

# King's Park Secondary School Information for Families and Friends



[www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk](http://www.kingspark-sec.glasgow.sch.uk)

June 2010

**Check out our website (News pages or Gallery pages)  
for stories and lots of photos about the following:**

## Dear Parent/Carer

Once again, this newsletter tells you about some of the achievements of our pupils, and these stories can be found on our school website.

We realise that not everyone has internet access, so if you would like more detail about any of these stories, please contact me and I will arrange for you to have printouts from the school website.

This newsletter also reminds everyone of our dress code. We strongly request the support of parents in making sure that pupils come to school dressed in full school uniform, fully equipped with pen, pencil, all equipment required, and of course homework completed on time.

At the end of another school year – the first session where we worked a 32+1 period week, with long days on Monday and Tuesday, and short days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday – I must record my very grateful thanks to our staff, our pupils, our parents, and all the other partners who work with us for the benefit of our children and young people.

Ms Janie Munro, the Chair of our Parent Council (and the Chair of our School Board before that) is leaving the Parent Council at the end of June. Janie's support for our school has been simply outstanding. I would like to record my warm personal thanks to Janie for her help. On behalf of the school, we wish her continued success in the future. On behalf of the Parent Council, Mrs Zoe Kean has written a wonderful tribute to Janie which you can read later in this newsletter.

Wishing all pupils, parents, staff and friends of the school a very happy summer.

Kind Regards

*MBarr*

Head Teacher



**King's Park Secondary is the only  
Glasgow secondary school to reach  
the finals of the Scottish Education  
Awards 2010**



**U16 Football Team win the  
Championship!**



**Determined to Succeed Awards**



**Giant African Land Snails**



**S3 Social and Vocational Skills  
are holding their Annual Summer Tea on**

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 10:30 am - 12 noon**

**Tea, Coffee & Cakes  
Fun & Games at our Kids' Corner  
Music from the King's Park Band  
Fabulous prizes in our Raffle.**



**All Free**



## Frequently Asked Questions Holidays During Term Time

Children should attend school every day of the session. Every day is important. Please help them not to miss any of this valuable time. We hope that the answers to your questions below will show that your child's education is too important to take holidays during term time.



### 1. Can I take my child on holiday during term time?

As a parent/carer, you can demonstrate your commitment to your child's education by, whenever possible, taking your holidays during school holidays.

### 2. Will the school let me take my child away during term time?

Guidelines from the Scottish Government indicate that a family holiday may only be authorised by the school if permission is sought from the school in advance, and the holiday is 'judged to be important to the well-being and cohesion of the family, following serious or terminal illness, bereavement or other traumatic causes'. The school will carefully consider parental requests, but the holiday will be authorised only in exceptional circumstances.

### 3. What happens if the school cannot authorise the absence?

If the school cannot authorise your request for leave of absence, your child's absence will be marked as "unauthorised" in the school register, in the same category as truancy.

### 4. Why shouldn't I take my child away during term time?

- It is important that children attend school regularly if they are to benefit from the learning opportunities provided.
- While the child is on holiday, the remainder of the class continue to be taught by the teacher, studying new topics and revising. Children who are absent from school due to a holiday in term time will miss out on important learning. They may never catch up. This will have an adverse impact on their progress and on their examination results.
- Teachers will not be able to provide work in advance, unless the holiday is authorised by the school. Teachers have a fixed amount of time to spend with pupils and try to use it wisely. They will always do their best to support pupils who have been absent through illness, or have been on an educational activity arranged with the approval of the school. Time spent in helping a child catch up after a holiday is time which is taken away from other pupils.

### 5. Who can I speak to about this?

Please contact Pastoral Care staff or senior staff if you wish to discuss this issue.





## ONLINE BARGAINS + RAISE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL!

If you make online purchases, you could join EASYFUNDRAISING.

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/kpss](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/kpss) has links with over 2,000 famous retailers.

Once you sign up, you will receive regular information about special offers, and every purchase you make raises funds for the school.

EXAMPLE: For every £10 you spend on , the school will receive 25p!

For every £10 you spend on , the school will receive 50p!

You just need to remember to go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk/kpss](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/kpss) first, then access your online store from there.

The school website tells you how to sign up.

## Farewell to Staff

Best wishes and thank you, to the following staff who leave us at the end of the session. Best wishes for the future.

Ms Janet Christie (Biology) and Mrs Anne Hampton (clerical assistant) are retiring.

Mrs Clare Harker (Employability Officer for King's Park Learning Community) is moving to Carolside Primary School as Depute Head Teacher – Congratulations!

*Ms Christie and Mrs Harker (along with Mr Gladman and Mr Lonie) have been instrumental in setting up the Sensory Garden project in King's Park (among other things, of course!) and will be sorely missed. Mrs Hampton has looked after pupils in the 'medical room' for many years, while also doing her other job. She is well-known for her kindness.*

Our many probationer teachers leave us in June, and we wish them well in their future careers.

Also, thank you to temporary staff who leave us.

## CALENDAR (also on school website)

Tue 8 Jun SQA examinations – last day.  
Tue 8 Jun School Sports Afternoon. (if very wet, postponed to 15 June)  
Wed 9 Jun New S5/6 return to school after SQA examinations  
Thu 10 Jun S3 Reports issued  
Thu 10 Jun Induction Day for new S5 pupils  
Fri 11 Jun Induction Day for new S6 pupils  
Mon 14 Jun Parent Council meeting  
Tue 15 Jun School Sports Afternoon (if postponed from 8 June)  
Tue 15 Jun S6 Prom  
Thu 17 Jun Junior Award Ceremony at 2 pm  
Thu 17 Jun Senior Award Ceremony at 7.30 pm  
Fri 18 Jun Summer Tea 10 am (SVS and Music pupils)  
Mon 21 Jun Reward Week  
Tue 22 Jun Golf competition  
Thu 24 Jun Trip to Alton Towers  
Fri 25 Jun School closes at 1 pm for the summer.

**Thu 12 Aug Inservice Day 1**

**Fri 13 Aug Inservice Day 2**

**Mon 16 Aug Pupils return to school.**

## DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

### Annual General Meeting of the Parent Forum

**Tuesday 14 September 2010 at 7 pm**

**More information soon!**



## A Reminder of our Dress Code – Black and White

Thank you to parents/carers for your support in making sure that pupils come to school wearing the following:



- a **white** shirt or blouse
- a **black** skirt or trousers (Smart black trousers cropped, eg **to the knee**, are accepted, but shorts are not acceptable. A very short skirt is not acceptable.)
- **black** school zipped sweatshirt (some on sale from the school office £10), or black cardigan, or v-neck jumper
- **school tie**. The tie must be clearly visible at all times. Ties are on sale (£5) from the school office
- **black** shoes



The following items are NOT acceptable:



- Clothing which is clearly unsuitable for a place of work, e.g. very short skirts, crop tops, leggings, shorts, very tight trousers, jeans, cargo pants, very brightly coloured and decorated shoes
- Jewellery and accessories which are unsuitable or constitute a health and safety hazard eg long pendant chains, large hooped earrings, heavy rings, diamante earrings, sequined or gold/silver belts, chains and studs.
- Heavy makeup and very bright or black nail varnish is also discouraged.
- Tracksuits, clothing made of flammable material
- Football colours
- Clothing promoting designer brands, drugs or alcohol.
- Pupils should remove all outdoor jackets in class, as well as anything not conforming to the guidelines for school uniform, eg bright colours, striped tops.



We do not endorse any particular shop for school uniform. However, please do not buy unsuitable clothing which is sold in some supermarkets, labelled as school uniform, eg very short black skirts, tight trousers, blouses which are unsuitable for a school tie, etc.

Some of the school skirts on sale in Marks and Spencer are of a suitable length.

Customer reviews are given online – [www.marksandspencer.com](http://www.marksandspencer.com), then Kids, then School Uniform.

They have a '3 for 2 + free delivery' offer until September. They also sell stylish blazers.



## Thank you Janie

As this term draws to a close, it remains to thank all those at the school who are moving on to new places, for everything they have brought to King's Park and to wish them all a very happy and successful future. As is often pointed out by visitors to the King's Park, there is strong sense of a caring community in the school and everyone plays a vital part in that.

There is however one person who deserves special thanks and recognition for her outstanding efforts and enthusiasm over a number of years, both as a parent and as chairperson of the Parent Council, and that person is Janie Munro.

Janie's four children Rachel, Jessica, Hannah and Euan have all been pupils at the school and characteristically, from the beginning, Janie threw herself into the life of the school, determined to make it as good an experience as possible, not only for them, but for all pupils at Kings Park.

Janie has always enjoyed getting involved and helping to make a real difference. I first met her in 1996 when she was chairperson of the local playgroup. She went on to be an excellent chairperson of Merrylee Primary School Board and then in 2005 shortly after joining the school board at K.P. she found herself being appointed chairperson once again.

Always keen to rise to a challenge, Janie brought with her a vast knowledge of education, her expert negotiating skills which she had honed as a union and staff rep at work and an infective warmth, humour and energy, all of which were put to good effect as she steered the transformation of the old School Board into the new Parent Council and Parent Forum.

The key to Janie's undoubted success has been her recognition of the importance of partnership between everyone involved in the school, the whole learning community and the wider community beyond. The importance of giving everyone a voice and finding ways to improve all aspects of the school environment has been implicit in everything she does. This has included organising special events like the 'Healthy Eating' evening, implementing information gathering evenings with pupils from all year groups to hear what they think and promoting close ties with all the primary schools in King's Park Learning Community, to name but a few.

In addition to the hours of work she puts into her role as chairperson of our Parent council, Janie has also contributed substantially to numerous other working groups, committees and seminars, concerned with raising educational standards across the city.

Last year she was invited to present a seminar at the City Chambers to a delegation from the Netherlands on promoting parental involvement and this year she was deservedly nominated as 'Educational Supporter of the Year' in the Scottish Education Awards.

Janie is one of those unique individuals who are an inspiration to others and King's Park has been lucky to benefit in countless ways from her unwavering commitment and genuine enthusiasm, for so many years. She will be stepping down as chairperson at the end of this term and it goes without saying that she will be sorely missed by everyone here at the school. We look forward to hearing about what she does next and wish her all the best for her next big challenge.

A HUGE thanks for everything, Janie, from all of us! Good Luck and keep in touch!

Zoe Kean.

# More from our school website



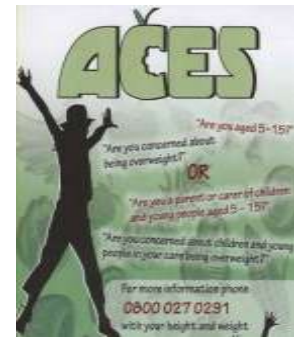
Plant Sale – another great success



Farewell to the Class of 2010



BBC's Question Time



Active Children Eating Smart



Mark Scott Leadership Foundation



Geography Trip to New Lanark



Moving Image Education



Royal Garden Party



Ambassador Leadership Programme

## Curriculum for Excellence

You can find out more about Curriculum for Excellence on [www.ltscotland.org.uk](http://www.ltscotland.org.uk). Or follow the Curriculum for Excellence link on the front page of our school website.

- ✓ The new Scottish curriculum will provide a coherent educational experience for all pupils from age 3 until age 18 (instead of 5-14, Standard Grade etc).
  - ✓ It will include activities which were once called 'extra-curricular', eg clubs, sports teams, excursions, and skills developed in the community, scouts, guides etc.
  - ✓ Our aim is that the new curriculum will have challenge and enjoyment, breadth, progression, depth, personalisation and choice, coherence and relevance.
- ✓ Learning will be more interactive, with clearer links between one subject and another.
  - ✓ The pupils who join S1 in August next session will be the first pupils to be awarded the Scottish Certificate in Literacy, and the Scottish Certificate in Numeracy at the end of S3.
  - ✓ From S4 onwards, they will also sit National 4, National 5, Higher and possibly Advanced Higher courses.
  - ✓ The new curriculum is not only about qualifications. It aims to help young people to become
    - Successful learners
    - Confident individuals
    - Responsible citizens, and
    - Effective contributors