

Principal's Newsletter



Dear Parents

This is the final newsletter of the year and the final week of Term 4, 2011.

There is no doubt that changing the term dates has put tremendous pressure on students and teachers. In particular, Term 4 has been frantic as we tried to complete in two weeks, what usually is completed in four weeks: senior prizegiving, preparation of senior students for external exams, completion of junior course work and so on.

NCEA external exams are now ended and next year's student leaders come in for Peer Support and Leadership training this week.

Last week, we welcomed Year 8 students who have enrolled at our school, to a morning of activities to familiarise the girls with how things are done in high school. Dance, Art and Science featured on the list of activities.

Year 9 Camp

I am very happy to report that FYD Waitakere STARS have signed a contract with Kelston Girls' College to assist us in training the Year 13 Student Leaders to be mentors and peer supporters and to run a Year 9 camp.

The camp is held at Camp Adair in the Hunua Ranges and what usually costs \$250 per student including the bus fare, will only cost \$50 per student.

We are fortunate to have this opportunity. We would not have been able to organise it ourselves and keep expenses to a minimum.

Junior Prizegiving

This annual event is on Friday 9 December at 10am. I hope that many of you will be able to attend to celebrate student success.

Restorative Practice

We began the process last year and this year, all staff have been involved in learning to put into practice, the criteria. What has been significant, is the decrease in the number of stand-downs and suspensions/exclusions to only 2 exclusions this year. Early in 2012, we plan to hold sessions for parents to come along and find out what Restorative Practice is about.

Careers Academy

In Term 3, we were advised that we had been selected to establish a Careers Academy. This is aimed at 16 and 17 year old students. The purpose of the Academy is to ensure that students remain at school and when they do leave, they have qualifications and a Career Pathway.

We will be selecting students and meeting with their parents early in Term 1. If we are over-subscribed, we will establish a waiting list. There will be two intakes a year, at the beginning of the first semester and half way through the year, at the beginning of the second semester.

School Uniform

At present, a committee led by BOT member, Mihi Angell, are viewing possible options. Next year students, parents and staff will have an opportunity to voice their preferences before the Board makes a final decision. The plan is that the new uniform will be introduced in 2012. The introduction will be a gradual process over two years.

I wish to acknowledge the work of our teachers this year, on behalf of all students. I thank parents for the support and guidance they have given their daughters to be the best that they can be. I acknowledge the work of the Kelston Girls' College Board of Trustees, led by Dr James Prescott, and thank them for their support.

Finally, I thank all of our young women, from Year 9 to Year 13, who make our school the caring and friendly place it is, and who strive to make the most of every opportunity.

I wish you all Season's Greetings and a safe and happy New Year.

Linda Fox
Principal



From the Kelston Girls' College Board of Trustees

Dear Parents,

We have achieved much this year:

- After many meetings with the Ministry of Education I am happy to report that work will begin on Stage One of the renovations for D Block.
- We started the year with a significant debt but will end the year within budget. The main reasons for this are the careful managing of expenses this year by all budget holders, and an increase in the number of International students making short term visits to our school.
- The Arts Festival was a resounding success, thanks to the work of Trish Martin and Ginny Knight-Williams.

In Term 1 2012, a group of Kelston Girls' College supporters including ex-students, parents, teachers and Board members are organising a Family Fun Day at Kelston Girls' College on Saturday 24 March. This is advance warning. Please mark the date on your calendar.

I wish to thank my fellow trustees on the Board for their continued support. I thank Principal Fox for her continued focus on making Kelston Girls' College the best in the west for learning outcomes for students; and finally I thank staff and students for making the College such a vibrant place.

I cannot conclude without wishing Wei Chao a safe return to China. Wei has taught Mandarin to our Year 9 and 10 students this year, and has earned everyone's admiration for her pride and enjoyment in teaching Mandarin.

I wish you all peace and happiness over Christmas.

Kind regards,

Dr James Prescott, Chairman

Kelston Girls' College Board of Trustees

Congratulations!

- Our Junior Volleyball Team earned **1st Place** amongst West Auckland schools for 2011. It is the combined effort of the Year 9 and 10 girls with the training style of Fuzi Tuilagi and coaching techniques of Mrs. Elena Bernardo. The team aims to be in the Auckland Champs next year. Please support them.
- Junior Girls Kilikiti Tournament. This tournament is organised annually by ASB and held at the Auckland Domain. 21 Junior girls attended with the great support of Sports Coordinator- Sasha and Lydia and the coaching team of ex Kelston girls – Molly Toelupe and Lily also 2 seniors Theresa Nepo and Feala Vaelua. The girls played 3 pool games and won all of them comfortably. The fourth game was the semi finals against Auckland Girls. Once again it was a comfortable win. Their fifth game at the finals was against St Dominics. We did not have an easy start. A bit of nail biting to start with, the last quarter was very interesting because they put their best effort in fielding. In the end we won comfortably which was really great for the girls. The girls were very self controlled and well mannered . They did it all by themselves and with the support of the coaching team. As winners, they received cool ASB water bottles and a box of 30 cans of soft drinks.
- Saba Isaac and Berekia Mayenikini presented their personal stories regarding their academic achievement and integration into the school community at the Refugee Education Conference AUT 2011.
- Papua Taumate, Year 13, has won a Science Scholarship to attend a summer camp at the University of Auckland.
- Pristine De Lara, former student at Kelston Girls' College has completed her Architecture and Design degree and has been invited to study for a Masters degree in Architecture and Design.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday 9 December	Junior Prizegiving, 10am Last day of school Junior Reports posted home
Tuesday 24 January	School office opens
Wednesday 25 January	Uniform Shop open 10am-2pm
Tuesday 31 January	Uniform Shop open 10am-2pm
Wednesday 1 February	Uniform Shop open 10am-2pm
Thursday 2 February	Uniform Shop open 6pm-7pm
Friday 4 February	First day of school Year 9
Tuesday 7 February	All students at school.

VSA is now selling Project Friendship bracelets through its online shop, www.vsashop.org.nz

You can buy a pack of four bracelets at a special Christmas price of just \$10. These are the same bracelets sold at your school during VSA Project Friendship week in August. They make great stocking fillers, and are available at this special price until Christmas!!!

VSA bracelets are produced under fair trade conditions at the Nga Centre, an organisation that supports young people with disabilities in Vietnam. The money raised will go towards supporting the work of VSA volunteers in developing countries.

4FUN Holiday “Kids Programmes” (5yrs-9yrs) – The Trusts Stadium. Open 645am-615pm. Full days, full week \$195 including excursions or \$4.50 per hour. Open ALL year except weekend and public holidays. WINZ OSCAR Subsidies available. Free phone 0508 4FUN2U (438628) or www.4fun.co.nz

4FUN Holiday “Youth Programmes” (10yrs-14yrs) – The Trusts Stadium. Open 645am-615pm. Full days, full week \$195 including excursions or \$4.50 per hour. Open ALL year except weekend and public holidays. WINZ OSCAR Subsidies available. Free phone 0508 4 4FUN2U (4 438628) or www.4fun.co.nz

You're their lifeguard - Keep your Child safe at the pool this summer!



Over the Summer School holidays many families will be enjoying all the fun and excitement local swimming pools have to offer.

Water Safety NZ and NZ Recreation Association would like to remind families about the Pool Alone policy that public pools in New Zealand are required to adhere to:

Children under 8 must be actively supervised by a caregiver 16 years or over.

Actively supervised means watching your child at all times; Able to provide immediate assistance*

Lifeguards are an important safety feature, but they are not intended to replace the close supervision of parents or caregivers.

Tragically many drowning deaths occur in the few seconds that parents are distracted. The role of a lifeguard is to ensure people are safe in the water - they are not babysitters.

Remembering this when you take your family for a swim will help our pools to remain safe and fun places for everyone to enjoy.

*Please note that some pools have a stricter policy than the one above



THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE – LIVE IT AT HOME
HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES IN 2012

In January 2012 we will be receiving exchange students from Japan, Europe, the USA and Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2-10 months.

As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families located in New Zealand who might be interested to host a student. Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. Please note that all our host families are interviewed in their homes and carefully checked for suitability.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation registered with the New Zealand Ministry of Education. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.nz.

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 0800 440 079.

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd

Tel: 0800-440079

Fax: 0800-440079

Web: www.studentexchange.org.nz

CYRIL KELLEWAY
Teacher of Singing

Cyril Kelleway teaches singing at 36 St Leonards Road and has openings for new pupils for next year. For each new pupil that registers from KGC, Cyril will pay \$50 at the end of each 10 Lesson Term towards school funds. This is an ongoing opportunity that will continue for as long as the pupil continues with the lessons.

Please contact Cyril for more information:

36 St Leonards, Kelston

Phone: 818 7645