Dear Parents and Caregivers,
I would like to take this opportunity to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children, their families and members of staff. Welcome back to all our children and parents - I hope you all enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer break. We are looking forward to another wonderful year at Kentlyn Public School. The dedicated staff here have spent lots of time during the holidays preparing for the 2013 school year.

Staff Changes in 2013
Mr Ryan has been successful in gaining an Assistant Principal’s position, through merit selection, at Moss Vale Public School. Mr Ryan was an integral part of Kentlyn Public School and he will be greatly missed. We wish him all the very best at his new school.

New Assistant Principal - Mrs Tanya Neal
I am very happy to announce that we have been appointed a new Assistant Principal, Tanya Neal. Mrs Neal has been an Assistant Principal for a few years as well as a highly regarded Literacy Consultant for the Liverpool Region. We look forward to making Mrs Neal feel welcome here at our great school.

Kindergarten Students
Our Kindergarten students have started big school this week and I am extremely impressed on how well they have settled into our school routine.

You are always welcome at Kentlyn Public School
Children love to see their parents and carers at their school, whether helping out in the classroom, canteen or being involved in other ways. Research shows that students perform better at school when their parents or carers take an active interest in their school work. Your contribution to the school is needed and valued.

Ways you might get involved:
- help in the classroom
- listen to children read
- help children on computers
- help with school excursions

The Monday morning assemblies will resume this year. Students assemble in front of 3/4N’s classroom when school starts and parents are invited to stay and hear announcements and news for the week ahead. The dismissal assemblies will also continue every afternoon as per last year.

**** All notes sent home and newsletters are now available on our website ****

Week 1
Week 2
Rule of the week:
Safe - Work Safely, Play Safely
Responsible - respect the rights and property of others and the school
Value of the week:
Integrity
Excellence

Week 2 Term 1
Always Our Best
Classes for 2013 – 6 classes
We have begun 2013 with six classes. They are as follows:

KG - Mrs Grover
1M - Mrs McIntosh
2/3D - Mrs Davenport
3/4N - Mrs Neal
4/5S - Mr Saunders
6C - Miss Chisholm

Ms Kavallaris - Release from Face to Face (RFF teacher) - Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Miss Helliwell - Reading Recovery and Learning and Support Teacher
Mrs Muller - Library teacher - Tuesdays
Learning and Support Teacher: Wednesdays
Miss Hagedoorn - ESL - Thursdays until the end of Term 2

2/3D will be temporarily utilising the library as their classroom until our numbers are confirmed and a portable designated to our school.

Organising to Teach the Curriculum
Regardless of how classes are formed each individual student is taught and assessed in terms of syllabus learning outcomes.

Each of the six primary syllabus areas are organised into four syllabus stages. For more information you can log on to:


K = Early Stage One
Years 1 & 2 = Stage One
Years 3 & 4 = Stage 2
Years 5 & 6 = Stage 3

The stages of development each have a number of learning outcomes children are generally expected to achieve as they move through their primary school education. It is also recognised that some students will be performing at below stage level and some above. It is the teacher’s responsibility to plan, program, present and evaluate syllabus outcomes for individual students.

Teachers use a variety of teaching/learning techniques and classroom organisation strategies to achieve this. Strategies teachers use include teaching to need and learning styles, using different grouping strategies, effective classroom organisation and regular assessment and reporting on student progress.

Please know that all staff took special care to place each child in a well-balanced class in order to foster successful learning.

Update on our K-6 numbers.
As of today we have 128 students enrolled at our school. We need 2 more students enrolled before February 13th to remain in our current six classes.

All new enrolments must be students that are in area as we are bound by very strict guidelines that have been in place for many years for Kentlyn Public School.
I am still hopeful that we can maintain our 6 class arrangement, however, if this does not happen, we do have “Plan B” ready to go.
If we do have to change over to 5 classes this will need to take place on Thursday 14th February 2013.

The class arrangement will be as follows:

Kindergarten
1/2
2/3/4
4/5
5/6

As I mentioned earlier, the school employs a number of balancing criteria to ensure that the classes that are formed are in the best interests of ALL students. The teachers spent many hours working collaboratively to place children in their 2013 classes. We form classes carefully to ensure an even spread of girls and boys with a range of learning abilities and social attributes and we take into account the social and emotional needs of all our children. Your children may not be in the same class as their best buddies this year, but you can use this as an opportunity to talk with your children about the wonderful opportunity to develop new friendships as well as building on existing relationships. Emphasise the positives, rather than focusing on the anxieties that may be associated with change. I’m confident all of our children will have a terrific year of learning and working together with our fantastic, dedicated teachers.
School Leaders 2013
Captains:
Jessica Davis
Sarah Abdulwahab

School Leaders:
Nathanael Robinson
Jarrad Backhouse
Alicia Singleton
Ashley Redzic

House Captains 2013
Campbell
Captain: Chad Humphries
Vice Captains: Nathaniel Dadd and Kyle Brooks

Macarthur
Captain: Leah Senkowski
Vice Captains: Bodhi Yates and Jade Pollock

Swimming Carnival
On Tuesday the 5th February Kentlyn Public School went to Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre for their Swimming Carnival. A very big thank you to Miss Chisholm and Mr Saunders for the organisation of this event. We had a very short window to get everything organised and it was done to perfection. 😊😊

The weather was perfect for swimming and a few records were broken by some fast swimmers. All races were fantastic and there were some close finishes. Results and the Zone squad will be announced later in the week and will be available on the website soon.

Thank you to the students for their wonderful behaviour and to all the volunteers that helped out, including Mrs Singleton, Ms Cooke, Mrs Gerrard, Mrs Goodwin, Mrs Price, Mrs Corbet and Mr Koshnitsky.

Money Payments for 2013
All money/envelopes are now to be handed to the office in a sealed and clearly labelled envelope with your child’s name, amount, class and what the money is for.

Toilet Upgrade
Our school will commence work on a new girls and boys toilet block. This toilet block will be built where the old girls toilet used to be.

As an interim we have re-commissioned the boys toilets to accommodate both girls and boys, until our new toilet block is built.

Notes to parents
Thank you to all the students that have returned their permission notes back to school. It is imperative that all notes are returned by Friday 8 February at the latest. This is especially the case for the note allowing your child to play on Kentlyn Oval during lunch and special school events.

New Syllabus Implementation
The NSW Board of Studies has released the new NSW Syllabuses which are aligned with the National Curriculum. Our staff will be engaged in ongoing professional learning to ensure a smooth transition and effective implementation. The timeframe for full implementation is as follows:
English 2014; Maths and Science and Technology 2015; History 2016. The new syllabuses can be viewed at the NSW Board of Studies website: www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/

No Hat – Play in the Shade
A kind reminder to everyone that we are following and monitoring, more than ever our, “No Hat – Play in the Shade” policy in Term 4. Please ensure that your child has their school hat with them every day.

School Uniform
I would like to request your support in ensuring that your children wear full school uniform each day. School hats and black shoes [black runners, lace up, buckle or boots are all acceptable] are important parts of our uniform. It has been my experience that compliance with school uniform is important in building school spirit, and it also has a very positive effect on school culture and behaviour.
Parent/Teacher Meetings

This year’s parent/teacher meetings have been set down for Week 4 and each year level will have a designated day and time for their parent/teacher meeting. The days that we have set aside are as follows:

K-2 Tuesday 19th February 2013 5:30 – 6:10pm
3-6 Thursday 21st February 2013 5:30 – 6:10pm

A note will be sent home soon with the final details.

The idea of the parent/teacher meetings is to give parents the chance to meet as a group with each of the class teachers. Teachers will discuss such things as class rules, behaviour management, teacher expectations, various curriculum issues, homework, parent assistance in the classroom and other topics which may be raised. It is a good chance for parents to ask any questions or express any concerns that they may have. All parents are encouraged to attend the scheduled parent/teacher meetings.

Information for new parents and friendly reminders

- Absences
  All absences must be explained in writing. Please send a written explanation with the specific day/s your child was absent to your child’s teacher as soon as possible after the absence. Students are expected to attend every day unless sick etc.

- Appointments
  If children are to be collected during school time they must be signed out at the office prior to collecting them from class. They must also be signed back in if they are returned during the day.

- Uniforms
  We strongly encourage the wearing of school uniforms. The P&C sell new and second-hand uniforms. Our school supports the DEC recommendations and operates a “No hat – Play in the shade” policy.

Emergency Action Plans

If your child has a medical condition that may require urgent emergency action, please notify the school as soon as possible. It is extremely important that we maintain up to date records and are informed of any changes. If your child has a medical action plan from 2013, please see your child’s teacher or office staff and we will ensure any updates are made.

Medication

If your child needs to take medication, it is essential that you discuss this with the class teacher. A form is available for parents to complete if medication is to be taken during the day. Under no circumstances are children to keep medication in their school bag. If your child self-medicates for asthma, please discuss this with your child’s teacher. Puffers may be kept in bags, if this is discussed with the class teacher. If you have provided a Ventolin puffer or Epi-pen for your child’s medical action plan, please call in to check that it has not expired.

Contact Details

Please ensure the school has current information regarding address, phone contact numbers, medical conditions, custody advices, etc at all times. It is particularly important that emergency contact numbers are current. If unsure please contact the office to check admission details.

Fruit Breaks

Fruit breaks will continue this year at approximately 10am every day when the students have a few minutes to eat a small portion of fruit to keep them going until lunch time. We are also encouraging the use of a water bottle filled with chilled water not only to sip on at this time, but to keep on their desks throughout the day if the students become thirsty.

Assemblies

Our K-6 assemblies will be conducted each fortnight, (in most cases), commencing Friday 8 February with Student Leaders running the first assembly for the year. Each class will be rostered to conduct the assembly and at some stage in the year, present an item. I look forward to seeing many parents at our first assembly.

Student Banking

Student banking will commence on Friday 8 February. Applications were sent home with our Kindergarten students last year. Banking day is currently Friday. Please ensure you have your child’s name and class written on the yellow pouch which contains the deposit book.
School Newsletter
The school newsletter is an important source of information between the school and home. Our school newsletter is published every fortnight; that is weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10 and is usually distributed on a Wednesday. Hard copies of notes will be sent home with the youngest child of each family. Additional copies are always available on our website at http://www.kentlyn-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

Early Arrivals at School
It is recommended that children arrive at school from 8.40am onwards. There is no rostered teacher supervision before this time. Any children who arrive at school before 8.40am must remain sitting under the COLA until this time. Although the behaviour of our students is very good in general, it is more likely for children to misbehave or do the wrong thing if they are at school in the morning too early. Our school has Before and After School Care, which is held in our school hall. The operating times are from 7:00am to 8.40am and from 3:10 - 6:00pm.

Enquiries and bookings can be made through the coordinator, Mrs Marian Prince. She can be contacted on 0468921240.

PSSA Dates for the Diary
PSSA days for Term 1 only have been moved to the following dates:

Friday 22 March & Friday 5 April 2013

2013 P&C Committee
P&C President: Ms Catherine Cooke
Vice President: Ms Tammie O’Brien
P&C Secretary: Ms Natalie Vossen
Treasurer: Mrs Coral Singleton

Next P&C meeting - 15th February 2013 at 1:00pm in the school hall.

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

Friday 8th February - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm

Friday 15th February - P&C Meeting 1:00pm in the school hall. All welcome 😊

Tuesday 19th February - Parent Information Evening K-2 - 5:30 - 6:10pm

Thursday 21st February - Parent Information Evening 3-6 - 5:30 - 6:10pm

Friday 8 March - Campbelltown Zone Swimming Carnival - Bradbury Pool - 8:30 - 3:00

Friday 8 March - K-6 Assembly - School Leaders 1:00 p.m.

Friday 22 March - PSSA GALA DAY

Friday 5 April - PSSA GALA DAY

Allergies
Anaphylaxis is a severe and sometimes sudden allergic reaction. It occurs when a person is exposed to an allergen. Anaphylaxis is potentially life threatening and always requires an emergency response. All DEC schools are required to follow the Anaphylaxis Procedures for Schools in order to meet the health care needs of students diagnosed at risk of anaphylaxis. These procedures have recently been updated.

Under these procedures ALL parents have a responsibility to:
- promptly notify the principal if they are aware that their child has been diagnosed as being at risk of a severe allergic reaction.
- promptly notify the principal if the health needs of their child change.
- promptly notify the principal if their child has a severe allergic reaction outside of school hours, at home or at another location.
- inform the principal of any other known learning and support needs, including health care needs, disability or learning or behaviour difficulties which may impact on the management of anaphylaxis.
- provide an ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis completed and signed by the doctor. A new plan is completed by the doctor each time an adrenaline auto injector is prescribed. It is important that parents provide the school with a copy of the updated plan, or a photocopy of that plan.
- reinforce relevant aspects of the individual health care plan with their child, where practicable, for example if their child comes into contact with an allergen at school they must immediately inform a teacher and, if age appropriate, remind the child of the importance of taking their adrenaline auto injector to school with them.
- provide the equipment and consumables for carrying out health care support as specified in the student’s individual health care plan, including
where relevant, the appropriate adrenaline auto injector.

- replace the adrenaline auto injector in a timely manner before it expires or after it has been used.
- provide written requests for the school to administer prescribed medications where necessary.

For example, some children are prescribed antihistamine or have other health conditions that require administration of prescribed medications.

- talk to their child about the most likely times and places they may be exposed to the allergen and how to avoid it.

- reinforce risk minimisation strategies agreed upon for the school environment with their child, as appropriate.

A is for ATTENDANCE

Attendance is a critical factor in any child's school success. Children should attend school every day, except in case of illness or emergency. It is impossible to replace the learning that happens on any school day with make-up work. Regular attendance and promptness are good habits that are expected and appreciated at all levels of schooling and in the workplace. This year, make school a priority in your household. Commit to excellence in attendance. Your child's future depends on it!

Yours in Education
Tanya Neal
Assistant Principal

ABCs of Student Success

In each fortnightly newsletter throughout the year, I will be including a short segment that focusses on a specific factor that is crucial for student success.

The smiles you give come back to you!

Androula Kavallaris
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Thank you

Many thanks for the wonderful warm welcome I have received. I was extremely pleased to be appointed to Kentlyn Public School. Its reputation for excellence in achieving quality outcomes for all is far reaching across the region and I am now thrilled to call Kentlyn my home.

Prior to my appointment here at Kentlyn, I have had a variety of roles within the Education Department. These included classroom teacher, STL, Reading Recovery Teacher and Assistant Principal. My most recent role was that of a Senior Education Officer. In this role, I was required to support schools across South Western Sydney in quality teaching, predominantly in the areas of Literacy and Leadership. I am extremely enthusiastic about sharing some of the skills and knowledge I have been lucky enough to develop, here with the community at Kentlyn Public School.

I am looking forward to getting to know the students, staff and parents alike. If you see me around the place, please come say hello!

Principal’s Awards

Value of the Week Awards

Excellence

K-2
Bryce Pearson 1M
3-6
Sadie Wyer-Manock 4/5S

Congratulations!