Week 10 Term 4  Always Our Best

**Rule of the week:**

Week 10  **Responsible:** Respect the rights and property of the school and others

Week 11  **Learner:** Follow Teachers Directions

**Value of the Week**

**Integrity**
Doing what is right even when it is difficult

**Co-operation**

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

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you so much to Mrs Rosa Lloyd of Eagle Vale who kindly donated $200 to our school for our XO Computers. She read the article that was featured in the 'Macarthur Chronicle' and called in straight away to offer her support. Thank you so much from all of the students and staff 😊

A very big thank you as well to our very hard-working P&C Committee and all the community for your support throughout this year. I have said it many times over how our great school would not be where it is today without your constant help and support. The P&C AGM will be held early in 2015 and we are looking forward to the continued support and dedication from our community.

2014 has been an absolutely fantastic year for our school with many achievements.

I would like to thank all my highly qualified and caring staff for all their hard work in 2014 and for their flexibility and professionalism at all times. It is also with sadness that I thank the next two teachers for their hard work and dedication as I will not be able to offer them permanent work at our school in 2014.

Thank you very much to Majestic Commercial Pty Ltd for their very kind $1,000 donation to our great school for "a laptop for every student' project.

Majestic Commercial is Australia’s Leading National Commercial Cleaning Provider - Motor Vehicles, Hotels, Restaurants, Corporate Offices and Floor Care Everywhere.

Majestic Commercial provides vehicle cleaning services to the two largest motorhome hire companies in Australia. Commercial stone floors are constantly subject to harsh conditions, high levels of traffic, climatic changes and in some cases, the incorrect use of chemical cleaners and polishes. Their specialised stone floor, terrazzo floor, marble floor and vinyl floor rejuvenation techniques use a combination of patented Swiss Diamond floor polishing technology and specialised commercial floor sealing products.

If you would like a free appraisal and an obligation free quotation to rejuvenate your commercial floors, or to find out more about the services they provide, you are invited to call their Sydney office during business hours on 02 4620 7557 or visit their website on

Thank you to Mrs Davenport and Mr Woelfle for being an integral part of our school and community in 2014.
We once again congratulate Miss Helliwell for her successful transfer to Wollongong Primary School and wish her all the very best.
Mrs Monkhouse is also retiring at the end of this year after working at our lovely school for the last 12 years and volunteering in the Library for a very long time. We would like to wish her all the very best and we hope that she will come back and visit us every now and then.

Planning for 2015
The staff and I have started working on classes for 2015. It is vital that you notify the office if you are not returning next year or going on an extended holiday and returning to school after the allocated day. Please complete the forms at the end of the newsletter and return them to Mrs Thompson as soon as possible. Student numbers affect our teacher allocation and therefore our ability to plan effectively. At the moment we will have 141 students starting with us in 2015.

Canteen
Our canteen will be closed for normal lunch orders as of today. However, there will be sausage sizzle sandwiches and cold refreshments on Friday 12 December.

Movie Day and Picnic Day
Movie day is tomorrow. Please ensure that all students are in full school uniform. Parents are welcome to join their child back at school for a picnic after the movie. It is expected that we will be back at school at approximately 1:30pm. All students will receive popcorn and a drink which was included in the $15.00 cost.

Presentation Awards Ceremony - Friday 12 December 10:30 - 12:00pm
On Friday 12 December at 10:30am we will be having our Presentation Day Awards Ceremony on the netball courts, weather permitting.

In case of wet weather we will be having our Presentation Day Award Ceremony in the hall in two split sessions.
10:00 - 11:00 KG, K/1R and 1/2H (20 minute recess)
11:30 - 12:30 2/3W, 4/5S and 5/6C
I am asking all parents to be here by 10:00am just in case we go to the wet weather option especially if your child is in KG, K/1R and 1/2H. Unfortunately due to the unpredictable weather we have been having lately, it will need to be a decision that we make in the morning.

All students are expected to be in full school uniform on the day not their sport uniform.

If we need to proceed with the wet weather arrangement, we will do our best to ensure that there will be minimal changes to the program, however, this cannot be guaranteed due to the limited space in our school hall.

Our school canteen will be open for cold beverages and ice-creams. A sausage sizzle will also be available on the day. The P&C will also be running a cake and coffee stall; a ‘white elephant stall’ and an art exhibition and silent auction stall of our students’ lovely work.
Thank you in advance for your support in this matter and we are looking forward to seeing you there.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FEE FOR 2014 - HELPING US TO ACHIEVE OUR GOAL FOR A LAPTOP FOR EACH CHILD
I would like to take the time to thank all parents who have generously paid their school fees and those who have been able to contribute further towards this very worthwhile cause.

The total cost of the Family Contribution Fee this year is $25.00 per family; however, in 2015 it will be $70.00 per family. If you do wish to contribute more towards this very worthwhile cause, you are more than welcome 😊

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

Thank you to some parents who have already donated/paid their fees for this year and we are looking forward to more donations coming in next week.
A very big thank you once again to Mrs Nicole Gerrard, Jayden and Jo Corbet for continuing to do their ‘letter drops’ seeking support for our school. Another success story from these flyers, apart from the one mentioned earlier in the newsletter, is an article featuring our great school in South West Voice – Liverpool & Macarthur.

**McDonalds Fundraiser**

A very big thank you to Mrs Corbet and P&C for organising the McDonalds Fundraiser two weeks ago. It was a great success and a great way for the community to get together and socialise. This event raised $267.00.

**Student Leaders 2015**

Congratulations to the following students for being selected to represent their peers and our great school as our Student Leaders for 2015. The students are listed in alphabetical order.

- Charlie Dadd
- David Dimitry
- Zachary Maxwell
- Sophie Moore
- Khy Shelton
- Amabelle Woolley

School Captains will be announced on Presentation Day.

**Talent Quest**

Our Talent Quest this year will be held on Tuesday, 16 December from 1:00 - 2:00pm. Parents are welcome.

Mrs Muller is organising this great event; however, at the moment we do not seem to have many students who are interested in participating.

There is a possibility that this event might be cancelled if there is not enough interest from the students.

**Congratulations Year 6 2015 T-Shirt Design Winner**

Congratulations to Sadie Wyer-Manock for being selected as our winner for the Year 6 2015 Polo Shirt Design. This is a great honour. 😊 Sadie’s design, will be printed on the back of our Year 6 2015 school Polo Shirts.

**Allergies Reminder**

We have students in our school who are allergic to some foods e.g. peanuts, milk products, eggs, animal fur, grass etc.

We are kindly requesting that sandwiches with peanut butter, Nutella or other peanut products NOT be brought to school to ensure that the safety of these students is maintained.

Our canteen is “Nut Free” and we wish our school to be as “Nut Free” as possible.

Thank you in advance.

**Important Term 4 Dates for your Diary**

- **Thursday 11 December** – Movie Day and Picnic afterwards at the school
- **Friday 12 December** – Formal Presentation Assembly 10:30 - 12:00 and P&C Fundraising 12:30 - 2:30
- **Wet weather arrangement:** 10:00 - 11:00 KG, K/1R & 1/2H 11:30 - 12:30 2/3W, 4/5S, 5/6C.
- **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.

**Important 2015, Term 1 Dates your Diary**

- **Tuesday 26 January** – Pupil Free Day
- **Wednesday 27 January** – students return back to school
- **Monday 2 February** – Kindergarten students start
Monday 9 February - Swimming Carnival - Macquarie Fields Pool
Wednesday 11 February - P&C AGM 5:30pm in the staffroom.
Tuesday 24 February - Interrelate Program - Leumeah Public School hosting it. Our parents are welcome to attend. More details early Term 1.

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)

Teach your kids to be waterproof
As temperatures rise, the risk of drowning increases too. Review these water-safety tips to help keep your family safe this summer.


The smiles you give come back to you!

Androula Kavallaris
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

It is hard to believe that the end of the school year has arrived! 12 months have passed very quickly!
The year’s end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. So many things have been accomplished this year! From the swimming carnival near the beginning of the year to the Year 6 farewell (which will be happening next Tuesday evening) - our students have been involved in an extraordinary number of activities. Of course, we should not forget the tremendous amount of learning which has taken place during the year. Throughout all of these activities our students have demonstrated great character!

Each of your children has brought such joy and happiness to our school. This year, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to work with and get to know every child from K-6 a little better. Each and every child has touched my life this school year in a very positive and rewarding way. It has been my pleasure getting to know not only your child, but you as well. Having parental support and open lines of communication is an essential part of any successful school year. Thank you for all you have done to make our year so fulfilling and memorable.

To our year 6 graduates - congratulations on your achievement! I wish you all the very best as you move to your new high school. If this is your last child to leave Kentlyn Public School, I would like to thank you for your support and for the guidance you have provided for your child. We look forward to hearing from the graduates in the future and I know that each of them have gained a firm foundation for their future education while at Kentlyn Public School.
Christmas and Holiday Thanks

Whilst celebrating and enjoying time with my family and friends this year, I will be reflecting on the lessons learnt by the Christmas Truce of 1914. This year marks the 100 year anniversary of the WW1 Christmas truce. During World War I, on and around Christmas Day 1914, the sounds of rifles firing and shells exploding faded in a number of places along the Western Front in favour of holiday celebrations in the trenches and gestures of goodwill between enemies. Starting on Christmas Eve, many German and British troops sang Christmas carols to each other across the lines, and at certain points the Allied soldiers even heard brass bands joining the Germans in their joyous singing.

At the first light of dawn on Christmas Day, some German soldiers emerged from their trenches and approached the Allied lines across no-man's-land, calling out “Merry Christmas” in their enemies' native tongues. At first, the Allied soldiers feared it was a trick, but seeing the Germans unarmed they climbed out of their trenches and shook hands with the enemy soldiers. The men exchanged presents and plum puddings and sang carols and songs. There was even a documented case of soldiers from opposing sides playing a good-natured game of soccer.

The Christmas Truce of 1914 came only five months after the outbreak of war in Europe and was one of the last examples of the out-dated notion of chivalry between enemies in warfare. It was never repeated—but it served as heartening proof, however brief, that beneath the brutal clash of weapons, the soldiers’ essential humanity endured. During World War I, the soldiers on the Western Front did not expect to celebrate on the battlefield, but even a world war could not destroy the Christmas spirit.

Stage 3 have been visiting this topic as we approach Christmas and the 100 year anniversary. They have pondered and reflected on our soldiers thoughts and what the young men must have been going through during this time. Please take the time to read some of the diary entries written by our students, placing themselves in the roles of the soldiers. I am sure you will agree with me when I say how impressed I was with their diary piece and the way in which they moved the reader.

December 25, 1914

Dear Diary,

I am starting to get blisters on my feet from all of the water I've been standing in for days. It is night now and it's Christmas Eve so I'm just going to look at the stars. During the night I heard a German soldier yell out “Merry Christmas” so we said it back. The German soldiers put up Christmas trees and put candles on. The Germans started singing Silent Night so we started singing too. I woke up in the morning thinking about what happened last night and decided to get out of the trench and walk slowly to the Germans. A young man named Otto came out to the Germans. A young man named Otto came out and we said “Hello” and introduced ourselves. Everyone started to come out and introduce each other. One man brought a football so we played football and took photos and had lots of fun. When I heard the bombs going off we all went back and started fighting. I felt very sad having to fight a friend I had just met. By Samuel Maxwell

25th December, 1914

Dear Journal,

The truce was made. I stood up over the trenches and put my hands up bearing cigarettes in my hat. Another soldier stood up but from the other side. We walked to the middle and shook hands. That's
when we knew to put down our weapons and to greet our enemies. Soldiers started to exchange gifts. A football was exchanged which caused a great big football game. This just shows how Christmas can bring the worst of enemies to friends. With Silent Night stuck in my head from the past night, I greeted Otto, the German soldier and exchanged chocolates and waffles. But when the sound of bombing was heard we had to go back to our trenches and fight again. When will this war end?!

By Erin Dobinson 5/6C

December 25th, 1914

It is Christmas day and we had a truce that no shots are to be fired today. Last night my fellow soldiers and I heard the Germans singing silent night. We all joined in due to it being Christmas Eve. It was something special about that night that kept me thinking that we could all be mates at Christmas even though we were enemies. So today started out a little like this: I was non-stop thinking about what happened last night that I knew I had to get something special out of this Christmas. I stepped out of the muddy trenches carefully still warned that if I got too close they would have to shoot me. I was unarmed and I trudged slowly towards the enemy base as nervous as one could get and as I got into a close position I yelled out something that changed everything; something that brought joy and peace to all the soldiers. “MERRY CHRISTMAS!” As my words echoed through the Germans ears they started coming out of their trenches and walked towards me slowly led by a soldier named Otto. As these events commenced the British soldiers came out of their trenches and joined the Germans and I by all shaking hands. I was kind of tired from the night before after all the thinking I had done about the carolling from both sides. Soon, I did something crazy; I climbed out of the trench, unarmed, with my hands up. I could hear shouting from both the German’s trenches and our own. Then everyone in the 5 closest trenches, and still more were coming.

Anthony Robinson

December 25th 1914

Dear Diary,

It's Christmas night now and I have just experienced a very strange and unusual day. Last night we noticed some Christmas trees with candles alight on the German's trenches as well as soldiers singing Christmas carols and one yelling 'Merry Christmas' to us.

This morning there was no gunfire to be heard. No bombs, no shells, and no combat of any kind. About an hour after I woke up, barely having the courage to do it. I slowly made my way out of the trench, not knowing what I was doing. No shots were fired, but slowly, I began to see German soldiers climbing out of their trenches, no weapons in hand. After almost everyone had made their way out of the trenches we began to meet German soldiers and we also had a game of football with a ball one of our soldiers got delivered for Christmas.

After about a twenty minute game we were reminded of our situation by bombing heard in the distance. I am now quite regretful of meeting other Germans as I now have to try and kill them. I am feeling quite distressed now but it was nice to have a break from the combat and it was a lovely Christmas.

By Matthew Cooper

Dear Amelia

Merry Christmas honey! I wish to tell you about what has happened since Christmas Eve (Its Boxing Day when I write this). On Christmas Eve the Germans came out of their trenches and put up Christmas trees! No joke! They lit the trees with candles, then, from the trenches, the Germans started singing Silent Night. Of course, they were singing in German, but the tune was unmistakable! A few soldiers and I soon started singing it in English, and soon everyone was singing, even the General! The next morning I got your package with the chocolates and a photo of you. It was lovely. I put them in my pocket. I was kind of tired from the night before after all the thinking I had done about the carolling from both sides. Soon, I did something crazy; I climbed out of the trench, unarmed, with my hands up. I could hear shouting from both the German's trenches and our own. I yelled out to the Germans "Merry Christmas!" Everything after that point was spontaneous and crazy. A few English soldiers joined me outside the trenches, unarmed. Soon everyone in the front line was up with me. Then everyone in the 5 closest trenches, and still more were coming.

Meanwhile, Germans were coming out of their trenches. The first one to emerge came up to me and shook my hand. "My name is Jim" I said to him and he replied, but I couldn't quite understand him because he was speaking German. I made out from it however, that his name was Otto. I pulled out my
That’s my girlfriend back in England. Her name is Amelia. Around me, soldiers, both English and German shook hands and talked. Even the generals were talking to Germans. Soon, an English soldier brought out a football, and a game of football began. It was amazing and the hours passed too quickly. Then a bomb went off and everyone began running back to their trenches, shouting their goodbyes, but before I ran off I gave Otto the chocolates you gave me, and he gave me a box. I gave him a quick nod and he returned it, then we both scrambled to our own trenches. I opened the box Otto had given me to find one sugary cracker. I was on a free time shift, meaning I didn’t have to go to the front line, so I lay down on my bed in my quarters and thought sadly about how it was over, and that I wouldn’t get to see Otto again.

Now the shooting has begun again. I hope to write to you again soon.

From, your faithful boyfriend, Jim.

By Penny Auger
24th December, 1914

This was the night that the truce began. We were all sitting there, guns in hands and eyes wide open. The Germans put up trees on top of their trench and lit candles. We were all getting suspicious so we raised our guns and ready to fire. Then we heard the noises. I looked at my friend and listened carefully. I couldn’t understand the words but I could hear the tune. The Germans were singing a song for Christmas Eve. They were singing silent night. I started singing with a smile on my face, lots of other people started singing as well. We were all having a good time singing and I thought to myself, there is some hope of friendship here. I couldn’t stop thinking about it all night but in the morning I had an idea. Thinking of last night I stood up and walked over to the ladder. A few people woke up and looked at me. I started to climb the ladder, and when I got out I took off my hat and put my hands up. I walked a little closer to the Germans’ bunker. I could hear lots of shouts and yells but no-one fired. I saw barrels of guns pointed at me but I still had a small smile on my face. Everyone was awake now and alert. Someone from the Germans bunker yelled “MERRY CHRISTMAS.” I yelled back the same thing and I saw that someone from their bunker had done the same thing as me. Everyone had climbed out of their bunker and was walking towards each other me and the first person that had gotten out of their bunker met up first. I held out my hand and said “My name is Jim.” “My name is Otto” he replied. We shook hands and started talking. Everyone around us were chatting and having a good time. Then from out of no-where a soccer ball came flying out to us. I heard someone yell out “Soccer game”. We smiled and decided to make the teams English vs. Germany, and the game began. They scored the first goal but we scored the next. After what seemed like minutes but had been hours we all heard something that quickly wiped the smiles off our face. Somewhere in the distance a bomb went off. I shook hands with Otto on last time and went back to the bunker. When I was in and ready I felt something in my jacket pocket so I took it out and looked at it, it was a box with something inside it. I undid the clip and looked inside. The smile came back to me when I saw that there was a Christmas cracker inside. I let out a small laugh because I had put a box of chocolates into Otto’s jacket pocket as well. The guns went off and we were back to fighting again. I didn’t want to fight again but I had to.

I’d like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe Christmas, holiday break and New Year.

I am looking forward to working with you all in 2015 and bringing to fruition the many exciting plans we have for Kentlyn Public School.

Yours in Education
Tanya Neal

Voluntary School Contributions for 2014

As a community we are always very generous and industrious in fundraising, but your voluntary school contribution will assist the school in providing resources beyond what government funding allows.

If you feel you would like to pay more, it would be very much appreciated if you would contribute to the ‘A Laptop for Every Child Program’. This will help us to keep our technology as current as possible for student learning.
Principal’s Award
Angelina Swift 4/5S

Value of the Week Awards

Participation

K-2
Natalya Hicks KG

3-6
Samuel Maxwell 5/6C

Integrity

K-2
Sasha Vongvixay 2/3W

3-6
Tamara Woolley 5/6C

Congratulations!