Diary Dates

**Jul**
- Wed 27: Year 6 Excursion to Skydeck
- Thu 28: JS Excursion to Werribee Zoo
- Fri 29: Kidsfest 1pm—3pm
- Sun 31: Working Bee

**Aug**
- Tue 2: Year 5 Excursion to Skydeck
- Thu 4: Variation to School Hours Day 9am –12pm
- Thu 4: 3 Way Conferences 12.30pm –7.30pm
- Fri 5: House Athletics
- Tue 16: Prep Excursion Botanical Gardens
- Fri 19: Year 4 Hooptime
- Wed 24: Whole School Performance

Message from the Principal

**WRITERS OF THE WEEK**
We have some very special writers of the week in this edition of the newsletter. These Year 4 students were shortlisted as finalists in a competition entitled “Through a Soldier’s Eyes” which was organised by the Boroondara Brass group. Well done Elise, Ella and Freddy!

**A STUDENT’S LIFE by Elise Curry**

Wintery, bitter, blue,
Terrified, goosebumps, weeping,
Empty, Cimmerian, hopeless, confused
Panic stricken, heartbroken, lonely,
Shaken, tense, distraught, bothered,
Clutched, distracted, distressed. Waiting.

Questioning, worried sick, shocked,
Stressed, pleading, sleepless, electric,
Cold, hurt, angry. Always wondering.

Careless, contented, relaxed, chirpy,
Mirthful, sparkling, perky, placated,
Comfortable, satisfied, consoled, soothed,
Joyous, jubilant, reassured. Together.

**THE END OF THE WAR by Ella Mesley**

The cheers of the students
As the news comes home
The war is over
There is peace at last
Lights at night are comforting
From the years of hiding
Soldiers are heros
Others are known
Mothers are scared
Of the unknown of their husbands lives
Children like me are happy
As others are worried
From the chance of more attacks
Grave yards are full
Of the best people
As we see the soldiers return
Mothers are happy children are exited
The war is over
Peace is known

Term Dates 2016

Term 3: 11 Jul- 16 Sept
Term 4: 3 Oct - 20 Dec
END OF WORLD WAR 1 by Freddy Waters

Remember in 1918 the war finished?
Remember the relief when we got the news?
That was World War 1
Remember when we gave our spare clothes to our troops?
Remember the black outs?
That was World War 1
Remember being scared in bed?
Do you remember the WAR?

WELCOME TO ALL THE NEW MEMBERS OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY
Since the beginning of this term we have had a large number of students start at our school. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome all of them and their respective families. I am always amazed and proud of how welcoming our school is. Our new students are very well looked after by our students and quickly become part of their class team. Our staff also do a wonderful job ensuring a very smooth transition into our school. This starts with our super office team who are so organised and friendly as our first point of contact and then backed up by our teachers who don’t get fazed at all when a new student appears in their room!

If you are a new family to our school and would like an opportunity to meet with me, find out more about our school or how to become involved with our school community please contact me.

penson.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

KIDSFEST – FRIDAY JULY 29TH 1PM – 3.00PM
I am really looking forward to our second edition of KidsFest next Friday. The fun begins at 1pm and will conclude by 3.00pm. KidsFest is our version of a mini-fair designed especially for our students. There will be a jumping castle, games, competitions, food, showbags and heaps of novelties and things to buy. Each grade will be running a stall so there will be lots to see and do.

Whilst the main focus is fun, it is also a fundraiser so make sure you bring your money. It would be a great idea for students to being a purse or wallet to look after their money and change. As this is a student focused event, they will also be deciding how we spend any money that is made.

Parents, grandparents and friends are very welcome and it would be great to have a real Kewmunity atmosphere throughout the afternoon.

STUDENT VOICE - TRADING PLACES OPPORTUNITY
At our assembly this week I will be outlining an opportunity for one of our students to swap places with me for a day! This means that on one day I will become a student in their grade and attend all classes with them. I will even have to do the work and activities the teachers have set. Then on another day, the student will become Principal for a day. I hope that this will provide me with a deeper insight into how our school is travelling in meeting the needs of our students.

LEARNING WALKS and Q & A WITH THE PRINCIPAL
One of the joys of my work is hosting tours of our school for future families. They are a great way to showcase what we are doing and also an effective way for me to see what is happening around the school. With this in mind, I thought it would be really beneficial to host a similar type of event for our current parents and carers. These will be two “Learning Walks” where parents will be able to spend some time observing in a few classrooms and then discussing the things they have seen with myself following the classroom visits. This will hopefully provide some deeper insights into our teaching and learning processes.

The first learning walk and accompanying question and answer session will have a Literacy focus. This will be held on Tuesday 9th August from 9.30am – 10.30am.
The second learning walk will have a Numeracy focus and this will be held on Wednesday 17th August from 11.30am – 12.30pm.
Places will be limited and bookings can be made by emailing me: penson.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

**SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES**

This week our Finance, Education & Policy, Buildings & Grounds and PTA sub-committee met. All the teams have lots of work they are undertaking to ensure our school continues to deliver for our community.

**FINANCE** – reviewed all school payments for June and checked percentages of compulsory and voluntary fees received to ensure the school budget can be delivered this year.

**EDUCATION & POLICY** – reviewed 5 policies that will be submitted to School Council for approval for community consultation phase. These policies are then displayed on the school website during this community consultation period before final School Council endorsement. This team is also working on a Parent Code of Conduct to ensure our school activities and events are conducted appropriately.

**BUILDINGS & GROUNDS** – prepared for our next working bee on Sunday 31st July and also continued to look at a range of minor and major projects to improve our school facilities.

**PTA** – dates for the Father’s Day breakfast and stall were discussed and our major fundraising “Hawaiian Party” event on Saturday October 22nd has started to be organised.

These forums are also a very important way for parents to have direct input into our school. If you would like more information about the role each committee plays or the things they are doing please contact me at the school.

**PLANNING FOR 2017**

At the beginning of August we will be sending out letters via email confirming our Prep enrolments for 2017. To ensure we have the very best staff in place, decisions around grade numbers need to be made in August and September. Therefore it is now very important for me to be notified if you intend to leave KPS next year.

**PRIZES FOR LAP-A-THON**

The prizes from our Lap-a-thon have been distributed. We are waiting on a couple of items on backorder but overall everyone seems very happy. Thank you to Ruth Woolven who did all the work entering student prize selection and ensuring this was achieved so quickly and efficiently. If your child has not received an item please contact the office.

**PARENT OPINION SURVEY**

On Monday our Parent Opinion Survey will be sent home to 73 randomly selected families. These names have been generated via a DET computer system and represents 15% of our school community. The survey itself is important to us and it provides specific feedback that we use to improve our school.

I am really proud of the achievements and progress of Kew Primary School and acknowledge the contribution made to our school by all members of the community. An important enabler in these ongoing improvements is the input of our parents and carers. Parent voice and feedback helps to guide the decision making in our school at all levels. Most recently this feedback and input has assisted us to:

- deliver a more comprehensive transition program with weekly “Step into Prep” sessions in Term 4 and 2 x ½ day whole school transition sessions.
- expand the extra-curricular and optional extra opportunities our students can access such as our Kewriosity program where students have choice in their learning.
- implement a new reporting format that included specific ideas and requests from parents develop and implement an improved Home Learning system to cater for our students with a broad range of out of school hour’s activities and the wide variety of parent philosophies about homework.
- implement effective strategies to build stronger social skills and classroom behaviour through a wide range of behaviour management processes such as our CARE card, Restorative practices, Kick Start Kew, Reach Rookies and Circle time.
We have built in processes to provide students with a strong voice in their education and are becoming more skilled in using this voice to provide engaging “real life” curriculum. Our staff focuses on working in professional learning teams to improve teaching and learning and our academic results have lifted, particularly in our focus areas of Maths and Writing.

**STUDENT LED LEARNING CONFERENCES**

The countdown is on for our Student Led Conferences on Thursday 4th August. As has been communicated in several newsletters, students will only attend school on this day from 9am until 12pm. The conferences will then run from 12.30pm through to 7.30pm. These need to be booked online. Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au and follow the instructions.

The code you need is: s9bkp
Please contact the office if you need assistance with this.

**WHAT’S ON – IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES**

We believe we do a vastly improved job in communicating about school events. We try to communicate every event in at least 3 ways. This can include the newsletters, term costs and other letters sent home, Skoolbag alerts, emails, and verbal announcements using our PA system, assemblies and team newsletters.

Our school blog is also a terrific form of communication. Many thanks to Katrina Whelen for ensuring that this is maintained so effectively.

We usually exceed our benchmark of at least 3 notifications of any school event and in some cases there are more than 6 or 7 notifications!

James Penson
Principal

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**Kew Primary School Blog**

Are you excited? The kids are! What about, you ask? Find out on this week's 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

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**House Polo Shirts**

If you are requiring a House polo shirt for the upcoming Athletics Carnival, they will be available for sale after after school next Wednesday 27th July outside the library.

Shirts are $24 each—stocks are limited.
Message from the Assistant Principal

My newsletter article this week will be about the two “R’s”, that is resilience and reading.

Firstly, let me begin with resilience. As teachers and parents we want our all our students to be healthy, happy and successful, able to achieve their best at school, confident in developing friendships and able to deal with the inevitable set-backs, failures and disappointments of life.

However, it is not enough to say to a child, “You need to be more resilient”. As much as everyone possesses some reserves, many need direction, guidance and encouragement to understand how reserves of resilience can be built. This is where home school partnerships can work together to support our students to build on their strengths, all the time helping them to manage emotions and constructively deal with issues. All of this helps them to develop their personal strengths and ultimately their resilience in coping.

Giving praise has a role in developing resilience but it has to be praise that is contingent on a success, not just to make a child feel better. If we spent time giving praise to children willy-nilly to make them feel better then they will never learn to be resilient and to cope with things that didn’t go their way. Also, praise needs to be proportionate with any child’s accomplishments. Yes, it is easy to fall into the trap of trying to make our children feel good but these actions will not add, but rather detract from their resilience reserves.

Reading and more importantly teaching reading to students, concerns parents equally as it does teachers. Learning to read is a complex process, a process that is enhanced by practising this skill and, of course, a great way to practise is by reading regularly. In the early years of primary schooling, the “take home book” is a great way to achieve this. Sharing a book with your parents is a pleasurable activity for all concerned or it should be. However, if you or your child are tired then it can become fraught with angst. A rule of thumb for me is that being tired means taking a break from the usual activity of sharing the “take home book”.

Also, I need to caution parents from always choosing difficult books for their children because this may become counterproductive. Let me explain my thoughts to you. Choosing books that are easier to read means that children can practise the skills of decoding, gain fluency, become very aware of punctuation and learn to add intonation to their voices at appropriate times when the text requires it. If children are struggling to decode words then all those skills of fluent, expressive reading, literally go out the window. I always believe easier books give children the time and the confidence to improve upon their reading skills and the whole process of reading is far more pleasurable. In terms of my own reading habits, I read a range of items such as professional texts, newspapers, cartoons and novels for pleasure. If I had to read professional texts all the time, I would become a very reluctant reader myself, and this is often what children experience when they are given a reading diet of difficult take home books.

I hope some of my thoughts have resonated with you as parents and I cannot stress the importance of strong home school partnerships in developing our students’ well-being and learning capacities.

Robin Grace
Le français

The 2016 Tour de France is in the third week with Chris Froome in le maillot jaune. There's still time to catch the final stages before La Grande Boucle is played out with a big showdown on the Champs-Elysees in Paris this Sunday - so tune in!

Catch highlights and all the statistics at www.letour.fr

Amusez-vous bien!

Madame T

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KEW PRIMARY
KIDSFEST
YEAR 5 & 6

FRIDAY 29TH JULY
2PM

Year 5:
Selling delicious hot dogs, and doing a bake sale, Jelly in a cup & Ice cream spiders

Year 6:
Selling Asian foods, Beauty treatments
Bake sale, Selling gourmet sweets
Henna hand painting, Selling delicious lemonade and much more!!
Also there will also be competitions:
Basketball shoot outs, guess the lollies in the jar, Footy and Soccer kicking competition, juggling games and loads more!

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Kew Primary School @ 9853 8325
Saturday 2\textsuperscript{nd} July – Election Day BBQ

Thank you everyone who helped in any way to making the Election Day BBQ such a success. Despite the cold weather and the fact that it was mid-school holidays, 2800 people voted at Kew Primary School, it was one of the busiest polling booths in Kooyong. No wonder we ran out of sausages twice and eventually the BBQ ran out of gas! Still, we managed to raise $1500 for our school.

Thank you to Alicia Taylor who organised donations of sausages & bread from Coles on Glenferrie Road. The local businesses around Kew are so generous in supporting us, so please continue to support them.

Special thanks must go to all the KPS children who helped out on the day, we could not have done it without you! Elise practised her maths for hours as she added up the cost of sausages and worked out correct change. Michael Ymer would be very impressed. Thank you to all the very enthusiastic children who helped sell soft drinks and icy poles for hours; Lily, Lachie, Keira, Anna, Aaryan, Greta, Lola, Tara, Connor, Flynn & Gabriel.

Thank you to Mark Eades, Ryan Clarke and Neil Linahan who cooked 500 sausages on the BBQ. It was a huge effort and much appreciated.

Thank you to Stefan Walter, Melanie Eades, Bethanie Clarke, Tania Lim, Claire Tanner & Patricia Cheng who helped set up, serve the sausages and tidy up and Jen Howard who not only helped but kindly donated sausages & bread too.

Fiona Hollingsworth (on behalf of the PTA)
TERM 3 WORKING BEE

SUNDAY 31st JULY
9am – 12pm

At our Term 3 Working Bee we will be completing a range of jobs to help keep our school looking neat and tidy.

Please select a task/s from the list below that you would be able to assist with on the day.

*All students that attend with a parent or carer will receive a $5 lunch order voucher for the school canteen.*

Please fill in the slip and return to school by Wednesday 27th July.

TERM 3 WORKING BEE - REPLY SLIP

Child’s Name:                     Grade:

Parent’s Name:

☐ Sweeping and cleaning the area around the waste and recycling bins and the drain in between the Junior School Hall and oval (please bring a broom or blower-vac).

☐ Mowing the grass areas along the Pakington Street side and next to the oval (please bring a mower and the correct safety equipment such as eye and ear protection).

☐ Weeding the garden bed along the Peel Street side of the school (please bring a bucket and weeding tools).

☐ Sweeping playground areas and walkways e.g. outside the gym (please bring a broom or blower-vac).

☐ Cleaning windows e.g. gym (please bring window cleaning equipment)

Or

☐ I am unable to attend the Term 3 Working Bee on the 31st July 2016 but would like to include a $10 or $20 or $____ donation towards the cost of maintaining our school grounds.
The snow season is officially open!!!

Get your entry in NOW for the Victorian Interschools Snowsports Championships at Mt. Buller August 22-24, 2016 and represent Kew Primary

Entry forms are available at the school office or contact Nikki Schwarz (nikki@sraccountants.com.au) for more information.