



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day

Caring Acceptance Responsibility Excellence Support & teamwork

Newsletter No 11

2 May 2013

TERM CALENDAR

Wed 8 May	Mothers Day Stall
May 14-16	NAPLAN testing – yrs 3 & 5
May 20 - 25	Education Week
May 22	Open Afternoon

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

NEW INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY EQUIPMENT AT KILLARA!



Our newly leased IT equipment is now in full use!

Class sets of tablets and netbooks are now available in each of the teaching teams (except 5/6, where we have our 1:1 program)

Students have been very excited to have access to

the new equipment and have shown high levels of engagement when using them. In particular, our younger students have welcomed the introduction of the tablets.

We are investigating the best “apps” to install on the tablets and, as such, some good exploration is occurring.

Here we see some of our preps enjoying their first go at using tablets:



The equipment is set up in such a way as to allow all classes to have at least one session where all members of the class have access to a device. The equipment is then divided for other times during the week, so that small group-work can occur in every classroom (6 devices per class). Classrooms also continue to have their set of four desktop computers to utilise.

In the meantime, we are focussing on how we can best “transform” learning activities so that technology

enables learning tasks that are innovative and allow students to learn in ways previously not possible.

CAMP HOWQUA

134 year 5/6 students are currently at Camp Howqua, having a wonderful time. Reports indicate that all finally settled on the first night by about midnight. Campers were greeted by a very frosty start to day 2, but a beautiful sunny day. The activities are being enjoyed and participation is high and active!

Many thanks to the group of staff and parents who have attended the camp, for enabling our students to have this wonderful experience.

The campers will return by 4:30pm tomorrow, as parents were notified. Please do not ring the office during the afternoon to ask for the return time, as this will not be known until the buses are in the vicinity, and the time is unlikely to be much different to the expected time. When arriving for pickup, please do not park in the bays on Phillip Drive where the buses will pull in.

CHEWING GUM

Please remind children that they are not to bring chewing gum onto school property. Recently, it has been noticeable that there has been an increase in the number of unsightly “black blobs” on our concrete. We would like to try to keep our school spic and span! Should gum be brought to school we will have no choice but to confiscate it.

NAPLAN

NAPLAN testing is in the news again. Please remember that it is a point in time measurement of progress and only one piece of information in the assessment jigsaw.

Students are being prepared for the tests, by being familiarised with the format and provided with some simple strategies to assist when solving the problems posed in the test, including asking for help when they need it (teachers are able to read questions to students in the Mathematics component), making sure they read the whole question and all the answer choices, eliminating obviously wrong answers, circling key words, skimming text for answers and checking answers at the end.

All students have also had experience at writing Persuasive Texts, which will be the task for the Writing component.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted May 14 – 16. All year 3 and 5 students participate, unless parents formally request that their child does not participate or an exemption is granted.

TEACHING CHILDREN BETTER FRIENDSHIP SKILLS (from the Kidsmatter eNewsletter)

Are you worried that your child is having trouble making friends? Perhaps he or she walks out of the

school gate alone each day or talks of trouble finding other children to play with at lunchtime.

It's important to remember that like so many aspects of your child's development, friendship is a learned skill. Just like learning to play the piano or ride a bike, practice helps children learn how to interact with other children and make friends.

The long-term benefits of friendship are many. Through friendships, children learn to relate to others and foster a sense of belonging to a group – skills that will continue to serve them into adulthood. Plus, children with friends are more self-confident and perform better academically at school than those without friends.

But friendships are not always easy. Your child may find it difficult to share their favourite toy or listen to another child's instructions during a game in the playground. Children who are bossy, aggressive or unable to say sorry can be difficult to get along with.

The good news is that there's a lot parents and carers can do to help children make friends. You are one of the most powerful influences in your child's life, so make the most of it, and remember that children are learning social skills through their relationship with you and from watching how you relate to other people.

You can also promote positive social skills:

- Teach your child to smile and say thank-you when another child lends them a toy
- Plan a fun game for when your child invites a friend over for a play date
- Talk to your child about their friends and any problems they might be having – this helps children feel supported and encourages resilience

**Best Wishes,
Phil, Andrew and Marie**

CURRENT NEWS

PFA MOTHERS DAY STALL

Our Mother's Day stall will be held next Wednesday 8 May and all students will have an opportunity to purchase some lovely gifts for their mums. Gifts range in price from \$1 - \$10.

Thank you to all our families who have provided donations for our stall. Your generosity is much appreciated.

EDUCATION WEEK

Education Week is soon approaching. This takes place from the 20 - 25 May. This is an opportunity for us to showcase and celebrate the many wonderful things our students, teachers and support staff do at Killara.

We have many exciting activities happening during this week. There will be a whole school favourite book task, teachers swapping classes, an "Open Afternoon" for visitors, lunchtime activities and for the first time a whole school writing task.

Our open afternoon will take place from 2.30-4.00 on Wednesday, 22 May. You are welcome to join your child's class and be part of their learning. We hope you can join us.

Thank you, Mandy Marks-White

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

Killara's Environmental Sustainability Committee has been working really hard in the last 6 months and by May 10 we should be accredited for the waste module of our sustainability certification. The Committee has put some new initiatives in place to help reduce the litter created within the school and to help reduce the costs associated with removing it.

Every classroom in Killara now has containers to collect paper, as well as soft and hard plastic for recycling, a small white tub for food scraps for composting, and a small rubbish bin for any other waste that may be left. These containers are consistent throughout the school to make it easy for our waste management program to be followed.

The committee has also put in place a new recycle station outside the canteen that is run by students. They collect recyclable hard plastic as well as soft plastics that are not acceptable council kerb collection. Soft plastics (plastic bags, glad wrap etc.) are sent off to the RED Group who arranges for them to be made into playground equipment, bollards, outdoor furniture etc. When students deposit any of these items in the bins they receive a Good Citizen ticket to go into the draw for a prize for their efforts at each Monday's assembly.

Starting next week there will also be an award for nude food lunches. Students with wrapper free lunches will get points for their class. At the end of the week the points will be tallied and the class with the most points in each year level will receive a certificate and trophy for that week. This initiative was brought about from a suggestion made by a student. We hope that this will help the students make better choices for health and to help them to reduce the amount of waste being brought into the school.

Lastly, the Environmental Sustainability Committee would like to extend an invitation for new ideas to further develop and strengthen our waste management system here at Killara. If you have any ideas or would like to meet with the committee to discuss future action please speak with Kelli Brogan, Karen Francis or Sarah Round.

OH NO! IT'S AN OVERDUE LIBRARY BOOK NOTICE!

Do not panic. It will be alright. Even if your child is *sure* they have never seen this book before in their entire life, it may be lurking under the bed, in their own bookcase, or under the couch cushions. Please help them have a good look that involves lifting things up and looking underneath them. ☺ Even if they are *certain* they returned it to the library, please help them to have a look. On occasion it does turn out to be true that our library program beeped but did not register the return, but this is far rarer than claimed. Sometimes children return books straight to the shelves, without them being checked in on the computer. One day they will invent a door scanner that borrows and returns as you walk in and out of the library. Thanking you in anticipation of your happy hunting.

Deb Shepherd - Killara Teacher/Librarian

KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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