

DATES TO
REMEMBER

Monday 11th March
Labour Day Public
Holiday
Tuesday 12th March
Pupil Free Day
Thursday 14 March
Prep-2 Athletics Day
Monday 18th March
SCHOOL PHOTO
DAY
Friday 22nd March
School Fete
Thursday 28th March
Last day of Term 1

Contact Us:

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

kismet.park.ps
@edumail.vic.gov.au
<http://kismetparkps.vic.edu.au>

Kismet News

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 5

7TH MARCH 2013

IMPORTANT REMINDER PUPIL FREE DAY on TUESDAY 12TH MARCH

Please note that Tuesday 12th March is a Pupil Free Day. Professional training throughout the day will focus on the use of Information Communication Technology in Classrooms and level 2 First Aid training for Education Support Staff.

Dear Parents, Students and Staff,

Regular updates from our happy campers in Canberra indicate that everyone is having a great time whilst learning important skills about being a self-sufficient school community group and gaining knowledge about our nation's democratic processes and history. We hear that plenty of photographs have been taken to share with families and help our students remember the variety of learning opportunities on their return to school. We wish them well for the remaining time and hope their return journey to Kismet Park offers both the staff and students time to rest and reflect upon the week's experiences. It is anticipated that the arrival time here at school will be at 4pm tomorrow. This will be con-

firmed via our SMS messaging service tomorrow afternoon.

School Council Election 2013

Thankyou to parents and staff who expressed interest in joining School Council – nominations closed on Thursday 28th of February.

As nominations equalled the number of vacancies no ballot was required and all those who nominated are deemed duly elected. Congratulations and thank you to the following parents who have made the commitment to work on School Council over the next two year period.

- Glenn Campbell
- Lee Carter
- David Collins
- Hayden Dunne

We also thank our returning members Penny Draper, Sara Hedgelong and Rod Munro and

Jacqui Phillips who will continue to represent the parent community during 2013.

Elected DEECD Employee Representatives for 2013-14 are Donna Matthews & Rosie Smyth while Vanessa Leetch and Diane Powell return to Council for another year.

A huge thankyou goes to our retiring past parent members Jacquie Phillips and Michael Betson and who made a significant contribution to School Council over a number of years. We would also like to thank Damien Mowlam for his contribution during 2012.

Our next meeting of School Council is scheduled for Monday 25th of March.



DOGS

In the interests of student safety dogs of any size are not permitted in the school playground at any time.

Please be mindful that when a number of children are around dogs can become excited. We would greatly appreciate your support in this area.



WE WANT YOU!
TO BBQ!!

Fete Volunteers.... BBQ Helpers!

We are looking for Master Chef, My Kitchen Rules inspired volunteers to assist with our BBQ's during the Fete. We promise a lot of fun and plenty of snags! If you can lend a hand in any way—

assembling marques, tables, cooking at the BBQ etc, please drop into the office.

Your help would be greatly appreciated!!!!

Premier's Reading Challenge

Let's All Get Involved!!!!

The Victorian Premier's Reading Challenge is on. *We are aiming for all students at Kismet Park to be registered to complete the Challenge which is easy to complete as children can record any books they have read either at home or at school. The Challenge will close on the 16th September.*

To complete the challenge, students in Prep to Year 2 read 30 books in total, either independently or with a parent/teacher/friend. 20 or more books need to be from the Challenge list. Students in Years 3 to 6 read a total of 15 books independently. 10 or more of the books need to be from the Challenge list.

If you would like your to participate please complete the "Victorian Premiers' Reading Challenge' Consent form that has been sent home with this newsletter and return it to your child's classroom teacher. For more information and Challenge Book Lists, please access the official website listed below or speak to your child's teacher.

<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc/>

Home Learning Ideas for Parents

Tips for Helping Early Readers at Home

The 3 P's – PAUSE, PROMPT, PRAISE

PAUSE - When assisting your children with reading it is important to give them time to try to work out the word for themselves. Wait 3-5 seconds before providing a prompt as young children need time to process the strategies that they are currently learning to read unfamiliar words. For example they may look back at the picture, hesitate to recall the repetitive pattern of language, reread or try to remember where they previously read that word in the text.

PROMPT – Encourage the child to look at the pictures by asking:

What word might make sense?

What would sound right?

What does it start with?

If the word makes sense, allow the child to continue reading.

If the word doesn't make sense encourage the child to have another try or tell the child the word so that the flow of the story is not unduly interrupted and enjoyment lost.

PRAISE – At all times it is important that children are praised and encouraged for their efforts. The support and encouragement provided through your praise will greatly assist your child's reading development. Try comments such as:

I like the way

Well done for

That's really great how you

You must have been practising



Please Note all School Bankers!

As next Tuesday 12th is a Curriculum Day we will be completing the Banking on Wednesday 13th.

This change is only for next week, normal banking day will resume the following week. The following page has the new rewards for 2013.

K I S M E T N E W S

Pupil of the Week

Congratulations to the following students who were awarded ribbons for Pupil of the Week for ORGANISATION.

PB	Toby Wilson
PC	Sophie Dunne
PT	Mackenzie Thomas
PW	Logan Johnston
1/2B	Mikayla Tunley
1/2C	Charlotte Wilson
1/2L	Joshua Valders
1/2M	Aaron Trafford
1/2W	Lucas Pumpa
3A	Kasey Mueller
3B	Daniel Arnold
3M	Charlotte Satchwell
4J	Thomas Mueller
4S	Joseph Hurley
4W	Sally Hedgelong
5/6C	CAMP
5/6G	CAMP
5/6K	Nikki Saad
5/6N	Nicole Richards
5/6Z	CAMP

Molly Foundation (Dog Wash)

Chifley's Cool Clips is holding a charity dog wash to raise money for the Epilepsy Awareness Month for Molly.

Come and have a coffee, cake and a chat while we pamper your pooch!

Hydrobath Cost;

Small Dog \$10

Medium Dog \$15

Large Dog \$20

Nail Clip \$5

All money raised will be donated.

Where: 12 Chifley Court Sunbury

Date: 24th March

Time: From 9:00am

Please phone Lisa as Bookings are Essential: 0439 909 088



Below are the new rewards for School Banking 2013



EVERY NIGHT MAKES A DIFFERENCE!

A home cooked meal, a warm bed and your care could be the greatest gift you could offer. There are many care options available to support children and young people, including emergency care, respite care, short term and long term care.



What sort of care would suit your family?

Foster Care Information Session - Broadmeadows

Tuesday 26th March 2013, 7pm – 8.30pm- To register and receive an information pack phone Kay Gyngell - 9301 5200 or email kay.gyngell@anglicarevic.org.au

INSIGHTS



by Michael Grose—No 1 Parenting Educator

The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child's behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend's children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity. But it's hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child's progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use your child's results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. "Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago" is a better measure of progress than "Your spelling is the best in the class!"

Gender matters

It's no secret that boys' and girls' brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can't hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour's child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway. It's better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child's performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children's performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn't have too much personal stake in your children's success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons – to please you!

The maxim "You are not your child" is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as "unconditional love".

Michael Grose Presentations

PO Box 167 Balnarring Vic 3926 p + 61 3 5983 1798 f (03) 5983 1722 e office@parentingideas.com.au

All rights reserved. For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges please visit our website.