



# Kensington Community High School 2019 Term 1 Newsletter Principal's Note

Welcome to our first newsletter for 2019.

You will read a number of different “snapshots” of the work and extra-curricula activities our various groups have been undertaking. You will be impressed by the range and level of achievements and the progress made across the school.

The focus, as it has been in previous years, is on continued school and student improvement both individually and collectively.

However, student improvement is dependent on a high level of punctuality and school attendance.

It is known that missing school can have a big impact on your child academically and socially. A child missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By year 10 they will have missed more than a year of school. It can affect their educational outcomes.

Just as importantly, it can affect their relationships with other students and lead to social isolation.

International research demonstrates a strong connection between attendance at school, appropriate participation in education programs and students’ learning and longer-term life outcomes.

Therefore, it is crucial that children and students develop habits of regular attendance at an early age, even from the time they are enrolled in a pre-school setting.

Poor patterns of attendance place students at risk of not achieving their educational, social and psychological potential and are disadvantaged in the quality of choices they are able to make in later life situations.

Once learners have begun to absent themselves from pre-school or school, and the initial cause of this remains undetected or unexplored, it is likely that the pattern of absence will continue and escalate through the subsequent school career.

There is no safe number of days for missing school; each day a student misses puts them behind and. Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

I seek each parent/caregiver’s support in maximising their child’s attendance so that student improvement is maximised.

Please be strong and committed to ensuring that your child attends school each day on time. Please do not “give in” to your child and let him/ her stay home on a birthday, or to go shopping, to avoid school activities, or to stay home all day because they stayed up late watching TV or other similar excuses.

Absenteeism sends a strong message to your child that school attendance and completion of school work is not important.

Furthermore, being late every day is not OK. Mornings are the most productive times. When students arrive late, valuable learning time is lost. If students attend school regularly and on time their chances for an excellent future are increased. Each and every day, in partnership, we need to maximise the time your child has at school.

Finally, there has been significant debate regarding the impact mobile phones have on student outcomes. In support of teaching and learning in both local and overseas schools, restrictions have been placed on student mobile phone use.

Last year France moved towards banning the use of mobile phones in its primary and secondary schools.

Whilst at KCHS, students are only allowed to use their mobile phone before school, at recess, at lunchtime and after school. Students are expected to turn their phone off before they enter the classroom and not use their phone during class time.

Please support the school’s teaching and learning programme by supporting our approach, having a discussion with your child about mobile phone use while at school and only contact your child outside of class time.

If you need to contact you child during class time, please contact the school’s front office and a message will be delivered to your child as soon as possible.

Regards,

Gary Power

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL COOKING

The students used an original recipe that was discovered in Egypt. Cleopatra favourite dessert was a dish called Tiger Nut Balls. Blue group followed this ancient recipe and successfully made a delicious ancient Egyptian dessert.

Here is the recipe if you would like to try it a home.

This recipe is very straightforward, requires no cooking and is a lot fun to make (ideal for younger members of the household who might want to help).

## Ingredients

- 200g fresh dates (I used dried, which worked really well)
- 1 tsp cold water
- 10–15 walnut halves
- ¼ tsp of cinnamon
- small jar of runny honey
- 75g ground almonds

## Method

Chop the dates finely (use seedless, or make sure to remove the stones first) and put them into a bowl. Add the water and stir. Then mix in the chopped walnuts and the cinnamon.

Shape the mixture into small balls with your hands. Dip the balls in honey (I warmed it first so the honey coating wouldn't be quite so thick) then roll the balls in the ground almonds. Chill them in the fridge for half an hour before serving.

Peter Davis



# HUMANITIES

Students in Red Group focused on learning about the causes and effects of WW1 in Humanities in Term 1. The picture below shows our visit to the Shrine of Remembrance where students had the opportunity to see what Australia's involvement was in all wars that have occurred and how we honour those who have fought for our country.

In English this term the students have been focusing on informative (non-fiction) writing. They have looked at procedural texts, reports and recounts. Their final assessment was a report on the events in the movie Green Brett Joyce

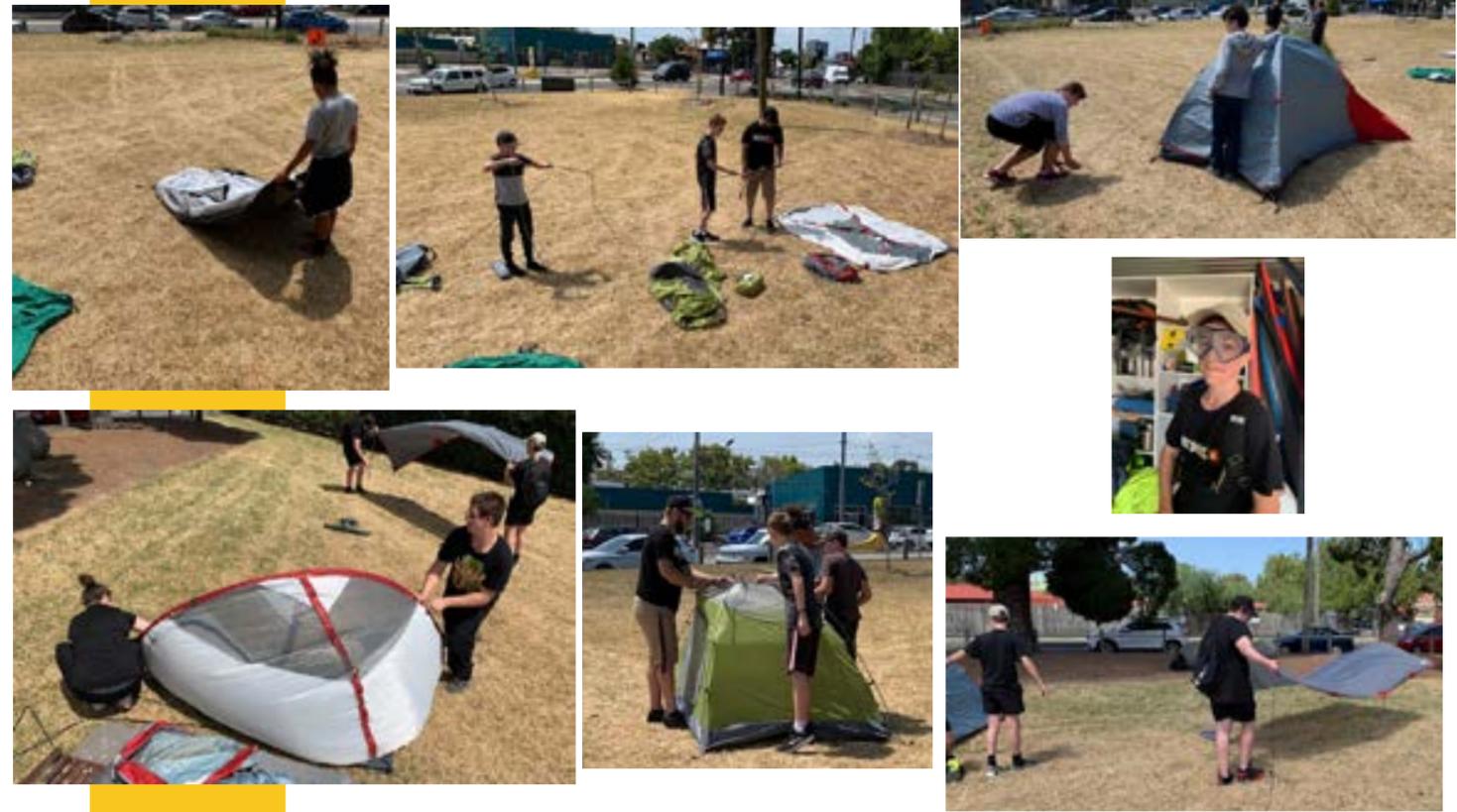


Proud students with baked cookies.

# OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Students have been learning many new skills such as: setting up tents, cooking on stoves and planning for the up coming bike riding camp that will see students travel along the Bellarine Rail Trail from Geelong to Queenscliff a distance of 35km. Students also had the opportunity to attend a day hiking trip out to the You Yangs regional park. All students managed to conquer the Flinder's Peak climb to be able to enjoy the views from the top of Geelong and Melbourne.

Mick Scragg



# SWIMMING YEARS 7 - 10

This term, as part of our Physical Education program, students from years 7 – 10 have participated in a swimming program that was run by the Kensington Community Recreation Centre. Each week the session finished with a fun activity as well.

All of the students who participated and had a go learnt a lot and had heaps of fun doing it.

The students were taught the basic swimming techniques, which included:

- Freestyle
- Backstroke
- Breaststroke
- Butterfly/Dolphin kick
- Treading water

PE Department



# BIKE EDUCATION

Students have begun term one by learning the basics about a bicycle, some of the laws around riding a bicycle and some of the introductory skills required to ride a bicycle. Students have also been participating in weekly rides that have been increasing in distance with in the local areas along the Maribrynong river. We look forward to taking the students in new directions and greater distance rides next term as their skills and fitness increase and improve.

Mick Scragg



# KITCHEN OPERATIONS



Students are being very productive and enthusiastic in the kitchen, making freshly baked sausage rolls and delicious healthy sushi rolls with the guidance and support of TAFE teacher Christine and Liz.

# Blue Group Transitioning into KCHS

It can be difficult for young students transitioning from either primary school or from another secondary school. Staff try very hard to make everyone feel welcome and feel safe at KCHS at all times. The blue group staff (Trish, Michael, myself Peter and Jack) are focused on providing our youngest and new members the best possible start to the 2019 school year. Blue group has developed into a positive and supportive group over this term. The students want to learn and improve their skills.

It has been a very positive start to the year.

Our strong connection with parent/caregivers have enabled our students to gain a positive start to their secondary schooling. Parents/caregivers are always welcome at KCHS. Your valuable input in your child's education is extremely important.

Peter blue group leader



## ADVANCED PROGRAM

As a Yellow Group rite of passage, we began Term 1 with our Thursday Advanced program at the Collingwood Children's Farm. The students leave for three sessions every Thursday to volunteer around the farm, by making chook pens, cleaning the barns, and assisting with the animals. This program is a fantastic opportunity for our students to give back to the community through hard work as a team!

Kelly King



# INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

The Department of Education is now delivering an inclusive education agenda to give schools extra resources, support and guidance on Inclusive Education. The aim is to create safe and inclusive school environments for students with disabilities and additional needs. The initiatives focus on developing the knowledge and skills of school staff, and giving schools clearer guidance and specialist support to better respond to the needs of students with disabilities.

Kensington Community High School prides itself on providing an Inclusive Education and the schools policy is available upon request. In the past year staff have engaged in professional development on areas including the Disability Standards for Education Act, Disability Discrimination Act, Dyslexia, Inclusive Learning and Autism Spectrum Disorder. The school has purchased many resources to support staff and students including noise cancelling headphones and sensory items and is in the process of developing and 'Inclusion Support Room.

The leaders of Inclusive Education at the school are:

Rhys Doyle – Leader of Curriculum

Daniel Bruce – Leader of Student Engagement & Wellbeing

Trish Collins – Disability Support & Inclusive Education Coordinator

The school also has the following Inclusion Support Staff:

Chris Abblitt – Team Red & Green

Stephanie Micallef – Team Yellow

Elizabeth Bentivoglio – Team Red

Rita Garrard- Team Green

Toni Thompson – Team Purple

Jack Green – Team Blue

We would like to thank Paul Nugent for all his support working with students with disabilities and wish him the best of luck in his new position.

Trish Collins

# ARTS AND CRAFTS

This term our students in Arts 'N' Crafts have been getting very imaginative and creative. They have taken on project such as jewellery making, designing bath bombs, concocting slime and spending afternoons drawing in the KCHS garden. This Friday afternoon class has been an excellent time to transition ourselves into our weekends.

Jack Green



## KCHS ARTWORK



Beautiful artwork designed by very creative and talented KCHS students with the guidance of Art teacher and designer Toni and Brett.



# ARCHAEOLOGICAL DIG

## What is an Archaeological Dig?

When something of great importance is found under the ground or under water. A grid is pegged out so that an accurate map can be made of the items found.

The grid helps to record exactly where the items were found.

If the Archaeologist wants to place the items back they have a map to show where everything was found.

Early this year as an introduction to Humanities history the year 7 and 8 students conducted a archaeological dig in the classroom. They learnt how to map a archaeological site and record the artifacts found. Students learnt the difference between a primary and secondary resource. A primary resource is the original artifact and a secondary resource is a copy, either a drawing or image of the original.

It was very exciting watching the curiosity and concentration on the faces of our students. Everyone had fun!

Peter blue group leader



## LeadHeads Comics

### Years 7 - 10

Kensington Community High School has had a great start this year on Fridays. Students learn how to develop traditional and digital drawing, character design and storytelling techniques. Students are encouraged to use their creative imagination to generate ideas. Students who desire to draw or learn how to create stories can become a LeadHead and meet with other creative like-minded students.

We encourage students to develop their literacy skills using storytelling techniques. Staff are very excited by the depth of talented students at the school. This is a great subject for students to express and share their drawing concepts with other students.

Peter blue group leader



## VCAL CAMP

In Week 6 of this term, 21 VCAL students and VCAL staff went down to Phillip Island for a one night camp. The purpose of this camp was to build strong working relationships between the year 11 and year 12 students, as well as the teaching staff for the year ahead. Once down at Phillip Island, we went over to the supermarket and students were given a budget to buy their dinner that they wanted to cook for the evening. After this, we went and had a speedboat tour around the island. Some of the students got a bit sea sick but overall was a really good experience. We then went back to the caravan park and all the students got into their groups and had a cook up. After dinner, half of the students went on a night walk down to the beach. The following day we packed and cleaned up before heading down to Nobby's Point where we were lucky enough to see a few little penguins. Once we finished there we made our way back to school. Overall it was a great experience for all involved and great to see students working collaboratively together throughout the camp.

VCAL Staff



## CLASS DUTIES

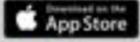
This term Blue Group have effortlessly undertaken their 'class jobs', duties such as recycling, general class clean up, organisation of the stationery drawers, organisation of the iPad trolley, dishes and many more other tasks. Here are images of some of our helpful year 7's and 8's demonstrating a strong display of community watering the communal garden in KCHS courtyard.

Jack Green



# JOIN IN. GET ACTIVE!

## PREMIER'S ACTIVE APRIL 2019




**Get active this April with our brand new workout videos!**  
You can also use the new Activity Timer, all available on our Active April app for iOS & Android.

**YOUR SCHOOL CAN WIN:**

- ▶ Visits from high profile athletes at your school
- ▶ Bike education courses at your school

**REGISTER TO GET:**

- ▶ 10 free passes at your local YMCA or access to a local government recreation facility
- ▶ 30% discount at SEA LIFE Melbourne Aquarium and LEGOLAND Discovery Centre Melbourne
- ▶ One 2 for 1 ticket offer for Otway Fly Treetop Adventures
- ▶ 10% discount at Sovereign Hill
- ▶ 15% discount at Sportsmart in store and online
- ▶ Free experiences at participating Parks Victoria parks
- ▶ 15% discount for a Coasting, Stand Up Paddleboarding session
- ▶ 15% off Rock Up Netball Trains and Youth Programs
- ▶ 20% discount for Netball Victoria community clinics
- ▶ One 2 for 1 green fee offer at participating Golf Victoria courses
- ▶ 10% discount on term 2 My Golf Junior Programs
- ▶ Five free group dance lessons at a participating DanceSport Victoria centre
- ▶ One free Cardio Tennis trial at participating Tennis Victoria courts
- ▶ One hour free tennis court hire at Melbourne Park or Albert Reserve
- ▶ Entry into the draw to win tickets to 2020 Australian Open Tennis Finals\*

## IT'S FREE & FUN FOR EVERYONE

Aim for 30 minutes of physical activity a day during April. Enjoy great benefits and win awesome prizes for you and your school.

Register today – [activeapril.vic.gov.au](http://activeapril.vic.gov.au)

Follow us on:   

MAJOR PARTNERS



PREMIER'S **ACTIVE APRIL**



\*Terms and conditions for all prizes and offers apply. Visit activeapril.vic.gov.au for details. \*Prizes valued up to \$1000 to offer the 2020 tennis season's best.

\*Sponsored by the Victorian Government, 1 Treasury Place, Melbourne

# KCHS Values

## C A R E S



### Community

We help one another and are supportive and encouraging. We take pride in our school

### Achievement

We follow all school expectations and demonstrate academic growth.

### Respect

We respect ourselves and others by talking appropriately and using respectful language.

### Effort

We work to the best of our ability and demonstrate effort in all subjects.

### Safety

We use equipment as it was intended. We treat others fairly and as we would wish to be treated.

### **2019 TERM DATES**

#### **Department of Education and Training**

Term 2 23rd April - 28th June

Term 3: 15th July - 20th September

Term 4: 7th October - 20 December

#### **Public Holidays**

Good Friday 19th April

Anzac Day 25th April

Queen's Birthday 10th June

Melbourne Cup Day 5th November