Week 6 | Term 1 | Always Our Best

Rule of the Week:

- **Week 5**: Responsible - Always be polite
- **Week 6**: Learner - Follow teacher’s directions

Value of the Week:

- Fairness
- Co-operation

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

---

**Dear Parents and Caregivers,**

The children are now just coming to the end of their sixth week in school and fifth for Kindergarten. These beginning weeks can be very tiring as the children re-adjust to six hours of school each day, getting to know their new teachers and reconnecting with friends. We have been very fortunate not to have the usual February heat which adds another layer of tiredness at the beginning of each year. Thank you for supporting your children and thus ensuring they begin the year on a positive.

Schools are a partnership and like all good partnerships they work best when communication channels are open and transparent. We encourage your participation in your child’s education and working with us to improve student learning and our school as a whole. Supportive feedback and recognition is welcomed along with constructive feedback. I often say, we can’t fix a problem we are unaware of. 😊

Teachers are willing to work with you to support your child. So that teachers can provide parents with their full attention when discussing problems or issues, we ask that you make an appointment with your child’s teacher if you need to speak to them. It can be counterproductive to attempt to resolve issues as children move off to class of a morning or at bell times. The school has an executive member of staff, Mrs Neal, who is happy to assist but we also ask that you afford your child’s teacher the courtesy of discussing your concerns with them in the first instance. If you have a pressing concern or important feedback, I am also available to discuss your needs with you.

---

**Safety at School**

Parents/carers are reminded of the following rules for ALL families, students and pre-schoolers:

- No U-Turns in school zone
- Toddlers/pre-schoolers are to be supervised at all times.
- All students are to go straight home after dismissal assembly with their parents/carers.
- All students need to be signed in or signed out by a parent/carer if they are arriving late or leaving early. This is a legal requirement.
- No sport or play equipment to be used before or after school.
- Parents should not approach any other child in the school and discuss any disciplinary matter with them. Any concerns you have must be addressed to the child’s teacher or come and speak to me directly.

For the last two weeks you would have noticed Mrs Neal and I standing at the back gate of Old Kent Road and speaking to parents in regards to parallel parking in front of the school gates. It is imperative that all parents park across the road and then walk their child/ren across to their vehicle.

Thank you for your continued co-operation in this matter. 😊😊

---

**Bus Travel**

This topic came up a few times last year and I have already spoken to the students about bus behaviour this year.

The bus driver on Friday informed me that some Kentlyn Public School students are on their last warning in terms of their behaviour on the public
school bus. He was most disappointed at some students' behaviour on Thursday afternoon and has threatened that if their behaviour does not improve, he will be confiscating certain student's bus passes.

I have spoken to all the students again on Monday and some students did admit that their behaviour could improve. I am asking all the students who catch the bus to make the right choices while travelling on the school bus. Some of these may include:

- Not getting out of their seat, leaning back to talk to someone behind them and getting out of their seats at any time.
- To be using their quiet soft voice while talking to the person next to them.
- To only press the 'stop button' when it is their stop and they need to exit the bus.

Please speak to your child about appropriate behaviour when catching the public school bus.

Campbelltown Zone Swimming Carnival - Friday 8 March 2013.
Campbelltown Zone Swimming Carnival participants will need to be at the pool by 8:20am. Warm up will start at 8:30am sharp and first race at 8:45am. All students will need to make their own way there and back. Mr Saunders and Mrs Lynch will be meeting the students there.

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 6 March - P&C Meeting 6:30 - 8:00pm in the staffroom

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 29 March - Good Friday

Friday 5 April - PSSA GALA DAY

Friday 12 April - K-6 Assembly - School Leaders run

Kindergarten
All KG students need to be congratulated on a great five weeks of learning. It is fantastic to see them so well settled and participating in all aspects of our school routine. Well done KG.

Parent Teacher Interviews:
On Monday Parent Teacher Interview notes were handed out to all students. We are asking you to nominate two preferred times to meet with your child’s teacher. Your child's teacher will discuss your child's progress in literacy, numeracy and social development at this interview and ask for your input. Please return the note as soon as possible to ensure that you get your preferred appointment time. 😊

Absences - Kind Reminder
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. The
written explanation with the specific date and signature is a legal requirement.

UNSW ICAS TESTS

Last week students in Years 3-6 brought home information regarding our school’s participation in the University of NSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools tests. If you would like your child to participate in the tests, please read the information and return the permission slip with correct money in a sealed envelope with your child’s name, class and what test they will be participating in. All money needs to be taken to Mrs Thompson in the office before Monday 8th April 2013.

Grip Leadership Conference

On Wednesday 27th February 2013, Kentlyn Public School’s school leaders, accompanied by Miss Chisholm, attended a Leadership Conference at Sydney Olympic Park Sports Centre. We had to leave Kentlyn really early and battle traffic to get to our destination. A gigantic thank you to Mrs. Redzic who drove us all there and home again with perfect timing!

The Leader’s Day was really fun! We got to do heaps of interesting activities. We got to play a game called Loud Noises (and yes loud noises were involved!). We also played Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes – learning about different ways of thinking and leading. We also learned some great tips about leadership and some good fundraising ideas.

We are looking forward to planning our first fundraising activity really soon.

School Leaders 2013

Have you received the Schoolkids Bonus?

Do you know about the Schoolkids Bonus? It is a new cash payment to help eligible families and students with the costs of primary and secondary school studies. Around 1.2 million families have already benefitted from the first wave of payments in January 2013 - have you?

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you could be eligible to receive $410 a year for each primary student and $820 a year for each secondary student, with half paid in January and half paid in July.

The Schoolkids Bonus replaces the Education Tax Refund (ETR) and is a much simpler system. You no longer need to collect receipts and payments are made automatically so you don’t have to wait months to make a claim via your tax return. Unlike the ETR
you can choose how you use the payment to best support your children's education - whether it be school books, stationery, uniforms, school fees, or excursions. Check your eligibility by visiting australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus and if you think you might have missed out on the January payment, contact Centrelink - either in person at a Centrelink-Medicare Office or by calling 132 468.

**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.

**Removing head lice and nits**

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here’s everything you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits.


**Good number sense**

Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don’t add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.


**The smiles you give come back to you!**

Androula Kavallaris
Principal

---

**C IS FOR CHOICES**

Current research tells us that giving children choices is more effective than making demands. It is suggested when we give children choices, we only give two options for each choice, both equally okay with you. For example, *Do you want to do your homework now or in 15 minutes?* If the child does not decide within 10 seconds, make the choice for him or her.

**Premiers Reading Challenge**

Each year, the Premiers Reading Challenge runs from 1 March to 1 September. It aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

Parents and caregivers are encouraged to support the Challenge to promote the development of literacy skills and a love of reading and to encourage their children to continue reading when they have finished the Challenge.

Students who accept the Challenge this year will have even more books from which to choose. With over 7000 books now on the booklist, the Challenge offers students an opportunity to read widely. I
encourage all participants to be adventurous in their reading and add as many different types of books as they can to their reading records.

There are booklists available now for each of the 4 Challenges, catering for students in Years K-2, Years 3-4, Years 5-6, Years 7-9. Students can read books at or above their Stage level. The booklists represent a range of books including fiction, non-fiction, picture books, poetry and drama and include a wide variety of Australian authors.

To qualify for the Challenge, the required number of books read must be entered electronically. Online reading records are now available and books can be entered via any computer with internet access at school, in a public library or at home. Students use individual usernames and passwords to access their own record.

All students at Kentlyn have now been registered online and will be participating in the challenge at school and are also welcomed and encouraged to add their entries at home.

The world of books is an exciting one. I welcome you to the 2013 Premier’s Reading Challenge and I wish you all happy reading.

Yours in Education
Tanya Neal
Assistant Principal

Principal’s Awards

Value of the Week Awards

Fairness

K-2
William Hutchinson KG

3-6
Kyle Brooks 6C

Co-Operation

K-2
Ainsley Padey 1M

3-6
Hannah Walker 3/4N

Congratulations!

P&C would like to remind all parents of the following:

- Change of P&C time for our meetings. First one will be held tonight from 6:30pm - 8:00pm in the staffroom. We would love to see you there.

- Uniforms - can be purchased in the mornings or afternoons from Marian in the school hall. Marian is there from 7:00am - 8:40am and from 3:10 - 5:00pm

- A very big thank you to Marian Price and Stacey Griffith for looking after the uniform shop and assisting all the parents out 😊

- If you wish to join the P&C pick up a application form from the office or uniform shop & bring it along to the next scheduled P&C meeting with your joining fee of $1.00,

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday.