Week 2 Term 4

Always Our Best

Rule of the week:

Week 2
Responsible: Respect the rights and property of the school and others

Week 3
Learner: Learn as much as you can

Value of the Week

Week 2
Excellence

Week 3
Respect

****All notes sent home and newsletters are available on our website
http://www.kentlyn-schools.nsw.edu.au/****

Dear Parents/Carers,

Words cannot express how sad we are to hear the news of Travis’ passing last Friday. His strength and bravery inspired us all at Kentlyn Public School. Travis will be remembered not only as a wonderful student but also as a tremendous friend to all he knew. During this difficult time a counsellor will be made available to any student who wishes to seek some support. Our deepest condolences are with his family during this difficult time.

May he rest in peace.

Student Leaders 2015

With the end of the year approaching, the senior students have been discussing leadership, what it means to them, what they see as the qualities leaders should have and what qualities need to be displayed by our own student leaders. The following is the list of what we believe are the qualities we as a school want in our leaders.

A good student leader:

- is responsible, reliable, and respectful
- is helpful, caring, encouraging and a good listener
- is organised and on time
- is fair, honest, humble and uses manners
- is adaptable, shows initiative and can communicate efficiently
- participates and is a good role model of appropriate attitude and appearance.

This year’s selection will be a tough one and all the teachers look forward to the Year 5 students following the current Year 6 student’s great examples of leadership.

Mr Saunders and Miss Chisholm

Holidays Working Bee

A very big thank you to Mr Borg, Mrs Zapirain, Val Smith, Tim’s Garden Centre, Mrs Roberts, Mrs Seeney, Mr Bird
and Mrs Grover and company for coming into school in the holidays to work on beautifying our great school. They look fantastic.
I also believe that Mr Bird looked after everyone with a scrumptious BBQ 😊.

News that ‘Blew Us Away’

Yesterday morning we had some surprise visitors land on Kentlyn Oval that blew us away 😊. Due to an incident the police were investigating the Police search and rescue helicopter and RFS helicopter landed in Kentlyn Oval and all the students had an opportunity to go over and have a look as well as take some photos. Thank you to Police Officer Damien who allowed our students to have this very special experience.

The flying fish does it again!

Congratulations to Rhiannon Cooke-Jones for making it into South West Water Polo Team. Congratulations from all of us 😊😊😊

Important Term 4 Dates for your Diary

Wednesday 15 October - P&C Meeting 6:30pm in the staffroom
Friday 17 October - Travis’ funeral, 10:30am at Thomas Moore Catholic Church, Acacia Road, Ruse
Friday 24 October - KG’s Item and K-6 Assembly
Thursday 30 October - parent forums - breakfast and bbq
Monday 3 November - Heartbeat program for grades 3 & 4.
Thursday 6 November - Year 5 Nominations for School Leaders and Kindergarten Orientation 9:30 - 11:10
Friday 7 November - K-6 Assembly – Leaders to run and P&C Meeting in the library
Wednesday 12 November - High school transition day for 4/5S and 5/6C
Thursday 13 November - Kindergarten Orientation
9:30 -10:30 - Literacy Session
Thursday 20 November - Kindergarten Orientation
- Numeracy Session
Friday 21 November - K-6 Assembly - Leaders to run
Wednesday 26 November - School Leaders’ speeches and voting
Thursday 27 November - Kindergarten Orientation
9:30 - 10:30 then a BBQ in the hall.
Tuesday 2 December - Principal’s morning tea
Wednesday 3 December - P&C Meeting 6:30pm in the staffroom
Wednesday 3 December - Leumeah High School Open Day
Friday 5 December - K-6 Assembly School Leaders to run and
P&C School disco
Thursday 11 December - Movie Day
Friday 12 December - Formal Presentation
Assembly 10:30 - 12:00 and
P&C Fair 12:30 - 3:00
Tuesday 16 December - Year 6 farewell
Wednesday 17 December - Last school day for the students
Thursday 18 December and Friday 19 December - Staff Development Days.

21st Century Learning

To prepare students for further education, careers, and citizenship, it’s not enough to master academics. Students also need to acquire a set of skills that will last for a lifetime. To be able to solve problems in our complex, fast-changing world, students must become nimble, creative thinkers who can work well with others. These competencies known as 21st-century skills are summed up as the “4Cs” by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills (p21.org). They include the following:

**Collaboration:** Students are able to work effectively with diverse groups and exercise flexibility in making compromises to achieve common goals.

**Creativity:** Students are able to generate and improve on original ideas and also work creatively with others.

**Communication:** Students are able to communicate effectively across multiple media and for various purposes.

**Critical thinking:** Students are able to analyse, evaluate, and understand complex systems and apply strategies to solve problems.

The 4Cs don’t replace academic learning goals. Students still need to become good readers and writers, even though they may be learning and publishing on new platforms. Using mathematics to solve problems, and seeing the world through the lens of the scientist are essential for today’s learners. The ambitious goal is to integrate 21st-century skills with rigorous core content so that students will master the 4Cs and the three Rs.

Schools are accomplishing this tall order via exciting new approaches. Through project-based learning, students investigate real-world problems and design their own solutions. Students use technology not just to access valuable content but also to create it. By working collaboratively, students are tackling big issues — in their communities and the larger world. Through effective teamwork, they’re also honing important social skills, learning to respect diverse viewpoints and to resolve conflicts peacefully.

We would love you to join us at either the breakfast or sausage sizzle forums, Thursday 30 October, to hear your views and future directions for our great school.

**Selective High Schools application**
Entry to Government Selective High Schools for Year 7 in 2016 - **Online applications open**

Applications close by 18 November 2014 for parents or carers of Year 5 students who wish their children to be considered for placement in Year 7 at a selective high school in 2016.

Parents with internet access are requested to apply online. Online applications will be available from 14 October to 17 November 2014.
Application information is available on the Department’s internet at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

For parents without internet access a limited number of paper application forms are available in our school. Paper applications must be submitted to myself by Friday 14 November 2014.

All students seeking Year 7 entry to a selective high school in 2016 will be required to take the Selective High School Placement Test on the morning of **Thursday 12 March 2015**.

Applicants may apply for a total of any four selective high schools.
A complete list of selective high schools is available at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/types/shs_ahs_details.php

School Chaplaincy Program
I am considering applying for “School Chaplaincy Funding” for our school. Successful schools will be able to receive up to $20,000 per annum or 10 hours a week for the year. The Chaplain role in our school will be to provide pastoral care and support for members of school communities as requested by the school/principal. It is my understanding that they can run programs to develop self-esteem, peer support and build personal resilience. These programs are very similar to the ones that Mrs Neal has been working on with some students, as well as the basic concept behind our interest groups at lunch time. Parents can opt in or out of their children participating in any of the programs. I must emphasise that the chaplain’s role, as it has been explained to me, is not to convert students to a particular religion, but one of support. The school basically decides on their job description and what will be required of them. They will be answering to myself as the principal of the school and following a national code of conduct.

If we are successful in receiving this grant, the vacancy will go to advertisement and a panel will be formed to ensure that we employ someone who will work well with our school community.

I am very much interested to know your view on our school applying for the “School Chaplaincy Program”. You can email me directly on androula.kavallaris@det.nsw.edu.au

No Hat – Play in the Shade
A kind reminder to everyone that we will be 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.

Evacuation and Lockdown Drills
Our school will be practicing our WHS (Work Health and Safety) drills throughout Term 4. These drills are compulsory for all schools and it will be to the benefit of all students and staff.

It is imperative that if you are visiting our school as a parent helper, volunteer, tradesman etc. you sign on in the front office and receive your visitor’s badge. It is also important to read over our evacuation and lockdown procedures and if further information is required you can take an evacuation and lockdown drills pamphlet with you. All are available near our ‘visitor sign on book’.

It is also imperative to remember that if we did have to go to lockdown or evacuate our school our first two priorities are

- securing everyone who is on school premises, students, staff and visitors, by ringing the appropriate bell and
- contacting 000.

Once the police/fire brigade etc. arrives at the school they take control of the site and remain in control until the ‘threat’ is over and responsibility is handed back to the principal. Police and/or fire brigade then work with the principal to continue to manage the incident. Please note, in the event that we do have to go to lockdown or evacuation, it is highly recommended that you listen to the media reports for updates on the school rather than driving to the school.

Belgenny Farm
Last Thursday, 9th October 2014, KG and K/1R had the opportunity to visit Belgenny Farm at Camden. When we arrived at Belgenny Farm we were greeted by Mr Matthews who gave us a talk about the farm and explained what we were doing for the day. The students watched a sheep dog demonstration and made butter which they got to eat on bread. They also had a great time going into the chicken coop to collect eggs which they then turned into scrambled eggs.
We had a visit from Farmer Joe who took us for a tractor ride around the farm where we were given the job of checking the fences and making sure all the animals were safe.
The last part of our excursion was a visit to the dairy. Students were given the opportunity to bottle feed 5 day old baby calves. We then went into the milking shed where students watched cows being milked.
We had a fantastic visit at Belgenny Farm and arrived home safely with 43 very tired children.
Planning for 2015
The staff and I have started to plan for 2015.

Our anticipated numbers for 2015 at the moment are 147 students. We would love to get to the magical number of 159 students, but as you are all aware we are under very strict guidelines in terms of out of area enrolments. If we were to reach 159 students, this would give us another class.

In order to ensure that I am on track with our proposed enrolments I am asking parents who are going on an extended holiday in January and parents who are not returning to Kentlyn Public School to complete the notifications below and return to me as soon as possible please.

The smiles you give come back to you!
Androula Kavallaris
Principal

NOTIFICATION OF EXTENDED SUMMER VACATION
This is to inform you that my child/children:

Name: ___________________ Class: ________
Name: ___________________ Class: ________
Name: ___________________ Class: ________

will not return to school in Term 1 2015 until ____________ (date) due to an extended holiday.

Signed: ______________ Date: ________
(Parent/Guardian)

NOTIFICATION OF CHILDREN LEAVING THE SCHOOL
This is to inform you that my child/children:

Name: ___________________ Class: ________
Name: ___________________ Class: ________
Name: ___________________ Class: ________

will be leaving Kentlyn Public School on ________________ and will enrol at ________________ Public School.

The last day of attendance will be: ____________.

Signed: ______________ Date: ________
(Parent/Guardian)

Principal’s Awards
Angus Michie 4/5S

Value of the Week Awards
Integrity
K-2
Abigail Dimitry KG
3-6
Marcus Zapirain 4/5S

Congratulations!
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Developing 2015-2017 School Plan
Your Personal Invitation

In leading a highly effective school, here at Kentlyn Public School, we believe a quality planning process helps to drive and direct the main strategic business of the school. It is essential to achieving substantial, sustainable growth and improved learning performance. It is both capacity-building and future focused so as to deliver an impact which is transformative.

We acknowledge the importance of working with students, staff, parents and community members in building the shared understanding, knowledge and skills required to achieve the educational practices necessary to bring about sustained growth. We are currently busily gathering data and collating information to inform and develop our 2015-2017 whole school plan.

Here at Kentlyn Public School, we value the input, thoughts and suggestions of our staff, students and wider school community to ensure the plan we produce for our school, is one that is all encompassing.

To ensure we develop a plan that is based upon the thoughts, feelings and ideas of all stakeholders in our school, we would like to personally invite you to come along to one of our parent & community forums. We will be running two sessions from which you may choose to attend

**BBQ Breakfast Forum** - Thursday 30 October at 8:00am or
**BBQ Dinner Forum** - Thursday 30 October at 5:30pm

During these forum sessions, you will not only be provided with a breakfast or BBQ dinner, but you will be able to contribute in the establishment of a shared vision and the aspirations for the future of Kentlyn Public School.

I am sure you will agree with me, when I state what a wonderful and valuable opportunity it is for you to have a say in the future of Kentlyn Public School.

Please indicate the forum session you are able to attend and return the slip previously sent home to Mrs Neal by Thursday 23 October.

Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group

During Term 4, it is my goal to establish a Junior Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (Junior AECG) here at Kentlyn Public School. This will be an opportunity for our Aboriginal students to meet on a weekly basis to brainstorm and discuss ways in which we can promote Aboriginal culture across our community, and also establish a strong and positive friendship within the group itself.

If you are interested in coming along to our ‘Sharing Circle’ sessions, or have any ideas or suggestions for our mob here at Kentlyn, I would love to hear from you.


Public speaking is an important life skill. Students need to be able to speak confidently to an audience. This is an important part of the curriculum. Not all students are going to win public speaking competitions but they need to develop the skills and confidence to speak in real life situations where public speaking is required. Public speaking skill does not just happen: it has humble beginnings and grows with experience. Students need lots of opportunities to both prepare and present speeches as well as to listen and watch others speak. A clear confident speaking voice is an essential life skill as it fosters self-esteem and personal confidence.

There are lots of ways parents can help.

The first part of developing a good speech is to help your child to choose a topic that is both interesting and original. Your child should have a personal knowledge of their topic.

Try to avoid recycled speeches that have been written by someone else. A good speech has a line of thought that leads to an opinion, not just a mini
lecture or recount of something that happened to them.

For example if a student wanted to do a speech on snakes it should not be just facts and figures, instead it should develop an argument about their importance to the environment or why people are afraid of them.

Speeches should have an interesting beginning and ending. Students don’t need to introduce themselves, address the audience or say thank you at the end.

When your child asks for help, assist them to develop their speech rather than write it for them. Learning is through doing, not having something done for you. Direct them to sources where they can find information; this might be from a person, family discussions, the library or the Internet. You can sit with your child as they write and support their thinking. The speech needs to be personable, meaningful and conversational.

Spend some time listening to your child’s speech. They need to practise it often, work on saying the ends of words clearly and use a variety of pitch and pace when speaking. Students need to be able to arrive at a point where they can look at the audience while speaking. They should be just glancing at their speech cards, not reading every word. Young students who are not fluent readers may have picture clues to help them remember each part of their speech. There are set time lengths for each speech these are listed below. Time them with a stopwatch so that they can pace their speech to reach the correct time.

It really helps if they practise in front of a mirror; this way they can keep working on using facial expressions. You can even video their speech so they can watch it back and evaluate their own efforts.

Impromptu speeches, with minimum preparation time can be practised while tea is cooking, or on long car journeys. Find time to give them a topic and see how long they talk on the topic. Can they improve their own time? Are they saying things that are interesting? What else could they have said?

Above all practice and encouragement are important. Praise your child’s efforts, as this should be enjoyable. Avoid putting too much pressure on a child to perform, they need to be encouraged to participate at their own level and build their skills as they gain more experience. A relaxed, well-prepared speaker will exude confidence and therefore will always be a winner.

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Macarthur Paediatric Occupational Therapy

Macarthur Paediatric Occupational Therapy is a local business that currently offers their services to many schools in the Campbelltown region. They have on offer the opportunity for school based therapy in both an individual and small group setting.

The advantages of school based therapy are:

- Parents/carers don’t have to try and schedule after school appointments or take their child from the school during school time.
- The therapist is able to liaise with the teaching staff and provide feedback immediately about strategies that could be incorporated into the classroom therapy.

Families are always kept up to date with the child’s progress through a communication book where the therapist writes notes about the task that had been completed and what could be followed up at home. Staff are also happy to receive phone calls to discuss therapy.

Payment of sessions are usually made directly through the Macarthur Paediatric Occupational Therapy bank account or cheque. Some children may be seen under funded programs. Please see Mrs Neal for further details. Spaces are filling fast.

Yours in Education

Tanya Neal

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P&C meeting tonight at 6:30pm in the staffroom. All Welcome