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.

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.

HOME READING
All classes should now be starting Home Reading programs. Regular reading is essential for strong literacy development and growth. Please take the time to read with your child every day. Out loud reading improves fluency and comprehension. Consider reading to your child too – this role models fluent and expressive reading and promotes an interest in literature.

FIRST ASSEMBLY
Our first whole school assembly for the year will be next Monday February 10. Parents are most welcome to attend.

MEET THE TEACHER
The “Meet the Teacher” discussions will be conducted on Wednesday 19th February. This is an opportunity to establish a strong home/school partnership. We will again be using an online booking system. Further details have been sent home today.

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

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: HZL26

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.
ME AS A LEARNER
The foundations for effective learning are built into the early weeks of school. It is during this time that we:

- Build relationships
- Build community
- Get to know each other
- Spell out expectations
- Establish predictable routines, structures and procedures
- Develop protocols for learning behaviours

We establish these routines so children feel safe, cared for, respected, accepted & valued in an orderly co-operative, stimulating, learning environment that challenges their curiosity to think, communicate, create, collaborate and learn.

At Killara, we support and encourage each child’s emotional, physical, social and cognitive/academic needs in a learning community that models life-long learning. We understand that successful learners develop their capacity to learn by playing an active role in their own learning, through working in teams and by communicating their ideas and understanding effectively.

“Me as a Learner” is a whole school focus for the first six weeks of the year which promotes learner voice and develops students’ understanding of how they learn, the elements that effect their learning and how they learn best with others. This provides important and effective opportunities for learning. Our students are focused on answering the big questions of “Me as a Learner”:

- What is Learning?
- How do I learn best?
- How can we learn best together?

On the following pages you will find comments from our students on what they have learnt so far and what they believe about learning. You’ll also find further comments and photos on our website on the “Teaching and Learning” page.

PARENT HELPERS
All new parents intending to assist in classrooms will need to attend a Parent Helper Program session before they begin working in classrooms. This program initially addresses issues of protocols and confidentiality and then looks at Literacy and Numeracy assistance.

There will be two sessions offered on Wednesday 5th March. Session 1 will be from 9 - 10:40am and session 2 from 6:30-8:00pm. You need to attend one or the other.

Please note all parents assisting with any school activities/programs are required to have a Working With Children check. Application forms are available from any Post Office.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
The School Council elections for 2014 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 parent vacancies and 2 DEECD 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 13.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE
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 accident insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

Best wishes,
Phil, Marie and Andrew

CURRENT NEWS

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE (EMA):
The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.
If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.
The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as: uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:
- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 6.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.
Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.
For more information about the EMA, visit http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/financial/Pages/default.aspx

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 2013 and are still eligible will automatically qualify in 2014 and do not need to reapply.
Any other families seeking conveyance allowance support in 2014 will need to complete an application form, which is available from the office. The completed application form needs to be returned to school by Thursday 6 March 2014. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.
COMMONWEALTH BANK SCHOOL BANKING DAY REMINDER:
☐ Remember School Banking is every Tuesday
☐ You can bank as much as you like every week,

2014 reward items include:
- Handball
- Scented Pencils
- Penguin and Dolphin Keyrings
- Whale Shark Pencil Case
- Tin Moneybox
- Swimming Bag
- Projector Cup
- Sea Streamers

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.killaraps.vic.edu.au
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.

Year 5/6 A
WHAT IS LEARNING?
Learning is getting to know new things and trying new things. We don’t know new things if we don’t understand them, so that is why we ask questions. Questions help us figure out the correct answer. Instead of asking questions, you can also use strategies. Strategies are like addition, if you put one strategy with another you get an answer. You can also work together to help us because other people might know. 1 strategy + 1 strategy = correct answer.

Josh S
I think Learning is:
- Asking for help when you need it
- Helping us to know what to do
- Helping each other
- Working together
- Knowing when you make mistakes
- Thinking for yourself

Bridget C
Learning is information that has been processed into knowledge. It is also about working as a team. Remember there’s no ‘I’ in team. It also involves strategies you don’t just think, you’ve got to put some thought into it. A very important part is asking questions. When the apple dropped on Issac Newton’s head did he say “Oi tree, stop dropping apples on me”? No! He said “What made the apple fall?” and thus the basic thought of gravity was invented. Another point is trying new things out, you’re never going to learn if you don’t try things out. That is what I think learning is about.

Luke T
Learning is trying, experiencing and learning new things, but relearning and revising old things count as learning as well. Learning is also about working together, using strategies and asking questions to help you improve in your own learning.

To help with our own learning, we use dictionaries, thesauruses, teachers, friends, your learning group, the internet, other books and our diaries.

Tahlia W

Guess What I Found Out! 5/6D
What is something you have discovered about how you learn best?
I have found that I like working by myself because it’s quiet and it lets me think.

Coby
I learn best when I’m in groups when I can choose who I’m working with because it makes me comfortable to share my ideas and that’s a great way to learn new things.

Joel
When there are not many distractions but there’s some gentle music playing because it helps me concentrate.

Nyah
Why has it been important to you to think about how we can learn best together?
So that we can share ideas and learn what other people think and that helps me when I’m confused. – Nina

So we can share ideas and help others be successful because altogether as a group we know more than one person by themselves.

Thomas E
Because we can communicate with each other and share ideas and we can help each other when we’re stuck. Everyone has different strengths and weaknesses and we need to make sure they feel comfortable.

Isaac
What has been your favourite part of the “Me as a Learner” unit so far?
I like being able to share about myself and getting to know other people.

Brock
I like feeling safe and comfortable with my new class because now I can’t wait to come to school!

Emily
I like learning how people want to be treated so they feel safe and comfortable in the class because it means we can learn together and take risks without feeling embarrassed.

Molly
Year 3/4A
“I learn best after I’ve had brain food”

“I can share and reflect on my learning in the Community Circle”

“My feelings can determine my learning”

“I learn best when I am organised”
Dear Parents

Meet the Teacher will be held on Wednesday February 19th. You can now book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST.

Go to www.schoolinterviews.com.au/code and follow the simple instructions.

BOOKINGS OPEN TOMORROW Friday 7th February at 3:45pm

BOOKINGS CLOSE Friday 14th February at 1:00pm

When you click finish, your interview timetable will be emailed to you automatically - check your junk mail folder if you do not receive your email immediately.

You can return to www.schoolinterviews.com.au at any time, and change your interviews - until bookings close.

BOOKINGS OPEN TOMORROW FRIDAY 7TH FEBRUARY AT 3:45PM

For parents that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, you may send a note to school with the approximate times you require, or phone the school on 9744 6432 and the Office Staff will assist with this process. Interviews are strictly 10 minutes and spaces are limited. You are able to book a time with your child’s classroom teacher and, if you wish, with the Specialist teachers.

Parents can change their interview bookings, any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the www.schoolinterviews.com.au website, and using the event code. Parents wishing to change their interview times after the closing date, should contact the school directly on: 9744 6432

We hope you find the Meet the Teacher session a valuable experience in establishing a strong home/school partnership.

Andrew Guthrie (Assistant Principal)