Week 6 Term 1

Always Our Best

Rule of the week:
Week 6  Responsible - Always be polite
Week 7  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,

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.

Individual and Personalised Learning Plans

Some of our students have been identified as requiring modification or differentiation and challenge to their learning. This will mean that some students will need adjustments to the content learnt, the process of learning and the pace that it is presented to them. As a result, some students may require remediation and consistent revision while others may require extension and challenge. Regardless, teachers will identify each student’s need, plan goals and strategies and monitor and review plans. Over the next few weeks some parents will be contacted to review their child’s learning plan and assist with support at home. All plans will need to be negotiated and signed by the class teacher and parents and then reviewed next term. This process will ensure that all our students are being catered for to achieve their learning potential.

Swimming Carnival

On Wednesday 26 February 2014 49 students went to the Macquarie Fields Leisure Centre for Kentlyn’s Swimming Carnival. Everyone was excited to see if Campbell could change the current dominance of Macarthur. The day opened with the open medley and that set the trend of the day. There were some close races and it was good to see new faces competing as well as competitors taking on more disciplines and longer distances from last year.

The results are up on the website for viewing and the following students qualified for the Zone PSSA Swimming Carnival:

Rhiannon Cooke-Jones
Holly Nguyen
Jamie Vossen
Khy Shelton
Sadie Wyer-Manock
Samuel Maxwell
Sophie Moore
Thomas Ferro
Zachary Maxwell

Well done to all students for representing Kentlyn so well at the Centre and good luck to the swimmers who made it to the Zone. The Zone Carnival will be held at Bradbury and will be on Wednesday 12 March. A big thank you to all the parents who helped on the day, to the P and C for helping with the bus, and to Mrs Price, Miss Helliwell and Miss Chisholm for helping make the day run smoothly. The winning house will be announced at assembly on Friday.

Mr Saunders

Thank you to Mr Saunders and Miss Chisholm for a superb and well organised swimming carnival. These days are always fun, but a great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to make them look easy.
Campbelltown Zone Swimming Carnival –
Wednesday 12 March 2014

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. Miss Helliwell and Mrs Price will be meeting the students there.

Fundraising – World’s Greatest Shave and Crazy Hair Day

On Friday 28 February 2014 Kentlyn Public School held a Crazy Hair and Mufti Day to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. Students came to school with great hairstyles which were then coloured in some very creative ways. Once all the students’ hair was coloured, the teachers’ had their hair coloured by some lucky students who had won raffles drawn on Thursday. A big thank you to all the staff who participated allowing their hair to the creative colourings of the students and helped raise some extra money.

In total the school raised $731, which was added to Mr Saunders’ fundraising and taking his total to $2000.

The day finished with Mr Saunders getting his head shaved (just the clippers, no comb). It was a very exciting afternoon. A very big thank you to everyone who donated and to all the staff for helping out on the day. If you didn’t get a chance to donate and still want to, please see Mr Saunders for more information.

Mr Saunders
Staff Changes 2014

Goodbye Mrs Lynch

I would like to take this opportunity to say a very big thank you to Mrs Lynch, who has been our SLSO, teacher’s aide, here at Kentlyn for many years. I actually think she officially retired a few years ago but loves the school so much she came back for a few weeks and that lasted 3 years 😊

Your dedication to this job was incredible and I know that everything you were asked to do you did twice as much and always did it with a smile 😊😊😊

Welcome Mrs Ross

Mrs Ross will be replacing Mrs Lynch as a teacher’s aide or SLSO, for the remainder of Term 1. We are looking forward to having Mrs Ross as part of the ‘Kentlyn team’.

Crunch & Sip

Please be reminded that Kentlyn Public School is a registered Crunch n Sip school. The program is an easy way to help kids stay healthy and happy. Every day at 10am is a set break to eat a piece of fruit or salad, vegetables and a drink of water in the classroom. Students re-fuel with fruit and vegetables, assisting physical and mental performance and concentration in the classroom.

Congratulations

To Jo Edwards, our lovely cleaner, who had some time off to have her baby and I’m pleased to announce that she gave birth to a beautiful girl on Saturday, Jasmine Racheal Edwards. We wish Jo and her family all the very best 😊

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

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 -  Campbelltown Zone Primary Swimming at Bradbury Swimming Centre
Thursday 13 March - Selective High School Test
Tuesday 18 March - SSW Regional Swimming Carnival at Campbelltown Swim Centre (Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre)
Friday 26 March - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run
Monday 7 April - 11 April - Parent Teacher Interviews week.
Thursday 10 April - ANZAC Day Assembly - time to be confirmed later on in the term
Friday 11 April - Easter Hat Parade and last day of school term.

Term 2 Dates:
Monday 28 April - Pupil Free Day
Tuesday 29 April - All students K-6 back at school

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 Friday 28 March 2014.

Mobile Phones
While it is accepted that mobile phones play an important part in modern life and communications, it is important that all students and parents accept that their use during class time and on various other occasions at school is inappropriate.

If mobile phones are to be brought to school by students, they need to be switched off and left at the office.

Mobile Phones and Other Electronic Devices
Please note that the school will not accept any responsibility for a mobile phone or any other electronic devices being lost, damaged or stolen.

The same rule applies for these devices: all students must hand them in at the office before the morning bell rings at 9:10am

The smiles you give come back to you!

Androula Kavallaris
Principal

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Public Speaking
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.

This year at Kentlyn PS we have decided to have a greater focus on public speaking. We have planned a whole school public speaking competition later in the year as well as the development of a junior and senior debating team. Some classes have also included public speaking as a set part of students’ homework each week.

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. A recount of a holiday or special event is acceptable in the K-2 section, but as the competition progresses they need to include an opinion.

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.

Interest Groups
Interest groups will commence next week.

The National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence & Harmony Day
On Friday 21 March, Kentlyn Public School will be celebrating both The National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence and Harmony Day.

Harmony Day is a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home - from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world. By participating in Harmony Day activities, we can learn and understand how all Australians from diverse backgrounds equally belong to this nation and enrich it.

This year Kentlyn has decided to ‘take a stand together’ and participate in The National Day of Action Against Bullying & Violence.

To celebrate this day, students are able to dress in the colour orange.

Kentlyn Public School’s Facebook Page
Kentlyn Public School now have an Official Facebook page! Head on over to like our new page and view all the exciting things that are happening within our school.

https://www.facebook.com/kentlynps/info#!/kentlynps

Yours in Education
Tanya Neal
Assistant Principal
Homework help
Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework? Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments? The free School A to Z app has been created by the Department of Education and Communities to help parents and their school-aged children, wherever and whenever they have homework and study questions.

Find out more:
http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/about/mobile-applications/school-a-to-z

Homework and multi-tasking
Somewhere along the line we seemed to have absorbed the idea that teenagers can multi-task perfectly because they’re digital natives. Can kids really do their homework and multi-task?
Find out more:

Help with English
Does your child need help with spelling or writing? Here are some resources that may help.
Find out more:

Maths
Struggling to remember everything you learnt in maths? If you need a refresher course, here are some tips and tools to help you to help your child.
Find out more:

Principal’s Awards
Marcus Zapirain 4/5S

Value of the Week Awards

Care
K-2
Hannah Yates 2/3W
3-6
Hannah Walker 5/6C

Fairness
K-2
Bronwyn Zapirain 1/2H
3-6
Alejandro Nilo Barona 2/3W

Congratulations!

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

Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

In 2001, the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.
If you have any child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $1,500 of entitlements
The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline for this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.

ACT NOW!
DEADLINE
JUNE 2014

Your Family Tax Specialist