Welcome back to all our families after the holiday break. I do hope that the children are feeling refreshed and families were able to benefit from extended time together.

This term we welcome Mrs Deborah Hunt who will be teaching class 5P and Mrs Karen Mackey who will be teaching class 6R while Mrs Pearman and Mrs Ruddock are on long service leave. Both ladies are well known to the boys as they have been involved in a relief teaching capacity over a number of years at the Prep.

Term 2 is the shortest term in our school calendar this year and the boys will find things moving at pace this term. The students will be involved in a number of assessment activities throughout the term with the boys in Year 3 and Year 5 also completing the NAPLAN national assessments from 14th – 16th May. The winter sports programme gets underway with the first matches for the season starting this Saturday. I’m sure many of the boys are very excited to be playing rugby and football for their school. The school fixture list was sent home this week. If for some reason parents missed receiving a copy, it can be found on the school intranet page or a hard copy can be gained from the Prep School Office.

The fun at King’s isn’t reserved for the boys. There are opportunities for parents to be involved in events this term as well. The Fathers’ Association is hosting an evening event at the Allisons’ home at ‘The Cedars’ on Tuesday 21st May. The evening is entitled ‘Dads about Dads’ where we will be discussing fatherhood and hearing some brief presentations from some of our own fathers. Whilst information about this event has been circulated previously in the newsletter, a formal invitation for fathers went home this week. The Prep Trivia Night will be held on 15th June and promises to be a great night of fun and fellowship, this year taking on a strong international theme. Parents might like to start planning getting a table together for this event. This term there will be more information coming home to enable families to understand more about how they can get involved in supporting the Art Show which is scheduled for over the weekend of 23rd – 25th August. There will be a number of set up roles for which we will require considerable support as well as various roles to fill over the weekend. Now we just need to book in some glorious weather for the Art Show weekend like we’ve enjoyed over the past few weeks here in Sydney.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me.” John 10:14
Celebration of Staff Learning

Learning within a school shouldn’t be restricted to the students’ domain. A healthy school culture is one where learning opportunities exist for all major parties – the students, staff and parents. At the beginning of this year I shared with the staff of the Prep School a key strategic goal that I have for the Prep School, that we establish the systems and practices that ensure that we are a strong learning organisation.

One of the structures that have been established this year to promote professional learning for staff has been the development of Staff Inquiry Groups (SIGs). This approach involves small groups of teachers from across the Prep School working through a cycle of inquiry into a particular area of classroom practice, drawing on the latest international research to develop understandings and implementing these findings and strategies into classroom teaching and learning experiences. The small group forum allows teachers to share in their research and about their practice.

Allen and Blythe (2004) recommend a teacher inquiry model for school advancement as, “it is grounded in the actual work that students and teachers carry out each day, is focused on aspects of teaching and learning that are relevant and have deep significance for the group and it provides scope for individual inquiry within common or shared points of reference.” The four areas of inquiry that staff are exploring over the next two terms include:

- Differentiated teaching and learning practices to more powerfully meet the individual needs of students
- Developing a deeper understanding of the new Australian English curriculum which will be implemented from the beginning of 2014
- Exploring different forms of assessment and assessment practices to refine the information gained about student learning and practices that will help us to use data more effectively
- Exploring and redeveloping the processes for Professional Learning and Staff Appraisal to encourage clearer goal setting, observation of practice, feedback, and professional learning opportunities to support the professional growth of staff.

Last Monday’s Staff Development Day enabled the Staff Inquiry Groups to have some concentrated time to begin their investigations and develop the programme and strategies that will guide their investigations over the coming six months. It was a stimulating professional learning experience for staff that facilitated cross grade level and faculty interaction. I am greatly encouraged by the feedback from the staff after this first session which indicates their enthusiasm for the programme and their areas of exploration. These inquiry groups will meet every few weeks for most of the remainder of the year. In between meetings, each member will be required to undertake some independent learning and related classroom application that they will share with the group at the subsequent meeting.

During Term Four, a mini-conference session is planned where each group will share their investigations and action research findings with the whole staff. Each group will form a number of recommendations that will be discussed and help guide the future decisions for future curriculum development and teaching practices.

Whilst the Staff Inquiry Group programme will bring great reward to staff in their endeavours, it should be highlighted that the greatest beneficiaries will be our boys who will gain from more effective classroom teaching and learning practices.

Peter Allison
Head of the Preparatory School
Welcome back
I want to welcome all boys and their families back to what will be a very busy term. The term is only eight weeks long and there are many activities planned.

NAPLAN
I want to remind all Year 3 and 5 parents that NAPLAN takes place in Week 3.

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<th>Year 3</th>
<th>Tuesday 14 May 2013</th>
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<td>Language Conventions</td>
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Friday will be used as a catch-up day for any boys who have missed tests.

Uniform
As the weather becomes colder, many boys wear a singlet or tee shirt under their school shirt. This undergarment is not to be visible when the boys undo their top button of their School shirt.

I want to remind parents and boys that boys are to leave School in uniform. On sports training days, boys may wear the King’s Sports uniform with the School tracksuit.

Staff will be carrying out uniform inspections over the next few weeks. They will be ensuring boys have sock garters, belts, polished school shoes and predominately white sandshoes, with all items named.

Magic 123 Parenting Programme
Last term an email was sent to all families, inviting them to participate in a three week parenting course. This course is due to commence this Thursday (9th May). At the moment we do not have enough participants for this course to go ahead. If you intend to attend and have not registered as yet, I encourage you to read the flyer attached to this newsletter and register as a matter of urgency by contacting Mrs Chris Konstantopoulos on 9683 8530 (konc@kings.edu.au). I will need to make a decision whether the course will go head on Monday afternoon.

Sick Children
I would like to remind parents not to send their son to School if they are unwell. This is even more important as the flu season approaches. If a boy has been unwell the night before or is feeling unwell in the morning, please keep him at home, no matter what inconvenience this may cause. Sending an unwell student to school is unfair to the boy, his class mates and the staff.

Key Dates
Please note that Friday 7th June is a Staff Professional Development Day. Boys are not to attend School on this day.

Term Two
Week 2
- Wednesday 8th May
  o Alpha Course 7:00-9:30pm (Thomas Memorial Pavilion)
- Friday 10th May
  o Year One Mothers’ Day Luncheon
- Saturday 11th May
  o Winter Sport Rd 2
Week 3

- Monday 13th May
  - THRASS for Parents’ Workshop 7:45 -8:25 am (ILC)
  - Fathers’ Association Committee Meeting – 7.00pm

- Tuesday 14th May
  - NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5) – Language Conventions and Writing

- Wednesday 15th May
  - NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5) – Reading
  - Year 6 Leaders Leadership Day
  - Alpha Course 7:00-9:30pm (Thomas Memorial Pavilion)

- Thursday 16th May
  - NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5) – Numeracy

- Friday 17th May
  - NAPLAN (Years 3 and 5) – Catch-up Day for students who have been absent
  - Kindergarten Parents’ Literacy Seminar (1:00pm)

- Saturday 18th May
  - Winter Sport Rd 3

Greg Blackman
Deputy Head of the Preparatory School
Welcome Back
It was great to see the boys back at school this week. I heard of some very exciting holiday activities and some wonderful goals for the new term. The Baxters were very spoilt by magnificent weather at our country property. We enjoyed God’s beautiful world by relaxing with friends for some of the time and continuing to renovate our old homestead for the remainder. The change of seasons is in full bloom in the Central West and is well worth a visit.

We have a number of important events happening in the coming weeks: The Year One Mother and Son Chapel and Luncheon, the Kindergarten Parents’ Literacy Information Seminar, Kindy visit to The King’s School Kitchen, a visit from Oz Opera, Reconciliation activities, Kindy visit to Calmsley Hill Farm, Year One Family Tree Day, The Helpathon, Year Two visit to The Museum, and Semester One Reports. This term we will be encouraging boys to grow in their independence. Parents can assist us by identifying small jobs that the boys will be expected to complete at home.

Action Boys
An important aspect of the philosophy of the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme, is that education must extend beyond intellectual pursuits to include socially responsible, thoughtful and appropriate action. We believe that students have a responsibility not only to improve themselves, but to improve their communities. We aim to develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world. Our boys are learning both skills and values needed to do this through the action they take every day at school, at home and in the broader global community.

For our youngest Kingsmen, the action will typically be modelled by adults or scaffolded in some way. Our teachers create opportunities that will provoke thinking and will challenge the children to consider meaningful action. Our increased focus on student-centred, authentic inquiry is further facilitated by collaborative and cooperative group practices. Purposeful engagement linking with the boys’ experiences leads to further social, physical and intellectual growth. So it is with great celebration when a student initiated action is noted. Many of our boys have demonstrated action related to the PYP learner profiles. Already we have seen inquiring, thinking, communicating, risk-taking, caring and reflective behaviours. When empowered to respond and learn independently, our boys will further understand the value of acting and making a change in the world.

When you plan for a year, plant a seed
When you plan for a decade, plant a tree
When you plan for a century, educate a child.
Chinese proverb

Assessment
On-going assessment is a feature of our teaching and learning cycle. The boys will be completing a number of assessment tasks in readiness for the written reports that will be posted at the end of term. I recommend that all families insist on reasonable bedtimes so that the boys are fresh and ready to do their best each day. I also recommend that television viewing not feature during the school week. Research clearly points out that too much viewing dulls the brain. Games, reading and family chats are far more beneficial.

KIP Manners
When a boy is collected during KIP time he must pack up any equipment he was playing with, dress in his full uniform and say good afternoon and thank you to the teacher supervising. Parents please facilitate this basic courtesy with your son. Once collected, the boys may not remove their tie or blazer whilst on the school property.

Kindergarten Parents’ Literacy Seminar Friday 17 May
I am hoping that many more RSVPs roll in for the Kindergarten Parents’ Literacy Seminar. These are necessary for catering for the light luncheon. It is our aim that every family will have at least one adult present. You will find the seminar to be extremely helpful in terms of working in a collaborative home-school partnership, in order to advance the all-important literacy skills.

Belinda Baxter
bsb@kings.edu.au
This term we have a couple of interesting and relevant events planned for our Light Bulb Learning Seminars. The aim of these seminars is to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and skills needed to help them effectively guide their son through his learning journey.

**THRASS – HOW DOES IT WORK?**

**When:** Monday 13th May (Term Two - Week Three)

**Time:** 7:45 am for 8:00 am – 9:00 am

**Where:** Upper ILC

**Who:** Parents and caregivers of boys in Years 1 to 6.

**What:** This seminar will outline the basic tenets of the THRASS approach including an explanation of the framework, some of the terminology, hearing sounds in words and orientation to the THRASS chart. THRASS is a tool used in the Prep for the teaching and learning of handwriting, reading and spelling. It is based upon the THRASS chart which illustrates the 44 phonemes (sounds) and the 120 graphemes (letter combinations used to write the phonemes). Knowledge and understanding of the THRASS chart is fundamental to being able to use it as a tool for making spelling choices and decoding unknown words. We will also explore and model some teaching strategies to help you gain a deeper understanding of the way your son is learning about how words work in order that you are better able to support him.

**THE PYP EXHIBITION**

**When:** Monday 20th May (Term Two - Week Four)

**Time:** 8:35 am – 9:15 am

**Where:** Upper ILC

**Who:** I would strongly recommend that Year 6 parents attend to gain an understanding of this landmark event in the educational life of the boys at the school. Year 5 parents are more than welcome to attend in preparation for next year.

**What:** The PYP Exhibition is a major learning event and involves Year 6 boys identifying, investigating and proposing a solution to a problem which is local or global. It involves a synthesis of all the knowledge, skills, attitudes and conceptual understanding gained during his journey with the PYP. The PYP Exhibition is an exciting but challenging learning experience for our Year 6 boys.

**RSVP:** To register your attendance at these workshops, please email me by Monday 6th May (Term Two - Week Two).

We look forward to seeing you at our sessions.

Rachel Johnston
Director of Learning

rcj@kings.edu.au
Imagination- experience is everything

A key theme in the educational movement is that simply ensuring memorisation of knowledge is likely to be educationally useless. Indeed, an insistent refrain heard today is that knowledge is doubling every x number of years and that consequently it is increasingly urgent to teach students how to find the knowledge they want when they want it and to encourage them to learn how to learn. If we enable students to master such generic skills as critical thinking, problem solving and harvest imagination, we will be doing something that is more educationally valuable than merely drilling them in sequences of facts that have a high chance of being forgotten.

Such notions are encouraged by analogies drawn with computers. If we see the mind as something like a program and the memory as something like the stored data that the program can access, our educational task is to hone the procedural imagination skills to provide smooth access to the broad range of data. One might almost say that the imagination was born of the need to remember.

Creative imagination is a very powerful ability. Look at Einstein, he displayed talent as a musician and artist. How many enchanted learning experiences was Einstein exposed to? He failed maths, however he created his own learning experience through the power of creative imagination. Using the power of creative imagination he visualised himself riding on a sunbeam to the end of the universe, toward the sun. He reasoned that if his dream were to be proved correct then the universe must be curved.

I love the idea of children engaging in enchanted learning experiences. It is predicted that 65% of children born today will have jobs that don’t even exist yet. Encourage your child to be imaginative in all they do.

Altus
Weekly Mindbender:

You have a fox, a chicken and a sack of grain. You must cross a river with only one of them at a time. If you leave the fox with the chicken he will eat it; if you leave the chicken with the grain he will eat it. How can you get all three across safely?
Prep Newsletter

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**Library news**

The start of the term has seen us celebrating the commitment many boys have been displaying as they read for the Premier’s Reading Challenge. The Challenge continues until 1 September so there’s plenty of time to become involved. All K-2 boys received a note home at the end of Term 1 with their log-on and password details, and the Year 3-6 boys have received their details individually.

Year 1 were visited by Mr Tony Readon from the Carlingford Public Library to tell us about the Year 1 Frog Club. This is a special reading club just for Year 1 children! Information about the Frog Club was sent home with the boys on Wednesday.

Shelley McMorran
Library, K-6

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**King’s Prep boys support 2013 Splash for Cash**

At the end of Term 1, our swim captain Noah Olejniczak led a group of boys as they swam to support the Sydney Royal Institute for Deaf and Blind Children’s fundraising event. Noah swam 86 laps at the Homebush Aquatic Centre’s Olympic 50m pool which equaled 4.3 km. He managed to raise a staggering $1824. He said, “the team’s target was to raise $6000 as a team. We ended up raising $6454 and were the top fundraising team in Sydney.”

Congratulations to all the boys who ‘reached out’ and helped such a wonderful Institution. The money will certainly help those children with hearing and vision loss.

Amazing Kingsmen to whom we are very proud of their efforts!

Jo Grinham

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**Last call to join the ski team for 2013!**

If you are still considering joining the ski team for 2013, you will need to let James Tyree or Jo Grinham know as soon as possible. We have a record sized team this year in the Prep and it is going to be very exciting to have our youngest members hitting the slopes ever before! Information booklets and registration forms can be collected from Mr Tyree or Mrs Grinham. Alternatively, you can email either of them on jtyree@kings.edu.au or jim@kings.edu.au

We would also like to encourage the King’s community to join us for our fundraising event on Friday 24th May. It will be a great night!

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**Earn and Learn stickers and Vouchers for Schools Collection**

As you may remember, last year we collected and donated both Coles and Woolworths school vouchers/stickers to one of our local schools.

It was such a great success with our school collecting 1000’s that were gratefully accepted and used to get equipment.

We will be doing the same again this year.

Please hand any unwanted Woolworth’s Earn and Learn stickers or Coles Vouchers for School into the Prep Office.

If you have any further questions, please contact

Claire Chadwick (1G)
clairechadwick@tesco.net
0404013667

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Armidale Rugby Tour 2013
The Prep School sent 22 rugby players off to Armidale to play in the TAS Rugby Carnival. This carnival is comprised of approximately 50 teams being split into suitable divisions. The strength of the carnival is getting better each year and the teams are spending even more time in the summer getting prepared for the carnival. The 22 boys that were selected to tour did an incredible job representing the School both on and off the field. We were told afterwards that we were so close to winning the 'Spirit of Rugby award' for our behaviour. Hopefully we might take it out next year. With an 8 hour bus ride on Friday the boys could not wait for their first game of rugby. With tough competition on the Saturday the King's boys only managing the one win. We reassessed what we wanted to achieve out of the weekend and although sore, pulled ourselves together for a terrific match against Tamworth on Sunday for a win. The King's boys finished 7th in the pool of 16 teams. Well done to the boys. Thank you to Mr Mike O'Connor and Mr Scott Templeman for their experience and help in coaching and managing of the boys. Thank you to the parents for their support it is greatly appreciated.

Rugby Skills Clinic
The Rugby Clinic was a successful clinic run over two days. Similar to last year we had a wash out and had to move the second clinic day to the day before the boys were back at School. Although we had the change most boys were able to make it both days. The boys that were not able to attend the second day can see Mr Rogers for their giveaway. A big thank you to Mr Stephen James for his time and effort organising all the skills and drills for the days and for getting such terrific young and reliable coaches to support him. We hope that the boys take some of the skills into the season and enjoy playing the sport.

Representative Rugby Boys
Congratulations to the following boys for making it into the representative team for their club area.

Eastwood
U12's - Teo van Aanholt, Josh Hickey, Sam Cook and James Usher
U11's - Liam Kelly, Ben Irving and Luke Irving
U10's - Harrison Usher

If your son has made representative honour please contact me so we can congratulate your son.

Mr Phill Rogers
Director of Sport Preparatory School

THE KING’S CAMERATA

On Wednesday 8th May, the King's Camerata will be holding a 'sing and chat' evening. If you have wanted to know more about this choir and have been thinking about coming along to rehearsals, please come along on Wednesday for a sing, followed by drinks and nibbles from 7:30pm in the Preparatory School Music Centre.

Jonathan Todhunter
TKS Snowsports Fundraising night

“Christmas in July”

Please join us for a night of fun and Christmas cheer with the TKS Snowsport community. Everyone welcome......Dress festively!

Friday 24th May

“Horrocks Hall”@ The Prep from 6:30pm

Cost: $80 per adult, $45 for children 13 years and under.

(soft drinks provided on the night)

Bookings can be made on http://www.trybooking.com.CSJO

Silent auction items will be sold on the night!! (Auction donations very much appreciated.)

For more information please contact;

Jo Grinham (jng@kings.edu.au) or James Tyree (jtyree@kings.edu.au)

Proceeds from the evening will go towards training for the boys this season, some new equipment and a donation will be made to The Amelia McGuiness Foundation.
The adventure starts here...

What on earth?
Socrates famously said, 'An unexamined life is not worth living.' Sometimes it's easier not to ask questions but on the Alpha Course... we think life is worth exploring. The course is fun, relaxed and totally non-pressured (that's probably why over 18 million people around the world have already done it!).

Who's it for?
Never been to church? Not sure what you believe? Maybe you gave up on church a long time ago. The course was designed for you or anyone who doesn't go to church regularly.

What's so great about it?
Ever wanted to explore the meaning of life or ask challenging questions about the Christian faith? Maybe you’re just curious about this church stuff and want to have a nosy? Alpha doesn't care about your background, it welcomes all those big questions and it's free. Can't say fairer than that right?

How does it work?
It's a course with small groups of about twelve people with a host(s) and helper(s). There are usually around ten sessions, with a day or weekend away in the middle. Each session begins with food, snacks, that sort of thing, followed by a short talk looking at a different aspect of the Christian faith and time for discussion.

How much is it?
There's no charge to do the course though some courses may ask for a contribution towards food.

Sign me up

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO TAKE PART, PLEASE COMPLETE THIS FORM AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS OVERLEAF.

First name .................................................................................................................................................. Surname

Address ......................................................................................................................................................

Postcode .......................................................... Daytime tel ................................................................. Email

Dietary requirements ...................................................................................................................................... Age (optional)

How did you hear about Alpha? ....................................................................................................................

We look forward to seeing you

Prep Newsletter - 11 - Issue No 7 – 3rd May, 2013
When and where:

The Alpha Course with Church@Kings
7pm-9pm, Wednesdays from 1 May - 26 June
Thomas Pavilion, The King’s School

RSVP

STEPHEN EDWARDS T: 9683 8414 E: see@kings.edu.au
STUART TYE T: 9683 8433 E: sct@kings.edu.au
ANNE-MARIE ANDREWS M: 0478 302 020

Church@Kings
C/-The Chaplain's Department
The King's School
PO Box 1
Parramatta NSW 2124
1-2-3 MAGIC® & EMOTION COACHING PARENT COURSE

Learn to manage difficult behaviour in children 2-12 years old
A three-session programme for parents and carers

at The King’s Prep School in the Upper Inquiry Learning Centre
on Thursday evenings – 9th May, 16th May and 23rd May
7:00-9:00pm

Learn:
✓ To engage your children’s cooperation by positively noticing and encouraging them
✓ To set clear expectations and help them develop frustration tolerance
✓ To help children’s brains develop filters for behaving well
✓ To resolve family conflict quietly
✓ Some simple strategies to practise being a calm parent

The course costs $55.00 per person (total cost of 3 sessions), which includes a workbook.
Register for this course by contacting Chris Konstantopoulos on 9683 8530 (knoc@kings.edu.au)

What people are saying...
What a relief to come across a program that preserves the dignity of the child, maintains the self control of both the
parent and the child and is actually easy to remember when
memory is the first thing to go!

Who is running it?
The presenter for this course is Anne Raw who is the Anglicare
Family Relationship and Parenting Education
Coordinator. She has been a family support worker for 5
years and has qualifications in counselling and a Masters in
Community Management. She has completed Parentshop’s
1-2-3 Magic® & Emotion Coaching practitioner training.

I realised quickly that 1-2-3 Magic can be a magnificent
preventative measure that any parent can use to avoid
raising a child who later down the line, needs excessive
discipline or grows out of control.

This course will be facilitated by Anne Raw, Parent Education Coordinator from Anglicare Parramatta.

• An end to the arguing and yelling! • It saved our lives • Simple, sane, effective

This course is being run by a Parentshop® licensed practitioner. www.parentshop.com.au