Message from the Principal

Schools receive their Indicative Budgets during the last week of Term 3, based on a ‘best estimate’ of the upcoming year’s enrolment. Budgets are indicative because final enrolments are not confirmed until Census Day in the last week of February. My responsibility is to set up the school for the New Year staying within budget and ensuring that I can plan within the student/teacher/facilities (available rooms) ratios that apply to all government schools. The ratio for students to each classroom is 1:25. This means that for every group of 25 students, one classroom is provided; 50 students – 2 classrooms and so on. For every 21 students one teacher is allocated. However the difference with this ratio is that for every two students 0.1 of a teacher is budgeted; four students 0.2 is allocated and so on. In primary schools principals are included in the provision for teachers. In secondary schools principals are not counted as part of the school entitlement to teachers.

For the 2013 school year I am planning for 21 straight classes. There will be no composite classes where there are two grade levels in one class. Next year specialist areas offered to students will be: Reading Recovery (an intervention program for students at risk with Reading skill acquisition in Grade 1; Visual Arts; French (LOTE); Performing Arts; Physical Education; English as an Additional Language (EAL) for those students for whom English is not their first language and a Literacy Support program for students in Years 3-6.

In making up the 2013 classes, teachers spend many hours in an effort to obtain the best, balanced combinations for each new class - a balanced mix of gender, abilities and interests. Children’s names are not chosen in a random or careless manner to form the new grade groupings. Every effort is made to ensure that children are placed with others they can work with to enhance the working environment in each classroom. The aim always is to provide the best environment for each child and the group they are placed with. Across the seven years of primary school, and later secondary school, children experience a variety of teaching styles and personalities. Exposure to differing attributes in peer group relations is an inherent characteristic of our education system. As parents and guardians you appreciate that friendships are encouraged beyond the classroom, after school, in sporting and other interest group activities, at weekends and while on holidays. Therefore if a child does happen to be separated from a best friend then this should not be regarded as a negative. There are occasions where attachment to one friend can be unhelpful in the learning environment of the classroom. Separation from primary school friendships occurs at the end of primary schooling when children are likely to go on to very different secondary schools.

This said, there may be circumstances that staff members are unaware of when they sit down to make up the new grade groups. If you have information about your child that you would like staff to consider when classes are made up, please put this request in writing and mark your letter to
Message from the Assistant Principal

As many of you would be aware, the Green Thumbs leadership team have been responsible for getting the kitchen garden up and running under the expert tutelage of Gayle Bennett, and I am very pleased to report that all the beds have been planted with herbs, beans, lettuces, potatoes, cucumbers and red peppers. Sally, our marvellous canteen manageress, was the first recipient of produce from our garden. On Monday she was given some very fresh lettuce to use in the lunch orders that day—no wonder the students enjoyed their salad! As this team is nearing the end of their school days at Kew PS they have initiated a succession plan for their garden. All those Grade Five students who wished to become members of the Green Thumbs leadership team were shown how to manage the garden and what the planting cycle should be. Congratulations must go to Rishab, Jackson, Emma, Chantel, Riley, Oscar, Harry, Ryan, Christine, Josh V, Parmida and Gayle for a job well done!

A working bee has been scheduled for Sunday 25th November and the focus for this day is to complete the kitchen garden area and level some areas of it to make it more user and plant friendly. Other areas of the school that need attention is the removal of the logs near the long jump pit and to do some general tidying of the performance areas around the gym in readiness for the Bush Dance. This Bush Dance will be a whole school event held on Friday 7th December. So, everyone please put these dates in your calendar.

Robin Grace

Lost Property

There are a number of miscellaneous items in the lost property cupboard, photos of which will be displayed on the noticeboard between the canteen and the library. If any of the items belong to you, please ask at the office.

If these items are not claimed within a week, they will be donated to charity.

Remembrance Day – 11th November
Poppies and Wristbands for sale at the office
As part of the implementation of my CLIL (Content and Language Integrated Learning) program the Grade 3 students recently participated in an excursion to the National Gallery of Victoria. In exploring the topic of *Une idée de lieu: la peinture des points en France et en Australie* (An idea of place: dot painting in France and in Australia), the children were able to consider two different countries and cultures that have used the ‘dot technique’ as a means of visual expression. The excursion provided a unique opportunity to view and compare original works of art selected from both indigenous examples and works by French artists including Monet and Pissarro.

My thanks are due to Bit Mclean, who was instrumental in ensuring the smooth organisation of the excursion, and to our Grade 3 classroom teachers who encouraged and supported the endeavour. Our parent helpers were marvellous and their participation is very much appreciated.

Merci beaucoup à tous!

Madame Payne
Students have been getting crafty in the art room to create a surprise for their teacher. They learned different techniques to create unique paper flowers. Students chose one of their own to add to the class bouquet. The grade presented the handmade bouquets to their teacher on Friday 26th October to celebrate World Teachers’ Day. Bon travail tout le monde!

Madame Temple & Bit McLean
Kew P.S. J Rock into the National Finals!!

In an amazing announcement on Saturday on Channel GO, the Kew P.S. J Rock team were awarded a Wildcard entry into the J Rock National Finals!

We are now in the running for the National J Rock title, against five other schools from around the country. We do not need to perform again, however the judges will look back over our performance footage and their judging sheets to make their decisions.

This is an incredible effort for the Kew P.S. J Rock team. No matter what happens, to be recognised for their efforts in their first year competing is an amazing achievement and they should all be so proud of themselves. Well done to Monique and Rishab on their outstanding presentation of our performance on the TV special.

Be watching Channel GO this Saturday (10/11) for the placing and winner announcements. Keep your fingers crossed for Kew!!

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Book Fair

It’s a Reading Celebration

Where: In the library
When: Thursday 15th, Friday 16th, Monday 19th, Tuesday 20th November
Time: Before & After School

May pay cash, cheque or credit card.

Books available include
Bear Grylls
Origami Yoda
EJ12
Conspiracy 365
Tom Gates
Ella & Olivia
PTA News

Yesterday a team of brave parents helped me clean out the horrific PTA cupboard whose resemblance to a tardis became all too clear when the entire hallway and external walkway by the gym were smothered with filthy boxes and bags of mysteries. A huge thanks to Belinda Holmes, Loraine Trist, Lee Coleman, Andrea Stevens, Amanda Aitkin and Andy Muller for their hours of help. Now we know what we have in there, and where to find it!

Also a big thanks to Lorraine Tsotsoros and Alicia Taylor for all their ongoing efforts with the sunscreen fundraiser - they’ve been doing a great job! Your sunscreen should be on the way soon.

Finally - XMAS TREES will be available through KPS again and info on how to order will be coming home soon. Last year they were really beautiful trees for a cheaper price than local suppliers so be sure to order through us!

Cheers George

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KPS PTA FUNDRAISER

Fantastic Job Kew Primary !!

Your KPS PTA sends out a big THANK YOU to all our KPS kids, families, friends, KPS teachers and especially our KPS office staff for all their efforts.

We are busily adding up the sales and can see some very impressive totals.

We have some fantastic KPS fundraisers!

Every seller will receive a support wristband!

There will be a prize for the top selling boy and the top selling girl!

Then the top selling class will have an ICE-CREAM PARTY!

Thank you to CONES in Hawthorn and VideoEZY in Kew for their kind and generous donations.

We will announce the BIG WINNERS at next week’s assembly!

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KPS OSHClub is looking for 1 - 2 parents who are keen to be involved with the KPS OSHClub Subcommittee starting now or from the start of 2013. If you are interested in having a say and being involved in what your kids do before and after school please let the office staff know who will pass your details on to Dominica Zentner (School Council OSHClub Convenor). Thank you!
Hello everyone,

Some exciting news for us at Kew OSHClub ...our room got a facelift and has been painted 😊 No more staples in the walls or unsightly sticky tape. The children have been working hard to decorate the room with their artwork. We celebrated Halloween; played games that involved tricking and treating, costume parade, scary stories and general good fun. Fiona is back from her trip to NZ... welcome back Fiona! Our fencing program is a hit with the children, almost all the children wish to participate. Maybe we have the next Don Diego de la Vega at Kew?

Also, just letting everyone know that the Kew OSHClub holiday program will start January 7th 2013 8am – 6pm Monday to Friday.

BREAKING NEWS ........BREAKING NEWS ........BREAKING NEWS ........BREAKING NEWS ........BREAKING NEWS ........BREAKING NEWS

46 days till Christmas 😊

*Please note: For staffing ratios, we would appreciate parents/caregivers to book online as it will make it easier to staff the program according to regulations and make sure that we can supervise and organise activities appropriately for your children. There is a late fee for picking up children after 6:30pm. Casual bookings incur a $2 fee for each booking.

*Medications: A kind reminder to parents with children who have asthma/anaphylaxis to supply the program with their prescribed medications. Failure to do so goes against our terms and conditions.

If you have any questions or queries please call the program on 0400 394 489, alternatively feel free to pop into the program between the hours of 7:00 – 9:00am and 3:00 – 6:30pm and talk to one of our staff (Remembering that between 3:30 and 4pm is our busiest time and we might not be able to assist immediately). If you would like to book your child/ren into before or after care please log on to www.oshclub.com.au and follow the prompts to enrolling (Children MUST be enrolled to use the service).

We hope to see you soon at OSHClub. Come and join in on the fun!!

OSHClub Staff

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**This Fortnight’s Activities**

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<td>5/6’s Special Activity</td>
<td>Alien Pencil toppers</td>
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<td>Balloon Decoration</td>
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<td>Clown Hats</td>
<td>Land Art in the spring</td>
<td>Balloon stress ball</td>
<td>5/6’s Special Activity</td>
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<td>Ten Pin Bowling</td>
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<td>Butterfly</td>
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<td>Wrist Ball</td>
<td>Button flowers</td>
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<td>Paper Plate Clocks</td>
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**AASC ACTIVITIES:** Term 4 – Fencing on Mondays with Aleksey ~ Dancing on Wednesdays with Lydia

A weekly updated Program Plan is located at the entrance of the OSH room for viewing. We also offer so much more every day, including our ‘special activities’. Children also have a huge input on the daily activities.

**Parent Information**

OSHC program phone: 0400 394 489
Coordinator: Kathi Rowan
Assistants: Niki, Fiona, Cindy, Paul
OSHCHead Office: 03 86649000

*Please note: All families must be enrolled online to attend the program, remember it is FREE to enroll! Please create an account online at www.oshclub.com.au all bookings and cancellations can also be managed via your online account. For on the day bookings please contact the Coordinator direct at the program.*
Amazing achievements by Kew Primary at the inter-school chess tournaments throughout 2012 saw our boys qualify two teams for the State Semi-Finals, held last Tuesday 30th October.

So a total of 10 boys were able to represent Kew Primary for this prestigious event: Jackie & Sam (Grade 6), Adriaan & Jack (Grade 4), Will, Kai, Henry, Owen, Isaac & Aidan (all Grade 3).

The German Club in Windsor hosted the event. 29 schools and about 180 students competed, playing the usual 7 Round Swiss (i.e. 7 games each) with randomly selected opponents from the other schools, getting more even in ability as the day progressed.

Marcus, our Chess Coach, kindly attended & supervised the session, which was great for morale & coaching purposes. Marcus gave the boys a pep talk at the beginning which translated to “SLOW DOWN – think before you move” – an extremely difficult task for most young boys!

The Kew Primary team adhered (as well as boys can!) to Marcus’ suggestion & took their time, often psyching their opponent out. The first few rounds went well – Kew Primary never dropped below 9th place overall. Marcus started muttering & sweating as the boys started racing through games & making a few unconventional moves! But in the end….

Kew Primary came in 7th place!!! Out of 29 schools state-wide!!! Thereby qualifying for the finals, a feat that Kew Primary haven’t achieved in our current parent-group’s time, so at least 10 years. Can anyone remember when/if this was last achieved?

Sam, Jackie, Adriaan, Kai & Isaac were the top 5 scorers from our school – congratulations boys! They each earned themselves a place in the Finals, taking place this Friday 9th November.

**Good luck Kew Primary for Friday’s Final!!**

Thank you to the many parents for helping out on the day, chauffeuring and supervising. We now have a great “chess parents” group – thank you for your support over the last year. Your help is much appreciated & together we are putting Kew Primary on the map as a formidable chess school.

Regards, Andrea.
Will’s mum & KPS Chess Promoter!
KEW HIGH VCE ART SHOW
The 2012 VCE ART SHOW will be held on Wednesday 14th November in the Basement Gallery. Come and see the vast array of talent. Paintings, drawings, mixed media, photography and film, it's all here. Light refreshments will be served. Enter from the High Street entrance. Opening 6.00 - 8.00 pm
Kew Primary School Blog

At the start of next year, Kew Primary School will be launching its own blog. It will be linked to the school website and newsletter and will be open to all members of the school community to contribute or comment.

The aim of the blog is to showcase the achievements of the school, provide more detailed information and reports on school activities and events, and to provide insights into the day to day experiences of staff, students and parents. From time to time, the blog might cover broader issues relating to schools and education in general.

I hope the blog will be an interesting, lively and positive forum for discussion which will engage the broad school community.

This term I will be posting some ‘taster’ blogs in the newsletter. Today’s blog is about volunteering. I hope you enjoy it and please feel free to comment or respond at: Jacqueline_tomlins@hotmail.com

I’ll fill you in on a few more details about the blog over the next few weeks.

Jacqui Tomlins

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**When you do a selfless deed or an act of good your body releases endorphins. This is why volunteering makes us happy!** *

You can smell them half way across the playground, the homemade ANZAC biscuits, or is it the apple muffins, or the sausage rolls? Whichever, I always like to linger a moment at the canteen to check out what the kids will be enjoying at lunch and recess.

Last Friday when I dropped by, the seemingly unflappable Sally was in a bit of tizz; all three of her volunteers for that day were at the doctors with sick kids. She had close to 120 lunch orders to prepare, as well as half a dozen different homemade snacks for recess, and was a little concerned about how she was going to manage. Fortunately, two volunteering stalwarts, Nikki and Emma, stepped in at no notice and saved the day, and the lamb money-bags, tacos and cheese toasties were all duly delivered.

Now, this got me thinking: what percentage of the population do you reckon volunteer on a regular basis? 10 per cent? 15? 20 even? Well, according the Australian Bureau of Statistics it’s around 36% and, interestingly, the biggest cohort of volunteers – around 55% – is couples with dependent children aged 5 – 17. That’s us. The most commonly cited reason for why people volunteer is because it increases their sense of community belonging.

So how does this all relate to Kew Primary School I wondered? Do half of us volunteer? And what is our motivation if we do?

‘I like to know what’s going on around school,’ Nikki tells me, ‘and I like to keep my finger on the pulse. I volunteered to help with the athletics carnival and I got to talk to lots of staff – Barry and Robin and Xavier and Michelle – and it was very enlightening! Plus, I’m a control freak. You see things that need improvement and often there aren’t the resources to fix it and you can’t always expect people who are really busy to pick it up.’

‘Volunteering in class means I get to know my kid’s teacher really well,’ she says, ‘and my children love seeing me there. You get to know the other kids too which means they feel more comfortable about approaching you, or asking you for help outside the classroom.’

Emma likes to know what her kids are doing during the day, too, especially, she says, as it’s really hard to get any information out of them. ‘But I came from overseas,’ she adds, ‘and I didn’t know anyone. I needed to meet as many people as I could and if I hadn’t volunteered I think I would have stayed at home and got lonely and depressed. I don’t have to work and I’ve got the time and means to volunteer and a lot of people don’t have that luxury. Plus…well…I’m just really nosy.’

The head honcho of volunteers in any school is generally the president of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), in our case the indefatigable George. The PTA organises a range of events throughout the year aimed at raising money or fostering a sense of community and, in most cases, both.

‘I’m a very impatient person,’ George tells me, ‘I see a problem and I want to fix it. I feel obligated to help. But there are many, many people in our school who volunteer regularly and quietly – whether it’s reading in class, going on
excursions, walking the kids to swimming – and, to be honest, the place would fall in a heap without them. These people make a really big difference.’

I asked George why some people who are interested in volunteering might be reluctant to put their hand up; I know, for example, people sometimes feel they don’t have the particular skills, or that they can’t make a whole-term commitment.

‘Not everyone wants to be on school council,’ George says, ‘or is suitable for it, but there are dozens of ways that people can help for say, 45 minutes a week, or with a one-off contribution to an event. Sometimes parents can be a bit nervous about volunteering, but they don’t need to be; it’s a good way to become involved in your school and I think it’s a fantastic example to our kids.’

So who knows whether 55% of us volunteer – it doesn’t actually matter – and people clearly get involved for all sorts of reasons. We do know that many people regularly give up their time to help support our school community in many different ways, and that the day to day experience of our kids is all the better because of it. As George says: ‘If there are no volunteers, it doesn’t happen.’

So, a big thank-you to everyone who has volunteered this year; to the quiet contributors and the nosy, impatient, control freaks!

Thanks for listening,

Jacqui Tomlins

Volunteers are involved with all of the following at KPS:

Canteen, excursions and incursions, classroom reading, swimming, class reps., book club, uniform shop, school banking, fruit duty, working bees, school council, mothers’ day, fathers’ day, peppercorn barbeque, bush dance, concerts and performances, sporting activities, and more...

If you would like to volunteer please contact:

Your class teacher

George (PTA) georgerad71@gmail.com
Sally (Canteen) 0431 213289
School Office 9853 8325

*(One million acts of kindness: www.1millionacts.com.au)