

together we achieve
together we achieve

Dragon Tales



No. 0113 , 6 February 2013

A SMOOTH START FOR KENSINGTON PRIMARY

I would like to welcome all families, old and new to what should be a fantastic year at Kensington Primary School. It was terrific to see all our students turn out in full school uniform on the first day and maintain this over the last few days. Special thanks to our parent body for supporting the school's uniform policy and ensuring their child(ren) arrived at school with all the necessary stationery requirements and a hat—we certainly have needed the latter.

It was great to be able to meet so many parents at our 'welcome morning tea' on Monday morning and in the playground before and after school. I have been made to feel very welcome into the Kensington School community and am looking forward to building on an already strong school/community relationship. Thank you to Mrs. Stanford for organising the morning tea.

The school would like to welcome our new staff for 2013;

Mrs Natalie Bennett – Yr 2 Room 8.

Mrs Rhonda Skinner – Year 4/5 S1.

Miss Sistha Halim – Yr 1 Room 4.

Ms Rielle Fowler – Yr 4 Room 9 (Thurs/Friday).

Mrs Vicki Van Dongen – Pre Primary 1 (Friday).

Ms Zhen Ang – Pre Primary 2 (Friday).

Ms Shannon May - Pre Primary 3 (Friday).

Ms Alicia Taylor – Long Term Practicum.

Miss Stephanie Correia – Education Assistant.

It would be remiss of me not to mention the great work of our gardener and cleaners for the way they had the school turned out for Day One. Laurie, Peter, Mary, Jan and Ben are an important part of the school community and obviously take pride in the work they do for the students of Kensington Primary School.



Mrs Skinner Room S1



Mrs Bennett Rm 8



Miss Taylor—Prac
Teacher—Rm 7



Miss Halim—Rm 4

COMING EVENTS

- Tues 12 Feb - P&C AGM
- Wed 13 Feb - Assembly S1
- Mon 18 Feb - Yr 7 Swimming commencing
- Wed 20 Feb - School Council

SCHOOL DAY

The school day commences at 8.50am with the end of the day being at 3.00pm. Please be reminded that children are asked to arrive at school after 8.30am and to enter the school quadrangle through the undercover area or the double gates outside the library. For those families where it is essential that children arrive before 8.30, due to work commitments, children are asked to assemble quietly in the undercover area.

CLASSROOM MEETINGS – TERM 1

Parent meetings will be arranged for all classes within the first 3 weeks of this term. At these meetings the teachers will outline specific issues to their class and classroom policies. Individual teachers will notify parents when meetings are to be held.

We will negotiate an early close with our Regional Office to allow parents an opportunity to arrange a face to face meeting (if desired) with classroom teachers and specialists during April. Further information will be published in this newsletter once arrangements are finalised.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

The school has an active website, updated fortnightly, it is found at <http://www.kensingtonps.wa.edu.au/>. The school newsletter is available via this website. There are many other school publications found at this site including the most recent Parent Information Book. A link to the school website is emailed to the parent email contacts every newsletter day. Please see the school office if you would like to add your email to this distribution list.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2013

Kensington Primary School is applying upfront charges for this school year. This has been endorsed by the School Council. The school office now has EFTPOS facilities (both debit and credit card options) to give parents the convenience of paying both charges and voluntary contributions in one payment. This will mean parents, teachers, office staff and ultimately students benefit from upfront charging:-

- * Parents – won't have to continually find money for incursions/excursions (sometimes there are a number of excursions being co-ordinated at the same time and it can be difficult to send the right amounts of money).
- * Teachers – upfront charging will reduce the time teachers spend collecting, recording and balancing monies which leaves them more time to teach.
- * Office Staff – with the majority of parents paying upfront, little or hopefully NO cash will come through on a daily basis. Our current daily cash system takes time to count, balance and input onto the DET finance system. There is double handling at classroom level, office level and then again when collating weekly banking.
- * Students – will ultimately benefit from more teaching time and less stress in having to remember to bring in money.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS 2013

Nominations are called for several parent representatives to be elected to the Kensington School Council. Nomination slips can be collected from the school office and will close next Friday, 15th February. This is a great opportunity to be involved in your child's school. The role of the Council has varied since being introduced into schools in the nineties. Some of its functions include:-

Establishing and reviewing the school's priorities and general policy direction;

Planning arrangements necessary to meet these priorities;

- Formulating codes of conduct for students;
- Promoting the school community
- Supporting the school administration; and
- Approving charges and contributions.

Meetings are held at least once per term at the school at approximately 5.00pm.

YEAR SEVEN INTERM SWIMMING

Interm swimming lessons commence for all Year 7 students on Monday 18 February. These lessons will be conducted at Cottesloe Beach over 5 days. This ensures our students have an opportunity to learn how to swim in an open water environment and how to read surf conditions for safe swimming. Students need to complete and return their Interm Swimming Enrolment Form and Excursion Health form to school by Friday 15 February.



STUDENT COUNCILORS

We are extremely pleased to be able to introduce our Student Councilors for 2013. Congratulations to;

Lucy	Head Girl
Elliot	Head Boy
Erin	Student Councilor
Zac	Student Councilor



SCOOTERS AND BIKES

At the end of last year there were a number of scooters and bikes left at the school. These were collected and stored in the 'dungeon'. If you think one of these might be your please see Mrs. Stanford to collect.



FASTFORWARD

Kensington Primary is working hard to improve the learning outcomes of all of it's students.

The FastForward program is a scientifically developed brain training program that is designed to build the skills that we need for *all* learning - memory, attention, processing speed, reading, listening, language and comprehension. The program is presented in the form of fun and interactive online computer exercises. Participants typically make 1.5 to 2 year learning gains following only 3 months of participation in Fast ForWord, though there are a number of factors that influence just how much an individual will benefit from the program.

An information session for parents will be held in the school library at 3:15 to 4:15 on Wednesday, February 13. It is run by Sonic Learning.

The school is funding the time of Helen Morey, who will coach the students, four days a week, for 30 minutes, over terms one and two this year. The results are monitored by health and educational professionals at Sonic Learning, and the program is adjusted according to the individual.

Usually, if parents were to register their child as an individual they can expect to pay about \$295 per month, over 3 to 4 months. With the number of expressions of interest, we are expecting the cost to be about \$385 for the two terms.

As the cost is based on numbers, we ask that parents pay \$200 by the end of Week 2 to register their child in FastForward and pay the balance in Week 3, once full costs are known. Once registered, the children will begin a trial week. The full program will commence in Week 3.

If you are interested in registering your child in FastForward for the next two terms, please register at the office and make the initial payment before the end of Week 2.

If you have any queries, please direct them to Chris Cook, our Deputy Principal.

P&C NEWS....

AGM

Are you curious about what the P&C's role is within the school? Have you got some ideas for supporting the educational and co-curricular programs? Do you have an interest in what extra programs and activities KPS offers?

If so, the P&C could be for you. It is a great way to get a picture of how the whole school operates, and there are lots of ways to be involved.

The Kensington PS P&C is holding its AGM on Tuesday 12th February at 7.30 pm in the staff room. Everyone is invited to come along!

If you would like to be part of a committee or volunteer for a P&C position, there are nomination forms and details available in the school office.

MAILING LIST

If you would like to be included in the P&C mailing list, and receive copies of meeting details and P&C activities, please email the P&C Secretary, Rebecca Watson on r_r_watso@bigpond.com. It's a great way to keep in touch with what the P&C is doing around the school.

P&C SCHOOL BANKING

Thanks for a great year of school banking in 2012. To keep school banking going for 2013 we are looking for two new banking volunteers (banking can be any morning before school to suit). If you are keen to help the children learn the value of saving, and have half an hour once per week, please give Linda a call on 0412088308 or email at lbottrel@bigpond.net.au or see us at banking on Wednesday morning. If we are unable to find a banking representative, it is with much regret that we will have to close this facility, which would be a real shame for those children who love to to their weekly banking. Perhaps some new parents to the school would be interested? It is a great program with real benefits to the children, as it helps them to learn the value of saving



P&C UNIFORM SHOP

The uniform shop is open each Thursday during term from 8.20 to 8.50am in the music room.

The uniform shop now also stocks Tri Pod triangle grip 2B pencils for \$1 which are the recommended pencil for all Kindy to Yr 2 students.

KENSINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL CALENDAR TERM 1, 2013					
	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI
	28 January	29 January Office Staff start	30	31 SD Day (Teachers/EA's start)	1 Feb SD Day
Week 1	4 1 st Day Term 1	5	6 NL Term planner School banking every Wed am	7 Uniform Shop open every Thurs am	8
Week 2 PEACEFULNESS	11	12 P&C AGM S1/S2/S3 Parent meet- ing 3.30 - 4.15pm	13 Assembly S1 FastForward Parent Meeting 3:15-4:15	14	15
Week 3	18 Yr 7 Swimming lessons-1 week	19	20 NL School Council	21	22
Week 4	25	26	27 Assembly S2	28	1 March
Week 5	4 Labour Day Public Holiday	5	6 NL	7	8
Week 6 TRUST	11 Circus Yr 1-7	12 Circus Yr 1-7 P&C	13 Assembly Rm 5	14	15
Week 7	18 Circus Yr 1-7	19 Circus Yr 1-7	20 NL School Council	21	22
Week 8	25 Circus Yr 1-7	26 Circus Yr 1-7	27 KPS Swimming Carnival 9.15	28	29 Good Friday
Week 9	1 April Easter Monday	2 Easter Tuesday	3 NL	4	5 VPASSA Swimming Carnival am.
Week 10 DETERMINATION	8 Circus Yr 1-7	9 Circus Yr 1-7	10 Assembly Rm 9	11	12
Week 11	15 Circus Yr 1-7	16 Circus Yr 1-7 Cybersafety Presentation Students 2-3pm Staff 3.15 - 4.15 Parents 7pm	17 NL	18	19 2pm ANZAC Assembly Last Day Term 1

Junior Choir – Wed 8.15 – 8.50 – Alternating with Assembly
Senior Choir – Wed 2.05 – 3.00
Band – Friday 8.00 – 9.00