Sharing the Journey of Fatherhood

“Before I got married I had six theories about raising children; now, I have six children and no theories.” — John Wilmot

Being a parent isn’t easy. There are a number of self-help books to guide you along the way, but largely, we all learn from the experience of our own parenting and learning as we go. Blokes are often good at sharing a joke or chatting about work related matters, but are less inclined to talk about some of the deeper issues, like parenting.

That’s why, the opportunity to have an evening devoted to sharing about the challenging role of fathering children was a great initiative of the Fathers’ Association recently. Last Tuesday evening, a group of over 60 dads joined at my home, “The Cedars” for a seminar entitled, “Dads About Dads”. After enjoying a few drinks and nibbles on the balcony of the residence, the fathers joined together inside to listen to a panel of three fathers share their stories and thoughts on fatherhood. Guided by Q & A host for the evening, Rev Stuart Tye, the Prep School Chaplain, the three fathers, Gang Wu, Freddy Mikhael and David Williams, shared about their own upbringing, the things they learnt from their own fathers and the values and lessons that they were trying to share with their own children and in one case, grandchildren, in their fathering role.

The presentations were captivating, at times amusing and at other times stirring and poignant. Each of the speakers had very different experiences, although two fathers shared about their relocation from other parts of the world and establishing a life in Australia. The importance of the family unit in these circumstances was pivotal. It was evident from all speakers, of their devotion to their role of fathering. They acknowledged how important it was to ensure quality time was able to be spent with children and to seek methods of involvement at different stages of their children’s lives.

After a question session to the panel, the Rev Stuart Tye reminded the group in summary of the tremendous example of fatherhood that we have in the Bible in God our father, and how inspiration and direction for the role of fathering could be gained from this source.

After the presentation, the fathers were able to participate in some wine tasting of Brokenwood Wines. One of the winemakers from Brokenwood, Stuart Horden, attended the evening to share with the fathers about the background to the different wines that were being sampled. Much of the conversation enjoyed during this informal part of the evening reflected on the presentations.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: “Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you shine like stars…” Philippians 2:14-15
**Trivia Night Global Focus**

An invitation went home this week inviting parents to be part of a great night of fun. Celebrating the diversity of our Prep community, the Trivia Night this year will have a global focus in the nature of the questions to challenge participants, the decorations for tables, and in the theme for the outfits to be worn on the evening. As always, there will be auction items, silent auction items and various fun activities to enjoy in between the quiz sections.

One of the auction item categories requires some help from our parent community in collating items. Each year group will be contributing items for a themed basket for their grade. Information regarding the theme for year level baskets was sent home this week. Please provide your support to purchasing an item that can be included in the themed basket for your son’s year level. Items should be returned to class teachers by Tuesday, 11th June.

The night is all about having some fun together as a community and looking to raise some funds for our school, so I encourage all parents to start planning tables to participate in the evening. Bookings will be made through TryBooking and the direct link is listed below:

[www.trybooking.com/51870](http://www.trybooking.com/51870)

**National Reconciliation Week**

National Reconciliation Week is celebrated across Australia each year between 27th May and 3rd June. The dates commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey – the anniversary of the successful 1967 referendum and the High Court Mabo decision which legally recognised that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a special relationship to the land, paving the way for Native Title land rights.

This week the boys have been discussing these events and their significance for all Australians. A special assembly was organised to mark the occasion with the attendance of special guest Chris Tobin to our assembly. Prior to the assembly, the boys participated in a traditional aboriginal ‘smoking ceremony’ and then learnt through Mr Tobin about the significance of this ceremony to the aboriginal people. Mr Tobin is a Dharug man and his family heritage goes back for many generations in the Parramatta region. Chris is also an Aboriginal artist and he has published a small booklet titled, ‘The Dharug Story - an Aboriginal History of Western Sydney’. It was an enlightening assembly for the boys and staff and the boys were challenged to take on a similar respect for the land of Australia that is such a part of the indigenous culture.

**Harrison House Biggest Morning Tea**

Every little bit counts….This week Harrison House held one of its annual fund raisers for Cancer Research “The Biggest Morning Tea”. The boys’ raised over $900 dollars to support this charity. This terrible disease has affected all families in some manner and so it was important to take action in support of the quest to find a cure for cancer.

During the last house meeting all the primary boys were able to share their thoughts and concerns about the disease. The boys were heartened by the advancements that had been made by medical research, made only possible by donations from the public. It was wonderful to observe the boys in action making posters to educate and remind the boys about cancer research and remind their friends to contribute to the Biggest Morning Tea.

The Year Six boys got a “real buzz” by assisting with the delivery of cakes and drinks to each class. The morning tea was a great success with over 400 cupcakes with pink icing and red frogs on top! (a traditional lolly of Harrison House) being donated by the Harrison boys. The fruit drinks were also donated by another Harrison family. There was a feeling of community spirit and thoughtfulness shared by all throughout the morning.

I would like to pass on a special thank you to our Harrison Housemaster, Mrs Coore for her co-ordination of the event. Additional thanks to the Harrison House mothers who assisted on the morning - Mrs Christie, Mrs Coppolelli and Mrs van Aanholt for the giving of their time and to Mrs Powell for baking the special diet cakes. Many families baked and donated cakes for the morning to make it a huge success and for that, we are truly grateful. It was a memorable event for all; especially Harrison House boys!

**Representation at the World Chess Championships**

The Prep School community are extremely proud of the achievement of two of our Chess superstars, Kevin and Rowan Willathgamuwa, who recently returned from the World Chess Championships which was held in Sithonia, Greece. Both boys were competing in the U11 Open Division, representing Australia. The boys did extremely well, competing at such an elite level with some matches taking up to three hours to complete. Out of a field of 80 competitors, Rowan managed to place 21st and Kevin finished in 23rd place. We congratulate the boys for representing their school and their country so successfully.

Peter Allison
Head of the Preparatory School
Staff Professional Development Day
As indicated in previous newsletters, please be aware that there is **no School for the boys on the 7th June**. This day is a Staff Professional Development Day.

Sports Uniform
I would like to remind parents that on Thursdays the boys in Years 3-6 are allowed to travel to and from School in their full PE uniform, which must include their tracksuit. A large number of boys did not have their tracksuit at school or tried leaving at the end of the day in just their sports uniform this week.

I also need to remind both parents and boys that sports shoes must be predominately white. Detentions have started to be distributed to boys not in correct uniform.

Life Education
The boys in Years Three to Six will be undertaking lessons inside the Life Education Van this week. These lessons vary between the year groups on different aspects of healthy living and are always looked forward to by the boys.

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 6**
- **Monday 3 June**
  - Life Education (Y3-6)
  - Year 2 String Concert (1:45 pm)
  - Prep Fathers' Association Committee Meeting (7:00 pm)
- **Tuesday 4 June**
  - Life Education (Y3-6)
  - K-6 Assembly
  - Music Concert - Clarinets and Saxophones (6:00 pm)
- **Wednesday 5 June**
  - Life Education (Y3-6)
  - Early Birds Year 3 & 4 7:45-8:25am ILC
  - Strings Concert (3:30-4:30 pm)
  - Alpha Course (7:00-9:30 pm)
- **Thursday 6 June**
  - Life Education (Y3-6)
  - Early Birds Year 5 & 6 7:45-8:25am ILC
  - Rugby Opens with Senior School Training (3:30-4:45 pm)
  - Jungle Book Musical Rehearsals
- **Friday 7 June**
  - Staff PD Day - No Students
- **Saturday 8 June**
  - No Sport

**Week 7**
- **Monday 10 June**
  - Queen's Birthday Long Weekend
- **Tuesday 11 June**
  - Prep School Tour (9:30 pm)
  - K-6 House Meetings
  - Music Concert - Brass (6:00 pm)
- **Wednesday 12 June**
  - Early Birds Year 3 & 4 7:45-8:25am ILC
  - Maths Olympiad
  - Music Concert - Flute/Guitar/Voice (6:00 pm)
  - Alpha Course (7:00-9:30 pm)
- **Thursday 13 June**
  - Early Birds Year 5 & 6 7:45-8:25am ILC
  - Year 3-6 Athletics Trials
  - Jungle Book Musical Rehearsals
- **Friday 14 June**
  - Inter-School Chess Competition (3:00-5:00 pm)
- **Saturday 15 June**
  - Winter Sport Round 6
  - Fathers' Association Trivia Night
This is just a reminder that the Light Bulb Learning Seminar particularly for Year 6 parents will be held on Monday evening. The aim of this seminar is to equip parents and carers with the knowledge and skills needed to help them effectively guide their son through his PYP Exhibition.

**THE PYP EXHIBITION**

**When:** Monday 3rd June (Term Two - Week Six)

**Time:** 6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

**Where:** Upper ILC

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.

We look forward to seeing you at our seminar.

Rachel Johnston
Director of Learning
rcj@kings.edu.au

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**Church@Kings**

9.30am Family Service - Sunday 2 June

Church@Kings meets every week in the Centre for Learning and Leadership in the Senior School and caters for all the family.

This Sunday Martin Telfer (Tara Chaplain) will our guest speaker for the adults. Topic: ‘Does religion poison everything?’
...and for the kids - NRG!

**Email:** prepchaplain@kings.edu.au **Office:** 9683 8433
**Website:** church.kings.edu.au
Focus on Visual Arts at The Stables

The Stables provides a beautiful workspace for students to be inspired and produce creative responses to their PYP units of inquiry. I encourage students to be creative and bold as they create and respond to artworks. The Visual Arts lessons link to the PYP through the PYP transdisciplinary themes, central ideas and related concepts.

In making their artworks, students investigate the subject matter of places and spaces, people, objects, other living things and events. Through structured sequential learning experiences, students explore, develop and reflect on the subject matter and the art concepts used to make their artworks.

Students experience the art forms of drawing, painting, printing, photography, material decoration and sculpture in their Visual Arts lessons. Art appreciation is woven throughout each unit of work with discussion of selected relevant artworks.

In Kindergarten we linked to their PYP unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme of How we organise ourselves. The central idea is “Many foods are transported and/or processed before they reach our tables”. In Visual Arts we focused on food that grows above the ground. Students observed Paul Cezanne’s “Still Life with Apples” painting. They observed real apples, drew, painted and arranged the apples on a printed and dyed background.

In Year One we linked to their PYP unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme of Where we are in place and time. The central idea is “Families change over time and pass on their family histories”. We have focused on portraits and made a still life painting for mum. Students observed Van Gogh’s painting entitled “Sunflowers” as inspiration.

In Year Two we linked to their PYP unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme How the world works. The central idea is “Weather around the world affects how people live” and we drew and painted a sun design. Students also observed and responded to Hokusai’s “Great Wave” print.

Ann Wilkins
Prep Visual Arts Teacher

An enormous ‘thank you’ goes to Ann Wilkins for sharing her classroom with us in our “Focus on PYP” page this week. It is great to see the transdisciplinary nature of our programme as the boys are able to explore elements of the PYP units of inquiry in Visual Arts. I hope that many of you have seen the delightful displays of artworks around the school. We look forward to seeing more of this beautiful work in the months to come.

Rachel Johnston
Director of Learning
rsi@kines.edu.au
As a parent you have a valuable role in helping guide your son to think analytically and critically. Open ended questions invite your son to stretch their minds and to think for themselves. Encouraging them to extend and elaborate their ideas, explore their interests and learning preferences, give their learning personal relevance, and to use what they are learning in ways they enjoy. Research shows that open ended activities increase student engagement and self-esteem.

**OPEN ENDED QUESTIONS**

Here is a list of open ended questions which you may be able to use to when engaging in conversation with your son.

- How would ______ be different if ______?
- How is ______ like ______?
- What do you think ______ will be like 50/100 or ? years from now?
- If you were a ______, how would you help? (an inventor, person in history or the future, or a character in a story or novel).
- How would you feel if ______? Explain what would make you feel that way.
- What would it be like to ______?
- What would your life be like if ______?
- Design a ______ to ______.
- Create a ______ to ______.
- Identify/ list any/all ______
- Identify/list every ______ you can think up/imagine.
- Design a ______ to ______
- Identify/list every ______ you can think up/imagine.
- List all the ways to ______ that ______ might ______.
- Generate a list of any/all/every ______
- I don’t know about ______ explain it to me.
- Write all the ways you can think of to ______
- List advantages/disadvantages to ______
- Give (some number) of reasons ______ might ______
- Develop a way to ______
- Design a house/home/habitat for ______
- Suppose.
- What if?
- What would happen if?
- Where could?
- When might?
- Describe what would happen if you combined a/the ______ with a/the ______.
- What (some number) questions would you (most) like to ask ______?
- What makes ______ (worthwhile, risky, scary, funny...)?
- Invent a ______ to help ______ with ______.
- What are the implications/consequences of ______ for ______?
- Think of another way ______ could have ______.
- Prepare a (product) to convince ______ to ______.
- Why do you think ______?
- Come up with new and unusual uses for ______.

Voni Howard
ALTUS Specialist
Preparatory School
New Weekly Mindbender
How many outlines of triangles of all sizes and shapes can you trace in the figure?

Week 3 Mindbender Solution:
Horace ate the cakes in the large tin, then he put the middle tin into the empty tin.

So when Horace went back to bed, every tin contained three cakes again!
The Year One Family Tree Day

As a part of their present Unit of Inquiry, Year One invited family members into their classroom, to create Family Trees together. The boys have been learning about family traditions that have been passed down from one generation to another. Today they had the very special opportunity to spend time with a family member and ask them questions, particularly about family names and relatives.

The boys and helpers drew flags, coloured trees and shared happy stories about names and people from previous generations. James Miranda Clark even wore some family medals that had been passed down to him from his Great Grandad.

The Year One family then shared a “family feast” together. The luncheon was an extraordinary mixture of recipes that had become famous within each family. Many dishes represented various traditions from all around the world. After saying Grace together, we ate, sang and were very merry.

Jo Grinham and Tim Leuenberger

Books for Boys

Aaron Blabey, author and illustrator of several children’s books including The Ghost of Miss Annabel Spoon, which just this week won the Premier’s Literary Award for Children’s Literature.

The boys were enthralled for the hour he was with us, keenly exploring ideas of character development in through word and art with Aaron.

We thank Aaron Blabey for the time he spent with us, congratulate him on his most deserved recognition and are sure the boys were able to take with them a little bit of magic to carry with them on their reading journey.
SPORT

Snowsports fundraiser
The Snowsports team at King's is going from strength to strength under the endless commitment of Mrs Jo Grinham. The team has now expanded to 34 students including a 5 year old Kindy boy who will race for the School. The fundraiser was an incredible event, held at the Prep with a Christmas theme. We look forward to seeing the boys’ results as they compete over the next holidays.

Waratahs visit King's
Tuesday 14th May saw The King's School host a day’s training for the Waratahs. It is wonderful to see the Waratahs coming back to a grass roots level promoting rugby. The Waratahs spent time on the scrum machines and then an attack / defence session for all to watch. We were able to take all Year 6 down for the afternoon to see the professional side train. Some of the boys that were able to be around got jerseys and balls signed.

Football 7's
On Sunday 26th May The King’s School saw over 400 football players from 40 different teams across Sydney partaking in the annual King’s Football Sevens Tournament. The King’s Prep entered two teams into a very competitive U12’s division. It was a very tough morning for the boys who faced extremely strong opposition. Nevertheless their spirit and enthusiasm was apparent throughout - and it is this never-say-die attitude that culminated in a fiercely fought draw for King’s White VII against Redland’s Black VII; one of many highlights in the day. Our boys conducted themselves superbly and their sportsmanship shone head and shoulders above the rest consistently. They walked away with many lessons learnt and further educated in ‘the beautiful game’; but most importantly they all left with the same beaming smiles that they entered the day with, despite not getting to taste the glory of success just yet. However there were many promising signs and it looks to be a very successful season for The King’s School Preparatory School football teams this year! Many Thanks to all the boys who made the effort to attend such a marvelously ran event.
Rory Hamilton - Coach

Special thank you to David Lavender and Rory Hamilton for coaching the Prep teams last Sunday. It is so nice to see these young men giving up their time to support the boys.

Phill Rogers
Director of Sport Preparatory School

CONGRATULATIONS!

Vedang Tiwary (5W) is currently competing in NSW Tennis tournaments which are held throughout the state on weekends. On Mothers’ Day this year, Vedang competed in the NSW State series 3. He was victorious in winning his first tournament trophy. His final game saw Vedang come from behind 4 – 2 down to win 6 – 4 against a high ranking and experienced NSW player.

Continuing throughout the remaining months of the year Vedang will compete in many more NSW Tennis Tournaments with an increased passion to win.

Congratulations Vedang!
The Snowsport Fundraising Event

On Friday evening, the Snowsport community met for their ‘Christmas in May’ Fundraising event and celebration. With Christmas carols playing in the background, the smell of fresh pine, tinsel, flashing lights and decorations, the community of keen skiers shared a Christmas feast and a fun night together. The money raised this year will be supporting the training of the boys whilst we are at the snow as well as some new equipment.

It was a wonderful opportunity to also farewell and thank Linden Neale for her 14 years of service and contributions to the snowsport community.

With a record team planning to hit the slopes this year, it was very exciting to see that snowsports at King’s is alive and growing!

James Tyree and Jo Grinham  
(MIC’s of TKS Snowsports)

Biggest Morning Tea

Mrs Anna-Claire Coore (Harrison Housemaster), would like to thank the school community, her wonderful Harrison House parents and all the boys of Harrison House, a thousand thanks for all the effort you invested in the Biggest Morning Tea. It is a very worthy cause and you made it happen very effectively. As a result, and thanks to the generosity of our Prep boys and their families, all money raised will go to the Cancer Council. Total raised was over $900.
SUNDAY MORNING
NRG KIDS MINISTRY
THIS SUNDAY 2 JUNE
CHURCH@KINGS
9.30AM CLL AUDITORIUM
CHURCH.KINGS.EDU.AU
The Prep Fathers’ Association proudly present

An International Festival of

Trivia

Festival International de Trivia
Festival Internazionale di Trivia
Internasjonale Fees van die Trivia
Internacia Festivalo de Vidindajoj

Horrocks Hall, Saturday June 15, 2013
From 7.00pm

Trivia question rounds based on every Continent.
Prizes for table decorations.
Auctions, silent auctions and prizes with all funds going to Prep School Music and Literacy Programmes.
Class baskets being auctioned.
BYO food and beverages
Brokenwood Wines will be offering tastings and sales on the night
$25 per person or $250 per table of 10

Tickets from www.trybooking.com/51870