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 have spent lots of time during the holidays preparing for the 2014 school year.

Mr Jason Woelfle has joined our great school this year. Mr Woelfle comes highly recommended from John Warby Public School. He will be teaching 2/3W and I know that you will all make him feel welcome.

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. The K/1R class will be formed on Monday 10 February 2014.

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
- help in our school canteen
- help with fundraising events

As a parent helper, you will also be asked to complete a "Working with Children" check that will be valid for the whole year. This is a DEC requirement. Please see Mrs Thompson in the office for an application form.

Please also remember that the class teacher is always responsible for discipline in the classroom. If you are visiting or assisting in a small group or in an individual situation and a student is behaving inappropriately it is best to advise the class teacher.

The Monday morning assemblies will resume this year. Students assemble under the COLA 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.
Classes for 2014 – 6 classes
KG – Mrs Grover
K/1R – Miss Hackett
1/2H – Miss Helliwell
2/3W – Mr Woelfle
4/5S – Mr Saunders
5/6C – Miss Chisholm
Ms Kavallaris – (Principal) - Release from Face to Face (RFF teacher) - Tuesdays and Wednesdays
Mrs Neal - (Assistant Principal) - Learning and Support Teacher and Literacy and Numeracy Project co-ordinator
Mrs Muller - Library teacher - Tuesdays
Learning and Support Teacher: Wednesdays and half a day Thursdays.
Miss Hagedoorn – ESL – one day a week (Term 1)

School Banking 2014
School banking will recommence this Friday 7 February 2014. A very big thank you to Mrs Singleton who was doing this throughout 2013 and a very big thank you to Mrs Cosgrove who has volunteered to take this over for 2014.

School Leaders 2014
Captains:
Tamara Woolley
Matthew Cooper

School Leaders:
Riley Arnold
Joel Martin
Anthony Robinson
Damien Ross

I would like to congratulate all school leaders for a great start to the year with their responsibilities as well as being excellent role models for everyone to follow 😊😊😊

Swimming Carnival
On Wednesday 26 February Kentlyn Public School will be having its swimming carnival at Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre. Please complete the parent helper section of the note and return back to the school if you are able to assist on the day.

Notes to parents
Thank you to all the students who have returned their permission notes to school. It is imperative that all notes are returned by Friday 7 February at the latest. This is especially the case for the note allowing your child to play on Kentlyn Oval during lunch, recess 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/
At Kentlyn Public School we will be implementing the new English Syllabus this year and all staff will be professionally developed in the new Maths syllabus ready to implement in 2015.

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. 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 Information Evening
Our Parent/Teacher Information Evening will be on Tuesday 18 February 2014 from 5:30 - 6:10pm
The idea of the Parent/Teacher Information Evening is to give parents the opportunity 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 they may have. All parents are encouraged to attend.

**General 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. By law, an absentee note is required within 7 days of your child’s sickness. 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.

**Students arriving to school late**
There are times when your child might arrive at school late. Please remember that it is a legal requirement that YOU SIGN your child in before they are allowed to go to their classrooms.

**Picking up your child at the end of a school day**
For the safety of all students, as per last year, we do require all parents to pick up their children at home time from under the COLA, after our dismissal assembly. If at any time you are running a little bit late, please ensure that you ring the office and we can supervise your child until you get to the school. All students who have not been picked up will be asked by a staff member to wait up at the office so that we can contact the parent/carer.

You would have also noticed that in the afternoons, whenever possible, Mrs Neal or myself supervise the ‘Old Kent Road’ gate. This is not always possible due to the complexities that can arise at the end of each school day.

**Emergency Action Plans**
If your child has a medical condition requiring 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 Mrs Thompson to 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 7 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.

**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/

If you require extra copies of notes sent home you can also find them on our website, under 'School Notes' and then 'whole school notes'.

**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 Price. She can be contacted on 0468921240.

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

- Friday 21 March & Friday 4 April 2014

**2013/2014 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 - Wednesday 5 February 2014 at 6:30 pm in the staffroom

**2014 AGM - Wednesday 5 March 2014 6:30pm in the staffroom**

**Presentation Day**
In 2014 we will be trialling having our Presentation Day during school hours. Please save this day and time in your diaries.

**DATE:** FRIDAY 12 DECEMBER 2014  
**TIME:** 10:30AM - 12:00PM

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**Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:**

**Tuesday 4 February** - Kindergarten students start
**and**  
**NRL - Tackle Bullying Session 1:00 - 1:30pm**

**Wednesday 5 February** - P&C meeting 6:30 in the staffroom. All Welcome 😊

**Friday 7 February** - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run

**Tuesday 18 February** - Parent/Teacher Information Evening K-6 - 5:30 - 6:10pm

**Friday 21 February** - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run

**Wednesday 26 February** - Swimming Carnival  
Macquarie Fields Pool

**Wednesday 5 March** - P&C AGM 6:30pm in the staffroom

**Friday 7 March** - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run

**Monday 10 March** - Responsible Pet Program visit K-2 students

**Wednesday 12 March** - Selective High School Test and Campbelltown Zone Primary Swimming at Campbelltown Swim Centre.

**Tuesday 18 March** - SSW Regional Swimming Carnival at Campbelltown Swim Centre (Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre)

**Friday 21 March** - GALA Day

**Friday 26 March** - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run

**Friday 4 April** - 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.

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

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK
Welcome to 2014 😊

Friendly Reminders
We have already had many hats, drink bottles and lunch boxes handed into lost property. To ensure all items are returned quickly to their rightful owner, please ensure that all items of your child’s clothing and belongings are clearly labelled.

Multi-Age (Composite) Classes
The information below is taken from the DET Report on Multi-Age Classes.
Our school has for a number of years formed Multi-Age Classes and is aware that a wide range of community opinion exists. This excerpt seeks to clarify some of the issues.

Report Conclusions
Multi-age classes are a necessary pattern of organisation in many government and non-government schools across NSW and Australia. They will continue to be a significant proportion of classes formed in NSW schools.

While in larger schools, forming classes by years is the more common practice, multi-age classes are usually formed because of the uneven pattern of enrolments at the school.

Sometimes, however, these classes are formed for educational reasons in schools where it is considered that mixing children of different ages is educationally and socially advantageous.

There is an increase in the number of schools choosing to introduce multi-age class groupings on the basis of the belief that they provide a better match structurally with a curriculum grounded in developmental learning principles.

More schools are forming multi-age classes, not because they have to, but because they want to. Research continues to confirm that multi-age classes do not disadvantage students academically and may benefit them socially and emotionally.

Moreover a growing number of teachers and principals believe that forming multi-age classes on sound educational principles results in academic benefits to students.

The range of academic abilities in a “straight” Year class could be wider than that in a multi-age class, depending on the criteria for placing students in the
multi-age class. The selection of students, individual teaching styles and experience are important influences.

Successful Practices – Excerpt
The key finding of this report is that the type for class organised will not determine either educational advantage or disadvantage. Important success factors for multi-age classes will include the degree of commitment of teachers, the acceptance and support of parents and, above all, the quality of classroom teaching. Multi-age classes can encourage student-centred learning, widen choices for placing students in classes and facilitate the flexible progression of students through a curriculum organised in stages and associated learning outcomes.

DRIVER SAFETY AROUND OUR SCHOOL.
Each year in NSW children are injured and sometimes killed around schools. You can help to make our school a safer place by obeying the road rules and being patient and understanding at the peak traffic times of 8:30am and 3:30pm.

Obeying Parking Signs and Road Rules

Disabled Parking.
Unless the vehicle you are driving displays a current Disabled Person’s Parking Authority and is carrying a disabled person you must not park in these areas.

No Parking
This sign means that in the area in the direction of the arrow you must not stand your car, except when you stop to pick up or set down goods or passengers. At no stage are you allowed to leave your car.

No Standing
This sign means in the area in the direction of the arrow you must not stand your vehicle except to stop to pick up or set down passenger.

No Stopping
This sign means in the area in the direction of the arrow you must not stand your vehicle at any point on the road, kerb unless there is a medical emergency.

Bus Zones
This sign means that in the direction of the arrow you are not allowed to stand your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.

School Zones
The signs school zone and 40k School Zone mean the speed limit is 40km/h. This special speed limit applies on school days and during times shown on signs.

Did you know?
- More children around schools are killed and injured at the start of school (8:30 to 9:15am) rather than at the end of the day due to parents rushing to get to work and there being more freely flowing traffic.
- Parking a little way from the school and walking to collect your child would make a big difference to the safety of all children.
- The fines for speeding 20km/h above the school zone limit around the school area can result in a penalty up to $750.

With these points in mind and the safety of our children being paramount, we are asking you to be observant with the following:
- Obey the road rules
- Park and walk
- Be patient at peak times

Yours in Education
Tanya Neal
Assistant Principal

COME PLAY AFL!
AFL
Campbelltown Swans Junior AFL registration is on 16th and 23rd Feb between 10am and 2pm at Clark Oval, Raby Rd, Kearns. Or you can register online now at campbelltown aflnswact.com.au
So register now for this great Winter Sport. Season starts 6th April. Enquiries contact Peter Hunt on 0417257775

Kik messenger
Does your child use Kik? Police have described it as "the No.1 social media problem involving teenagers", but most parents would barely have heard of messaging app Kik before last week. Find out what it is: http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/technology-az/-/technology_glossary/7wOF/5353/Kik+messenger
Why cyber safety experts are concerned:

Choosing school shoes
Are expensive school shoes the best option for happy feet? Let's face it. School shoes have never been at the cutting edge of fashion. In fact if you look at what your parents were wearing, the humble school shoe really hasn't evolved much at all.
Tips for choosing shoes:

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.
Find out more:

School Canteen
School Canteen will be open every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday starting from today. If you are able to volunteer your time on any of these days, to help in the school canteen, please see Catherine Cooke.

P&C Meeting
Tonight at 6:30pm in the staffroom.

P&C Annual General Meeting
5 March 2014  6:30pm in the staffroom

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Principal's Awards

Value of the Week Awards

**Integrity**

K-2
Ainsley Padey  1/2H

3-6
Erin Dobinson  5/6C

Congratulations!