



PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER



29th February 2008

Dear Parents/ Guardians

For your Information

Class Parent Representative Meeting

On Wednesday, the CPRs met. The meeting was well supported and positive. The PTA Chairman informed the meeting that the committee was losing their secretary Wendy Schoeman whom we wish well for the forthcoming birth. Also the Treasurer Radhan Cumaraswamy is leaving the country shortly and we will be saying our goodbyes at the next PTA meeting. The Chairman asked for replacements and he has asked that I remind all here. Volunteers do not necessarily have to come from the CPRs. If you would like to volunteer for any of these positions, please call the PTA Chairman Mr. Steve Harvey on 0772 779 419. Our teacher representatives have also been replenished. Heather McLeod, Lexie Sheller and Karen Middleton have volunteered to join myself and Helen Priestman on the PTA Committee.

Movement To The New Building

Now that I am in my second week back from focusing on recruitment, we will be consistently focusing on the movement to the new school. In which case, I will now begin to update you as aspects progress.

I should say that on Wednesday the very last question at the CPR meeting was, "who is moving to the new building and when". This was the first time any parent actually posed what is an important question. However, it pre-empted the information I had prepared in a memo to staff and this newsletter for you.

The simple answer is the Secondary are scheduled to move to the new building in August. We are also hoping to move Key Stage Two at the same time. In answer to further questions I informed the CPRs that if building was held back for circumstances beyond our control Key Stage Two would move as soon as possible. Also I informed the CPRs that from the Board there is no definite answer yet regarding Key Stage One or KG at present.

For your information, your CPRs expressed the view that they were wholly in favour of primary students moving: for two main reasons– access for primary students to the wonderful new facilities the secondary will have and, for those CPRs with students in both primary and secondary, the continued convenience of conveying all their children to one campus.

I would add that, from a teaching and administrative point of view, one campus is much the best option. Also, as my position carries with it an overriding responsibility for the physical safety of the students, the new campus is a boon.

More information on the new campus will be in next week. Nobody has brought any question or issues before today but I welcome enquiries and in particular I invite any interested parents who wish for a tour of the site to call the office and Rose will set up arrangements for any Saturday or Sunday morning tours of the site conducted by myself.

New Students

We have had an influx of new students particularly in secondary. I noticed on my return that this has affected the dynamics of secondary. My colleagues feel the same. However, I have experienced this with a surge in admissions before. In a couple of weeks, it will settle down once the new students are up to speed on our very clear expectations on commitment to studies and behaviour in class and with one another and all adults in school.

All new students will be advised in assemblies and by form tutors of all policies and expectations in this regard which will be consistently upheld by myself and my colleagues.

Welcome

We welcome Stacey Kelley, a new teacher who has come to take on the second Year 2 class for the remainder of the year. This year growing numbers in Primary have seen 3 classes reach maximum numbers and each one has been split into two. We now have two form (classes) entry up to Year 8.

Signing Out Primary Children /Safety

The CPR meeting brought the following to our attention. Secondary students were signing out siblings from supervision and taking them out to wait at the car park for long periods when some of them were playing innocent games which placed them in danger from club traffic. In future please be informed that only a parent or driver can 'sign out' a primary child in after school supervision.

Students Being Picked Up Late

A number of students are being picked up too late - One young student was left from 2.30p to 6pm this week. Neither parent called and neither parent answered calls and we still are trying to discover why. We had to call an employee back to school to take the student home. This is an exception of course, but staff is noting an increase in children being picked up late. It is not fair on our staff and it is not fair on the child either.

Every one can be 5, 10, 15 and even 20 minutes late depending on the traffic. However, traffic can be taken into account and it should not be happening regularly. Can those few parents who are fairly regularly sending a vehicle late please cooperate in making the end of day less boring for your children. Thank you.

Snacks At School

After a very healthy first term where students generally brought healthy snacks, we are now beginning to see some inappropriate snacks brought into the school especially in primary .It may be that new children who have not experienced 'Health Week' and our policy and teacher support for healthy eating and a balanced diet are not aware. It is the role of both parents and teachers to encourage healthy food choices at school and at home. Please remember to pack a healthy snack for your child to eat during break as chips and other 'junk food' will not be permitted and will help us to promote healthy eating. When a child is sent in with junk food / sweets etc it is not only that family's problem. It can affect other students who go home asking why they can't take in, say, chocolate when their friend can?

Sports News From Mr. Carberry and Ms. Jackson-Carroll

Congratulations to the Swim Squad for winning the annual Rainbow Swimming Gala held at Rainbow last week. With Aga Khan and ISU providing fierce competition KISU swimmers displayed determination, ability and good sportsmanship to take out their 7th Rainbow Gala out of the 8 years it has been held.

Due to the Rainbow and Aga Kha Galas occurring within a few weeks of each other we will not be organizing a team to compete in the Midlands Gala being held on the 8th of March. If any parents wish to organize a team Michael will gladly help out.

Football At Rainbow

Both the Under 14 and Under 16 girls' football played against Rainbow on Tuesday afternoon. The Under 16 girls, with majority of our players only being 13, lost to Rainbow 2-0. The under 14 girls, who were playing at the same time on the on adjoining pitch, beat Rainbow 2-0. The under14 girls have remained undefeated thus far in season. **Congratulations Girls!**

Football, Tomorrow

Another Under 14 girl's football match is to be held this Saturday (tomorrow) at Kabira against ISU from 9am – 10 am.

Secondary Inter House Basketball

This will held next **Friday, 7th March**. All Secondary students are to wear their house T-shirts. Boys and girls games will be played separately on the school's two basketball courts.

A Secondary Inter House Water Polo Competition

Is being arranged to be held during lunchtimes from the **10th March – 20th March**. Each lunch time, 2 teams will face each other in the pool for 15 minutes, with the gr. 7/8 final being played on Thursday 13th March and the 9th/10/11 final being played on the 20th March. Students not playing water polo are encouraged to cheer their team, poolside. More information regarding the Inter house water polo competition will be conveyed to the students in PE lesson time.

(Today Friday after school.) teachers' team versus the girls' basketball game will be played. Students are encouraged to come and cheer their teachers!

Apologies

Apologies to KG parents who will not receive a hard copy of this until Monday though as always it is on the website Saturday latest.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Graham Pheby', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Graham Pheby
Principal