Welcome back to all students and families. We hope you enjoyed any time you were able to spend together as a family and that you had a Happy Easter.

It was lovely to see the enthusiasm and the settled nature of the students on their return and we have immediately resumed strong learning programs and routines.

TERM 2
This term is a term of consolidation of learning. After a short term 1, students buckle down to achieving their learning goals and aiming to improve and do their best.

NAPLAN testing for year 3 and 5 students occurs this term, with students being assessed in Reading, Writing and Mathematics.

During this term we also have a number of extra-curricular activities. These include:
- School photos
- Our Mother’s Day stall
- The start of the Stomp dancing program
- Winter inter-school sports
- School Cross Country event
- Our annual visit by Alpha Theatre Group, this year presenting “Aladdin”

This term is also a time when we begin the process for the enrolment of our preps for next year, with school tours and information sessions. These will be held on May 17, 18 and 19.

We are looking forward to a productive, exciting and enjoyable term.

NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL
Andrew O’Callaghan has been appointed as our new Assistant Principal.

Andrew’s main role will be in leading the Student Engagement and Wellbeing of the school.

Andrew will begin work with us on Monday April 18, with Andrew formally being welcomed at our assembly on that day.

We welcome Andrew to the Killara Community.

PARENT REPORTING
Last term we began our new reporting style, sending reports to parents via Compass, which report on assessments made at the end of a cycle of learning. When the students complete a particular aspect of the learning program, the teachers conduct assessments and prepare the reports, with families being notified through our communication modes.

This form of reporting is designed to be more focused and give you more information than a semester report can give. As such, our semester reports will also be different this year, containing the semester assessment of learning achievement against standards and general comments. The other information you are receiving over time is cumulative and provides you with information about your child’s progress.

We encourage you to access Compass (login details were given to you last term) and view the reports when they become available (the latest available reports are listed below – see ‘Compass Reporting’).

We hope to request feedback from families soon, as we are also committed to improving this system. One current consideration is how we should provide support for parents over time with strategies and help they can provide at home.

If you have misplaced your login details, please contact the office and they will be re-forwarded to you. Ideally, we would like to think all parents are making use of this facility.

POSITIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY
It is our aim to build and maintain a very positive community within our school. We value your input and respect your needs as parents and families and we always aim to fully support our students.

We recognise that a positive school community has an impact on student mental health, well-being and resilience.

We also recognise that education is a partnership between home and school.

We encourage your support for our work as a school by:
• Always communicating positively with your children about school, their teacher and their learning experiences
• Approaching issues and concerns in a respectful manner and following school processes
• Actively contributing to your child’s education in any way you can – an active interest in what they do and what they learn is central to this (see ideas below)
• Helping your child to build resilience and an understanding of the part they play in the school community and their responsibilities
• Avoiding open/public criticism of the school – please seek to use the appropriate school forums and processes for this (and please do so without laying blame)

We will support you by:
• Providing a friendly, welcoming and caring environment
• Adopting regular and strong communication processes (including newsletters, parent handbooks, notices, Tiqbiz and Compass) as well as direct communication relating to your child, as needed
• Making time to meet with you to discuss concerns and find positive solutions
• Providing opportunities for you to be involved directly in your child’s education
• Providing information readily when you need it

Here are some ways you can be involved positively in the learning of your child, as found at http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/support.aspx (the Education Web Site):

• Homework is an opportunity for you to be involved in your child’s education. Along with their school, you can help encourage your child to form good homework patterns early on in primary school. In particular, home reading habits are central to this.

• You can make a difference to how easily your child learns at school by helping them to learn at home. The 201 literacy and maths tips to help your child booklet includes information about how you can help your child develop literacy and maths skills. It contains practical activities you can do with your child at home before they start and during primary school. See: http://www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/involve/Pages/literacynum.aspx

• The Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge is for all Victorian students in Prep to Year 10. The aim of the Challenge is to promote a love of reading. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely. We will send a not home about this, this week

If you would like further ideas and support or need to address a concern, please see your child’s teacher and arrange a time.

NAGLE FAMILY
We would like to thank the Nagle family from Sunbury Sand & Soil for their kind donation of sand for our long jump pit for our athletics day.

Best wishes,
Phil and Pete

CURRENT NEWS

SCHOOL PHOTOS
School photos will be taken on Wednesday 27 April. Every student would’ve received a personalised photo envelope yesterday. If you would like sibling photos taken please collect an order envelope from the front office. All envelopes need to be returned to school before photo day. Photographers will return on Friday 6 May to take sibling photos for those that have ordered them and photos of any students that were absent on April 27.

INQUIRY BASED LEARNING
“The important thing is not to stop questioning. Curiosity has its own reason for existing.” - Albert Einstein

Term 1 at Killara has been a busy and productive one for Inquiry learning. We remain committed to presenting the students with a rich and engaging Inquiry curriculum that fosters a sense of curiosity and engages them in tasks where they are able to predict, investigate, experiment, ask questions, analyse, interpret and make conclusions. It is always great to witness the excitement of students when they discover something new, or solve a problem, or find a different way of doing things. Discovering “why” is always a big part of Inquiry investigations and listening to students talk about their new understandings truly emphasises the importance of Inquiry learning within our school. Inquisitiveness really helps the mind grow!

Classes started the year with focuses such as effective learning strategies, rights and responsibilities and what it means to be part of the Killara Primary School community. Discussions were held about how choices and attitudes play a big part in building positive experiences and students were given the opportunity to assist in the creation of Class Mission Statements that reflect what they believe is important when working independently and collaboratively within our school.

Within learning teams, other exciting areas that have been covered are “My Family, My Community” by the Preps, “Chemical Science” by the Year 1/2s, “Community and Remembrance” by the 3/4s, and an Earth Science focus in the Year 5/6 classes that covered both “Natural Processes” and “Space and the Solar System.” Some special incursions were held to enrich the students’ experiences in these areas and experiments and investigations have also been conducted within classes to provide the ‘hands on’ approach that often drives the Inquiry process.
**COMPASS REPORTING**
The following units will be available for viewing by Tuesday April 19.

**Year 3/4:**
- Reading- Non Fiction Text Structure and Features
- Mathematics- Time
- Mathematics- Shapes and Angles
- Inquiry-History

**Year 5/6:**
- Reading- Fiction Text Structure & Features
- Mathematics- Pattern & Algebra

**WHAT SHOULD I READ?**
When it comes to reading, what is your book of choice? Do you like reading action packed adventure stories? Perhaps classic fairy tales are more for you. Or do you love filling your brain with amazing new facts from non-fiction texts? Maybe there is a particular author that you just LOVE! Below are recommendations from some of the students and staff at Killara:

*For something funny...* Mrs Ingleton recommends anything by Roald Dahl, but her personal favourite is ‘Matilda’.

*For something interesting and fun...* Clancy in room 12 recommends the ‘Horrible Science’ books written by Nick Arnold.

*For something shocking...* Kathryn Pollock recommends ‘Ripley’s Believe it or Not’ books.

*For something with a good message...* Sam T and Chloe M from room 25 recommend ‘Knots on a Counting Rope’ by Bill Martin, Jr.

Happy Reading
The English Curriculum Team

**MOTHER’S DAY STALL**
The PFA and Friends of the PFA would like to ask if families are able to donate towards our Mother’s day stall.
Any donation is greatly appreciated.
Our stall will be held on **Wednesday May 4**.
Suggested donated items could include, tea towels, gardening items, sports items (towels, drink bottles, socks)
All donations are to be new and unopened. Please do not send food items and ensure donations are handed to the class room teacher or to the office staff.
Thanking you Killara PFA and Friends of the PFA.

**STUDENT ABSENCES**
It is a requirement that parents notify the school of any absences. This can be a note sent in prior to or after the absence or even an email to the school or via the Tiqbiz App. Verbal notification from parents is accepted, however, this can sometimes get lost in the hustle and bustle of the classroom and may be missed on attendance records. It is not necessary to call the school if your child is unwell and unable to attend, again, a note or email can be sent upon return. killara.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

**STUDENT BANKING**
For every deposit made at school, no matter how big or small, students will receive a silver Dollarmites token. Once students have individually collected 10 tokens they can redeem them for exclusive School Banking reward items in recognition of their regular savings habits. There are 2 new items released each term so be sure to keep an eye out for them.
If your children are not currently involved in the School Banking program and you would like to know more, please ask for a 2016 School Banking program information pack from the school office. Thank you for supporting the School Banking program and don’t forget that Tuesday is School Banking day! Rewards available for this term are Mud Splat Handball and Outback Pat Bag Tag.

**EARLY PICK UP PROCEDURE**
When picking up your child early from school, please ensure you come through the main office and sign your child out. You will be given an early leavers slip which you will then pass on to the classroom teacher when collecting your child. If you have arranged for someone else to collect your child prior to 3.30 you must notify the school by note or phone call prior to pick up.

**TIQBIZ APP**
Killara Primary School has an “app” to use for communicating with our families. The app is called “TIQBIZ” and can be downloaded onto your smartphone, tablet or computer.
Remember to select both “whole school” and your children’s year level when prompted. This will ensure you receive all notifications we send for the whole school, as well as those to specific year levels as an alert message on your device.

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATION TO STUDENTS**
A reminder that any medication that is required to be administered to students during school time must be signed in at the office and an authority to administer medication form completed. The medication must be sent in its original packaging and if prescription medication it must be in the student’s name.

*Please Note:* wherever possible medication should be scheduled outside the school hours. Medication required three times a day is generally not required during a school day.
TISSUES
For hygiene reasons we like to have boxes of tissues available in each classroom for all students to share. To ensure that there is always an ample supply of tissues available, we are requesting that each child bring a box of tissues to their classroom. These will be stored by the classroom teacher and shared by the class. Hopefully, this will ensure that we never run out.

QKR APP – CANTEEN LUNCH ORDERS
As previously notified in our newsletters we have a new process for lunch orders at Killara. If you have any questions or need some assistance with this app please do not hesitate to see the office staff.

PAYMENT REMINDERS
Term 2 Netbook fees: Overdue
(If payment has not been received by the end of week 2 then students will be unable to take their devices home)
District Athletics – 18 April
Year 3-6 Maths Competition: 21 April

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER
CHOOSE TAP
Did you Know? Buying a 1 litre bottle of water costs the same as filling it from the tap every day for 2 ½ years?
A PET plastic water bottle takes up to 1000 years to break down in landfill.
It takes up to 3 litres of water to produce a 1 litre plastic water bottle.
Choose tap water and reusable bottles help yourself and the environment.
Sustainability Team

COMMUNITY NEWS
CROSSING SUPERVISOR LES
Les would like to say a big thank you to the school community for their kind wishes and lovely card that he received while he was off recovering from illness.

SUNBURY COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT
Tuesday 19 April. Explore the College facilities. View presentations and displays from all subject areas. Share the experience with the Principal, staff and student leaders. The evening commences at 7pm with an information session in the ECA, followed by a guided tour of the College at 7.30pm. We look forward to welcoming you to Sunbury College.

SUNBURY BLUE LIGHT DISCO
Next disco - Friday 29 April 2016, 6-8pm at Sunbury Memorial Hall for primary school age children. SUPERHEROES & VILLAINS theme! Entry $7 (correct money = faster entry). Sunbury Blue Light provides a fantastic opportunity for primary age kids to have positive interaction with local police and also to socialise with their peers in a safe supervised environment. The disco is a not for profit organisation, run by police members and valued volunteers, all of whom hold current Working With Children Check.
Please like our Facebook page - Sunbury Blue Light Disco - for all the latest news.

KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL
Phone: 9744 6432 Fax: 9744 4956
website www.killaraps.vic.edu.au
What are the benefits of the Technology age for our children and young adults?

How can we tap into these benefits and support their growth?

Dr Michael Carr-Gregg is one of Australia’s highest profile psychologists. He is the resident parenting expert in Channel 7’s Sunrise program and 3AW’s morning program with Neil Mitchell.

He is also an author, academic researcher and political lobbyist.

Don’t miss the opportunity to hear one of the most knowledgeable and engaging speakers on the topic of child and adolescent development.

**Where:** Mount Ridley P-12 College- Landale Building

**When:** April 20 7.00pm – 8.30pm

**Cost:** Nil

**Booking:** Click on the link below to register or call Mount Ridley College on Ph: 8338 3600 to secure your free place for this important event