

School Newsletter 1817, 15 November 2017

Posted on [15/11/2017](#) by [schooladmin](#)

Coming Events



- Friday 17 November – School swimming challenge in the evening (by invitation)
- Thursday 23 November – P&C Wishlist meeting, 7.30pm in the staffroom
- Friday 24 November – P&C Disco (see flyer under “P&C”)
- Monday 27 November – Paul Litherland “Surf Online Safely” workshop for parents, 7pm (see flyer under P&C)
- Wednesday 29 November – Christmas music concert/assembly 9.15am, followed by parent helper morning tea.
- Wednesday 29 November – Christmas music concert encore performance 7pm
- Thursday 30 November – Pizza in the Garden PP-Year 2 (by invitation)
- Friday 1 December – Pizza in the Garden Yr 3-Yr 6 (by invitation)
- **FIRST DAY FOR STUDENTS IN 2018 IS WEDNESDAY 31 JANUARY 2018**

Principal's Message



Farewell

It is my sad duty to announce that both Mr Terence Pestana and Mrs Delia Carter will be retiring at the end of the year. Mrs Carter has been at this school for many years, with a career spanning 40 years, and Mr Pestana has also been in education for thirty years, although only at KPS since mid-2013. We will be recognising their service and contribution to our school at the Parent Helper Morning Tea.

Parent Helper Morning Tea

Following the Christmas Concert on Wednesday 29th November (starting at 9:15am) we invite all parents and community members who have helped out at the school in any way to attend a morning tea provided by the staff of Kensington Primary School. This should start at about 10:15/10:30am. It is our way of saying “thank you” as we couldn’t deliver the same standard and breadth of education without your support.

IPS Review

As explained in the last newsletter, we have received the IPS review report and I have now presented this to the Board. We were very pleased with the outcome as it was consistent with our self-assessment, which the Director General also recognised in her letter to the school. You can find a copy of the report on our website at: <http://www.kensingtonps.wa.edu.au>. The School Board and staff will be working on developing the new Business Plan this term and next.

PISA (International) Testing

Do you ever wonder about the myriad of doom and gloom news articles about how our education system is failing? There is always room for improvement and the constant changes can seem misaligned and contradictory. However, in reality, Australia is one of the higher performance English speaking systems (below Canada but above the USA and UK). Many of you may have heard of the international testing regime called PISA (Program for International Student Assessment) which measures 15 year old students' reading, maths and science literacy every three years. Recently an ABC program ran a segment on the results of this program and it was very interesting. You can see the program online (about 8 minutes) at <http://www.abc.net.au/news/programs/the-link/2017-09-29/where-australias-education-system-is-going-wrong/9002948>

They made a number of points about the Australian education system and also about the international findings on what is required to have a good system. At the last Board meeting we viewed this segment and discussed what our school is doing to address these findings. I have made a few notes below to show you what we are doing.

PISA Finding	KPS Response
Addressing disparities between students on entering schooling	Early intervention focus where class sizes are smaller in the early years. A process for supporting students who are at risk educationally with a student support service and remediation program in literacy.
Teachers engaging in their profession and professional development	Teachers are involved in professional learning communities within the school – both with their colleagues teaching the same year level and with their colleagues across the school – supporting each other and learning from each other to implement school wide strategies. Staff are also offered leadership opportunities.
Students developing deep conceptual understanding rather than surface learning and memorisation	We introduced philosophy lessons in Years 4-6 and will also introduce BEBRAS – computational thinking competition as a couple of examples that focus on higher order thinking
Education is not just about knowledge and skills but also character qualities	We have introduced a focus on identifying strengths rather than taking a deficit approach – focusing on weaknesses. We are also introducing a school wide approach to Social Emotional learning. We will be working with the community on identifying our school values. But we also offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities – PE, music, clubs etc.
High expectations and support for all students	We aim to teach to the top rather than the average and then we provide supports and scaffolds to help all children achieve. We also introduced the concept of making learning visible and engaging all students in each lesson – assessing where each child is and helping them see how to move forward. We also have support programs for literacy remediation and enrichment programs for Maths.

Not surprisingly, a number of these strategies were also recognised by the reviewers in our recent IPS Report.

Community Survey (National School Opinion Survey)

As we are embarking on a new Business Plan for 2018 – 2020 we ask that each family completes a Community Survey so that we can gain a baseline on how we are travelling and so we can ensure our next Business Plan is driven by community feedback too. Please click on the following link to complete the survey: <https://www.schoolsurvey.edu.au/s/KensingtonParent2017>.

All students whose families complete the survey will earn an icy pole so please have these completed and submitted by Friday 1st December 2017. Please print out the thank you page at the end of the survey so your child(ren) can show these to their teacher for the icy pole.



Surf Online Safely

A reminder to all parents that this very important workshop is being run by the P&C at 7pm on Monday 27th November. The speaker is an ex-policeman who has experience in digital

crime. It is shocking what can go on with children online and it is vital all parents are aware of what is out there and how best to protect their children, especially now that children have very portable devices where it is harder for parents to keep abreast of what their child is doing online and what apps and sites represent a real risk to their children. Even if you have attended a similar workshop before, things change so quickly that it is important to keep up to date. I have heard Paul speak on several occasions and I learn something new each time. I encourage you to attend this very important event – it could make all the difference to your family and their safe use of online technology.

School App



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 are now available. 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. Orders placed on or before 3 December will be delivered to you free of charge before the end of December 2017, and orders placed between 4 December and 17 December will be delivered free of charge before 24 January 2018.

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.

Lost Property

Lost property is located in a box (often overflowing) outside of the staffroom. At the end of each month, any unclaimed items remaining in the box will be donated to the Uniform shop for re-sale. Please ensure that you check the box promptly if your child is missing any item/s.

Bronwyn Jones
PRINCIPAL

Virtue & Honour Awards



Obedience

When you are obedient, you abide by the rules, even if you don't like them or it takes a lot of self-discipline to do so. You need to think for yourself and feel sure that when you are obeying someone, that doing so is for your own good and very importantly, will not harm you or others.

Congratulations to the following award winners from today's assembly.

Virtue Awards 15/11/2017

<i>Room</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Room</i>	<i>Name</i>
P1	Malaika	1	Lincoln & Amy
2	Liam & Lucas	3	Lily
4	---	5	Hannah
6	Jack	7	Ella
8	Beau	9	Sage
10	Daniel	S1	Sashana
S2	Ella	S3	Emily
S4	Summer		

Honour Awards 15/11/2017

<i>Room</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Room</i>	<i>Name</i>
P1	James	P2	Maya
P3	Grace & Lani	1	Eloise & Zakaria
2	Bronte	3	Amelie & Yumi
4	Milly	5	Hamish
6	Felice	7	Rachel & Viraj
8	Noah	9	Beatrice
10	Jade	S1	Karol & Lachlan
S2	David	S3	Cora & Matilda
S4	Maddy		

Sports News



Summer Carnival

Tomorrow, selected Year 4, 5 and 6 students play in the Victoria Park Schools Summer Carnival. We will be playing girls and boys cricket, tee ball, volleyball and newcombe ball.

Schools Challenge

On Friday evening, selected students will swim in the Southside Penrhos Wesley School Challenge Swimming carnival.

Perth Redbacks

This term, the Perth Redbacks have assisted in the school with basketball sessions for students from Pre-primary to Year 6. If you are interested in continuing to play basketball, the Redbacks have several programs available. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer.

Circus Equipment

Circus equipment will be available to be purchased from Mrs Stanford. Details will be on the Sports noticeboard and outside the Sports office next week.

Chaplain News



The donations have started coming in – thank you very much! There is now a box in every classroom and outside the staffroom too. It will be great to keep your donations coming in until 27 November, just before the Christmas assembly. Just a reminder that we are seeking donations of cans and other non-perishable food items, as well as *new* gifts and gift vouchers for children.

P&C News



Icy poles are back! Icy pole sales will take place each Friday at lunch time from November 3rd until Friday December 8th. Icy poles cost \$1 each and are 99% fruit juice!! Profits raised will contribute to Year 6 end of yearbook.



You are invited to listen to Paul [Litherland](#) talk about how we can keep our children safe online.

When: Monday 27 November at 7pm

Where: Kensington Primary School

Cost: \$10 per person

(tickets available from www.trybooking.com/book/event?eid=330946)

About the session:

This session has been designed for parents and carers and will cover topics like cyber bullying, online footprint, social networking, online gaming and of course tips and tricks for parents. There will also be time for questions should you require some specific advice.

Note: Paul will also present to the year 5/6 cohort earlier in the day.

A little bit about Paul Litherland:

Paul was a WA Police Officer for over 20 years working in a wide range of areas including the Technology Crime Investigation Unit. During this time, he regularly visited schools across WA conducting "Stranger Danger" talks and helping children understand the risks of the online world.

Since leaving the WA Police Paul now presents at over 300 schools, to parent groups, local government agencies and to retirement communities.

Further information: www.surfonlinesafe.com.au

KPS DISCO



Spot prizes

*for the best moves
on the dance floor*

\$2 entry

FRIDAY 24TH NOV

4.00pm till 5.15pm - Kindy to Year 2

5.30pm till 6.45pm - Year 3 to 6

Entry off the netball courts (Undercover area)
Exit at the quadrangle (Gate closer to the library)

All children must be collected by an Adult.

**Sausage
Sizzle
\$2**

**Popcorn
\$1**

**Juice
Box
\$1**

**Icy
Poles
\$1**

**Fairy
Floss
\$2**

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Community News





St Martin's House is having a bazaar on Saturday 18 November – please [click here](#) to view the flyer.



Australian Sports Camps will be running a series of workshops during the upcoming school holidays. Please [click here](#) to view the flyer.



Our successful January holiday groups will be held in the January 2018 holidays. Our small groups are led by either an occupational therapist or speech pathologist, skilled in working with children. Please [click here](#) for further details.



WAAPA Summer School 2017/2018

This summer The Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) is again offering an exciting school holiday program for students in years 4 to 12. The Summer School includes classes in dance, drama, acting, screen performance, music theatre and of course, how to perform Shakespeare. For information about the fantastic courses on offer, please visit [WAAPA Summer School](#) or contact Gabrielle Metcalf at g.metcalf@ecu.edu.au or 9370 6775.



The City of South Perth is running 2 Christmas Crafts workshops at the George Burnett Leisure Centre – please [click here](#) to view the flyer and [click here](#) for the registration form.

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