From the Principal

Welcome Back

Welcome back to a new school year which will be full of rich, diverse and exciting opportunities for all members of our community. A very special welcome to all our new students and families.

We begin 2015 with 687 students enrolled in the School which is the largest number of students to commence in Kilvington’s 91 year history. We continue to grow year on year as we have fast become a much sought after smaller coeducational school of excellence where every child is known and valued.

At the heart of our culture is a genuine respect for all - everyone is of infinite value and intrinsic worth. It is a culture that is deeply trusting so everyone is expected to do the right thing, and a culture that strives for excellence, therefore challenges everyone to do their very best.

2015 Plans

This year we have much to look forward to. Teachers will continue to challenge students to a deeper level of learning, which means ensuring there are critical and creative thinking skills embedded in key tasks. The goal is ‘Challenge for All’.

There will be a continuing emphasis on depth of character and each term our staff and students will focus on key words that go hand in hand with supporting a rigorous academic program. This year they are:

- Term 1 – Diligence
- Term 2 – Positivity
- Term 3 – Persistence
- Term 4 - TBC

Your children will have the opportunity to be involved in a number of curricular and co-curricular activities including special weeks dedicated to English, Maths, Science, Languages, Visual Arts, PE and Health.

Our Flagship Programs: Writing, Robotics/Engineering, Technology, Performing Arts, Care and Peace will give your children a chance to apply and extend themselves, including competitively. A School Calendar can be found on our website that details planned activities for the year.

Our new Facebook page will also provide updates and highlights of Kilvington’s school life. Don’t forget to download the Skoolbag Application so that you can also receive reminders about events specific to your child’s year level.

Small enough to care, big enough to excel.
You will have noticed the commencement of the redevelopment of the Senior School’s Ken Cleghorn Building (KCB). Scheduled for completion mid-year, most of the upstairs KCB classrooms and facilities will be refurbished and a VCE Study Centre built. In addition, the downstairs Junior School Art space will be refurbished. All students will benefit from this redevelopment.

A number of Morning Teas were held over the first few days back at school for the families of students to celebrate the beginning of a new school year. It was a pleasure to meet and reconnect with so many parents and grandparents. A large number of parents gathered for the two Parent Information Evenings so far held. Three more are to come for Year 12 parents on Monday 16 February, ELC parents on Tuesday 17 February, and Years 10 and 11 parents on Thursday 19 February. These occasions provide the opportunity to meet with key staff and hear about some important matters. I thank parents for their attendance and support of these evenings.

ELC and Junior School parents are warmly invited to attend the Welcome Back Picnic on Friday 27 February from 5.30-8.00pm on the Kilvington Green. This is always a great opportunity for parents to meet other parents and build connections and relationships with other members of the Kilvington community. I hope to see many parents present on the night.

In March, we will host the inaugural 2015 Kilvington World Fair and Open Day. This will be a fantastic day where families from our community will share their culture via food and beverages, performances, art and other important features. Thank you to our hardworking PFA who is the primary driver of our World Fair.

Staffing

As part of the School’s continued expansion and development, I would like to welcome, in alphabetical order, the following staff to Kilvington:

Ms Nathalie Brown has been appointed as a part-time French Teacher/Language Assistant.
Ms Elizabeth Chegwin has been appointed as the Director of Admissions.
Mrs Caroline Childerley has been appointed as our part-time Digital Content Coordinator.
Mr Frank Cipriano joins us as Maintenance Officer/Caretaker.
Mr Patrick Dower joins us as a Junior School teacher and is teaching Grade 5D.
Ms Linda Farragher has been appointed as a part-time Food Technology Assistant.
Mrs Tania Hamilton joins us part-time as Personal Assistant to the Head of Junior School and Junior School Administration Assistant.
Ms Lisa Hanlon has been appointed as a Literature and English teacher.
Miss Jacinta Hope joins us as a Junior School teacher and is teaching Grade 2H.
Ms Sally Kenney has been appointed as a part-time School Psychologist.
Mr Thomas Mahoney has been appointed as a Mathematics teacher.
Mrs Monique Miotto joins us as Head of Junior School.
Mr James Rosas has been appointed as a Physics and Mathematics teacher.
Ms Georgina Rowlands has been appointed as a Junior School teacher and is teaching Grade 2R.
Mr Sasha Stella joins us as the Academic Dean of Performing Arts.
Ms Megan Thomas has been appointed as a Humanities/Mathematics/Science teacher.
Ms Katriona Tsyrlin has been appointed as a part-time Strings teacher.

Other Staff News

We welcome back from leave Ms Sasha Gough, Art teacher. We also welcome back Ms Kristy Mortimer who is returning from maternity leave.

Congratulations to the following staff on their appointment to new roles: Mr Ben Wood - Fethers House Dean, Ms Karen Bryce - VCE Coordinator, Mrs Allison Bivard - Y3 - 6 Coordinator and Mr Rajnesh Ram - Robotics Coordinator. Congratulations too to Mrs Esther Breckler who got married during the Christmas break, and to Steve Bustin and his wife Jess who had their third child.
Congratulations to Emma Casey

On Friday 23 January, at the Glen Eira Australia Day Breakfast, Emma Casey, last year’s School Co-Captain, was awarded the Glen Eira Young Citizen of the Year Award, which is a fantastic achievement.

Emma Casey and Mayor of Glen Eira Cr Jim Magee

Photo courtesy of Robert Churchus Photography. Source Glen Eira News.

I look forward to sharing with you all the events and highlights of our School community throughout the year.

Jon Charlton
Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Outdoor Education Group (OEG) 2015

The School is about to finalise contracts with our camp providers for all camps Years 3 - 12.

Once the School has signed the contracts, the cost of the camp is fixed and refunds for non-attendance are not possible. If any student is not able to attend camp for medical or family-related reasons and parents are aware of this now, then please put this in writing to the Principal by the 20 February. Years 7 - 12 students attend camp in the first week of Term 2, Tuesday 14 – Friday 17 April:

Year 7 OEG Camp - Club Lorne
Year 8 OEG Camp – Wilsons Prom
Year 9 Urban Camp – Melbourne CYC and Challenge/Personal Development School Program
Year 10 OEG Camp – Eldon Adventure
Year 11 OEG Camp – Goulburn Valley High Country Rail Trail
Year 12 Study and Careers Camp – Sorrento

All families will receive camp information and medical forms early next week to complete and return to the School via tutors no later than Friday 6 March.
Parent Portal

The Parent Portal is now open. New families are in the process of receiving their login details. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents to regularly check the Parent Portal located on the Kilvington website for the most up-to-date COR assessment feedback information for your child. Over the remainder of the semester, assessment feedback will populate the portal.

It is important that you view the Semester Hardcopy Summary Report in conjunction with the assessment feedback in COR so that you are able to have specific task information as well as the overall summary for the semester. If you need a hard copy of either semester’s results please contact Senior Reception so that we can print you a copy or email this to you.

In addition, you are able to check the daily timetable for your child, email your child’s teachers and update your contact information in the Parent Portal so feel free to utilise these functions.

Parent Teacher Student Conferences

In response to parent feedback and increased student numbers in the School, we will be extending the hours for Parent Teacher Student Conferences for Senior School in Term 1 of this year. The dates for these conferences are:

- Years 8 - 11   Monday 2 March and Thursday 12 March
- Year 7 and Year 12  Tuesday 10 March

The conferences will begin at 2.45pm and conclude at 8.30pm. On each of these dates Senior School students will finish school at 2.35pm and will be dismissed at this time. Please ensure to make arrangements for your child on each of these dates. All lessons will occur on these dates however they will be slightly shortened to allow for the earlier start for the conferences. You will also note that we have extended the conferences to 8.30pm and staff will have a shorter dinner break to ensure as many parents as possible are able to attend.

The booking system will again be through the Parent Portal and an information letter will be sent home closer to the date. It is important to book your conferences as early as possible to ensure that you are able to see the teachers you require.

Teresa Deshon, Deputy Principal

From the Head of Senior School

Six Tips on How Parents Can Help Their Secondary School Student with Their Learning

PART ONE

Research shows that children are more likely to succeed if parents are involved in their learning. Hendsensen and Mapp (2002) found that ‘the more families support their children’s learning and educational progress, the more their children tend to do well in school and continue their education’.

The following is taken from online resource – Study Skills Handbook. To access go to www.studyskills-handbook.com.au and login as a subscriber with these details: User Name - Kilvington / Password - 77success

- WORK ENVIRONMENT
The obvious logistical support is providing a quiet, open space with few distractions for working at home. Involve your student in creating this space. Workspace tools for effective learning include a desk, ergonomic chair, a noticeboard and good lighting, as well as a shelf or drawers for folders, reference books and non-essential work.
• **BREAKFAST**
  Importantly students need to start the day with a nutritional breakfast, as this will increase energy, attention, concentration and memory, particularly if the breakfast includes grains, fibre, protein and is low in sugar. Parents can facilitate this good start to the day as part of the daily routine. Similarly, nutritious snacks and lunch will enable the student to remain more focused throughout the day.

• **ORGANISATION**
  A calendar for each term should be created and displayed near your student’s desk and in prominent thoroughfares in the home. The calendar or term planner should include: all co-curricular and social activities, as well as assignment, assessment or test dates. This helps the student see the big picture of commitments and not simply a weekly or daily vision as school diaries or digital devices usually allow. Regularly sitting down to discuss workloads and tasks due, reviewing activities and schedules can help students learn to be more productive and organised.

• **FILING SYSTEMS**
  Master folders should be set up for each subject at home, so after each topic is completed the notes can be placed in appropriate categories. This also gives students somewhere to file completed tests and assignments. Most students carry their current notes to school each day, but naturally as the term and year progresses it’s impossible (and risky if misplaced) to have all notes in one folder. Students may also need help organising the files on their computers and devices.

• **TIMETABLE**
  Know your student’s timetable, so it’s easy and relevant to ask: ‘What were you doing in Science today?’ A specific question can often open a conversation where your student not only shares but, in doing so, reinforces what was learned which increases memory (and understanding) of the lesson.

• **SUBJECTS**
  Know your student’s subjects, and become aware of the topics covered each year in those subjects. ‘Improved educational outcomes result from a genuine interest and active engagement from parents’ (OECD 2011). Students appreciate, perhaps subconsciously, that the parent is truly interested in their learning and what they are learning.

Look out for **PART TWO** in our next issue.

**Matt Brinson, Head of Senior School**

**From the new Head of Junior School**

**The Journey of Excellence**

Since commencing my role as Head of Junior School, one of things that has really stood out for me is Kilvington Grammar School’s commitment to excellence, and helping each child excel. We often think of excellence as a destination, the attainment of an outstanding skill, talent or result. But excellence is also the journey. At Kilvington, excellence is about children aiming high and making persistent efforts to stretch their knowledge and skills. By focusing on the process of excellence rather than solely on results, we empower our students to become the agents of their own academic success.

Dr Carol Dweck, a Stanford University Professor, conducted a number of studies into the learning behaviours of primary-aged children and discovered that children who believed that their intelligence, skill or talent could be developed were far more motivated to learn. Spending time in the Junior School classrooms in the last few weeks, it is obvious that our children are enthusiastic about learning. This enthusiasm, together with carefully constructed learning experiences and the nurturing environment created by our dedicated teachers, give our children the confidence to embrace challenges, persist when they face difficulty and learn from feedback. These are the hallmarks of the ‘growth mindset’ identified by Dr Dweck which she found led to ever higher levels of achievement and personal empowerment.

Another researcher, Mary Ricci, studied the beliefs of children in the early years of their schooling and found that most Prep students showed a growth mindset orientation to learning but by Year 3 almost half the children in her classes were showing signs of what Dr Dweck called a ‘fixed mindset’, a mindset generated by the belief that their intelligence
and talents were fixed. This lead to a tendency to want to look smart, avoid challenges and ignore negative feedback. So, what was happening in the early primary years? Dweck, Ricci and others found that one vital factor was the messages children heard about themselves in the speech of significant adults. If parents and teachers spoke to children in a way that suggested that their intelligence was fixed, children began to believe that too and developed 'fixed mindset' traits.

Being mindful of the messages we convey to children about their intelligence is one important way we can help them maintain a growth mindset as they move through the primary years. This year, our Junior School team will be exploring growth mindsets as part of our professional learning program and I look forward to our team sharing their own discoveries and the children’s insights with you as the year progresses.

Monique Miotto, Head of Junior School

Program Highlights

Welcome to All Our 2015 ELC Families

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of our ELC families. We feel very privileged to have the children with us in the ELC as they start or continue their Kilvington learning journey.

The first week back saw the children excitedly catching up with old friends and for others a fun opportunity to make new friends.

The children spent their first days exploring the indoor and outdoor environments, exploring everything in their new rooms, painting, making, being creative and having lots of fun.

Whilst we welcomed our ELC children we also watched as our precious 2014 ELC children ventured into school life. We watched with excitement and pride and shed a few tears as the children took their first steps into school. We wish each and every one of them a wonderful school year.

Sharon and the ELC team.

Lauren Nguyen and Eunice Lee
Our First Day in Prep

Tuesday was a very exciting day in the Junior School. The Prep students were so excited, they couldn’t wait to come into their new classrooms.

The day started with some activities on the tables and toys to play with on the floor. The Prep teachers were so proud of how magnificently everyone settled into life as a Prep student. They were all dressed extra neatly as they had their first school photos. The Green was a great place to meet some new friends.

Prep B had their first Science Technology lesson where they were allocated an iPad and created a picture of themselves on an App. They also went to the courts for their first PE lesson. Prep S had Art where they drew their first self-portrait. Smiles were still seen on their faces at pick up time. They all had a great day and a wonderful start to their Prep year.

Esther Breckler and Paul Stefanetti, Prep Teachers

A Year of Musical Opportunity

I’m very pleased to see how many parents have enrolled their children in instrumental music lessons for 2015. In addition, our swelling ensemble numbers show that our students are engaged by their music-making at the School. This year Kilvington offers students the opportunity to participate in more than twenty different ensembles, so there really is something for everyone.

As many parents already intuitively understand, participation in music and the performing arts is a central part of the intellectual and social development of their child. Various studies over the past twenty years have found that music training aids the development of working and long-term memory which improves a student’s ability to learn in general. Most famously, Rauscher, in an article titled, The Mozart Effect (Journal of The Royal Society of Medicine, 2001), demonstrated that listening to Mozart’s music actually increases IQ.

It’s no surprise then that in the past five years, two Nobel prizewinners are men who are or were actively involved in classical music as students and teachers. Saul Perlmutter won the Nobel prize for Physics in 2011. Perlmutter is also a violinist and teaches a course at UC Berkeley titled Physics and Music. Thomas Sudhof won the Nobel prize for Medicine in 2013. Dr. Sudhof credits his bassoon teacher, Herbert Tauscher, with teaching him: ‘that the only way to do something right is to practice and listen and practice and listen, hours, and hours, and hours’, and even credits him with his award of the Nobel prize: ‘I owe it all to my bassoon teacher.’

The social benefits of musical instrument study include cooperation and teamwork, responsibility, leadership and engagement with community.

For parents of new music students, young musicians thrive on a regular practice routine – don’t be afraid to establish this from the beginning. It’s worth considering that both present and past musical artists have benefitted from parents who did just this. Lang Lang, Maurizio Pollini and of course the greats, Beethoven and Mozart, all had parents who established a practice routine for them at a young age.
We have a busy year of music-making ahead at Kilvington with soirees, concerts, Eisteddfod’s and various community events to look forward to. Rehearsals for ‘The Wiz’ and various ensembles have already begun. If your child is not receiving music lessons nor participating in music ensembles at the School, please consider encouraging them to do so.

For details on ensembles and rehearsal times please contact Paula Preece, Music Administrator on 8574 7637 or email music.admin@kilvington.vic.edu.au.

Mr Sasha Stella, Academic Dean of Performing Arts

Our New Science Lab

The start of term is an exciting time for everyone at Kilvington, but this year was particularly special in Science as we opened our brand new Science laboratory. The planning stages for the new lab started way back in 2013, and after countless meetings with the architect, visits to other schools and weeks of building works we were able to finally see our plans realised. The lab was ready!

We designed the new lab to be a general purpose science room, in which we could teach any class from Year 7 Science to VCE Chemistry. It allows us to use state-of-the-art technology in a flexible learning environment. Students can work either as a class or break off into smaller groups for independent work and there is a large space for each group to carry out experimental work.

Students are delighted with the new space and classes in the lab have been very positive, with everyone being very careful not to spill anything during practical work!

Alice James, Academic Dean of Science

Mathematics Challenge for Young Australians

The Mathematics Challenge is a problem-solving activity aimed at the top 15% of students in their year level, organised by the Australian Mathematics Trust.

During three weeks in March, interested students from Years 7 - 9 receive six problems. They are required to present written solutions for as many of the problems as they can. The problems are challenging and require time and persistence, but are based on mathematics which should be known at that level. Problems can be discussed in groups of two or three registered students, before individual solutions are submitted.

Students are allowed to seek help from any resources other than human ones – textbooks, encyclopedias, calculators and computers. Websites offering help with problems are not allowed as they are actually human resources. Some class time will be set aside for working on the Mathematics Challenge and teachers may be able to answer questions to help clarify.

Kilvington Mathematics teachers mark the submitted solutions from marking schemes and solutions provided by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The best marks at each year level are submitted to the Australian Mathematics Trust and certificates issued in due course.

In the next few weeks, Years 7 - 9 teachers will be asking their students if they are interested in participating in the Mathematics Challenge. If you would like your child to participate, please contact their Mathematics teacher directly.

Helen Cole, Academic Dean of Mathematics
Our Community Life

2015 Kilvington World Fair and Open Day

Welcome to the Kilvington World Fair
10am to 3pm Saturday 21 March 2015

Highlights

✓ More than 18 countries represented
✓ Delicious and diverse range of cuisines
✓ Entertainment, performances and activities
✓ Rides including The Cliff Hanger, Radio-controlled trucks and cars, Bungee Challenge, Haunted House, Giant Super Slide and Water Tubes.
✓ KiIS 101.1 Street Team
✓ Craft Stalls
✓ Monash University Formula 1 car

Your Support

❖ Lollies via bags or jars – Fill a jar with lollies and decorate, or donate sealed bags of lollies, small trinkets and clean jars, and we will fill.
❖ Silent Auction items – We welcome any goods, services, or vouchers.
❖ Hamper items – Each year level will be given a theme and a basket to fill. More details to come.
❖ Cakes, slices and biscuits – A plate and explanation will be distributed via the classroom/Tutor Group.
❖ Secondhand books & DVDs – Always very popular and a great excuse to clean out the cupboards.

Drop off items at Junior School or Main Reception

Purchase your ride wristband now via
Trybooking from
www.kilvington.vic.edu.au

Early Bird price: $32.00
Standard: $37.00
A Reminder....

Nut Allergies

In order to minimise the risk of a student having an anaphylactic reaction at school caused by coming into contact with nuts, parents are asked to assist the School, wherever possible, by not allowing their child/ren to bring or eat nuts at school. A school can never claim to be nut free, however, in the interests of the safety of all community members and to minimise the risk to others, we do discourage the bringing and eating of nuts at school.

Sun Protection

During Terms 1 and 4, Junior School students are to wear their school hat when they are outside. A ‘no hat, no play’ policy is enforced in the Junior School during breaks. Students in the Senior School are actively encouraged to wear hats whenever they are outside. They should protect themselves against skin damage by applying sunscreen.

School Supervision Times

The School is supervised from 8.00am-4.30pm (Senior School students) and 8.00am-6.00pm (Junior School students). After 3.50pm, Senior School students not involved in after school supervised activities are to go to the Library where they will be supervised until 4.30pm (Monday to Thursday) or 4.00pm (Friday). After these times, Senior School students are to wait in Main Reception. Main Reception closes at 5.00pm.

Junior School students not collected by 3.50pm will be taken to After School Care, where they will be supervised until 6.00pm (Monday to Friday).

To ensure the safety of all students, parents are asked not to drop off their child/ren before 8.00am, or pick them up after the times designated above.

Parking and Safety Reminder

We have received a complaint from a member of our local community about parents parking across residents’ driveways. Please be respectful of the disruption that drop off and pick up creates for the local residents.

Please also use the School Crossing when supervised. We have received reports that students and families are crossing Leila Road within walking distance to the crossing. The safety of our School community is our priority and we ask that you set an example when arriving and leaving the School.

Three Big Changes to the Vaccine Program

In 2015 three major changes to the vaccine program will impact on parents of secondary school students:

1. The Glen Eira Council’s immunisation service may contact you about the secondary school vaccine program. Schools have been authorised to provide parent contact details to local councils for this purpose. Contact the school by 28 February 2015 if you do not want your contact details given to the Glen Eira Council.

2. In 2015 only the vaccine that protects against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough will be offered to all students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. From 2016, this vaccine will be offered to Year 7 students only. This will provide earlier protection from these diseases.

3. The time-limited human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine program for Year 9 boys was completed in December 2014. HPV vaccine will continue to be offered to all students (both male and female) in Year 7 from 2015.

Look out for the vaccine consent form/s coming home from school with your child. You need to read, complete and return the form/s regardless of whether your child is being immunised at school.

To learn more about the changes, the diseases, the vaccines, or how you can prepare your child for vaccination go to immunehero.health.vic.gov.au
PFA Report

Welcome to 2015. We have a busy and exciting Term One planned with lots of opportunities to be involved and have fun.
- Class Social Representatives meeting, 25 February from 8.30am to 9.30am in the Staff Lounge.
- ELC to Year 6 Welcome Back Picnic, 27 February from 5.30pm to 8.00pm in The Green.
- Kilvington World Fair and Open Day, 21 March from 10.00am to 3.00pm.

You are very welcome to join us at our next PFA meeting on 3 March from 7.30pm to 8.30pm in the Staff Lounge.

Class Social Representatives (CSRs)

The PFA is delighted by the overwhelming response to the expressions of interest for CSRs and are pleased to confirm that each year level has representation. Thank you everyone.

This is a vital role and also a wonderful way for parents to be involved in the school community. Some eager Reps are already off and running planning events, which is terrific to hear.

Your 2015 CSR Co-ordinators are:

Fiona Cullen (Junior School) frunting.cullen@gmail.com
Marina Palaskas (Senior School) marina.palaskas@bigpond.com

Diary Date: Term 1 CSR Meeting will be held on Wednesday, 25 February from 8.30am to 9.30am in the Staff Lounge.

Victorian Parents Council (VPC)

The VPCs Parent Networking Group is a voluntary organisation which brings together parents from diverse Melbourne schools, primarily independent and on a per term basis to share ideas and hear interesting speakers. The next meeting will be hosted by Fitzroy Community School, and will be held on Wednesday, 18 March.

If you are interested in attending or would simply like any further information, please don’t hesitate to contact marina.palaskas@bigpond.com or visit the VPC website www.vicparentscouncil.vic.edu.au.

Kirsten Brooks, PFA President

Members of the PFA @ the 2014 VPC Annual Seminar held at Caulfield Grammar.
Extend After School Care
New Families – Enrol in After School Care

Enrol Online – Allow 24 Hours

Enrolling is quick and easy! Simply set up your own account online via the Parent Portal. Please note it is government regulation that all children must be enrolled BEFORE attending an Extend service. For information on operating hours and fees for your school, visit your After School Care venue or school website.

Enrol Now, Pay Later

The annual enrolment fee per family of $20 is NOT payable until you first use the service. So why not enrol now so you can access the service later? It doesn’t matter if you don’t end up using the service, because you won’t be charged.

Watch this space throughout the term for regular updates from our Extend team!

PARENT PORTAL: extend.com.au

Our Fortnightly Recap

Welcome back to a new year and a particularly warm welcome to all of the new families. I am really enjoying meeting all the new students at the program. Last week we had some really great activities. Hugely popular and successful was our sensory play activity. We had a selection of different moulding compounds to work with including freshly made playdough, moulding goo, bubber and kinetic sand. They each have a different texture, so it was very exciting for the kids to play with them all. We also had a science experiment on Friday which everyone participated in. Our aim was to work out how much detergent and how much water would make the best bubble mixture. It took a lot of trial and error but eventually we started to see some big bubbles.

Thanks, Jemimah

Our Extend Superstar’s are ... Molly A for being a terrific helper and caring for others and Samuel K for being positive and giving things a go.

Activities for next week:

Monday 16 February:
Transferred crayon art
Tuesday 17 February:
Science: make your own kinetic sand
Wednesday 18 February:
Cooking: scones
Thursday 19 February:
Plastic bag flowers
Friday 20 February:
Tissue paper canvas art