



KING'S COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal

21 May 2009

Dear Parents and Friends

There are times when threatening changes hang over every life. This is also true of projects we undertake, and of causes we are committed to. In the case of Christian schools, and indeed all religious schools in Australia, a serious threat to their religious freedom is looming on the horizon. The Victorian State Government is reviewing the Exemptions from the Anti-Discrimination legislation, with an apparent view to eliminating a range of freedoms currently upheld within the anti-discrimination clauses of the relevant Act.

Currently, religious bodies, including schools, are exempted from the provisions designed to prevent workers being discriminated against on the basis of religion. Various parties are alleging that it is discriminatory, for example, that Christian schools may opt to appoint only teachers of a Christian persuasion. Others would allege that even a church should not have the freedom to choose persons in sympathy with its religion to work in its offices or other places. It is alleged this is discriminatory against a person who might not be a church person, but wants the job.

In our view, the proposed changes, if enacted, would undermine the entire basis on which schools like King's College are built. The school is based on the view that Christian teaching is relevant to every area of life and to every discipline of human knowledge. There is a Christian view of history and literature, of geography and of the environment. There are vital Christian ways of thinking about technology and science – yes, and even mathematics! No area of human knowledge is independent from the power and reach of the Lord Jesus Christ, King of heaven and earth.

For this reason, Christian schools employ teachers who understand these issues, and who are seeking to grow in their own Christian understanding. There is no division of life or knowledge into two supposed realms of 'sacred' and 'secular', where 'religion' is a Sunday activity, or confined to what goes on in the school chapel service or the RE class. No doubt some religious schools actually operate that way, on the basis of their own outlook, but that is foreign to our understanding of the faith and how Christian education is to be practised.

In Australia, we have not only Christian schools like ours, but Catholic schools, Muslim, Jewish, Coptic, Rudolph Steiner, Orthodox, etc. Each practices their religion in their own way, and each has the freedom to do so. Parents enrol their children in these schools for their own reasons, exercising their right to choose the education they believe is consistent with what they want for their family. This has always been regarded as a fundamental right.

If the proposed changes were made to the act, Australia could have the situation where Muslim schools would be obliged to hire Jewish teachers, and *vice versa*. Steiner schools would have to hire say, a fundamentalist Christian, no matter how foreign that persuasion would be to what the Steiner school might stand for. There are huge implications for our society and future of toleration in general, if the seriously faulty premises at the heart of these proposals is enshrined in law. The State would take to itself the authority to tell religious people how to practice their religion in their school – does this sound more like China? To us this is an unconscionable travesty of “freedom”, and would set the clock of toleration back, in some ways, by centuries. We will write more on this matter as it unfolds.

Yours sincerely
Neil Benfell

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Thank God for freedom and toleration and pray the Lord will protect our country from misguided zeal.
- Remember Natasha Brightwell recovering from her accident. Natasha is expected to start part time work before too long.
- Pray for us in all the feverish activity created by the “Building the Education Revolution” programmes.
- Pray for a safe return from Perth for the swimming team.

REPORT WRITING DAY DATE CHANGE

Please note that the date of the Report Writing Day has been changed to **Friday 12th June**. All public schools within the district are conducting their Report Writing on that day and the school buses will not be running. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to any family.

GRANDPARENT'S DAY - LIBRARY THANKYOU!!

Thankyou to our wonderful Grandparents and Friends who generously purchased books for their special young people to enjoy in our school library. We have many beautiful new fiction, non-fiction and picture story books, to the total value of \$961.70! This represents a substantial addition to our library of quality books especially chosen for our primary students. We have already had many young visitors excitedly seeking out the books purchased especially with them in mind. It seems that it might be a while before they rest on a library shelf, with so much interest generated already. Thankyou so much!

JOHN McINNES ON LEAVE

Flute students studying with John McInnes are advised that he will be unable to hold his flute lessons from the 10th-24th June. Please contact John prior to the 12th of June to make other arrangements if required.

CANTEEN ROSTER

FRIDAY 15TH MAY

9.00am A Horsfall, B Ralph D Madden

11.15am T Brown

12.15pm B Wallace, M Burleigh

MONDAY 18TH MAY

9.00am N McIvor, L Sparrow, C Knight

11.15am T Brown

12.15pm G Couch, M Killeen, T Brown

WEDNESDAY 20TH MAY

9.00am R Samrai, A Hannah

11.15am P Armstrong

12.15pm T Brown, K Barnes

FRIDAY 22ND MAY

9.00am S Speak, N Greene-Kelson

11.15am C O'Donnell

12.15pm C O'Donnell, M Burleigh

HELP NEEDED URGENTLY

If you are able to offer an hour on a monthly basis, or even temporarily, please contact Theresa Brown, 0448 867 558 or the School Office, 55620147.

IS THIS YOUR MONEY

On May 7, a deposit was made directly into King's College bank account via internet banking with the details - :School Fees Police Ass'n Co-op". There was no depositor's name. If you believe this is your money, please contact Melinda in the accounts office with details so that we can credit your account.

PC'S FOR PUPILS

Pc's For Pupils is a community support project. It is structured to allow parents maximum benefit from the Education Tax Refund. There is a website to access for further information on how they may help you. www.p4p.org.au.

PRIMARY INTERSCHOOL ATHLETICS

On Tuesday we had a team of 33 students compete at the Interschool Athletics at Albert Park. There was great excitement and nervous energy when we arrived and events were soon under way. It was wonderful to see the effort our students put into their running and pleasing to see they all completed the course. Congratulations to Sarah Hall who came second and will go on to compete in the Zone Cross Country on Thursday 28th May.

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY



Parents are reminded that Tuesday 26th May is our school Photo Day. All students have been issued with an individual envelope for easy ordering. Family group photos are available with order forms available from the front office.

All students are to be in full school uniform, including school jumpers (Seniors must have blazers). All Secondary students who participate in sports squad are requested to bring their sports uniform to change into for a team photo.

It is recommended that envelopes/orders be handed to the front office prior to photo day for safekeeping. This ensures that no one forgets their order on the day.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK CLUB ORDERS

Please note that the next Scholastic Book Club order is due in by 29th May.

\$2⁺ Carnival

Next week on the 26th, 27th, and 28th of May, the 2009 Year 11 Business Management students are conducting a '\$2+ Carnival' at school, which is for all students to come along and enjoy. On Tuesday. There will be food and drink available for purchase, such as popcorn and sweets. The movie 'Alvin and the Chipmunks' will also be shown to Prep-Gr2 students that day.

Activities will be running over the lunch breaks with Inter-Class Competitions for years 7-10 on the Wednesday and, for primary students, a series of small activities such as a Jumping Castle, Ten Pin Bowling, Hole in One, as well as Sack and Three Legged Races on the Thursday.

PLEASE RETURN YOUR CHILDS ORDER FORM BY TOMORROW TO THE OFFICE!

KING'S COLLEGE PIE DRIVE

All students would have been given a copy of the King's College Pie Drive order form on Monday in the class bags. Chittick's is the bakery who will be supplying the delicious goods. Please ensure that your orders and payments are in by Friday 29th May. If you have not received a copy, or would like to give an order form to family, friends or neighbours, please contact the Front Office.

FOR SALE

Full drum kit.

\$150

Ideal for a beginner.

Contact Sue Gardiner

5561 7300

Secondary News

INTERMEDIATE WINTER SPORTS

Our Year 9 and 10 students will be involved in this year's WDSSSA Intermediate Winter Sports competition next Friday, 29th May.

Students are to wear their full sports uniform throughout the day.

Parents are most welcome to come along and cheer on the teams during the day.

MANAGING DIFFICULT BEHAVIOUR IN CHILDREN

1-2-3

Monday 25th May & 1st June

12.30-3pm

Contact Carol or Madeleine on

5561 5922

LIVING WITH TEENAGERS

Thursday 11th June

1-3pm

Contact Carol or Madeleine on

5561 5922