



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day

Caring Acceptance Responsibility Excellence Support & teamwork

Newsletter No 1

7th February 2013

TERM CALENDAR

Mon 4 March	Preps start full time
Tues 12 March	Curriculum Day
Wed 13 March	Prep Special Persons Day
Mon 25 March	School Photos
Thurs 28 March	Last Day of Term 1
Mon 15 April	First Day of Term 2
Thurs 25 April	Anzac Day
Frid 26 April	Curriculum Day

FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

2013 STAFF

We welcome a number of new people to our Killara staff for 2012:

- Adele Halligan is new to our 1/2 team this year, in Room 18
- Shannon Hodson is also in the 1/2 team in room 22
- Jessica Sharp is also in the Year 1/2 Team, in Room 24
- Alex (Tiffany) Tenni is in the 3/4 team in room 15
- Sarah Vosti is filling in short term in the 3/4 team in room 16 (while Robyn Smith is on leave)

Each of these people has settled well into our school and has already made a valuable contribution to our school culture. We look forward to having them on board over the coming year and wish them well!

Likewise, we wish all of our other staff a successful and enjoyable year – we're sure you do too!

Here is a full staff list:

Executive Team

Phil Clinkaberry (Principal)

Andrew Guthrie (Assist Prin, Student Well-Being and Manag't)

Marie de Prada (Assist Prin, Learning and Teaching)

Administration

Di Farrugia (Business Manager)

Deb Wilson

Andrea Heales

Prep Team

Emma Heywood (Team Leader)	Room 1
Michelle Douglas	Room 2
Emily Farrell	Room 3
Sarah Round	Room 4
Kellie Eastaugfhe	Room 5

1/2 Team

Cynthia Follett	Room 6
Bec Armistead (Co Team Leader)	Room 17
Adele Halligan	Room 18
Susan Moloney	Room 19

Alex Chettle	Room 20
Hayley Mitchem/Kathryn Pollock	Room 21
Shannon Hodson (Co Team Leader)	Room 22
Sam Moore	Room 23
Jessica Sharp	Room 24

3/4 Team

Bec Gerber	Room 11
Julie Stanley	Room 12
Heather Huke (Team Leader)	Room 13
Simon Hancock	Room 14
Alex Tenni	Room 15
Robyn Smith/Sarah Vosti	Room 16

5/6 Team

Jo Fogarty	Room 7
Karen Francis	Room 8
Chris Weedon	Room 9
Mandy Marks-White	Room 10
Katelyn Fraser	Room 25
Caroline Hole	Room 26

Specialist Team

Andrew Pizaro	PE
Marie Ryan	Art
Julie Macdonald	Art
Kelli Brogan (Team Leader)	Performing Arts
Deb Shepherd	Library
Nancy Smith	Maths
Kathryn Pollock	Maths
Hayley Crack	Maths
Carol Ellis	Literacy Supp Yr 1/2
Michelle Wilkinson	Literacy Supp Yr 1/2

Student Support Team Integration Support Team

Andrea Smajila	Carolyn James
Loretta Ryan	Lineen Milam
Tracey Dixon	Hannah Haarhoff
Antoinette Caruso	

Technician

Andy Huang

Canteen

Andrea Farrugia

Garden/Maintenance

John Edwards

SESSION TIMES AND SPECIALISTS PROGRAMS

Killara School is now a very large primary school and, to allow us to feasibly organise the day, we have adjusted our session times with specialist teachers to 50 minutes. All students access all four specialist programs every week (except when public holidays or similar interruptions do not allow).

As a result of this change, our bell times throughout the week have also been adjusted, as follows:

9:00 – 10:40	Classrooms
10:40 – 11:10	Recess
11:10 – 12:50	Classrooms
12:50 – 1:00	Lunch eating in classrooms
1:00 – 1:50	Lunch recess
1:50 – 3:30	Classrooms

This new arrangement has had some positive spin-offs, particularly relating to students being better able to maintain attention and shorter sessions between eating ensuring recharging!

COMMUNITY RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

We remind parents and carers that our Parent/Carer Code of Conduct states the following:

Parents/carers are encouraged to understand the school's behavioural expectations, which aim to provide a consistent approach that support your child's learning and engagement in and out of school. This is assisted by home to school and school to home communication, so that we work in an effective partnership.

Listed below are expectations pertaining to a positive partnership:

Parents /Carers have the right to:

- *participate in a happy, safe, secure and satisfying environment.*
- *be heard and treated with respect by all members of the school community*
- *be informed about your child's educational progress and behaviour.*
- *have access to staff at convenient, mutually agreed times*
- *be kept informed and included in decision making and policy development*
- *report instances of concerns/issues/incidents involving your child*

Parents /Carers have the responsibility to:

- *support the school in its effort to maintain a positive teaching and learning environment*
- *act in a safe and responsible manner*
- *listen to, and treat members of the school community with respect*
- *communicate and act on information regarding the educational and social development of your child*
- *make an appointment and attend at the mutually agreed time*
- *support school policies and decision making processes*
- *allow procedures be followed as stipulated in school policies maintain a solution focussed approach to solving issues in a calm and co-operative manner*

PROTOCOL FOR ISSUE RESOLUTION

All of our students have the right to feel safe and comfortable at school. There may be times when you feel that the action of another child has infringed the rights of your own child.

- *All school issues are to be handled by the staff of the school. We attempt to resolve these issues through:*
 - *calm discussions between the parties directly involved whilst respecting the dignity of each and every person*
 - *Being prepared to actively listen to another's point of view.*
 - *Allowing correct procedures to be followed to allow all parties to be heard*
- *Parents should not directly approach other students or make contact with their families. This only serves to compound the issues and make*

them more difficult to resolve. We believe that most situations can be resolved to the satisfaction of all parties.

- *Under no circumstances is a parent or guardian to approach another child to discuss or chastise them because of their actions towards their own child. Please try to have a positive and open mind. We all have bad days and at times events occur which don't always appear fair. We are dealing with children and they are learning how to behave. It is often the case that the injustice was not intentional, and many times not even apparent to others.*
- *Approach situations in a spirit of co-operation, understanding and genuine partnership.*

WHO TO CONTACT

If you have a concern or issue relating to your child, please make use of the following steps:

1. *Contact the class teacher first – they are in the best position to help you, as they know your child well and are directly responsible for them*
2. *If you have further concerns or need further support, please speak to the Team leaders.*
3. *If you still have concerns or are requiring further support, please make an appointment to see Assistant Principal Student Welfare and Wellbeing for student well being and welfare issues. If the issue is a learning-related one, make an appointment to see the Assistant Principal Learning and Teaching*
4. *For urgent matters, or if you believe that you have not had the follow up you would like, please make an appointment to see the Principal.*

(Parent Code of Conduct)

LEARNING TO LEARN INQUIRY 2013

In 2013 all classes, Prep to Year 6, at Killara have started the year on a positive note by focusing on a whole school Inquiry Unit, Learning to Learn. The foundations for effective learning start on the first day of the year and continue throughout the early weeks of school so everyone feels safe, respected, accepted and valued as we move towards an orderly co-operative and stimulating learning environment in the classrooms and across the school.

The first six weeks of school are learning opportunities for students and for teachers to:

- Build relationships with students
- Assist students to get to know each other and their teacher
- Assist students to build a sense of community with the teacher and each other
- Spell out expectations
- Establish predictable routines, structures and procedures
- Develop protocols for learning behaviours

Research shows that building a sense of community in schools is an integral part of creating a positive learning environment (Evertson et al., Good & Brophy, 1997). Community building begins on the first day students and teachers come together. The

way we begin each day in our classroom sets the tone for learning.

A critical aspect of community and relationship building in this Inquiry, has been the introduction of a class Community Circle. In a Community Circle, students and the teacher sit in a circle where everyone can see everyone else and protocols for communication such as using eye contact, one person speaking at a time and looking at the person speaking are established. Starting and ending the day with a class Closing Community Circle provides opportunities to support social and emotional learning, oral language and prepare students for the day's learning.

A morning Community Circle is a daily gathering that usually takes place at the beginning of the day for anywhere from 10-20 minutes. Components of this Community Circle may consist of a:

- a **Greeting** where students and teachers greet one other by name and students may learn a range of respectful greetings and initially get to know each other
- **Sharing** where students share information about important events in their lives, or preview the learning for the day, and listeners may offer empathetic comments or ask clarifying questions depending on the Speaking and Listening learning goal
- **Group Task** where everyone participates in a brief, lively learning task that fosters group cohesion, for example, reciting a poem, singing, or playing a co-operative game that reinforces social or academic skills
- **Morning Message** where students may read a short message written by their teacher which is crafted to help students focus on the work they'll do in school that day.

Closing Community Circles

Classroom across the school are packing up the room to end their day with a closing class Community Circle. This not only provides numerous opportunities to create a peaceful ending and closure to the learning day but also provides important learning opportunities to:

- Reflect on the day's learning
- Discuss issues that have arisen through the day
- Embed learning into the brain's short term memory
- Build relationships
- Increase connectedness
- Send children home with positive attitudes towards school and with a smile

An important part of the Closing Circle is to reflect on the day's learning using a variety of questions like:

- What was your favourite part of the day?
- How did you work with someone else today?
- What was something friendly that you did today?

- What was something that made you stop and think today?

Or use thinking tools like Hot dots, Thinking Ladder or Thinking Hats for students to reflect on statements such as:

- I try my best
- I enjoy working with my teacher
- I want to learn
- I feel safe in my classroom
- I have fun with my learning
- I ask for help when I need it
- I know what I am learning

Ask your child about their community circles in their classrooms.

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.

EARLY ARRIVAL



Parents are reminded that students should not be dropped off at school early. Teachers are not required to supervise students until after 8:45 and there is no yard supervision until that time. Should this be problematic for your family, I encourage you to utilise the Before School Care program provided by Complete Kids. Casual and permanent bookings are welcome. Contact Deb on 9740 2011 / 0408 548 678. Government rebates are accessible for child care.

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.

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

CURRENT NEWS

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.

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 2012 and are still eligible will automatically qualify in 2013 and do not need to reapply.

Any other families seeking conveyance allowance support in 2013 will need to complete an application form, which is available from the office. The completed application form needs to be returned to school by **Friday 22nd February 2013**. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The Education Maintenance Allowance is paid to parents of eligible students under 16 years of age, and the student is enrolled at a Government or non-Government School in Victoria on census day, 28 February 2013 for instalment 1 and 2 August 2013 for the second instalment.

The Education Maintenance Allowance will be paid in two instalments and to be eligible you must:

on the first day of 1st Term (**29 January 2013**) for the first instalment and

on the first day of 3rd Term (**15 July 2013**) for the second instalment:

(a) be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit, that is, a holder of Veterans Affairs Gold

Card or be an eligible Health Care Card (HCC) or Pensioner Concession Card (PCC) holder within the meaning of

the *State Concessions Act 2004*, **OR**

(b) be a Veteran Affairs Pensioner (TPI), **OR**

(c) be a (temporary) foster parent **AND**

(d) submit your application to the school by the date/s listed below.

Parents who receive a Carer Allowance (formerly known as Child Disability Allowance), or any other benefit or allowance not income tested by Centrelink are not eligible for the EMA unless they also comply with one of (a) (b) or (c) above.

Submission dates

The application form must be lodged at the school by: **28 February 2013** for the first instalment or **2 August 2013** for the second instalment.

STUDENT BANKING

Student banking day is Tuesday at Killara.

If your child has an existing Commonwealth Bank Youthsaver account they can start banking straight away. They just need to bring their deposit in every week using their Dollarmites deposit wallet. If your child has misplaced their Dollarmites deposit book or deposit wallet, they can request a new one from either the local branch or school office.

If your child does not have a Youthsaver account, you can open one at any Commonwealth Bank branch, no forms to fill in! Alternatively, if you are an existing Commonwealth Bank customer with access

to NetBank you can apply online. Another option is to download a paper-based application form from commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. Please note this option may take up to 2 weeks before a Dollarmites wallet and deposit book is sent to your home address to start banking at school.

COMMUNITY NEWS

RUPERTSWOOD NETBALL CLUB

We are welcoming netball players in all age groups, U11, U13, U15, U18 to play on Saturday mornings in the Gisborne Netball Association Competition at Gisborne Secondary College.

Please contact Allison on 0425 842 546 for more information.

RUPERTSWOOD FOOTBALL/NETBALL CLUB

Rupertswood Football and Netball Club are now taking football registrations for 2013 season. We invite anyone interested in playing to register from our website : www.rupo.com.au New players welcome!

Rupertswood Football and Netball Club are also seeking expressions of interest for the introduction of Junior netball in Under 12, Under 14 and Under 16.5 age groups. Further brief details can be obtained from the Junior page of the club's website : www.rupo.com.au

GET INTO THE SWIM OF THINGS WITH THE SUNBURY AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

The *oldest* and *original*, swimming club in Sunbury. If you'd like to work on your swimming technique, learn new skills, improve your fitness, or get ready for competition, come and try our offer of **two free** training sessions, before becoming a member. It's a fun interactive club where the entering of competitions is optional.

For more information, contact Karen Garrard on 0402 267 510. (Free sessions apply to Friday night training 7-8.30pm, Sunbury Aquatic Centre, Ligar St. Sunbury)

SUNBURY NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSE MYTIME

A facilitated group for parents with a child with a disability or a chronic medical condition. This group gives parents the chance to share ideas & stories with other parents who understand. A supported playground for children under six is offered as part of this group.

Free please call 9740 6978 for information

MESSY-PLAY Drop-In PLAYGROUP

This is a facilitated Play session that uses *Messy play activities as a learning tool*. 9740 6978.

Tuesday 11.30- 12.30

HCC holders FREE

KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Phone: 9744 6432 Fax: 9744 4956
website www.killaraps.vic.edu.au
Email us at killara.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au

