The Bulletin

Message from the Principal

Hi Kew and welcome to our bulletin for this week.

Community Forum
Thank you to all those people who attended our community forum last night and thank you to Julie Coleman, our School Council president for chairing it. This open school council meeting was focused on looking at different options for the redevelopment of our school oval as part of our building and grounds master plan. It was a valuable and constructive evening where many different views were shared including our staff and students.

One of the questions that was asked in the meeting was how will any redevelopment project be funded. This will be important to address and outline but at this early stage I believe that it is most critical to set the direction and vision for this space and once this is in place, look at all available options to make it become a reality. I know that with a vision and plan in place it will be a more effective process to seek and access funding outside of any locally raised money that will be required.

As Principal, my aim is to ensure that our school continues to improve our learning environment and opportunities for our students. If there is an area we need to address (inside or outside of the classrooms) as part of this continuous improvement focus, then I will explore the options required to do so. I also view our oval as an extension of our classroom spaces and as such recognise that its current state is not the best that we can offer our students and our community.

From here our school council will have a further discussion at our meeting next week with a view to making a decision at our first meeting in Term 3 in August. Although any redevelopment project may be several years away, it is important for us to set the direction of this plan so that the next layer of work can begin.

The forum was valuable for me as a step in recognising an area for improvement and looking for solutions. With such an involved, dynamic and engaged school community I know that in time we can deliver something that we can all be very proud of.

Bike Education Award
Did you know that our school was presented with an award recently? We were the winner of the 2014 VicRoads Bike Education Award. The prize of $500 was presented at a gala dinner as part of the Traffic Safety Education Awards and attended by Sonia Hocking, Di Pantazis, Jaci Davis and myself. In fact Sonia even got to walk up the red carpet in accepting the award on behalf of the school. What a great recognition for our bike education program and our teachers that are trained to deliver it!

Grade Splits / CRT'S
I have recently had some parent inquires as to why a teacher who was absent was not replaced by a casual relief teacher (CRT). Whilst I know that this may be a new experience for our school, in all the other schools that I and others have worked in, this is regular and sensible practice.

Let me spend a moment explaining the reasoning behind this. Each year schools must prepare a budget for all curriculum areas, school running costs, professional development, cleaning and maintenance costs and many more items including CRT costs. Like any business or organisation, schools must ensure that there is no overspend in the total funds that are available as revenue against expenditure. Out of the funding that is provided by DEECD there is no specific allocation to CRT costs, rather each school must determine the amount in this area of the budget and then stick to it. Whilst we have set this amount at the appropriate

Diary Dates

Thu 12 Jun  ThinkUknow Cybersafety Presentation 7pm
Sat 14 Jun  “Kew’s Got Talent” 7pm
Mon 16 Jun  Grades 5 & 6 Swimming starts
Thu 19 Jun  Pupil Free Day
Fri 20 Jun  Interschool Sports
           Winter Gala Day
Fri 27 Jun  Last day of Term 2
           Early dismissal 2:30pm
Mon 14 Jul  1st day Term 3
level for this year, for a school our size this may mean that every single day a teacher is away on sick leave they may not always be replaced. There is the option to set a larger CRT budget however this would mean taking money from other parts of our school budget. Setting this budget is a complex process with many things to consider and priorities to target.

I would much rather maximise school financial resources into these other important areas than an unlimited CRT pool.

As such in consultation with our staff I have introduced a system where careful and considered grade splitting will ensure that this budget is not depleted by the end of the year. This will prevent a worst case scenario where I would need to split grades frequently if the budget was depleted before then. Some of the considerations behind a possible grade split are as follows:

- We will not split the Grade 3 classes as they are our largest classes.
- If a grade is split for the first day a teacher is away and the teacher is absent again the next day the grade will not be split again.
- If there is a major event of activity scheduled for the day then the class will not be split.

These are just a few examples of the considerations that we take into account to ensure the least amount of interruption to our normal school program. My aim is for our CRT budget to be managed successfully throughout the whole year. If you would like to know more about how school finances work, the source of school revenues, the process I use to set up school structures for the following school year then please read on……

**Morning tea – Talking Finances**

Still reading on?? At 9.15am on Wednesday 25th June I will be holding a “Meet with the Prin – Talking School Finances” morning tea. If this topic is of interest to you then please contact the office and let me know you will be attending.

I also plan to hold a community forum one evening in Term 3. During this meeting I will outline more about the decision process I will use in setting up our school for 2015.

I know that parents can sometimes have email chains or playground conversations expressing concerns. However, these emails and conversations are also sometimes inaccurate or ill-informed. **As with any issue, concern or feedback that you may have, it is always a better option to make a time to come and speak with me. In this way you can get all the information you need to stay informed and up to date.**

**Extra-Curricular Programs Update**

Thank you to those that have returned expression of interest forms for two new extra-curricular programs (Beginner Mandarin & Junior Rockers Drumming Group). There has been a pleasing level of interest in both and I anticipate that they will both operate from next term. If you are interested please return the expression of interest form by next Monday 16th June. This will then allow me time to start organising them for the start of the term.

**Try Booking – Building & Library Fund**

At this stage of the financial year it is worth mentioning that donations to our Building & Library Fund are tax deductible. This year we have also established a Try Booking service making it very easy for parents and friends to make donations to our school online.

Please see the following link: [http://www.trybooking.com/FAOF](http://www.trybooking.com/FAOF)

**Got your 80’s outfit ready for Saturday night? It should be a great event and I’m looking forward to catching up with lots of our parents during the evening. (PS… I will be the one with the mullet!)**

**Be Worthy!**

James Penson - Principal
Kew Primary School Blog

Which KPS class is ranking among the world's best for Mathletics? Find out on the 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

Come & Join in our School Community night to support our kids!

Kew’s Got Talent (80’s Style)
Saturday 14th June, in the School Gym
from 7pm til late
$20pp @ trybooking.com/EYHJ  (tix still available!)
Live acoustic 80’s music on arrival with "Karma Chameleon" Champagne cocktail
Comedy, musical & vocal items (including Mr Penson on piano)
80’s Musical Table Quiz
Rubix Cube competition (bring your own to have a go)
Footy hand-ball competition at half-time
*Please sign up to help set up or clean up/or on the bar at: https://www.volunteersignup.org/9CWFQ

ENROL NOW!! EXCITING LUNCHTIME DRAMA PROGRAM AT KEW PS!!

Junior group (P–Gr2) FRIDAYS – Jnr Hall: 1.05pm-1.50pm
Senior group (Gr3–Gr6) THURSDAYS – Jnr Hall: 1.05pm-1.50pm
Enrolment options are as follows:
• Online at www.dramatime.com.au & click “enrolments”
• Email the information below to contact@dramatime.com.au
• Post this form to Drama Time 19 William St, Balaclava 3183
• Or call Drama Time on 9528 8998

Please do not return this form to the school, return to the Drama Time office only.
Student name: ___________________________ Grade: __________________
Parent name: ___________________________ Mobile: __________________
Email: _________________________________
School: Kew PS
AN INVOICE WILL FOLLOW AFTER THE ENROLMENT IS COMPLETE.
Your school is invited to participate in the following ‘Chess Victoria - Primary Girls’ zonal tournament

This tournament offers students the opportunity to qualify for the 2014 Chess Victoria state finals (Primary Girls) held early in Term 4. The tournament is run by Northern Star Chess under arrangement with Chess Victoria, the official body for chess administration in Victoria.

Please note: Northern Star Chess zonal tournaments are conducted as Individual based events. Our model is inclusive and eliminates some issues which are only relevant for team-based events. Specifically:

- **There is no restriction on "team size".** Schools can just send a group of students who want to play chess.
- Students don’t feel pressured to "perform or let the team down". The strong students will likely qualify based on performance (see below for qualification rules), and the not so strong students can still come for the experience.
- Coordinators don’t feel pressured to deal with dilemma of team allocation, often requiring a choice between strength of team or student morale.

Primary School Girls’ Zonal Qualifier at Deepdene Primary School - 24th June

**Venue:** Deepdene Primary School
958A Burke Rd, Balwyn

**Date:** Tuesday 24th June, 2014

**Time:** 9:30 am - 2:00pm

**Restriction:** For primary girls only.

**Cost:** $18 per player (paid to your school and we send an invoice to your school with a list of names after the event)

**Qualify:** Primary Girls state final (top 30% girls)

**Format:**
- Individual based tournament
- Every child plays 7 games against players of similar skill, regardless of how many games they win or lose (Swiss pairing method)
- Children experience proper tournament rules
- Every child receives a certificate, graded at 4 levels based on final score.
- Gold/Silver/Bronze medals awarded to various grade/year level categories
- "Star of the tournament" trophy for top scorers of the day
- Table prizes/giveaways.
- Chess Victoria State Final qualifications announced at the end of tournament based on result for the day.

**How to register:**
Send email with **school name**, **Tournament** and **a list of**
- children’s names,
- gender and
- children’s grade/year level

(please include details for official contact person)
to: register@northernstarchess.com