Message from the Principal

SCHOOL REVIEW

On Tuesday, we completed the second day of the review process with the panel. This completed the very detailed analysis of our school improvement journey 2013-2016.

The feedback from our reviewer was very positive and the process was a strong validation of the strategies we have implemented over the past four years. The two most significant achievements have been the rise in our student achievement levels in maths. Our students are making outstanding growth with their maths. The professional learning program our staff has engaged in has been instrumental in raising this academic focus and achievement. The second most significant achievement is in the development of our home school partnership. We have built a strong level of community confidence in our school, supported by high parent involvement, staff commitment, improved communication and increased cohesion between students, parents and staff.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to all of our staff team for the positive impact they have made and continue to make at our school. A huge thank you to the Leadership team (Robin Grace, Sally Marsh and Andrew Wood) and School Improvement Team (Diana Matricciani, Melissa Hayes and Jacki Hopkins) for their significant involvement in the review process and their expertise in leading school improvement.

As a community we can be very proud of our progress, but we also know that we have lots more work to do. This begins with fine tuning and sequencing the areas identified in the review as unfinished business and future work. This is then written into our Strategic Plan document for 2017-2020. I will be completing this early next year ready for School Council endorsement by the end of Term 1.

If you would like to find out more about the results and feedback from our School Review and also provide some input into our future school improvement journey, I encourage you to attend our community forum on 9th November at 7pm in the BER classrooms.

THANK YOU FOR A GREAT NIGHT PTA!

Well done and thank you to our PTA for a great Hawaiian night last Saturday. Those that were able to attend enjoyed a terrific evening. I am always so amazed at how great our gym looks when it is set up for an event like this. I am just as amazed at how generous our parent community is both with their financial support of our school but perhaps more significantly their time and effort into running events like this. Thank you to the whole PTA team and all of the other parents who assisted. A big special mention to Melanie Eades for her leadership of the PTA this year.

Stay tuned for an update about funds raised and to find out how close we are to installing air-conditioning in the Art room and Rooms 12 & 13.
2016 PARENT OPINION SURVEY RESULTS

The results of our 2016 Parent Opinion Survey are in. Overall, I am extremely pleased with the progress our school is making in key areas. It is rewarding to see that the tremendous work of our staff team is paying off in terms of improved parent perceptions and opinions about our school. All areas of the survey highlight significant improvement over a 4 year period. This includes very high parent satisfaction levels in areas such as Transitions, School Improvement, Parent Input, Extra-Curricular, Homework, Approachability, Behaviour Management & Student Safety. Many thanks to those who were randomly selected for taking the time to complete the forms and return them.

If you would like more information about the survey results data please contact me:
penson.james.j@edumail.vic.gov.au

Be Worthy!
James Penson
Principal

Message from the Assistant Principal

Today sees the first of our “Step Into Prep” transition sessions, which is a wonderful opportunity for these children to have a taste of what it will be like to attend a primary school. There are lots of nervous smiles and heart palpitations felt, but not by the four year olds, rather by their parents. It is a wonderful as well as an exciting time and our Prep Team have put together a program that will ensure a very positive journey from that familiar kinder or daycare center to one of a vibrant and exciting primary school, which is of course our very own KEW PS. I have one message for our new 2017 Prep parents and that is, you will survive but more importantly your children will thrive at our school.

Keeping our current enrolled students safe and healthy is paramount to all staff that work here and whenever students need medication it is of utmost importance that the class teacher and our office staff know about this situation. Parents must complete a medical form stating when such medications are to be given to your child with all the details of amounts and time for this to happen. Please do not allow children to do this unsupervised by a teacher or our First Aid staff, as this can prove problematic. Children can often take too much of their medicine and can suffer side effects which can be misdiagnosed by our teaching staff because they are not privy to what has happened. Even in cases where children suffer from hay fever, do not let them administer products such as Claratyne or Zyrtec as they may become drowsy and present with symptoms that staff cannot explain because of a lack of knowledge.

An adult must do the administration of any medicine to Kew PS students, at all times. Please make sure you have completed the medical forms at the office and most importantly have left these medications with our First Aid officer. This will ensure we have the correct information, to maintain the safety and wellbeing of your child.

This also brings me to the point of what happens in all schools at this time of year that I will summarize briefly. I call it the doubling up effect! Whilst finishing off this current school year, which entails report writing, organizing grade transitions and finalizing celebrations we begin the process of putting together budgets for 2017, organizing grade structures for the following year as well as sorting out staffing, and any maintenance works to happen over the holidays. Effectively we are starting the organization of the following year before this year has ended. All the staff are wonderful at this doubling up so that our students have a rewarding and enjoyable experience, transitioning to their next educational year, whether it is onto a secondary setting or another year at Kew PS. Parents need to be positive and upbeat about change because you are the barometer for your children’s reactions. Let them see you embrace these changes and they will follow your example.

Robin Grace
Magazine for 2016

It’s that time of year again, to get your orders in for the much anticipated MAGAZINE.

The magazine is a great pictorial memento of the school year. Not only are each and every class and specialist captured but all the amazing events that have been on throughout the school year are remembered.

Get all orders in by Friday 4th November.

Orders will be made through TRYBOOKING www.trybooking.com.au/NJZR.

Note: NO LATE ORDERS WILL BE ACCEPTED after this date.

Regards
The Magazine Committee
Chelsea, Nat, Elizabeth & Sonia

Kew Primary School Blog

Things got noisy and tasty (what?!) at a recent Prep incursion. Sophie Apperly tells us more 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

Grade 2 Parent Information Evening – BYOD iPad Program

2017 to be held on Thursday November 3rd

Please note that in the previous newsletter, the date was incorrectly listed as Wednesday November the 2nd. A notice has gone home with a reply slip on which you can submit any questions you have about the iPad program for next year. Please return these to your child’s classroom teacher. We look forward to seeing the future Grade 3 parents at 6:30pm on Thursday the 3rd November.
Come to our Buy One, Get One Free Book Fair

In the Library on
Wednesday 2\textsuperscript{nd} November after school

&

Thursday 3\textsuperscript{rd} November before & after school

For every book purchased you receive a second book of equal or lesser value FREE to give giveaway or keep yourself.

Thank you for your support in the Library this year. We hope you enjoy this special offer Book Fair.
Kew Primary School Fathers Association Barefoot Bowls

WHEN: Thursday 17th November 2016
To Book: https://www.trybooking.com/NQHP

TIME: 7.00 to 9.00 pm Barefoot bowls
Includes a Free Beer and Pizza
Cold Drinks at Bar prices!

WHERE: Drummond Gold Kew.
320 High St Kew VIC 3101 P: 03 9853 3144

COST: $30 per person
Includes a 2 Hours of golf in the simulators with real clubs and balls, feel free to bring your own clubs and shoes.

Reminder
Canteen closed on Monday
31st October
TERM 4 WORKING BEE

SUNDAY 13th November
9am – 12pm

At our Term 4 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 9th November.

TERM 4 WORKING BEE - REPLY SLIP

Child’s Name:  Grade:

Parent’s Name:

I am able to attend the Term 4 Working Bee on the 13th November 2016 – please tick your preferred task from the list below:

☐ Sweeping and cleaning the spoon drains and also leaf blowing the oval (please bring a broom or leaf blower).

☐ Weeding the garden beds along the Pakington Street side of the school and Junior School area. (Please bring a bucket and weeding tools).

☐ Weeding and tidying 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 leaf blower).

☐ Spreading softfall near gym (Please bring shovel, rake and wheel barrow).

Or

☐ I am unable to attend the Term 4 Working Bee on the 13th November 2016 but would like to include a $10 or $20 or $____ donation towards the cost of maintaining our school grounds.
Inter School State Semi-Final Chess Tournament Report

Congratulations to the following students for competing at the State Semi-Final Chess Tournament at Kingswood College on Monday 24th Oct, 2016

Max Saggers and Allan Liang (Grade 4)
Connor Clarke, Riley Kemke and Callum Kemke (Grade 3)
(Lara Aitken away sick)

Kew Primary Chess Team qualified 5 players for the State Semi-Final in Chess. The State Semi-Final is where the best chess players in the State come to compete for a spot in the State Finals. Our KPS Chess Team performed fantastically against some very tough opposition and came 10th overall. Our top players for the day were Riley and Callum Kemke, Congratulations. We were all very proud to have all of the players representing KPS this year!

Thank you to Sonia McCully-Saggers and Lelen Kemke for their help with transport and supervision during the day. Go KPS chess!

If your child wants to learn Chess have them come along to the Chess Club held in the Library on Fridays to check it out. The more the merrier! Thanks to Miss Grace for supervision. If your child would like to compete in a Chess Tournament then you can contact myself, Sonia: sonia@saggers.com.au or Amanda: amanda@metrotennis.com.au The next Chess tournaments will start in 2017!
Mahalo

"Mahalo" is the Hawaiian word meaning Thanks...

Starting with the Class Reps, a huge thank you for organising the class hampers. We had a fabulous selection this year; from Smiggle to sporting goods, wine to Woodfrog, coffee to chocolate and many great vouchers in-between. There was something for everyone to bid on. Thanks to all the families who donated and for supporting the local businesses who give so much to KPS.

Thank you to the team of ladies (and man) who helped to wrap all the lovely class hampers on Friday morning. Anna McDowell, Naomi Hinks, Belinda Slee Rose Iorlano Alice Cheng, Chun Han, Yukio Yo and (Mel’s Dad) Jon Guymer. Thank you! What a great help!

Thank you to the set up and pack up team on Saturday / Sunday who helped to transform the gym into the Hawaiian paradise; Melanie & Mark Eades, Tania Lim, Anna McDowell, Bethanie Clarke, Claire Tanner & their very helpful children and to our marvellous bar staff; Juliana Markl & Rachel Naylor who, for the 4th year in a row managed the bar. Such a great effort ... If anyone would like to learn from the experts for next year, just let us know. Thanks also to Mr Penson and Mark Eades for collecting all the required bar supplies from Dan Murphy’s.

It was a cold & windy night on Saturday, but that didn’t stop us having fun in Hawaii! The gym was transformed, with Bethanie Clarke’s artistic flair, tropical flowers appeared & themed lighting was provided by the talented Nick & Jess Rutherford. The Tiki bar was constructed and the gym as we know it turned into a tropical paradise - Melbourne even threw in some monsoonal rain.... The disco was fun, the games were great including the limbo (which Chelsea Carmichael PCC & Marina K won), Coits (Andrew Seamer won) Hula Hoop (Fiona Hollingsworth won) and beach volleyball. Thanks also to Sheryl Teese for our Trivia Questions. We loved Mr Penson & the teacher’s modern twist on 2UP with Shelley on the microphone encouraging everyone to take part. Bidding was fast & furious on the class hampers, silent & loud auction items. A big thanks to enthusiastic auctioneer Glenn Hollingsworth and we all enjoyed the delicious Mexican food from Dos Diablos. Saving the best for last, a huge thank you to Kerry Lomas our amazing Art teacher for the 21 pieces of art she designed for each class to make. From the Prep finger prints, colourful shape pictures in Grade 1, cute Grade 2 steps, Grade 3 & 4 collages, Grade 5 wooden discs and the Grade 6 cotton designs. These pieces were such a hit and offer memories to treasure for years to come. Thanks Kerry! Thank you to everyone for their hard work & support towards our school. If you missed it this year make sure you go next year, start planning your table now ...

Our Sincerest Thanks,
PTA Team
Melanie Eades, Fiona Hollingsworth, Tania Lim
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