

# School Newsletter 2017, 13 December 2017

## Coming Events



- Thursday 14 December – Year 6 river excursion
- Thursday 14 December – P&C end of year ice-cream stall
- Thursday 14 December – Year 6’s “final ringing of the bell” 3pm
- Tuesday 30 January 2018 – Class lists posted 12 noon
- Tuesday 30 January 2018 – Special opening for uniform shop 12noon – 2pm
- **FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS IN 2018 IS WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2018**

## Principal’s Message



### Happy Holidays

I wish to thank everyone for making me so welcome in my first full year here at Kensington Primary. I have been very impressed with the high level of engagement of families with the school. This engagement has been very focused on supporting the school and developing positive relationships. Next year we will begin a new Business Plan and the focus will be on developing successful students.

We have a very professional and caring staff who have gone beyond the call of duty to provide a nurturing and engaging program and environment, with the support of the community. The clubs that have been run, the extra-curricular activities and the supports the staff have provided for students and families has been inspiring. I thank them all for the positive contributions they have made to the school, students and community.

I wish you all – families and staff a lovely holiday filled with all that will re-energise you ready for a new year.

### Home Reading

On your holidays I would encourage you all to take time to relax with a good book. I recently attended a literacy workshop where some very interesting research on home reading was presented. It turns out, not surprisingly really, that the more you read the more words you learn (the bigger your vocabulary which is critical to comprehension and employment prospects) and the higher your scores on standardised tests. What is a little surprising is the

magnitude of the difference in results depending on the time you spend each day reading. Check out the results below. We have recently developed a new Homework Policy and in this document we have differentiated between homework and home reading as we strongly believe that home reading is simply a must do. So if you do nothing else at home – read! A book or a library card for Christmas is on Santa’s list.

Times spent reading	New words learnt	Scores on Standardised Tests
20 minutes per day	1.8 million words a year	Scores in the 90 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardised tests
5 minutes per day	282,000 words per year	Scores in the 50 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardised tests
1 minute per day	8,000 words per year	Scores in the 10 <sup>th</sup> percentile on standardised tests

So happy reading!

### **OSHClub and Changes to School Routines**

As you are all aware, OSHClub will be running from the undercover area next year every day, before and after school. We encourage everyone to register with OSHClub (registration is free) even if you are not planning on using the service. So why register? Unexpected events occur and there may come a time when you are not able to get to the school to collect your children due to an emergency. You can then simply call and arrange for your child to stay with OSHClub until you can get here. It could be a bit of peace of mind when other things are going wrong. Please check our website for more details.

As OSHClub will be using the undercover area, we can no longer use that as the waiting area for students arriving before 8:30am. Instead we will now be asking all children to sit on the verandahs around the quadrangle (not at the senior block). As the teachers will be preparing for the day it is important that they are not interrupted so quietly sitting around the edges of the verandahs will be the expectation. Students can sit outside their own classes if they are in Rooms 1-10; otherwise, they can sit outside the staffroom .

This will also mean that the gate from the undercover area will not be used to access the quadrangle so access will be via the gate near the library. We may need to modify arrangements as we monitor how things are working, but this is the plan for the start of the year at least.

### **Farewell to Graduates**

On Tuesday, we farewelled our graduates at the graduation ceremony. We wish them all the best in their schooling and their lives in general. We know that they will take many of their lessons from KPS with them. The following awards were announced during this assembly.

English : Jack

Numeracy : Mahan and Davin

Music : Lily and Rory

History : Matilda

General Science (Woodside/Scitech) : Elliot

Chemical Science : Meg

Philosophy : Cora  
Physical Education : Bailey and Ben  
Health : Anjelique  
Visual Arts: Summer and Mary  
Japanese : Tai  
Chaplain's Award : Georgia  
Most Improved : Marcus  
Endeavour : Keira  
Kent Street Aspire award : Ciara  
Citizenship : Ava and Ruby  
Dux : Jack

Congratulations to all award recipients.

A big thank you to Dr Wake, Ms Millar, Mrs Palmer, Mr Griffiths and Miss Learmonth, as well as Mrs Dewing, and their team of parents and staff helpers for organising this event. It was a mammoth effort. A special thanks to Mrs Jo Alexander who coordinated and organised all the fundraising efforts for the Year 6s.

### **2018 Student Leaders**

Also at the graduation ceremony yesterday, the following students were announced as the elected Student Leaders for 2018.

Head Girl: Zoe  
Head Boy : Jack  
Student Councillors : Ava, Sadie, Jaegger, Charlie, Hugo and Toby  
Cygnet Captains : Kayla and Deida  
Cygnet Vice-Captains : Maddy and William  
Endeavour Captains : Hinna and Matthew  
Endeavour Vice-Captains : Rory and Lachlan  
Investigator Captains : Sashana and Xavier  
Investigator Vice-Captains : Aria and Cameron  
Parmelia Captains : Eliza and Tyde  
Parmelia Vice-Captains : Ashleigh and Jay

### **Farewell to Students Leaving**

Farewell to those students moving on to new locations – new homes, schools and even countries. We wish them all the best.

### **Farewell to Staff**

Unfortunately we must also say goodbye to some of our wonderful staff. We wish them all the best for their futures too and we thank them for all their hard work and the contributions they have made to our school over their time here. It has been very much appreciated. Our paths may cross in the future, but for now we say thank you to:

- Mr Terence Pestana (retiring)
- Mrs Delia Carter (retiring)

- Mrs Claire Bliznou (maternity leave)
- Mrs Natalie Bennett (maternity leave)
- Mrs Anne Gordon (moving to new school)
- Mrs Glenda Boyd (on leave)
- Mrs Susan Chung (on leave)
- Mrs Jo Palmer
- Dr Deborah Wake (returning to substantive position)

## Contributions and Charges for 2018

The 2018 Contributions and Charges information has now been emailed to all parents and has also been posted on the school app. In case you did not see it, please [click here](#) to view the information sheet and [click here](#) to view the charges sheet.



Have you subscribed and/or updated the school app “Smartlink” yet?

By making sure you have installed the app on your mobile device, you will receive instant notifications as they come to hand. You can also view school information (ie the new OSHClub information has just been placed on the app under “School Documents”), put events directly into your diary from the “Calendar” and view the current Term Planner at any time, just to name a few of the functions. Please [click here](#) for instructions on installing “Smartlink” to your device or [click here](#) for details regarding *updating and the need to resubscribe to KPS and any sub-groups*. Next year, we will be relying on the app as a major means of communication with parents/carers so please ensure that you have installed it.

## Booklists

The booklists for 2018 have now been sent to all parents by email and via the school app. Paper copies will not be sent home – instead, you can access the booklists by going to <https://www.officemaxschools.com.au/WA/Kensington/Kensington-Primary-School> – the access key is W4BJ9S. Remember that you only have until 17 December in order to receive free delivery of your booklist items.

You also have the convenient option of paying for Voluntary Contributions (\$60 per child) and P&C Contributions (\$60 *per family*) when you order your booklist.

## Are your children returning late back from school holidays?

If you are going to be late back from holidays in 2018, please email or write a note to us so that we can include your children in our census. Without a note we will not be given funding for your child so it is imperative that we have a written notification from parents. Unexplained absences at the start of the year can cost the school – and all our students’ educations – a lot of money.

*Bronwyn Jones*  
**PRINCIPAL**

### **Foyer Display**

The elves from P1 would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!



### **Sports News**



### **Volunteer of the Year Awards**

Congratulations and thanks to Martine O'Connell for her nomination in the Volunteer of the Year Awards last week at the City of South Perth. Martine was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation for her many hours of volunteering at Kensington Primary School. She has given lots of her time, effort and enthusiasm to assist with carnivals, senior sport and running club. Thank you Martine!



Evelyn McKay, a Kensington parent, was also recognised for her work with Rocky Bay and 'Be My Koorda', a support program to assist children with autism. Congratulations Evelyn!

Congratulations to Charlotte H-L, Hannah H, Bethany H, Gemma S and Tim C, all past students, who were also awarded Certificates of Appreciation for the volunteer work that they are involved in in the City of South Perth.

### **Circus Equipment**

Circus equipment is still available to be purchased from Mrs Stanford in the PE office.

## **Classroom News**



### **Kensington Fire Station Visit – Year 3 Cohort**

On Monday 27 November, the Year 3s were treated to a visit from Dave (Ruby's dad), Con, Brook and Mark from the Kensington Fire Station.

During the visit, the firefighters spoke about fire safety and highlighted specific situations where particular vigilance is required. One important thing they told everyone is that fire is a tool, not a toy! Another is that families should have a designated meeting place outside of the

house in the event of a house fire. The firefighters also showed students the protective clothing and apparatus they wear when fighting a fire.

The students were then taken to the basketball court to inspect the equipment in a fire truck. They were shown the various hoses, the jaws-of-life and a special thermal imaging camera which helps firefighters see through smoke. The students were also given an opportunity to squirt a fire hose. This was such a popular activity that many children lined up for a second go!

The Year 3 students and teachers would sincerely like to thank the firefighters for visiting us and want them to know how much we enjoyed and appreciated everything they arranged for us.

Here are some photos from the event:



### **Christmas Care Packages for Australian Troops**

Students from Rooms 6 and 10 were very privileged to have Mr Philip Cunnington as a guest speaker on Friday 24th November. Mr Cunnington served in the Vietnam War in 1969 and he spoke to the students about the making of the video 'Christmas Messages 1969, Western Australian – Soldiers Greetings from Vietnam'. Mr Cunnington is the grandfather of Lucy and Noah. He shared stories and answered many questions about the importance of having family support when you are away at war, how he felt about letters received from his loved ones and the importance of receiving care packages from family and others at Christmas.

As part of our learning about Remembrance Day, and with Christmas coming up, the students in Room 6 and Room 10 have been putting together care packages for Australian troops who

are serving overseas. Our students have been working in groups and bringing in non-perishable items that can be packed into a shoe-box sized postal box, as well as writing a letter to whoever receives their care package. Students will weigh completed boxes (they must not be over 2kg in weight) and complete customs declaration forms.

Mr Cunnington mentioned that some of his favourite gifts in the Christmas hampers that he received were lollies, nuts and dried fruits.

Please follow the link to see our story in the Southern Gazette:

<https://www.communitynews.com.au/southern-gazette/news/kensington-ps-students-donate-goods-for-troop-care-packages-for-xmas/>

### **CREEC & Wonder –Room 9, 10 and S1 Excursion**

We went on an excursion to CREEC (Canning River Eco Education Centre) and then to Hoyts to watch the movie “Wonder”.

Our class joined all the other Year 4 students and a few Year 5s from S1.

Not everyone enjoyed the long walk between CREEC and Hoyts but we all enjoyed walking over the bridge and looking down at the cars on Albany Highway.

During the CREEC tour we divided into two groups. Group A started with the ‘Bird’s Eye View’ tour and Group B went to do the ‘Creepy Crawlies in the Canning’ tour. For the Bird’s Eye View we used binoculars and an ID sheet to identify different types of wildlife. Creepy Crawlies used nets to capture invertebrates from the Canning River and then classified and viewed them with an ID sheet and a magnifying glass.

Everyone in Group A saw a Mathematical Snake. Conner named it that because it was in an infinity shape. It was actually a dugite. Unfortunately it had gone by the time Group B got there. We also saw little frogs on the reeds.

Rooms 9, 10 and S1 thoroughly enjoyed the excursion.

Here are some of our thoughts:

- The best part was finding all the little creatures in the water – Lizzy
- I liked how they changed perspectives in the movie – Wes
- I liked crossing the bridge – Liv
- I loved doing the bird watching at CREEC – Sebastian
- I liked how Auggie’s friends defended him when there were standing up against the 7<sup>th</sup> graders – Jack
- I liked the movie because it was kind of like what kindness can be – Cameron
- I liked that the movie had a strong message behind it –it was ‘don’t judge a book by its cover’ – Jaegger
- I liked all of it but my favourite part was catching the vertebrates and the invertebrates – Tessa
- My favourite part was walking to the cinema and watching the movie – Holly





### **Thanks for your contribution...**

On behalf of the parent body I would like to thank our Principal, Ms Bronwyn Jones, and all the teachers and staff that work hard throughout the year to ensure our children get a great education. It's a big job and it's appreciated.

To the 2017 P&C office bearers, thank you for the time and effort you put into your roles throughout the year – we could not be successful without you!

Finally, I would like to recognise John McGrath and the Men's Charity Committee at the Royal Perth Golf Club. When we were looking for additional funds this year to support the enclosing of the undercover area, John put me in contact with the Men's Charity Committee and they have donated a whopping \$5896 towards the project.

### **What we achieved in 2017...**

As a result of our various events and annual parent contributions, we had approximately \$47k to allocate during our 2018 budgeting process. To see what we are spending it on in 2018, [click here...](#)

We also delivered an event courtesy of our Community Investment Program (CIP) – that's the pool of money we set aside each year to enable parents to organise activities that will benefit the school. Our CIP event was Surf Online Safe and we funded 2 sessions for our Year 5/6 cohort and a parent event.

### **What's new for 2018?**

As each year begins, all P&C and class representative positions become available. We would love to see lots of new faces support our kids' education. To find out how you can contribute, see the [Parents & Citizens](#) section on [our school website](#).

Happy holidays everyone!

Samantha Thompson  
P&C President

### **Year 6 sub-committee**

On behalf of Year 6 sub-committee, we would like to thank all the parents, teachers, students, staff and the Kensington P&C for the fantastic support of the Year 6 fundraising endeavours this year. The Year 6 sub-committee have conducted icy pole stalls, a 5c collection competition, Subway lunch orders, Year 6 Easter raffle, Beauty and the Beast movie day and

a Bunnings BBQ. Without the support and participation of our school community this would not have all been possible, so we would like to extend our sincere gratitude. On behalf of those parents seeing out their final year at Kensington Primary School, we thank you all for the wonderful environment that is afforded to not only students of KPS, but also parents of the school community. Many thanks to all of the dedicated teachers, parents, students, office staff and of course our wonderful principal, Bronwyn, who have all contribute enormously to making KPS such a memorable and enjoyable time. We wish you all continuing success in the years ahead, and a well deserved break in the interim! Thank you.

## General Information



### School Security

During the holiday period, schools premises are more vulnerable than usual and can become targets for a small number of offenders. The upcoming holiday period is from Friday 15 December 2016 to Tuesday 31 January 2017.

If you live near a school or are just passing by, I ask you to be extra vigilant. Listen for unusual noises, look for suspicious vehicles parked at the school and for groups hanging around on school grounds. Your involvement can really make a difference in preventing crime.

WA Police, Neighbourhood Watch, School Watch and the Office of Crime Prevention are working together to reduce the incidence of crime on school establishments. Police and School Watch will conduct increased patrols of schools during the holidays but we need your vital assistance and participation.

I urge you to please report suspicious activity immediately by telephoning **School Watch on 1800 177 777** or Police on 131 444.

## Community News



Breakpoint Tennis is offering December 2017 and January 2018 holiday clinics, as well as programs for both children and adults in Term 1, 2018. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer.



### **Junior Netball Competitions and Sport Coaching at Leisurelife**

With the largest Year 1 to Year 9 indoor netball program south of the river, competitions at Leisurelife are held during all school terms, and one-off netball carnivals run every school holidays. Weekly coaching clinics for basketball, netball, and soccer for 6 to 12 year olds are also available, with complimentary passes for first time users. Call our Junior Sports and Programs Officer on 9373 5450, e-mail [tnathan@vicpark.wa.gov.au](mailto:tnathan@vicpark.wa.gov.au), or visit the ToVP website <http://vicpk.co/2AgLoGt>



Is English your second language? Or maybe you have family or a friend who would like to improve their english skills? Canning College is a mature age institution which offers a range of courses from ESL to university entry. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer on English as a Second Language classes.

*\*The above community advertisements are for your information only and should not be taken as endorsement by Kensington Primary School.*