Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Thank you for such an energetic, positive start to the school year. Walking around classrooms it has been great to see staff and students setting high expectations and diligently going about achieving their best.

The arrival of our playground seating, new cabinetry in the Art Room and an upgrade of our canteen once again show the benefits of having such wonderful and supportive parent groups such as PTA and School Council. There is still much to be done, with landscaping of the courtyard area and installation of our purple friendship seats to come. Even the first big steps towards restoration of our rubber surfaces has finally started!

Have a great week!
Glen & Diane

**Important House Swimming Sports News for Tomorrow**

Due to extreme hot weather predicated for tomorrow we have cancelled the 25 metre events and aquatic activities which were scheduled to commence at 11:00am. The 50 metre swimming trials, scheduled to commence at approximately 9:30 will go ahead as planned, with students returning to school by 11am.

Unfortunately we are unable to reschedule the cancelled activities. Moneys paid for the cancelled component will be credited towards a future excursion or class activity.

2014 School Council Election

Our 2014 School Council election process commences shortly, with the call for nominations for Parent Members and DEECD Employee Members commencing on Thursday 13th February. For those who would like to know more about the workings of School Council and the election please see further information later in this newsletter. Please see Glenn or Diane if you are interested in finding more about School Council.

**DEECD wants parents to be aware of the following information:**

Parents are reminded that the Department does not provide personal 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.

**Student Injuries At School**

Kismet Park has a range of first aid protocols in place to deal with student injuries. These protocols include giving first aid, attempting to contact parent or other emergency contacts and if necessary, calling an ambulance. For this reason it is important that parents and guardians ensure the school always has up to date emergency contact details.

**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.

**Children and Hot Cars. No Exceptions. No Excuses.**

On hot days, it is important to remember that children should never be left alone in a car. The temperature inside a car on hot days begins to rise as soon as the door closes and within minutes the temperature inside can be double the temperature outside. Leaving children in hot cars – even for a moment – can result in injury or death. Young children’s smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks. Victorian legislation makes leaving a child unattended in a car a criminal offence, with penalties ranging from fines of $2165 or three months in prison. If you are travelling with a child in a car and you need to get out, make sure you take your child with you. No exceptions. No excuses.

For more information, see: **Kidsafe Victoria**

**Parent Volunteers Needed**

Donna Matthews is looking for some kind volunteers (with Working With children Checks) to help process the books earned by the community through last year’s Safeway Earn & Learn program. If you can assist please speak with Donna or leave your name and contact details at the office. Any assistance will be greatly appreciated.

**Dates to Remember**

Friday 7th February: Grade 4 –6 House Swimming (50 metre trials only)
Tuesday 11th February: Prep-2 Community Welcome
Wednesday 12th February: Grade 3-6 Community Welcome
Friday 14th February: 2:30pm Assembly
Tuesday 18th February: Parent Education Induction Session 9:00am-10:30am
Monday 10th March: Labour Day (No school on this day)
Tuesday 11th March: Curriculum Day (No school on this day)
Monday 17th March: School Photos
Friday 4th April: Last Day of Term 1

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No responsibility is accepted by the Department of Education or Kismet Park Primary School for accuracy of information contained in advertisement or claims made by them.
THE ROLE OF OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided 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?
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 Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

A mandated elected DEECD 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. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members. The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire 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 and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year.
• All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.
• 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.
• DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.
• 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.
• 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.

If you would like more information please speak with the Principal, Mr Glenn McConnell.
EXTEND OSHC AT KISMET PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome!
Hello families at Kismet Park Primary School. My name is Danielle. I will be the Team Leader here at Extend After School Care. As I will be here every day, spending lots of quality, fun and exciting time with some of your children - I believe this will be a great opportunity to tell you about myself and my role here at Kismet Park.

Well where do I start? I have worked for Extend for an enjoyable year and a half at various schools. However, I have been working with children for over four years now. I am also studying my Bachelor of Early Childhood and Primary Education. I have a strong passion for the outdoors, travel, football and music. Go the Bombers! I come from a big family and have three pet dogs and a cockatoo.

Even though last week was a short week it was a great transition week with the children. We made scrumptious rum balls, magical etchings and created Chinese lanterns to celebrate Chinese New Year on Friday. Let’s not forget all the exciting activities that the children participated in outside, such as multiple games of fruit salad and an obstacle course.

Also, be sure to enrol so that you have access to the service when you need it. It is a regulatory requirement that children are enrolled before attending. To access an enrolment form visit extend.com.au. You will not be charged the $20 fee until you first use the service and WE HAVE NO WAITLIST! The more the merrier!

- Danielle

Our Extend Superstar is Katie M. Katie always has a beautiful smile on her face and demonstrates a positive attitude in Out of Hours School care. Well done Katie!

Next week’s activities:
Monday 10 February:
Kitty rice cakes, Catching cups & Knock out
Tuesday 11 February:
Creating dream catchers, Colour separation & Marco Polo
Wednesday 12 February:
Salt Painting, Recyclable painting & Around the world
Thursday 13 February:
Apology day: writing cards to one another, Cabbage colours & Jungle Knots
Friday 14 February:
Valentine’s Day owl, Cake pops & Soccer
ONLINE BOOKINGS: extend.com.au
CALL OUR OFFICE: 1300 366 437

Message from PTA
Our second hand uniform shop will be open Friday 14th February from 8:30–9:30am. 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. :)

Our first PTA meeting for 2014
Monday 17th February at 9:00am in Room 7, everyone is welcome to come along for a cuppa, we will fill you in on the plans for 2014 at Kismet Park.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB
Notices for the first Scholastic Book Club of the year are being sent home today. If you have any questions regarding Book Club, please come and see me in the library. Book orders and monies must be returned by lunchtime on Thursday February 13th. Orders usually take about 1 week to arrive and will be delivered to your child’s classroom. Thanks,

Jennifer Driver

KEYBOARD LESSONS ARE BEING ACCEPTED FOR TERM 1,
PLEASE ENROL DIRECTLY ON THEIR WEBSITE:
www.primarymusicinstitute.com.au
Recognising Talent, Effort & Resilience

Our aim always at Kismet Park PS is to promote a sense of belonging. We believe that children need strong positive connections with friends who support and understand them and who they can turn to for help. Our Better Buddies program has been a fantastic program for reinforcing core community values of caring for one another and embracing differences whilst our You Can Do It! program promotes self-esteem and independence. We now look forward to establishing a whole school approach to nurture and support the wellbeing and academic achievement of all students.

We are very proud to now be part of the Kids Matter national initiative that provides schools with a framework, resources and support to identify and implement strategies to improve mental health and wellbeing of students. Over the coming months we will be informing you of new initiatives to further enhance our Student Engagement & Wellbeing programs.

The first major change to our Student Engagement & Wellbeing award system will be that our longstanding Pupil of The Week ribbons that reflected our You Can Do It foundations will be replaced by weekly recognition of students demonstrating talent, effort, citizenship and resilience. We aim to provide avenues for all students to strive for excellence in a wide range of disciplines including Sport, The Arts, Academia and Personal Development and receive genuine recognition for their efforts. It also allows for our Specialist teachers, Education Support Officers, Administration staff and wider school community members to participate in the nomination of students and thereby strengthen our commitment to everyone working together to promote a sense of belonging.

Look forward to further details about our new award system in future newsletters.

Student Leadership

At Kismet we provide a range of opportunities for students to develop their leadership skills. Next week’s newsletter will contain information about our Student Leaders program as well as a list of this year’s student leaders.

Interested in a Career in Childcare?

The Certificate III in Children’s Services course will be conducted by Macedon Ranges Further Education Centre, on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9-30am and 3-00pm over seven months. This course is the standard qualification for people who are working or want to work as child care assistants in child care center’s, or family day care. Training is delivered through Victorian and Commonwealth funding for applicable students. Course commences February 10th. For more information please contact the Centre Office on 54283799 or email us on mrfec@sscnet.au

Sunbury Netball Association Inc
Eric Boardman Stadium
Wilsons Lane
Sunbury

SNA Junior Netball is seeking interested players in the following Programs and Age groups:

- Net Set Go: Ages 5 (Grade Prep) to 10 years
- 11 & Under Competitions
- 13 & Under Competitions: Grade 6’s on Saturdays 12 pm & Year 7/8 on Thursday’s 6pm.

Anyone who is interested in playing and further information please contact:
Lisa Crotty 0419 514 090
Amanda White 0408 329 499
Lisa Taylor-Jones 0409 383 842

Sunbury United Junior Soccer Club Inc 2014
Sunday 16th February 9am to 12pm at Langama Park, Sunbury

2014 season playing opportunities exist for boy and girls, men and women. Boys & girls 5-18 years interested in playing for SUJSC in 2014 are welcome. All juniors intending to play must bring a copy of their birth certificate. Free BBQ - Registrations of interest from prospective coaches are invited. For more information contact Paul on 0419530652 or Adele 0425781527

Or visit our website http://www.sujsc.com.au