Kennington Primary School Values Awards

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Caring</th>
<th>Community</th>
<th>Inclusion</th>
<th>Personal Best</th>
<th>Respect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Is showing concern for others and being thoughtful, and understanding of their feelings. It means your thoughts; words and actions show consideration for others.</td>
<td>Is working together for the common good. It means being able to work together and act positively with others.</td>
<td>Is respecting and valuing differences. It means we include others in work and play.</td>
<td>Is always aiming high and being the best I can. It means being optimistic: that I will be successful in the end.</td>
<td>Is treating everybody and everything with consideration and courtesy. It means looking after myself, others and the environment.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preps</th>
<th>Grade 1-2</th>
<th>Grade 3-4</th>
<th>Grade 5-6</th>
<th>Specialist</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PA - Kayden R</td>
<td>1A</td>
<td>3A</td>
<td>5A</td>
<td>VISUAL ARTS:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PB - Cooper P</td>
<td>1B</td>
<td>3B</td>
<td>5B</td>
<td>Hannah W (5A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PC - Hayden B</td>
<td>1C</td>
<td>3C</td>
<td>5C</td>
<td>PHYS.ED:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PD - James M</td>
<td>2A</td>
<td>4A</td>
<td>6A</td>
<td>Daniel Mc (3B)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Dates to Remember

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>August</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9th</td>
<td>8:10am – 8:25am</td>
<td>Breakfast Club</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 9th</td>
<td>2:45pm-3:15pm</td>
<td>Auslan Community Classes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 12th</td>
<td>9:15am</td>
<td>Parents &amp; Friends Meeting – Staffroom All welcome</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 13th</td>
<td>ICAS – Maths</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 14th</td>
<td>9:15am –</td>
<td>Mother Goose in Library</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>10:00am</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>8:10am – 8:25am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 16th</td>
<td>2:45pm-3:15pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 19th</td>
<td>9:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 20th</td>
<td>5:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 21st</td>
<td>Dress Up Day Book Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Dear Parents/Carers,

**Personal Leave**
Glenda Miller is currently on leave. During this time I will be Acting Principal. Mrs Jo Menzel will continue in her role as Assistant Principal and on occasions, Jo and I will be supported by other staff members in the Administration area.

**Australia Pacific Autism Conference 2013**
Glenda Miller, Jac Louttit and I are currently attending the APAC 2013 (Australia Pacific Autism Conference). We look forward to learning more about Autism and ways we can continue to support our students on the autism spectrum. In my absence Jo Menzel has been in charge today, and Luke Monaghan and Kim Kirkpatrick will lead the school tomorrow.

**Scabies**
Several cases of scabies have been reported to the school. The condition is contagious under certain circumstances. Once treated appropriately, students are able to return to school. For further information, please contact your doctor or the Victorian Department of Health (1300 651 160).

**The Ned Show**
The Ned Show was a great success. It was fun and reinforced the KPS values of Caring, Personal Best, Inclusion, Respect and Community. The students who have been using their yo-yos at school have been doing so safely on the designated area.

**Parent Opinion Survey**
Thank you to those families who took the time to complete the survey. I look forward to reading the collated responses when provided by the Department of Education. The Student Opinion Survey also provides valuable information. This information will be available towards the end of the year.

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**TERM DATES – 2013**

**Term 4:** 7th October to 20th December

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**TERM DATES – 2014**

**Book Collection Day**  Thursday 23rd January 2014
8:00am to 4:00pm

**Term 1:** Start Tuesday 28th January (Teachers)
Thursday 30th January (Grades 1 to 6)
Friday 31st January (Preps)

Finish Friday 4th April

**Term 2:** 22nd April to 27th June
**Term 3:** 14th July to 19th September
**Term 4:** 6th October to 19th December

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**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT**

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**TERM DATES – 2014**

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Outdoor Education – Camping Program 2013

The Grade 4 and Grade 5 camps will take place on the following dates and will cost the stated amounts:

- Grade 5 Weekaway Camp – November 6, 7 and 8 - $265.00
- Grade 4 Soveriegn Hill Camp – November 20, 21 and 22 - $280.00

To support families in paying for and preparing for these camps, all students in these grades received a detailed information pack yesterday. In the event that it has been misplaced, please contact your child’s class teacher. The notes detail specific information and when money needs to be returned. It is important that you adhere to the timelines.

Both camps  
Friday 6th September  
Pay deposit: $70.00  
Return: Camp Participation Consent Forms A, B and C, and Medical Form D  

Friday 11th October  
Final Payment due  
(No exceptions unless prior written arrangement has been made with the Principal.

Anaphylaxis and Asthma

This year we have several children enrolled who suffer from severe allergies to a variety of things, including nuts and nut products, which can result in them going into anaphylactic shock. Anaphylaxis is the most severe form of allergic reaction and is potentially life threatening. It must be treated as a medical emergency, requiring immediate treatment and urgent medical attention. At KPS several strategies are in place to deal with this. If students bring nuts or nut products to school teachers may ask them to remain in a particular area while eating and to wash their hands after eating. Touching door handles, shared classroom resources including pencils and even play equipment outside after handling nuts or nut products can be hazardous. Often boxes and packages are sent to school for art or construction activities and are very useful, however do not send any packages for use at school that have contained nuts or nut products so that we can minimise the risk of children with allergies coming into contact with products that may cause a reaction. Action Plans for Anaphylaxis and also for Asthma are required for all children who suffer from either, and must be obtained from the family doctor. Please ensure that your child has an updated plan if they suffer from asthma or are at risk of experiencing anaphylaxis. A copy of this plan must be provided to the school immediately. It is also recommended that students with any medical condition wear an Alert Wrist Band that can be purchased for several pharmacies.

Anger and Kids

On Monday evening the 2nd September, CentraCare will be running a session at KPS focused on Anger in Kids. More information will be provided in next week’s LINK, but you may like to save the date now.

Parents and Friends’ Association

Thank you to the parents and friends who are a very active group within our school. Their efforts are appreciated. The next major event will be the Fathers’ Day Stall, an event which is thoroughly enjoyed by the students. Next meeting will be on Monday August 12th at 9:15am after assembly in the staffroom. New parents and toddlers are welcome.

Fathers and Special Friends’ Day Stall

This great event is happening soon. Thank you to Kristy, and the Parent and Friends’ team for the work they have already done. If you are able to help or have donations to make, please leave a message for the ladies at the office, or drop off any suitable goodies. The stalls raise a lot of money for KPS.

Yard Supervision Before and After School

In addition to supervision of the school yard during the day, the yard is supervised before and after school at the following times;

8:30am – 8:45am  
3:15pm - 3:30pm

Children should not arrive before 8:30am as they are not supervised in the yard. The exception to this occurs on the Fridays on which Breakfast Club runs. Breakfast students may come to the amphitheatre on Fridays from 8:10am. Breakfast Club is advertised in the calendar section of the LINK. Play equipment is not to be used before and after school. The drop off zone is assisting with morning traffic congestion. Thank you for your support in adhering to speed restrictions and general road rules. The safety of children is a priority.

Student Details – up-to-date information

It is very important that the student details we have on file are accurate. This is especially important if we need to contact you if your child is unwell or has been injured. We ask that you contact us to make any corrections to your child’s details if circumstances have changed.

Annual School Production

This year our School Production ‘Porridge’ will be held at the Capital Theatre. We are very excited to be using this venue; it will provide our students with an authentic theatre experience. The Capital Theatre will be managing all ticketing for the show and therefore tickets will be available
PRINCIPAL’S REPORT continued.....

from the box office from Monday 19th August.

Ticket prices will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Adults</td>
<td>$14.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School Student</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Concession</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

I encourage all families to consider taking their children to this authentic theatre experience. The students from Grade Prep right through to Grade 6 will find it enjoyable. It may even inspire your child to participate in the school production when they are in the senior school.

Safety on line

On Wednesday 28th August, Tracey Porter will be presenting a Cyber Safety Parent Information Session. On line safety is a significant concern for parents and we encourage parents of Grade 4, Grade 5 and Grade 6 students to put this date in your calendar. The session will run from 6.30pm – 7.30pm. Parents with students in other grade levels are also welcome to attend. [www.studentonlinesafety.com.au](http://www.studentonlinesafety.com.au)

Kids Helpline

As the title suggests, Kids Helpline helps kids. Children can call the Kids Helpline 24 hours a day on 1800 551 800 or visit the website kidshelp.com.au. You may like to visit this website to see what support is available.

Link

Did you know that the LINK is available on the Kennington website? [www.kenningtonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.kenningtonps.vic.edu.au)

Webpage

The KPS webpage also provides extra information and is updated regularly. [www.kenningtonps.vic.edu.au](http://www.kenningtonps.vic.edu.au)

Regards

Trudi Jacobson
Principal (Acting)

ART NEWS

Art Blog – Exciting News

The KPS Art Blog is up and running and you are all invited to log on. Your input is welcome.


Thank you

Mrs Findlay

PE NEWS

Victoria Country Road Championships

Sam B performed exceptionally well at the recent Regional Victorian Junior Cycling Championships on July 25th. Sam won the under-13 road race and has now qualified for the State Championships held in Ballarat on Friday 25th October.

Well done.
Luke Monaghan

BOOK WEEK DRESS UP DAY

On Wednesday 21st August we are inviting students, teachers and parents/carers to dress up as their favourite children’s book character - from a novel or picture book. You will also need to bring a gold coin donation on the day. Money raised will be donated to the Starlight foundation.

Please note that face paint is not to be used as part of the costume.

Thankyou
Caleb J (6C)
Student School Council

PREMIERS’ READING CHALLENGE

Challengers are now entering the final phase of the Premiers’ Reading Challenge. About five weeks remain for students to read and list their books online. The Premiers’ Reading Challenge for 2013 concludes on 12th of September.

As of Wednesday the 7th of August Kennington Primary School students had read and recorded online over 2,000 books for the Challenge. There are now 45 students who have completed the Challenge. Well done everyone.

Patrick Coughlin
Premiers’ Reading Challenge Coordinator
**MOTHER / DAUGHTER INFORMATION EVENING**

A mother/daughter night is to be held for any interested parents who wish to listen to and discuss information regarding puberty. Mrs Leona Evans, Primary School Nurse will be running this information evening in our school library. The information evening is to be held on Tuesday 20th August 2013 at 5:00pm.

Starting this year the mother/daughter and father/son nights will alternate each year. Due to this change, parents of Grade 4/5 and 6 girls might like to consider attending the mother/daughter night this year as this will not be offered again until 2015. The next father/son night will be next year.

If you would like to attend the mother/daughter night please fill in the reply slip attached and return to your child’s class teacher by Friday 16th August.

..................................................................

**Mother / Daughter Information Evening**

I will attend the Health and Human Relations Information Evening on Tuesday 20th August 2013 at 5:00pm.

Parent/Carer Name ........................................

Student Name ..................................................

Signature ......................................................

**AUSTRALIAN HISTORY STUDY**

As part of our Australian History study, Grade Six students are currently investigating the different cultures which make up Australian society. We are looking for any interested people who have migrated to Australia and would be willing to come and speak with a group of Grade Six students about their experiences.

If you, or someone you know, would be willing to assist, please contact Sharon Guthrie at KPS on 5443 2011 or e-mail guthrie.sharon.p@edumail.vic.gov.au

**PRODUCTION NEWS**

**Production Requests**

A few items are required for the production “Porridge”. If anyone is able to lend these items, it would be appreciated.

- brown / black onesie
- yellow builder’s hat (Bob the Builder style)
- toy stethoscope
- gold hair wig (like Goldilocks)
- 4 old style suitcases (leather looking with handle)

If you can help out with these items, please drop them into the music room (Monday through to Wednesday).

Thank you,
Wendy Collishaw

**CARBOOT SALE 2013 – SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER, 8:00am-12:00pm**

Have you been meaning to clear out all those cupboards? Have you wanted to get rid of those books, containers, furniture, clothes, toys but haven’t got around to it? Have you thought about having a garage sale but didn’t know what to do?

If you are looking to have a clear out and would like to make some cash then read on….. Kennington Primary School is holding a Carboot Sale. You may sell from your car boot or from tables or even from a tarp on the ground. There are a limited amount of sites – 50. Sites can be purchased from September 2nd.

Got nothing to sell? Well come along and grab a bargain. KPS Oval on Saturday November 9th from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Stall holders may set up from 7:30am and pack up until 1:00pm.

Last year the event was a great community event with many people popping in for half an hour to wander around, have a sausage and have a chat.
FAMILY PORTRAIT FUNDRAISER

Kennington Primary School is holding a family portrait fundraiser. Local Bendigo Company Naturally Jules Photography will be taking family portraits at school on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th of October 2013.

The $20.00 sitting fee goes directly to the school for fundraising. Families will have the opportunity to view and purchase more photos straight after the photo shoot. Extended families, single parents and guardians will be photographed according to their needs on the day. (Grandparents are most welcome.)

Cash or Direct Debit will be accepted by the photographer, but not credit card. All orders need to be returned to the school by Wednesday 18th September.

Wendy B (Parent Coordinator)

SCHOOL RAFFLE FOR 2013

The school raffle tickets were sent home last week. There are great prizes to be won. The raffle is an excellent fundraiser for our school, for every $2.00 ticket sold the school receives $1.50. Thank you in advance for selling lots of tickets.

Return sold books (with money) or unsold books by Friday 30th August. This is a legal requirement. Thank you.

AUSLAN COMMUNITY CLASSES

Auslan Classes for Parents and Friends are held every Friday from 2:45pm – 3:15pm. Classes are instructed by Kerry and Lee and held in the Deaf Facility. These classes will be held every Friday during Term 3.

No prior skills are necessary.

FATHERS & SPECIAL FRIENDS’ DAY STALL

Thursday 29th August

Our Kennington Primary School Fathers’ & Special Friends’ Day stall is fast approaching.

Donation bags were sent out last week. Please send these back ASAP, as there is always a lot of wrapping and sorting involved.

Donations may include items for the raffle or individually wrapped lollies or chocolate (NO NUTS PLEASE). If you have any new creative ideas these would be much appreciated.

Working Bees are being held on Wednesday 14th August and Thursday 15th August at 9:15am. If you are able to assist at these times it would be much appreciated, alternatively you may be able to help by taking some items home to be bagged up and or decorated. Please contact the office if you are able to assist.

NED SHOW

Yo-yo’s and accessories are available to purchase from the office. Order forms were sent home last week.

Prices are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Price</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ned Yo</td>
<td>$ 8.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boomerang</td>
<td>$ 15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cosmic Spin</td>
<td>$ 20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accessories</td>
<td>$ 5.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Items will be on sale until Friday 16th August.
BREAKFAST CLUB – EVERY FRIDAY

Our Breakfast Program will be running every Friday morning (except for the first and last days of term) in the canteen from 8:10am until 8:25am.

If any parent/carer is interested in going on the roster please contact the office on 5443 2011.

A big thank you to the following supporters:

- Strathdale Bakers Delight for the bread
- Foodbank Australia for their generous donations.

Breakfast Club is free and everyone is welcome.

**Roster**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>9th August</th>
<th>23rd August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Tangey</td>
<td>Heather Stinton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Dixon</td>
<td>Giulia Annesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Stinton</td>
<td>Giulia Annesi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shona Barton</td>
<td>Heather Dixon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>16th August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leanne Draper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wendy Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sonia Lewis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Dixon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Giulia Annesi</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>23rd August</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gwen Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shona Barton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ASTHMA FOUNDATION – for your information

www.asthmafriendlyschools.org.au

**FREECALL 1800 645 130**

**JETS STRATHFIELDSAYE CRICKET CLUB**

Junior Registration Days

Where: Tannery Lane Sports Ground

When: Saturday 17th August
      9:30am -12:30pm
      &
      Sunday 18th August
      12:00pm – 1:00pm

Teams this year will again start with Under 9’s and go up to Under 17’s. Players of all standards are welcome to register, and we are particularly keen to welcome new players to the club.

For more information, please contact
Alistair Cheesman on 0427 293 653

**BENDIGO UNITED CRICKET CLUB (BUCC’s)**

Junior Registration Night

When: Friday 16th August 2013
      4:30pm to 6:30pm

Where: Harry Trott Oval Clubrooms
       Neale St, Kennington

...Free B.B.Q. sausage sizzle at Harry Trott Oval...

Fees for 2013 are:
Under 9 to 17 - $70.00 or Family (2 or more juniors)
$120.00

New and past players are most welcome; come and meet the coaches.
www.bendigounited.com
Dear Kennington Primary School Families,

The Parents & Friends’ Association have much pleasure in enclosing raffle tickets for our Major School Raffle. Our School Raffle is a partnership between Victorian Schools and Scouts Victoria.

Your support of our raffle is appreciated.

Each family in our school community automatically receives one booklet of 10 tickets. The numbers of your tickets have been recorded on the ticket data base.

**Can you sell extra books over the weekend at your sporting event?**

**Could you take an extra book to sell at your workplace?**

If you can sell more books, please collect extras from the office. If you are unlikely to sell your tickets, or would prefer not to, please return them to the school office ASAP, because other families may be looking for extra books. Allocation of 2 books at a time.

The tickets represent excellent value at only **$2.00 each and for every ticket sold $1.50 will come back to our school**. There are an amazing 123 prizes to be won.

As it is essential that all tickets and ticket butts are accounted for, please take particular care to return all ticket butts, money and unsold tickets in a sealed envelope to the school office by **4:00pm on Friday 30th August**.

**Prizes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1st Prize</th>
<th>Toyota Prius C Hybrid valued $28,912.00 including on road costs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2nd Prize</td>
<td>Trekmaster Camper Trailer &amp; Sunroom valued at $7,999.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd Prize</td>
<td>4 x Economy Airfares to Brunei valued at $4,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th – 13th Prizes</td>
<td>Mountain Bikes valued at $459.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th – 33rd Prizes</td>
<td>Snowgum Backpacks valued at $199.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34th – 53rd Prizes</td>
<td>Snowgum Australia Gift Cards valued at $100.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54th – 73rd Prizes</td>
<td>Razor Scooters valued at $89.00 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74th – 93rd Prizes</td>
<td>Helmets from Bicycle Superstore valued at $44.95 each</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>94th – 123rd Prizes</td>
<td>RC Helicopters from Hobby Warehouse valued at $39.95 each</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Raffle will be drawn at the Victorian Scout Centre on Friday 13th September, 2013 at 1:30pm.

Winners will be notified.
Class Incentive Competition:

One lucky class from Grades 3 to 4 and one lucky class from Grades 5 to 6 will win an outing to:

The Zone to play Lasertag and Minigolf

The class that sells the most tickets* in their category will win. Progressive tallies will be announced at morning assemblies.

One lucky class from Grade Prep to Grade 2 will win:

A Pizza Lunch

The class that sells the most tickets* in their category will win. Progressive tallies will be announced at morning assemblies.

Family Incentive Competition:

Three lucky families will each win

- A $400.00 Bendigo Park Lane Holiday Parks – 2 nights’ accommodation at one of the Park Lane Holiday Parks (2 adults, 2 children)
- A $135.00 Bendigo Park Lane Holiday Parks - 1 x party for 10 children at Parky’s Wonderland
- A $130.00 Stephen Storer – Bendigo Tennis Academy – Prince Airo Hybrid Zoom Tennis Racquet

For each book of tickets sold 1 ticket with the family’s name on it will go into the draw. The more books you sell the greater your chances of winning.

The Family Incentive Prize will be drawn at our Carols at Kennington Night on Thursday 12th December, 2013.

*RULES AND REGULATIONS
The total number of tickets sold by each class is adjusted in accordance with class size. The points total will be calculated for each class by dividing the total number of points by the number of children in that class. The two categories are classes in Prep – Grade 2 and classes in Grades 3 – 6. The winners of the Class Competitions will be announced at Assembly on Monday 2nd September. The class in each category that has the highest weighted points total as of Monday 26th August will win.
DO YOU
KNOW WHAT YOUR
KIDS ARE DOING
ONLINE?

Protect your kids NOW
with Student Online Safety -
an invaluable and relevant
Cyber Safety Presentation
for Primary and Secondary
schools, Parents and
teachers - created by
Tracey Porter

PRESENTATIONS FOCUS ON:

• Bullying/Sexting and the law.
• Dangers and relevant information regarding Apps/Chat rooms/Social Media.
• How to keep yourself safe against cyber-crimes (bullying/stalking/sexting/grooming).
• Sexual Assault – self respect and empowerment.

INFORMATION ABOUT TRACEY OUR PRESENTER:

• 23 years involvement with law enforcement.
• Extensive investigative experience into cyber-crime and sexual assault.
• Current experience within the ever changing online world.

“Tracey’s parent information night was one of the most successful and well attended nights we had for the year. Parents were still talking about the night for days after. With online media, the way of the future and the interest students have with the Internet and social media, this night is a must for any school!”

Anthony Oldmeadow
Assistant Principal Laurimar Primary School

TO BOOK A PRESENTATION CONTACT:
Tracey: 0400 201 070 OR studentonlinesafety@bigpond.com
ThinkUKnow e-Newsletter - Volume 4 Issue 4

Mobile devices such as smartphones, tablets, mp3 players and portable gaming devices perform many functions other than their most obvious use. They also have the ability to wirelessly connect to the Internet and, therefore, the world. In many of the sessions we run with parents and teachers we are asked about the instant messaging apps which children and young people may use to speak to friends and potentially not so friendly people. In this issue of the ThinkUKnow e-newsletter we’re going to look at some of the more popular apps and how they operate.

Instant messaging apps

There are many apps available which allow users to send messages, make voice calls and recordings and share images with others using the internet rather than a phone connection. These apps use a device’s data plan, or wireless connection, to transmit these communications without fees (other than standard internet rates if they apply). As these apps are often cheaper than sending an SMS or making a phone call, they can be particularly appealing to children and young people.

We’re going to look at some of the more popular apps including:

- Kik Messenger – allows users to send messages, pictures and links to other content.
- WhatsApp – allows users to send messages, pictures, videos and voice recordings to other users.
- Viber – allows users to send messages and make voice calls using Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP).
- HeyTell – allows users to share voice recordings and messages.

Time2Talk

In this section we look at ways to start talking with children and young people about their use of technology.

What apps do you use to talk to your friends?

What devices do these work on?

Have you ever seen anything on these apps that upset you or made you feel uncomfortable?

Who do you think is responsible for making these apps safe for users?

HeyTell is the only app we’ve discussed which provides varying levels of privacy – low, medium and high. As a default, users are set to the medium level of privacy and can change this setting through their profile page.

The apps also state that once a communication has been delivered, it is removed from their servers. This, however, is not always the case as any HeyTell recordings which have been exported to Facebook or Twitter remain on the servers and accessible by anyone with the hyperlink. Voice calls are not recorded by Viber.

Despite claims of removing content, in each policy the apps state that users licence them to any and all of the content they have shared through the service. This clause is similar to that of Facebook and Instagram whereby anything a user posts or transmits through the service can be used by the company for whatever purposes they like.
Minimum Age

Kik and Viber are both based outside the US (Canada and Cyprus, respectively) and are not subject to the Children’s Online Privacy and Protection Act which prohibits the collection of personal data about children under the age of 13 without parental permission. Regardless, both apps claim they do not “knowingly collect information about children under the age of 13” and encourage parents to be actively involved in their child’s activities to ensure information is only shared with parental consent. In its latest iteration, Kik has classified itself as 17+ on the App Store because of the multimedia sharing capability.

In their terms and conditions, WhatsApp states that you must be at least 16 years old to use their service. This may seem strange to those who have downloaded the app as it has a 4+ classification on the App Store.

HeyTell, and its parent company Voxillate, state that users must not only be at least 13 years of age but must also not facilitate or encourage people under the age of 13 to use the service.

Prohibited conduct

All the apps prohibit any communications which are harassing, defamatory, discriminatory, threatening or abusive. They also claim that they have the right to remove any content which they believe violates their terms and conditions, but are under no obligation to do so. They push this responsibility back onto users to be mindful of what they share, but it is also up to them to deal with any offensive content or conduct, not the app. They also prohibit impersonation and false accounts. HeyTell even prohibits the use of the app whilst operating a motor vehicle.

Advice for parents

Make sure your child is using an age-appropriate app. If you wish to restrict them from downloading age-inappropriate apps on their device, you may turn on parental controls on their account. Keep in mind, however, that the age classifications on the app stores may not always reflect the app’s terms and conditions.

Speak to your child about what private information should not be shared. Encourage them to disable location sharing options and to make sure they aren’t giving away too much personal information.

Encourage your child to think before they post. Any communications shared using these apps can be kept by the person you are communicating with and possibly others. It is important to use these apps safely and ethically.

Privacy

The instant messaging apps require some private information from a user in order to set up an account. This includes, but is not limited to, first and last names, phone number, email address and profile picture. All of the apps we’ve mentioned so far require access to a user’s contact list or address book. This is so users can easily find their friends who are also using the service but this functionality may be disabled on Kik and HeyTell.

Viber and HeyTell allow users to attach their location information to communications. This means that the user’s current location may be visible to friends and contacts. We do not advise the sharing of location information and it may be useful for users to ensure that location services or geotagging is disabled on their device for the app.