Meet the Teacher - A Change of Date

It has come to light that the date we had selected for our Meet the Teacher was the day before Chinese New Year. This is the evening that traditionally families meet to celebrate the forthcoming New Year. Therefore, a large number of our parents will be unable to attend our planned Meet the Teacher evening.

Negotiations with staff has found that Monday 16th February is the new date to discuss classroom and grade routines. We apologise for the inconvenience caused to everyone for not factoring in this important event.

There is no need to complete the online booking request form as a result.

P&C News

All P&C committee positions are open at the beginning of each year. All parents are welcome to attend meetings and/or be part of the committee. Elections are held at the AGM, with accepting candidates being asked to commit to 1 year. There are 5 positions, with currently no nominations:

- P&C President
- Vice President 1
- Vice President 2
- Secretary
- Treasurer

If you would consider being nominated for one of these positions, please email kensopandc@gmail.com or phone Helen on 0431 959295 to find out more information.

We hope to see many of you at the P&C AGM on Tuesday 24th February at 7.30pm. Meetings are typically 1 1/2 hours in length and there is no obligation to sign up to do anything. Fundraising is only a part of P&C business and contributing could be as simple as telling us about a source for a particular service we need. Simply listening to what is going on is a valuable contribution so that when you do have time you will be well equipped to become involved.

In short, we encourage everyone to really embrace our school’s P&C in 2015 and join in the exciting opportunities to share in enhancing our children’s educational journey.

Ethics Teacher Needed

Due to the increased size of Kindergarten this year, we do not have enough teachers to teach the Primary Ethics complement to Scripture. If a teacher cannot be found, then we will not be able to offer this program for some children.

If you are interested in finding out about volunteering at Kensington, lessons are held on Wednesdays 1.45-2.15pm.

Please visit http://www.primaryethics.com.au/ethicsteacher.html for more information and to register your interest.

House Captains and Vice Captains 2015

Congratulations to the following students who have been elected as 2015 House Leaders.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Captains</th>
<th>Vice Captains</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saia</td>
<td>Kevin</td>
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<tr>
<td>and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jaime</td>
<td>Vanessa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edward</td>
<td>Nabidul</td>
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<td>and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lucy</td>
<td>Carla</td>
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<tr>
<td>Patrick</td>
<td>Matthew,</td>
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<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>Joel and</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ayeshah</td>
<td>Katrina</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thomas</td>
<td>Jehudah</td>
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<tr>
<td>and</td>
<td>and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sophie</td>
<td>Eugenia</td>
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Performing Arts News

Next week (Week 4) we will be starting rehearsal of the choirs and Dance ensemble. If any student is interested in these activities, please be at the first rehearsal on time.

Mrs Samarakoon will be taking dance in the hall from 8am -9am on Mondays. This activity is only for Years 5 & 6 students.

Senior: Ms Fredman will be taking Year 5/6 choir in her room Tuesday morning at 8.10am.

Junior: Mrs Parsons and Ms Noordewier will be taking Yr 3 and 4 choir in the hall Tuesday recess.

Infant: Mrs Marshall and Mrs Krivosic will be taking Yr 1 and 2 choir in the hall on Tuesday mornings at 8.10am.

Photo Day

The Photo Day is on Tuesday 24th February 2015. Please ensure that students are wearing the correct school uniform and footwear. Each child is given an envelope which is self-explanatory with price breakdowns, methods of payment and options to select. These envelopes must be returned on or before photo day. For any payments after photo day, parents are to contact the photographer directly on www.theschoolphotographer.com.au or call 96749824.

If you would like sibling photos, pre-payment envelopes are available at the office. All sibling photographs should be paid for in these envelopes and kept separately.

Please do not use the school’s online payment system for these photos.

Thank you for your co-operation. Maria Alexandrou

Positive Behaviours for Learning review.

The attached document details the work the staff have been undertaking to review our discipline and wellbeing policy. It is attached for community consultation before it is taken to the School Council for discussion during the next few months.

Library News

Welcome to another wonderful year at Kensington Public School.

We are very excited about teaching the library lessons. Lessons have commenced this week (Week 3) and we hope all students will have a library bag so that they can begin to borrow some of our wonderful books.

If any parent can spare some time covering books, please drop in and see us either before or after school. Books can be taken home to cover with contact and all equipment provided.

Important information about library lessons

Timetable: Students attend weekly library lessons. Library lesson days for each class are listed in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Library lessons</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
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<td>Friday</td>
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Library bag: Students will borrow books during library class time. They must have a library bag in order to take the books home. Library bags are sold for $10 each at school uniform shop.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>YR 1</th>
<th>YR 2</th>
<th>YR 3</th>
<th>YR 4</th>
<th>YR 5</th>
<th>YR 6</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of books</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>4</td>
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Loans: Students may borrow books for one week at a time. Loaned items can be renewed. Loan limits are shown in the table above.

Lunchtime activity: Students will have the opportunity to use the library facilities during second half of lunch (Mon-Thurs). Students may enjoy activities such as reading, board games, Mathletics and Reading Eggs.

Please see us if you have any questions.

Meghan Curtis and Sandy Blanch

P&C Meeting 24/2 at 7.30pm

A very special talk no parent should miss about the use of Instagram in schools, whether your child uses it or not!

School Council Meeting 24/2 At 6.30pm
Driving Around Schools
Managing driving and parking behaviour around our schools and educating parents and the local community is a continuing challenge for schools and local policing authorities. The focus of the school zone program remains on vehicle speed and has been highly successful in teaching all drivers to slow down in school zones. However, the issues of hazardous parking, illegal U-turns, traffic congestion and conflict with local residents during drop-off and pick-up periods continues to be a constant headache for many schools and a threat to the safety of children and the community in general.

Over the last decade, schools have faced increasing pressure in trying to manage driver behaviour. Three children under the age of 16 have died within a school zone. Outside of school zones but within the times of drop off (8.00-9.30) and pick up (14.30-16.00) ten children under the age of 16 have also died; on average, 131 pedestrians under the age of 16 are injured each year in NSW during the same drop off and pick up periods (data received from the Policy and Regulation Division of Transport for NSW).

The drivers around Kensington continue to manage the pick up of students very well during the past two and a half weeks. Having some of you delay that 5-10 minutes is stopping the major congestion. We have only had one traffic infringement in the past two weeks.

To our pedestrians thank you for acting upon the request to use the traffic lights when crossing the road, the community is grateful in teaching all children about road safety by modelling safe behaviours.

Kidz Flicks.
Congratulations to Mrs Vlahos as well as Mrs Krivosic and Miss Wang for their successful entries into the ‘KidzFlicks 2015’ festival, which will be held from the 23rd - 27th March. The films will screen at Event Cinemas Bondi Junction, Macquarie Centre, Parramatta, Campbelltown and Liverpool. There will be additional screenings at Waverley, Fairfield and Chatswood Libraries.

The films are being showed in two categories.
1. What the students at KPS think about the issues of Reconciliation.
2. KPS Mandarin speakers describe how the Confucius Classroom operates at Kensington Public.

DEC Rule Changes
Affecting Attendance
Students Attending Lessons Outside School During School Hours
9.1 Involvement in private lessons, such as ballet and music classes, conducted outside the school during school hours may not be conducive to the effective operation of the school or to the education of the student concerned. Students’ involvement in extracurricular activities will usually be limited to outside school hours.

9.2 Where attendance at a private lesson during school hours is of exceptional importance such as sitting examinations, principals may use their discretion in justifying the absence. This provision must not be used on a regular basis.

9.3 If parents withdraw their children from school for private lessons, an unjustified absence should be recorded and dealt with in the usual manner.

b) Certificate of Extended Leave
14.6. Where a principal considers that the travel is appropriate during school term, the principal should issue the parent with an Application for Extended Leave – Travel for completion and inform the parent that if the application is accepted, the absences will be recorded as “L” – Leave.

14.7. Principals should request travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket, and ensure this is attached to the application.

Uniform Shop
Uniform shop days are Tuesday and Thursday mornings 8.30 am to 9.00 am.

Please note that payment is by cash or cheque only.

• Short sleeved polo tops sizes 4, 6, 8 are currently out of stock.

• Raincoats sizes small, medium and large are now in stock.

Notes Home this week
Notes are generally sent home each Wednesday. We find that if we have one day where notes are sent home then parents are able to look for them on that day.

• Swimming Carnival sent home last Monday
• Kinder P&C Evening
Roosters Visit – Eat Well Play Well Program

The National Rugby League (NRL) will celebrate the start of the 2015 school year with the annual Community Carnival. As well as promoting local Junior Rugby League clubs and the benefits of participating in team sport, the 2015 Community Carnival will focus on the NRL’s Wellbeing program “Eat Well, Play Well, Stay Well”. This program’s focus is to raise key and valued points of mental wellness, Physical Fitness, nutrition and positive relationships. The campaign is designed to complement work done by schools in the Student Wellbeing area. Players and NRL Ambassadors will visit our school on Monday 23rd February to reinforce key wellbeing messages.

Homework Class

Homework class operates in the Library on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 3 pm until 4.15pm. The cost is $5 per session for one child, $8 per session for two children, and $10 per session for three children. Money can be given to the supervising teacher on the day.

To enrol your child in Homework class, please send a letter to your child’s class teacher indicating which days they will be attending the class. The spots are limited and you will be informed in writing if we are unable to accommodate your request.

The supervising teacher will assist students with their homework, which should be brought to the class. Once the homework is completed, students can engage in quiet reading or drawing activities. Older students are permitted to walk home by themselves once they have completed their homework only if they have a written parent permission note.

Calendar

Week 4
Mon 16th - Parent Teacher Evening 6pm-7pm
Tues 17th – Yrs 3-6 Swimming Carnival – 8.20am
- Speech and Drama Classes 8am
Thurs 19th – Chinese New Year – Year of the Sheep

Week 5
Mon 23rd – Roosters NRL Eat Well Live Well Visit
Tues 24th – Class Photos
- School Council Meeting 6.30pm
- P&C 7.30pm
- Instagram and Social Media Talk
Thurs 26th – Kinder

School Council Elections

Our School Council is due for re-election and we are seeking nominations. All parent nominations should be in a sealed envelope to the Office by 3pm Friday 14th, This Friday!
- Ballot papers will be in the newsletter of 19 February with voting papers to be returned to school by 3pm, 24th February 2014.
- The election process must be concluded before the Annual General Meeting to be held at 6.30 pm on Tuesday 24 February, 2015.

School Council Parent Nomination Form 2015

| Nominee’s name | ____________________________ |
| Nominated by   | ____________________________ |
| Seconded by    | ____________________________ |
| Nomination accepted | ____________________________ |
| Date | |

Kinder Parents 'Get Together

The KPS P&C invite Kinder parents to a ‘Starting School Celebration’
Thursday 26th February
6.30pm-9.00pm
at Café Jacks (126 Anzac Parade, Kensington)
This is a social opportunity to meet other Kinder parents.
$30pp for finger food and soft drinks or
$35pp for finger food, alcoholic and soft drinks
Any queries: kensopandc@gmail.com

Please RSVP (no later than 20/02/15) by returning the completed slip along with payment to your class teacher.

Names: ____________________________

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of people attending</th>
<th>$30pp for finger food and soft drinks</th>
<th>$35pp for finger food, alcoholic and soft drinks</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Get involved in the School Banking program.

You can get involved in the School Banking program by opening a Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account at any Commonwealth Bank branch, over the phone on 13 2221 or via NetBank if you are an existing customer with NetBank access.

Remember to take in identification for you and your child (driver's license and birth certificate). You will receive a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book that your child will use to participate in the program.

When your child makes their first deposit at school they will earn their first Dollarmites token and our school will also receive $5 commission. Thank you for supporting our school and helping teach your child the benefits of saving regularly.

Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124. Call 13 2221 at any time. As this advice has been prepared without considering your objectives, financial situation or needs, you should, before acting on this advice, consider its appropriateness to your circumstances. Full terms and conditions for transaction and savings accounts are available from any branch of the Commonwealth Bank and should be considered in any decision about the product. If you have a complaint in respect of this product, the Commonwealth Bank’s dispute resolution process can be accessed on 13 2221.

School Banking Day Reminder.

Don’t forget that Tuesday 8am to 9am is School Banking day and students should bring in their weekly deposit.

For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a cool Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for an exclusive School Banking reward item in recognition of their continued savings behaviour.

Remember our school earns 5% commission on every deposit made (to a maximum of $10 per individual deposit). Thank you for supporting the School Banking program at Kensington Public School.

There have been cases of Pediculosis (Nits) at school and it is advisable to check your child(ren)’s hair and treat accordingly.

If a child is affected he/she is not allowed to attend school until treatment has been carried out successfully.

Advice can be obtained from a chemist, and if you have any concerns please consult the advice of a pharmacist or a doctor.

Tips for tackling kids head lice:
- Use hair conditioner and a fine head lice comb.
- Apply conditioner to the hair & comb through with a wide-toothed comb to remove the tangles.
- Then use a fine metal lice comb to remove the lice and pull the nits off the hair.
- The conditioner helps slow down the louse & makes it easier to comb out.

For more information go to the “Nitbusters” website www.health.nsw.gov.au/headlice/

With your co-operation we can ensure that it does not become a major problem in the school.

Half of the people who have head lice never scratch their head, so itching is not a reliable sign. Lice can be hard to spot because they move quickly.

The easiest and most effective way to find head lice is to use the conditioner and comb treatment weekly. This includes:

- Step 1. Comb hair conditioner onto dry, brushed (detangled) hair. This makes it difficult for lice to grip the hair or run around.
- Step 2. Wipe the conditioner from the comb onto a paper towel or tissue.
- Step 3. Look on the tissue and on the comb for lice and eggs.
- Step 4. Repeat the combing for every part of the head at least four or five times.
- Step 5. If the person has been treated recently and only hatched eggs are found, you may not have to treat them again, since the eggs could be from the old infection.
- Step 6. If lice or eggs are found, the person should be treated.
String Ensemble

After a very successful 2014, the String Ensemble is ready to go for 2015. Last year the String Ensemble performed for a variety of events which included the Music Soiree evenings, Presentation Day and as part of the Massed String Ensemble for the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House. If you play a string instrument that includes the violin, viola, cello or double bass we would love to have you in the group.

Rehearsals will be held Wednesday before school from 8.15am-9.00am in the Hall. The first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, February 18th. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Drimatis- String Ensemble Tutor on 0411 357 095.

P&C Special
30 min Talk
by the Police about the impact of Instagram.

There are important facts parents need to be aware of about the use of certain types of social media.

At 7.30pm – 8pm just before the P&C AGM the police will share their strategies in dealing with these important social media activities

Peter Pilot Pencil Grip

At some point in time you have probably seen a child who awkwardly clutches a pencil as he tries to write or wraps his fingers around a pen in a way that you don’t think you could ever duplicate. Maybe a teacher has even told you that your child’s pencil grip is incorrect. Perhaps you, yourself, have a signature grip to which you’ve grown accustomed. Maybe you think that a pencil grip is not that important compared to reading or maths facts. Have you resigned yourself to the thought that your child just has bad handwriting, and it’s not worth the fight to correct it? Yet, handwriting is a battle worth fighting, especially in a child’s early years. Handwriting and pencil grasp hold neurological importance.

Handwriting involves a relationship between visual processing skills and fine motor control; this is often called hand-eye coordination. Visual demand is required when guiding a hand in one direction or another. Eyes are forced to analyse patterns, shapes, size and directions of symbols every time we attempt to write. Simultaneously the brain is commanding our hand to manipulate a writing instrument. Mae Depew, M.Ed. (2001) states that movement is centered in the brain stem, which also controls reading, writing, spelling, and speech functions. Therefore, difficulties in visual-motor skills have direct influence on academic performance. When there are weaknesses in visual processing skills or motor control, handwriting is likely to be affected.

There is a high correlation between learning difficulties and fine motor control. Improper pencil grips obstruct the line of sight from the tip of the pencil to the eye. Students are often forced to tilt their head or hold their head close to the paper, both causing significant eye strain. A student holding her head 4-8 in. from the paper is working two to three times harder compared to the visual processes required at a normal distance of 13 inches (Depew, 2001).

www.actsoflearning.com/handwriting_pencil-grip.htm
KPS SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015

When? Tuesday 17th February
Where? Des Renford Aquatic Centre, Maroubra
Time? Students are leaving at 8.30am SHARP for a 9.00am start. The carnival finishes at 12.00 and then students and teachers go to Heffron Park for lunch and play.
Who? Year 3-6

(If your child is in Year 2 and turning 8 this year and can swim 50 metres freestyle in less than 50 seconds, please ask their swimming coach to time them and sign the note and send the note to your child’s teacher)

What to wear
• Swimming costumes
• House colour t-shirt with shorts, skirt or sports shorts
• Shoes and socks
• School hat and sunscreen

What to bring
• Underwear, towel, goggles
• Plastic bag for wet swimming items
• Morning tea and lunch (canteen at the pool will be open)

Order Of Events
1. Open Boys 100m Freestyle
2. Open Girls 100m Freestyle

25m or 50m Breaststroke races (children choose to enter either race)
3. Junior Boys Breaststroke
4. Junior Girls Breaststroke
5. 11 years Boys Breaststroke
6. 11 years Girls Breaststroke
7. Senior Boys Breaststroke
8. Senior Girls Breaststroke

25m or 50m Freestyle races (children choose to enter either race)
9. 8 years Boys Freestyle
10. 8 years Girls Freestyle
11. 9 years Boys Freestyle
12. 9 years Girls Freestyle
13. 10 years Boys Freestyle
14. 10 years Girls Freestyle
15. 11 years Boys Freestyle
16. 11 years Girls Freestyle
17. 12 years Boys Freestyle
18. 12 years Girls Freestyle

50m Butterfly races (only 50m)
19. Junior Boys Butterfly
20. Junior Girls Butterfly
21. 11 years Boys Butterfly
22. 11 years Girls Butterfly
23. Senior Boys Butterfly
24. Senior Girls Butterfly

25m or 50m Backstroke races (children choose to enter either race)
25. Junior Boys Backstroke
26. Junior Girls Backstroke
27. 11 years Boys Backstroke
28. 11 years Girls Backstroke
29. Senior Boys Backstroke
30. Senior Girls Backstroke

* 4x25m Freestyle relays

*Please note that freestyle races are organised according to what age your child will be in 2015.
All other races will be organised according to district guidelines, which are:
Junior (ages 8, 9 and 10 in 2015), 11 years and Senior (ages 12 years and above in 2015).

** Morning tea will be slotted in whenever it is appropriate.