



Kismet News

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Building the Foundations for Success and Happiness

6 February 2020

Tuesday 11th Feb	Mr Anstee Parent Teacher Interviews
Wednesday 12 Feb	3:30-6:30pm Parent Teacher Interviews
Thursday 13 Feb	3:30-6:30pm Parent Teacher Interviews
Friday 14th February	9:00am Whole school Assembly
Monday 17th February	School Council Meeting
Thursday 20 February	Interschool Twilight Swimming Sports (qualifying students only)
Tuesday 3 March	Division Swimming Sports
Wednesday 4 March	House Athletics Sports (Years 3 to 6)
Thursday 5 March	Family Night Activities
FRIDAY 6 MARCH	CURRICULUM DAY (Students do not attend school on this day)
Monday 9 March	Labour Day Holiday
Tuesday 10 March	House Athletics Sports back up date (in case of inclement weather)
Monday 16 March	SCHOOL PHOTO DAY
Monday 16 March	School Council Meeting

Dear Parents, Staff and Students,

Congratulations to all on such a positive start to the year. Teachers are currently developing their classroom learning communities. A summary of this work is included later in today's newsletter. During next week's parent Teacher Interviews families will be provided with a summary of key learnings for term 1. This will enable families to actively support their child's learning at home.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES CHANGE TO MORNINGS

During Term 1 we will be trialling assemblies at 9:00am on alternate Friday mornings. By holding assembly at this earlier time we are able to avoid the afternoon heat. Our first assembly for the year will be held on Friday 14th February. At this assembly we will be introducing our 2020 student leadership team. Please look out for assembly dates and times in our COMPASS Calendar and the upcoming events at the beginning of each newsletter

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS (WEDNESDAY 12TH AND THURSDAY 13TH FEBRUARY)

Our Term 1 parent teacher interviews for all classes and specialist programs (Japanese, Performing Arts and Physical Education) will be held between 3:30 and 6:30pm on Wednesday 12th and Thursday 13th February. (* 4A families please note Mr Anstee will be holding his interviews between 3:30 and 6:30pm on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th February)

Bookings can be made through the COMPASS portal.

COMPASS is a web-based system that is accessible on any modern web browser or by using the Compass School Manager app available for iOS or Android. To access our Parent Portal go directly to the Portal URL address: <https://kismetparkps-vic.compass.education> When you log on to COMPASS you will find a link to Conferences on your home page. An online tutorial will lead you through the booking process. When selecting times for appointments with multiple teachers, please ensure you leave at least 10 minutes between bookings to allow for travel between conferences.

Note: Please contact the office if you have misplaced your log in details or require any assistance.

BOOKINGS CLOSE MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY



2020 SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Our 2020 School Council election process commences on Monday 10th of February with a notice of the election and call for nominations. The following timeline will apply for this election:

Mon 10th Feb: Notice of election & call for nominations

Mon 17th Feb: Nominations close 4pm

Wed 19th Feb: List of candidates displayed

By Tuesday 25th February: Ballot papers distributed by this date.

Tuesday 3rd at 4pm: Ballot closes

Wednesday 4th March at 4:15pm Vote count

Thursday 5th March: Declaration of ballot

Monday 16th March: Special School Council meeting to Co-opt community members

Monday 16th March: First School Council Meeting to elect office bearers.



Nomination forms can be collected at the school office from Monday 10th February. The role of School Council is described below. If you would like more information please speak to Glenn or Andrea

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 broad directions of a school in accordance with their constituting Order and the *Education and Training Reform Act 2006*. 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 primary school councils, there are three possible categories of membership:

A mandated elected Parent member category – more than one-third of the total members must be from this category. 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 member 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 co-opted by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

For all schools with a year 7 and above cohort, there is a fourth category of membership:

A mandated elected Student member category, 2 positions.

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 inform and shape the direction of the school.

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

Do I need special experience to be on school council?

Each member brings their own valuable life skills and knowledge to the role. However, councillors may need to develop skills and acquire knowledge in areas that are unfamiliar to them. 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.

Code of conduct for school councillors

School councils in Victoria are public entities as defined by the *Public Administration Act 2004*. School councillors must abide by the *Code of Conduct – Employees* issued by the Victorian Public Sector Commission. The Code of Conduct is based on the Victorian public sector values and requires councillors to:

- **act with honesty and integrity** (be truthful, open and clear about their motives and declare any real, potential or perceived conflict of interest and duty)
- **act in good faith** in the best interests of the school (work cooperatively with other councillors and the school community, be reasonable, and make all decisions with the best interests of students foremost in their minds)

- **act fairly and impartially** (consider all relevant facts of an issue before making a decision, seek to have a balanced view, never give special treatment to a person or group and never act from self interest)
- **use information appropriately** (respect confidentiality and use information for the purpose for which it was made available)
- **exercise due care, diligence and skill** (accept responsibility for decisions and do what is best for the school)
- **use the position appropriately** (not use the position as a councillor to gain an advantage)
- **act in a financially responsible manner** (observe all the above principles when making financial decisions)
- **comply with relevant legislation and policies** (know what legislation and policies are relevant for which decisions and obey the law)
- **demonstrate leadership and stewardship** (set a good example, encourage a culture of accountability, manage risks effectively, exercise care and responsibility to keep the school strong and sustainable).

Indemnity for school council members

School councillors are indemnified against any liability in respect of any loss or damage suffered by the council or any other person in respect of anything necessarily or reasonably done, or omitted to be done by the councillor in good faith in:

the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a councillor, or

the reasonable belief that the act or omission was in the exercise of a power or the performance of a function of a council.

In other words, school councillors are not legally liable for any loss or damage suffered by council or others as a result of reasonable actions taken in good faith.

How can you become involved?

The most obvious way is to vote in the school council 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 consider:

- standing for election as a member of the school council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

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 member 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 via post, email or by hand 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

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



CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

As you may be aware, the situation regarding the emerging outbreak of novel coronavirus has continued to evolve. Over the weekend, the Commonwealth's Chief Medical Officer and Victoria's Chief Health Officer recommended a stronger precautionary approach to managing coronavirus for travellers returned from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) from 1 February 2020.

This recommendation is that parents/guardians/carers should ensure that any children returning from mainland China (not including Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan) who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 is isolated at home and should not attend school until 14 days after they were last in mainland China.

This recommendation does not apply retrospectively. It applies only to students who were in mainland China on or after 1 February 2020.

The existing advice remains that parents/guardians/carers of students should ensure that any student is isolated at home and should not attend school for 14 days:

following exposure to any confirmed novel coronavirus case; or
after leaving Hubei Province.

If you think your children are showing relevant symptoms, please call the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to discuss further actions on 1300 651 160.

DHHS has developed fact sheets in English and Simplified Chinese which include the latest information and advice.

Additional advice and information on the steps to take can be found on the coronavirus web page which also includes advice on:

- continuity of learning for students who are not attending school
- international students and families hosting
- international travel
- maintaining good health hygiene at school
- health promotion posters and materials

information, resources and contacts related to coronavirus.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Primary School Nursing Program

The Primary School Nursing Program is a free service offered by the Department of Education and Training. It is available to all children attending government primary schools. Prep parents will receive an envelope containing a questionnaire about your child's health and development. The questionnaire is distributed to all children enrolled in their first year of school. Please complete and return to your child's teacher.



THE PREP HEALTH ASSESSMENT

A health assessment is offered to all children in their first year of primary school. Your child's school will provide you with an information package containing an information brochure on the Primary School Nursing Program and the School Entrant Health Questionnaire (SEHQ). You are asked to give information about your child's health history and any concerns you may have about your child's health.

The SEHQ will provide important information about your child's health so that the nurse can make an effective health assessment. If your child needs a brief further assessment, such as a vision or hearing test, the nurse will see him or her at school.

Your child cannot receive a health assessment under the Primary School Nursing Program without your consent.

PARENTING IDEAS — By Michael Grose

It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time. It sounds simple, but it is true. The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success. Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned. It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children. That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child. In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event. This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences. Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.

Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late. Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Auntie is coming to visit!" Nice try. But the answer should be "No!".

As parents, we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

As a parent:

Commit to sending kids to school every day.

Make sure kids arrive at school and class on time.

Inform the school when they are away, sending medical certificates and other evidence of genuine absence.

Consider catching-up on missed work.



STUDENT LEADERS

At our final assembly of 2019 we introduced our student leadership team for this year. Our leaders will be introduced at our first assembly for the year to be held at 9:00am on Friday 14th of February. We look forward to working with them to develop their leadership skills and help our school to be the best it can be.

First Name	Last Name	Role	House
Alexia	Campbell	School Captain	McEwen-Blue
Amelia	Macasaddu	School Captain	Lambert- Yellow
Hayden	Spence	School Captain	Clarke- Geen
Ryan	Wilson	School Captain	Clarke- Green
Mia	Castagnini	Performing Arts Captain	Clarke- Green
Hayley	Beattie	Performing Arts Captain	McEwen- blue
Lucy	Hynes	House Captain	Clarke- Green
Ned	Casey	House Captain	Clarke- Green
Angelina	Henson	House Captain	Hogan- Red
Lucas	Guarracino	House Captain	Hogan- Red
Logan	Ross	House Captain	Lambert- Yellow
Matilda	Whelan	House Captain	Lambert- Yellow
Alyssa	Carpenter	House Captain	McEwen- Blue
Nui	Kire	House Captain	McEwen- Blue
Rohan	Fitzgerald	Band Captain	Lambert- Yellow
Rhiannan	Whiley	Choir Captain	Hogan- Red
Isla	Nielsen	Dance Captain	Clarke- Green
Madi	Turner	Dance Captain	Lambert- Yellow
Violet	Weir	Junior School Council (year 5 rep)	Hogan- Red
Ethan	Recinos	Junior School Council (year 5 rep)	Lambert- Yellow
Dicker	Emily	Junior School Council (year 4 rep)	Clarke- Green
Tiriki	Pattern	Junior School Council (year 4 rep)	Lambert- Yellow
Damon	Truscott	Junior School Council (year 3 rep)	Hogan- Red
Chanel	Morgan	Junior School Council (year 3 rep)	Hogan- Red



PREP ASSESSMENTS

Today Prep Assessment invitations were sent out to families with students in Prep. This invitation included information about booking your assessment through COMPASS. Please contact the office on 97444566 if you require any assistance with making your booking. Our prep assessment program will take place on the following 4 days:

Wednesday February 5

Wednesday February 12

Wednesday February 19

Wednesday February 26



ARE YOU ELIGIBLE FOR CSEF? (School funding)

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:

* 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.

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.

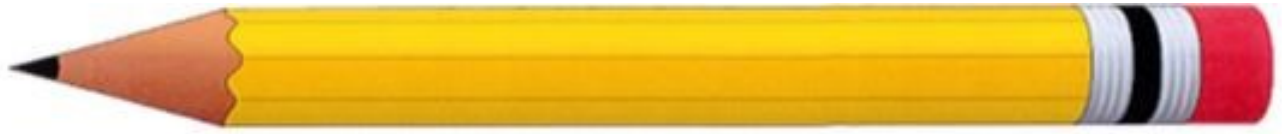
- Primary school student rate: \$125 per year.

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.

CANTEEN MESSAGE

THE NEW CANTEEN MENU IS NOW AVAILABLE. SOME ITEMS HAVE HAD A SLIGHT PRICE INCREASE SO PLEASE BE MINDFUL WHEN ORDERING MANUALLY.

BUILDING CLASSROOM LEARNING COMMUNITIES



English

Teachers have been busy planning a comprehensive English program for the beginning of Term 1 which includes units of work that are designed for the beginning of a school year to establish expectations for working in reading and writing workshops.

Students will be taught the following units of work and associated 'Big Idea'.

Establishing a Reading Community.

Big ideas we want the students to walk away with at the end of this unit and remember ten years from now and beyond?

- Active readers understand that reading helps them get smarter and learn more about themselves, others and their world.
- Active readers draw on a variety of comprehension strategies to make inference, interpretations and draw conclusions.
- Active readers read, think and write about their reading with purpose and enthusiasm.
- Active readers use academic language as they talk about their reading with others which enables them to develop deeper interpretations and consider other perspectives.
- Active readers understand that independence is knowing themselves as readers and knowing what books are right for them.
- Active readers use their time wisely to read, think and write about books they read.

Establishing a Writing Community.

Big ideas we want the students to walk away with at the end of this unit and remember ten years from now and beyond?

- Active writers use writing as part of their everyday lives to think, learn, and to communicate.

- When writers write to communicate, they are writing for real audiences.
- There are descriptors (traits) we can use to define what it means to write well.
- Writers develop a writing process that works for them.
- Writers write about topics that matter to them.
- Writers engage in conversations and discussions with open hearts and minds; are willing to share their thinking, learn from, and respect the ideas and opinions of others.
- Active writers use their time wisely to think, write, revise, and talk about their writing.

Mathematics

Staff have developed a unit of work that help students think of themselves as mathematicians, including concepts exploring:

What makes great mathematicians?

How and why do mathematicians use tools/ manipulatives?

Problem solving– mathematicians solve problems using a variety of strategies.

Integrated Units

Across the school we will be learning about "Community" including units:

In Our Community

Places and Spaces

First Contact

Making Democracy

(a detailed description of these units is attached)

Habits of Mind

Students will explore the Habit of Mind 'Persisting' - read 'Persisting' (attached) to learn more about this habit of mind.

Detailed curriculum news for each year level will be distributed at the Parent Teacher Interviews next week

Kismet Park Teaching Teams

