

# Kismet News

Empowerment & Excellence in Education for all

## Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

On behalf of all the staff we welcome everyone back to Kismet in 2015. We extend a particularly warm welcome to all those new families joining our learning community for the first time – we look forward to working in partnership with you so that your child may reach their full potential.

Classes are currently participating in our 'Start Up Program'. During this time teachers are setting up school expectations that *promote the right of every student to do as much learning as possible and to do so in a safe and comfortable environment*. We encourage parents to talk with their child about expectations

## HOURS OF SUPERVISION

Please remember students should arrive at school from 8:40am and leave grounds after school by 3:30pm. Grounds are supervised from 8:40 – 8:55am and from 3:15 – 3:30pm. If you need to access the school earlier in the morning and/or later in the afternoon than these times we do have an excellent Before & After School program which is operated by Extend. For further information about this program please visit their website at [www.extend.com.au](http://www.extend.com.au) or call on 1300366437.

## ADVENTURE PLAYGROUNDS

Kismet Park has two adventure playground areas—a Prep to 2 playground and a Years 3-6 playground (with the spider). The equipment in each playground has been designed as appropriate to each age group. We ask that parents ensure their children play on the appropriate equipment before and after school.

## PARENT QUESTIONNAIRE

On Tuesday all students in Years 1-6 took home a Student Learning & Personal Development Parent Questionnaire to give parents an opportunity to provide information about their child's learning. It would be appreciated if families could return the questionnaire to classroom teachers by Monday 9th February so that parent feedback can be included in Teacher – Student Learning interviews the following week.

## HOUSE SWIMMING SPORTS

We wish our swimmers all the best for the Year 4-6 House Swimming Sports which will be held at the Sunbury Aquatic Centre tomorrow.

## DON'T FORGET YOUR SUNSCREEN

Have a great week! Glenn & Diane

## PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Information about our first Parent Teacher Interviews accompanies this newsletter. This explains our online process for booking in your times for interviews with your child's teacher. **Bookings open at 9:00am on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February & close at 11am on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February.**

## The Department of Education & Training wants parents to be aware of the following information:

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide student accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Student accident insurance policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurance.

**Personal Goods Brought to School at Owner's Risk** The Department of Education and Early Childhood Development does not hold insurance nor does it accept responsibility for private property brought to school by students, staff and visitors and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property. At Kismet Park we discourage the bringing to school of unnecessary, expensive or precious toys or sporting equipment.

## Contact Us:

McEwen Drive  
PO Box 220  
Sunbury Vic 3429  
(03)9744 4566



## D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

Friday 6th February: Grade 4–6 House Swimming

Friday 13th February: 2:30pm Assembly

Monday 9th March: Labour Day (No school on this day)

Tuesday 10th March: Curriculum Day (No school on this day)

Wednesday 25th February: Parent induction sessions 9.00-10.30am or 7.00-8.30pm

Monday 17th March: School Photos

Friday 27th March: Last Day of Term 1



## ANAPHYLAXIS

As you would be aware there are a number of students within our community who suffer from allergies related to nut, egg and dairy products. Some of these allergies can be triggered simply by coming into contact with food packaging or incidental contact with a child who is eating a particular food.

While we follow the recommended practice of not banning particular products we strive to minimise the risks associated with these allergies by:

Banning the sharing of food amongst students

Encouraging the correct disposal of food wrappers

For special events such as birthdays *only commercially manufactured / packaged foods clearly labelled with ingredients can be brought from home so that staff are able to identify contents and distribute appropriately.*

**We also ask families that wherever possible to avoid including trigger foods containing nut products in their children's snacks and lunches.**

We appreciate the community's support of these practices and ask parents to reinforce the importance of these guidelines with their children. We thank you for your support.

A copy of the school's Anaphylaxis Policy and Anaphylaxis Prevention Strategies document are available at the office. If you require any further information please contact myself, Diane or your child's teacher.

**Does your child have Anaphylaxis or an Allergy? Does your child have diabetes, epilepsy or asthma? Have you informed the school?**

**Please call Vanessa on 9744 4566 to discuss a Management and Action Plan ASAP if you haven't already done so.**

## COMMUNICATION BAGS:

Hopefully you received today's newsletter in our red communication bag. School Council introduced these bags for the purpose of more secure transport of parent information material including items such as newsletters, excursion notices and school diaries (for students in years 3-6). These bags may also be used to protect and carry homework tasks to and from school. Please ensure your child's bag is clearly labelled and returned to school daily. Bags can be purchased from the office.

## EVERY DAY COUNTS

**Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child's education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.**

### Why it's important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

### Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It's vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

### What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they're ill. It's vital that they're only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It's vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**Day off** – Think twice before letting your child have a "day off" as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts. "

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent's permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don't fall behind:

-Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

-Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible. Openly communicating with your child's school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: [www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx)

**AFL Community Camps**

The Essendon Football Club will be visiting Kismet Park as part of the AFL Community Camps on Monday 9th February. The players will be meeting with our student leaders in the afternoon to discuss leadership skills.

**STUDENT LEADERS**

Student Leadership is integral to promoting a sense of belonging and taking an active role in our learning community. The diversity of roles provides our senior students with opportunities to nurture leadership aspirations and build skills of communication, problem-solving and decision-making.

Through training and holding positions of responsibility our student leaders demonstrate the following:

- \*positive behaviours that demonstrate respect for themselves, their peers, their teachers and all other members of the school community
- \*respect for the rights of others, including the right to learn & valuing differences
- \*a student voice in the educational decision-making processes (eg. Junior School Council)
- \*peer models for promoting a sense of belonging
- \*active participants as members of the school community

We wish them the very best in their leadership roles and hope the skills and experiences they gain this year go some way to preparing them for future leadership roles in the wider community.

**School Captains:** Jezz Petrincic & Wimansa Samaranayake

**School Vice Captains:** Charlotte Campbell & Jem Sinfield

**Junior School Council:** Ben Attard, Olivia Katsikapis, Alli Long, Jordan McColl, Harmony Faltiska, Riley Strange, Lucas Pumpa & Mia Wardley

**Hogan House Captains :** Jade Dunne & Daniel Stubbs

**Hogan Vice Captains:** Ryley Bishop & Holly Hodgson

**McEwen House Captains:** Kiralee Collings & Cooper Shoebridge

**McEwen Vice Captains:** Tomas Mueller & Imogen Wardley

**Clarke House Captains:** Mitchell McLean & Hannah Smajila

**Clarke Vice Captains -** Daniel Salvatore & Sally Hedgelong

**Lambert House Captains -** Hayden Kirby & Taylah Bailey

**Lambert Vice Captains:** Daniel Trombini & Samantha Dellar

**Photographers -** Jake Barker, Tenisha Hollow & Matthew Jackson

**Tech Wizards:** Colby Baker, Alyssa Macasaddu, Holli Cecchini & Jade Wilson

**Dance Group Leaders:** Bianca Harvie & Emmy O'Brien

**Band Leaders:** Lucas Coates & Taylah Henley

**Garden Club Leaders:** Tamara Cross & Isaak Dowsett

**Choir Leaders:** Emma Drummond & Isaac Tyquin

**Flags:** Jaiden Fisher, Natalie Geytenbeek, Sabrina Knight & Jordan Tauhinu

We look forward to presenting leadership badges at next week's assembly.



Junior Football Netball Club Inc.

**2015 REGISTRATION DAY****6.30pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> Feb****Boardman Oval No3, Mitchell's Lane Sunbury****WANTED FOR 2015 SEASON - PLAYERS FOR:****U10, U12, U14, U16 FOOTBALL****U11, U13, U17 NETBALL****FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:****Jason Tirchett (Football) 0405 656 311****Kate Tirchett (Netball) 0400 066 943****Primary Music Institute**

Instrumental Music Program At Your School

Primary Music Institute (PMI) provides small group and private instrumental music lessons at your school through our unique **keyboard** program.

To enrol now please visit our website ([www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au](http://www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au)). If

you have a paper enrolment form you can either enrol online or fax your completed form to 1300 764 674.

Lessons are held on school campus – with exact lesson days and times confirmed on an individual student basis depending on availability and school preferences

Structured learning objectives and student development plans – provided as part of the PMI Stars program

Outlines a student learning plan for all program participants

Each level passed by completing activities across theory, aural and sight reading, scales and performance

Parental engagement and visibility of student progress – including via open lesson days, progress reports (as part of the PMI Stars program), recitals, school performances, etc.

Unique curriculum – developed with the input of a panel of musical and education experts

Continual innovation – led by new Program Directors since mid 2013

Quality teaching – stringent selection criteria, safety certification, ongoing curriculum development and teacher coaching

for more information about any of the PMI programs please have a look at our website and to receive any further information please contact our Parent

Support Team at [admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au](mailto:admin@primarymusicinstitute.com.au) or call on

1300 362 824.

**Message from PTA**

Our second hand uniform shop will be open tomorrow Friday 6th February from 8:45—9:30am. Please bring a gold coin donation.

Do you have any old uniforms hidden away?... Why not donate to our second hand uniform shop??....

Please see the office. :)

**Fete meeting**

Friday 6th February at 1:00pm. Everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa, we will fill you in on the plans for 2015 at Kismet Park.

**WELCOME TIME & DEVELOPING INDEPENDENCE AT KISMET PARK PS**

Our lives are full of appointments, deadlines and time commitments. So it is very important that we instil in our children the importance of punctuality and preparedness. These attributes also ensure that our students have a smooth start to the school day by feeling settled and focussed for learning. So as parents and educators it is vital that we model punctuality and preparedness and value the importance of instilling these attributes in our children from an early age. So please support us by endeavouring to have your children at school by 8.45am when we announce our Welcome Time and invite our students to move to their classrooms and prepare for the school day.

To promote independence we ask parents to allow their children in Years 2 - 6 to enter the classroom on their own so they can practise the important skills of organisational independence. Any support that is needed can be provided by their teacher and/or fellow students. It is also a valuable time for the building of positive relationships between the teacher and your child. For this reason we also ask parents needing to talk with classroom teachers to organise a suitable time outside of our Welcome Time so that teachers can interact with students and complete their preparations to commence teaching and learning programs at 8:55am. We thank you for your support.

The teachers are currently training students to come into their classrooms from 8.45 to 8.55am each morning to unpack their schoolbags and Red Bags to ensure readers, notes, monies and permission slips are placed in their appropriate locations before instructional time. Older students are also reading the daily schedule that is on display in their classroom so that they can gather their workbooks, stationery, iPads and whatever other materials are needed in readiness for their first learning session. Where classes have Art, Music, Physical Education or Library at 9am, Specialist teachers arrive at 8.55am to mark the roll and take the class to their specialist location promptly to ensure all students gain optimum time in the Gym, Art Room, Music Room and Library.

So it is very important that your child has the time to feel prepared for the day and doesn't miss valuable learning time particularly if they are continually late to class. If you are experiencing difficulties with being punctual due to the child's reluctance to cooperate in the mornings or other reasons, then please speak to the class teacher or Mrs Powell for advice. We understand that on that odd occasion being delayed is an unavoidable consequence and we will always ensure that your child is given time to feel settled.



#### A Message from our OnPsych Service

Do you find that your child is having emotional or behavioural issues? OnPsych are a team of fully qualified and registered psychologists who specialise in child and adolescent services working in primary and secondary schools in both individual and group settings. Services are performed at NO COST to the school, student or parent through Medicare bulk billing. We are now fortunate to have established an OnPsych service at Kismet Park PS. If you believe that this service might benefit your child, please contact Diane Powell for further instructions. Our new onPsych psychologist, Amanda Lamont, will also be available between 8:30am and 8:55am on Thursday mornings throughout Term 1 for any further inquiries or just a general meet and greet. Please sign in at the office if you wish to see Amanda and a member of the Office staff can take you across to the OnPsych room.

Do you live more than 4.8km from Kismet? Is Kismet your 'nearest' school?  
If you answered yes to both of these questions, please call Vanessa on 9744 4566 to discuss your eligibility to Conveyance Allowance in 2015.