Message from Principal

Hi Kew,

A GREAT ATTITUDE IS DEMONSTRATED THROUGH GRATITUDE

Next Wednesday is all set to become our inaugural “Gratitude Day”.

Gratitude Day is based on the positive psychology work of Martin Seligman (author of Learned Optimism and Authentic Happiness). He states that we “do not have a vehicle in our culture for telling the people who mean the most to us how thankful we are that they are on the planet – and even when we are moved to do so we shrink in embarrassment”.

For me - demonstrating gratitude is becoming a lost art. I witness an increasing level of self-importance, self-focus and self-entitlement in society in general and feel that we may not be as grateful or appreciative for what we have as part generations.

My aim is for this day to help shift this balance back into the positive and in our Kewmunity there is so much to be positive and grateful for!

Gratitude Day is an opportunity to spend some time thinking about what is good in our lives and what and whom we should be grateful for.

Some ideas to support this include:

- Write down 7 things in your life you are grateful or thankful for and do this for 11 days in a row.
- Complete the Gratitude Survey http://www.psy.miami.edu/faculty/mmccullough/gratitude/GQ-6-scoring-interp.pdf and find out where you fit in scale of things as compared to others.
- Select one important person from your life who has made a major positive difference and to whom you have never fully expressed your thanks. Write a testimonial to them and deliver it by reading it to them in person.
- Say thank-you to 7 different people during the day.
- Make a donation to a charity that does work that you relate to.

Second Hand Uniform

The next second hand uniform shop will take place on Tuesday 9th December, before school starts. This is also the first of the whole school transition days so will provide the opportunity for parents to buy for new children starting at Kew PS in 2015.

Please keep those donations coming.
The Bendigo Bank is a terrific supporter of our school. As such we want to support them as well. We have launched the Bendigo Piggy Bank Passbook Account program for our school. Showbags and information were handed out to all students as part of the launch. If you are thinking about opening up an account for your child please contact the office so that we can assist you and outline all the documentation you need. I know that many of our students have now joined up and are ready to start saving. I just wish I had done this when I was at school!!

PARENT OPINION SURVEY

Recently we received the results of our 2014 Parent Opinion Survey. I am always interested in this type of survey as it provides important data that is used to inform and direct future planning and action. In many ways surveys are also interesting in themselves because they are based on individuals’ responses that can vary quite dramatically. What might be a great experience for one can also be a disaster for another!

Overall I am pleased with our data as a starting point for our continuous improvement journey at KPS. In many ways we have just started with some of the strategies that will improve our school over the next few years whilst in other areas we are continuing to refine what we have been doing for a number of years.

One area I would like you to think about is the response to Extra-Curricular section. This section of the survey asks parents to rate their response to two statements:

- my child’s school has good extra-curricular activities
- the school provides an appropriate range of extra-curricular activities

The response to our survey indicates that we are in the first quartile (or lowest 25% of DEECD schools). Our school is represented by the large green horizontal line at the bottom of the large box with the small red square being the DEECD average. I have also published the individual response section that shows that 36% and 40% of parents surveyed moderately disagree, mildly disagree or neither agree or disagree with the statements.

Having worked at a range of other schools I was surprised with our responses in this area. I see our school doing an extraordinary level of extra curricular activity. Many parents often think that “extra-curricular” just refers to programs that run before and after school and that parents often have to pay for. At our school this would include: Mandarin, Drama Time, Instrumental Music Lessons, Tennis, Chess and Drumming.

However across schools “extra-curricular” also refers to the wide range of additional or special programs on offer that “add value” to the educational and learning experience of the students. For our school it is extensive: Art extension, Maths enrichment, Maths Olympiad, French CLIL, PE Hooptime, Athletics, Kanga 8’s, Swimming, Student Leadership program, CARE program, Bike Ed…..and the list goes on and on!

In fact when I think about what extra-curricular programs we offer across our school I am both amazed and also very proud.

For many schools it becomes difficult to maintain all of this whilst also ensuring the focus remains on teaching and learning.
Message from the Assistant Principal

Since the beginning of term, Mr Penson and I have made several references to how busy schools are and Kew PS, is no exception. Lots of learning and engagement, is taking place in classrooms and specialists’ lessons, and another area that is vibrant and very busy is our play spaces at break times. With almost 500 students enjoying these times in whatever games they are involved in, by the sheer numbers of students in such a space there will inevitably be accidents. At any given time, during these breaks, there are 6 staff members doing yard duty keeping a close watch on the “state of play” amongst the students. Of course, when accidents do occur, the students involved are initially cared for by the duty teachers, and if they are deemed to need further first aid treatment, they are then taken to sick bay where Kim, the school’s first aid attendant, will further assess their medical needs. Parents and carers are contacted if it is decided that the student need to see their doctor or to go home and rest. The same situation occurs when students become ill at school.

On a number of occasions, Kim, the office staff or I have made these phone calls, only to find that the contact numbers have changed. If a student is very unwell and needs to go home, not being able to make arrangements for this to happen with parents or the emergency contact, can prove very distressing for the sick child. If your contact details change, please make sure you have let the office know.

For this term and up until April, all students are required to wear hats at school to protect themselves from those ultraviolet rays that can be very harmful. Many hats have found their way into lost property, but unfortunately, having no name on them, makes it very difficult to return these hats to their owners. Please make sure your child’s hat is clearly named as well as other uniform pieces. Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Robin Grace
Dear Families,

Please find below an update from our October School Council meeting held this week:

**Draft 2015 Budget**
The Draft Budget for 2015 was approved and will be finalised in March next year once final student numbers are confirmed. A decision about which of the two large projects will receive funding priority (Oval Redevelopment or Cooling Solutions in BER) will be made at the November School Council meeting.

**Grants Update**
The school has been successful in securing a number of grants:
- Bully Stoppers Program grant of $5,350 for cyber safety and professional development for teachers;
- Local Leader Grant of $1,000 for ‘Play for Life’ pod of resources; and
- DEECD Energy Efficiency Grant of $10,000 for an energy audit and energy efficiency measures across the school. A special thank you to Kath Phelan for all her hard work in preparing the application.

**Building & Grounds Update**
B&G are establishing a project team for the preparatory work on the oval redevelopment and expressions of interest will be sought from parents interested in joining this team.

**Education & Policy Committee Update**
The Advertising & Sponsorship policy was approved and is now open to the School Community for feedback. The Concerns & Complaints Policy, Class Formation Policy and Sun Smart Policy were all approved by School Council following community consultation and are on our website.

Sally Marsh and Andrew Wood, Leading Teachers reported that 25 laptops have been purchased for the Senior School and 20 iPads and 2 x 10 bay multidocks for the Junior School. The 25 laptops were funded by the PTA and we thanked them for their support in fundraising to provide these resources.

**After School Care Program**
The timing of the tender review process has now changed given the OSH ‘After School Care’ Program contract comes up for renewal in Term 2, 2015. School Council will invite OSH and other reputable providers to participate in a competitive tender process for the program in Term 1 next year (rather than this year).

**PTA / Splash Update**
School Council recognised the significant work conducted by the Splash and PTA committees including Jayne Campbell, Stewart Waters and the 32 volunteers on the Splash committee and the 170 volunteers involved in the Splash activities over the entire weekend to host the Art Show and Family Day.

**Walking Bus Tour**
A survey will be conducted to determine the level of interest amongst parents and students to participate in a walking bus tour to school and will be distributed shortly.

Thank you for your support.

Julie Coleman, School Council President
Kew Primary School Blog

Boo! It's a little spooky on the blog this week, with Alex St. Claire sharing her love of Halloween.

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
SPLASH STUDENT VOLUNTEERS - thank you!

Musicians:

Xavier Aitken (drums) (3)
Lester Leong (Violin) (3)
Leanne Leong (Keyboard)
Caitlin Kemke (keyboard);
Lucas Chin (keyboard);
Lucas Holly (guitar) (5)
Tania Gole (guitar);
Finn Whelan (drums);
Hugo Stevenson (guitar);
Sam Hindaugh (keyboard) (4)
Aidan Kemke (guitar);
Elise Curry (keyboard);
Helen Alonso (Cello)
Lara Aitken (keyboard);
Leon Kojima (keyboard);
Tania Gole (guitar);
The 4 Faces Band - Callum Estibeiro, Olek Beavis, Hayley Jones, & Hannah Benhassine

Waiters:

Joshua Trist
Chelsea Holmes
Lara McConnon
Daniel Mizzi
Tom Waters
Indi Warren-Smith
Robbie Beckworth
Seb Graefe
Charlie McNally
Alex Hill-Smith
Lucy Skelton
Ebony Kline
Helen Alonso
SPLASH FUN!
Cyber Tip

What is Snapchat?
Snapchat is an application which is free to download on iOS and Android devices that allows users to send images ('snaps') to each other. Operating the app requires use of the device’s data plan or wireless internet connection. Images can be drawn on using a whiteboard-style tool and can be given a caption. Images can be sent to other users for up to 10 seconds before they ‘dissolve’.

What is the age classification for Snapchat?
The age classification for Snapchat is 13 years old, although much of the content may be inappropriate for that age group. If children under the age of 13 sign up for an account they are given access to ‘SnapKidz’ which is a limited version of the app where users are not able to send images to other devices. It is important to know that these classifications are set by the app's creator and are not overseen by an independent body.

How are kids using Snapchat?
Snapchat is used by many young people to communicate with their friends and to send photos to each other. Snapchat can, however, be used for inappropriate purposes and it is important to sit down with your child and explain to them that it is not okay to share images that are rude, offensive or sexualised.

Should I be worried if my child is using Snapchat?
Any application when used incorrectly has the potential to cause harm. It is important that you communicate openly with your child about how they may be using an application and the legal and ethical ramifications of inappropriate use. Children also need to be aware of the dangers when communicating with people they don’t know via any mobile application.

Does an image really delete on Snapchat?
There are many ways an image can be saved, even on Snapchat. iOS and Android devices have a feature which allows the device to take a photo of what is on the screen ('screencapture'). Snapchat notifies the sender if an image they have sent has been captured, however you are not always notified. There are also many other ways images can be saved without the sender being notified so it is important to encourage children to think before they post.

What are the privacy settings on Snapchat?
Snapchat has very limited privacy settings and it is important to monitor your child’s usage of the application. One privacy setting that is available is the ability to restrict who can send your child’s snaps. This can be enabled by going into the Settings menu, under Who can ... Send Me Snaps, select My Friends. This will ensure that only users on your child’s contact list can send images.

How do I delete my child’s Snapchat account?
If after talking with your child about the ethical use of Snapchat and your family’s rules around technology, you may think it’s appropriate to delete the Snapchat account. To delete a Snapchat account you can go to https://support.snapchat.com/delete-account and enter your child’s account username and password. If you do not have your child’s password you can put a deletion request into Snapchat. Open and supportive discussions around technology usage are vital in ensuring your child understands their responsibilities when using technology. Simply removing the technology is not the best response as it could potentially drive your child’s usage underground where there are few opportunities for you to support them.

Madame T and the eSmart team.
SPLASH THANK YOU’S - HAVE YOU NOTICED THE GYM WINDOWS?

Have you noticed how clean our huge gym windows are? In preparation for Splash, Chris Nerouppos (Raffi, Yr 5) brought his window cleaning services in and in the next five hours, and with the help of John Mifsud, John Tamowicz, Peter Wolff, and Stewart Waters, made them look like new. Thank you!

Window Cleaning

- Homes and Shops
- Quality Work at Competitive Prices
- Obligation Free Quotes.

Call Chris Today on 0467 089 185

“Bringing a Sparkle to your life.”