Congratulations to our T-Ballers who won the Grand Final of the Sydney Coastal Public Schools Sporting Association (SC PSSA) last Friday. A terrific example of working together as a team, week after week, achieving these outstanding sporting results.

House Points Final Tally

The shield for 2015 goes to

Kurpinta: 44 110
Pindaree: 43 510
Mirabooka: 41 940
Balamarra: 41 450

School Captains 2016

Zoe and Jehudah Captains
Anuj and Amy Vice Captains
Farewell to Year 6 2015
Parents and caregivers of Year Six students are invited to attend a farewell assembly.
It will be held in the school hall on Monday 14 December at 9.30 to 11 am (approximately).

School Council 2015 Report
It has been another wonderful year at Kensington Public School (KPS).

Late in 2014, the Kensington area was hit by a major storm that destroyed the soft covered COLA shade shelter. The school upgraded the COLA with a hard cover which cost approximately $133 000. On behalf of the School Council I would like to thank the Department of Education (DoE), who through its joint funding program contributed to 50% of the cost of the COLA structure. The hard covered COLA was built over an extensive area with storm water run-off. This now allows for a larger covered area under which more events can be conducted throughout the year.

I would like to thank the KPS OOSH for their donation of $20 000 and the KPS community for working tirelessly in raising the remaining 50% of the cost of the COLA which was raised through the walkathon and crowd funding. This was a remarkable result and everyone in the school community should be very proud of this achievement.

Thank you to the P&C for their motivation and ongoing support in raising the funds to contribute to the structure including the 10 safety bumpers on the columns and the sound and light system, further enhancing its purpose.

In late Term 1, it was brought to the attention of the KPS School Council and P&C that the Centennial Parkland and Moore Park Trust were planning to increase their fees for PSSA sport fields hire to all schools that use their grounds.

It should be noted that it cost $75 a year in 2012 to cover the cost of students using these fields. However, they are now requesting schools to pay $23 000 from 2015, which will make it unaffordable for public schools to use these facilities as well as place the future of PSSA sport under risk of continuing.

Ultimately the proposed fee increase will be passed onto parents and a lot of work has been done behind the scenes to try and prevent this from happening. Randwick Council and local Councillors as well as many other schools and their parent groups affected by this decision, have been contacting the Trust to petition them to reconsider the enormous fee increase which impact upon our children. This issue is still “live” and there has not been a resolution made to date on whether they will guarantee that public schools in and around the area will be allowed to access their sporting fields at a fair and affordable fee in 2016.

The School Council in Term 2 also assisted with the proposals for a new school zone in consultation with feedback from other local principals, the DoE, Randwick Council town planners and demographers to ascertain the “new and closer” boundaries for entry into KPS in 2016. A number of schools in the area have had to rezone their enrolment catchment area to cater for the increase in the number of unit blocks being built and people moving into the area.

In Term 3 saw the introduction of a new system implemented in the “Kiss and Go” section of Doncaster Avenue after school each day which has proved to be very successful. The system now allows for a safer way to pick up our children. The KPS school community together with Randwick Council have embraced the new after school pick up arrangement ensuring all our students are kept safe. As a result of these arrangements, there have also been less parking issues.

On behalf of the School Council I would like to thank all KPS staff and parents who volunteer their time for approximately half an hour every day to assist with children being placed safely into their family cars and for ensuring the continued success of this new initiative going forward. In addition to the new pick up arrangement, a bus zone was provided as an added safety measure, particularly during the end of the day procedures. Randwick Council has also continued their support of the school assisting in the provision of bike racks for safer bike storage for students who ride to school, as well as their extra safety zones installed during Melbourne Cup Day.
Another highlight for KPS this year was the school being awarded a number of grants in a variety of areas. KPS was one of twenty schools throughout Australia who won a $20 000 environmental grant for the “Kensington Public School Waste Management” project. It was awarded by the Interface Discovery Education Collection who is the company creating beautiful and sustainable carpet tiles for the education sector. Two classrooms and corridors will be refurbished with these carpets during January 2016. KPS also won a “Go Greener” grant and was awarded $1 000 by Interface for our Going Greener (Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) project. These funds were used to purchase recycling eco bins for the classroom and encourage recycling around our school. KPS also applied for a “Randwick Council’s Food and Native Garden Grant” and were successful in receiving $2 000 towards our elevated native garden projects.

Thank you to all those involved in applying for and writing the tender documents that resulted in securing these grants for KPS. In addition to the above grants, KPS through “Local School, Local Decisions” reform have been provided with approximately $11 000 from Term 3, 2016 to assist with school and community programs to build community engagement which best suit the school’s needs.

On a separate note, I would like to thank the Kensington RSL for donating $7 600 earlier in the year to create three vertical gardens to commemorate the centenary of the landing at Gallipoli and holding their local ANZAC Day service within the school grounds which will now become an annual event.

Another huge initiative KPS is implementing is the “Bring Your Own Device” BYOD policy which is being rolled out in Term 1, 2016 to Year 4 students and then other Stages in due course. It is imperative to have this initiative implemented in KPS as it will complement the Australian School Curriculum and enhance the learning experience for each student as 21st Century Learners as they transition from primary to high school. BYOD is an important initiative for KPS as it will enable students to use technology to further their learning, both independently and in structured lessons. KPS teachers will also modify their lessons for students using their devices towards specific learning objectives and outcomes.

In addition to our positive results, the DoE who collects data about schools through the School Excellence Framework ascertained that KPS was one of the highest, student achievement growth schools in 2015. Congratulations to every family member, student and supporters in assisting the school to continue along its journey in being a community school and for these outstanding results.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the KPS School Council to thank the students, staff, parents, P&C and KPS community who have contributed to our school this year. I wish everyone continued success in 2016 and beyond.

School Council President, Stephanie Francis

PSSA Results

PSSA results from games played 4 December 2015

T-ball v Coogee A at Queens Park
Juniors Score Won 18-7
Player of the Week EVERYONE
Highlights: Congratulations to the T-Ball team, who won their grand final to finish as premiers! Everyone played well to record a great win! Well done on a great season.

Cricket at Queens Park
Junior Boys v Double Bay
Lost Score: 57-42
Players of the Week: Roger, Sandy and Tri
Senior Boys v Bronte
Won Score: 41-39
Player of the Week: Joel
Highlights: The Juniors finished in 4th place and the Seniors came 5th. The Juniors had a close loss in the last game. They had a great year with many good results. The Seniors had many close wins and never gave up. Thank you to all cricketers for a fantastic season.

Uniform Shop News

Volunteers are needed for 2016. If you are available one morning a week from 8.20am to 9.10am and would like to help in the uniform shop, please leave your name and contact details with the office or come in to the uniform shop and introduce yourself.

Important School Dates

All students in Kindergarten to Year 6 are required to attend school until Wednesday 16 December, the last day of teaching for Term 4 2015.

The first day back for students in Year 1 to Year 6 in 2016 is Thursday 28th January.

Kindergarten will start on Tuesday 2nd February except for their Best Start individual assessments from 28 January to 1 February.
Amalia’s Story – Year 1
There has been some terrific writing come out of the school in the latter part of the year. Students are showing significant improvement in their use of descriptive writing and manipulating grammar to enhance their stories. Have a look at Amalia’s efforts from Year 1.

It was midday and Ringmaster Rob decided to put up his circus tent on a boat in Sydney Harbour.

Suddenly he noticed that the striped red and yellow circus tent was sinking. The harbour went silent, camera crews driving past stopped to film.

Ringmaster Rob jumped off the boat and frantically paddled on to the shore.

He was safe but the circus tent sunk to the bottom.

No one ever saw it again and at that very moment the news showed that scene over and over again.

BYOD There is a new page on our website which contains a range of resources to support Year 4 parents to understand how the BYOD program will impact their child. Keep checking the webpage for an update about an explanation of a deal with Apple to purchase items at a reduced price. Apple is only one of three recommendations we make as a part of BYOD. The next meeting will be held at 6.30pm Monday 14 December in the Library for Year 4 parents.

Photos: On display in the hall are student photos from our various extra curricula and sporting activities throughout 2015. Teams and groups were assembled today in school uniform to capture a record of their involvement. Ms Fredman used her expertise with a camera to capture these groups of students. For parents who wish a copy of a photo, we are happy to forward via email the photo chosen where parents can then use a photo service to have it printed for as little as 85 cents for each 8x10 photo. These online services can be found at Harvey Norman Photo Centre or Woolworths Photo Centre and are very easy to navigate. For those families wishing assistance with a printed version please contact the office and they can assist in using these photo centres to get your memory printed.

Student Reports Go Home
Tomorrow, Thursday 10 December the student reports will be sent home. In addition, a summary report of student achievement in each grade is available to peruse in the front office.
Congratulations to Carla who has been selected to represent the school at Admiralty House on Australia Day 2016. This is a huge honour to be selected. Carla had to submit a short video about herself as part of the selection process.

ICA S Writing Results

Students in Years 3-6 will receive their writing results from the ICAS testing. 4 students have received High Distinction, 21 Distinction, 19 Credit, 5 Merit and 39 Participation awards. Over 50% of participants received recognition for their results above the Australian average results. Superb!

How to make a Hand Printed Christmas Card
by Chloe, Kiyara and Sumaiya 2N

Have you ever made a Christmas card? You can make one following these simple steps.

Materials
- styrofoam tray
- thick pencil
- Christmas pictures
- red or green paint
- red cardboard
- white paper

Steps
1. Cut out a 10cm by 12cm rectangle shape from the Styrofoam tray.
2. Tape the Christmas picture on the Styrofoam rectangle.
3. Lightly trace the picture with the pen.
4. Take off the Christmas picture and sticky tape.
5. Trace the lines again but this time make it wider and deeper using a thick pencil.
6. Apply the paint with the foam roller on to the Styrofoam rectangle.
7. Press the Styrofoam onto the white paper to make your first print.
8. Cut out your picture when it is dry and glue it to the red cardboard.
9. Write something nice to your relatives or friends.

We hope you enjoy making your home-made Christmas card.

We wish you a happy holiday!
**Uniform Shop**

At the end of the year it is important to remember the kind parents who give up their precious time every week to volunteer in the uniform shop.

Not only does the uniform shop contribute massively to the overall P&C fundraising total but more importantly, it provides a central place twice a week for parents to get their kids kitted out in the correct uniform. None of this would happen without a small group of trusty volunteers who turn up every week of every term.

We thank all the uniform shop volunteers but we must also say a sad farewell and a thousand thanks to Caroline, Diep and Helen for their years of service. Thanks again and good luck at your new schools!

We are still looking for volunteers who are available once a week from 8.20am – 9.10am to help out at the uniform shop. If you are able to help please contact kensopandc@gmail.com

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**Playdates for 2016 Kindergarten Children**

If your child is starting Kindergarten in 2016, why not introduce them to other children from their year group at the P&C playdates. Please note, these are not official school events, they are organised by the P&C. The playdates are a great way to get to know other families and make the first day a bit less daunting.

The dates we have scheduled are:

- **Monday 14th December, 3.15pm at Kokoda Park playground**
- **Wednesday 20th January, 10.30am at Duke Street playground**
- **Thursday 28th January, 1pm at Kensington Oval playground.**

We hope you can make it!

**2016 Kindergarten Tea and Tissues, Tuesday 2nd February**

Just as it sounds! The P&C will provide a morning tea, as you drop off your kindergarten child for their very first day of school on Tuesday 2nd February 2016.

Tea and Tissues gives you the opportunity to meet other kindergarten parents and you can share the first day blues over tea and biscuits. Tissues will be available!

Tea and Tissues takes place immediately after children go to their classrooms. Venue TBC, it’s rather dependent on the weather – traditionally it rains!

**P&C Committee**

All P&C Committee positions are up for re-election at the P&C AGM (Annual General Meeting) in February. If you think you might like to be on the Committee next year please feel free to contact me (Jude) or any of the current committee members for further information. Please email us on kensopandc@gmail.com

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**K-2 Big Science Fun Show & Yrs 3-6 Planetarium Show**

2015 has been a very successful year for the P&C and as such we’ve been able to fund a number of educational resources for the school.

Although it is wonderful and absolutely necessary to buy new readers, maths and history books and help fund the shade shelter, we don’t imagine the children themselves are overly excited about this and running home saying “Mum/Dad the P&C are so great, they’ve bought us new history books, I’m so excited”. Sound familiar? I doubt it!

We wanted to end the year therefore with something that was not only educational for the children but would (hopefully) have the WOW factor. You never know, you may even get to hear about it at the end of the day.

So please ensure your children know that the K-2 Big Fun Show and the 3-6 Planetarium Show, both happening this week, have been funded by the P&C as we wanted something special for the extra special Kids of Kensington!