Dear Parents and Caregivers,

As previously informed there have been some staffing changes at Kentlyn as of Monday 31 March. Ms Kavallaris will be on long service leave until Friday 27 June - end of term 2. It is with great honour that I will be relieving in the role of Principal throughout this time.

Some other changes that will take place throughout the term are as follows:

- Mr Saunders will be Relieving Assistant Principal from 31 March until the end of Term 2.
- Mrs Davenport will be our Release from Face to Face Teacher from 31 March until the end of Term 2.
- Mrs Thompson will be on long service leave from Friday 28 March until 11 April and Mrs Kay Dennis will be in the office.
- Miss Hagedoorn will be our EALD (English as an Additional Language or Dialect) teacher every Monday and Tuesday until the end of Term 2.

Harmony Day & National Day Against Violence
Kentlyn was a sea of orange on Friday 21 March, when the Kentlyn community came together to celebrate Harmony Day and National Day Against Violence.
Even our canteen got involved in the spirit of the day! Our trusty helpers wore orange and even sold a variety of orange food.

Throughout the day the Kentlyn community joined in to participate in a variety of sporting and gardening activities. Some of the younger students had the opportunity to plant sweet pea seedlings with Mrs Seeney. These sweet peas will be planted in our planter boxes and looked after by the students of Kentlyn.

We raised a total of $148 with the sale of Harmony Day wrist bands. We still have some for sale from the office for $1.00.

**Year 6 Cake Stall Fund Raiser**

On Friday 21 March, Kentlyn PS celebrated Harmony Day. As part of the celebrations, Stage 3 students sought out their inner pastry chefs and baked some delicious morsels to sell at a cake store. There were so many marvellous cakes, slices and biscuits on offer! Students then offered their own time to run the very successful store. We are glad to say we raised $215 to go towards our Canberra Camp this year and were delighted with all the happy faces buying our products!

**Pac Students**

You may have noticed several new faces around the playground and within classrooms at Kentlyn Public School lately. We are lucky enough to be hosting several Pac Students from a variety of Universities. These students are at our school to learn from our wonderful teachers and students as well as offer their own skills and insights in to class and activities. They are eager to help and have a chat, so next time you see them, say hi!

**Easter Hat Parade/Fun Day**

On Friday 11 April we will be having Easter Fun Activities at Kentlyn PS.

Parents are invited to join us from 12.00 on the netball courts to watch our Easter Hat Parade. The students Easter hats are to be made and decorated at home. Children are encouraged to make their own hats and bring them on the day. Normal school sports uniform should be worn to school.

12:00 - Easter Hat Parade
12:50 - Picnic Lunch with your child/ren
1:50 - Rotation activities begin. (Each class will participate in 2 Easter activity rotations)
3:00 - Dismissal Assembly

The P&C will be cooking a sausage sizzle for the Kentlyn community. These must be pre ordered. Parents are then invited to stay for the remainder of the day, have a picnic lunch and visit classrooms and join in the Easter activities.

**Easter Colouring In Competition**

Miss Hagedoorn will again be running the Easter Colouring in Competition. There are 2 categories; infants and primary. Competition entries are to be given to Miss Hagedoorn no later than Monday 7 April. First prize will receive a merit award. Second prize will receive a mini.
**Parent and Teacher Interviews**

The reason for a parent-teacher interview is to exchange information that will help your child’s school career to be happy, enjoyable and successful. Just by attending the interview, you are off to a great start. It’s a chance to develop a line of communication.

It is an opportunity to meet the teacher and learn what kind of person your child is spending time with. It can give you comfort knowing that the teacher is compassionate and competent.

**Before you go, gather information to prepare for the interview:**
It will be a better meeting if you are aware of how your child feels about the class, the teacher and the school.

Firstly, what type of interview will it be? Will it be just you and the teacher or will it be three-way with your child present as well?

**Step 1:**
- Talk to your child to find out if there are things to be discussed with the teacher.
- What subjects does your child prefer or dislike?
- Is he/she happy about his/her progress?
- Ask your child to predict what the teacher is going to tell you.
- Then, ask what he/she would like you to discuss with the teacher.

**Step 2:**
- What goals can you set with your son/daughter?
- Is there anything he/she would like to see changed within himself/herself, with the teacher or within the classroom?

**Make a list of the things you would like to talk about:**

Let the teacher know about any major changes or challenges your child is facing at present. Inform the teacher of your child’s needs. Does he/she need a quiet environment to focus? Is your child a visual learner and prefers written information and diagrams or does your child achieve better when he or she talks through ideas aloud? Your insights may help the teacher meet your child’s individual learning needs.

If your child has special needs, ensure that the teacher is aware of them and has a plan for meeting those needs.

**Here are some ideas for questions to ask the teacher:**
- What are your expectations for my child?
- How is my child doing compared to the whole class expectations?
- How is my child’s participation and classwork being evaluated?
- What can I do at home to assist?
- What is my child’s relationship with other students?
- How much homework is given each night/week and how much time should my child be spending on it?

**At the interview:**
- Relax! Keep the lines of communication open and friendly.
- Make notes! (All too often we go home and only remember about 10% of what we heard.)

**At home:**
- Discuss the interview with your child.
- Ensure that you emphasise to your child all the positive remarks that were made.
- Feel free to contact the teacher if you would like any follow-up.

Please note that if the time and date the teacher has allocated does not cater for your needs you can ring and speak to your child’s teacher and organise a time and date that is mutually convenient. If you wish to talk to your child’s teacher, they are available to be contacted either by phone where a message can be left for them to return your call or approach them before or after school as to ensure there is no disruption to their class.
5/6C Experiment
Students in 5/6C have been working hard on all sorts of different things in class, from writing to maths, reading to art. This week however, we set our minds to enquiry mode and set out an experiment. How many students could 8 balloons hold? First we set up our experiment with an aim, materials needed, method and observations and then the fun began! We learnt a lot, like who has good balance, how balloons stretch and air is displaced, where we should position balloons and people and who’s afraid of popping balloons (Miss Chisholm!!!!). Who knew learning could be so much fun; by the way, we managed seven and a half people on top of the balloons!!!

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

- securing everyone that 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.

Annual School Report
The school’s Annual School Report for 2013 is now available to view on our website. If you would prefer a printed copy, please request one at the school office. Many thanks to the committee, including parent representatives who assisted with compiling last year’s report.

Evacuation and Lockdown Drills
Our school will be practicing our WHS (Work Health and Safety) drills throughout the school terms. These drills are compulsory for all schools and it’s 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’.

Kentlyn Public School’s Facebook Page
Don’t forget to head on over to Kentlyn Public School’s Official Facebook page to view all the wonderful things that are happening within our school
https://www.facebook.com/kentlynps/info#!/kentlynps

Working with Children Check—Volunteer Requirements
Due to new regulations, all volunteers within our school are required to complete a Working with Children Check on-line by the 1 April 2014. We ask that anyone who spends time assisting with our students go to the website, Working with Children Checks—http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/Working-with-children/New-Working-with-Children-Check

Click on ‘Start Here’ on the left hand side, and complete the application for volunteers. You will be issued with a reference number which we require at school. This will last 5 years. Please take some time to complete this check as soon as possible so we can continue the excellent community involvement with our students. Please come and see Mrs Thompson in the office and she will give you the appropriate form to fill out. With this form you will need to provide a “Proof of Identity 100 Point Check”.

Thank you in advance.
**Students Late to School**

We have had a number of students arriving late to school as of recent. This is very disruptive to the class and other students. All students who arrive to school late MUST be signed in by an adult and take the late slip to their class teacher to be recorded on the role.

**Why is arriving at school on time important?**
Arriving at school and class on time:
- ensures that your child doesn't miss out on the important learning activities scheduled early in the day when they are most alert
- helps your child to learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- gives your child time to greet their friends before class and therefore
- reduces the opportunity for classroom disruption.

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained to the school the same way as other forms of absence.

**WHS - Teacher Car Park**

Just a safety reminder that the staff car park is not to be used by parents to drop off or pick up children (with the exception of the use of the allocated disabled parking space). This has become a safety concern as of late. Children are not permitted to walk through the car park at any time to ensure their safety.

If you are dropping children off or picking children up from Before and After School Care, children must be walked through the car park with an adult and never permitted to walk through unattended.

It is a legal requirement that any student using this service be signed in and out by their carer.

At Kentlyn Public School, the welfare and safety of our students is paramount and I thank you in advance with your support regarding this matter.

**Tree Audit**

In line with new DEC procedures, an arborist will be employed sometime next term to carry out a comprehensive tree audit and compile a report to ensure safety and appropriate action to minimise risk in our school setting.

"The scope of the tree safety inspection is limited to those trees in and around buildings and in areas where students and staff congregate, before and after school, that pose an immediate, unacceptable risk to human safety."

**NSW Deadly Leaders Alliance**

Last Wednesday, I travelled to Queensland to participate and present at the NSW Deadly Leaders Alliance Conference. The NSW Aboriginal Alliance is a collaborative project that is aimed at strengthening the way in which Aboriginal leaders are supported and developed within the Education system. Dr. Chris Sarra was a prominent figure within the conference and shared his leadership visions and experiences with participants.

It was an honour to be selected and invited along to participate in a two day conference, where I had the opportunity to participate in workshops that aided the development of coaching and mentoring, promotions and feedback.

Within Kentlyn Public School, we are committed to ensuring that the capacity of Aboriginal staff is developed. Developing the capacity of Aboriginal staff directly benefits students within schools, bridging the achievement gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students.

All participants at the conference were of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent and proudly represented public schools.
Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 2 April - Easter Mufti Day. Students to bring an Easter donation

Thursday 3 April - 1/2H Excursion to the IMAX theatre

Friday 4 April - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm - Leaders to run

P&C Meeting - 2:00pm in the library

Monday 7 April - 11 April - Parent Teacher Interview week.

Wednesday 9 April - Easter Scripture Service in the hall at 10:40

Thursday 10 April - ANZAC Day Assembly - 10:15 - 10:45am in the hall

Friday 11 April - Easter Hat Parade, Easter fun day, BBQ and last day of school term.

Important Term 2 Dates for your Diary:

Monday 28 April - Pupil Free Day

Tuesday 29 April - All students K-6 back at school

Monday 5 May - Gymnastics program begins

Thursday 8 May - School Cross Country Carnival

Tuesday 13 May - Friday 16 May - NAPLAN

Yours in Education

Ms Tanya Neal

Principal ®

Principals Award

Zac Maxwell

Value of the Week

Democracy

K-2

Eleanor Peters K/1R

3-6

Tyler Christie 2/3W

Participation

K-2

Tala Matalasai KG

3-6

Kane Williams 5/6C

Congratulations!
Zone Teams
A very big thank you to all the students that have been representing Kentlyn Public School at a variety of sport selection days. It is nice to receive positive comments from other teachers about our students. Congratulations to Tasma-Lea King for making it to the Zone Hockey Team, Rhiannon Cooke-Jones for making it to the Zone Soccer Team and Joel Martin and Samuel Maxwell for making it to the Zone Touch Football Team. I am sure they will represent our school and zone with pride.

Gymnastics
As part of our ongoing commitment to implement quality, engaging and innovative PDHPE lessons we are once again having the Fit Futures Gymnastic program. All staff and students spoke highly of the program from last year hence the reason why we are happy to make it available to everyone again this year. As per last year it is expected that all students participate in the program.
Each class will attend their own individual session, each ranging from 30 – 40 minutes in length.

The program will cost $32.00 for a 7 week program beginning Term 2.

A kind reminder that payment is due in by Thursday 10 April 2014.

Homework for Little Kids
Schools develop homework policies with the help of teachers and parents. These are used as a guide and are based on common sense. If you find homework is becoming too much or is too difficult for your child, have a chat with your child’s teacher.

Helping Your Child to Become a Good Speller
What do you do when your child is struggling with spelling? Should you let your child use a spell checker, for instance? Here are a few tips and techniques to make spelling easier.

Mr Steven Saunders
Assistant Principal
Book Club

Thank you for encouraging your child to participate in Book Club. The school receives reward points of 1 point for every dollar spent and these points are used to purchase books for the school library. Each class also receives bonus points to purchase class readers.

Would you please check the following details before sending in the order:

1. Your child’s name is on the order form. It is difficult to match books to students when we don’t have a name.
2. That the books ordered tally with the amount enclosed. Sometimes students add extra books after the total has been done and we're not sure which books are to be included. Also, the books that are offered on a continuing basis must have the authority form on the right hand side of the page filled in and signed by a parent.
3. Cheques are to be made payable to Scholastic Book Club NOT the school.
4. Please remember to enclose Credit Card slip if paying by card.

Please note: Book Club is collated on the morning of the due date therefore orders sent to school after this time cannot be included. This is due to the deadline set by Scholastic.

Hi Everyone,

We are trialling some new times for our meetings in hopes that more of you will be able to attend. We value your opinions so please come along and share them with us. We are very excited to see some new faces as well as our regular attendees.

Our P & C Meeting will be held on Friday the 4th of April at 2:00pm in the school library.

Light refreshments will be provided ☺

Our Easter raffle will be drawn on the 11th of April ☺ Six lucky people will win a big Easter themed hamper. We are very pleased with the amount of people already handing in their entries and would like to wish everyone the best of luck. ☺

Have a great week ☺

Judith, Tammy, Naomi and Rachel

Go4Fun

FREE fun program to help kids become fitter, healthier and happier!
Do you have children 7-13 years old?
Are you worried about their weight?

The Go4Fun program is a free healthy lifestyle program to improve health, fitness, self-esteem and confidence in children above their ideal weight.
Go4Fun runs for 10 weeks over the school term for children and their parents. Sessions include games, activities, tips on healthy food, label reading, portion sizes plus much more!

South Western Sydney Local Health District has 15 places on the program in your local area, completely free of charge.
To find out more contact 1800 780 900 or Leah Choi Tel: (02) 97802811 or visit http://www.sswahs.nsw.gov.au/populationhealth/Go4Fun.html where you can also register.