Week 4 Term 1

Always Our Best

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule of the week</th>
<th>Value of the week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 3 Learner - Learn as much as you can</td>
<td>Respect</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4 Safe - Be in the right place at the right time</td>
<td>Care</td>
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<td>doing the right thing.</td>
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**** All notes sent home and newsletters are now available on our website ****

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

A Flying Start 😊

We are well and truly into the swing of things this term and our major focus in the classroom is literacy and numeracy.

We are working hard to develop our student’s writing, spelling and reading with further enhancing our explicit teaching strategies. We are also working hard with instant recall of basic number facts, (minute maths, timetables and problem solving strategies).

One of our school targets this year is to enhance reading comprehension for all students K-6. Simply put, reading comprehension is the act of understanding what you are reading. While the definition can be simply stated the act is not simple to teach, learn or practice. Reading comprehension is an intentional, active, interactive process that occurs before, during and after a person reads a particular piece of text.

There are two elements that make up the process of reading comprehension: **vocabulary knowledge** and **text comprehension**. In order to understand a text the reader must be able to comprehend the vocabulary used in the piece of writing. If the individual words don’t make sense then neither will the overall story. Children can draw on their prior knowledge of vocabulary, but they also need to continually be taught new words. The best vocabulary instruction occurs at the point of need.

Research studies have shown that quality time spent by parents reading to their children every day increases a child’s social and emotional well-being as well as building their vocabulary. This in turn assists children to approach learning in a positive manner—persistence at a task, being organised, eagerness to learn, and improved attention span. When a child spends most of their day—learning how to read, it takes up a lot of energy. Once they are able to read they can then—read to learn. Reading is the key to life-long learning. Please encourage your child to read to you every day and take the time to read with your child every day.

Easter Hat Parade - Thursday 28 March 2013

This year we will be trialling a different format to our usual Easter Hat Parade. We will still be having the parade as usual, with P&C providing a raffle and a sausage sizzle and all parents will be invited to attend.

**The variations will be as follows:**

- No prizes will be given out as in previous years.
- There will be rotating activities for the students to participate in at some time during the day.
- All students will be encouraged to make their own hats at home and bring them in that week/day.
More information will be available in the next few weeks.

Premiers Reading Challenge

About the Challenge....
The Challenge has commenced. Books read over the 2012 Christmas holidays can count towards the 2013 Challenge. It is a condition of entry that students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge.

All Student Reading Records are submitted online. Students can enter their books as they read them. An electronic Student Reading Record is completed by either entering the PRC ID number of each book or clicking on titles from a drop-down PRC list. The Challenge ends on 1 September 2013.

To login into the PRC website..........  
2. Enter your child's username. This is the same username that they use at school to access the portal.
3. Enter your child’s password. This is the same password that they use at school to access the portal.
4. Click on the student reading records tab.
5. Move the cursor to the titles box. If you start typing the title of the book read, a drop down list of possible titles will appear. Select the appropriate title. The details will fill automatically.
6. If your child does not know their username and password, please contact your child’s class teacher.

In 2013 we are aiming for 100% participation in the Premiers Reading Challenge 😊😊

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

Friday 22 February - K-6 Assembly - school leaders will run. Swimming carnival ribbons will be given out.

Friday 1 March - Clean Up Our School Day - students will need some gloves and a garbage bag on the day.

Wednesday 27 February - Grip Student Leadership - Student Leaders are attending this conference with Miss Chisholm

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

Thank you to Mrs Redzic for volunteering to drive our School Leaders and Miss Chisholm on Wednesday 27 February to Homebush Olympic Park for our Grip Student Leadership Conference.

Smile

Teachers, at times, take photographs or make videos as part of the learning programs they have planned for their class. These are used within the room or school environments as part of work displays. If you don't want your child's image to be displayed within the classroom and our school grounds please ensure that you let your child’s classroom teacher know.

Thank you for your co-operation in this matter.

Information Communication Technology

The Mathletics program will once again be available to all students K-6 within the next two weeks. Kindergarten students will also be introduced to the program later on in the term or early Term 2.

The Mathletics Curriculum contains essential material for students from K to 12. It complements and supports classroom teaching. The program responds to the strengths and weaknesses of students. Our teachers set learning activities catering to individual needs of students. Students working above stage level are motivated to extend their learning. Students gain confidence as they experience success in activities programmed to address their needs. Live Mathletics engages students in challenging other students from around the world in real time games of speed and skill. Students love competing and gain a lot of
satisfaction from increasing their speed and accuracy in mental maths. Students receive instant feedback about their performance and teachers can access this information to assist in planning and reporting.

The program has many benefits for students and we are once again incorporating it as part of our homework this year. Your child will be set tasks to complete, making sure that we are catering for his/her individual level. We will be showing all students how to use and access the program at school. Please ask your child to show you his/her log in details so that you can also be part of his/her learning.

Once again a very big thank you to our dedicated and hard working P&C who have donated the total amount of $1,200.00 to implement this program K-6

SKWIRK Website
Once again all students K-6 will have access to this great website within a few weeks. This fee was paid by the school, and this will be one great example of how the school fees contribute to your child’s education. 😊

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FEE FOR 2013
Family Contribution Fees help enhance the learning programs for all students at our school.

The Family Contribution Fees, although entirely voluntary, will make a difference to our school finances. Payment may be made in cash or by cheque. Money collected will be used to purchase resources that all students will use this year and in some cases, for years to come. Some of the areas that this money will contribute towards will be as follows:

- Hands on literacy games
- Hands on numeracy games
- The Skwirk website licence
- Reading books

The total cost of the Family Contribution Fee is $25.00 per family.

Money or cheques can be enclosed in an envelope with your child’s class, total amount enclosed and clearly stated that it is for “Family Contribution Fee”. Students can hand that envelope in to the office. Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Clean up our School Day
K Bentley Public School will be participating in ‘Clean up Australia Day’ on Friday 1 March 2013. All students will be helping clean up our school grounds for approximately 20 minutes. They will help with the collection of papers and general rubbish. Teachers will be vigilant to ensure that all students are safe at all times and only picking up papers, wrappers, popper boxes etc. Any other items that are not deemed safe will be collected by the classroom teacher.

We ask that you send your child to school with a pair of gloves (gardening or plastic) and a plastic bag. Together we can keep Australia beautiful.

These items can be brought in earlier and kept somewhere safe in their classroom.

Scripture
Scripture classes will commence on Wednesday 20 February. Thank you to Mrs Muller for organising and contacting all the scripture teachers. 😊

Scholastic Bookclub
Scholastic Book Club orders are issued twice a term to students. Please return orders by the due date. Due dates are advertised in the classrooms.

Orders and money should be sent in an envelope to the Front Office. Please keep the receipts received as proof of payment until your books arrive.

Every bookclub order earns the school 20% in book rewards for our school.

A very big thank you to Mrs Muller who comes in on her day off to organise this for our fantastic students.

Helping your Child Succeed at School
A great way to kick off your child’s formal education is to understand the school culture and what your child is doing in the classroom.

**Speech problems**
All kids learn how to talk and listen at different rates but did you know there’s a general pattern to your child’s language development?
Find out more:

**Maths Questions**
Are you in search of an educational game to sharpen your child’s maths skills and recall? Maths Monkey’s Quest features maths questions on topics ranging from addition and subtraction to ratios and percentages. It’s aimed at children from Years 3 to 8.

sleep can cause children to be hypersensitive, impatient or cranky. It is more difficult for children to concentrate and learn when they are tired. Encouraging quiet activities, such as reading, just prior to bedtime offers a transition that helps children relax.

*Sweet dreams!*
Tanya Neal
Assistant Principal

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**Principal’s Awards**
**Teghan Shelton 6C**

**Value of the Week Awards**
**Respect**
**K-2**
Claire Seeney 3-6
Alicia Singleton

**Care & Compassion**
**K-2**
Chanelle Woolley 3-6
Leah Senkowski

Congratulations!