Australian Hellenic Educators’ Association has provided an award to Carla as a student of Modern Greek, who has shown diligence, enthusiasm and has been achieving a very good level of communication in class during 2015.

Carla, her family and Mrs Alexandrou attended a ceremony at Parliament House last evening to receive the ‘Phoevos’ award.
Classes 2016

The following teachers have been allocated classes

**KC** - Mrs Meghan Curtis (Mon- Wed) and Assistant Principal
    Miss Hsiu-Yen Hsu (Thurs – Fri)

**KM** - Miss Sarah Montefiore
    (KC and KS are in a team teaching room.)
    *However, teachers have responsibility for their own allocated students.*

**KP** - Miss Lauren Pitt

**1/K H** - Miss Rachel Heywood

**1T** - Miss Emma Tuxworth

**1C** - Mrs Mary Carroll (Mon- Fri Term 1 then Wed-Fri Term 2 till the end of the year)
    Mrs Alyce Samarkoon (Mon-Tues Terms 2- 4)

**1E** - Mr Dacre England (Term 1) a permanent teacher will be appointed from Term 2

**2B** - Miss Bettina Croft
    Assistant Principal Stage 1

**2O** - Mr Ryan O’Connor

**2/1P** - Miss Aleena Ludke (Terms 1&2)
    Mrs Jennifer Saunders Terms 3-4 (Mon-Tues)
    Mrs Aziyadee Peyrou Terms 3-4 (Wed- Fri)

**3P** - Mrs Julie Parsons

**3R** - Mrs Jo Robinson (Mon-Wed)
    Miss Sally Blackwood (Thurs-Fri)

**4/3W** - Miss Gail Wanless

**4C** - Mr Andrew Clifton

**5/4K** - Mrs Zrinka Krivosic

**5E** - Mrs Cathy Espinosa

**6/5D** - Mrs Karen Davis

**6/5C** - Mr Ben Colmer - Assistant Principal Stage 3

**Library** - Mr Grant Rimmer (Mon-Wed) and Instructional Leader (Thurs-Fri)
    Assistant Principal Stage 2

**Library** - Mrs Sandy Blanch (Thurs – Fri)

**Reading Recovery** - Ms Linda Noordewieir

**Learning Support** - Ms Linda Noordewieir (Term 1)
    Mrs Wendy Hayfield (Terms 2-4)

**Performing Arts** - Mrs Emma Fredman

**Languages** - Miss Ya’onna Guo (Mon-Thurs)
    Miss Simy Chen (Mon-Wed)
    Mrs Maria Alexandrou (Mon-Wed)

**Confucius** - Mr Ryan Yang and Mr Ivan Zhou (from March)

**EAL/D** - Mrs Rana Straker and Mrs Sue Mendlesohn (Tues-Wed)

Once again the pressure for enrolment at the school is extensive. Unfortunately we have had to disappoint many families. The boundary changes for 2016 have started.

The task of selecting classes is a lengthy and difficult one with as many points of view as students, parents and teachers. The next page details the class formation policy for Kensington Public School.

The school is once again so superbly supported by ancillary and cleaning staff.

**Administration**

Manager - Mrs Sibel McKenna
Officer - Mrs Christine Horton
Officer - Mrs Pam Chow
Officer - Mrs Veronica Venianakis
General Assistant - Mr Bruce Gollan

**Cleaning**

Mrs Effie Mokas and Mrs Betty Kesidis

The work Betty put into the school during the holiday period was outstanding. Two days were allocated by the cleaning contractor to prepare the school for the start of the new school year. Betty spent the best part of 3 weeks cleaning the school, mostly unpaid. We are truly lucky to have such a dedicated person working for the students.

In addition, Bruce spent a significant amount of time in moving garden beds around the school in addition to many other tasks. This was hard work during a very hot summer. Thank you

**K-2 Term 1 Assembly Roster Tuesday 2.20pm**

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**Notes Home**

- PSSA Sports Notes Yrs 3-6
- School Sports Notes Yrs 3-6
  - AFL, Swimming, Summer Sports
- Swimming Carnival Note Yrs 3-6
- Kindergarten Scripture Note
Class Formation Policy

Rationale
There needs to be a clear and consistent policy in the formation and allocation of classes at Kensington Public School so that students and teachers are treated equitably, according to their needs within the organisational structure of the school.

Class Structures
The school structure and the formation of classes at Kensington Public School is constrained by the Department of Education staffing formula. A school structure that best meets the needs of students and teachers will be designed by staff and ratified by the Principal. The principal has the delegated authority to determine the final make up of classes.

Student Allocation Process
Students will be allocated to classes by the school executive, in consultation with the relevant teachers. The following criteria are considered when classes are formed so that the best interests of ALL students are taken into account. These criteria are not in order of importance.

- All classes will be academically balanced.
- Language - students who need to be together to provide language support for each other.
- Friendships - students who need support from another close friend, or students who are best separated so they may concentrate on their studies.
- Learning Difficulties - students who are experiencing difficulties are spread between available classes.
- Special Needs - these may be social, intellectual, emotional or physical.
- Cultural Balance - each class is formed to have a range of nationalities and cultures.
- Gender Balance - a balance of boys and girls.
- Consideration is given to whether a teacher and student have been together before.
- As far as is possible, no child will be placed in a multi-grade class in consecutive years.

Identification of Needs
The identification of needs will be achieved through:

- Professional deliberations of those staff who are familiar with students.
- Academic and welfare data.
- Students educational history (previous classes, school(s), special circumstances)
- Significant information that may be supplied by parents (history, social of emotional factors).

Allocation of Teachers
The allocation of teachers to classes is determined after a consultative process that takes into consideration:

- Teacher preferences.
- Past experience, professional skills and expertise.
- Professional learning goals of staff.
- The creation of effective, balanced stage teams.
- The needs of new teachers to the school.
- The needs of graduates new to the teaching profession.

These considerations are not in priority order.

Kindergarten Classes
Teachers of Kindergarten will undertake a series of observations during Kindergarten Transition days, and the Best Start Assessment program. The information gained – English language proficiency, academic skills, personality, learning needs, social skills etc will be used to form classes that are as even as possible. In some cases, pre-school information, when available, will also be used to ensure the most appropriate class placement.

Composite Classes
Composite or multi-aged classes are formed when numbers of children in the grade are such that two complete classes cannot be formed or meet the needs of the student cohort. Classes will be formed using the same criteria as the comprehensive classes using data from the current year’s assessment. The teachers forming the classes will give consideration to the independent work habits of the children and their ability to work in a multi-aged environment. Consideration is also given to those children who have been in a composite class in the previous year.

Parent Enquiries and Privacy
Whilst any parent is entitled to know how their own child came to be placed in a particular class, the school is required to maintain the privacy of the needs of other students and is not able to outline the particular reasons as to why other students have been placed in particular classes.

Although specific parent requests can be made, due to the complexity of the placement process, these requests are not a priority when placing children in classes. The principal will have the final decision as to the placement of a student.

Timeline
- During Term 4 information will be collected from class teachers regarding the class placement
- Needs and recommendations for the following year.
- Students will resume the school year in the classes from the previous year, until all new enrolments are finalised.
- As soon as is practicable, new classes will be formed.
- Once a child is placed in a class they will not be moved on a request from parents.
Speech and Drama    GRADES 3 – 6
Give your children the gift of Effective Communication by enrolling them in Speech and Drama Classes with Sheila Hammond, Voice Power. They will learn to:
- Express Ideas clearly and confidently
- Gain Confidence
- Learn Poetry, Mime and Improvisation skills
- Develop their Imagination
- Develop Skills for Public Speaking.
Classes Resume on the 16th February, 2016 from 3 pm – 4 pm in the School Library for a 7 week term. For Fees, further information and enrolment, please contact Sheila on 0404 961 358, or give details to school office prior to that date.

Private Guitar Tuition
A private instructor is offering to hold classes in Guitar Tuition. The instructor is Ricky Kradolfer whose website details his experiences.
http://rickykradolfer.wix.com/rickykradolfer
The program involves teaching and coaching of guitar students, but spans to learning to play as a group, song writing, stage performance and recording.
Details of costs and timetabled days are yet to be negotiated.
To gauge interest before proceeding with further negotiations please contact the school office leaving your child’s name and your contact details.

Violin Lessons
Over the last year violin classes have been offered to the school in order to promote music education and contribute to the thriving arts program at Kensington Public. After tuition for a year the students will be eligible to participate in the Kensington Public String Ensemble. Violin lessons for continuing students will commence in Week 3 on Wednesday February 10. For new students interested in learning the violin, classes are offered to those students in Year One and above. The costs of lessons are below:
$18 per half hour shared lesson
$20 for a 20 mins individual lesson
$35 per half hour individual lesson
Lessons will be held on a Wednesday during school time. For those interested in learning the violin please give your name to Chris in the office and email Joanna Drimatis - idrimatis@gmail.com.

Visual Art News
Every school in New South Wales is invited to participate in Operation Art, an initiative of The Children’s Hospital at Westmead in association with the New South Wales Department of Education and Communities. The Operation Art program provides a forum for schools and students to demonstrate their visual arts achievements through exhibitions at the Armory Gallery, Sydney Olympic Park and the Art Gallery of New South Wales.
Congratulations to Anni, in Year 4 who submitted her brilliant painting titled, “Little Miss Speckle”
Anni’s work was selected as one of 50 chosen to be included in the 2016 Operation Art Touring Exhibition. The works will tour around NSW regional galleries and on their return will be given to the Children’s Hospital at Westmead to become part of their permanent art collection.

String Ensemble
The String Ensemble is ready to go for 2016. In the past the String Ensemble has performed for a variety of events which include 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 Ms Fredman’s Room. The first rehearsal will be in Week 4 on Wednesday, February 17th. For further information please do not hesitate to contact Joanna Drimatis- String Ensemble Tutor on 0411 357 095.

Canteen
A reminder that the canteen will remain closed for Term 1. However, a tendering process has been started with a view for a new operator in place by Term 2.
Thank you for your understanding with this issue.
The school photographer will be at school on Wednesday 17 February to take two sets of photos.

Firstly, the traditional 'My First Day'- Kindergarten Photos will be taken.

These photos will be followed with the students who are participating in the following extra curricular activities:

Infants choir    Junior choir
Senior choir    Senior band
Junior band    School captains
String Ensemble  Oz Tag
T-Ball     Softball

To make payment for school photos after photography day you can choose one of the following options -

1. Go to the School Photographer website www.theschoolphotographer.com.au and select the "Click here for Online Payments" button and follow the on screen instructions. OR
2. Call the office on 9674 9824 and we will take your credit card payment over the phone. (Note - there is a processing fee of $5 for phone payments)

Kindest regards, The School Photographer

Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival

Permission notes sent home or are online

An excursion to Des Renford Aquatic Centre and Heffron Park has been arranged for our annual school swimming carnival as a component of our PDHPE and sport curriculum.

When: Tuesday 16th February, 2016
Cost: $12   Travel: Students will travel by bus.

What to wear: Children are to wear swimmers under their clothes which can be house colours or sports uniform. They must have their school hat and appropriate shoes.

What to bring: Underwear, towel and goggles, morning tea, lunch and water bottle.

The canteen at the venue will be open.

Students will leave school at **8.25am** and return by 3.00pm.

Please note the early departure time.

Parents are of course welcome at the pool to support the children.

Parent Online Payments (POP)

I am pleased to advise that POP, is now user friendly on mobile devices.

Behind the scenes Westpac has been working on an upgrade to the Parent Online Payment webpage attached to the school's website. In the past using the "$ Make a payment" page through a mobile device or tablet has not been as easy as on a computer. Now, automatically, when parents click on this page, via a mobile device, they will be able to complete the online form with ease.

School Banking Account Opening Next Two Tuesdays (9 and 16 Feb).

Parent to bring Driver’s Licence only for identification

**Remember School Banking is every Tuesday from 8am – 9am**

Not only do the children learn valuable saving habits, they are rewarded with prizes for every 10 deposits and the Commonwealth Bank rewards our School with cash for every deposit made. Everyone wins!

Deposits can be as little as 50 cents. Please support our School and join School Banking. The lovely Mums at the desk are looking forward to seeing you.

Uniform

A huge thank you to the parents and students for taking our uniform policy seriously. Kensington is often noted for its standards. Last year we were having issues with school bags and black shoes or sneakers (various coloured patterns and laces ended up on the shoes). Thank you getting us back to our high standard. It saves many hours of discussion and time when we are all supporting each other with our uniform standards.
Welcome Back KPS Parents

Happy New Year! I can’t believe we are back already! The school holidays have just flown by and now we are well and truly back to reality with the daily lunchbox negotiations and hunting for clean matching socks!

Firstly, I must extend a warm KPS greeting to all our new Kindergarten parents. I hope you will enjoy your time as a parent at the school and find Kensington to be a friendly and inclusive community – that has always been my experience.

I got to meet some new Kindergarten parents at the ‘Kindergarten Tea and Tissues’ yesterday which is always a pleasure. It was lovely to see new friendships, which will probably last through KPS and beyond, being formed over a cuppa, biscuit and a shared tear!

P&C AGM Continued…….

All P&C Committee positions are up for re-election at the AGM.

These positions are:
- President
- Vice Presidents x 2
- Treasurer
- Secretary

If you would like to be an active member of your school community, raise much needed funds for educational resources, be a great role model for your kids and get that warm and fuzzy feeling from volunteering then please consider a position on the committee.

If you don’t feel a committee position is for you then there are still lots of ways you can help out the school including; sausage sizzles, bake sales, selling raffle tickets, creating posters and making decorations for discos. I think the crucial thing is to be involved with the school in whatever capacity you can because as someone wise once said “Many hands make light work”.

By subscribing to the Skool Bag app and reading the school’s weekly newsletter (which has a weekly P&C section) you can keep up to date with what’s happening and learn how to get involved.

If You Would Like To Vote on P&C Decisions

If you would like voting rights then you will need to become a P&C member. Annual memberships are organised at the AGM where you can pay your membership fees (a gold coin). This will give you voting rights on all major P&C decisions - usually to do with how the money is best spent.

You do not have to be a committee member to be a P&C member. Membership is open to all parents who attend the AGM.

The School Canteen

‘Love Food Canteen’ will be attending the P&C meeting on the 23rd February to explain their food philosophy. Love Food Canteen will be submitting a tender to run the school canteen from Term 2.