Headmaster’s Distinctions

Term 4
Week 2 & 3

Kindergarten
Christopher Baissari
Dominic Fayad
Harry Graham
Milad Nohra

Year 1
Pranav Anil Pillai
Matthew Cruz
Michael Liu
Joseph Mouawad
Todd Potter
Henry Powell
Curtis Preston
Sullivan Rickey
Princeton Yuen

Year 2
Orlando Fayad
Lachlan Hargraves (x2)
James Kirkpatrick
Joseph Papasinos
Samuel Pritchard
Michael Tzakos
Matthew Wu
Harris Yang
Daniel Zou

Year 3
Cyrus Ande
Thomas Barton
Nicholas Horne
Thomas McConnell
Lachlan Waugh

Year 4
Marcus Malouf
James Mead
Gabe Preston (x2)
Zachary Thompson (x3)
Vedang Tiwary (x2)

Year 5
Bill Goh
Josh Hickey (x5)
Mikey Koutsoukos (x2)

Year 6
William McCarthy (x2)

Prep News
26th October, 2012

Fish climbing trees

Virtually every time you hear the Prime Minister or Schools Minister speak about Australian education they use the phrase ‘diminished performance’. The repeated assertion is that Australia has slipped in its ranking on such world-wide education indexes as PISA (the OECD’s Programme for International Student Assessment). On the other hand Singapore, South Korea and China are going gangbusters.

While there is some truth in this, these indexes do not measure all that is important in learning. In fact some argue that this emphasis on PISA rankings is unhelpful. It represents the government’s and community’s desire to measure things so that we can feel we are somehow in control. But effective learning is far more complex than this blinkered view pretends.

Dr Yong Zhao is an escapee from China. Now an eminent educationalist based in the USA, he grew up in an impoverished rural village in China. He fled his home to escape starvation and was able to reinvent himself in the USA.

He maintains that even the Chinese government is not crowing about its success on the PISA – because the Chinese know full well that economic and social success requires far more.

Yong Zhao points out that the world’s workforce is growing steadily, but the number of jobs is diminishing. He says that the majority of unemployed people in the USA now have college degrees. Therefore education itself, in that narrow sense, is no longer a guarantee of personal success and prosperity.

The new innovative and creative industries employ fewer people. Just think of Facebook versus Ford. Yet these are largely the source of economic dynamism in our world, and we desperately need them.

Therefore we require creative and entrepreneurial people, and they typically have the following qualities:

- confidence
- friends
- risk taking
- passion
- creativity
- alertness to opportunity
- global competency
- uniqueness
- empathy

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “Take rest; a field that has rested gives a bountiful crop.” Ovid
Such qualities are not always taught in our schools and certainly are not measured by PISA.

This is yet another reason to celebrate the Primary Years Programme, for it seeks to celebrate and advance such attributes as those listed above.

Yong Zhao asks the provocative question, ‘Why is the USA still here?’

He says that the USA education system has not declined ... it has always been terrible! There is a long history of US students being bad ‘test takers’ - but the USA still leads the world in productivity and ingenuity.

There is a different international rating which few know about (I didn’t until recently) called the Perceived Entrepreneurial Score – a rating of a nation’s inventiveness. On this measure the USA still leads the world ... and by a long margin.

There is of course a role for standardised testing in education. However, we need to be very careful not to over emphasise such assessments. Checking a person’s blood pressure every five minutes will not of its own accord improve a patient’s health. And what do we sacrifice in order to achieve high test scores? Too often we imperil confidence, creativity and relational skills.

Einstein once said, ‘If you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree it will live its whole life believing it is stupid.’ He also said, ‘It is a miracle that curiosity survives formal education.’

At King’s let’s remain passionate about fanning the flames of curiosity and inventiveness. Let’s not force fish to climb trees.

Staff movements

Our year of change continues! Congratulations to Mr Brendan Frost who has been invited to take up a role as a residential tutor at Waihi School for Boys in New Zealand! This fascinating boarding school for boys in Yrs 4-8 represents an exciting professional opportunity for Brendan and an adventure for his family. We wish Brendan, Jess, Oliver and Yet-To-Arrive (baby) every blessing in this move. Exciting times!

I am pleased to announce the following appointments to the Prep School staff for 2013:

Mr Greg Blackman … Deputy Head of the Preparatory School (for further information please refer to the Headmaster’s email of earlier this week)

Mr Tim Leuenberger … K-6 Class Teacher
Mr David Guild … K-6 Class Teacher
Mrs Sonia Weston … K-6 Class Teacher
Mrs Claire McDonald … K-6 Class Teacher (12 months … replacing Mr Melvin Tan, who has been granted one year’s leave of absence to complete his legal studies)

Mrs Shelley McMorran … K-6 Teacher Librarian

Space does not permit me to include biographies of these new staff members, but the selection panel was very impressed by the personal qualities and professional calibre of these people, and are certain that they will prove to be strong additions to the Prep School community.

We are yet to make an appointment of a new Visual Arts specialist. Applications close on Friday 9th November, if you happen to know any suitable candidates!

Harrison and Thomas Housemasters

With the retirement of Mrs Jan Abbas and the promotion of Mr Martin Conway to Deputy Head of the Junior School at Arndell Anglican College we are of course in need of new Housemasters for Harrison House and Thomas House. I am delighted to announce that Mrs Anna-Claire Coore has accepted my invitation to become Harrison Housemaster and Mrs Jo Grinham Thomas Housemaster.

These two highly regarded educators are also renowned for their exceptional pastoral care and empathy. The boys of these houses will be in extremely good hands!

Keith Dalleywater
Head of the Preparatory School
The TKS Uniform
The splendid uniform which the boys wear today is based on the Cadet Uniform introduced by George Fairfowl Macarthur at Macquarie Fields in 1858. Macarthur was Chaplain for Victoria Barracks in Sydney and the uniform was based on other uniforms which were current at the time - the braid design was popular then. Originally, the jacket was navy blue and the pants the “salt and pepper” fabric. This was reversed in 1874 to be what we have today. Day boys were first allowed to wear the uniform in 1907. Before that it was only for boarders.

The black tie was introduced as a sign of respect and mourning following the death of Queen Victoria in 1901. The short trousers were introduced for the Prep boys about 1914 and the blue shirt in 1940. The Butcher’s coat, currently worn by our K-2 boys, was introduced in 1932 to replace the navy blue blazer, with the Cambridge blue edging, which was the Colours Blazer at that time. In 1994 this became the blazer for all senior students and not just those with Full Colours. It was introduced to the Infant’s School in 2000. The School Jumper was introduced in 1966.

As you can see, our uniform is steeped in tradition and when worn well, is resplendent! However, when unkempt, it draws attention in the wrong way. A King’s Boy looks well after his uniform and the reputation of his school. We want our boys to take pride in their School and themselves – this will feed across into other areas of their schooling.

Please ensure that the following uniform details are adhered to:

1) Trousers and shirts are clean, pressed and in good condition.
2) The jacket must be clean, pressed and in good condition. All buttons, knots and badges must be sewn on.
3) Belts must be worn by students in Years 3-6 and may be either dark brown or black with a plain buckle.
4) Garters are compulsory for all students when wearing the uniform.
5) Shoes should be plain black with laces and without white or coloured stitching. They need to be cleaned regularly; boys should take responsibility for cleaning their shoes.

This term, uniform inspections will take place every fortnight. Boys with items requiring attention will receive a note requesting attention to the specific item. If the item is not attended to, parents will receive a phone-call from the Deputy Head and the boy in question may receive a lunchtime detention.

In regard to uniform, thank you to those parents who take the time to reinforce the quality of being principled and the attitudes of respect and commitment. It is greatly appreciated by the School and also helps to set your son up for success in the future.

Zero Tolerance of Bullies
Any form of bullying is unworthy of a Kingsman and against all that The King’s School stands for. Those who are identified as bullies will be dealt with firmly and may be expelled from the School.


Prep boys should be in no doubt about the School’s view on bullying, the damage that can be done to the emotional and social well-being of others, and the consequences of involvement in bullying behaviour. The School’s Anti-bullying Policy can be viewed on the School website, at the website address above, and includes information on the nature of bullying behaviour, how the School discourages such behaviour, how victims of bullying behaviour should respond and how parents can help their son if they feel he is being bullied.

Within the Prep School, the School’s Anti-bullying Policy is reinforced in the following ways:

1) Rights and responsibilities as listed in the Prep student diary and displayed in classrooms.
   Expectation - Bullying will not be tolerated.
   Right - I have the right to be safe and to feel comfortable and accepted at school.
   Responsibility - I have the responsibility to make our school safe by looking out for others and by not teasing, threatening or hurting others.

2) Behavioural Management as listed in the Prep student diary and displayed in classrooms.
   Bullying is a level 3 offence. Such behaviour will be referred to the housemaster, counsellor, Director of Infants or Deputy, and the Head of the Prep, as deemed appropriate. In the case of bullying, the minimum consequence is a Friday detention. However, serious and repeated cases could lead to expulsion.

3) The King’s Boys’ Creed as listed in the Prep student diary and displayed in classrooms.
   A King’s boy looks after his schoolmates.

4) PYP Learner Profile and Attitudes which are displayed around the School and are a focus of social and emotional development during lessons, assemblies and Chapel services.
   King’s boys are always striving to improve in the areas of being thinkers, principled, carers, reflective, empathetic, tolerant and respectful.

We have an incredibly powerful pastoral care system here at the Prep, including support from our student leadership team, teachers, housemasters, executive staff, counsellors and our chaplains. However, open communication is the vital ingredient. Whether due to fear of retaliation, rejection or general helplessness, if we are not made aware of issues, we can do little to effect change. If we are aware, rest assured we will act and follow through, for the benefit of those bullied and those bullying, as we seek to make King’s Prep a bully free school.
Public Speaking and Poetry Recitation Showcase
Next Tuesday, 30th October, the winners of our Public Speaking and Poetry Recitation competitions from each Year Group will present their winning pieces. The event will take place in Horrocks Hall at 1.45pm. Parents of boys who won these competitions will receive a written invitation to attend the showcase. All parents are most welcome to attend.

Remembrance Day Service
We will be holding a special Remembrance Day Service on Friday 9th November at 1.45pm, in Horrocks Hall. All parents are invited to join with us in remembering the sacrifice of those who have died for Australia in wars and conflicts.

Prep Festival of Lessons and Carols
All families will soon receive an invitation to our delightful Prep Festival of Lessons and Carols to be held on Tuesday 4th December, at 7.00pm, in Futter Hall. Please be aware that attendance is COMPULSORY for all boys.

Peter Grimes
Deputy Head of the Preparatory School

DIRECTOR OF LEARNING

It’s official!
We are now an evaluated PYP school!

We were delighted to receive news this week that the evaluation visit last term involving representatives of the IB (International Baccalaureate) was successful and we are now an evaluated IB World School for the PYP (Primary Years Programme).

It is such a thrill to reach another milestone in our PYP journey here at King’s. The school has been working towards this visit for the last three years since our PYP authorization visit. King’s was the second school in New South Wales to receive authorisation to offer the PYP. Currently there are six PYP schools in New South Wales, 83 schools in Australia and 969 schools worldwide.

The team that visited in September helped us to identify areas for growth and these have been put into our five year action plan. We can expect another evaluation visit in 2017.

I must say a huge thank you to our Prep School teachers, who work so hard and are so dedicated to educating your sons. We look forward to our continuing PYP journey!

For further information on the PYP please visit the IB website: www.ibo.org

Rachel Johnston
Director of Learning and ICT

END-OF-YEAR PRESENTS

It is customary that at the end of each school year the members of each house jointly purchase a thank you gift for each staff member associated with that house. At one time this involved the House Captain in collecting cash, and we felt that this was less-than-ideal. Now we charge to the school fees a set amount of $10 per student to cover this cost. Any parent not wishing to make this contribution is asked to indicate this to me in writing.

Parents often choose to purchase a thank you gift for certain teachers. This is, of course, acceptable and delightful, but by no means obligatory. Occasionally the parents of a class have joined together to purchase a gift for the class teacher. This is not always the best option as:

1. many parents like to give a little something just from themselves to the teacher and

2. the amount sought from each family has sometimes been excessive (especially if a family has more than one boy at King’s).

I would therefore tend to discourage the idea of a joint class present for the teacher. However, if the parents of a particular class are determined to go down this path, I would recommend an amount of $5 per child.

Keith Dalleywater
Head of the Preparatory School
DIRECTOR OF INFANTS

Explicit Teaching of Spelling

I have the pleasure of working with the children in Kindergarten for 3 hours a week, Year 1 for 2 hours a week and Year 2 for 3 hours a week. This affords me the opportunity to observe the children’s academic and social growth very well. The development of the basic skills in literacy is of primary importance. One of the most challenging areas for our boys is spelling.

Young children do not become competent spellers by chance. Solid foundations must be in place, as teachers and families help the boys gain a better understanding of the building blocks of literacy from their writing and reading experiences and the world of text. We teach strategically to promote understanding of the relationships between the 44 phonemes of spoken English and the 26 letters of the alphabet. Spelling choices must be considered with generalisations applied through experience.

Spelling instruction is designed to give increasing confidence and independence to learners by focusing on:

- How words sound, how they are made and the patterns within them
- An awareness of the 44 phonemes (speech sounds) of spoken English
- The alphabetic connections between speech and writing, including alternative ways of writing the same phoneme
- Knowledge of the alphabet and the naming of the lower-case letters and associated capitals
- Identifying initial and subsequent letters as the means of locating words and the meanings of words in word books and dictionaries, etymology
- Memorising the visual patterns of words, including words containing graphemes that are considered by some to be irregular
- Using the correct terms from the beginning-letter name, lower-case, capital, phoneme, grapheme, syllable, graph, digraph, trigraph, quadgraph

- For example the word ‘knight’ has three phonemes (speech sounds)-the first phoneme is represented by a digraph (k n), the second by a trigraph (i g h) and the third by a graph (t)
- Spelling a bank of commonly occurring words correctly (Dolch lists of the 200 most commonly used English words)
- Using Unit of Inquiry words correctly
- Using personal words correctly
- Discussing wrongly applied generalisations and other reasons for misspellings
- Checking the accuracy of spelling choices
- Constructing word families
- Syllabification
- Handwriting skills- correct and consistent formation of lower-case and capital letters
- Regularity of word spacing
- Authentic links to purposeful writing and reading
- Use of computer technology for the construction of texts
- Elementary proof reading and self-editing using COPS- C-checking capitals, O-checking for omissions, P-checking punctuation, S-checking if it makes sense, prior to conferencing with teachers.

I encourage parents to consider the learning and consolidation of spelling words at home as part of the home learning contract, to be a serious business. For the majority of boys, the problem will be that they really need to work at this. I suggest the promotion of perseverance to be fundamental in this pursuit. Competency will not be arrived at by chance.

Belinda Baxter
bsb@kings.edu.au

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Compassion Child Sponsorship in the Prep School – From 2 to 4!

Caring for socially and physically vulnerable children and orphans, receives particular attention from God. This reveals something of the nature of God: He is not aloof and impassive, but the opposite; God is concerned with the welfare of society’s most fragile and defenceless, Himself adopting the role of ‘father of the fatherless’ and ‘defender of the defenceless.’

All too often we see children as the potential for tomorrow rather than their value in the world today.

With our successful ‘Jobs for Compassion’ fundraising, we have expanded our sponsorship from two (Manula – Colombia & Juliet – Kenya) to four children. Each House in the Prep will focus on one child per term. Students will have the opportunity to write to the children, learn about their country and particular situations. It is wonderful to introduce our two new Compassion Children:

**Sumit** from India  
**Kairus** from Philippines

**Born** 27.8.2005  
**Born** 6.8.2005

Children are often the hardest hit by poverty

Though not inherent in a child, when poverty is part of a child’s environment, it can become ingrained into the facets of a child’s mind. It says that when you live in a rubbish tip, you are rubbish. When you can’t go to school, you’re not worth investing in. And when you’re constantly sick from malaria or tuberculosis, you're not worth the cost of the medicine that will heal you.

Compassion has chosen to work exclusively through the Church to embrace individual children, develop the value in every child, and break through the barriers for that child to be released from poverty. For each child’s life we change, we are empowering them to transform their family, their community, and their country. We believe that children are agents of transformation, because changed circumstances *might* change a person, but a changed person will *always* change their circumstances.

The Housemasters
**Old Buffers**
On Friday 19 October, the Old Buffers were welcomed back to the Prep to play our annual fixture which has been happening for over 90 years. It is always such a terrific experience for the 1st XI boys to hear the stories from the past and then display their talents in a cricket match. I am proud of these boys in how they behaved at lunch and during the match. The Old Buffers were very impressed by the boys and that all the Prep staff should be thanked for educating such fine young men.

I am happy to announce that the Prep 1st XI won the match and that Kyle Townsend was presented with a cricket bat for being the player of the match.

Many thanks must go to Charlie Lavender, Nathan Middleton, David Lavender and Sam Hughes for their help at the game.

**Swimming Team**
The TKS Prep Swimming team will be representing the School at two Invitational Swimming Carnivals in Term 4, 2012.

The Trinity Invitational Swimming Carnival to be held at the Trinity Grammar School, Prospect Rd, Summer Hill on Friday 2 November, 2012. The starting time for the carnival is 1pm and the finishing time is 3.00pm. We need to be at the pool by 12.30pm for warm-up.

The St Patrick’s Invitational Swimming Carnival to be held at the St Patrick’s College Pool, Merley Road, Strathfield on Friday, 9 November, 2012. The starting time for the carnival is 1pm and the finishing time is 3.00pm. We need to be at the pool by 12.30pm for warm-up.

We wish the boys best of luck in competing at these carnivals.

**Liam Christie - Rising Star!!**
Liam Christie in 5X, had his State Gymnastics Competition last weekend. At the meet he competed in a number of the article Gymnastic events for males. Liam's results go as follows. 1st on Floor, 3rd on Pommel, 3rd on Rings, 4th on Parallel Bars, 5th on High Bar and 5th on Vault. Liam came 3rd overall with a score of 60.4 out of 66 and his team came 1st overall and are NSW State Champions for 2012! What an achievement.

Liam has been invited to attend the NSW Gymnastics State Development Squad Training Camp at the AIS, Canberra from 26th-28th October. He will also be competing for the TKS Prep at the IPSHA Gymnastic competition this Thursday 25 October at Homebush. We wish Liam the best of luck in the upcoming competitions.

**Athletics - Article by Tom Macqueen**
On the 17th & 18th October, King’s had 4 boys competing in the NSW Athletics Championships. Jordan Williams finished an amazing 7th in the 100m semis. After enduring 2 rounds of racing against 39 districts, the fab four relay consisting of Jordan Williams (Yr 5), Alex Rothwell (Yr 5), Luke Go (Yr 6) and Tom Macqueen (Yr 6) went into the finals with the 3rd fastest time in the State. A close and intense race followed in which we came 4th. The King’s spirit of never giving up and supporting your team mates was evident amongst the relay boys and we will take away with us some wonderful memories.

Congratulation to the senior relay team on a terrific result and effort this season.

**Sport**
Lateness and absent from sport is starting to occur amongst certain boys. Could you please make sure that you prepare to be at the Saturday venues 30 minutes prior to the starting time. This is very important for the coaches to organise the team for the match. Continued lateness or absence without notification will not be tolerated.

**WET WEATHER DETAILS:**
If your son is unable to play on Saturday you need to call or text Mr Rogers on 04172902433 by 7.00am.

In the event of inclement weather, no decision will be made until Saturday morning at approx. 7.00am.

Team members are to ring the Wet Weather Number 9683 8484 after 7.00am for a recorded message or http://intranet.kings.edu.au/prep/wetweather/wet.htm

Phill Rogers
Director of Sport Preparatory School

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