We would like to welcome you to 2014. Welcome back to all of our “continuing” families! Welcome to new families, with a special welcome to our new prep students! 2014 promises to be a busy and exciting year and, over the coming weeks, we will bring you details of events, activities and plans for term 1 and the year ahead.

At Killara we recognise the extraordinary responsibility and privilege it is to educate our students / your children. We believe that the development of successful partnerships with parents/carers and families assists the development of the whole child. Parents/carers are encouraged to actively participate in supporting their child’s learning by building a positive relationship with the school. Killara Primary School encourages positive parent involvement through shared responsibility for your child’s learning progress and development.

Parent/carer participation is welcomed in school and classroom programs and activities such as School Council, Parents and Friends’ Association, working bees, classroom assistance and attendance at school events. Parent/carer involvement, interest and commitment to a child’s education is crucial to their development. (Parent Code of Conduct)

At Killara we “engage” all children in their learning and develop in each individual a sense of wellbeing and confidence in being an independent learner in order to achieve their best”. In 2013 all classes are starting the year by focusing on a whole school Inquiry Unit, “Me as a Learner”. This unit focuses on critical aspects of the processes of learning through the use of thinking and learning tools. This Learning Inquiry incorporates the routines of the classroom, rights and responsibilities, building community, learning protocols and social emotional learning. Effective Social Emotional Learning has been shown, through research, to have a positive impact on academic learning. Highlights of the unit include the introduction of Community Circles at the beginning and end of each day and reflection on learning using a variety of learning tools.

2014 STAFF
We welcome John Boland to our staff. John will be in the year 3/4 area. John has settled well into our school and has already made a valuable contribution to our school culture. We look forward to having him on board over the coming year and wish him well! Likewise, we wish all of our other staff a successful and enjoyable year – we’re sure you do too!

Here is a full staff list:

Executive Team
Phil Clinkaberry (Principal)
Andrew Guthrie (Assist Prin, Student Well-Being and Manage’t)
Marie de Prada (Assist Prin, Learning and Teaching)

Administration
Di Farrugia (Business Manager)
Deb Wilson
Andrea Heales

Prep Team
Hayley Mitchem Room 1
Michelle Douglas (team leader) Room 2
Emily Farrell Room 3
Sarah Round Room 4

1/2 Team
Deb Shepherd Room 17
Cynthia Follett Room 18
Susan Moloney Room 19
Alex Chettle Room 20
Kellie Eastaughffe Room 22
Sam Moore Room 23
Jessica Sharp Room 24
Bec Armistead (co team leader) Room 25
Shannon Hodson (co team leader) Room 26

3/4 Team
John Boland Room 11
Julie Stanley Room 12
Kathryn Pollock (team leader) Room 13
Katelyn Fraser Room 14
Alex Tenni Room 15
Sarah Vosti Room 16
Caroline Hole Room 21
Consider having a special reading space and remember, reading at home is from a text that is at an “easy” level for the child, so that the reading is positive and enjoyable.

All classes will start home reading programs within the next week. Please be sure to read any information and assist by using the reading record diaries.

**TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Killara Primary School is in the “large school” category and, with over 600 students, caring for the safety of everyone is a challenge that we are all responsible for.

We teach the children that everyone has the right to feel safe and comfortable while at school and that there is an individual and communal responsibility to uphold safety and comfort levels.

It is important that this responsibility is modelled and reinforced by all members of the school community.

Please encourage children to follow road rules – in particular to use crossings to safely cross roads. Even if you are with your children, they should be shown that crossing at the school crossings is the way to go.

When driving and parking around the school road rules must be followed for the sake of all concerned and, most importantly, the safety of our students. Parking will be at a premium if everyone tries to park right outside the school. Families can assist by walking, not driving, if that is feasible. If you need to drive, please be patient and consider parking and walking.

Please be fair to our neighbours, by not parking over driveways and being aware of the rights.

Please be aware that the area around the school is patrolled regularly by the authorities and fines will be issued for misdemeanours.

**SCHOOL BREAK IN**

It is with regret that we inform the school community that our school was broken into and valuable items (of approximately $8000 in value) were stolen from our storage area and holes cut in our security fencing, during the holiday break. We continue to be dismayed by the way public/community property can be wilfully damaged and stolen by others. Unfortunately, this places a financial burden on the school directly, because school insurance does not cover all items.

If any members of the school community witness anything that appears suspicious or inappropriate during holidays and weekends or after hours, please contact the police immediately.

Best wishes,
Phil, Marie and Andrew