FROM THE EXECUTIVE TEAM

This week has been a very busy and exciting time at Killara as part of an eventful term!

Coming up soon will be Book Week Dress-up day next Wednesday, Father’s Day stall the week after, our Community Walkathon, Mathematics Night and our whole school production “Wiping out Waste”. I think we’ll all be ready for a holiday after that!

Judging by the mirth and laughter coming from the library for the first two days of the week, Kym Lardner is not only a talented author but is also an entertainer extraordinaire! Your children were enthralled by the stories, illustrations and songs that were personalised to a few randomly chosen audience members as part of the session. It was great to see personalities of otherwise shy and quiet children in our school interacting and responding to Kym’s stories in such a confident way.

Visits from authors, such as Kym, help children to better understand that these visitors are real people doing real jobs which come out of a love of being able to share stories with others. It puts the learning and practice that we do in the classrooms to write interesting sentences with descriptive language and stories that catch the interest of others into context.

Rainbow Day yesterday was a colourful addition to an otherwise dull weather day that helped our local community through donations to Sunranges CareWorks.

These events are carefully chosen, organised and timetabled as part of the extra-curricular learning at Killara. Participation in these events communicates to children in real life contexts the importance of helping people in our communities.

We were also excited to learn last week that we have been accepted into the Scientists in Schools Program. Scientists and Mathematicians in Schools is a national program that creates and supports long-term partnerships between teachers and scientists or mathematicians. Our scientist is Mr Peter Watkins who is a Sunbury local, and works as a Research Project Officer for CSIRO Animal, Food and Health Sciences. We look forward to meeting him next week and discussing how we can best work together in this partnership with the teachers and students at Killara.

This morning (before school) it was great to see our staff engaged in a Professional Learning ‘Techie Brekkie’ related to ICT. Skills developed in these sessions are geared towards improving teacher skills which enhance student learning in the classroom.

As we go to press our girls Netball Team is competing against other schools at the Regional level in Reservoir. We look forward to finding out how they performed, which they will share at Assembly on Monday.

How to build your child’s resilience (extract from Kidsmattering enewsletter)

Children are much more likely to bounce back from a negative experience if they already have the building blocks in place to help them cope.

Research shows children are more likely to develop coping skills if they: trust that the world is safe and caring people will help them; believe in their ability to do things for themselves; feel valued for who they are; feel optimistic; and can manage their feelings, thoughts and behaviours.

Try these strategies to help bolster your child’s ability to deal with emotionally-trying situations:

- Arrange a fun child-friendly activity each week like a trip to the park, play date with a friend or watching a favourite movie. Regular ‘ups’ provide a bank of positive emotions to buffer against life’s ‘downs’ that may involve disappointment or conflict.

- Help your kids to think positively. If your child is frustrated by a difficult puzzle, say, “I know
that puzzle was hard today, but yesterday I saw you get a hard puzzle out. You kept trying until you found the right place to put the pieces."

- If you have a disagreement with your child, the most important thing to do is to reconnect and repair the relationship. Let your little one cool down then offer a hug or words of support. This has benefits for your child’s mental health as well as their ability to deal with relationship problems as they get older.

Best wishes,
Phil, Marie & Andrew

CURRENT NEWS

RAINFRO DAY
Thank you to everyone for participating in our Rainbow Day fundraiser for Sunranges CareWorks. We raised a total of $700. Thank you to everyone for your donations. We are overwhelmed by how much we raised. All this money is going to help families in crisis in the Sunbury area.
By Sarah R and Carly I
On behalf of the SLC

AUTHOR VISIT
Kym Lardner’s visit was a resounding success with children roaring with laughter at his humour and fabulous drawing, singing and story-telling skills. He left us some sketches that are up on the office windows of the library above the Reference and Non-fiction sections which we will look at and laugh at for years to come. If you are interested in getting any of his books or DVDs, you can order through his website: www.kymlardner.com
Deb Shepherd
Teacher-Librarian

BOOK WEEK 19 - 23 August
Don’t forget next Wednesday we have our Book Week dress up day. Everyone is encouraged to come along dressed as their favourite book character. We will have a whole school parade just prior to recess on the basketball court or in the gym depending on the weather.

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 Semester 1 2013 and are still eligible will automatically qualify for Semester 2 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 tomorrow, Friday 16th August 2013. If you have any enquiries, please contact the office.

NUDE FOOD CHALLENGE WINNERS WK 4
Preps 00C Emily Farrell & 00D Sarah Round
Yr 1/2 12F Hayley Mitchem/Kathryn Pollock
Yr 3/4 34B Julie Stanley
Yr 5/6 56B Karen Francis

PREP FARM EXCURSION

SECOND-HAND UNIFORM SALE
With the support of the PFA, help us raise money for our Good Citizen Prizes.

Monday 19th August
In the Staffroom
9:30 - 10:00

Thursday 22nd August
In the Staffroom
3:45 - 4:30

Items from $2 each

Gold coin donation to swap quality items for a different size

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