

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Travis Eddy



Dear Parents/Carers,

WELCOME TO TERM 2

As you will be able to see from our calendar on Sentral and in the Link, Term 2 will be busy. Please take the time to keep up with the dates and activities that are scheduled. A couple of the whole school activities that are on early in the term are the Cross Country and the Swimming Program. Information regarding both these activities will be sent out via Sentral.

ANZAC Day was remembered at Kennington on Monday morning. Our school leaders organised and led the ceremony. We were privileged to have Sergeant Nicole Hodges and Warrant Officer Dale Hodges as special guests and appreciate the effort that Nicole went to speak to our whole school.

A very big thanks to Hannah and Jed our school captains who did a magnificent job representing Kennington at the Bendigo RSL ANZAC Day ceremony on Tuesday.



PARENT SURVEY – SCHOOL TIMES

Thanks to the 106 respondents who took the time to complete our anonymous survey to give us feedback about the time changes to the school day that were implemented at the beginning of the year. Yesterday I shared this data with our staff for discussion, and last night I tabled this data at school council for discussion.

Here is the data from the responses.

- Total students accounted for across the school 147 students or 23% of the student population.
- 86% of respondents knew that the changes were made because of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement 2022.
- 65% of respondents said that their children have not had to adapt or have adapted well to the changes.
- 60% of respondents acknowledged that the changes have been a challenge for their family.
- 56% of respondents knew via communications that their children were able to eat healthy snacks during learning time.

We also received comments as part of the survey. The two stand out themes from the comments were the reduced eating time and the earlier finishing time. I have included a FAQ's section at the end of this week's LINK that address these and other questions.

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KPS VALUES



Personal Best

Always aiming high and being the best I can. It means being optimistic that I will be successful in the end.



Respect

Treating everybody and everything with consideration and courtesy. It means looking after myself, others and the environment.



Resilience

The ability to manage my emotions and bounce back from an experience that may not have turned out the way I expected.

KPS SONG

Here we stand together,
in the school we like the best,

And together we create a school
that's bigger than the rest.

With gardens, playgrounds,
stairs and rooms and
an orphanage next door.

Our grounds and our facilities,
they offer so much more.

But the buildings and the sandpits
and the ovals and the grounds,

Don't tell you the whole story of
the place where we have found,

A safe and fun environment,
where everyone's your friend.

Where the music and the laughter
and the learning never ends.

CHORUS

*Our school is like no other,
a very special place,*

*With space to learn and room to
grow, there's a smile on every face.*

*We are a team of individuals,
our community is strong.*

*Everyone is welcome,
and everyone belongs.*



When you come to Kennington,
you'll notice from the start.

The kind of place we have here,
we speak with hands and heart.

The way we are with others,
that's how we'd like them to be.

Respect is shown to everyone,
then it comes back to me.

REPEAT CHORUS

We care about each other,
in all we say and do.

Our teachers understand us,
they care for me and you.

REPEAT CHORUS

**Reminder that our assembly is
currently held over our internal
speaker system.**

... Continued from page 1

Firstly, I acknowledge that the timing of the changes was rushed at the end of the year, and I sincerely apologise to our community for this.

School Council acknowledged that based on the feedback via the survey results, parents were un-happy about the timing of the changes, or of the changes in general. School Council also acknowledged that from a school point of view, the changes have been adapted to well by students and staff, and the changes had been made in line with the VGSA 2022 current requirements for teacher work and teacher attendance at school.

As a school council we spoke at length about the change, why the change was made with the understanding that Kennington will not have to change the school times again during this agreement. Based on this discussion the school times will stay as is. We also spoke of the opportunities we have included into our school week to support these changes.

- Extra before school Morning Clubs, now four day per week beginning at 8:15am.
- Additional Breakfast Club days, now three per week.
- All students in all classes are allowed to eat healthy snacks during learning time.
- Any students that require extra time for eating including all our prep students are given this extra time.

If you any further questions or comments I ask that you direct them me, via 5443 2011 or travis.eddy@education.vic.gov.au

SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

Last night we held the Annual General Meeting for the Kennington Primary School Council. At the AGM the School Annual Report 2022 was tabled, discussed, and passed. Congratulations to Damien Palmer who has been elected as the School Council President for 2023 and to Paul Ratajczyk who was elected Vice President.

As part of our monthly meeting held after the AGM council discussed Teacher Professional Practice Days (PPDs). Under the VGSA 2022 teaching staff are allocated two PPDs for 2023 and one in 2024. Department policy requires that at least one of the two days in 2023 be a whole school day and School council

decided that the second PPD will be as well. In making this decision the timing of the cost of replacing teachers and the timing of the days were discussed. The date decided for the first PPD is Friday June 5, students will not be required at school on this day.

EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN DRILL

Like all workplaces we are required to practise our Emergency Management Plan, so today the whole school practised an Emergency Lockdown Drill. During the drill all staff and students went into lockdown in their classroom spaces. All the students and staff did a wonderful job following the instructions and enacting the plan.

WINTER UNIFORM

With winter on its way a reminder that Kennington's uniform stockist is Lowes at the Marketplace Bendigo. Lowes supply all our uniform and currently have plenty in stock.

A reminder to always name your child's jumpers and jackets clearly.

RESPECTFUL RELATIONSHIPS

Topic 3: Positive Coping Learning activities in this topic provide opportunities for students to identify and discuss different types of coping strategies. When children and young people develop a language around coping, they are more likely to be able to understand and deliberately utilise a range of productive coping strategies and diminish their use of unproductive coping strategies. Students learn to extend their repertoire of coping strategies and benefit from critically reflecting on their own choices and being exposed to alternative options. Activities introduce students to the concept of self-talk and practice using positive self-talk to approach and manage challenging situations. Positive self-talk is a key strategy for coping with negative thoughts, emotions, and events. It is associated with greater persistence in the face of challenge and can be learnt or strengthened through practice.


Thank you for a fantastic first week of term 2, enjoy your weekend.

Trav

KPS STUDENT AWARDS

April 24 - April 27



GRADE PREP		PA Hendrix C		PB Zarwa D		PC Lewis F		PD Luca D		
GRADE 1		1A Ava-Rose B		1B Quinn C		1C Olivia D	1D Bowen R			
GRADE 2		2A Evie H		2B Shiloh Y		2C Elly A		2D Clayton F		2E Willow D
GRADE 3		3A Neeko C		3B Reigan R		3C Arianna C		3D Jack H		
GRADE 4		4A William T		4B Daniel W		4C Kale K		4D Larz F		
GRADE 5		5A Helena P-K		5B Willow B		5C Tyler G		5D Neisha R		
GRADE 6		6A Kismatveer G		6B Ollie J		6C Tyson F		6D Skye M		
AUSLAN		PC Shelby H				VISUAL ARTS			PA Ella M	
PERFORMING ARTS		5B Mekanaka M				PHYSICAL EDUCATION			PA Jacob T	
HANDWRITING		2B Maya RD								
WRITING		2C Hazel P								
MATHS		6A William M								

DATES TO REMEMBER 2023

TERM 2

Friday 28 April	All Day	WHOLE SCHOOL Cross Country
Wednesday 3 May	All Day	SELECTED STUDENTS District Cross Country
Monday May 1 to Friday May 5	All Day	PREP TO GRADE 2D Swimming
Monday May 8 to Friday May 12	All Day	GRADES 3, GRADES 4, GRADE 2E Swimming
Friday 12 May	8:15am to 8:45am	WHOLE SCHOOL Mother's Day Breakfast
Tuesday 16 May	All Day	SELECTED STUDENTS Shamrock Athletics
Wednesday 17 May	9:00am to 12:00pm	KENNINGTON PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN DAY
Wednesday 17 May	5:00pm to 6:00pm	WHOLE COMMUNITY Step into Prep
Monday 22 May to Friday 26 May	All Day	GRADES 5 TO GRADES 6 Swimming
Friday 2 June		STAFF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE DAY NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Wednesday 7 June	All Day	CURRICULUM DAY - NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES 2023

MONDAY

8:15am to 8:45am	MORNING CLUB Stadium with Mrs Maddren
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TUESDAY

8:15am to 8:45am	BREAKFAST CLUB Amphitheatre with Mrs Peters and Ms Rothacker
8:15am to 8:45am	MORNING CLUB Stadium with Mrs Maddren

WEDNESDAY

8:15am to 8:45am	BREAKFAST CLUB Amphitheatre with Mrs Peters and Ms Rothacker
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THURSDAY

8:15am to 8:45am	MORNING CLUB Stadium with Mrs Bentley
8:15am to 8:45am	BREAKFAST CLUB Amphitheatre with Mrs Peters and Ms Rothacker

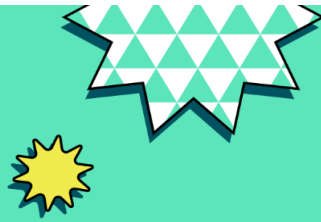
FRIDAY

8:15am to 8:45am	MORNING CLUB Stadium with Mrs Bentley
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Outside School Hours Care Newsletter

Term 2 Week 1

Kennington Primary School



**Your
OSHC.**

ROCKETEERS

A message from your Coordinator - Taylah

Oh what fun we had during rocketeers! It was fantastic to see lots of new and old faces during the school holidays! We had lots of fun with activities ranging from excursions to the movies, a sandwich masterclass, rocket science incursion and the great rocketeer's challenge!

Welcome to term 2! We have lots of exciting things coming up this term including more incursions, colouring competitions, big arts week and more!

If you would like any more information on OSHC or Rocketeers, please don't hesitate to come in and speak to Taylah or Sharon!

Have a great weekend!



Activities coming up

- Incursions (TBA)
- Weekly colouring competition
- Cooking experiences
- Big Art Weeks (12th-23rd of June)

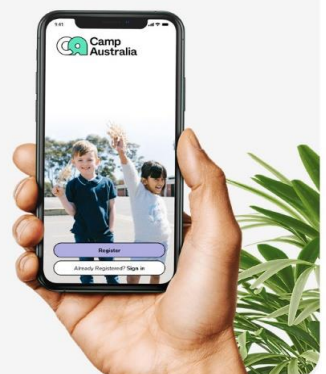
Make a booking

Join in the fun of Outside School Hours Care activities and experiences with Your OSHC and Rocketeers.

Book now

Register free and book in 24/7 via our app

To attend our program, you must register your child. You can register an account with us at pp.campaustralia.com.au or by downloading our Camp Australia smartphone app from the Apple App Store or on Google Play. Once registered, it's easy to make bookings and manage your account.



Find out more and book now at www.campaustralia.com.au

FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY

Benefiting the health
and wellbeing of our
Bendigo school children



SCHOOL VISITS COMING SOON!

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LEARN NEW SPORTS SKILL **IN TERM 2**



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School Times 2023 Frequently Asked Questions

Thank you to those members of our school community who have taken the time to provide feedback or ask questions about the necessary changes to the school day times due to the Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA) 2022. I take this opportunity to further explain the reasons for the necessary change and to answer the questions raised.

Do we still meet the Departments Teaching and Learning Requirements?

Yes. The teaching and learning day at Kennington Primary School has not been shortened. Our students continue to receive the required 1500 minutes of instruction per week as determined by the Department of Education.

In Victoria, teachers are paid to work 38 hours per week. Within the 38 hours, students receive 25 hours of face-to-face instruction each week.

The KPS school day times have needed to be adjusted because our teaching staff have been providing additional supervision time (mainly for the supervision of eating), over and above what is required in the Agreement.

A teacher's time is categorised as 30 hours for work (weekly) directly related to teaching and learning and 8 hours (weekly) for other duties including a 30-minute paid lunch break daily, and three hours of meetings (weekly) after students leave.

As always, the staff at KPS are focused on supporting students to meet their educational potential, and as the principal my role is to not only support the students to do this, but to support our staff to achieve this goal, within the parameters of the governing VGSA 2022.

To support working and busy parents and carers we are one of the few schools to offer Before and After School Care and Vacation Care, on site through Camp Australia.

Has the supervision of children before school changed?

Slightly. Under the new school times model, our teachers start their workday at 8:30am (previously 8:35am). Whilst teachers may choose to start their workday prior to this, it is not a school expectation or a department expectation. School for students will begin at 8:50am. (Previously 8:45am.)

As we have always done at KPS, we will continue to provide supervision as students enter the school each morning, for their safety. Our extensive school grounds whilst amazing, also mean that there are multiple entry and exits points, which means increased teacher supervision. To reduce any entry or exit points would be problematic and inconvenient for our families. As per the VGSA 2022, before school supervision will occur from 8:30am until 8:45am each school day (as is happening currently).

Are KPS still providing Before School Activities?

Yes. For many years at KPS, we have provided amazing optional before-school activities for students. These programs have included Morning Fitness Club and the Breakfast Program. We have continued offering these programs in 2023. We have increased these offerings from four days per week to five days. I am unable to provide exact details at this stage as I need to undertake individual negotiations with teachers who may take on these roles, as they are outside of the VGSA 2022 work hours and will require Time in Lieu (TIL). These programs will run between 8:15am – 8:45am and require up to 4 staff per day. I know our families value these free programs and I will work with my staff to continue to provide them for the benefit of our students.

SCHOOL TIMES FAQs

Students are not to attend school prior to 8:15am. It is expected that students who are dropped off at school from 8:15am participate in these supervised programs. As per usual for student safety, students are unable to use play equipment or play unsupervised games before school, as these activities are not supervised.

As mentioned, if this doesn't suit you or your child, you are welcome to enroll your child in the Before School Program on site. This can be done as a regular booking or as a casual booking.

Are recess & lunch activities still running, and will yard supervision continue?

Yes. Kennington Primary School has always offered and will continue to offer a range of recess and lunch programs during play times, of which we are very proud. We see these programs, or clubs as they are referred to, as a way of setting our students up for success. Clubs provide students an opportunity to engage in play, in a smaller, more structured environment, and they are fully supervised. Clubs and activities that are on offer at Kennington Primary School currently are Coding Club, Lego Club, Kids' Club (indoor play), Chess Club, Outback Garden, Lunchtime Sport, the Environment Centre, and the library.

Our extensive yard – one oval, basketball courts, netball courts, four sets of play equipment, grassed areas, the soccer pitch, amphitheater, Environment Centre, sandpits, Gaga Pit - is also supervised by teachers and additional staff at all break times to ensure that students have a large choice of activities and play spaces. Other spaces including the stadium, second oval, Prep Garden and tennis courts are opened as necessary and when supervision is available.

As a school, we are very privileged to have these spaces and believe that it is in the best interests of our students to utilise them effectively and safely. To do so, a high level of teacher supervision is required. Such supervision adds time to each teacher's supervision schedule. We have considered alternatives including closing areas where children play, such as the Outback Garden, Environment Centre, Gaga Pit, sandpits, soccer pitch, oval and any one of our four playgrounds, however, doing this would reduce the school experience for our students, increase the number of students in the available supervised spaces and potentially increase the risk of injury and the incidence of social issues.

Is my child getting enough time to eat?

Yes. Many of our current classrooms encourage our students to have a snack or 'brain food' during learning times to support students to focus during learning. Given the shorter supervised eating times for students under the new model, having brain food during learning time will be an expectation of all teachers in classrooms. For this to effectively work parents and carers will be asked to ensure that their children's lunch boxes have a range of healthy snacks for them to easily access during learning times. Of course, students may also take food outside to eat. We have many outside eating spaces including benches, tables and chairs, the amphitheater, and the Friendship Garden, where children are welcome to eat.

We also provide a large fruit bowl of fresh fruit, every week in every classroom and in the office, for students to supplement their lunch boxes.

Has the supervision of children after school changed?

No. As we have always done, we will continue to provide supervision as students exit the school each afternoon. Again, our extensive school grounds whilst amazing, also mean that there are multiple exit points, which means increased teacher supervision. Again, to reduce any entry or exit points would be problematic and inconvenient for our families. Our teachers will provide supervision at the exit points of the school to ensure that all students leave or are collected in a safe manner. After school supervision will begin at 3:00pm and finishes at 3:15pm, which is in line with the VGSA 2022.

SCHOOL TIMES FAQs

As previously mentioned, to support working and busy parents and carers we are one of the few schools to offer before and after school, on site through Camp Australia. After School Care will commence at 3:00pm and finish at 6:00pm

What are the afterschool meeting requirements for staff?

Contrary to popular belief school teaching staff do not finish their working day when the students do. As a school, to ensure a high-quality education for your children, we have prioritised a consistent Teaching and Learning model from grades Prep to 6. One way to ensure this is to actively facilitate grade-level team meetings, focus area meetings and whole staff meetings. Unlike many other professions, teachers can rarely meet during the day whilst students are at school. After school meetings are used for teacher professional learning and planning for teaching and learning. They are also used to support staff with acquitting Time in Lieu that has accrued via staff working outside of the hours under the VGSA 2022, with programs and activities including Student-Parent-Teacher Learning Conferences, Welcome Evenings, special events (Art Show, Carols at KPS, Fair, Instrumental Music Concert, Graduation etc.), camps and excursions.

What about other Victorian Government Schools?

I cannot and will not speak for other principals or the practices in their schools, but I do understand from colleagues that they are at different stages in ensuring that they too, are doing what is required of them as a Principal of a Government School in Victoria, regarding meeting the very specific requirements of the Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA) 2022.

Thankyou

Thank you for taking the time to read this information. I trust that it has provided more clarity. As mentioned, the Victorian Government Schools Agreement (VGSA) 2022 has meant that changes had to be made to ensure that I as the Principal of Kennington Primary School am doing what is required of me for our students and staff.

Before School Care, After School Care and Vacation Care can be accessed via this link, [Camp Australia](#). If you would like to discuss this further, I encourage you to meet with me, Luke, or Hamish.

Cheers,
Trav