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## Principal Report:

Welcome to another edition of the school's eNewsletter. As with previous times of the year, the last month has been very busy throughout the school. Staff have been working to bolster enrolments for 2012 and continue to working at maintaining and building attendance and the retention of students.

The school has also been actively involved in implementing the school-wide positive behaviour support for engagement and learning initiative. The purpose of this is to develop the school's values which will then inform our curriculum programs. It is a long-term initiative extending over the next three years. The school welcomes through its parents and forums any discussion regarding the development of key school values.

A new staff member, Mr. Michael Scraggs commenced work at the school to replace Mr. Peter Abraham who has taken long service leave. Michael teaches mathematics and physical education in Yellow group and has become an integral member of our School team.

Currently the school is undertaking a pilot survey from the Australian Curriculum and Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA). The survey evaluates student and parent/caregiver perceptions of the school and its programs. You will have received a copy of this report in the mail, if you haven't please contact the school so we can forward you one. I recommend to all families that the survey is completed and returned as soon as possible. The survey will provide the school with data to improve its teaching and learning.

Finally, again I ask for parents who are interested in joining the school council to contact the school. Parent representation is essential to ensure effective

## November 2011

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governance of the school.

Regards,

**Gary Power**

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## Student Learning

To measure student growth over the last year, we have begun our second series of OnDemand testing. This is a diagnostic test administered online whereby teachers can identify areas of strengths and further improvement. These results will assist teachers prepare end-of-year student reports and aide their curriculum planning for 2012.



Workgroups have conducted parent/caregiver/teacher interviews earlier this term. If you were unable to make your original appointment please contact your teachers to arrange an alternate time. It is essential for us

to maintain effective communication between the school and home to provide quality feedback about your child's learning and engagement.

The school is continuing to work with external literacy and numeracy consultants (Christopher Egan and Frank Schoonderbeek, respectively). Staff have been subjected to significant professional learning which is deepening their understanding of tailoring relevant and engaging curriculum to our diverse group of young people.

The school has recently purchased 50 new Acer netbooks with the Federal Government's NSSCF grant. The netbooks have been assigned to each student, and for the time being, will remain secured at school. During 2012, the school will discuss how we gradually release these home with students. We will be seeking parent/caregiver input into how this will work. (Students using new Acer netbooks featured right).

Results from the latest student opinion survey indicated a significant improvement of students' perceptions towards the hands-on/applied learning curriculum and their 'willingness' to learn. This is a testament to the hard work and dedication all teachers and leaders throughout the school have invested in developing and delivering an engaging, relevant and motivating curriculum aimed at the needs of each young person in their classes. The entire school community should be commended for this significant shift in academic achievement.

**Paul Faci**

**Leader for Student Learning**

## Student Engagement and Wellbeing

### ATTENDANCE

Please ensure that you are contacting the school when the student in your care will not be in attendance, or will be late. Contact can be made to the office on 9376-1953 or direct to the students Team Leader or Pastoral Care Teacher. The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development requires students up to and including Year 9 to attend until the end of the school year.

Students who are in Year 10 may be excused from attending in 2011 from Friday 9th December, when requested by parents/guardians and the principal has received satisfactory evidence that the student has suitable employment.

### ADVANCE

Students in Team Yellow have been participating in the 'Yellow Flow' project. Developed by Adrian (Team Yellow teacher) the students have been working alongside mentors and one of the schools music teachers to produce their own hip-hop music. Students have also been working at YouthWorx, in Brunswick. They participated in Presenter training, and a group of students broadcasted two live to air shows on SYN FM. Through YouthWorx they are also working on documentaries, to be launched at Phoenix Youth Centre in December.

### STUDENT LEADERSHIP

On Friday October 28th Tamara A, Tas N, Thomas B and Andrew G from the Student Leadership Team held a stall at the 'East African Bazaar' at the Multicultural Hub, to fundraise for those experiencing severe drought in East Africa. Students across the school produced Art, Craft, Food and Pot Plants to be sold on the night. The students raised over \$200. Thank you to all the students and staff who participated and the CITY LLEN for their support, it was a fantastic whole school effort and a great night!

Students in the Student Leadership Team are continuing to work alongside the School Council President in establishing Student ID Cards, and are making progress in the development of a non-compulsory school uniform to be introduced in 2012.

### SW-PBSEL

The School Wide Positive Behaviour Support for Engagement and Learning Team is continuing to meet on a regular basis, and is currently developing an Action Plan based on data gathered through surveys of students and staff. The team consists of Sonja Courtis (Internal Coach), Gary Power (Principal), Trish Collins (Student Engagement and Wellbeing Leader), Steve Zogopoulos (Student Youth Worker), and external coaches Scott Garnett (Travancore School), and Pat Prophy (WMR). The school welcomes any parental involvement. For more information visit: [www.pbis.org](http://www.pbis.org).

### JULIE GRANEK

Congratulations to Julie, a well-regarded Allied Health Social Worker who supported Kensington Community High School during 2010-2011. Julie gave birth to a beautiful baby girl Ava on October 30th.

## VCAL PATHWAYS

### VCAL PATHWAYS

2011 VCAL students are now finishing their VET placements for this year. A number of students have participated in a range of courses at various RTO's such as Ceres, Selmar Institute, WCIG, YNR Group, Kangan Batman & Victoria University. I would like to congratulate students on their efforts and thank the above providers for their ongoing support to KCHS student pathways.

### REMINDER TO PARENTS\CARERS VCAL GRADUATION

THURSDAY 24th November 7-10PM Yarraville Club  
Please contact myself or Frances in the office for final bookings by Monday the 14th November. Phone Brett 0419898283 or Frances 93761953



## Coles Sport for School Vouchers 2011

Many thanks to staff, students, parents and friends of the school who collected Coles 'Sport for Schools' vouchers in the last few months. We have managed to collect almost 7,000 this year, which more than tripled our total for last year. This unprecedented support will give a massive boost to our sports program for next year. We have made our orders and have purchased some fantastic equipment. It will also give the students opportunities to try many new sports for 2012.

Many thanks

**Ollie Claydon**  
**Year 7/8 Team Leader and Humanities Teacher**



## School Council Needs Your Help!

This year has been a year of change in the school as new programs were implemented. The change to the curriculum was made to try and improve the teaching methods and to aid in the student retention rates.

Some of the staff were on long service leave throughout the year and replacement teachers were found so as not to disadvantage the students in their learning.

Overall, the student behaviour has been good. As you can imagine there were minor ups and downs but all in all, everything worked out "okay".

We have a slight problem which we are asking for help with. For a school council to operate correctly, we need parents/carers to take an active role. We are asking if any of the parent/carers could assist. We would be forever grateful.

There are minimum of eight meetings a year and if necessary, a possibility of extra meetings for the necessity of ratifying urgent business in the running of the school.

I would appreciate if you could consider a position on the council maybe this year or, as it is so close to the end of term, then maybe next year.

To find out more information about the school council, please contact Gary Power (School Principal) or Paul Douglas (Council President) on (03)9476 1953.

We need your support!

**Paul Douglas,**  
**KCHS School Council President.**

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## Key Dates

## VCAL GRADUATION

THURSDAY 24th November 7-10PM

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Tuesday 6th December 2011

## LAST DAY FOR VCAL (Year 11 & 12)

**Year 11: After completing final exams but not before the close of the school day on the last Friday in November.**

**Therefore, not before Friday 25th November 2011.**

**Year 12: Following their final exam and completion of course work.**

## LAST DAY YEAR 10 STUDENTS

From the Friday in December not more than two weeks before the end of the year, when:

- Parents/Guardians request it
- The principal has received satisfactory evidence that the student has suitable employment.

Therefore, not before Friday 9th December 2011

## 2012 TERM DATES

Term 1: **2 February (students start)** to 30 March \*

Term 2: 16 April to 29 June

Term 3: 16 July to 21 September

Term 4: 8 October to 21 December

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