Message from Principal

Our CARE Program for this week focuses on saying please and thank you.

They say first impressions last and I often wonder what the first impression that a visitor to our school is presented with? Do they walk away feeling that what we have here at Kew Primary School is really special and something that we are really proud of? I know I feel this way about our school and when I talk with people who have visited our school they are always impressed with the attitude of our students, the programs that our teachers are running and in the words of one of my favourite movies “The Castle” - they are really in awe of the “vibe” that exists in our school.

This vibe is built on our CARE values and in particular Respect. Using good manners and being polite is important in establishing a respectful and orderly learning environment. It is also a crucial part of building positive relationships with those around us and assists us to work cohesively together.

The way we communicate with each other is also an important part of using good manners and being polite. Our body language is far more important than the actual words we use when communicating. The signals our body language sends to others has far more bearing on communication than any other element. Using polite body language such as good eye contact, smiling and general interest in what others are saying and doing is a vital part of being polite and building a positive relationship.

Saying please and thank you can often be an automatic response. Adding some more detail to this response and then demonstrating with an action how thankful we are is the best way to really show the best manners we can.

My challenge this week is to follow up a please or thank you with an action that speaks louder than just these words. If someone has assisted you let them know you really appreciate it and then see what you can do in return.

Also—how about trying to use your very best manners and politeness at a really difficult time e.g. when something isn’t going your way or when you are in a rush. (Sometimes it is easy to forget to act politely during these times!)

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE

As a school we should be proud of our reading program. The reading achievement level data right across our school is excellent and we keep striving to improve this even more! For example, we have a range of targeted programs including TASK and Reading Recovery to support our students with their reading.

Another significant element of our reading and literacy program is our Library. We are fortunate to have Ruth Woolven leading this at Kew Primary School. The high quality of our Library supports the literacy of all our students. Ruth does an amazing job sourcing new and quality literature resources, sharing these with staff via regular share sessions before school.
and ensuring a terrific level of access to our students and their families. Where possible she also often works with teachers and their classes when they visit the library each week.

We can continue to demonstrate our passion and commitment to reading, our literacy program and the Library by signing up and completing the Premiers’ Reading Challenge. Each year we have large numbers of students sign up for this challenge and the ultimate aim is for every student to complete it!

An information letter has been sent home and details are also included in this newsletter.

**STAFFING NEWS**

This week we are saying goodbye to Mary Whitehouse and Debbie Capaul.

Mary has been a classroom teacher for a number of years at our school. In this time she has built a very strong reputation across our school community for the way in which she has ensured all of the students in her classes work to the very best of their ability. Mary’s teaching has been very thorough, particularly in the area of maths where she has worked this year to support students in a targeted maths program. She has also been a strong advocate for and representative on our PTA and organised the swimming program for our whole school each year.

Debbie has been our school bursar and part of our admin team in the office. During this time she has been instrumental in ensuring our school financial processes are well organised and managed. Debbie’s work has been extremely thorough and professional. She has managed setting up the charges, parent payments and then also paying our invoices. On top of this she has organised the hire of our facilities, Trybooking and assisted in the day to day running of our school.

On behalf of all members of our school community I thank Mary and Debbie for their work and commitment to our school. We wish them all the best for the future.

**OVAL UPDATE**

Only a day or two to go now! All of the track and surface has been installed and the lines cut in. The final part of the work is covering the entire area with sand and rubber. This commenced yesterday and will be completed by Friday or Monday depending on the weather. (We are forecast for some heavy rain tomorrow!)

We will celebrate an official opening of our oval on Friday 15th April from 3pm – 5pm. This will include a short assembly and some time for everyone to have some fun! Stay tuned for some more detailed information about this event.

We have also started to focus on our Oval Redevelopment - Part 2. This is the area around the sheds at the Southern end of the oval which is currently covered in soil. Next term we are aiming to landscape this area with natural grass and other features which will support our positive play program. If you have any suggestions or feedback about this space please contact me. Our Buildings & Grounds team will be discussing the plans at our next meeting on 19th April.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL UPDATE**

At our School Council meeting last Tuesday, a draft Teaching & Learning Policy was approved ready for community consultation. This is now on the school website under the Parents Information tab along the top menu bar. Any feedback we get is then taken back to the Education & Policy committee and then considered as part of the final endorsement from School Council. We do this with all policies we develop and review throughout the year. If you have a comment, question or feedback about this policy please contact me  

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

**iPADS CHARGED ARE READY**

Students in Years 3-6, please don’t forget to charge up your iPad each evening ready for the next school day. I am receiving reports from teachers that some students are arriving with very little charge and then are unable to use their iPad as needed during the day. Having the required equipment and resources ready is an important part of being an organised learner.
CONCERNS & QUESTIONS
I would like to thank those parents who have recently contacted me at the school regarding their concerns about a wide range of issues and different things that they have witnessed. By contacting the school we have been able to address these very quickly and appropriately and we believe that a more positive outcome will be the result of these interventions. I have previously written that it is more effective to come and see me about any issue or concern you have rather than get involved in playground or parent gossip. In many cases incorrect and misinformed information has been passed on via this forum.

SCHOOL TOURS 2017
I have started to host a school tour each week as we begin our enrolment program for 2017. If you know of anyone with a child ready to start school next year please direct them to our school website or have them make contact with our school office so that they can join me on a tour and see what our school has to offer.

STUDENTS LATE TO SCHOOL SIGN IN PROCESS
This is a reminder that if your child arrives after the 9am bell, they must be accompanied by an adult to the office to sign in for a late pass. It is not acceptable for our students to arrive at school after this time and then make their own way into the classroom without a late pass.

VISITOR SIGN IN PROCESS
Our school has a policy around visitors in school. The purpose of this policy is to provide a safe and secure environment for our students, staff and resources by establishing guidelines and procedures in relation to visitors to the school that effectively monitor and manage visitors, whilst not compromising the open and inviting nature of our school.

This policy has been developed to ensure that the school community is aware of the procedures regarding visitors to Kew Primary School. The school, as part of the wider community, seeks to provide an open and friendly learning environment where appropriate visitors are valued and their presence is actively encouraged. At the same time we recognise our duty of care to ensure a safe environment for our students and staff and our responsibility to protect our resources against theft, vandalism and misuse.

Visitors are defined as all people on school grounds other than staff members, students and parents/guardians involved in the task of delivering or collecting children at the start or end of the school day.

All visitors during school hours are required to register their arrival at, and departure from the school in a visitors’ book, including printing their name, signing, and recording the date, times and purpose of the visit. They will be given a visitors badge and must wear it for the duration of the visit. A visitor not wearing a current badge may be questioned as to the reason for their presence by staff, students or parents. They may be escorted to the office to sign in and obtain a visitor’s badge.

Please assist our school with both of these processes as they are put in place for the safety of our students.

TERM 2 COST LETTERS
Term cost letters will be sent home next week. This will then provide all of our parents more time to organise payments early next term. Payment must be made by the required date or students will not be able to participate. I have outlined that these activities are not funded by the Department and must be arranged via a user pays system. I am able to assist families with payment plans and direct them to other support options. Please contact me at the school if you would like to discuss these options. Confidentiality is always maintained.

Be Worthy!
James Penson
Principal
Message from Assistant Principal

This week has seen the first of our termly SSG meetings take place; these are Student Support Group meetings that involve parents, teachers and class-based Educational Officers, formerly known as teacher aides. These meetings are mainly for our students who have received funding to support them in their educational endeavours in a primary school setting. The aim of such meetings is to firstly, discuss how these students have settled into their new 2016 classroom settings and to set goals for their Individual Learning Plans or ILP’s for the following term. Such meetings provide a wonderful platform to increase the development of the school/home partnership.

School settings provide a real opportunity for all our students to learn social skills and to become well functioning members of our community and society in general. For some children, however, socialising is a very challenging undertaking and they need to be taught explicit socialization skills, especially children who have been diagnosed with ASD (Autism Spectrum Disorder). These children find it very difficult to “read” social situations and even find it almost impossible to interpret facial expressions. Social skills programs can help these children enormously, providing them with a program that will give them support to cope in many varied settings. Given this is such an area of need I will be undertaking a training program known as SAS or Secret Agents Society over the next two days, and will then, hopefully, implement a social skills program here at Kew PS in time.

Our lives are all busy, that seems to be a given in today’s increasingly inter-connected world and trying to have a quick word with your child’s teacher can be problematic, especially first thing in the morning. However, I know when I have a million things I am juggling at home and my daughter wants to have a heart to heart, she is only going to be disappointed with my response which can vary from no response at all, followed by a blank stare or a to a “what now!!!” I can imagine you have all felt a similar thing when you are trying to listen to one child’s reading, answering another child’s queries whilst getting the evening meal ready. Well, let me tell you that is what it is like for the classroom teacher at 8:50 in the morning because generally they have many things on their minds, organising and physically setting up for the day. That time is for settling the children into the day, marking the roll, and ensuring the latecomers know what is happening as well. In other words that is not the time for an in depth discussion with the class teacher about an issue with your child. It is however, a chance to request a time to speak with that teacher at a time that is mutually agreed upon. Please, before you begin to engage in conversation with your child’s teacher, remember to ask yourself what is the purpose of this conversation and would it be better to organise to do this at a later time, when everyone can think clearly and concentrate on that conversation, without a myriad of distractions.

Finally, Sally Marsh and I are running a second “Parents in the Classroom” information session in the Library next Tuesday 22nd March at 9:00 and so far we have had only 3 responses from parents wishing to attend. It will be an informative and fun filled session so please try and take the opportunity to attend.

Robin Grace

Kew Primary School Blog

Look up! Look out! This week on the blog we share some apps that are truly out there.

If you have something you'd like to share on the school blog, please drop me a line at: katrina.w@ozemail.com.au

Katrina Whelen
Balancing online time

Playing games online and using consoles or games on a computer is great fun but you need to make sure that your online world does not take over your life. With more and more mobile devices on the market it is easy and tempting to stay connected 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but it is also very important to know how and when to disconnect.

How much is too much?

This is a good question and varies from person to person with different impacts. It’s important to be aware of how your time online may be affecting your friendships, your family and your schoolwork, especially if it’s keeping you up at night. If any of these areas of your life are becoming problematic then it is likely that you need to cut back in the amount of time you spend online.

Why is it a problem?

Spending excessive amounts of time online can have significant impacts on your health, family and social life and on your academic performance at school.

How do I know if I have a problem?

The following indicators may be signs that you spend too much time on the internet:

- ongoing headaches, eye strain and sleep disturbance
- online activities interfering with your health and wellbeing, schoolwork and relationships
- constantly talking about particular online programs, such as a gaming site
- withdrawal from your ‘real world’ friends and activities
- attributing more importance to your online activities and contacts than anything else
- decline in your academic performance at school

For more information visit https://www.esafety.gov.au/
Free Eggs!

Would you like to look after our chickens for a week over the school holidays or one weekend in Term 2? It’s a really easy job: let them out for a run around, collect any eggs which are yours to keep, give them some food and water and also give the plants a quick water.

Please signup to help at https://www.volunteersignup.org/AE9RY

Also, rather than throwing away any vegetable scraps at home, please consider adding them to our garden compost bin.

Thank you to the Hindhaugh, Clarke, Ogden, Ellis, Dang, Zubrinich, Lim, Lu and Howard families who have looked after our chickens this term.
The Challenge has begun. All students will receive a permission form this week. Please fill in and return to the office or library. You will then receive a username and password for logging books online. Please email if you have any questions about how the challenge works.
Calling all Chess Enthusiasts!

Kew Primary School participates in a number of inter-school chess tournaments throughout the year and we are keen to have new students join our team! The tournaments are open to kids in Grades 1 to 6 and are held during school hours. We usually organise 1 or 2 parents to pool the driving to and from the tournament and to provide supervision on the day.

We will be entering the following tournaments over the next two terms:

**Wed 13 April:** Balwyn North Primary (girls only)

**Wed 15 June:** Mont Albert Primary

**Fri 22 July:** Camberwell Girls (girls only)

**Date TBC:** Balwyn North

If your child would like to join us in a future tournament, please send me an email: sonia@saggers.com.au and I can provide you with more information.

Kew Primary also runs a chess club on Fridays at lunchtime which is a great way for kids to learn from a qualified chess teacher and to practise against other Kew Primary kids. It’s run by Chess Ideas – stay tuned to the KPS newsletters to find out how to sign your child up for Term 2!
OSHClub News
Before School / After School Care Program

Program Update
Hi everyone 😊,

First of all we hope you have enjoyed your long weekend and were rejuvenated for another busy week! At OSHClub we started the afternoon on the Tuesday having yummy burrito bowls with Quinoa, Brown Rice, Beans, Guacamole and sliced vegetables, it was the perfect afternoon tea to give us the energy we needed for our afternoon activity. Our activity on the Tuesday was a whole school colour run where we raced, hid and painted the other children, what a fun activity! (Please note if you are concerned about your child’s uniform, all though we try to protect them, children will be children and somehow get paint everywhere, so please feel free to put an old T-shirt in your child’s bag for activities such as this one)

Amelia G has been role modelling and taking care of the younger children this week, especially forming a bond with one of our younger preps Charlotte, the two girls have been involved in art activities and games together throughout the week!

The game SNAP has been a hit amongst the children and educators, nervously sitting around the table ready to quickly snap their hand on the table to try and win! Aliara, Sullivan, Ashton and the educators has a very long match with lots and lots of pressure of surrounding children!

Please also do remember sunscreen for your child if they have any allergies to the brand we use at OSHClub.

Have a great Week!
OSHClub Team 😊

Next Week’s Activities

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<td>Easter card making</td>
<td>Table tennis</td>
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<td>Quiet Colouring</td>
<td>Chalk Drawings</td>
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<td>Pictionary</td>
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<td>After Care</td>
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Parent Information
OSH program phone: 0400 394 489
Coordinator: Harriet Cousins-Palmer
Assistants: 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 day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.
April 2016
School Holiday Camps

Join Brett Rainbow
Melbourne’s most specialised basketball trainer at these premier basketball camps

TSB HAS DEVELOPED A UNIQUE APPROACH TO TEACHING ALL
SKILLS OF THE GAME OVER A SENSATIONAL FEW DAYS...
IMPROVE YOUR: ★ SHOOTING ★ TEAMWORK ★ REBOUNDING ★ DEFENCE ★ DRIBBLING ★ PASSING

Camp #1 Richmond
When: Thursday 31st March & Friday 1st April 2016
Where: Melbourne Girls College – Yarra Blvd, Richmond
Age: 6yrs – 16yrs
Time: 9am – 3pm daily
Cost: $165 Full cost
$155 Early bird special
$155 Sibling discount
FREE:
1x NBA Style Camp T-shirt
1x Pair of Peak Basketball Shoes

Camp #2 Richmond
Advanced Shooting Camp
When: Wednesday 6th April 2016
Where: Melbourne Girls College – Yarra Blvd, Richmond
Age: 10yrs – 13yrs
Time: 9am – 4pm
Cost: $165 Per person

Camp #3 Box Hill
When: Thursday 7th & Friday 8th April 2016
Where: Aquamink-Sunny Drive Box Hill
Age: 6yrs – 16yrs
Time: 9am – 3pm daily
Cost: $165 Full cost
$155 Early bird special
$155 Sibling discount
FREE:
1x NBA Style Camp T-shirt
1x Pair of Peak Basketball Shoes

FREE NBA Style Camp T-shirt & pair of Peak Basketball Shoes
for every camp participant.

Only 25 spots available

Early Bird Specials Available
Every bird special closes at midnight on 14th March
Bookings: WWW.TSBASKETBALL.COM
Bookings close midnight on 28th March for all camps.
Learn music here at school

Come and join in the fun of learning to play keyboard, guitar, ukulele, flute, clarinet, saxophone, violin, drums, singing, cello, bass guitar, here at Kew Primary School.

Creative Music for Schools conducts a music program here at school each week.

Small group classes or one-to-one lessons of up to 30 minutes give children an excellent grounding in music where they will learn to read music and play their chosen instrument.

Tuition costs from $14.20 per lesson and enrolments are now being accepted for limited places in Term 2, 2016.

Interested parents should call Samantha during office hours on 9818 2333.
Basketball Beginner Program
Suitable for 6 & 7 year olds (grade 2/3) – Introductory development program
Led by KEBC Director of Coaching – Cathryn Lowe
Terms 2 & 3, 2016
Option 1 – Kew East Primary School (KEPS) – Thursday mornings - 8:00am to 8:45am
Option 2 – Methodist Ladies College (MLC) – Saturday mornings - 9:00am to 9:50am
$220.00 – two term program
For further details see our website www.kcbc.sportingvics.net
Registrations at www.trybooking.com/183922
Enquiries to De Fraser de.chi@bigpond.com

Basketball Holiday Clinic
Suitable for U9, U10, U12 & U14 current players - skills development program
KEBC Coaching Team – Cathryn Lowe, Kaylem Lambrecht, Christos Makrylos & Will Cameron
Thursday 31 March & Friday 1 April, 2016 – 9:00am to 3:00pm
Kew High School Gymnasium, 1393 Burke Road, Kew East
$120.00 – two day program, $70.00 for one day
Registrations at www.trybooking.com/124925
Enquiries to Donna Cameron: decc6789@gmail.com

BASKETBALL
WINTER SEASON (Terms 2 & 3) VACANCIES

NEW: Under 12 Boys
Boys born 2005 & 2006
Email Justine Reid – justine.reid@bigpond.com

Under 10 Boys – K.E. Bulls
Boys born 2007
Please contact Emma Hardtough on emmahardin@gmail.com.au

Under 10 Boys – K.E. Stars
Boys born 2007
Please contact Steph Caven on caven.kristakis@gmail.com

Under 12 Girls – KE Diamonds
Girls born 2005
Please contact Lisa Tait on lisa.tait001@gmail.com

Under 12 Girls – KE Emeralds
Girls born 2005
Please contact Helen Nelson on Helen@nedfans.com

Under 14 Boys – KE Warriors
Boys born 2003 & 2004
Please contact Tracy Daloos – tracy.daloos@bigpond.com

Under 14 Girls – KE Sapphire
Girls born 2003 & 2004
Please contact Sue Gordon on sue.gordon17@bigpond.com

Under 16 Boys – KE Aces
Boys born 2001 & 2002
Please contact Tash Kars – t Kash@bigpond.com

ACT NOW – ALL REGISTRATIONS CLOSE ON 19 MARCH!