Dear parents and friends,

One person can make a difference!

We have the most amazing community here at Kenthurst Public School.

Our school has been trying to get Flashing Lights installed for over a year and with the help of grandmother Mrs Meralyn McKenzie they were finally installed yesterday. This will ensure that vehicles, in particular trucks, slowdown in our school area. Mrs McKenzie wrote to the authorities and to our local member Ray Williams, to ensure her voice was heard. Every time we drive/walk past the Flashing signs we will thank Mrs McKenzie for her efforts in keeping our children safe.

Our beautiful sandstone entrance gates, built by Mr Grant Perkins, a dad of our school, is nearing completion.

The ‘mayor’ of Kenthurst, Mr John Benyon came to visit and asked me if I was going to install gates and what style did I envisage. I explained that we didn’t have the funds to build wrought iron gates and he simply said, “Leave it to me.” John was able to speak to a parent of our school whose children attended KPS many years ago. He happens to be a blacksmith and together they designed these magnificent entrance gates. Mr Paul Rapp, who works so hard with Kenthurst Rotary and supports our school in so many ways, spray-painted the gates.

A Kenthurst team effort! We truly are a community and not just a suburb.

To complete the front entrance we would like to plant some miniature orange trees to celebrate our history with The Orange Blossom Festival.

If we could please ask for help to any families that are in the nursery business or who are landscape gardeners. Our school needs to refresh plants and to have a general clean up with branches and overgrown grass. Please email me if you can help in any way. Caron.Dodd@det.nsw.edu.au

Owen achieved an amazing feat yesterday! Years 4-Year 6 students from The PSSA Ridges schools were invited to try out for the Ridges T-Ball, with only 11 students selected. All of the other students are from Year 6 with our Owen being in Year 4. He is indeed a talented player with a great future ahead. His Dad is so proud too. Congratulations.

If you are able to watch Channel 7 Two at 7.30am in the morning, our Stage 3 students 2012 are on It’s Academic. They really enjoyed the experience last year.
Ridges Zone swimming was held at Blacktown Aquatic Centre last Thursday with outstanding results. Kenthurst won on Handicap and was placed 5th overall which is fabulous. The 11 year old champions for Zone were Sophia and Christina of KPS. Our senior girls were placed first Sophia, second Lillian and third Christina in the Medley and together with Amanda won their relay too. Our students will now compete in the Regional Swimming to be held at Homebush Aquatic Centre.

Crazy Hair Day today was so much fun! All money raised is going to the Variety Club 4WD Adventure that our Mrs Parnaby (Our much loved school librarian) is participating in, together with Chloe Ellison’s grandmother Mrs Sharon White. We wish them a safe trip and look forward to hearing about the stories of the ‘Coal to Gold’ trip. Well done we raised $237.00.
Yes, there are some amazing grandparents here at Kenthurst and we are so looking forward to Grandparents Day on Thursday 28th March 2013, to showcase our students and to say thank you.

Family involvement can have a huge impact on the ability of children to learn and succeed in the education system. “The family has the largest influence on children’s learning outcomes and how parents value school education is very important.” Professor Berthelsen.

“When schools, families and community groups work together to support learning, children tend to do better in school, stay in school longer and like school more.” Henderson and Mapp.

Here at Kenthurst, we have created a warm environment for our parents, grandparents and the wider community, an environment that values and appreciates the importance of these partnerships. It makes such a difference to student learning and ultimately improves achievement.

Kenthurst Public School~ The School of Choice.

Yours, in quality education.

Caron Dodd
Principal

Congratulations to those students who received gold awards.
## Calendar

**Term 1 - 2013**

### Week 6
- **Thursday 7 March**
  - Band
  - Scripture
  - K – 2 Assembly
  - Year 6 Parent Meeting
- **Friday 8 March**
  - PSSA

### Week 7
- **Monday 11 March**
  - 8.00am Choir
- **Tuesday 12 March**
  - School Photos
- **Wednesday 13 March**
  - Lunchtime Choir
  - P&C Meeting
- **Thursday 14 March**
  - Band
  - Scripture
  - Selective High School Test
  - K-6 Assembly
- **Friday 15 March**
  - PSSA
  - Movie Night

### Week 8
- **Monday 18 March**
  - 8.00am Choir
- **Wednesday 20 March**
  - Lunchtime Choir
- **Thursday 21 March**
  - Harmony Day
  - Band
  - Scripture
  - K – 2 Assembly

### Important dates coming up:
- **28 March** – Grandparents Day

**Friendly Reminder – School Photos Tuesday 12 March**
**Kenthurst Public School App – Skoolbag**
Kenthurst Public School now has their own app!!! Check out the features! You'll also find our newsletters there and parent calendar, flexischool information and announcements.

**How to install Skoolbag on your smartphone**

**iPhone Users:** Simply search for “Kenthurst Public School” in the App store on your phone, PC or Mac and install. This app is free.

**Android Users:** Tap the applications icon, then tap the internet icon to open your web browser. Type [www.skoolbag.com.au/kpsnsw](http://www.skoolbag.com.au/kpsnsw) into the address bar. Once loaded you can save the Skoolbag icon to your home screen for easy access every day.

Any queries please contact the school.

Kirsty McHugh  
Computer Coordinator

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**Premier’s Reading Challenge 2013**

Once again our children have taken on the Premiers’ Challenge with great enthusiasm and we have been involved since its inception in 2001.

Not content with just completing the PRC we have some students going beyond their age group and reading books from the lists above them.

All our classes have taken up the challenge this year.

The K-2 Challenge is open to students in ES1 and Stage 1. These students must experience **30** books.

In Stage 2 and 3 students must **read 20** books.

This is an amazing effort especially for those children who find reading difficult.

The Challenge ends on 31st August and we are well on the way already in 2013.

The following is a list that I will update in each Newsletter of the students that have completed the challenge.

KA  
KC – Jessica, Abbey  
S1S  
S1O  
S1T  
S2SR- Danielle  
S23B – Tyron, Gemma  
S3N

**Well done to all those children!**

Happy Reading  
Kerry Parnaby – Librarian
8th March 2013

Next Friday the students will be joining the nationwide effort to clean-up Australia. Each class will be given a sector of the school grounds to tidy and collect any rubbish. To help keep your child clean, could you please send him/her to school with a pair of gardening gloves and a plastic bag.

Thanking you

Melinda Ristuccia - Environment Coordinator

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**Time to do your Times Tables**

Finding a pain-free, nag-free method of learning times tables is the quest of every parent. It is essential for your child to know their times tables before they start high school but how can you help?

Since every child learns differently, you need to find the method that suits your child. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Learning by rote: old fashioned but still good!
- Put up posters around the house or get your child to write out their tables.
- Search the internet for the times tables set to music or online games.
- Flash cards: write the question on the front and the answer on the back.

And remember: practice, practice, practice. Real fluency needs a child to practice regularly over at least 6 weeks. As a rule of thumb, your child should be able to answer any multiplication up to 12 x 12 in a few seconds.

With a little effort every day, learning their times tables will mean the world to your child, teaching them persistence, resilience and building confidence.
AP Corner

Home Reading

As teachers we can’t stress enough the importance of reading at home. All children need to practise the skills and strategies they are learning at school in daily reading practice at home. This week we are including some ideas to make reading at home with your child a really special part of the day.

Mem Fox’s Ten Read Aloud Commandments

1. Spend at least ten wildly happy minutes every single day reading aloud.

2. Read at least three stories a day - it may be the same story three times. Children need to hear a thousand stories before they learn to read!

3. Read aloud with animation. Listen to your own voice and don’t be dull, or flat, or boring. Hang loose and be loud, have fun and laugh a lot.

4. Read with joy and enjoyment - real enjoyment for yourself and great joy for the listeners.

5. Read the stories that the kids love over and over and over again and always read in the same ‘tune’ for each book: i.e. with the same intonations on each page, each time.

6. Let children hear lots of language by talking to them constantly; or sing any old song that you can remember; or say nursery rhymes in a bouncy way; or be noisy together doing clapping games.

7. Look for rhyme, rhythm or repetition in books for young children, and make sure the books are short!

8. Play games with the things that you and the child can see on the page, such as finding the letters that start the child’s name and yours, remembering that it’s never work, it’s always a fabulous game.

9. Never ever “teach reading” or get tense around books.

10. Read aloud every day because you just love being with your child, not because it’s the right thing to do.

Kate Barrat
Assistant Principal
Kenthurst Public School

Movie Night

On Friday 15th March Kenthurst Public School is having a welcome to 2013 movie night.

Madagascar 3, mouth-watering munchies and massive amounts of merriment will be on offer, so bring your blanket, chairs or beanbags and enjoy the outdoor cinema experience. Regardless of whether the weather is miserable or not the night will continue rain, hail or starlight.

The evening will kick off at 6pm with the feature starting at 7.30pm.

$30 for a family of four.
$12.50 for a single adult
$6.00 for a child
And 3 years and under free.

Dinner is a choice of:
Beef nachos with avocado and sour cream - $7.50 or
Honey soy chicken kebabs with fried rice - $7.50

Snacks on sale will include Ice-cream, lolly bags, drinks, tea and coffee.

Tickets for the movie and dinner can be purchased through …
Flexischools
Via the office or
On the night

See you there…
Kenthurst Public School
P&C
Kenthurst Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is now open on Wednesday Mornings
8:30am to 10:30am
If you wish to swap or try on uniforms, you are most welcome.

For your convenience orders can be placed on Flexi-Schools.

Any problems please feel free to contact Tracey Nelson on
0447874924

Kenthurst Canteen Needs You!
The Canteen would love Helpers.

If you would like to see the smile on your child’s face, please come and volunteer your time.

Volunteers do not have to spend the whole day. We appreciate any amount of time that you can give. Please call or text Tracey on 0405145323. Please find below our Price List for the Canteen.

Please note that we have had a price increase on Sushi Tuna or Vegetarian
New Price is: $3.50
A Great Night Out for A Great Cause!

Bears Of Hope Pregnancy and Infant Loss Support Inc. offers support and guidance for parents who experience the loss of their baby during pregnancy, birth or infancy. Through the donation of a bear of hope, parents are provided with the comfort of knowing they are not alone from the very beginning, and offered significant ongoing support to heal their broken hearts. This includes support for parents who experience a miscarriage, genetic interruption, multiple loss, stillbirth, neo-natal & infant death throughout Australia.

Bears of Hope is an Australian registered organisation, based in Sydney NSW, with a vision to provide leading support for families who experience the loss of their baby. Their Support Packages are available for every Australian hospital and together with their Beyond the Bear Support Services they are invaluable and highly regarded by bereaved families and affiliated allied health services. Bears Of Hope won the Centre for Volunteering, Volunteer Team of the Year Award, for the Outer West / Blue Mountains Region in both 2010 and 2012.

"In 2008 we thought we had it all- 3 healthy children and twins on the way.... then the unimaginable happened- one of our twins, our baby girl Imogene-Kate, died just a small 10 minutes before birth. Our world as we knew it was shattered. Left to pick up the pieces and fortunately surrounded by love and care of family and friends we began to live our new "normal". Our new normal would not be the same without Bears of Hope in it. Bears of Hope provided support and care at a time that can often feel lonely- but connecting with other families like ours has meant that we have learnt to live again, with pride and hope." Emma & Mark Comito
Join us for a Movie Night!!

We would love for you, your family and friends to join us on this fabulous night to help raise funds towards our very own House Of Hope.

This will be a place where families will be able to gather for support meetings or drop in for a chat. It will also provide a base for the day to day management involved with keeping Bears Of Hope supporting all those families in need. We need your help to make this dream a reality!

**Date:** Thursday 21st March 2013

**Time:** 7:30pm meet and greet for 8:30pm movie

**Cost:** $40 + $2.40 booking fee per person

**Venue:** Event Cinemas Castle Hill, Sydney

**Movie:** Oz: The Great and Powerful (PG)

Included in your ticket price is a seat in the VMAX cinema - a bigger and better experience than a normal cinema. You’ll also receive popcorn and drink combo to be enjoyed during the screening and a ticket in our lucky door prize.

To **purchase tickets** please visit: [www.bearsofhope.org.au](http://www.bearsofhope.org.au) & click on the link

If you are able to help us out with donations for raffle prizes and for more information about this event please email [kylie@bearsofhope.org.au](mailto:kylie@bearsofhope.org.au)
HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE SCHOOLKIDS BONUS?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 – have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children’s education – whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions.

Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink – either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.
Our school is a Creative and Performing Arts High School and the school will hold auditions for talented students in Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Arts.

The auditions for Year 6 students (Year 7, 2014) and also Years 8 -11 will be held at the school on **Monday 18th & Wednesday 20th March 2013**.

Talented students with a strong interest in Dance, Drama, Visual Arts and Music are encouraged to apply. Local (In Area) students wanting to be part of our selective Creative and Performing Arts program MUST also audition.

Students who gain selection into our school benefit from a range of curriculum and welfare initiatives. Our school also offers modern performance and technical production facilities, specialist teachers and a supportive whole school ethos, which promote excellence in the Creative and Performing Arts.

Many of our Creative and Performing Arts students are multi-talented and have interest in several Creative Arts areas. Our school offers a broad comprehensive curriculum and Music, Dance, Drama and Visual Arts work together under the banner of the Creative and Performing Arts.

We kindly ask that your school publish the attached information sheet for parents and students in your next School Bulletin.

Closing date for applications and forms need to be returned by **Wednesday 13th March 2013**

Should you have any further questions about the auditions, please do not hesitate to contact Ms Hockings on 9630 4116 or Mrs June Stepic – june.stepic@det.nsw.edu.au
Kenthurst Public School - Village Voice
Excellence and Innovation in a Unique Community

Kenthurst & District Soccer Club

- It’s not too late to register!
- We can still accommodate boys and girls in most age groups including U6’s, U7’s, U9’s, U10’s, U11’s & U14Gs
- Phone 96541251 or 0409997813 or email cathyed@tpg.com.au for further information.

www.kenthurstsoccer.com.au

Script Work for Film, TV & Stage
Improvisation & Theatre Sports
Presentation Skills & Voice Training
Sydney Eisteddfod Winners

Drama Classes

Baulkham Hills, Pennant Hills, Penrith
Students have appeared in Home & Away, Neighbours, Blue Water High, Underbelly, Wolverine, The Great Gatsby, other movies, TV series, TV ads & much more....

Tel: 02 9211 6366  www.sydneytalentco.com.au
email: sydneytalentco@tpg.com.au
Lion Park’s Tae Kwon Do
And Self-Defence

**Tuesday:** Kenthurst Public School
Cnr Kenthurst Rd & Dural St Kenthurst
Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Classes run for a 1hr period, with a focus on high discipline and moral standards
In this time students will undertake a variety of:

- form techniques
- stretches
- punching and kicking techniques
- engage in one step sparring
- speed training
- free sparring

Classes are conducted in a pleasant and positive atmosphere
Catering for children through to adults
Contact Sa-Bum-Nim Michael 4th Dan Black Belt on 0409 928 534

1st Lesson Free
Call for Details