25/01/17

A huge welcome back to our returning students and families, welcome to our new families and our awesome staff. I am looking forward to a magnificent year of learning together.

This year we are looking to build a bigger P&C. The greater our team the more we can achieve!

I invite you to join us for our first P&C meeting for the year on Monday 20th February at 3pm in our Library. Last year the P&C purchased Kingston State School hats for all students as an initiative to support our school in its adoption of a Sun Safe Policy. These are now the only hats students will be allowed to wear at school. The generosity of our P&C ensures not only all students have an appropriate sun safe hat but it also instils school pride. I look forward to further initiatives to support our school community this year.

Our staff have been very busy over the course of our 3 Pupil Free Days learning about Reading, Mathematics, our Pedagogical Framework based on the work of Robert J. Marzano, Understanding the Impact of Trauma (presented by Dr Katie Bunch), Speech and Language and Wellbeing. All of our sessions provided staff with detailed information and strategies to use with our students to improve their educational outcomes. I will look forward to seeing these strategies and practices in action when I visit and work with teachers and students in classrooms throughout the year.

Last year our staff were treated to an exciting and fun filled professional learning experience about the FISH! Philosophy. The FISH! Philosophy is not a program but rather a way of thinking which encourages, creativity, inspiration and innovation. This year staff will be sharing this philosophy in the classrooms. FISH! is a way of thinking and evolves over time to create a positive school environment. It consists of 4 practices...Be there, Choose Your Attitude, Play and Make Their Day. I will be sharing each of the practices with you in our newsletter over the coming weeks.

Have a fabulous fortnight,

Stephanie
Principal

Collaborate • Innovate • Elevate • Celebrate

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Great state. Great opportunity.
4-5 Deputy Principal News

Did you know? Research shows that in Queensland, higher student attendance at school is associated, on average, with higher student achievement.

Why is regular attendance at school important?
Regular school attendance will mean that your child gets a better chance at life. Your child will achieve better when they go to school all day, every school day:
- they learn better
- they make friends
- they are happier
- they have a brighter future.

Why must I send my child to school?
Under Queensland law, you must make sure your child of school age is enrolled and attends school all day, every school day unless they have a reasonable excuse. Illness, doing work experience, competing in a school sporting event or going on a school excursion are reasonable excuses for being absent from school.

Principals decide if the excuse given for your child’s absence is reasonable.

Avoid keeping your child away from school for:
- Birthdays, shopping, visiting family and friends, if they sleep in, looking after other children, minor check-ups or care such as haircuts.

Routine medical or other health appointments should be made either before or after school or during the school holidays.

While it is a last resort, it is important to understand that you may be prosecuted if your child is not attending school regularly.

What should I do if our family is going on a holiday in school time?
You are encouraged not to schedule holidays during school time. If your family holiday is during school time, let the school know in advance and talk about what arrangements can be made for your child. Depending on the circumstances the school may be able to provide tasks for your child to complete while they are absent or assist you to organise an exemption from schooling.

Do I need to let the school know if my child has been away from school?
Yes, you must let the school know the reason why your child is absent from school, if not beforehand, then within two school days of their return to school.

Having problems getting your child to school for some of these reasons?
- won’t get out of bed in the morning
- won’t go to bed at night
- can’t find their uniform, books, school bag ...
- slow to eat breakfast
- haven’t done their homework
- watching TV
- it’s their birthday.
A set routine can help:
- have a set time to go to bed
- have a set time to get out of bed
- have uniform and school bag ready the night before
- have a set time for starting and finishing breakfast
- set a time for daily homework activities
- speak about school positively
- be firm, send your child to school every school day including their birthday and the last day of term!

**What should I do if my child won't go to school?**
You should contact the school as soon as possible for advice and support.

**OUR SCHOOL TARGET FOR ATTENDANCE IS 92%**

**Notification of Student Absences**
In 2017 Kingston SS will be using a new SMS text message system ‘sms4schools’ to notify parents and guardians, groups or individuals of absences or authorisations of any notifications approved by the school.
This system will save time, money with phone calls, help with reminders, but most importantly ensure the safety of each student daily. It is now a QLD Department of Education requirement that every school notifies a primary parent if a student does not attend school in the morning. This system will be used daily for our absent / late students that have been marked absent. A SMS will be sent each morning by 10am to the primary parent (nominated in one-school records) to advise that the student has not attended for the morning session. The SMS then allows people to reply to this SMS providing an explanation. This will then be uploaded to the student's OneSchool attendance file.

**Play at Kingston**
This term at Kingston the teachers are running a variety of clubs. These clubs are a great opportunity to make friends or try something new.
Below is a timetable of the activities available.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics with Mrs Whitehouse 8-9am</td>
<td>Gymnastics with Mrs Whitehouse 8-9am</td>
<td>Art Room with Mrs Smith 1-2pm</td>
<td>Centre Stage with Mrs O’Connor 1:30pm</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Science with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Centre Stage with Mrs O’Connor 1:30pm</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Basketball with Mr Watson 8-9am</td>
<td>Basketball with Mr Watson 8-9am</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
<td>Basketball with Mr Watson 8-9am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Reading with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
<td>Reading with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nutrition with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Nutrition with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
<td>Nutrition with Mrs Whitehouse 9-10am</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing with Mrs Watson 8-9am</td>
<td>Writing with Mrs Watson 8-9am</td>
<td>Combine with Miss King 9am-12noon</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**READING ROCKS at Kingston State School**
Read for pleasure and earn free food rewards at McDonald’s. Have your reward bookmark stamped each time you visit.

**When:** Every Tuesday morning before school  
**Time:** 8:20am – 8:45am  
**Where:** School Library  
**Who:** Students and families all welcome! See you there!

**Safe Parking**
Please remember to abide by the rules when parking around our school in the best interests of our students.
Parents are reminded that the Juers Street car park (closest to our prep classrooms) is for staff only.
Also there is now no standing signs in Laughlin Street.
Police are monitoring this.

**PCYC Logan – Kingston**
Before School care operates from 6:30am – 9:45am  
After school care operates from 2:45pm – 6:00pm  
Healthy and nutritious snacks are provided.
Our school acknowledges the
Yugambeh and Jagera people
as traditional owners.
We pay respect to them.
May we walk gently on this land.