



Killara Primary School

Our Best – Every Child, Every Day

Caring Acceptance Responsibility Excellence Support & teamwork

Newsletter No 4

28th February 2013

TERM CALENDAR

Fri 1 March	Nominations close for School Council
Mon 4 March	Preps start full time
Wed 6 March	PFA Meeting 2.30pm
Mon 11 March	Labour Day holiday
Tues 12 March	Curriculum Day
Wed 13 March	Prep Special Persons Day Parent Helpers Course 9am / 6.30pm
Mon 18 March	Alpha Theatre production
Mon 25 March	School Photos (no assembly)
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

MEET THE TEACHER SESSIONS

Thank you to parents, students and teachers who attended Meet the Teacher sessions last week. It was an excellent opportunity to exchange information that will be of benefit to each child's learning needs. The next formal opportunity to meet will happen around the time of distribution of mid-year reports. However, if there are issues that arise in the meantime you are welcome to contact the school to make an appointment to meet with the appropriate staff member.

CURRICULUM DAY

On Tuesday 12th March a pupil free day is being conducted to allow teachers to learn more about and establish current best practices in the thinking curriculum and inquiry based learning. This day will be beneficial to the future learning of our students.

BENCHMARKING AND COMPARING YOUR CHILD TO OTHERS

Attached to this newsletter is one of the latest articles from Michael Grose, Parenting Expert, examining the issue of benchmarking or comparing your child to others:

*"Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use."
(Michael Grose)*

The school has membership of the Parenting Ideas web site and associated resources and, as such, we can provide you with regular information relating to

parenting issues. You can also visit the web site www.parentingideas.com.au to access a wealth of information for parents.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION

Nominations were called for four parent vacancies on School Council in the last newsletter. A reminder that the nominations close at the close of business (4:00pm) tomorrow (March 1). Nomination forms are available at the office.

SWIMMING SPORTS – SUNBURY DISTRICT

Our school swimming team competed in the Sunbury District carnival today and represented the school well. The water was warm, but the wind chill meant for some rather cold competitors between events. Many thanks to Andrew Pizaro for organising the team and assisting with the overall organisation of the event, along with Chris Weedon and Lineen Milam for their assistance on the day.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

I have had some concerns expressed about the RE notice sent home recently to Year 1/2 students. The notice is consistent with department guidelines and uses the prescribed text of the department's notice, with the exception of not listing a range of other religions, for which we do not have accredited instructors offering to run classes.

Department guidelines state that principals must obtain parental advice via the prescribed form for their child to participate or not participate. We are advised to ensure parents that special religious instruction is not compulsory for any student whose parents request that he/she is excluded from attending (clearly stated in the notice).

Sufficient instructors will only be provided for Year 2 students to attend at this stage and will not start until term 2. Please complete the form and return it as soon as possible.

From now on, parents of newly enrolling students will be asked to fill out the entire DEECD form, which will be kept on record. Parents wanting to withdraw permission will then need to do so by requesting such in writing.

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

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PUPIL OF THE WEEK TERM 1, WEEK 4

Junior School Preps For a great start to home reading		Middle School Demonstrating organisational skills in the classroom	
Rm 1	Nirvana M, Matty B	Rm 11	Emily W
Rm 2	Madeleine P, Caylem W	Rm 12	Amy C
Rm 3	Aron M, Sienna D-S	Rm 13	Chloe P
Rm 4	Anais W, Callum G	Rm 14	Lauren K
Rm 5	Jackson T, Alexandria R-D	Rm 15	Paige I
Year 1/2 Being focussed during maths		Rm 16	Marni T
		Senior School Enthusiastically participating in all community circles	
Rm 6	Jay G	Rm 7	Riley E
Rm 17	Isobel R	Rm 8	Bella S
Rm 18	Piper A	Rm 9	Jai E
Rm 19	Mitch W	Rm 10	Taylah G
Rm 20	Ned S	Rm 25	Denzell A
Rm 21	Christian J	Rm 26	Campbell D
Rm 22	Rourke G		
Rm 23	Ben C		
Rm 24	Madeleine M		
<p>Specialists Performing Arts 1/2 F – Hayley Mitchem / Kathryn Pollock For the way they played percussion instruments</p> <p>Visual Arts 3/4 E – Alex Tenni For fantastic cooperation when collecting and packing up</p> <p>Physical Education Prep D – Sarah Round Excellent running and passing into good space</p> <p>Library Prep B – Michelle Douglas Being excellent listeners</p>			

CURRENT NEWS

2013 STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL

It is with great pleasure that the 5/6 Team announce the Student Leadership Council for 2013. The successful applicants are:

Kirby E	Joel M
Shelby H	Mitchell R
Madelyn H	Sarah R
Chelsea H	Neve R
Deacon H	Caylee T
Carly I	Callum U
Ethan Mc	Zac W

We are looking forward to a great year and the Council will begin their duties in the next couple of weeks.

We would also like to thank and congratulate all the applicants. The standard was very high and their patience during the final selection process was much appreciated.

The 5/6 Team

PFA MEETING

A reminder our first meeting for 2013 will be held next Wednesday 6 March at 2.30pm. All welcome.

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS

Monday 25th March 2013



Order envelopes will be distributed to all students next week. It is important that instructions are followed in order to save confusion and disappointment.

PLEASE NOTE: All orders received after photography day will incur a reorder fee.

1. Select your preferred package from the options printed on the flyer provided (which is enclosed in the order envelope). A class photo is included in all packages.

2. You must complete a separate order envelope for each purchasing child. Clearly mark the package and gifts you wish to purchase in the space provided using a black or blue ball point pen, complete all your contact details and enclose the correct payment using one of the options listed below.

CASH - Please enclose exact monies as no change is available. If paying for additional siblings in one envelope, please note which envelope payment was made.

CHEQUE - Please print name, address and telephone on rear of cheque. If payment is declined by your bank, then dishonour fees will apply. Please allow 60 days for your cheque payment to be finalized.

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO :
ADVANCEDLIFE**

CREDIT CARD - payments can only be made on-line. An order envelope must be completed and returned to your school prior to photo day.

If paying for more than one student or additional family photos, one transaction can be made by adding up the total of all order envelopes and recording the receipt number on all ordering envelopes.

For families with three or more children at Killara, Advancedlife are offering a special deal on the third order. Please contact Advancedlife directly for details.

SIBLING PHOTOS (siblings attending Killara only)

Order envelopes can be collected from the school office and returned prior to photo 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.

STUDENT UPDATES

A reminder to return your student updates to school as soon as possible.

It is imperative that we have up to date accurate contact details at school.

Please note:

People listed on your emergency contacts list are only contacted if we are unable to contact parents and we feel it is necessary that the child is picked up from school.

If you make prior arrangements for your child to be picked up early from school by anyone else for appointments etc you must provide a signed note giving permission or call the school to let them know prior to the pick up time.

Children arriving late or leaving early must be signed in / out at the office.

PARENT HELPERS COURSE

All new parents wanting to assist in classrooms are required to complete our Parent Helpers Program prior to This program initially addresses issues of protocols and confidentiality and looks at both Numeracy and Literacy assistance. This year will be providing a daytime as well as an evening session each lasting for approximately 2 hours with some question time built in. Both sessions will be held in the theatre on Wednesday 13 March beginning at 9.05am and 6.30pm respectively. Parents need only attend one of these sessions.

A separate notice will be sent home with all families shortly with more information for those wishing to register to attend the Parent Helpers Course or you can simply complete the attendance form below and return to the school office by Thursday 7 March.

Please note all parents assisting with any school activity/program are required to have a current "Working With Children Check". Application forms are available from any Post Office.

Classroom Helpers Course March 2013

NAME: _____

Child's grade level: _____

SIGNED: _____

I will be attending Wednesday 13 March

Day Session 9-11am

OR

Evening Session 6:30-8:30:

PSW UNIFORM SHOP



The school uniform shop will be open on **Tuesday mornings in the gym foyer from 9.30am – 10.30am.**

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control the shop is now opening at 9.30am. We are hoping this is a temporary measure and will keep you informed.

PSW accepts VISA, Mastercard, American Express and EFTPOS.

Minimum transaction amount of \$25.

PSW does not accept cheques.

PSW Online. You can shop online for Killara uniform. Just visit www.psw.com.au. You can leave an order at the school anytime with either cash or card details and it will be delivered to your child. Be sure to include their name and grade on the order form.

The PSW Deer Park store (58 Westwood Drive, Deer Park) has minimal supply of Killara uniform. If you are thinking of going to the shop please ring first on 9363 8458 to see if they have what you want. Most stock is readily available at the shop at Killara.

We are aware that there are some stock shortages at the moment and we are in contact with PSW regarding the expected delivery date.

ANTHEM FOR KILLARA

Part of forever, our heritage bold
Brave land and free the story is told.

Part of Australia's history -
Killara - forever brave and free

~ CHORUS ~

Hooray for KILLARA, - white and blue
Make way for Killara - we're coming through
Brave at the start and proud at the end
We are always there.

So much to do and so far to go -
Together we'll learn, together we'll grow
And in the end - we'll be friends
With respect for each other and pride in
ourselves
We'll face it together whatever the test
And we'll always be winners if we've done
our best.

So give it your best shot KILLARA
Give it all you've got KILLARA
Take us to the top KILLARA
Go KILLARA

Brave at the start and proud at the end
We are always there.

~ CHORUS ~

~
REPEAT CHORUS ~

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



The pitfall of using other children as benchmarks

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Have you ever compared your child's behaviour, academic progress or social skills with a sibling or your friend's children?

Comparing your child with others is a stress-inducing and, ultimately, useless activity.

But it's hard to resist, as we tend to assess our progress in any area of life by checking out how we compare with our peers.

When you were a child in school you probably compared yourself to your schoolmates. Your teachers may not have graded you, but you knew who the smart kids were and where you ranked in the pecking order.

Now that you have kids of your own do you still keep an eye on your peers? Do you use the progress and behaviour of their kids as benchmarks to help you assess your own performance as well as your child's progress? Or perhaps you compare your child to yourself at the same age?

Benchmarking children's progress with that of other children is not a wise parenting strategy. Inevitably, it will lead to parent frustration as there will always be a child who performs better than your own on any scale you use.

Kids develop at their own rates

Each child has his or her own developmental clock, which is nearly impossible to alter. There are slow bloomers, early developers, bright sparks and steady-as-you-go kids in every classroom. The slow bloomers can cause the most concern for parents who habitually compare children to siblings, their friends' kids and even themselves when they were in school.

The trick is to focus on your child's improvement and effort and use your child's results as the benchmark for his or her progress and development. "Your spelling is better today than it was a few months ago" is a better measure of progress than "Your spelling is the best in the class!"

Gender matters

It's no secret that boys' and girls' brains were developed by different architects. One major difference lies around timing, or maturity. The maturity gap between boys and girls is anywhere between 12 months and two years. This gap seems to be consistent all the way to adulthood.

Quite simply, girls have a developmental head start over boys in areas such as handwriting, verbal skills and relationship skills. Boys benefit greatly from teaching strategies designed for their

specific needs. They also benefit from having teachers and parents who recognise that patience is a virtue when teaching and raising boys, as it seems to take longer for many boys to learn and develop.

Kids have different talents, interests and strengths

So your eight-year-old can't hit a tennis ball like Novak Djokovic, even though your neighbour's child can. Avoid comparing the two as your child may not care about tennis anyway.

It's better to help your child identify his or her own talents and interests. Also recognise that the strengths and interests of a child may be completely different to those of his or her peers and siblings.

Avoid linking your parenting self-esteem to your child's performance

As a parent you should take pride in your children's performance at school, in sport or their leisure activities. Seeing your child do well is one of the unsung pleasures of parenting. You should also celebrate their achievements and milestones, such as taking their first steps, getting their first goal in a game or getting great marks at school.

However, you shouldn't have too much personal stake in your children's success or milestones, as this close association makes it hard to separate yourself from them. It may also lead to excessive parental pressure for kids to do well for the wrong reasons - to please you!

The maxim "You are not your child" is a challenging but essential parental concept to live by. Doing so takes real maturity and altruism, but it is the absolute foundation of that powerful thing known as "unconditional love".



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