



KING'S COLLEGE

NEWSLETTER

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From the Principal

04 June 2009

Dear Parents and Friends

The ferment in education circles seems likely to bring some major changes to the way schools operate and the way they account to their families. *The Age* of today reports the State Government has decided to publish schools' performance and programmes in a new State register. The Minister of Education, Bronwyn Pike is reported as saying at Melbourne University last night that, "It is unacceptable that you can read about the full contents of Vegemite on its jar, or know more about the progress of your air conditioner than the progress of your local school.

The register would operate on-line, and include such school details as performance data from annual reports, such as VCE results, parent satisfaction ratings and enrolments. The government plans eventually to link this data to national report cards providing school results, comparing schools with similar student cohorts.

Just how these comparisons would work is still being decided. The Minister's Department is working on a new system to 'somehow demonstrate how schools "add value" to their students. The Teachers Union claims governments have had this data for decades and have done nothing

with it in supporting schools that are under performing. Some State Secondary Principals are concerned that data may be used selectively to provide distorted pictures of a school's performance.

King's College has no problem with transparency. Our student report data on children's performance is already quite full. The already published VCE tables show King's has consistently been well up the list of schools in the State. Those schools above us are selective schools; and those with higher, and in most cases – much higher – fees. It would be interesting if the Government's new accountability measures would provide a table of which schools in the State provide best educational value for the money paid in fees and grants to all the schools public and private. I'd happily bet my hat that King's would be very near the top of the list in the State! (Not that we'd say so in public!!)

After the NAPLAN tests last year, we published our College results in Years 3, 5, 7 & 9 on the walls in both Primary and Secondary. Anyone who looked at them would easily observe the fact that our student body as a whole consistently achieves well above the State averages.

More detailed information will be welcome. This should help to counter absurd and sometimes dishonest or untrue criticism made of schools unjustly, including King's College. Every school may have to pull its socks up, and that's what Governments in Australia want. All of us can no doubt do even better for our students – and King's is working hard at it. Governments have been talking about it long enough. We trust they can find ways to do it fairly.

Yours sincerely
Neil Benfell

PRAYER & PRAISE

- Give thanks for Governments taking education seriously.
- Pray for wisdom for Education Ministers and their advisers.
- Give thanks for the 21st Century schools project that will add a great deal to the College.
- Pray for safety for our students, staff and workmen, as projects begin.

SECONDARY CHOIR COMPETING IN HAMILTON

Our Secondary Choir, trained by Mr Philpot and Mrs Karen Stow, is travelling to Hamilton tonight to compete in the Hamilton Eisteddfod. The choir numbers 40 members, and all are taking part except those who have an exceptional circumstance or ill health. The students have been working hard and are producing a great tone. The competition will be tough and they will see other good choirs like their own – all round a really valuable musical experience. We wish them well.

AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMONWEALTH

We have signed an agreement with the Commonwealth to commence the two million dollar 21st Century Schools Project. The first stage to commence will be the replacement of the two demountable classrooms. Other parts of the project will follow soon.

SUCCESSFUL OPEN DAY AND EVENING

A good number of new families visited the College on Tuesday this week to view the Primary school and talk to staff. Families are encouraged to recommend the school to their friends. Word of mouth publicity from our school families is the best publicity of all.

KING'S COLLEGE SATISFIES REQUIREMENTS

Over recent weeks the College has been through the periodic process of school review required by the State Government registration authorities. This process monitors all schools, to ensure they are meeting the required standards for registration. We are pleased to report King's has met all the requirements.

HEADLICE BACK IN SCHOOL

We have had more cases of head lice reported this week. Please be diligent in checking youR children's hair regularly for lice and nits to avoid the spread of these little pests. Eggs are not easy to detect and can be seen best in strong light. If found, the lice or eggs must be treated promptly. Eggs must be physically scraped off the hair. Failure to do this always seems to result in re-infection. Your chemist may be able to advise on the best method of eradication. If everyone carefully attends to effective treatment and regular hair checks, we should be able to eliminate this problem.

TERM 2 PAYMENTS DUE

A reminder that Term 2 account payments are due today. If you are not making pre-arranged instalments, it is requested that you please attend to settling your account by Wednesday 10th June or advise Melinda in the accounts office by this date of when payment can be expected. Terms of the accounts are 30 days, unless an arrangement has been made to pay regular instalments. The College accepts payments by cash, cheque, debit/credit card or internet banking. Bank account details for internet banking are:

Bank:

National Australia Bank

Account Name:

King's College General Account

BSB:

083-957

Account Number:

02518-6411

(Please be sure to identify yourself by surname and initials with any payments made this way)

EISTEDDFOD RESULTS

We have enclosed a booklet with all of the Eisteddfod results achieved by our students. We wish to congratulate all of our students who participated, a job well done by all!

RUN 4 BIBLES

Thankyou to all those students who took part in the fundraiser "Run 4 Bibles". We were able to raise over \$1000 and will be sending 154 Bibles to Africa. It is wonderful to think we have helped people gain access to God's Word and had an impact on their lives. Well done King's College students!

CANTEEN ROSTER

FRIDAY 5TH JUNE

9.00am N McIvor, K Harding, J Threlfall

11.15am B Green

12.15pm B Green, D Diack, L Greig

MONDAY 8TH JUNE

No Canteen – Public Holiday

WEDNESDAY 10TH JUNE

9.00am N Kelson, D Rogers

11.15am HELP NEEDED

12.15pm T Brown

FRIDAY 12TH JUNE

No Canteen – Report Writing Day

GRAB A BARGAIN USED UNIFORM SHOP DISCOUNT RACK

20-40% OFF A HUGE RANGE

Open Monday 3:00-3:30 pm &

Thursday 8:30-9:00am

STUCK ON YOU LABELS

Preschool is offering school families the opportunity to purchase a range of *Stuck On You* labels which are an easy and cost-effective way of naming clothes, drink bottles, lunch boxes etc. Order forms are available from the Front Office. Completed order forms, together with payment via credit card or cheque/money order (payable to Stuck on You) may be left at the office by **June 25th**.

BODY SHOP ORDERS

Please note that all Body Shop orders are due in **TOMORROW 5th June** at the Front Office.

PIE DRIVE SUCCESS

Thank you to all the families who purchase items from our Pie Drive. We have been able to raise \$500 to go towards more seating in the school yard.

MERIT AWARDS FROM LAST FRIDAY

Prep	Layla Monk Will Askew	Contributing interesting information in discussions and completing her work Listening to instructions and completing tasks well
Gr 1	Zoe Mason Jack Dilley	Neat work and lovely pictures Very neat and accurate work
Gr 2	Taylor Carlin Riley Gapes	Making a great effort with his handwriting Great writing about frogs
Gr 3	Amy Primmer Mitchell Hughan	Writing a very interesting story, remembering to use paragraphs Always knowing the answers in our LEM phonics lessons and for being an excellent student
Gr 3/4	Will Greig Ruth Philpot Cara Harry	Doing well in the spelling test Being a kind and helpful class member Being a kind and helpful class member
Gr 4/5	Cassie Mischkulnig Lewis Wallace	For over 100 nights reading 100% accuracy in saying and writing all LEM phonograms
Gr 5/6	Tully Massey-Slee James Lugton Ryan Vince	Wonderful performances in the Speech and Drama Eisteddfod
Gr 6	Sarah Hall Ali Brough	A consistent friend, contributes positively to class welfare An excellent attitude and an encourager in class.

HOW MANY SIDES DOES A HEXAGON HAVE?

If you know the answer to this you would be perfect for our.....

TRIVIA NIGHT **- Saturday August 8**

Test your general knowledge and start storing up all those "useful" trivia facts!!

Get together in tables of 8 - 10
(or you can take pot- luck and join a table on the night).
\$5 per person or \$20 per family.

A great night for all the family!

For further information please contact
Ondrea Middleton (5562 1823)
or Chris Tobias (5565 7975).