2013 School Council Elections

Annual elections for vacancies on the 2013-2015 school council will take place in the period 20th February through to 12th March. Vacancies that need to be filled are 4 parent/community members and 2 Department of Education and Early Childhood (DEECD) members. Members are elected for a two-year period and can renominate at subsequent elections.

Yesterday notices calling for nominations for the 2013-2015 school council were distributed to all families in the school community. If you did not receive a notice please contact the school office. The closing date for the receipt of nominations is 4pm on Wednesday 27th February. If an election is to be conducted you will be advised accordingly.

The following information is provided as a guide to school council operation:

Objectives of School Councils:
- Assist in the efficient governance of the school
- Ensure students’ best interests are primary
- Enhance the educational opportunities for students
- Ensure compliance with relevant legislation and regulations

The Function of School Council is to:
- Establish the broad direction and vision of the school within the school's community
- Participate in the development and monitoring of the school strategic plan
- Develop, review and update school policies
- Develop, review and monitor the Student Engagement Policy and the School Dress Code
- Raise funds for school-related purposes
- Approve the annual budget and monitor expenditure
- Maintain the school’s grounds and facilities
- Enter into contracts (e.g. cleaning, construction work)
- Report annually to the school community and to DEECD via the annual report
- Generally stimulate interest in the school in the wider community

School Councils Do Not:
- Manage the operational functions of the school
- Employ ongoing teaching staff with no fixed date for termination

EMA Reminder
If you think you are eligible for the EMA, please collect a form to complete from the office asap. They must be returned by 28th February.
- Represent sectional interests
- Renew the principal's contract, hire or dismiss the principal
- Determine class allocations
- Discuss individual issues between teachers and students and/or parents
- Purchase land or buildings
- Enter into hire purchase agreements or obtain credit or loan facilities, unless authorised by the Minister

**The Workload of Councillors:**

- School council must meet at least 8 times in each year, and at least once per school term
- Meetings should be restricted to approximately 2.5 hours duration at most
- In many schools, all school councillors are expected to sit on at least one subcommittee
- Subcommittees generally meet at least twice each term
- Members do not receive payment for service

**School Council Sub-Committees:**

- School councillors would normally sit on at least one subcommittee
- Sub-committees might include:
  - Finance
  - Environment/grounds/facilities/buildings
  - Educational policy
  - Community liaison/community building/community relations
  - Other – e.g. outside school hours care, canteen.

The school council meets on the third Wednesday in each month in the staff room. Meetings commence at 7.15pm. and normally finish at 9.15pm. I encourage interested school community members to consider joining the council. Should an election be required you will receive further information with ballot papers being distributed no later than Wednesday 5th March. Please note that in all schools the principal acts as Returning Officer for school council elections.

**Barry Archibald**

**Acting Principal**

**Regarding Religious Education SRI-(Special Religious Instruction) Classes**

This advice is to clarify the situation for families with respect to these classes. The notice sent home recently seeking parental preference regarding these classes indicated that where the school received no response about a child’s inclusion or not, that the child would be included. It is apparent that this situation was clarified by the Department of Education in August 2011 to highlight the importance of parental choice. If a parent does not submit the prescribed form, it is the principal’s role to follow up with the parent to obtain his/her instructions. The clarification in his process is that there is no default position of placing a child in SRI if a parent’s response is not known. Children will not be placed in SRI classes if no response is received, consistent with the revised Department policy.
Message from the Assistant Principal

My newsletter this week will have a central theme, one extolling the virtues of our PTA members who work tirelessly to raise funds for Kew PS so that the school can be improved for the students and teachers. These projects can vary according to need and one such project that has been completed and entirely funded by the PTA is the school’s new sandpit. All the feedback I have received has been more than positive which is very heartening. In recognition of these parents we will be holding an official launch of our sandpit and the students will be able to express their appreciation as well. This ceremony will take place this Friday at 3:20 at the sandpit of course, instead of our usual Friday afternoon assembly in the gym. All parents are most welcome to attend.

The sandpit has proven to be so popular that I had a deputation from the Grade Five students protesting that the older students needed more access to it. They came with a signed petition- students and teachers signatures were gathered including Mr Archibald’s! One extremely funny point was made by this deputation accusing me of being ageist, favouring younger students over the more mature students in the upper school. As you all can imagine I really did have to battle with myself to keep a straight face. The outcome from all of these discussions is that the new sandpit will be timetabled giving all students in the school considerable play time in it. You have to love their enthusiasm and abilities to garner support for a cause they obviously feel passionate about- their school!

Now, what is going to happen to the old sandpit? I can hear you ask. School Council last night approved a tender to have it removed and re-asphalted, leaving a boxed area for a mature shade tree to be planted and our beautiful carved seats to be put in position around that. A huge thank you must go to Richard Warren Smith who gave up his Saturday morning to remove the old pine tree and chip it for the school to use around the seats near the sandpit. Already the shade sails over the old sandpit have been removed as well as the metal poles holding those sails, giving the area a more spacious feel.

A number of parents have commented on the state of the oval and the problem is about to be rectified with a new mowing contractor to be hired. Compounding this issue was the fact that the automatic sprinkler system was no longer working and the company who installed it has merged with another company, making it difficult to get anyone to attend to it. However, this is soon to be sorted and once it happens the oval should start to look a lot greener.

The next project to be completed will be the installation of new basketball rings and back boards. At this stage a number of contractors have quoted for this job and a decision as to who the school will use to do the work will be made very shortly. Again, funds raised by the PTA will be used for this. Membership of the PTA is growing but more parents would be welcome. It is a great way to meet new parents and be involved in fund raising activities that are fun and family friendly such as the Peppercorn barbeques, Zoomba afternoons and Trivia evenings.

Robin Grace
Kew Primary School Blog

First up, thank-you to everyone I spoke to about the blog at the Peppercorn BBQ last week; it’s good to know that word is getting around and people are reading and enjoying the posts. And for all those people who had heard about it, but hadn’t quite got around to checking it out yet, now’s your chance.

One of the things I discussed at the BBQ was the fact that I would really like to get as many people as possible writing for the blog. You don’t have to be an experienced writer; you just have to have an idea, an interest or a story to tell. If you’d like to give it a go, email me: Jacqueline_tomlins@bigpond.com

So I am really pleased this week to introduce a great piece by a parent, Nikki McConnon. Nikki has taken the bold step of talking about something quite personal in the hope that it may help other parents in a similar situation. Thanks, Nik.

You can check Nik’s blog – and all the others – at: www.kewprimaryschool.com

PTA News

Peppercorn BBQ:

Seriously hot conditions called for record quantities of drinks and icypoles last Friday night when the start of year Peppercorn BBQ proved to be another great success. A fantastic crowd meant a complete sell-out of all stock on the dot of 8pm followed by the eventual need for late night revelers to be unceremoniously ejected in the dark. The night raised in the vicinity of $1900!

These events don't happen on their own and in spite of the unpleasant set-up conditions, a huge number of PTA and predominantly Year 2 parents did a stirling job preparing and manning the BBQ all night. A big thanks to: Chett Beavis, Aeyel, Brad Cain, Emma Cooney, Kerri Mazzocco, Loraine Trist, Claire Tanner, Belinda Holmes, Nicki Schwartz, John Ling, Kate Denby, Richard & Emma Warren-Smith, Andrea Stevens, Emma Hindhaugh, Stewart Waters, Sue Ooi, Angela Gill, Bruce Webb, Chris Nerouppos, Lee Coleman, Con Prapas, John Misfud, Ken Alonso, Andy Muller and all the many 'revelers' who helped with the packing away and even bin cleaning in the dark! A special thanks to all the Cooney girls and Immy Holly, without whose help the delicious salads may never have eventuated; and to Chelsea, Annie, Helen, Ben and Harry who sold hundreds of drinks and icypoles; and to Chill, Angus, Cooper and even 3yo Jimmy who all helped with setup and earned their soft drink rewards. To those of you who weren't on a roster but who leapt in to help throughout the night - THANK YOU TOO!

PTA Meeting:

The next meeting is on Tuesday 5th March at 7.30pm in the staff room. After a magnificent turn out last meeting including eight new faces, and the confirmation of 23 members for 2013, I still believe there are more wonderful parents who would like to join so do come along and see what it's all about!

Cheers George
On Tuesday, 19th February, a group of Kew Primary School swimmers headed to Bialik College to compete in the Kew District Swimming Carnival. All swimmers represented the school with pride and many students experienced their first ever swim meet. Thank you to all the parents who brought their children along to compete and stayed to cheer on our team! A special thank you to parents who assisted with marshalling students to races, you were invaluable! Congratulations to all students listed below that represented KPS;

Will S  Robbie B  Angus S  Seb G  Tania G
Ruby B  Samantha L  Ellie M  Sophie M  Ashleigh B
Isabella S  Lara McC  Genna W  Joaquin C  John K
Irfan H  Dion B  Rupert E  Cooper L  Angus A

Robbie B and Angus A will both be progressing to the Divisional Swimming Carnival after winning their individual events, both in the 50m freestyle and Angus in the 50m butterfly also.

The 10 year old boys and 12 year old boys 50m Freestyle Relay teams also came 2nd in their races and will go on to the Divisional level as well. Congratulations to the teams; Angus S, Will S, Seb G and Robbie B plus Angus A, Dion B, Rupert E and Cooper L!!!

Well done everyone!

Erin

Costume donations

An art room idea is brewing and we need your help! We would like to recycle children’s dress ups that are no longer used – Batman, Spiderman, Pippy Longstockings, anything goes! We will warmly welcome accessories too, e.g. police officer’s hat, clown wig, funny sunglasses etc etc. Just drop off any of your preloved costumes at the art room and we will put them to good use, all in the name of ‘Sustainability’.

Merci beaucoup!

Madame Temple & Madame McLean
L’Art

This term, students at KPS are studying ‘Heroes’ as their eUp focus. To compliment their classroom learning, Level 4 students will be studying famous French ‘heroes’. During L’Art, pupils will choose a famous French person and paint their portrait. Some suggestions...

Napoleon Bonaparte
Marie Antoinette
King Louis XVI
Jeanne d’Arc
Coco Channel
Francois Hollande
Edith Piaf
Marcel Marceau
Brigitte Bardot
Louis Braille
Victor Hugo
Marie Curie
Claude Monet
Edgar Degas
Henri Matisse
Camille Pissarro
Claude-Achille Debussy
Gustave Eiffel
Thierry Henry

......or choose your own!

Level 4 Homework

Your ipads will come in handy for this! Choose a ‘personne célèbre’ and find out about their life. Why are they famous? Then find pictures of them and print them off and bring to your next art class. You will use your images to create a portrait of your chosen ‘célèbre’.

Merci beaucoup, Madame Temple
**Snowsports Interschool Championships**

Kew Primary School is entering into the Victorian Snowsports Interschool Championships for 2013. The aim of the program is to develop student skills, independence, sportsmanship and school spirit.

The Interschools event is open to all grades levels who would like to compete in alpine ski racing, snowboard, skiercross, and freestyle moguls. Students will need to be able to confidently ski on green and blue runs, however, students do not need racing experience – the main thing is that your child has a desire to compete in a friendly atmosphere.

The 2013 Victorian Interschools Snowsports Championships will be held at Mt Buller from *Monday 19 to Sunday 25 August 2013*.

Changes to the event in 2013 include:
- Event week will now run from Monday to Sunday in the second last week of August
- Division 5 and 4 to compete from Monday to Wednesday of the event week
- Divisions 2 and 3 events starting on Thursday
- Division 1 starting on Friday to minimize disruption of educational commitments

The Interschools are structured around five age categories, based on school years:

- Division 1: Years 11 and 12
- Division 2: Years 9 and 10
- Division 3: Years 7 and 8
- Division 4: Grade 5 and 6
- Division 5: Grade 4 and under.

A copy of the provisional timetable is available by clicking on the following link:


Parents wishing for their children to compete at the Interschool Championships please contact Nikki Schwarz. To express interest or for further enquires please email nikki@sracountants.com.au

Thanks

Cheers Nikki
How do I raise a Resilient Child? - the 32 skills involved in building resilience

Date: Wednesday 13 March at 7.30pm

Presenter: Melissa Anderson, Counsellor, Pharmacist, Director of SHINE Academy for Girls and LONGFORD & FRASER for boys.

Location: Brighton Grammar Senior School: Robert Sanderson Hall, entrance off St Andrews St.

Cost: Nil. A gold coin donation to a nominated charity is warmly welcomed.

Bookings: 9596 8814 or email: info@shineacademy.com.au

GRADE 111 MORNING TEA

Please join us for a friendly chat and meet other parents!

Where: Kew Nursery Cafe (Corner High St & Gladstone St)

When: Thursday 29th February

Time: 9.30am

Hope you can make it.

Jacqui & Danielle

Class 312
Parents Coffee & Catch-Up.

Friday 1st March after school drop off at Via Verona, High Street, Kew. All welcome!
Looking for a four-year-old kinder place in 2013?

Studley Park Kindergarten offers fun and interactive learning in a friendly community environment
15-hour core programme plus extended care option with a qualified teacher offers more than 21 hours of quality care and education
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 8:45am – 3pm
Tuesday 12:45pm – 3:45pm

Limited vacancies are now available for your four year old
To enrol: www.kpks.org.au
or phone 9853 7019

Studley Park Kindergarten, 31 Stawell St, Kew
www.studleyparkkindergarten.vic.edu.au

Lost at Peppercorn BBQ
Black (with white pin-stripes), much loved Trilby style hat. Left near OSH. No name inside. Please call Jacqui: 0427861922 if you come across it. Thanks.

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Open Day at Possums
Saturday 2 March 2013
10.30 – 2pm
Fun activities and Sri Lankan food for all to enjoy!

Taking enrolments for 2013
3YO Learning Program – for children turning 3 before the end of June
Mon & Thurs: 12:30pm – 3:00pm
0-4 YO Playgroups
Mon-Thurs mornings

Cell: 0417 145 900
e: possumsplaygroup@hotmail.com
w: possumsplaygroup.com.au

Address: 23 Mary Street, KEW
MELWAY REF: 45 E6