



KINGSWOOD PUBLIC SCHOOL

Quality Teaching in a Caring Environment

Term 3 Week 6, 24 August 2011

Dear Parents / Caregivers,

Dates for Your Diary

Term 3 Week 6 Book Week

22/08/11	District Public Speaking Competition, Australian Youth Choir
23/08/11	Starting School Group, Beyond the Bridge Visit, P&C Meeting
24/08/11	District Athletics Carnival, ES1/S1 Basketball
25/08/11	District Athletics Carnival, S3D UWS Lecturer Visit
26/08/11	Scripture, Peer Support, Stage Assemblies

Term 3 Week 7

29/08/11	School Photos
30/08/11	Starting School Group, Kingswood HS Linkages Program, Father's Day Stall
31/08/11	ES1/S1 Basketball, Kingswood HS Stage 3/Stage 4 Disco
02/09/11	Scripture, Peer Support, Whole School Assembly

Term 3 Week 8

06/09/11	Starting School Group
07/09/11	Olympiad 5, ES1/S1 Basketball
09/09/11	Scripture, Peer Support, Book Week Totally Amazing Show

School Photos

Our school photos are taking place on **Monday 29 August**. Please ensure that your children come to school in full summer uniform with the correct money in the school photos envelope.

Father's Day Stall

For those students who did not pre-order a Father's Day gift, the Father's Day Stall will be held on **Tuesday 30 August**. More information will be provided by the P&C.

Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival

On Tuesday 16 August I had the pleasure of attending the Penrith Valley Performing Arts Festival to watch our choir perform as part of the combined choir. They all did an outstanding job. Thank you to Ms Napper who conducts our choir. The night was a wonderful showcase of the talented students we have in Western Sydney. Thank you also to the parents who transported their children to perform on both Tuesday and Wednesday night.

Coles and Woolworths Vouchers / Dockets

We are still collecting Coles and Woolworths vouchers and dockets. Collection boxes for the dockets are in the front office foyer. Thank you for the many we have received so far.

Fundraising Mufti Day for Africa

On Friday 19 August we held a fundraising mufti day for Africa. The school raised \$403.25. Thank you to all the students, staff and parents that made a donation. The money collected will be sent to the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNHRC) for distribution.

Beyond the Bridge Visit – Teach NSW

On Tuesday 23 August a group of training teachers came to visit our wonderful school. These students came from Charles Sturt University. I would like to thank Mrs Fox for organising and coordinating the day. These students really enjoyed visiting our school.

Helmets

Students are expected to wear helmets when they ride a bike or scooter to school. This is to ensure the safety of these students. Please also ensure that your child brings a chain and lock so that bikes and scooters are able to be locked whilst on the school premises. Please be aware that the school cannot take any responsibility if a bike or scooter is damaged or stolen.

Excursion Notes

In 2009 the Department of Education and Training introduced a new Excursion Policy. Parents now need to indicate if their child/children have a medical condition that the school needs to be aware of. **Please be aware that the school is no longer able to accept hand written notes or verbal permission. A school permission note must be completed for each excursion.**

Early Arrivals

Please be aware the morning duty begins at **8:30am**. Students are not supervised before this time. Please do not send your children to school before this time. If children need to be dropped off early, please organise before school care.

Sick Children

During winter many children get sick with colds, flues and viruses. Please keep your children home if they are not well. Sending children to school increases the chances of germs spreading resulting in staff and other students becoming ill. Children can also get very distressed if they come to school sick and need to be sent home. We would appreciate it if you could keep them home whilst they are unwell. A note needs to be sent in with your child/children explaining their absence when they return to school.

Absence Notes and Starting Late

A number of students regularly arrive late at school. Please ensure that your child/children arrive on time each day. The morning session is prime learning time for students and students need to be here for the start of the first lesson each morning.

If your child/children are absent, a note needs to be sent in to their class teacher. Please be aware that rolls are legal documents and children need to attend school each day.

Certificate of Exemption from School

If students are absent for more than a period of 15 days parents must apply for a Certificate of Exemption **before the leave is taken**. The form needs to be completed by parents and this form is then sent to the School Education Director for approval if appropriate. If this applies to you, please come to the office and complete the form before your child/children are going to be absent.

School Crossing

At Kingswood PS we are extremely lucky to have two wonderful crossing ladies who get our students across a very busy road each morning and afternoon. Can I please ask all parents to use the crossing and follow the directions of the crossing ladies. As most of you would be aware, we get a huge amount of traffic through the crossing from our school, the hospital, TAFE and the university, and the ladies are there to make sure that our students cross safely. Please do not sit in your car on the opposite side of the road and call your child/children over. It only takes a split second for a child to be hurt or seriously injured. Please help us to keep your children safe.

2010 Annual School Report

The 2010 Annual School Report is now available on the school website.

School Website

The school has a fabulous website that parents can access for further information about the school. Thank you to Mrs Fox who maintains the website. The website address is <http://www.kingswood-p.schools.nsw.edu.au>

Parentingideas Website

The school has joined the Parentingideas website by Michael Grose. Michael Grose is a parenting expert, currently the Body & Soul parenting columnist and has written seven parenting books.

Insights a parenting newsletter sheet with practical ideas on various topics for parents will be included in each newsletter. This week is titled *Improve your child's concentration at home*. The website address is www.parentingideas.com.au

Norma Petrocco
Principal

Penrith Valley Primary Schools Public Speaking and Oral Reading Competition

The Penrith Valley Primary Schools Public Speaking and Oral Reading Competition aims to develop the skills of students in public speaking, confidence and in speech writing skills. Classes from Year 3 to 6 entered our school competition which was held on Friday 12 August. We congratulate all our students, but particularly the following who represented our school at district level:

Ashleigh P Year 3
Aryan G Year 5

Naomi S Year 4
John N Year 6

The District Competition was held at Regentville Public School on Monday 19 September 2011 where our students spoke wonderfully and were a credit to our school. Thank you to Mrs Di Giglio who accompanied the students to the District competition.

Jennifer Dunstan
Excursion Co-ordinator

Book Week

This week is Children's Book Week. It is a week to celebrate reading and Australian authors and illustrators. This year the Book Week Theme is *One World, Many Stories*. To celebrate Book Week at our school all students are invited to participate in a Book Week colouring activity and a 'Where in the World...' Book Week Quiz.

Each child who completes a colouring page will receive a Book Week certificate. The winners of the first three correct entries drawn in the Book Week Quiz will be able to choose an item from any Book Club Issue 6 brochure to the value of \$10. In addition, all students will participate in a lucky book draw and receive a bookmark when they visit the library with their class.

Classes are also involved in creating a display, to be showcased in the Library, based on one of the short-listed books or the Book Week theme.

Please note that there will not be a book character parade this year. Children will be invited to dress up as a book character on the day of our visiting performance *Totally Amazing* to be held on Friday 9 September.

During Term 3 Weeks 5 – 10, Mrs Young, Mrs Fox and the students of S2/S3K will be involved in a Book Rap titled *One World, Many Stories* as part of Book Week. This Book Rap has been developed by Teacher Librarians in conjunction with the School Libraries and Information Literacy Unit of the Department of Education and Communities. The rap will explore the Children's Book Council of Australia 2011 Book Week short-listed titles and other favourite picture books.

A rap or book rap is an exciting online teaching and learning adventure. A blog is used to host weekly discussion points in response to a text, topic or event, stimulate classroom activities, and provide opportunities for teachers and students to share responses and ideas with other schools.

Students will experience many literacy based activities as well as several Web 2.0 programs such as *Wordle* and *Digital Story Telling*, as they progress through the teaching program.

To understand more about Blogs and how they are used in schools please read the attached information guide produced by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Book Week / Literacy Week Performance *Totally Amazing!*

Totally Amazing! is a musical adventure created to celebrate Children's Book Week 2011 and its theme *One World, Many Stories*.

The show will be performed in the school hall on Friday 9 September from 1:45 to 2:45pm. The cost per student will be \$5.50. All children K-6 are welcome to attend. Children are invited to dress up as a book character for the day. Please note that a book character parade will not be held this year. A separate note for this event was sent home last week.

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who have completed the Premier's Reading Challenge for 2011.

Alex ES1J, Ben S1/S2D, Abbas S1/S2D, Nicholas S1F, Hayley S1PH, Eric S2B, Isaiah S3T, Rebecca S3D, Alexander ES1J, Emmanuel S3D, Jinuki S2A, Kiayla ES1E, Kaitlyn ES1J, Jacob ES1E, Aksa S2/S3K and Blake S3M.

A total of 103 students have now completed the PRC. Well done!

Reading records must be completed by Thursday 25 August.

Mrs Young
Teacher Librarian

MS Readathon



Now is the time to finish up your final chapters for this year's MS Readathon and collect and return your sponsorship.

All students who complete the program will receive an e-certificate of appreciation. Those students who complete with a minimum of \$30 will also receive a Target Gift Card as a 'thank you' for their fantastic reading efforts.

To claim your Target Gift Card simply:

- **Complete your 30 days of reading**
- **Collect sponsorship from friends and family and return it to the MS Readathon by 31st August by visiting - www.msreadathon.org.au**

So why not be rewarded for your reading and help your school!

Go to www.msreadathon.org.au to view terms and conditions.

Visit www.msreadathon.org.au or call 1300 677 323 for more details.

School Swimming Scheme

Thank you to the families who have returned their child's permission note and money to secure a place and participate in the Swimming Scheme activities. All 60 places have now been filled which is a wonderful result!

Please place outstanding money in an envelope with your child's name, class and the amount enclosed, in the money slot at the office.

Mrs Andersen
School Swimming Scheme Co-ordinator

P&C

Our Father's Day stall will be held on Tuesday 30 August. We would still appreciate any gifts for the stall and they can be left at the front office. More details will be sent home shortly.

Warm regards
Joanna Roser
P&C President

**Kingswood Public School
Starting School Group**

Starts July 26th 2011
Every Tuesday Morning
School Terms 3 and 4
9.00am—11.00am

Stories & Games

Do you have a child starting kindergarten next year?

Come along to a **free** playgroup that provides children and their families with a gradual introduction to school life.

Art & music

Bring some fruit and a drink for morning tea.

Group Activities

Parents stay with their child during the playgroup, and younger brothers and sisters are welcome too.

We look forward to meeting you and your child.

Visits to a classroom

Children not attending Preschool or Child Care have priority of access

The playgroup is funded by *Families NSW* and run by an early childhood educator, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training
Call Lisa Jackson on 0423 720 492 for more information

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- \$6 per game per child
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STARTING MONDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER

- Times from 4:15, 4:40, 5:05, 5:30pm & 5:55pm
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Using blogs to enhance student learning



The DET blogging tool - blogED

As part of its ongoing commitment to enhanced student learning outcomes through the use of technology the NSW Department of Education and Training (DET) has developed a blogging tool known as blogED. BlogED was developed in accordance with DET policies and guidelines and has incorporated feedback from students, teachers and parents.

Students access blogED through their DET student portal. When using the DET blog students are able to:

- use the same login they use for email and Internet browsing
- experience the same filters that are currently applied to the use of email and Internet browsing
- be guided by current permission forms regarding confidentiality and privacy
- be protected by DET standards of acceptable use of online communications.

What is a blog?

A blog (an abbreviation of weblog) is a personal website, organised like a diary or journal, which shows the author's most

recent additions first. It enables the author to write regular entries expressing their view of events.

Depending on the permission levels set for a blog, the readers (audience) of the blog are able to 'post' to a blog or 'comment' on a post. For some blogED types moderation is mandatory.

What is an educational blog?

An educational blog is an online journal where a student writes (makes posts) about their learning, which may be commented on by other students, the teacher or a wider audience as approved by the teacher.

Students can add, link to or embed copyright compliant media such as photographs and videos to their blogs. DET blogs can only be set up by teachers. Teachers are able to moderate posts and comments on the blog.

Why use blogs in education?

Some of the main benefits of using blogs for teaching and learning are:

Engagement - students are familiar with online communication and are motivated to learn with online tools.

Audience - feedback adds authenticity to the learning activity. Students and teachers across all subject areas can find an appropriate and wider audience for their blogs. This may

include at their choice, other students in the class or school, parents, students from other schools, and experts in the field from around the world.

Responsibility for learning - students are able to articulate their own learning in a blog and to strengthen a sense of ownership of the contents.

Learning communities - students and teachers can connect through their blogs, so they can read and comment on one another's understandings and opinions, and answer one another's questions, developing a network of support for learning.

Literacy skills - writing to communicate ideas, and integrating images and other media is integral to blogging.

Digital literacy - blogging combines technical and communication skills, which are entry level skills for most careers.

Critical literacy - students learn to evaluate and assess the credibility of what they read online, especially in other blogs.

Using a blog as a learning tool also makes it possible for parents to read and comment on their child's work (if the blog is made public). Blogs can allow parents to gain a deeper understanding of the explicit teaching and learning in which their child is engaged.

More information on using blogs in education

A-Z of technology - Blogs, "CLICK, a technology guide for parents" NSW DET

http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/technology/aztechnology/b_tech.php

Blogs - keeping parents posted, "CLICK, a technology guide for parents" NSW DET

<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/news/technology/usingtechnology/yr2009/blogs.php>

Why Use Blogs In Education, by Stephen Downes

<http://halfanhour.blogspot.com/2009/04/blogs-in-education.html>

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - Australia's No 1 parenting educator

Improve your child's concentration at home

Like any skill, concentration can be improved and made automatic.

To accomplish any task you need to be able to concentrate your attention for a time. It is a requirement for learning. Kids not only need to be able to focus on tasks but to stay in the one place long enough so they can listen to and follow instructions.

Most kids, from time to time, will experience some concentration or focusing difficulties. This is particularly true when they are over-tired, over-stimulated or over-loaded. However some children due to either their physiology or psychology have greater difficulty focusing on tasks and on people than others. Either they find settling into or starting a task a problem or they lose focus easily and leave tasks half done.

There are many things you can do at home to impact on children's concentration levels. Like any skill, concentration can be enhanced and made automatic. The trick to effective concentration is to know what to concentrate on and what to filter out.

Here are five ideas you can use to help kids to concentrate better:

1. Attend to their physiological needs:

Most children and teenagers concentrate best after nine hours sleep so make sure they get sufficient sleep. Reduce sugar intake and increase protein levels with lean meat, almonds and eggs. This stimulates their dopamine levels which make concentration easier, particularly for lethargic kids. Frequent breaks for exercise have a similar effect.

2. Remove distractions at home:

List the distractions at home that may prevent your child from concentrating. These include; noise, people, lighting, fighting, fatigue and hunger. List ways to eliminate or reduce, and work at them systematically.

3. Create the mood for concentration:

Calming background music, placing a fish tank (with fish) in a place of work and removal of fluorescent lights are some simple ways to make the environment more

amenable for concentration. These strategies have been used successfully in overcoming concentration problems in many 'boy-friendly' schools.

4. Introduce sequencing and organisation activities:

The link between sequencing and concentration is a strong one. Following recipes, setting the table and putting things in alphabetical order are great activities for kids who have concentration difficulties. Board and card games promote children's ability to focus on tasks as well.

5. Figure out what activities your child focuses on best:

Some kids concentrate better when they are involved in hands-on activities, while others focus better when there are plenty of visual cues to help them. That's why teachers use hand signals such as 'hands on heads', and 'fingers on lips' to indicate quiet. Look for activities that your child gets 'lost' in; and those activities they can literally spend hours in. These activities enhance children's concentration levels.

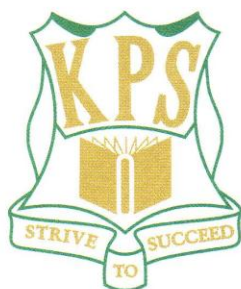
Like any skill, concentration can be improved and made automatic. Anyone who has learnt to drive a car will have had the experience of thinking, "How will I concentrate on all these things?" Extensive practice allows for the pathways of concentration.

It helps before you begin to assist kids to concentrate better if you pay close attention to their pattern of concentration and see if there are links between diet, their energy pattern, sleep and your own behaviour.

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