



From the Acting Principal- Mrs Sherri Jenkins



Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome to the many new families (98) to our growing school community, and a warm welcome back to all our current families.

I hope you have had a restful break and managed to stay healthy over this challenging time.

We commence our third year of education at KGPS with 342 students, 16 classes, 22 teaching staff and 9 education support/admin staff. I would like to thank the many staff who began preparation for the 2022 school year during their holiday break.

The children have settled in beautifully and even our newest members to primary school have done an amazing job learning the routines and expectations of school - well done Preps!

I would also like to acknowledge the staff and students who have not been able to start the year with us or who have had an interrupted start to the year. I know we have both students and staff quarantining at home and we send our thoughts and best wishes to the families and staff in this position. We look forward to seeing your children back at school soon.

Communication at KGPS

Over the first few weeks of this term, two important parent/teacher events are conducted to facilitate early communication between classroom teachers and parents.

1. **'Introductory meetings'** are being held this week, (yesterday and today) providing the opportunity for parents to meet your child's teacher on a 1:1 basis, enabling the exchange of information to assist with a smooth start for all. *If you were not able to make it to a meeting this week, please see your child's teacher to arrange a catch-up next week.*

2. **Parent Information Evening** in week 4 (see below) These sessions provide the opportunity for staff to outline curriculum programs and related practical information to the parents as a group at each level.

Parent Information Evening:

Unfortunately, we had had to move our Parent Information evening to WebEx (video conferencing) to align with COVID safe procedures. Before the evening we will send out a link to the session and a booklet of information will be sent home with the oldest child in the family.

These sessions will be conducted on: Tuesday 15 February

Preps session: 5pm - 5:55pm (via Webex)

Years 1-6 session: 6:10-7pm (via Webex)

At the end of the year 1-6 session, you will have the opportunity to break off into separate Year 1, 2, 3/4 and 5/6 sessions for further related information. I encourage all parents to take up these opportunities for involvement in your child's education and look forward to meeting you over these first few weeks (face-to-face and online!).

1st day of Prep – Parent Morning Tea

Thank you to the prep parents/grandparents who were able to join us for a morning tea after dropping their children off on Tuesday. It was thoroughly enjoyable chatting with many of you and look forward to further establishing our home-school partnership over the year.



Back to school Plan- COVID 19

As mentioned in previous Compass posts some of the procedures relating to COVID have changed. Please refer to the letter sent out last week and also attached to this newsletter. It contains details about vaccination and what to do if your child tests positive to COVID19.

RATS

We received Rapid Antigen Test kits last Friday afternoon, however we were short supplied for the whole school. An urgent request to DET for a further 88 tests to be delivered ASAP has been submitted. As soon as they arrive, families will be informed who have not received their test kits.

PICK UP and DROP OFF

Over the past two years pick up and drop off procedures have changed in response to growing numbers as well as the DET and Department of Health advice. To clarify the current procedures, we have created a 'Pickup and Drop off at KGPS' document (see below).

Currently parents are allowed onto the school grounds for pick up and drop off. This means you can park your car at Woolworths or in the surrounding streets and meet your child at their class exit point (see the map on our Pickup and Drop off at KGPS document). You may arrange to meet your child in another area of the school. We strongly encourage you to discuss with your child how and where you will be picking them up from.

If you decided to use the Kiss and Go zone, please refer to the 'Pickup and Drop off at KGPS' document for directions for a smooth arrival and departure at school.

Please note we have teachers on duty until 3:45pm and 3:15pm (Wednesday).

Active Travel Initiative!

We are excited to have been invited to participate in the Active School Initiative with Dandenong Council. The initiative will review infrastructure, traffic congestion and look at promoting physical activity! Our 2022 SRC (Student Representative Council) will also be assisting with this initiative.

Thank you to Nina Kelly (School Council member) who joined me in meeting with Dandenong Council late last year to discuss the challenges around parking and traffic around KGPS as well as the Active Travel Initiative. Watch this space for updates!

Council elections next week (For the period 2022 and 2023)

At this time of the year all Victorian Government schools hold their School Council Elections. This is a brief advance notice that our election process will commence next week on Thursday 10th February, with a call for nominations in next week's newsletter

2022 PARENT PAYMENTS

School fees and contributions were distributed at the end of 2021. To assist us with budgeting, building projects and student supplies we would appreciate payment of your contribution by the 28th of February. Thank you to the families who have already logged on to Compass to process their payment. Thank you for your support and cooperation with these various payments, which will collectively enable the ongoing development of our school grounds and programs.

Staffing

Welcome to Miss Britney Smith who has been employed on a short-term contact to support our Prep Learning Community as the Prep students settle into school.

Welcome to Cassie who has taken over from Eunike as Big Childcare Manager. If your child is requiring before or after school care, please don't hesitate to contact her on 0421 897 819.

2022 Classes	Teacher
Prep A	Ms Rebecca Matlock (leader)
Prep B	Miss Molly Nugent
Prep C	Miss Elizabeth Matthews
Prep D	Ms Sanny Pillay
1A	Ms Adele Crawford (leader)
1B	Miss Vivian Phan
1C	Mr Jack Capicchiano
2A	Miss Stephanie McGorlick (leader)
2B	Miss Kristen Harly
2C	Miss Maddi Grandy
3/4A	Mr Simon Gliddon (leader)
3/4B	Ms Michelle Drummy
3/4C	Mr Kyle Moldrich
5/6A	Mr Ryan Serpanchy (leader)
5/6B	Miss Sophie Tanner
5/6C	Mr Garin Sandler
Acting Principal:	Mrs Sherri Jenkins
Acting Assistant Principal:	Mr Steve Gammon
Physical Education:	Mr Mike O'Dwyer
Visual Arts:	Miss Fiona Grace
Performing Arts:	Mrs Jayne Setford
Chinese Mandarin:	Mr Tong Sha
Education Admin Manager:	Mrs Deanne Barrie
Teaching and Learning Support:	Mrs Jaiden King
Learning Enhancement Program:	Mrs Jacinda Hocking
Business manager:	Mrs Dee Smith
Office/Admin:	Mrs Selen Asi & Mrs Bonnie Stewart
Education Support (integration aides):	Ms Sharon McBean, Mrs Caroline Bond, Mrs Raffaella Lawson, Mrs Chum De Silva, Miss Britney Smith (T1)
Handyperson/Gardener:	Mr Russell McLeod
Canteen manager:	Mrs Chum DeSilva
IT Support:	Mr Bill Wong

Chinese New Year!

This Tuesday, the 1st of February, was Chinese New Year's Day. The KGPS teachers and staff would like to wish our community members who celebrate Chinese New Year to enjoy health, wealth, and happiness in the New Year.

2022 is a Year of the Tiger according to the Chinese zodiac. The 12 animals consist of Rat, Ox, Tiger, Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog, and Pig. The recent years of the Tiger include **2022, 2010, 1998, 1986, 1974, 1962, 1950, and 1938.**

During this week, the KGPS students and teachers have been decorating classrooms with New Year posters (Nian Hua) and participating in the Year of Tiger themed colouring activities to celebrate this traditional festival. What a great way to start our 2022's journey of Chinese learning!




DIARY DATES 2022

February 2022

Friday 4 th	Wk 2	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Wednesday 9 th	Wk 3	Prep Assessments
Friday 11 th	Wk 3	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Tuesday 15 th	Wk 4	Parent Info Sessions Prep: 5-6pm Yrs 1-6: 6:10-7pm
Wednesday 16 th	Wk 4	Prep Assessments School Council 5:15pm
Friday 18 th	Wk 4	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Wednesday 23 rd	Wk 5	Prep Assessments
Friday 25 th	Wk 5	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Monday 28 th	Wk 6	Preps starting full week

March 2022

Friday 4 th	Wk 6	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex) Welcome Picnic 
Thursday 10 th	Wk 7	Curriculum Day
Friday 11 th	Wk 7	Curriculum Day
Monday 14 th	Wk 8	Labour Day Holiday
Wednesday 16 th	Wk 8	School Council 5:15pm
Friday 18 th	Wk 8	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Monday 21 st	Wk 9	Harmony Day
Wednesday 23 rd	Wk 9	Yr 3/4 Camp Gundiwindi (Wed-Fri)
Friday 25 th	Wk 9	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)

April 2022

Friday 1 st	Wk 10	Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)
Friday 8 th	Wk 11	Last day of Term 1 Assembly 2:55pm (via Webex)

- Assembly every Friday at 2:55pm (currently via Webex until further notice)



Compass

COMPASS is the online platform we use as our main form of communication with parents.

It is used for all forms of communication, including the distribution of this weekly newsletter.

DO YOU HAVE ACCESS TO COMPASS?

DO YOU KNOW OF A FAMILY WHO HAS NOT SET UP COMPASS ON THEIR MOBILE PHONE OR DEVICE?

If necessary, please contact Selen at the office on 9792 6800, who can assist by providing you with your username & password.

SunSmart- Hats required for all students onsite!

It's hard to believe it's that time of year where students and staff must begin wearing hats when outdoors during the school day. When your child returns to school and for those onsite, please ensure your child/ren bring their school hat with them as this is a requirement as part of our SunSmart accreditation.

Please be advised if students forget to bring a hat to school, they will be required to sit in a shaded area during recess and lunch.

This will continue until the 30th of April 2022.

Back-to-school plan

25.1.2022

Dear parents and carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a relaxing holiday break.

As we prepare to welcome students back to our school next week, the Victorian Government has announced some new measures for the beginning of the 2022 school year across all Victorian schools.

Free rapid antigen tests

Free rapid antigen tests will be available for the first 4 weeks of Term 1 2022.

Twice-a-week testing will be strongly recommended for both students and staff.

The department will supply the tests to our school – you do not need to buy your own.

The department will distribute all kits to schools as early as possible. I will let you know once the test kits are available for collection.

Students and staff will do the tests at home; they only need to report their result if it is COVID-positive. They must report a COVID-positive result to:

- the school by phone or the RA Test Portal; this is so the school can support them, record that they will be absent while in 7-day isolation, and let the rest of the school community know there has been a positive case onsite and that they should monitor for symptoms
- the Department of Health via the COVID-19 Positive Rapid Antigen Test Self-Reporting Form or call centre on 1800 675 398.

Information about how to do a test and how to read RAT results, including a how-to video translated into 33 languages, is available online.

Vaccination requirements

Parents and carers must have had two doses of a COVID-19 vaccine or have a valid medical exception (with limited exceptions) to enter school buildings.

All staff working in schools need to be fully vaccinated or have a verified medical exception.

COVID-19 vaccinations for students are not required for them to attend school but vaccination for students is highly encouraged. If your child has not yet had their first dose, please try to organise this before term begins. For more information on how to book a vaccination, including important information about vaccination for children aged 5 to 11, visit [Vaccination information for children and teenagers](#).

Ventilation

We will also make sure that classrooms are well ventilated by opening windows and doors, to minimise the risk of infection. We received air purifiers, which will be used around the school as an added safety measure.

Vital COVIDSafe steps

Hand hygiene, mask wearing, and social distancing will continue wherever possible in Term 1.

Staffing our school

I know many of you will have questions about what happens if your child's teacher gets COVID-19. We will be able to bring in extra teachers and other staff if we need them, and we will be doing everything that we can to make sure our school stays safe and open.

Other information about school operations

Feel free to contact us to clarify any concerns you may have via our school email,

Keysborough.gardens.ps@education.vic.gov.au

There's no doubt that this term is going to be challenging for all of us, but we are also very excited to kick off the school year and welcome back all of our students.

Thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,
Sherri Jenkins
Acting Principal