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June 2011

Principal's Report:

Welcome to the first edition to KCHS eNewsletter. The eNewsletter is a recognition that our students and families are experts at accessing computer technology and that it is an integral part of each person's life. The eNewsletter provides an immediate method of communication between the school, home and wider community. The school values immediate and positive communication and sees the eNewsletter as a means of developing and enhancing improved communication between the school, students, families and community organisation.

During this semester the school has experienced success in a number of areas. Most recently Sonja Courtis and a group of students participated in The Great Transport Race, this competition is organised by MetLink and has been conducted over the last few months. Our students were extremely successful and placed second over-all. The competition consisted of both private and public schools.

Through the Federal Government, the school has been fortunate in gaining significant funding for the purchase of 50 new netbooks under the 1:1 program. The 1:1 program is designed to facilitate each student with their own individual computer, to allow access to learning 24/7, in line with State and Federal Government initiatives to address the needs of students in the 21st Century.

Finally, I acknowledge the hard and dedicated work that all staff at Kensington Community High School have performed during Semester One. The work has ranged from developing and implementing engaging curriculum programs, providing intensive pastoral care support for students and families, our administrative staff have provided strong support for

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all members of the school community; students; teaching staff and families. The key feature of the work at KCHS has been a collaborative team effort.

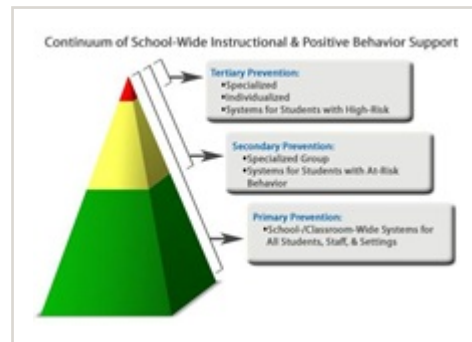
Gary Power

Principal

Student Engagement and Wellbeing

School Wide - Positive Behaviour Support Program

The WMR has recognised the need to address some of the challenging behaviours in schools to allow students to achieve success, particularly in their learning. Through the use of data, we will identify the problematic behaviours then find ways to 'reduce' these behaviours through a 'teaching/learning program' called Positive Behaviour. We hope to see a reduction in suspensions and ultimately an improved attendance record as we work hard to make students feel more connected to the school and foster a 'positive' learning environment where every child can experience success.



The assumption is made that when a student comes to school they know what 'respect, appropriate language, punctuality' are. Yet it has become evident that many have never been taught this and therefore are unable to demonstrate the desired behaviours. Therefore the aim of PBS is to model these behaviours. Teachers will teach what it is they want to see through the use of any creative media they should choose.

Kensington is pleased to be one of the first Secondary schools in the WMR to be taking part in this initiative. The aim of the program is to move away from a 'reacting and punishing' model to 'acknowledging and rewarding' the good behaviours that are seen. This process is not an overnight cure and will take 2 - 3 years to implement. We are currently in our first year which is the 'primary' stage and joined this program only recently. However, we are being assisted by external coaches with a team of staff who meet fortnightly, members included Sonja Courtis (internal coach), Gary Power (principal), Patricia Collins (Student Engagement and Wellbeing), Julie Granek (Student Social Worker), external coaches Scott Garnett (Travancore), and Pat Prophy (WMR).

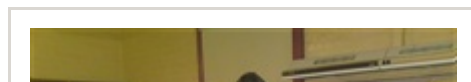
The programme also emphasises the importance of Parent coaches and representatives. We are therefore calling on any parent coaches who would like to be involved in this program as it recognises successful schools have strong links with parent/carers. It's a chance for parents to have a say and be actively involved in what can only be seen as a positive turn for KCHS.

For more information, visit www.pbis.org

Sonja Courtis

Student Learning

Thank you to all students who participated by sitting the 2011 NAPLAN test for Literacy and Numeracy.



Parents/caregivers can expect to receive student results in the mail during August. If you have any queries about this, please contact the school.

Teachers are working hard to finalise student results for work completed to enable them to write student mid-year reports. Most of student success comes directly from attendance. It is crucial to maintain high attendance so that students can keep up with work and/or catch up on work that has been missed. Reports will be sent home in the mail at the end of June.



Applied Learning - giving students employability skills that will enable students to get a job and be successful after school continues to be the focus for KCHS. While providing a VELS curriculum from years 7 - 10, we will continue to cater for learning diversity with a hands-on and practical approach. Students are encouraged to tell their teachers what their interests are and suggest learning topics to maximise engagement.

Students are producing some high quality work in the kitchen. Their cooking skills and understanding of OH&S are quickly approaching industry level. The expectations are high, and the quality of their products often exceed expectations. Well done to Tamara, Kayla and Jarred for a great effort this term. (Featured right)

Paul Faci

0417 541 631

Lend Lease (formerly BOVIS)

Lend Lease are continuing a strong tradition of connection with KCHS by providing our students with the chance to develop skills necessary for the workplace. Students will be undergoing work in landscaping incorporating OH&S principles. This will include the use of everything from a wheelbarrow to a crane.

This program will be available for year 10, 11 and 12 students, and will commence the start of Term 3. It will comprise of a two-week work block where students are expected to take on the persona of a 'real employee'.

This means they need to be at work by 8am, and finish at 3pm. Students must wear the appropriate OH&S personal protective equipment. The students are paid \$5.00 per day, and are provided with a reference by Lend Lease which is recognisable world-wide. These hours go towards the student's attainment of Certificate II or III (even if it's not in landscaping, the OH&S component is common in all certificates and counted)



Don McCoy

0425 770 055

Mural Project

The City LLEN brokered a partnership which has resulted in a group of our Year 10, & 12 students attending the Multicultural Hub in the city (opposite the



QV Market) every Thursday for two terms commencing in first term this year. Students after researching immigration have started designing and painting a mural depicting Melbourne's multicultural and migration history on the wall of the Hub, a City of Melbourne's property (which is being leased by AMES).



This applied learning activity has incorporated subject areas across the curriculum and has been mapped to the VELS & VCAL.

Mural work done by Jamie Looi, Year 9 (feat. right)

Pathways Coordinator

Brett Joyce

Literacy / Numeracy Room

KCHS is proud to reveal its new-look literacy and numeracy room. Students and staff can enjoy a comfortable and chilled area to engage in one-to-one speech pathology, literacy support programs, numeracy improvements. The room has been equipped with high quality couches, rugs, chairs and four brand new laptops which will make student learning more comfortable and accessible. Thank you to all staff, students and parents who helped put this together. A big thank you to John Faci and Michael Stone who volunteered their time and weekend to paint the room for us!



Paul Faci

KCHS Soccer Team

KCHS soccer team have been involved in the annual 'Community School Championships', where they have been extremely successful so far. The boys have been wearing the new kit and have put in some excellent, professional performances, showing great teamwork, skill and professionalism. They are still unbeaten, having played 4 games, winning 3 and drawing one. With one game left, the team are hoping to claim the flag in the finals in June. Jack Hargraves has sparkled with 16 goals in 4 games.



Great Transport Race

On 24th May a group of four students from a mix of team Blue (Alex Pastzor) and Team Yellow (Tamara Adnum, Tas Nomikos, Raeshell Stark) were involved in



the Metlink Great Transport Race, Western Heats. The aim of the race is to visit as many locations as possible to collect time bonuses. All three modes of transport are to be used. The team worked exceptionally hard and ran a lot to collect as many bonuses as they could. This paid off when the Team finished fourth and thereby guaranteed themselves a place in the final where the top five teams of each regional competitions (north, south, east and west).

The Metlink Great Transport Race final was held on 2nd July at Federation Square. There were a couple of changes to the team with the unfortunate illness of Tamara and Tas who were replaced by a representatives from each of the other groups Team Red (Jack Hargreaves) and Team Green (Aaron Ryan). These two boys had such enthusiasm and gusto to do well. Alex Pasztor and Raeshell Stark remained. The day started at 8:15am with all members meeting at Flinders Street station.



The group worked really hard and ran a lot. Jack did well to encourage Alex to keep up with the team and the efforts paid off with the team coming 2nd Overall!!! This was an amazing effort to beat out 18 other teams (20 teams in total from all over Melbourne)! The prize for each student was a JB Hi Fi voucher, some Rebel Sports vouchers for the school and medal for each competitor as well as photos on the Metlink Great Transport Race Website and the local leader newspaper. Well done Team!

Sonja Courtis

Youth Now

Tuesday 7th and Friday 10th June Year 11 and 12 students participated in a youth worker workshop. Students have been coached in their goals and career aspirations. Students enjoyed a free lunch!

Peter Davis



The Face of Us

You are invited to attend the year 11/12 Art Exhibition for 2011, "The Face of Us".

Students have developed the theme of the self portrait in art works including sketches, stencils, paintings and mixed media. Artwork (right) created by Danielle Pitt

Lunch will also be available at 12.30.on Tuesday the 21st of June.

Exhibition dates:

Tuesday 21st of June 12.30p.m.- 5.15p.m
Wednesday 22nd of June 9.00a.m.- 4.30pm.



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Key Dates

Queen's Birthday Public Holiday

13th June - Student Free Day

Alternative Settings Conference

June 17, Student free day. All school staff will be attending a full professional conference in Caulfield.

Students NOT required to attend school

The Face of Us - Art Exhibition

21st June - 12.30pm - 5.15pm

Term 2 Finish - Last Day

1 July - 2.45pm

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