



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day

Caring Acceptance Responsibility Excellence Support & teamwork

Newsletter No 12

9 May 2013

TERM CALENDAR

May 14-16	NAPLAN testing – yrs 3 & 5
May 14 /15	Prep Minibeast incursion
May 17	Killara Cross Country Yr 3 -6
May 20 - 25	Education Week
May 22	Open Afternoon

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

CAMP

All reports from the 5/6 camp say that it was well enjoyed and highly successful.

Many thanks to Caroline Hole for her organisation of the camp, to the class teachers for their attendance, assistance and care of the students and to the following extra helpers (parents and pre-service teachers):

- Eric Taylor
- Jason Feltham
- Trevor Hourigan
- Chris Dixon
- Tracey Urbaniak
- John Boland
- Jock Allen

Without all of these people, our camp program would not be possible, so we are grateful for your willingness and attendance.

MOTHERS DAY STALL

A very BIG thank you to members of our PFA for all the hard work they put in to ensuring our students could access a wonderful range of gifts. The stall was a huge success.

PFA members and helpers generously donated their time, energy and creativity, not only yesterday, but in the weeks leading up to the stall to gather, sort and beautifully wrap the gifts to appeal to potential purchasers. Thank you also to the families and students who supported the stall by bringing along their money to spend and to the many families who donated gifts.

We wish all mums a very happy Mothers Day!

EDUCATION WEEK

Education Week is in two weeks' time and involves a range of activities – see the article below (in Current News). In particular, please note our Open Afternoon is being held on Wednesday May 22, from 2:30 – 4:30. Please come and visit your child's class if you can. Before heading to classrooms, please sign in at the office, where a special form will be available.

STUDENT SURVEYS

Student Voice

At Killara we believe that enabling our students to have a voice to express their opinions on their learning and take an active role in contributing to decisions in our school will benefit classroom learning programs and the wellbeing and learning of our students.

This year we have developed and trialled a Killara Student Survey which was completed by all students from Year 1 to Year 6 at the end of Term 1. This survey seeks student opinion on how they feel about school, their classrooms, their own learning and how confident they feel about their learning.

Students give responses to statements like how often students looked forward to coming into their classroom each day, how well their teacher listens to them, how comfortable they feel with their teacher, whether their learning tasks made sense, how much they wanted to learn, whether they completed learning tasks, how positive they felt about their learning and whether they felt challenged in their learning. Students select responses from the words always, often, sometimes, seldom or never and the results created a graph for each classroom. It was interesting to see the results across the classrooms. The most important aspect of this Survey is that the individual classroom results will be discussed as a class with students and teachers to see what the students are saying about their learning and to make improvements to classroom practices to make sure that we target the learning and wellbeing of our students more effectively. This survey is new and we will see what refinements we need to make in the statements to better suit our students understanding. The Killara Students Survey will be conducted once per term.

The Killara Student Survey was developed to gather and respond to regular feedback from our students. Each year around this time all Year 5 and Year 6 students across the state complete the annual DEECD Attitudes to School Survey. Like the Killara Student Survey the Attitudes to School Survey as a way of collecting data about how students feel about their school in general and their experiences with the teachers and other students. This data is used to inform planning for programs and activates continuous school improvement across the state and in individual schools.

Our Year 5 & 6 students completed this survey today in their classrooms. The surveys are anonymous and sent on to a DEECD processing centre for analysis. Our school will receive the results of the Attitudes to School Survey in late July.

KEEPING POSITIVE

Marie de Prada and I attended the Hume Network Principal's Conference earlier this week and had the

privilege to hear Maria Roberto talk about Positive Psychology. Maria presented the research relating to Positive Psychology and impressed on us the value of moving out of the negative bias and focussing on positives. Even by undertaking simple tasks, such as recording three positive things that happened to you during each day over a period of weeks and why they happened, can have an effect that has been shown to take depressed people out of their depression. Maria suggested the following considerations as a summary of her talk:

- Move out of the negative bias by always trying to balance 3 positives with 1 negative when talking about things
- Pay attention to positive events
- Use a “real” smile rather than a fake one (this is called a Duchenne smile and uses more facial muscles, thus activating more of the brain)
- Have fun and savour things
- Apply optimistic language
- When things aren’t going well – push the “re-set” button – we are responsible for our own emotions and nobody can “make” you be a certain way – it is the response you choose
- Attend to three positive things each day

Marie and I reflected on the application of this for our school community and will be taking the staff through aspects of the presentation, and we could see how beneficial this would be for all of us – children and adults alike.

Other aspects of the conference included some excellent presentations from other schools, giving insights into the processes and learning programs they have initiated.

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

CURRENT NEWS

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.

GOOD CITIZEN AWARDS

Prep	Baylee	Room 2
Yr 1/2	Jasmin	Room 20
Yr 3/4	Josh	Room 11
Yr 5/6	Alec	Room 7

CANTEEN MENU UPDATE

Unfortunately Thorpedo drinks are no longer being produced. We still have a small supply of the lemonade flavour so this will be available until stocks run out. A new menu will be distributed in coming weeks with the replacement item.

PAYMENT REMINDERS

**TERM 2 NETBOOK FEES \$50
OVERDUE**

**PREP MINIBEAST INCURSION
\$10 DUE TODAY**

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