beer and the special combination of chicken, ham and cheese (or select from the menu).

What : $22 Pot and Parma Night Social Evening

Where : Harp Hotel 636 High St, Kew VIC 3102

When : Thursday 23rd June 7:30pm

Who : North and Adelaide will be on the big screen (will be a test for North after playing Hawks the week before).

Cost : $22 includes Pot and Parma (meals off the menu also available)

Drinks at bar prices, **pay on the night**.

To Register your attendance click this link, input name : [http://doodle.com/poll/bmnkzbzinechzscn](http://doodle.com/poll/bmnkzbzinechzscn)

Details email KPSFA at – kpsfass@gmail.com

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Sick Bay Laundry

We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the sickbay laundry.

All that is required is to collect the laundry once a week, wash and dry it and return it to the school.

We will not expect you to launder items that are heavily soiled.

If interested please contact the office.
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

Program Update
What a crazy and busy week at OSHClub, full of fun and exciting experiences. In the kitchen we became bakers designing and creating our own cupcakes with Oreo pieces, caramel, chocolate buttons and even pop rocks!!! – How delicious. Amelia W mentioned she “loved the cooking activity because I could choose what I wanted in my cake and didn’t have to do the same as everyone else” – Providing children with the opportunity to make their own decisions will build confidence and stronger self-identities.

On Monday we had a very busy afternoon with lots of children we had a big game of Capture the flag out on the oval. Having huge teams made the game much more fun but also very hard as we had to make sure we were looking everywhere. Plain team kept winning until orange team had a meeting and discussed some strong strategy…Every player watched one person and ensured they didn’t go over the line to catch the flag!

We want to give all parents a reminder to book your children in online ahead of the day so that we are able to fully cater for the children that attend as well as ensure that we are in the correct child to staff ratio.

Next week’s theme is Sustainability!

Next Week’s Activities

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<td>Before Care</td>
<td>Sustainability poster Oval Play Healthy chocolate ball cooking Feather painting Capture the flag</td>
<td>Ambulance paper craft Chinese walls Sustainability poster Capture the flag Making digeridoos</td>
<td>Oval Play Earth collage Healthy chocolate ball cooking Chinese walls Recycled art and craft Our sustainability poster Making a Digeridoo</td>
<td>Our sustainability poster Making a Digeridoo Complex colouring Chinese walls Pipe cleaner flowers Number games Basketball Crepe paper creations</td>
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Parent Information
OSHIC program phone: 0400 394 489
Coordinator: Harriet Cousins-Painter
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 any on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
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