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Principal's Report

Welcome to the September school eNewsletter. Term three has been a busy and challenging term, but also exciting in several different areas. The key challenge for the school has been developing an action plan which focussed on teaching and learning and improvement in student outcomes. KCHS has been working with literacy and numeracy coaches Chris Egan and Frank Schoonderbeek at an individual level with teachers and at a whole-school level. Chris and Frank provided professional learning in teaching strategies, programme improvement and the improvement of student outcomes.

Activity in the school has focused on examining the way in which we operate administratively and providing a safe and effective environment for our students. Several staff have been engaged in professional learning which has focused on literacy, numeracy, positive behaviour and leadership. Furthermore, the school has been undergoing transformation through the maintenance program auspiced by Melbourne City Council. There are also ongoing negotiations with some contractors to arrange for the installation of sporting facilities.

Furthermore, it is pleasing to note that NAPLAN test results indicate, (though there are a number of areas for improvement), that our students have made improvements in several areas. As our improvement program is based on a three-year plan, we expect the improvement trend will continue and that those areas requiring improvement will achieve positive outcomes.

It is with some sadness that I communicate to you that a key member of our wellbeing staff, Julie Granek, has left the school. Unfortunately, due to a change in the WMR funding arrangements, Julie's contract was unable to be renewed. Julie's key role was to support our program for students with disabilities (PSD). This role involved Julie working

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closely with individual students, families and teachers. Julie has played a key role in improving student outcomes and in developing a professional culture at KCHS. Fortunately Julie has not been lost to education, she is now employed in the Northern Metropolitan Region (NMR), for two days per week and it is our school's intention to employ Julie for two days a week throughout 2012.

Mr Peter Abraham will be taking leave for the duration of Term Four. Peter has been a long-standing member of KCHS. We will miss his humour, guidance and contribution to staff welfare and overall school operation. We wish him well.

Finally, the school council is essential to the school's operation and its success is dependent upon parental participation. Therefore the school is seeking expression of interest from parent/guardians who are willing to serve as a parent/community member of the council.

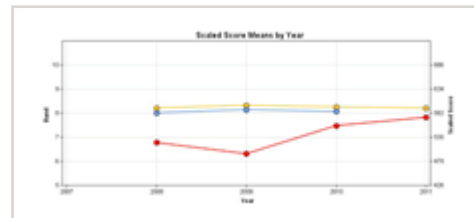
Regards,

Gary

Student Learning

2011 NAPLAN RESULTS ARE IN!

Thank you to all the year 7 and 9 students who participated in the NAPLAN tests earlier this year. I am pleased to announce that we seen a greater number of students participate in the tests, and as a result, our overall performance has improved.



While there are some areas for improvement, I am pleased to boast our school's Numeracy improvement trend. As illustrated, KCHS is now only slightly behind the state average - congratulations students, but also staff. Thank you to all the hard work and support teachers, coaches and external consultants have given the school over the last three years. At a regional level, the WMR should be proud of its achievements in being the most rapidly improved region in Victoria, it is the hard work of schools, coaches, teachers, students and the families that has made this happen.

KCHS will continue to work with external literacy/numeracy consultants to analyse data and improve the outcomes for students in those areas identified by the data.

Latest 2011 student opinion survey data has indicated a significant improvement to teaching and learning. With our applied, hands-on approach to learning, students are seeing the relevance and practicality of this approach to curriculum and has played a vital component of our purposeful learning community. Congratulations to staff who have turned this around to make learning fun, engaging and purposeful.

Paul Faci

0417 541 631

Student Engagement & Wellbeing

Attendance

The school community is continuously focusing on improving and maintaining the attendance and punctuality of all students in the school. 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.



Attitudes to School Survey

This year 45 students in Years 7-12 participated in the Attitudes to School Survey. The school has recently received the results of this survey and will use the data to stimulate discussion within the community on improving student engagement and wellbeing, and assist in identifying areas for improvement.

There are evident improvements in particular areas. The data has shown that students' views have improved since last year in areas of Wellbeing (Student Morale & Student Distress) and Student Relationships (Classroom Behaviour & Student Safety). The questions in these areas were related to students feeling positive at school, classroom behaviour and feeling safe from bullying and harassment.

Recognition goes to the entire school community for their effort and commitment in continually providing an environment and programs that support students' wellbeing and relationships.

Cyberbullying

The school is committed to the promotion of positive behaviours and will continue to create environments where students are safe and supported. The school has established an eSmart team which consists of six staff members within the school community. Two members of the team have attended eSmart training through the Alannah and Madeline Foundation; and two members have attended Professional Learning on "Building Respectful and Safe Schools - Promoting Cybersafety and Preventing Bullying", through the Western Metropolitan Region. In Term 4, the team will begin planning the implementation of an effective whole school approach to addressing cyber safety. Useful websites for parents on cybersafety and cyberbullying include:

<http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/Parents.aspx>

<http://www.ncab.org.au/bullying/>

Student Leadership

The school's Student Leadership Team has continued to meet on a weekly basis. Currently the students are working on the introduction of a non-compulsory school uniform, Student ID cards, continuation of lunchtime basketball, and rewards for positive behaviours within the school. Tamara A recently provided the School Council with a presentation on the introduction of the non-compulsory school uniform, and will be attending School Council meetings for the remainder of the year. Well done Tamara for your initiative.

With support from the CITYLLEN (www.cclen.org.au), the Student Leadership Team is also planning to hold a stall at the 'East African Bazaar'. The bazaar has been organised by the Multicultural Hub, Carlton Primary School, the Sorghum Sisters and members of the local Horn of African community to fundraise for those experiencing severe drought in East Africa. The fundraiser will be held on October 14th 5-9m at the Multicultural Hub, 506 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.

Youth Connections Room

With support from the Inner Melbourne Vet Cluster (IMVC), the school is in the process of establishing a space for students to meet with Youth Connections and other external services; that provide support to students to improve their engagement and wellbeing. Students within the school have produced a mural and other art work for the room; it has been freshly painted, and provided with a desk, games

and a computer through IMVC. The CITYLLEN will be providing funds to purchase a sofa as recognition for the Student Leaderships involvement in the 'East African Bazaar'. Thank you to Natalie Wells from Youth Connections, for supporting the establishment of this space. For more information about the Inner Melbourne Vet Cluster, or Youth Connections:
<http://www.imvc.com.au/>
<http://www.imvc.com.au/content/youth-connections>

If you would like further information on any of the above information please call:
Trish Collins 9376-1953

KCHS Sports Day

The whole school were involved in a fantastic whole school sports day at Northcote cricket centre. Teachers arrived in retro fancy dress with some interesting outfits on show! Students and teachers were placed into teams, and battled it out with each other in cricket, soccer, beach volleyball and netball. Students behaved impeccably and competed ferociously until the end. There were some impressive skills and talent on show along with excellent sportsmanship. The winners received signed cricket bats, and the best and fairest awards went to Bev Brear and Leign Allen. Congratulations to all students who attended, as they were a real credit to the school.



Bike Ed

Many of the students have been involved in the 'Bike Ed' program at Kensington this term. Ollie has been leading Team Blue on weekly bike rides, with students learning key bike safety laws and learning skills and techniques. As part of Applied Learning curriculum, the students have been studying bikety in Melbourne, bike mechanics and related Maths and Science topics. The fitness of the boys has been excellent, and they have responsibly covered bike tracks from Fitzroy to Docklands!



Old Melbourne Gaol Visit

The Red team has been studying crime and punishment in Australia for the past 6 weeks. Students have been learning about Australian legend Ned Kelly and understanding how law and order work in our society. On Monday the 5th of September students visited the Old Melbourne Gaol. They were given a 1 hour guided tour where they explored the last days of Ned Kelly and learnt of the objectives of punishment as well as the role of prisons and the legal system.



The severity of prison routine came to life within the cold, dimly lit bluestone confines of the Old Melbourne Gaol cell block and provided students with a realistic insight into the experience of imprisonment. This tour also gave students an insight on the convict history and the Gold Rush era. The scene of 136 hangings including that of infamous Ned Kelly, is a chilling environment for studies of 19th century prison life. Students were fascinated to experience first hand the Old Melbourne Gaol and we had a lovely tour guide Peter Fewster who was absolutely fantastic with all of the students and gave great insights about the Gaol.



Evelyn Abarzua
Student Teacher – Victoria University

Yellow Team - Art Therapy

Art Therapy in Yellow Group with Louise Waycott a trainee from the Phoenix Institute produced amazing artwork. Our regular attendees were exceptional in the art they produced.

Naomi and Tinnille worked on this “emotions” poster. (see JPG). Adrian helped in the class as well. Peter A



Maori Programme

Again the Maori Group have been creating beautiful objects that relate to Maori culture. The poi is used by women in their traditional dance. Both Tammara and Tinnille made a set for themselves and were practicing. They are very talented and they laughed so much trying.

The photos show Karen, Lee Anne, Tom, Tammara and Tinnille busy making pois (used in dance). Also both Tammara and Tinnille



Thank you to Karen for teaching me so much about the Maori culture this term ... and to Lee Anne for her continued support to the programme.

Peter Abraham

YEAR 12 GRADUATION

Upcoming event in Term 4, VCAL Graduation. Students and Brett Joyce Pathways Co-ordinator will provide full details of invitation and pricing in the beginning of Term 4.

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Key Dates

School Council Meeting

Tuesday 18th October @ 5pm

Term Dates

Term 3: 18 July to 23 September

Term 4: 10 October to 22 December

VCAL STUDENTS

Formal classes for Year 11 & 12 finish Friday 28th October 2011.

All work must be submitted by Friday 18th November 2011 (Last VCALDay)

VCAL GRADUATION

Thursday 24th November 2011

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