Contents

Upcoming Events

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 14th</td>
<td>11am – 3pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Day Out - Flem/Ken Bowls Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11.15am – 3.30pm</td>
<td>Grade 1/2 Excursion – The Peanuts Movie</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 15th</td>
<td>11.30am</td>
<td>Moving Up Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
<td>Pre Farewell Get Together for Gd 6 Families</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6.30pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Farewell Evening</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8.00pm</td>
<td>Year 6 Parent Celebration</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 18th</td>
<td>1.00pm</td>
<td>End of Year Assembly</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.30pm</td>
<td>END OF TERM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

January

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed 27th</td>
<td>11.30- 1.30pm</td>
<td>Uniform shop open</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Pupil Free Day – No school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 28th</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
<td>Term 1 begins. Grade 1 – 6 students return to school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frid 29th</td>
<td>8.50am</td>
<td>Preps start school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know??

There are a number of lost items from the Swimming Program. If your child is missing anything please contact the office and hopefully we can return your items to you. We also have a large amount of lost property which has accumulated throughout the year. Please take some time to have a look at our Lost Property in front of the canteen to claim any lost uniform, lunch boxes, water bottles etc.

Principals Report

Canteen Celebration

Dear parents, as a thank you for your support of the canteen over 2015 you are invited to have a snack with the canteen ladies on Monday after assembly. There will be a variety of tasty African food to try and some tea and coffee. Please feel free to stay around and chat with the ladies.
Grade Structure

Next year there will be an increase in numbers but we have somehow managed a good spread so there will be no increase in the number of grades which is good. It is likely that the school will continue to grow, but predictions are that this will be fairly slow. The Department has completed an audit of the schools facilities and has assessed us as requiring a new portable (relocatable) building when we reach 501 students. We will get to about 496 or so in 2016. Typically over the summer break we lose a number of students who move to other schools or are accepted into private schools, which is fine. We still have a number of teaching spaces available that can accommodate grades, so there are plenty of options-it is a big school that used to accommodate over a thousand students in the past! Glad I wasn’t here then though-the class sizes must have been enormous. The majority of the upper grades will be around 24-26 students. This year sees us advancing towards 80 preps which is great. It is important to keep the grade sizes low in this area. Preps and one/twos will have around 20-22 students.

It is likely that if or when we opt to take up the offer of a relocatable that we would consider the brand new double storey option that are really well built, with air conditioning and blinds, lots of modern features and other accoutrements. The older single storey ones are terrible in comparison. This is of course having an impact on our wonderful Master Planners who are drawing up plans to get the yard surfaced and playing areas defined in accordance with the feedback from the surveys from students and families. There have been lots of meetings and plans drawn and redrawn to make best use of the play space. The group are doing a great job and we are lucky to have them give up their time to do this important work for us.

Once again we have been able maintain our terrific staff which is fabulous and we welcome Elizabeth Howes who has been teaching the preps this term, as Jenny Walker is on maternity leave and giving lots of cuddles to her newly born baby son. Jenny will resume next year, as will Rachel Ryan and Jessie Palmer who have also been looking after their new babies.

Unit One
Prep             Elise Andrew
Prep             Elizabeth Howes
Prep             Hannah Dowling
Prep             Danni Kelly

1/2             Fiona Mc Intosh
1/2             Lucy Blomfield
1/2             Roula Rozeakas
1/2             Fleur Harvey
1/2             Amanda May (first term) Jenny Walker (resuming from maternity leave)
1/2             Rhyl Davies
1/2             Rachel Combridge and Kate Fedele

~ 2 ~
A direct and positive link between pupils' breakfast quality and consumption, and their educational attainment, has for the first time been demonstrated in a ground-breaking new study carried out by public health experts at Cardiff University.

The study of 5000 9-11 year-olds from more than 100 primary schools sought to examine the link between breakfast consumption and quality and subsequent attainment in Key Stage 2 Teacher Assessments 6-18 months later.

The study -- thought to be the largest to date looking at longitudinal effects on standardised school performance -- found that children who ate breakfast, and who ate a better quality breakfast, achieved higher academic outcomes. The research found that the odds of achieving an above average educational performance were up to twice as high for pupils who ate breakfast, compared with those who did not.

Eating unhealthy items like sweets and crisps for breakfast, which was reported by 1 in 5 children, had no positive impact on educational attainment. Pupils were asked to list all food and drink consumed over a period of just over 24 hours (including two breakfasts), noting what they consumed at specific times throughout the previous day and for breakfast on the day of reporting.

Alongside number of healthy breakfast items consumed for breakfast, other dietary behaviours -- including number of sweets and crisps and fruit and vegetable portions consumed throughout the rest of the day -- were all significantly and positively associated with educational performance.

Social scientists say the research, published in the *Public Health Nutrition* journal, offers the strongest evidence yet of a meaningful link between dietary behaviours and concrete measures of academic attainment.

~ 3 ~
Hannah Littlecott from Cardiff University’s Centre for the Development and Evaluation of Complex Interventions for Public Health Improvement (DECIPher), lead author of the study, said: "While breakfast consumption has been consistently associated with general health outcomes and acute measures of concentration and cognitive function, evidence regarding links to concrete educational outcomes has until now been unclear.

"This study therefore offers the strongest evidence yet of links between aspects of what pupils eat and how well they do at school, which has significant implications for education and public health policy –

Conclusions: Significant positive associations between self-reported breakfast consumption and educational outcomes were observed. Future research should aim to explore the mechanisms by which breakfast consumption and educational outcomes are linked, and understand how to promote breakfast consumption among schoolchildren. Communicating findings of educational benefits to schools may help to enhance buy-in to efforts to improve health behaviours of pupils.

Date: November 16, 2015
For more click the link 10.1017/S1368980015002669

Bug Blitz Report

About a month ago 3/ 4 S and 3/ 4 L went to Bug Blitz at the Pavilion in the city. First we had to get a container with bugs in it and sketch these little creatures. We also painted some swamp hens and then we put them into the ground on the grass near the long weeds by water. We went down to the lake and got into groups and scooped up some bugs with nets. We then went back and studied the bugs under a microscope. We saw tiny yabbies as well as blood worms, water mites and lots of other tiny creatures.

Before we had our lunch we tasted 4 different types of honey and we learnt that different types of honey come from different trees and that the taste of different honey depends on the nectar from the flowers. We brought the lunch containers back to school to use for our Bug Blitz dioramas. They looked fabulous. It was a fantastic excursion.

From Ella, Rosha and Jackson

The short movie will soon be able to be viewed at
Help your child beat the brain slump these holidays

*Summer holidays are a great time to get your child reading for relaxation.*

Most children are pleased to have a break from the rigours of school work over the summer holidays, but many will not open a book again until the beginning of the next school year. Not only does this make it difficult to get back into the swing of study when the time arises, it also means a valuable opportunity is missed.

And that is the opportunity to discover the joy of reading for pleasure.

Reading for pleasure is a wonderful way for your child to escape and unwind. It's also a great way to keep their brain active.

Studies have shown that children who stop reading over the school holidays experience something American researchers call the "summer slide" - a term used to refer to students' learning losses over the summer break.

Researchers used the analogy of a 'tap' to provide some insight into their findings, saying that while children are at school there is a flow of information, and all children have the same opportunities to learn. When they are not at school, however, that 'tap' is turned off, unless there is some active engagement with books or other resources. Children whose 'tap' stays on throughout the summer holidays return to school with an advantage over those whose 'tap' may have been turned off for the past two months.

Over time, that advantage accumulates, and becomes a reason why some children are more successful at school than others. Success aside, there is a world of enjoyment waiting to be discovered inside the pages of picture books and novels. Books are perfect for the sofa, the back lawn and the beach – all the places your child is most likely to be lounging these school holidays.

The Department has even compiled book lists for children of different ages – making it easy to find something for your pre-schooler, Preppy, eight-year-old or teenager.

The book lists, which are refreshed every year by reading experts to include popular new releases, form part of the Premiers' Reading Challenge – an annual event that inspires young people of all ages to read more books.

So while their textbooks may be closed for the summer, their brains certainly shouldn't be. Make sure your children have a ready supply of books that appeal to their age and interests these school holidays, and help them discover the joy of reading for fun.

To download a copy of the Premiers' Reading Challenge booklists, visit: [http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/about/events/prc/Pages/booklist.aspx)

**Picnic Fun**

It was a fantastic turn out for last Friday’s picnic and the place looked a treat with all the bunting around. Thanks to all the organisers for a wonderful way to finish off the year. Lots of chat and yummy food.

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Mark Ryan
Principal
Student Semester 2 Reports and 2016 Grade Placement

On **Tuesday, December 15th** your child will bring home a large white envelope containing:

- their Semester 2 Report for 2015
- an information letter about the reports
- your child’s grade placement for 2016
- your child’s self-assessment documents

All government schools in Victoria use a common report format to report on a child’s progress. This means that no matter what Victorian Government school your child attends, your child’s progress will be reported in the same way and against the same Australia – wide and state-wide standards in Years Prep to 10, giving parent’s a clear picture of their child’s progress.

Physically children grow and develop at different rates. This is also true of children’s progress academically. Sometimes children show periods of rapid development with their learning followed by periods of consolidation. During the consolidation phase children learn to apply their newly acquired skills and knowledge to a wide range of situations, deepening their understanding and enabling them to demonstrate this in a variety of ways.

It is important for parents to consider this when reading your child’s report, as your child may have spent some time in the consolidation phase of learning. As the reports are only programmed to reflect a standard six months growth, your child’s report may appear to indicate that he/she has not made any progress this semester. However the reality is your child has continued to learn and consolidate their understandings but may have just fallen short of the standard six months growth.

**Understanding the graphic section of the student reports**

**What do the A-E ratings mean?**

In every school:

A  Well above the standard expected at this time of year
B  Above the standard expected at this time of year
C  **At the standard expected at this time of year**
D  Below the standard expected at this time of year
E  Well below the standard expected at this time of year

**What do the dots and lines on the graphic show?**

- Your child's achievement 12 months ago
- Your child's achievement this semester
- Your child's progress
- The expected level of achievement
Information about the student reports and the AusVELS curriculum can be found at: 

Julie Stephens
Assistant Principal

Moving Up Day

Moving Up Day

On Tuesday December 15th, between recess and lunch, your child will spend time in their new classroom, meet their new teacher for 2016 and get to know the other children in their class for next year.

There will be 21 classrooms located in the same areas of the school as this year.

• 4 x Preps – downstairs near the old Artroom
• 5 x 1/2s – upstairs, in current position, access via stairs near old Artroom in the main building
• 2 x1/2s – downstairs, near the reading resource room
• 6 x 3/4s – upstairs, central staircase in the main building
• 4 x 5/6s – above the library

Julie Stephens
Assistant Principal

Care Program

Please remember to hand in your Vacation Care Booking Sheets. It will be an exciting program and spaces are filling fast. The last day we can accept bookings is December 18th.

We also have a booking sheet in the care room for the Curriculum Day on Wednesday January 27th. Please put your child’s name down to reserve a space.

Thanks

Tess
Care Program
Bounce Back – student wellbeing

As part of the student wellbeing program this year, we have been focusing on becoming more aware of our feelings and learning skills to help regulate feelings. We do this because:

- It helps with friendships. When we manage our feelings, we can more easily understand the other person’s perspective and to think before we say something that might hurt someone’s feelings. We can use our emotions wisely in social situations.

- It helps with learning. Feelings such as worry about not being able to meet expectations, fear about making mistakes, frustration with tasks, can overwhelm our ability to think clearly, to concentrate and to remember important information. Children are asked to regulate intense emotions throughout the day. For example, when they come in from the yard after an exciting lunch time and are asked to begin a learning task, or when they start the day after a rushed and stressful morning at home. They need to move between different learning tasks and specialist lessons. The better skilled we can be at noticing and regulating our feelings, the better we are able to tune in to learning when we need to.

- It makes us healthier. When we learn to regulate our feelings, we still feel as deeply, but it results in lower levels of stress and shorter periods of intense feelings. This is associated with better health, wellbeing and resilience.

It is wonderful to see examples of how students have explored feelings throughout their school day. There are beautiful art works up around the school at the moment reflecting feelings and showing the growth students have made in understanding themselves and their emotional worlds. In many classrooms there is evidence of mindfulness being taught and feelings being discussed.

Parents are also learning these skills. We have just finished another Tuning in to Kids program where parents learn skills to better support the emotional development of their children. This program results in improved parent/child relationships and better understanding of the feelings that underlie tricky behaviour. Thankyou to all the parents who have participated in this program so far. I feel excited that we are creating an emotionally intelligent community at the school which is having tangible benefits for all the children.

Warm regards, Melissa Martin. martin.melissa.j@edumail.vic.gov.au
Student of the Week

STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS

Rory Prep H  
His outstanding efforts during swimming sessions
Lexie Prep H  
Showing resistance by bouncing back
Leo & Kassidy Prep J  
Helping to encourage positive behaviour in the classroom
Will Prep J  
For being a kind and generous classmate
Lexa Prep J  
Excellent use of marks and colour to express her feelings in her painting
Nabiha 3/4 A  
Being an effective class meeting leader
Ryan 3/4 D  
Being a thoughtful and reflective learner, as demonstrated in his detailed self evaluation
Liliana 3/4 D  
Being self smart, understanding her strengths and setting challenging goals for herself
Kiki 3/4 S  
For confidently taking on the role of peer teacher

100 Story Holidays

100 Story will have 4 different comic and writing workshops for children aged 7-12 years running over 5 days from January 18-22.  
More information is available on their website:  http://www.100storybuilding.org.au/100-story-holidays/  
Bookings are open now.

KPS students who are keen to get in to some reading and writing over the holidays might like to try Pigeon Post subscriptions and Early Harvest books! If anyone buys a copy of Early Harvest issue #4 (which includes three stories by 5-6F KPS students) before December 15 and mentions they're a Kensington PS student 100 Story Building give them 3 issue of Pigeon Post.

Fiona
Grade 6 Day Out and Farewell

December 14th - Next Monday the Grade 6 students will be going to the local Flemington/Kensington Bowling Club for their day out celebrations. Many thanks to Angela, Stacey and the other grade 6 parents and friends who have helped us prepare for this event. This is a casual clothes day for the grade 6 students.

December 15th - On Tuesday evening the Grade 6 Farewell will be held in the hall starting at 6:30pm. G6 students must arrive by 6:15. Dress code for Grade 6 students - neat casual.

There will be a Pre Farewell Get -together for families and students starting at 5.30pm in the Gathering space. Cheese and biscuits/ hot chips will be served. You are also welcome to bring a plate of food to share.

Following the Farewell, Grade 6 parents are inviting you to join other Grade 6 families at Local Folk Café, Epsom Road for a celebratory drink and a bite to eat. Cost is $12 per person (to be paid on arrival) – drinks at bar prices.

Thank you to Brooke, Linda and the 5-6 teachers for their input and support.

Numerous current grade 6 students along with past KPS students have assisted with the farewell and end of year preparations - particular thanks to Tamsin, Chloe, Zoe B and Lauren B for their help.

Fiona McIntosh
6-7 Transition Coordinator

Plantmania

Call out to all KPS families and teachers who know how to use a hose!

The holidays will soon be here and we are setting up a roster to ensure our veggies thrive over the break. If you will be around at any stage and could give a little time for watering please email me with your availability and contact details before 10th December.

The children have enjoyed planting their summer crops of tomatoes, beans, pumpkins, zucchinis, sunflowers (just to name a few) and it would be lovely to come back to a lush garden and bountiful harvest at the start of next year.

If you think you can help, please put your hand up.

Thanks in anticipation.

sharynolive@gmail.com

~ 10 ~
Also, a big THANK YOU to those parents who have been helping with the watering this term. It has made a remarkable difference having extra hands on the job. I hope you have enjoyed it and would like to continue in first term next year. It is rewarding to see the mature plants producing fruit after the holidays.

Opportunity to care for KPS chickens during the summer holidays

We would like to offer the opportunity for interested families to volunteer to care for the chickens again this year during the summer holidays. This is not a very onerous job and ideally each family might care for the chickens for a week, however this is flexible depending on demand. The children have all been incredibly enthusiastic during the Wednesday cooking and gardening sessions and I’m sure our volunteer families will get just as much pleasure.

The chickens would remain in their current housing at school but you would be required to:

- check on them and collect (and keep) the eggs,
- change their water (twice a week) and top up their food and
- feed them your kitchen scraps.

This can be done any time of the day that suits. They would need attending to every second day, but every day is fine if you want to spoil them.

You will be well supported with an instruction lesson before the end of term. We will also ensure there is a Grubbies member available as a contact if you have any questions or concerns during your time caring for the chickens.

If you think you might be interested or know you are interested then send me an email/text with your contact details at sharynolive@gmail.com

0417 237 497

If you only have certain times you are available in the holidays then please feel free to let me know these dates.

Thanks,
Sharyn Olive
Lost Swimming Bag

A swimming bag was lost last Wednesday 2nd December outside the aftercare room. It was a green supermarket bag containing a towel with pink pineapples, blue speedo bathers and pink goggles. It may have been taken home by mistake by another student at Aftercare. Please can you check your child’s bag and if found please return to Bonnie in 3/4S.

Community News

Department of Education & Kensington Primary School do not endorse the products or services of any private advertiser. No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education or Kensington.

Christmas Tree Sale

10-2pm 5th, 12th & 19th Dec. Trees $60. Stands $45. Order Online

www.6thMelbourneScouts.org.au

6th MELBOURNE SCOUT GROUP, 55 McCracken Street Kensington

The City of Melbourne’s last remaining Scout Group

~ 12 ~
State Schools’ Relief
Year 7 uniform package initiative

The Affordable School Uniform Program

Program background
Each year, State Schools’ Relief (SSR) provides tens of thousands of children with school clothing, shoes and other essential items. For the first time SSR has received government funding so that it can help more families needing financial assistance, and ensure no one is left behind. As part of the Victorian government’s uniform expansion program, every Year 7 (in 2016) government school student who is a recipient of the Camps, Sports and Excursion Fund (CSEF) automatically qualifies for a free uniform pack.

Eligibility requirements for CSEF can be found at www.education.vic.gov.au/csef.

What’s included in the uniform pack?
The uniform pack includes all basic uniform items needed to start secondary school (approx. value $225):

- Jumper x 1
- PE shirt x 1
- PE shorts x 1
- For girls: a dress (or shorts or trousers x 1 and a shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve)
- For boys: shorts or trousers x 1 and a shirt x 1 (long or short sleeve)

How can parents apply for the packs?
The 2015 CSEF recipients can apply for a pack from 1 December 2015 by contacting the secondary school where their child will attend. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents at www.ssrr.net.au/schools. Parents who missed this year’s CSEF applications or were ineligible in 2015, can apply in 2016. The 2016 program will be promoted via school newsletters and websites.

What if parents have already purchased their child’s uniform?
Eligible parents who have already purchased their child’s uniform for 2016 are entitled to a winter package available next year.

Can parents who are ineligible for the Camp, Sports and Excursion Fund or who have children in other year levels receive assistance from SSR?
Yes. Applications for parents requiring financial assistance for uniforms, text books or shoes are encouraged via the regular SSR services - www.ssrr.net.au/schools. SSR only responds to requests from schools (not from parents directly). Parents are encouraged to talk to their school principal, assistant principal or student welfare coordinator about their situation and they will assess their eligibility.

Terms and conditions
- Only CSEF recipients are eligible for the uniform packs.
- Each student is eligible for a single uniform pack.
- A voucher is dispatched electronically to the school, uniform shop or uniform supplier on approval. The school will provide the voucher to the parent/student to present at the uniform retailer (and not at SSR).
- The order is valid for 75 days from date of issue.
- Once expired, a new application must be lodged. Expired vouchers cannot be redeemed.
- Each voucher specifies the individual items funded by SSR.
- No change to the items can be made unless through the school.
- Changes made in store will not be honoured by SSR.
- The maximum voucher value is $225 and any short fall will not be covered by SSR.

More information
Parents: for CSEF application details please visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
Kensington Primary School Newsletter

Melbourne Renegades Family Day & Practice Match

Merv Hughes Oval
Farnsworth Ave, Footscray
11:00AM - 4:00PM
Sunday 13 December 2015
12:30PM Melbourne Renegades Practice Match

100 Story Holidays
Comic and writing workshops for children ages 7-12 years

18-22 January
100 Story Building, Footscray

Book now 100storybuilding.org.au
It's that time of year again.

Please come down with your picnic dinner to the Women's peace Garden for this wonderful Community Tradition on Friday 18th December

Carols begin around 8 pm

Candles for sale, all proceeds go to the Smith Family