FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

HOAX PHONE CALLS TO SCHOOLS
We are offering our reassurance, in light of the recent hoax threatening phone calls to Victorian schools in the last few days.

Our school has not received such a call but I wanted to inform you that, like all schools, we have an emergency management plan in place for situations like this, and we practise it throughout the year.

Those schools which did receive a threatening call enacted their emergency management plans and they worked well.

The safety and wellbeing of our students is always our top priority.

MEET THE TEACHER
The “Meet the Teacher” discussions will be conducted on Tuesday 16th February. This is an opportunity to establish a strong home/school partnership. We will again be using an online booking system. Further details were sent home earlier this week.

Please inform the classroom teacher of any issues relevant to your child and take the time to complete the student information sheet and return prior to the day.

Bookings will be made on: www.schoolinterviews.com.au
and just follow the instructions. You will need to enter the school event code which is: VBQ5S

TRAFFIC COURTESY
As mentioned last week, our school is large and there is not sufficient parking for everyone to park in the immediate vicinity.

It is of utmost importance that students are kept safe and that people adopt a patient, courteous and appropriate approach.

Please observe and respond to signage. The front of the school in Phillip Drive is a two minute zone in the morning and fifteen minutes in the afternoon.

Disputes about parking, road violations and inappropriate actions need to be dealt with by the relevant authorities. The personnel of the school do not have authority or jurisdiction over the roads and road rules and are not in a position to resolve disputes.

Under no circumstances are parents to use the staff car parks for drop off or pick up, unless permission has been sought for disability reasons.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
The School Council elections for 2016 are now formally announced. School Councillors are elected for a 2 year term, with half of the Council retiring each year.

This year we have 3 (three) parent vacancies and 2 (two) DET (Department of Education and Training) vacancies.

Nominations are now called for and forms can be picked up from the office. For more information, please refer to the “information for parents” sheet, attached to this newsletter.

Nominations must be made by the close of business on Thursday February 11.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
The school does not have any accident insurance for students and, as such, parents/guardians are reminded that they are responsible for paying the cost of any medical treatment for students injured at school or whilst on school activities, including any transport costs.

Reasonably low cost student accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

STUDENT ALLERGIES
Please be aware that within our school we have students with severe, and in some cases life threatening allergies to: NUTS, EGGS, SESAME SEEDS, WHEAT, and ANIMAL FUR / HAIR.

Some children suffer life threatening reactions if near a child eating the trigger item or if they are touched by someone who has only handled that item!

Birthday celebrations are always exciting, but for health reasons, if you intend to send along a class celebration item please do not send food. Perhaps you might consider sending ‘party favours’ such as balloons, whistle blowers etc.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

COMPASS IS COMING
Very soon we will be issuing families with their login for Compass. Compass is an online management and communication system that allows us to keep you informed of your child’s progress, as well as communicate with you about learning related issues. It also allows us, as a school, to maintain information in a central system.

The introduction of Compass will, in particular, allow us to report progress to you on a regular basis, with
teachers providing information relating to the learning programs and cycles being undertaken. This will strengthen our reporting to parents process, as you will receive “on time” information, rather than having to wait until the end of a semester. When you receive your login, we encourage you to begin making use of Compass. We will issue notices when key information is posted – especially reporting information.

CSEF
The Camps, Sport and Excursion Fund is available for all families on Health Care Cards – please see the notice below.

2016 STAFF
Our apologies for some inaccuracies with the staff list last week. This was an oversight in the proof reading process.

Executive Team
Phil Clinkaberry (Principal)
Pete Hansen (Assistant Principal)
A second Assistant Principal will be appointed to start in term 2

Administration
Deb Wilson (Business Manager)
Andrea Heales
Angela Weaver

Prep Team
Michelle Douglas (team leader) Office opposite Art rm
Jessica Cox Room 1
Bec Armistead Room 2
Dianne David Room 3
Alex Chettle Room 4

1/2 Team
Deb Shepherd Room 17
Cynthia Marchment Room 18
Susan Moloney Room 19
Sam Burnett Room 20
Jade Batey Room 23
Madelaine Psarianos Room 24
Kellie Eastaughiffe Room 25
Sarah Round Room 26
Carol Ellis Yrs 1-2 Support

3/4 Team
Kathryn Pollock (team leader) Office, 3/4 building
Katelyn Fraser Room 12
Lauren McShanag Room 13
Rachel Withers Room 14
Rebecca Gerber Room 15
Sarah Barclay Room 16
Julie Stanley Room 21
Robyn Smith Room 22

5/6 Team
Emma Heywood (team leader) Office opposite Art rm
Alex Lazzaro Room 5
Chris Weendon Room 6
Nancy Smith Room 7
John Boland Room 8
Karen Francis Room 9
Sarah Fry Room 10
Melissa Bowker Yrs 3-6 support

Specialist Team
Andrew Pizaro PE
Marie Ryan Art
Julie Macdonald Art
Kelli Brogan (team leader) Performing Arts
Emily Farrell Auslan Language
Heather Huke Library management

Integration Support Team
Carolyn James Christian Quilinderino
Hannah Haarhoff Canteen
Lineen Milam Andrea Farrugia
Kathleen Patman

Best wishes,
Phil and Pete

CURRENT NEWS

Sunbury Schools Swimming Carnival
Students that qualified for the school team will be competing in the Swimming sports on Wednesday 17 February at the Sunbury Aquatic Centre. The event is a twilight event commencing at 4:30pm. The first event will be breaststroke. The night runs until 7:30. Teachers from Killara will be attending to assist with the team and students will be presented with their own swim cap at assembly on Monday 15 February. The team will be positioned on the grass area alongside the swimming clubrooms on the night. Those students that place first in age group based on times from the heats will be provided with information about the Zone Finals. Students were notified of which events they qualified for at the end of last year and will be provided with this info again today.

QKR REGISTRATION
Please ensure your children are registered with the correct year level, home group and room number – so that lunch orders and payments are processed correctly.

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COMMONWEALTH BANK SCHOOL BANKING DAY REMINDER:
✔ Remember School Banking is every Tuesday
✔ You can bank as much as you like every week.

NEWSLETTER DISTRIBUTION
Our newsletter is distributed every Thursday. For those families with internet access you can access the newsletter electronically via our school website www.killaratps.vic.edu.au. Those on Tiqbiz will automatically receive the newsletter each week.

You can register on the website to receive an email advising when the latest newsletter is available for viewing. We encourage families to use this option where possible to reduce our paper usage at school. All other families will receive a paper copy which will be sent home with the eldest child.

PAYMENTS DUE
2016 Book Pack: Overdue
Term 1 2016 Netbook: due now
Year 5/6 Camp: 2 March
Year 3/4 Cultural Incursion: 12 February
CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
Children residing more than 4.8kms from their nearest government school may be eligible for a conveyance allowance. Those families who received conveyance allowance in 2015 and are still eligible will automatically qualify in 2016 and do not need to reapply. Any other families seeking conveyance allowance support in 2016 will need to complete an application form, which is available from the office. The completed application form needs to be returned to school by Monday 29 February 2016. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

CAMPS, EXCURSIONS AND SPORTS FUND
All eligible families are reminded to apply for this funding, as previously explained. If you have a Health Care Card or Pension Card, you may be eligible to receive government assistance.

By applying for this funding, if eligible, the school will receive $125 to be used for your child’s excursions, camps and sporting activities. This amount will be held against each eligible child’s name and utilised accordingly.

Applications MUST be finalised by 29 February 2016. Forms were can be picked up from the office if needed.

SECOND HAND UNIFORM SALE
There will be a second hand uniform sale on Monday 8 February at 9.30 – 10.00am (after assembly). It will be held in the conference room. All items will be $1.00 each.

SENSITIVE CHILDREN - MICHAEL GROSE
Do you have a sensitive child?
You know, a child who takes everything you or others say to heart; a child who has a thin skin and worries too much, particularly about things out of their control.

Sensitive kids worry about what others think of them. They often sense danger well before others and they see the consequences of behaviours well before their peers.

Sensitive kids are like mood detectives with their antennae up trying to detect subtle changes in the moods of those around them. In some ways this is healthy as emotionally intelligent people are tuned into the behaviours and feelings of others. Sensitive kids generally have high emotional intelligence quotients.

If you have a sensitive child you need to see and appreciate both their sides. The side we most often see is the shy, inhibited, fearful worrier. The flipside is that sensitive kids generally have kind hearts; are empathetic, intuitive and usually possess a creative streak. These are wonderful attributes to have.

Recent research into the area of children’s sensitivity revealed that around 40% of sensitive kids experience some form of real anxiety.

The secret to the 60% of kids who DON’T experience anxiety are certain ‘protective’ factors. The top of this list is parenting style. Sensitive kids benefit from having an optimistic, resilient parent who supports them but doesn’t allow them to take themselves too seriously. It also helps if parents can encourage their child to take risks socially and applaud their social successes, no matter how minor. Parents need to show their child how to recognise their own emotional state and in doing so better manage their emotions so they can live happy, more productive lives.

It is good if parents are supportive; even better if a parent is resilient so that the sensitive child sees how to cope with some of life’s hurts, rejections and disappointments. In fact, sensitive kids are less likely to develop anxiety if at least one parent is of the ‘thick-skinned’, positive, even jovial type. This reinforces that the world really is a great place and not full of uncertainty and danger.

When sensitive kids are raised in a balanced way with proper understanding and encouragement, they are well-placed to grow up to be happy, healthy, unusually well-adjusted and creative adult.

COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL CROSSING SUPERVISOR
Do you enjoy meeting people and helping your community? Can you work locally for a few hours a week? Be a school crossing supervisor!!! Make sure our children get to school safely each day. Call Jess 9325 3200 (Uniform and training provided)

BLUelight DISCO
Friday 19 February, Sunbury Memorial Hall Cnr Barkly and Macedon St, Sunbury 6-8pm Primary age, cost $7.

kills PRIMARY SCHOOL
Phone: 9744 6432 Fax: 9744 4956
website www.killaraps.vic.edu.au