



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day

Caring Acceptance Responsibility Excellence Support & teamwork

Newsletter No 34

7 November 2013

TERM CALENDAR

| | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 10 Nov | School Working Bee |
| 13 Nov | Prep Cultural Incursion |
| 20 Nov | 2014 Preps Information Night |
| 27 Nov | 2014 Prep Orientation Session 1 |
| 4 Dec | 2014 Prep Orientation Session 2 |
| 10 Dec | 2014 Prep Orientation Session 3 |
| 11 Dec | End of year School Picnic & Disco |
| 18 Dec | Year 6 Graduation |
| 20 Dec | Last day of Term 4 |
| 30 Jan 2014 | 1st DAY TERM 1 2014 |

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

WORKING BEE



This Sunday November 10
10am – 2pm



Can you spare an hour or two??

Tasks include:

- Tidying and mulching garden beds on Phillip Drive
- Attaching plinth boards to new fences (Tradies welcome!)
- Designating garden areas with sleepers
- Spreading soft fall on playgrounds
- Other general tidying

Tools needed – cordless drills, wheelbarrows, shovels, garden hoes and other garden tools

Please return the blue form (sent previously) by tomorrow if you are going to help

Please come along – even if you can only spare an hour!

CLASS PLANNING 2014

Over the next few weeks we will commence planning of our class structures for 2014. The establishment of class lists is an extremely complex matter, which involves a lengthy process of deliberation. Our aim is to establish class groups that take into account the needs of all children.

If there is information that we may not be aware of that may affect your child's class placement next year please put the details in writing and forward to Phil, via the office, **by Friday November 15.**

Please remember that this is not a teacher selection process, but an opportunity to provide genuine information which may assist with your children's social and academic grouping to ensure that their needs are met. **Requests for particular teachers will not be considered.**

It is also important to note that it is not always possible to satisfy every request. As such, needs are treated in priority order.

2014 PLANNING

It is very important for us that we now finalise, as much as possible, our enrolment status for 2014. Most parents with new preps have enrolled now, but we are aware of a few more that are yet to complete the process. With the orientation program fast approaching, we hope to have prep enrolments fully finalised as soon as possible.

In the same vein, we would be very appreciative if any families that are leaving us at the end of the year due to relocation, or for other reasons, could let us know over the coming few weeks.

Killara is now a very large organisation, with enrolments once again likely to be over 600 next year. This means that the task of organising, structuring and staffing the school is a very complex one, requiring much deliberation, thought and consultation. The first task for us is some determination of (reasonably) accurate enrolment numbers for next year.

PREP ORIENTATION

Many thanks to our wonderful Prep team and our Year 5 students and teachers, for their organisation and preparation of the Prep Orientation Program!

Visits to a local kindergarten have begun by Year 5 students and teachers, with reciprocal visits by kindergarten groups to Killara. This is part of our Transition process to assist with familiarisation, and to identify individual needs. The Year 5 students will become the Year 6 "Buddies" in 2014.

A Parent Information evening, especially designed for parents enrolling preps at Killara for the first time, will be held on Wednesday November 20, at 7:00pm.

Our Prep students for 2014 then have 3 visits prior to the end of the year – giving them their first insights into school and helping them to be ready and settled at the start of next year. These sessions will be held on November 27, December 4 and December 10.

2014 START OF YEAR

School Council will be approving the Curriculum Days for next year at its November meeting. To assist with prior planning, the first two days of the school year will be Curriculum Days (pupil free), resulting in a start date for students of Thursday January 30.

Further Curriculum Days will be announced soon, but are likely to be attached to long weekends such as Labour Day, ANZAC Day and/or Queens birthday.

Year 5/6 1:1 NETBOOK PROGRAM 2013

Killara's 1:1 Netbook Program has now been running successfully since March 2012. After initial teething problems, as with any initiative, the students in the Year 5/6 classrooms are engaged and continue to demonstrate developing independence in extending their learning beyond the classroom.

The Netbook Program was a result of a strongly supported vision across our school community as part of the School Strategic Plan to 'develop best practice in ICT and ensure that ICT becomes an integral part of teaching and learning with students developing 21st Century skills'.

The Killara 1:1 Netbook Program gives our students unique and powerful access to 21st Century learning opportunities. We believe that the 1:1 program provides every student with an 'anywhere, any-time' tool for learning. This enables opportunities to be built into their day to day learning which nurture individual learning experiences to develop and strengthen their skills and understandings in relation to effective use of technology.

We have supported the implementation of this vision by developing effective technical infrastructure and technical support, by focussing on developing student-centred teaching practices and by structuring professional development for staff.

Teachers and some parents have noted a number of student benefits since the implementation of the 1:1 program has commenced including:

- increased skills in accessing and using information as a tool for learning
- increased engagement in learning
- increased ability to verbalise and demonstrate the knowledge they create
- increased flexibility to cater to different learning styles
- increased use of visual literacy
- more effective communication and collaboration between students about their learning
- the ability to be able to present information in various formats
- increased focus on student-centred approaches to learning

Year 4 parents will be sent an invitation to a Parent Information session in the next few weeks to outline details of the 1:1 Netbook Program for their child as they transition to Year 5 next year.

The Netbooks are owned by the school which in turn enables access to extensive school and DEECD software. Parents commit to renting the Netbooks from the school at a reasonable cost of around \$5.00 per week (subsidized by the School Council). Rental fees for 2013 have been set at an average of \$50.00 per term for home and school access to the Netbooks and we envisage this cost being similar next year.

Please watch out for further information in coming weeks.

BUILDING RESILIENCE

As a school we aim to develop the independence and resilience of our students by providing them with

opportunities and strategies to problem solve, bounce back from adversity and undertake tasks that challenge and develop higher order thinking.

Michael Grose has prepared an article titled "Resiliency Robbers", providing tips for parents on how to develop independence and resilience in children, by presenting the parenting behaviours that can "rob" children of their resilience.

Please find the article attached.

NO DOGS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY

A reminder to all members of the school community that dogs are not to be brought onto the school property for safety reasons.

Best wishes,
Phil, Marie & Andrew

CURRENT NEWS

STUDENT ABSENCES

A new feature of our school website is the ability to submit student absence notes online. No longer do you have to hand write or send a note to school with your child! This feature is available from the school website and can be used through a computer, iPad or smartphone. Simply click on the 'Student Absence' button, fill out the form and it will be sent straight to the school. You will also receive a copy in your email inbox. www.killaraps.vic.edu.au

BOOK FAIR

Book Fair finishes on Friday morning – that's TOMORROW! Thanks to all who have come in and shopped – 35% of sales go towards new books for our library.

COMMUNITY NEWS

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

BULK ITEM RECYCLING DAY - FREE
NOVEMBER 16
SUNBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE,
Elizabeth Drive.
Mattresses, clothing, whitegoods, TVs,
computers, printers, DVDs, speakers etc

COMPLETE KIDS OUTSIDE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Have you heard? At our outside hours care program, children are involved in music, art, sport, relaxation, technology, role play and many more fun activities. To book your place for 2014 Before or After School Care on 9740 2111

TWILIGHT MARKET

Lots of great stalls, sausage sizzle & plenty of fun for all. Friday 8th November 5.00 – 8.30pm

Sunbury & Macedon Ranges Specialist
SchoolCircular Drive, Jacksons Hill Sunbury.

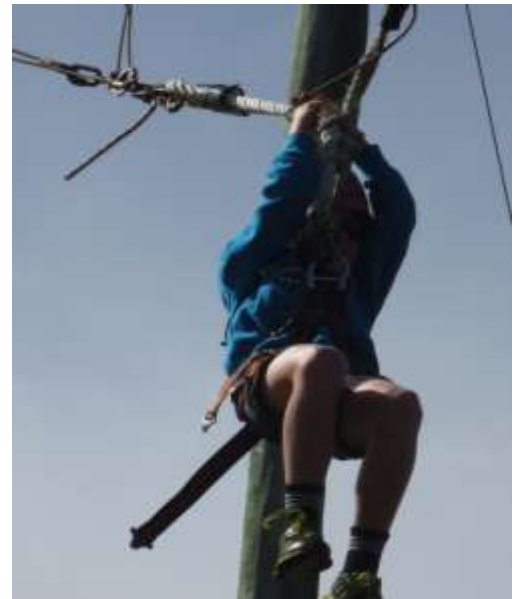
3/4 CAMP PHILLIP ISLAND 2013

My favourite part was doing canoeing because it was a new thing. I didn't like it when we had to do raft making because it was cold.
Alannah Y



At Phillip Island the grade 3/4's went to the Phillip Island Adventure resort. We stayed there for 3 days and 2 nights. We went on the giant swing, flying fox, team rescue, photo hunt, initiation course, archery, raft building, canoeing and a beach walk. Most of us slept on the bus on the way home.
Cameron M

I thought it was really cool, my favourite part was the giant swing, flying fox, sleeping and eating. My least favourite part was when I was doing raft making and it hailed. We did Red faces and Ryan got four tens. It was awesome.
Jayden O



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INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose – No. 1 parenting educator



Resiliency Robbers

All parents have the best of intentions when raising kids. Wanting what is best for kids can cause parents to make decisions that are not always in their (children's) long-term best interests

If you buy the line that the promotion of resilience is in the best interests of kids then check out the following common parenting mistakes that reduce children's resilience.

Robber # 1:

Fight all their battles for them

Nothing wrong with going into bat when kids struggle or meet with difficulty inside or outside school but make sure this is the last resort, not the first option.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 1:** Give kids the opportunity to develop their own resourcefulness.

Robber # 2:

Make their problem, your problem

Sometimes parents can take too much responsibility for issues that are really up to children to work out or decide. Here's a clue if you are wondering what I am talking about: a jumper is something a mother puts on her son when she is cold!

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 2:** Make their problem, their problem.

Robber # 3:

Give kids too much voice

In this era of giving children a voice it is easy to go overboard and allow them too much of a say in what happens to them. Kids often take the easy option to avoid hard or unpleasant situations.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 3:** Make decisions for kids and expect them to adjust and cope.

Robber # 4:

Put unrealistic or relentless pressure on kids to perform

Expectations about success and achievement are important. Too low and kids will meet them. Too high and kids can give up. Too much and kids can experience anxiety.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 4:** Keep expectations in line with children's abilities and don't put excessive pressure on them.

Robber # 5:

Let kids give in too easily

Resilient learners link success with effort. They don't give up because they don't like a teacher or when confronted with multi-step or more complex activities. Similarly they don't bail out of a sporting term half way through the season because the team is not winning or they are not enjoying it.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 5:** Encourage kids to complete what they have started even if the results aren't perfect.



Robber # 6:

Neglect to develop independence

Don't wait until they are teenagers to develop the skills of independent living. Start early and promote a broad skill set so that they can look after themselves if you are not around.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 6:** Don't routinely do for kids what they can do for themselves.

Robber # 7:

Rescue kids from challenging or stretch situations

There are many times kids are put in situations that are outside their comfort zones for a time. For instance, giving a talk, singing at the school concert or going on school camp may be challenges for some kids. They are all situations that kids usually cope with so show your confidence in them and skill them up rather than opt for avoidance.

- ▶ **Resilience notion # 7:** Overcoming challenges enables kids to grow and improve.

Sometimes the manageable hardships that children experience such as a friend moving away, not being invited to a party or completing a difficult school project are fabulous learning opportunities.

They help kids to stretch and grow. Dealing with them effectively also teaches kids that they are capable of coping when they meet some of life's curve balls.

And that is a huge lesson to learn at any age.

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