ACTIVE PATHWAYS LAUNCH – TOMORROW!!
Have you noticed the new marked pathways around our school? There are four pathways with colourful makings.

Tomorrow we will launch our new Active Paths! These are colourful markers on the pathways that lead to the school and show how far away our school is.

We were lucky enough to earn this installation for free due to our high participation rate in events such as Walktober. We would love to see you walking or riding to school with students TOMORROW.

There will be prizes awarded at a short assembly following our launch morning for safe travel to school. The aim of these Active Paths is to encourage safe walking or riding to school on a regular basis. You can see pictures of the maps in the front school office or on our website here: http://killaraps.vic.edu.au/page/189/Active-Paths

Teachers will be walking from the beginning of the paths to school tomorrow from 8:30am sharp. Please join them either from the beginning of the pathways or at a point along the paths.

We look forward to an awesome launch day tomorrow – thank you for your participation and support!
*Please note: The Southern Path will depart for school tomorrow from the start of the path at 8:20am to make sure that we arrive on time.

ANZAC DAY
A group of 16 students, accompanied by Karen Francis and Shannon Ingleton, laid a wreath and took part in the Sunbury RSL service on Monday morning. Many thanks for representing our school so well. We had one of the largest contingents of the schools.

ANZAC DAY ASSEMBLY
As is tradition at our school, we will be having our ANZAC Day Assembly on Monday May 2, at 9.00am. The choir will be singing and Leadership students will be doing readings. This will be in place of our regular assembly.

COMPASS LEARNING TASKS AND REPORTS
This year we began reporting student achievement by using learning tasks that are accessible on Compass. Teams work together to plan units of work for Literacy, Numeracy and Inquiry as well as Specialist areas, Health and Physical Education, Visual Art, Performing Arts and Auslan. Teams design learning tasks based on units of work, these include the title of the unit, a brief outlining of the unit, key skills and your child’s grading against that skill. Teachers use a range of assessment approaches to come to consensus for a student’s grading and then this information is uploaded for parents to access shortly after the unit has been completed.

In the coming weeks, you will see a new section added too the learning tasks that outlines how you can support your child at home if they have found the unit challenging. Teams have been using the Newsletter and Team Newsletters to alert parents to what learning tasks will be available for parents to access and when.

At the end of semester, our reporting will be in digital form rather than a printed copy going home. The report will include the learning tasks from this year so far, a general comment, a grading related to work habits and effort as well as AusVELS levels. Parents will have the option of requesting a printed copy, however we encourage parents to access the report on Compass. Parent teacher interviews to discuss your child’s progress will operate as normal, and this will be an opportunity for parents and teachers to use Compass as a central point to discuss student progress. This time will also be an opportunity for teachers and parents to discuss how to enhance this style of reporting.

Currently 209 of 449 families have logged into Compass to access information regarding their child. Only 122 families have logged into Compass more than once. In light of this, we are developing a survey to gather information from parents regarding their use of Compass for reports so far this year. This will be an online survey and details for logging in will be sent out over the next two weeks. We encourage you to take this
opportunity to provide feedback so that we can improve our reporting process.

We have passed on feedback to Compass regarding the functionality of their App on mobile devices and it’s our understanding that this has been rectified. Please let us know if you are having any further issues. We strongly recommend using a desktop computer or laptop to access learning task reports whilst Compass is refining the accessibility of mobile devices including tablets.

CROSS COUNTRY
By the time you receive this, weather permitting, the year 3-6 Cross Country event will have been run and won. Students experiencing success in this event will have further opportunities to compete, moving on to the district event.

Many thanks to Andrew Pizaro and the teachers for organising and running the event today.

2017 ENROLMENTS
We have had a number of enquiries recently about enrolling Prep students for 2017. We are in the process of preparing enrolment packs and will be able to start taking enrolments in May. If known, families of new Prep children with siblings already at the school will receive an enrolment package directly.

Prep information sessions and tours are scheduled for May 17, 18 and 19. If you know of new families please encourage them to attend one of these sessions.

KIDS and DIGITAL IMAGES / TV
We often hear from our students that they have viewed images, played games or watched movies that contain concepts that can be inappropriate to them and their levels of maturity. Research shows that emotional responses to the viewing of violence and complex fictional images can include nightmares, violent behaviours and the application of concepts such as revenge, without a clear understanding or capacity to be discerning.

Today we have published an article, which we encourage all parents to read, titled “Beyond Their Years”, by Lakshmi Singh.

See below.

Best wishes,
Phil, Pete and Andrew

CURRENT NEWS

MOTHER’S DAY STALL WEDNESDAY 4 MAY
DON’T FORGET next Wednesday is the Mother’s Day Stall. Gifts range in price from 50 cents up to about $10. Please send money in a clearly marked envelope on the day or prepay an amount for your child to spend by Tuesday 3 May using our QKR app.
Thanking you,
Killara PFA and Friends of the PFA.

TIQBIZ APP
Killara Primary School uses the Tiqbiz “app” 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.

SIBLING PHOTOS
For those families who have ordered sibling portraits these will be taken next Friday 6 May. Students who were absent yesterday for their individual portraits will also be followed up next week. If you have placed an order and your children did not have their photos taken yesterday, please contact the school office and we will ensure you are on the schedule for next week. Late orders will need to be paid online direct to the photographer. Please ensure all your sibling order envelopes are sent in to the office prior to Friday 6 May.

ENVIRONMENTAL CORNER
NO PLASTIC BAGS IN RECYCLING BINS
Did you know? NO PLASTIC BAGS should go into your recycle bin. Recyclable items (paper/cardboard/glass/bottles and containers that have the recycle symbol on them) can be put into the recycle bin individually – no need to place them in a plastic bag. Unwanted plastic bags can be recycled at your local supermarket.

REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE REFUSE.
Sustainability Team

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.

PAYMENT REMINDERS
Term 2 Netbook fees: Overdue
Prep Billy Cart Incursion: 25 May
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.

COMPASS

Compass is an online management and communication system that allows us to keep you informed of your child’s progress, as well as communicate with you about learning related issues. It also allows us, as a school, to maintain information in a central system.

Compass in particular, allows us to report progress to you on a regular basis, with teachers providing information relating to the learning programs and cycles being undertaken. This will strengthen our reporting to parents process, as you will receive “on time” information, rather than having to wait until the end of a semester.

All families received login details and, we encourage you to begin making use of Compass. We will issue notices when key information is posted – especially reporting information. If you are having any issues with your login details, please contact the office.

BEYOND THEIR YEARS

Lakshmi Singh

As TVs, tablets, smart phones and other digital devices become more commonplace, so do the myriad of types of content available on them. Lakshmi Singh looks at the important role parents need to play in monitoring and controlling the exposure of early-primary school children to content beyond their years.

The TV left on the latest hit crime drama while you’re cooking.

The family iPad unlocked with access to Game of Thrones.

The gaming device on which Dad has been spotted playing Grand Theft Auto.

The drive to school with the radio playing songs full of sexual promise and expletives.

These are just some ways in which young children might interact with content that is beyond their comprehension.

As the saying goes, ‘children are not mini-adults’ and seven to eight-year-olds in particular do not have the worldly knowledge or mental capacity to set apart events happening a world away from them, nor the maturity to rationally process content beyond their years.

More than just putting parental locks and passwords on devices, experts say it is imperative that parents take a more firsthand approach in guiding their seven to eight-year-olds through the M-rated content maze.

Fiction vs. Reality

Although most kids between seven and eight years of age know the difference between fiction and reality, the ‘type’ of reality portrayed in reality TV shows may not be something that they easily grasp, says Lynne Jenkins, author and clinical psychologist.

“If what they are watching is scripted to be more dramatic, then that is how it is for them, unless an adult lets them know otherwise,” she says.

The strung-out tensions between contestant teams, fabricated cat-fights and prolonged focus on habits that annoy each other could all come across as normal, unless kids are told otherwise, she says.

“Of course in real life kids will come across bickering and arguments and things like that, but I don’t think shows like these are necessary to teach those lessons,” says Nathalie Brown, child behaviourist at Melbourne based consultancy Easy Peasy Kids.

She cites The Bachelor as such a show that has settings which are very far from reality.

“It’s a reality show but not a real concept. One man and twenty women … it’s not going to happen in real life.”

The dramatic statements made on the show can also create false impressions and wrongly influence young minds, she says.

“Do we want little girls thinking that this is the be-all and end-all if you don’t have a man in your life?”

Concepts beyond their understanding

While children of this age may be exposed to school to some adult concepts like the dangers of smoking, they don’t necessarily understand in great detail the information presented in health programs, for example says Jenkins.

“They will need a sensible adult to explain what they are seeing in a way that won’t cause them to take on too much information that they aren’t really ready for, or don’t really need to know about yet. For example, at seven or eight, children don’t really need to know about drugs leading to death and disease. That can be something to be discussed at least in senior primary.”

In a similar vein, rite-of-passage concepts are better passed down from parent to child, says Brown.

“I believe it is okay for children to have knowledge on puberty, but that initial talk should be from their parents, not from a movie. It depends on emotional maturity; if it comes up in a movie, it may just go right over their heads or scare the living daylights out of them.”

The same concept also applies to games and apps, she says.

“Children believe what they see. Parents have to communicate that a movie or game is not real life,” she says.

Even if exposure is inadvertent, the impact can be very obvious, she says.
“If a child is constantly playing or watching violence, their understanding in handling their own emotions can become aggressive. What a child sees repeatedly is what they learn. It becomes acceptable to be aggressive and they can become desensitised to violence.”

**Conflicting values of shows/themes**

Certain themes like revenge may not be ideal to teach your seven to eight-year-old, but they do get portrayed in movies. The important point is that labels need to be given to shows and games that deal with such plots and an explanation given as to what the characters are doing.

“Revenge does occur, this is how the movie plot is dealing with it, it is something the parents have to discuss with their child,” says Brown.

Sometimes culture and religious beliefs mean parents limit or screen what their children can watch. Here, an honest explanation as to why parents believe their children shouldn’t be viewing or interacting with such programs may be in order, especially if there is a risk that they may go behind your back and source it, says Jenkins.

“If the reason given is something like: ‘Just because’ or ‘Because I said so, a child with a certain personality might go looking for it themselves to find out why they can’t watch it. If, however, a parent acknowledges that their child would like to watch the show and explains that the reasons have to do with their family values or culture for instance, it might be better received,” she says.

**More harm than good?**

The brain of a child who’s seven or eight does not have the necessary processes in place to exercise the judgement necessary to make sense of M-rated games, says Brown.

“Again it depends on the emotional maturity of the child and how much the parents have explained to them. I find that a lot of the parents aren’t even aware that the ratings are there for a reason.”

At this age, looking for big banks to loot and zombie monsters to kill, will not be something a child can do with the strategic mindset or understanding demanded by these games, she says.

However, they might have a more poignant influence psychologically and result in the child having nightmares.

“These graphics at the moment are so realistic, bloody and gory,” she laments.

Regular exposure to M-rated content where the language might be peppered with profanities and disrespect may also impact an impressionable seven or eight-year-old’s speech, says Jenkins.

“If they are exposed to expletives regularly, whether on a show or in their house, they will absorb them as ‘normal’. This ‘sponge-like’ phenomenon applies more to younger children, but if a seven or eight-year-old has been exposed to such things for most of their life, they will become normal for them. And if they start watching this material at age seven or eight and the adults in their life don't say that they can't watch it, or don't turn it off, or at least don't comment that it is wrong, then the kids won't have the understanding that using expletives is not okay.”

**Words of wisdom from the experts**

1. Set boundaries from early on in children’s lives. Instil the message that we only watch G or PG material in our family.
2. Watch news programs when kids have gone to bed. This is especially important if a child (of any age) is anxious or has a predisposition to anxiety or worry. If they do come across tragic events, reassure them that even though these events are happening in real life, the child, their family and friends are safe.
3. Be prepared to keep pace with children as they grow older. Assess whether an M-rated show might be appropriate for a particular child’s personality, intelligence and maturity by watching it first. Be available for explanations and fast-forward any questionable parts.
4. Always encourage open discussion about content your children interact with, allowing them the confidence to ask questions when confused.
5. Don’t allow TVs and other devices in kids’ bedrooms.
6. Use parental locks and passwords but try to invest more in gaining their trust.

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

**SUNBURY BLUE LIGHT DISCO**

Friday 29 April 2016, 6-8pm at Sunbury Memorial Hall for primary school age children. Superheroes & Villains theme! Entry $7.00.

**MT. CARMEL TENNIS CLUB FAMILY OPEN DAY 2016**

Come along and bring your friends, it’ll be great fun for all ages!

There will be free activities for everyone including:

- tennis lessons
- social play
- ball machine
- speed gun
- jumping castle
- face painting
- BBQ provided

Freebies for the kids.

**Where:** Mt. Carmel Tennis Club, Stewarts Lane
**Next to St. Anne’s Primary School**
**Date:** Sunday the 1st of May
**Time:** 12.00pm to 3.00pm

Sign up for tennis lessons on the day and receive a new tennis racquet plus a Hot Shots t-shirt.

**KILLARA PRIMARY SCHOOL**
**Phone:** 9744 6432 **Fax:** 9744 4956
**website** [www.killaraps.vic.edu.au](http://www.killaraps.vic.edu.au)