Prep News
27th November, 2015

Gracious Gifts
As Christmas approaches along with the activity of giving and receiving, we are reminded about all those within our own community who have given so much to our boys throughout the course of the year. The Prep School teaching staff are in my books, second to none. Rarely would you find a school where so much personal time and effort is generously lavished upon nurturing the boys’ learning by a teaching staff. They are a tremendous team who work together to provide the best possible outcome for the boys. Speaking of dynamic teams, the Prep Office Admin team are a wonderful, committed group. Their friendly, efficient ways provide effective support for all that goes on behind the scenes at the Prep.

Sadly, the end of the year often means we say farewell to some staff as they head off to new challenges elsewhere.

Rachel Johnston and her family will be heading back into the international scene, with a role as K-12 Curriculum Co-ordinator and a member of the School Executive at the International School in the Solomon Islands. Rachel has done a marvellous job in leading the staff through a dynamic period of curriculum change with the introduction of the new national curriculum. She has utilised her creativity in establishing Drama King’s and been instrumental in a number of very high quality Prep School productions.

Sonia Weston will be moving into the role of Director of Learning at the Prep School for 2016. Sonia has a very strong background in curriculum leadership across both secondary and primary schools and will do a wonderful job leading the staff in this area.

Phill Rogers, our Director of Sport in the Prep, will be leaving to take up the role of Director of Camp Wallaby. With a deep passion for the game of rugby, Phill will have the opportunity to maintain his strong connection with children whilst enjoying sharing his passion for the game with others in a full time capacity. Phill has done a superb job in guiding and developing the sports program for the boys at the Prep School for the past five years. He has also assisted with the supervision and care of the Year 7 boarders within Gowan Brae during the week and on weekends.

After thirteen years at the Prep School, Mrs Tina Ruddock will be leaving to take up an opportunity in girls’ education at MLC, Burwood. Tina’s wonderful teaching expertise, pastoral ways and engaging personality will be greatly valued at her new school.

Amie Nasr is another long serving employee at King’s, who has decided to venture into girls’ education at Ravenswood. I’m sure her new school will relish her beautiful connection with the students, amazing organisational skills and stunning classroom displays of high quality student work.
In saying farewell, we also bid welcome to some new staff who will be joining the Prep School team.

Darren Lawrenson will be joining us as the new Director of Sport for 2016. Darren is a highly experienced sportsmaster, who has led the sports function at a number of different independent schools across Sydney and most recently at St Luke's Grammar.

Patrick Ell is known to many of the boys as he has been involved in an internship at the Prep this year. He is one of the most outstanding mature aged students out of university that I have come across in my career and he will be an exciting addition to our school.

Kale Kneale will be joining us from Holy Family Primary School. Kale is a keen sportsman and exceptional musician who also spent time as a professional musician in a Christian band which toured internationally.

Samantha Lynch will also be joining the School in 2016. Samantha comes very highly recommended from Mater Dei Primary School. Currently completing her Masters degree in educational leadership, Samantha has already been invited into the Aspiring Leaders Professional Learning Program.

We look forward to welcoming these new staff to our Prep School community next year.

In continuing our acknowledgement of gracious giving within our Prep community, we pay tribute to our terrific parents. Our parent body have been so generous again this year in the provision of time to support school weekly learning initiatives and the many events that we have hosted. The Art Show and Spring Festival is an event that can only exist through the generous contribution of time and talent. Spearheaded by a wonderful Art Show Committee, this special event harnessed the support of our parent body in a major fundraising initiative and showcased our School. The Class Mums have done an outstanding job assisting with the co-ordination of events, maintaining communication between the class parents and organising gifts and cards for relevant parties on behalf of the class parents.

I pay particular tribute to our Fathers’ Association and the 2015 committee for the fine way in which they have served the school and supported the boys. There have been many successful events held throughout the year that would be impossible to stage without such generous support. Our Year Three dads have been amazing in their weekly service through the Saturday FA Canteen. Masterfully managed by Mahesh Maheswaran, Balaji Mohan and Charlie Baissari, these dads have sacrificed much of their own time each Saturday, cooking at the BBQ, serving up a great cup of coffee and looking after the needs of our own community and the visitors to our School.

I particularly want to thank the FA President for 2015, Mr Neil Armstrong, who has done a wonderful job leading the association for a second year, and helping us to realise the vision of the building of a Prep School Pavilion. Our thanks are also extended to the enthusiastic, committed members on the FA Committee who have represented each year group, and the School, in this important leadership role.

Sacrifice and generosity of spirit has certainly been evident within our community as many people have made this year such a success. As we approach Christmas time we are reminded about the ultimate act of generosity and sacrifice. God came to us in human form, in the person of His son, Jesus Christ, so that we might know more of His character and have a relationship with Him. Further than that, God’s plan, right from the start involved the sacrifice of His son, Jesus Christ, because this is the only way that the relationship between humans and our creator God could be repaired.

So, as we enter this Christmas season, this season of giving, I encourage families to take time and remember God’s unsurpassable generosity in the ultimate gift of Jesus.
Starring Success at the Pacific Schools Games

Last week I shared about two of our Prep School boys who were swimming this week in the Pacific Schools Games. This event occurs every four years and combines the national championships with competitors from countries in the Pacific Rim and within the Asia Pacific region.

Karl Albertyn and Robert Napoli enjoyed tremendous success at the championships.

Robert gained a silver medal in the 100m breaststroke final, 6th place and 7th place in the final of two relay events.

Karl was one of the most outstanding swimmers at the meet, achieving the following results:

Gold medals in the 200m Individual Medley, 50m Butterfly (Australian Schools Record), 4x50m Medley relay (Australian Schools record for NSW boys) and 4x50m Freestyle relay (Australian Schools record).

Silver medals in the 100m Backstroke, 100m Breaststroke, 50m Backstroke.

Bronze medals in the 100m Butterfly, 100m Freestyle and 50m Freestyle.

This meant that Karl managed to gain 10 medals from 10 events – an extraordinary achievement!

Next week it is Year Six student, Tyrone Bailey, who will be representing the School and NSW at the National Athletics Championship in Canberra. Having picked up a silver medal in the 12 years shot put, Tyrone will compete against the best in the country for the national crown in this event.

Finally ...

It has been an action packed year at the Prep, filled with lots of great highlights. I pass on my personal thanks to you all for your support and encouragement of the Prep School staff throughout the year.

For those returning to us next year, we look forward to our Induction Day for new boys on Wednesday 27 January. The start of the 2016 school year for Years 1-6 students is on Thursday 28 January and for Kindergarten and Pre-Kindergarten on Monday 1 February.

God bless you all through the Christmas break. Enjoy safety, good health and happy family times.

Peter Allison
Head of the Preparatory School
Compulsory Events

At the end of each year there a number of important events, many of which are compulsory for the boys to attend. These include:

- Monday 30th November (5:45 pm) – Year 6 Farewell Dinner (School Chapel and Trophy Room) – Compulsory for all Year 6 boys
- Tuesday 1st December (7:00 pm) – Festival of Lessons and Carols (Futter Hall) – Compulsory for all Years 1-6 boys
- Wednesday 2nd December - Last day of School
- Thursday 3rd December (2:00 pm) - Prep Presentation Day (Futter Hall) – Compulsory for all Years 3-6 boys

Please ensure you have added these dates into your calendar.

Festival of Lessons and Carols

This most important annual event takes place on Tuesday, 1st December commencing at 7:00 pm. **This event is a compulsory event for all boys in Years 1-6.** Boys are to wear their Number 1 uniform for this special occasion.

Presentation Day

This year’s Presentation Day for Years 3-6 will be held on Thursday, 3rd December in Futter Hall. **This event is a compulsory event for all boys in Years 3-6.** The day will be a wonderful way of celebrating the successes of our boys in the Prep and commences at 2:00 pm. All Prep boys attending should be in their Number 1 uniforms. This is not a normal school day and there will not be any supervision of the boys until they arrive for Presentation Day.

End of Year Reports

- Pre-Kindergarten-Year 2 reports will be posted on Monday 30th November.
- Years 3-6 reports will be issued via the boys on Tuesday 1st December.

Conclusion of Term Four

Classes for the Preparatory School conclude on Wednesday, 2nd December. Traditionally this is a day where a large number of boys are collected from School. To assist with the congestion of the Turning Circle we will have a staggered pick-up.

- Pre-Kindergarten 2:30 pm Kingsbridge
- Kindergarten 2:45 pm Prep Turning Circle
- Year 1 2:50 pm Prep Turning Circle
- Year 2 2:55 pm Prep Turning Circle
- Year 3 3:10 pm Year 3 Classrooms
- Year 4 3:10 pm Year 4 Classrooms
- Year 5 3:00 pm Prep Turning Circle
- Year 6 3:10 pm Prep Turning Circle
No after school activities are offered on this day. However, After School Care will operate from 3:00 pm for Infants boys and 3:30 pm for Primary boys who have not been collected. Places in After School Care are limited to 30 boys and is a user pay system. All families intending to use this facility should book their place with Camp Australia, (1300 105 343 or www.campaustralia.com.au).

Year Parties and Class Mums
The Class Mums, in consultation with the class teachers have been busy organising Year parties for all of the classes. These will be held during the normal lunchtime (12:50 pm) on Wednesday 2nd December. I want to thank all the mums who volunteered to carry out these roles this year. Their support of the class teachers and me has been invaluable. I will require Class Mums again next year and will ask for volunteers early in the new year.

Thank you
The King’s School community is a special one. There are so many of our community that assist the boys and the School in so many ways. I want to thank all those that have assisted throughout the year and a special thank you to those who have assisted and supported me. I wish all families a joyful and blessed Christmas and hope that you are able to spend time as a family.

Upcoming Events

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<tr>
<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Monday, 30 November 2015</th>
<th>Year 7 2016 Orientation Day</th>
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<td>Year Six Farewell Dinner - Chapel and then Trophy Room (5:45 pm)</td>
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<td>Tuesday, 1 December 2015</td>
<td>Festival of Lessons and Carols Years 1-6 - Futter Hall (7:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 2 December 2015</td>
<td>Class Parties - All classes (12:50 pm)</td>
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<td>Final K-6 Assembly - (1:40 pm)</td>
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<td>Term Four Concludes</td>
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<td>Thursday, 3 December 2015</td>
<td>Presentation Day for Years 3-6 (2:00 pm)</td>
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<td>Friday, 4 December 2015</td>
<td>Staff Day</td>
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<td>Saturday, 5 December 2015</td>
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2016 – Term One

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<tr>
<th>Week 1</th>
<th>Monday, 25 January 2016</th>
<th>Staff PD Day</th>
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<td>Tuesday, 26 January 2016</td>
<td>Australia Day Public Holiday</td>
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<td>Wednesday, 27 January 2016</td>
<td>Year 1-6 New Boy Induction Day</td>
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<td>Thursday, 28 January 2016</td>
<td>Term One Commences Years 1-6</td>
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<td>Commencement Assembly (8:25 am)</td>
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<td>New Parents’ Luncheon - Trophy Room (12:00 noon)</td>
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<td>Y3-6 House Meeting (1:40 pm)</td>
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<td>Friday, 29 January 2016</td>
<td>Summer Sport Trials (8:30 - 10:30 am)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday, 30 January 2016</td>
<td>Summer Sport Trials (8:00 - 11:00 am)</td>
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The year of 2015 has been a whirlwind of busyness, excitement, learning, sharing, and joy at Prep. The boys have grown in their understanding of the world and of each other. Significant time has been committed to further develop resilience and relationships. The village of King’s has drawn together in the times of pain and joy, and as a community we have travelled a pretty good year all round.

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow wrote this poem during the time of the American Civil War. In 1863 his son went to war, against his wishes. The message that rings true is that ‘The Wrong shall fail, The Right prevail’; such powerful words, and true.

Christmas Bells

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till ringing, singing on its way,
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

It was as if an earthquake rent
The hearth-stones of a continent,
And made forlorn
The househoulds born
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
"There is no peace on earth," I said;
For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!"

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
"God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men."

God is not dead, nor does He sleep. I take this opportunity to wish the School community every blessing for the Christmas season and warm good wishes for the New Year. May the shiny bells of peace and joy ring in your homes. Good will to men and women, boys and girls.

Belinda Baxter
**Lego Robotics Club**

The Lego Robotics Club have been meeting every Wednesday and Thursday afternoon in the Science Centre. This term, boys have been using the Lego Mindstorm kits to create their own robots and program them using the Lego EV3 program on the computer. Boys have also been testing their Lego Mindstorm vehicles on various terrains outside.

Jessica Conroy  
Science Teacher
Kindergarten and Pre Kindergarten Christmas Celebration

Last Thursday was a special event for the Pre Kindergarten and Kindergarten boys. The boys and their families celebrated the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ through a musical nativity called The Promised Child. The boys performed spectacularly and many families commented on the reverence and maturity the boys displayed. The angel choir in their white and silver costumes sang to the heavens and the actors’ performance was inspiring. Thank you to Jonathan TodHunter and Linda Browne for their wonderful musical guidance and leadership. Pre Kindergarten received a certificate and bible to celebrate their completion of Kingsbridge. This event was followed with a symbolic tree planting in Pre Kindergarten for the inaugural Kingsbridge boys. Congratulations on an outstanding performance Kindergarten and Pre Kindergarten!
It’s time to get into the Christmas spirit. All (mums, dads, children, grandparents) are welcome to join together on the afternoon of 6 December for a fun afternoon of decorating gingerbread houses. Invite some friends, bring your family and enjoy the festivities!

LET’S CELEBRATE THE SEASON
Church@Kings
invites you to join us for a Gingerbread House Decorating Afternoon Sunday 6th December, 3-5pm @ the PLL, The King’s School $15 per house. BYO lollies/decorations For bookings head to: http://www.trybooking.com/JOWR Enquiries: Angela Barrett angelagbarrett@gmail.com or 0432 961 442 Afternoon Tea provided
Christmas at the Chapel

Christmas is a time of great joy! Join us at The King’s School Chapel as we celebrate the good news that Christmas brings.

Good News of Great Joy!

Christmas Eve: 10:30PM Celebration
Christmas Day: 8AM Communion Service
9:30AM Family Celebration

The King’s School Chapel

Church@Kings

Coming in 2016...