Welcome back to school!

A huge welcome to our newest members Emily, Jordan, Jedd, Kai, Lili, Veronica, Ivor, Logan, Ryan, Billy, Hunter, Willow, Maddy, Zach. We also welcome Holly Reeves to our Grade Five class and Bridgette Batten to Grade One. We are very excited to have you with us and hope you’ll love your time here at Kinglake Primary School.

It has been a delight to see everyone again and see the children show so much enthusiasm in returning to their learning and their friends. I trust that you all had a safe and enjoyable Summer break, taking the time to be together and take a break from the routines of the school year. I know I certainly enjoyed the chance to stay home in the evening, instead of racing children off to after school commitments and activities.

All our students have started the year off really well and have shown keen interest to get back into their learning and especially renewing friendships. Our term focus in all classes throughout the school is our Start Up program, Ourselves and Our Community. This topic explores what it means to be part of different communities, looking at personal qualities and understanding the values, goals and rules of our school.

Swimming lessons are just around the corner, starting on Monday 15th Feb. Swimming fees are now due and need to be paid in full by 8th Feb. It is hoped that all our students are able to participate in this vital program that builds confidence around water, improves skills in swim strokes and educates our students about water safety. Parents are welcome to watch their child’s lesson.

Our school community is not complete without the efforts and contribution of our wonderful parents. Your say in our school is important and valued. Please check in with your child’s teacher as to how you can get involved or please consider joining the Parents and Friends Association (PFA) or school council. The Annual General Meeting for the PFA will be held at 9.15am on March 8th in the library. The Annual General Meeting for School Council will be held at 7pm on Monday 15th Feb, also in the school library. There are currently 2 available positions on school council, please pick up a nomination form, submit it at the office. If you have any queries about either committee, please contact me or drop in and hopefully I can answer your questions.

A huge thank to Belinda O’Grady for helping to clear all the mud that was washed over the footpaths after the wild weather on the weekend. We are grateful for any parent help, even during the day.

Please remember all students should be wearing shirts with sleeves only, not singlets and wearing hats this term. There are a number of students who are relying only on the spare hats in the office, each day. New hats are in stock and ready for purchasing, it is important that students have their own hats.

The walking school bus is available most Friday mornings. We start walking from, the Post Office at 8.15am sharp. We ask parents to wait until teachers have arrived before leaving their children. Please also check Facebook for changes or cancellations on Friday mornings.
CAR PARK SAFETY

A FREINDLY REMINDER !!! For the safety of your children please do not park in the staff car park between the hours of 8.30-9.00am and 3.15-4.00pm. Thank you for your assistance in making our school a safe place for our children to grow.

TERM 1 IS A SUNSMART TERM !

DON’T FOGET YOUR HAT AND MAKE SURE YOU ARE DRESSED FOR THE SUN !

Hats are to be worn at all times when outside and clothing must cover shoulders to prevent any damage from the sun. Students who are not dressed appropriately or do not have a hat will have to remain indoors or in a solid shaded area.

Singlets or shoe string strapped tops are not permitted to be worn at school.

Parent Payments 2016.

Details regarding Parent Payments and Camps for 2016 will be sent home within the next few weeks. School Council will review and approve these Fees at their next School Council Meeting on 15th February.

KINGLAKE PRIMARY SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our weekly newsletter is now available to view on our Website.

www.kinglakeps.vic.edu.au

For our new families, please check out and join our Facebook page. It is handy for reminders and alerts. Please remember that Facebook is a tool for the school to show events going on around the school, dates and basic information. It is not a tool for communicating concerns or student absence. Questions, notifications and concerns are best dealt with by contacting the office.

Enjoy your week!

Deb Keating
IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

9.15 am Monday 8th February: PFA is holding the AGM Meeting. Please come and join our wonderful team.
EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

15th, 16th, 18th, 19th, 22nd, 23rd, 25th, 26th and 29th February
Swimming Program Commences Monday 15th February.
NOTE: Swimming MUST be paid for by Monday 8th of February.

Monday 15th February at 7.00 pm in the Library.
Kinglake Primary School, School Council Annual General Meeting and First meeting of the year. Please complete nomination forms for those interested in joining school council. Forms available at the office.

Friday 4th March:
STUDENT FREE DAY.

NO SCHOOL FOR PREPS FIRST 4 WEEKS.

KIDS CLUB NEWS

Before and after school would like to welcome all the new arrivals into Kids Club this year and welcome back all our regulars.
Andrea, Anita and Craig are looking forward to a year filled with fun, laughter, lots of play and healthy snacks.
Please remember hats are compulsory in first term.
If parents have any enquiries please feel free to drop in and talk to one of our friendly staff at anytime.

Bookings and cancellations
To book/cancel your child into before or after school care please ring the school on 5786 1284.

ALL PARENTS

Kids Club Staff:
Craig : Co-ordinator/Education Leader.
Andrea : Certified Supervisor.
Anita: Certified Supervisor.
Chris : Accounts.

IMPORTANT: All enrolment forms must be up to date for 2016 and your children must be enrolled to use our service. This is part of the Education and Childcare National Regulations.

Accounts can be paid by EFTPOS at School Office Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. If you are having problems please see Chris for a Payment Plan.
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE
INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Every Victorian child should have access to the world of learning opportunities that exist beyond the classroom. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities. It is part of making Victoria the Education State and the Government's commitment to breaking the link between a student's background and their outcomes.

CAMPS, SPORTS & EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF)

School camps provide children with inspiring experiences in the great outdoors, excursions encourage a deeper understanding of how the world works and sports teach teamwork, discipline and leadership. All are part of a healthy curriculum.

CSEF will be provided by the Victorian Government to assist eligible families to cover the costs of school trips, camps and sporting activities.

If you hold a valid means-tested concession card or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible for CSEF. A special consideration category also exists for asylum seeker and refugee families. The allowance is paid to the school to use towards expenses relating to camps, excursions or sporting activities for the benefit of your child.

The annual CSEF amount per student is:
- $125 for primary school students
- $225 for secondary school students.

HOW TO APPLY
Contact the school office to obtain a CSEF application form or download from www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

MORE INFORMATION
For the CSEF application closing dates and more information about the fund visit www.education.vic.gov.au/csef
CAMPS, SPORTS AND EXCURSIONS FUND (CSEF) APPLICATION FORM

School Name

School REF ID

Parent/legal guardian details

Surname ____________________________________________

First name _________________________________________

Address __________________________________________

Town/suburb ________________________________________ State _______ Postcode _______

Contact number ____________________________

Centrelink pensioner concession OR Health care card number (CRN)

☐ □□□□□□□ - □□□□□□□□□ - □□□□□□ OR

☐ Foster parent* OR ☐ Veterans affairs pensioner

*Foster Parents must provide a copy of the temporary care order letter from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS).

Student details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Child's surname</th>
<th>Child's first name</th>
<th>Student ID</th>
<th>Date of birth (dd/mm/yyyy)</th>
<th>Year level</th>
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I authorise the Department of Education and Training (DET) to use Centrelink Confirmation eServices to perform an enquiry of my Centrelink customer details and concession card status in order to enable the business to determine if I qualify for a concession, rebate or service. I also authorise the Australian Government Department of Human Services (DHS) to provide the results of that enquiry to DET.

I understand that:

- DHS will use information I have provided to DET to confirm my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund and will disclose to DET personal information including my name, address, payment and concession card type and status.

- this consent, once signed, remains valid while my child is enrolled at a registered Victorian school unless I withdraw it by contacting the school.

- I can obtain proof of my circumstances/details from DHS and provide it to DET so that my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund can be determined.

- if I withdraw my consent or do not alternatively provide proof of my circumstances/details, I may not be eligible for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund provided by DET.

- information regarding my eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund may be disclosed to the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services and/or State Schools Relief for the purpose of evaluating concession card services or confirming eligibility for assistance.

You are able to request access to the personal information that we hold about you, and to request that any errors be corrected, by contacting your child's school.

Signature of applicant ___________________________ Date ___/___/___

VICTORIA State Government
CSEF ELIGIBILITY

Below is the criteria used to determine a student’s eligibility for the Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund (CSEF).

Criteria 1 – Eligibility

To be eligible* for the fund, a parent or legal guardian of a student attending a registered Government or non-government Victorian primary or secondary school must:

• on the first day of Term one, or;
• on the first day of Term two;
  a) Be an eligible beneficiary within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, that is, be a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold Card or be an eligible Centrelink Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder, OR
  b) Be a temporary foster parent, and;
  c) Submit an application to the school by the due date.

* A special consideration eligibility category also exists. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance on behalf of a child, or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink, are not eligible for the CSEF unless they also comply with one of (a) or (b) above.

Criteria 2 - Be of school age and attend school in Victoria

School is compulsory for all Victorian children aged between six and 17 years of age inclusive.

For the purposes of CSEF, students may be eligible for assistance if they attend a Victorian registered primary or secondary school. Typically, these students are aged between five and 18 years inclusive.

CSEF is not payable to students attending pre-school, kindergarten, home schooled, or TAFE.

Eligibility Date

For concession card holders CSEF eligibility will be subject to the parent/legal guardian’s concession card being successfully validated with Centrelink on the first day of either term one (27 January 2016) or term two (11 April 2016).

Closing Date

Parents are encouraged to lodge the application form by 29 February 2016, so that payments can be made from March 2016. However schools can accept parent applications up until 03 June 2016.

PAYMENT AMOUNTS

CSEF payment amount

The CSEF is an annual payment to the school to be used towards camps, sports and/or excursion expenses for the benefit of the eligible student.

• Primary school student rate: $125 per year.
• Secondary school student rate: $225 per year.

The CSEF is paid directly to your child’s school and will be allocated by the school towards camps, sports and/or excursion costs for your child.

For ungraded students, the rate payable is determined by the student’s date of birth. For more information, see: www.education.vic.gov.au/csef

Year 7 government school students who are CSEF recipients are also eligible for a uniform voucher. Secondary schools are required to make applications on behalf of parents so please register your interest at the school.

HOW TO COMPLETE THE APPLICATION FORM

1. Complete the PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN DETAILS section.
   Make sure that the Surname, First Name, and Customer Reference Number (CRN) details match those on your concession card. You will also need to provide your concession card to the school.
   If you are claiming as a Foster Parent or a Veteran Affairs Pensioner, you will need to provide a copy of documentation confirming your status as a temporary Foster Parent or provide your Veterans Affairs Pensioner Gold card to the school.
2. Complete the STUDENT/S DETAILS section for students at this school.
3. Sign and date the form and return it to the school office.

CSEF payments cannot be claimed retrospectively for prior years.

Queries relating to CSEF eligibility and payments should be directed to the school.
School Council Election 2015 - Information for Parents

What is a school council and what does it do?

All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally constituted bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within statewide guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?

For most school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent category - more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child's school as long as they are not engaged in work at the school.

A mandated elected DET employee category - members of this category may make up no more than one-third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

An optional Community member category - members are coopted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

Generally, the term of office for all members is two years. The term of office of half the members expires each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?

Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.
**Do I need special experience to be on school council?**

No. What you do need is an interest in your child's school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school's future.

**What do you need to do to stand for election?**

The principal will issue a Notice of Election and Call for Nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March unless the usual time line has been varied by the Minister.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not engaged in work are eligible to nominate for parent membership of the school council at that school.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the Notice of Election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

Generally, if there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

**Remember**

- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

**Contact the principal for further information.**
Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Kinglake Primary School.

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on 11/02/2016.

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on 11/02/2016.

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of Positions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20YY.</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20YY.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DET employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 20YY.</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20YY.</td>
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</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Deb Keating

Acting PRINCIPAL