It is with regret, but also a great deal of pride and excitement, that I advise the school community that Marie de Prada has accepted and been provisionally appointed to the Principal position at Carragararmungee Primary School in North East Victoria. Marie has been with us for three years now and has made a huge impact on our school and school community and, as such, will be leaving big shoes to fill. Congratulations Marie!

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING (Curriculum Day)
At Killara our practices for staff professional learning follows the guidelines of the “Seven Principles of Highly Effective Professional Learning Model. It is ongoing, focused on student outcomes, embedded in teacher practice and is informed by the best possible research on effective learning and teaching.

Our learning is collaborative, involves reflection and feedback and is fully integrated into the operations and schedules of our school. Professional Learning not only occurs on Curriculum Days but on a daily basis in peer observation, meeting schedules, online collaborations, regular teacher planning and occasionally involves a teacher attending sessions outside of the school environment.

As educators in the 21st Century we are fully aware of keeping our knowledge current, and must be prepared to alter our practices on the basis of new knowledge from research.

On Curriculum Day last Friday our staff were introduced to the Big 6 of Literacy Instruction, which was part of the Principals as Literacy Leaders (PALLS) course that Phil, Marie, Andrew and Jo have been attending. PALLS is based on recent research both internationally and by Flinders and Griffith University into best practice for Literacy learning and forms the basis of the Killara Literacy Intervention and Support Program.

The Big 6 are Oral Language, Phonological Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary and Comprehension. The major focus of the day was to develop an understanding of Phonological Awareness / Phonemic Awareness for decoding (as in reading) and encoding (as in spelling). Outcomes for the day were the development of a Scope and Sequence for teaching Phonological awareness and Phonics from Prep to Year 6, planning for differentiated learning and understanding of a range of activities/games and lesson plans to implement in the classrooms.

PFA PARENT EDUCATION
“Me as a Learner in the 21st Century”
Last evening, Marie de Prada presented an insightful session in our theatre. The focus was on how, why, when and what our children learn. She described the structure of schools and, in particular, our school and learning spaces. We discussed groupings, classroom structure, brain function and best ways to learn. We had an open forum for questions and conversation and left (after coffee) wiser for the experience. Congratulations to those that attended who, we’re sure, have developed a greater understanding of their child(ren)’s learning experience.

BULLYING. NO WAY!
On Friday 21st March there is a National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence. At school level we will be discussing the meaning of a safe and supportive school community and examine the definition of bullying. We will generate and consider students’ ideas to make our school a safe and supportive place for all. Check out the website at bullyingnoway.gov.au

ATHLETICS
55 students from Years 4/5/6 will represent our school at the Sunbury Primary Schools Sports Association District Athletic Carnival at Boardman Reserve Athletic Track tomorrow, Friday 14th March. We wish all competitors well and know they will do their best. We know that those selected will represent our school with pride, respect for fellow competitors, officials, teachers and spectators and in the right spirit to enjoy the experience. We look forward to some news of their performances at Assembly on Monday.

10 TIPS WHEN READING WITH YOUR CHILD
Family involvement is essential to any child’s success as a reader. Research has shown that by talking, singing, and reading to children, parents are turning on brain cells that are essential for a healthy child.

Parents can build reading skills by interacting with their children. By encouraging babies and young children to communicate, parents are laying the foundation for later reading success.

Parents and other family members need to be involved in children’s reading throughout their school years. As a school, we recognise the importance of parent involvement in students’ progress and we encourage parents to play an active role.
These tips are helpful, when establishing a home reading routine:

1. Choose a quiet time
2. Make reading enjoyable
3. Allow them to maintain their flow when reading by giving them words when stuck and avoiding letter by letter sounding
4. Be positive
5. Success is the key—so make sure the text is at an easy level, not hard
6. Visit the Library and borrow a range of books
7. Regular practice—little and often is best
8. Communicate—record positive comments in school reading diaries
9. Talk about the books—to build understanding
10. Variety is important—books, newspapers, magazines, comics, picture books, poems and information

Best wishes,
Phil, Marie and Andrew

CURRENT NEWS
REGIONAL SWIMMING FINALS
On Wednesday 12th March the Sunbury District was ably represented at the Regional swimming finals at Northcote Pool by Coby H, Ben C, Josh G, Jake H and Alexander K. All the boys competed extremely well and brought home some wonderful results. Josh, Ben, Coby and Jake competed in the freestyle relay and in a very close race were narrowly beaten into 4th place. Alexander competed in 3 events bringing home 2 silver medals in freestyle and breaststroke and a bronze medal in backstroke.

Thankyou to all the parents for their wonderful support and for getting the boys to their competition.

PARENT COMMUNICATION - TIQBIZ APP!
A reminder to parents that our new app is up and running. We have received great feedback from parents who have downloaded this free app and would like to see more families using this fantastic tool.
Simply download the “TIQBIZ” app on to your smartphone, tablet or computer. Search for Killara Primary School, then click on the grey tick beside our school box and also your child/ren’s year level boxes. You will receive our instant messages regarding newsletters, notices and calendar events. You are also able to log student absences.
Remember to select both “whole school” and your children’s year level when prompted.

TODDLER STORYTIME IN THE LIBRARY
Our next Toddler Storytime on Monday March 17th at 9.45am, will focus on Transport- so bring along a toy car, bus, train to show. We will have fun with stories, songs and movement activities. Parents, grandparents and friends are welcome as we offer this new opportunity to participate in the Learning Community at Killara Primary School.
The Library has plenty of room for parents, children, babies, prams and pushers, so come in, sign in (leaving your contact details) and spend some time with us.

PFA HOLIDAY RAFFLE
Ticket booklets were sent home earlier this week so please support our school fundraising as we have some great prizes to be won, some of which have been kindly donated by our local traders.
Prizes include:
Apple I-Pad, Samsung Galaxy Young prepaid mobile phone, photo package, one month gym membership silver/rose gold plated bracelet, facial, books and much more.
Tickets are 3 for $5. Money and tickets stubs to be returned by 26th March.

BRAIN AWARENESS WEEK
Year 1/2CF: ‘Our Brain’
Today we watched a video about the ‘Learning Brain’ These are the things the students found out about how our brain works. We learnt that the brain is the boss of our body. It controls everything we do.
It helps us with our learning: our thinking, our feeling and our remembering.
The brain is divided into 2 halves. The left side of our brain controls the right side of our body and the right side controls the left side of our body.
Our brain has neurons that create paths from our brain to all parts of the body. They help us to remember things by making pathways or connections.
We can help to keep our brain healthy by:
1. Drinking plenty of water
2. Eating a healthy diet – lots of fruit and vegetables
3. Getting plenty of rest and sleep
4. Getting plenty of exercise
5. Challenging ourselves by using our brain in different ways (music, art, sport, solving problems, reading, writing)

CLASSROOM PARENT HELPERS PROCEDURES
Please ensure you report to the front office prior to helping in the classroom and sign in our visitors register. We also ask that whilst on duty you display your Working With Children’s identification card. A card holder can be obtained from the office if needed. Prior to leaving the school please sign out.

COMMUNITY NEWS
FATHER BOB
On Tuesday 25th March Fr. Bob Maguire of the Maguire Foundation will be speaking about ‘Social Cohesion and Community’ at Memorial Hall, Stawell Street, Sunbury commencing at 7.30pm. The Rotary Club of Sunbury has arranged this event and all proceeds from the event will be presented to Fr. Bob at the conclusion of the function. Cost is $10, all proceeds being donated to the Maguire Foundation by the Rotary Club of Sunbury. For bookings got to: www.rotaryclubsunbury.org.au.