Week 6 Term 1
Always Our Best

Rule of the week:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 6</th>
<th>Rule of the week</th>
<th>Value of the week</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Responsible - Always be Polite</td>
<td>Fairness</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Learner - Follow Teacher's Directions</td>
<td>Co-operation</td>
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**** 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.

Skoolbag App ready to download

We are very excited to announce that our school now has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our community. This will be used in conjunction with our website which will still be updated on a weekly basis. Later on in the year, we are hoping that skoolbag will be our main source of communication. Our aim is to increase our communication whilst at the same time reducing our use of paper.

We are kindly asking parents to install our free Skoolbag School App.

For iPhone and iPad users:
1. Click the "App Store" icon on your Apple device.
2. Type your school name in the search, using suburb name will help.
3. If iPhone, you will see your school appear, click "Free" then "install".
4. If iPad, change the drop list to "iPhone Apps", your school will then be visible, click "Free" then "install".
5. When installed click "Open"
6. Select "OK" to receive push notifications, when asked.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

For Android users:
You must first have signed up with a Google Account before installing the app.
1. Click the "Play Store" button on your Android Device
2. Click the magnifying glass icon at the top and type in your school name, using suburb name will help.
3. Click the school name when it appears in the search.
4. Click the "Install" button.
5. Click "Accept" for various permissions (please note, we do not modify any of your personal data on your device).
6. Click "Open" when installed.
7. Click the "More" button on the bottom right of the App, then "Setup".
8. Toggle on the Push Categories that are applicable for you.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to ask Mr Saunders or Ms Kavallaris.

Hard Copies of our Newsletter:
After this week, our newsletter will be communicated through 'skoolbag' and our website. Hard copies of our new newsletter can be organised if you do not have access to the internet and phone.
Please ring our school office on 46282455 to request a hard copy for your family.

**Individual and Personalised Learning Plans**

Some of our students have been identified as requiring modification or differentiation programs to build on 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. Over the next few weeks some parents will be contacted to review their child’s learning plan. This process will ensure that all our students are being catered for to achieve their learning potential.

**Teacher Appointments**

We ask that you make an appointment with your child’s teacher if you need to speak to them so that teachers can provide parents with their full attention when discussing problems or issues. It can be counterproductive to attempt to resolve issues as children move off to class of a morning or at bell times. The school has an executive member of staff, Mrs Neal, who is happy to assist but we also ask that you afford your child’s teacher the courtesy of discussing your concerns with them in the first instance.

**Kind Reminder:**

I would also like to remind parents that if there is an incident that has taken place in our school with your child, it is imperative that you see your child’s teacher about the incident rather than addressing it with the child involved. This will minimise any misunderstandings and ensure that it is dealt with in a timely manner.

**UNSW ICAS TESTS**

Last week students in Years 3-6 took home information regarding participation in the University of NSW International Competitions and Assessments for Schools tests. If you would like your child to participate in these 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 by **Friday 27 March 2015**.

Please note that this year we will need a minimum of 3 students to participate for each competition.

**Parent and Teacher Interviews**

Notes have been sent home for parent and teacher interviews. **If your child has misplaced his/her note you can access the note on our website in your child’s class section.** Interview dates for some teachers begin from Monday 23 March - Wednesday 1 April 2015.

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.

We are looking forward to seeing all our parents attend and see/hear for themselves the great work that their children are doing.

**GALA Days and change of dates for our K-6 Assemblies**

We are participating in this year’s GALA summer competitions. **GALA days are on Friday 6 March and Friday 20 March 2015.**

K-6 Assemblies have been moved to the following days:

- Friday 13 March - 1:00pm - school hall
- Friday 27 March - 1:00pm - school hall

**McDonalds Fundraiser:**

Our school will be having another McDonald’s fundraiser on Tuesday 24 March from 6:00-8:00pm. It’s a great afternoon for both the students and parents to have a catch up and feed the family. Remember that all money raised in these two hours will go towards the payment of our XO’s.

**Koori Education Carnival at Western Sydney University**

Koori Education Carnival was held on Friday 20 February 2015 at the Campbelltown Campus of University Western Sydney. The day was a taste of what courses are available to university students. We joined students in Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 from local primary and high schools. We were put into small groups so we could rotate through different activities.

Firstly we went to an Aboriginal art activity and made night themed book marks, being instructed by an aboriginal artist. We discovered how to extract DNA from strawberries by adding detergent, water, salt and ethanol.
We sat in a Moot Law Court and played courtroom roles. Mathe-magic was fun as we were taught magic tricks using cards, and another trick with a rope, we learnt that maths is just not about numbers but using our brain. Occupational Therapy gave a chance to learn how we can help others.

At lunch time we watched a dancing and didgeridoo performance.

The day was very interesting; we learnt what fun we could have at university and about our cultural heritage.

Thank you Mrs Lynch for supervising us on the day 😊

By Tasma-Lee and Lily

Family Contribution Fee 2015 - Helping us to achieve our goal for a laptop for each child.

A very big Thank You to all the families who have donated their “family contribution fee” already (last year and this year) 😊. Your very kind donation will make that final payment so much easier 😊. Some families have also given more than the $70.00 contribution which was extremely kind and greatly appreciated.

The Family Contribution Fee, although voluntary, will make a difference to our school finances.

The total cost of the Family Contribution Fee in 2015, as agreed by the majority of the parents in our 2014 surveys, will be $70.00 per family. However, if you do wish to contribute more towards this very worthwhile cause, you are more than welcome 😊.

Genius Hour

Genius hour is a program that allows students to explore their own passions and encourages creativity in the classroom. It provides students a choice in what they learn during a
set period of time during school. Teachers provide a set amount of time for the students to work on their passion projects. Students are then challenged to explore something to do a project over that they want to learn about. They spend several weeks researching the topic before they start creating a product that will be shared with the class/school/world. Deadlines are limited and creativity is encouraged. Throughout the process the teachers facilitate the student projects to ensure that they are on task.

4/5S and 6A have implemented ‘genius hour’ in their classrooms and both teachers are very happy with the results they are getting, which is only the beginning! Our goal is to create lifelong learners and this new mindset of learning is a huge step towards that goal.

I had the pleasure of observing 4/5S and 6A at work several times and it is very clear that students are:

- engaged in their learning
- Reminded of ‘expectations’ and what is required of them so that they are on track and take responsibility for their learning
- Using a rubric to ensure that they are doing their best work and striving for excellence.

(more photos can be found on our website)
School Gates Getting Locked
Our school gates will be locked after 9:15am to ensure our student's safety. Gates will be re-opened at 2:45pm every afternoon. If you need to access the office at any time please enter the school grounds from the gate that is closest to the office. On the odd occasion when your child is running late, please make sure that you accompany your child to the office, using the gate closest to the office, and sign your child in and receive a late slip for your child's classroom teacher.

Photographing and taking video of our students.
Most of you would be aware that it is DEC and a school requirement that we get parental permission for students to be photographed, videotaped and be put on our website. (These notes are available on our website.)

We have a number of students who cannot be photographed or be videotaped at any time. Some are for legal reasons. With all school events I ask that you please only photograph/video your child, to the best of your ability.

I understand that this is very hard to monitor however, with your support I know that we can maintain these students' privacy.

Refurbishment of our School Canteen
Our great P&C and I would like to ask for any community members that have experience in refurbishing our school canteen. In particular we are looking to have wire shelving to be installed throughout, old wooden shelving removed and possible new flooring and better sink storage. Please email myself at Kentlyn-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au or contact Mrs Seeney, our P&C President, if you are able to assist in any way.

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. Students will be asked to play in the shade or undercover if they are not wearing a hat.

Presentation Day
Please save this day and time in your diaries.
DATE: FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2015
TIME: 10:30AM - 12:00PM

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:
Thursday 5 March - Worlds Greatest Shave/Colour Hair Day
Friday 6 March - GALA day
Tuesday 10 March - Zone Swimming Carnival - Bradbury Pool
Thursday 12 March - Selective High School Placement Test
Friday 13 March - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm hall
Monday 16 March - Responsible Pet Program K-2
Friday 20 March - GALA Day
Tuesday 24 March - P&C McDonalds Fundraiser 6:00 - 8:00pm
Friday 27 March - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm hall
And HARMONY DAY activities K-6
Thursday 2 April - Easter Hat Parade AND Last school day in Term 1

Allergies Reminder
We have some 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 allergy friendly and we wish our school to be as 'allergy friendly' as possible. Thank you in advance.

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

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

BEING AND MAKING A GOOD FRIEND

Here at Kentlyn PS, we place an emphasis on the importance of being a good friend. This is regularly reinforced in throughout the year in many ways:

- social skills lessons run by Ms Kavallaris & Mrs Neal
- During Peer Support lessons
- Positive Play/ Interest Groups
- In each classroom teachers programs

HELPFUL HINTS FOR PARENTS

Friendships are important for happiness and well-being. Children are sometimes unaware that they are excluding others from peer groups. It can be lonely for people who find themselves isolated from peer groups or without a best friend.

BRIGHT IDEAS FOR HELPING CHILDREN MAKE FRIENDS

- If possible, establish a dialogue with your child about friendships so that you can offer support when there are difficulties and provide some ideas when needed.

- Identify and discuss any behaviours such as teasing, bullying or self-centredness that may prevent your child from making friends. Sometimes a child's remarks can irritate others to the extent that he/she is ostracised.

- Teach some social skills such as how to start up a conversation and how to hold the interest of others during a conversation.

- Provide opportunities for your child to make friends at your place after school or during weekends so that friendships can develop. An invitation to bring a friend along to a family outing can provide opportunities to strengthen friendships.

- Encourage your child to participate in 'out-of-school' activities or groups that may provide opportunities to meet new people away from the peer groups at school. Friendships formed through shared interests are very strong.

- Encourage your child to take up a challenging or interesting activity so that he/she becomes a more interesting person for others to be around.

Premiers Reading Challenge

We have again this year entered the Premiers Reading Challenge (PRC). The Challenge aims to encourage a love of reading for leisure and pleasure in students, and to enable them to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

We all know that children’s reading skills are important to their success in school and work. What we sometimes forget is that reading is also a fun and imaginative activity for children; an activity which opens doors to all kinds of new worlds and enables them to explore the unknown.

CS Lewis said - Through literature 'I become a thousand people and yet remain myself’. Through reading books we can learn about different things and we can meet interesting people. Turn the pages of a book and you can listen to the voice of someone who lives or even someone who lived in another time and another place.

There are booklists available for each of the Challenges, catering for students in Years K-2, Years 3-4 and Years 5-6. Students can read books at or above their Challenge level. The booklists represent a range of books including fiction, non-fiction, picture books, poetry and drama and include a wide variety of Australian authors.
To view the book lists, you will need to access the PRC website

Happy reading!

**School Parking Zones Offences**

Student safety is always our utmost priority and it is therefore imperative that all parents / community members follow the School Zone Road Safety Laws. Following is a list of the offences for your information.

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**SCHOOL ZONE PARKING OFFENCES**

Current as at 1 July 2014

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**NO STOPPING**

Means that in the area in the direction of the arrow, you must NOT STOP your vehicle at any point on the road or kerb, unless there is a medical or other emergency.

Maximum Penalty

- $415 + 2 Demerit Points

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**Buses Only**

Means that in the direction of the arrow or arrows you are not allowed to stop your vehicle unless you are driving a bus.

Maximum Penalty

- $311 + 2 Demerit Points

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**DOUBLE PARKING**

You are NOT PERMITTED to stop or park your vehicle alongside another vehicle that is already parked parallel to the kerb.

Penalty

- $311 + 2 Demerit Points

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**STOP in a NO STOPPING zone:** $211 + 2 Demerit Points

**STOP on or near a Children’s or Pedestrian Crossing (within 20m on approach & 10m on departure side of crossing):** $415 + 2 Demerit Points

**STOP on path/strip in built up area:** $173 + 2 Demerit Points

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Yours in Education
Tanya Neal

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**Principal’s Awards**

**Hussain Saffar 4/5S**

**Shannon Dobinson 4/5S**

**Sienna Cambourne 1/2C**

**Reki Roberts 1/2C**

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**Value of the Week Awards**

**Care**

- **K-2**
  - Claire Seeney 2/3H
  - Cooper Peters 2/3H

**Fairness**

- **K-2**
  - Khloie Wolf KG
  - Hannah Walker 6A

**Congratulations!**

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**Community Announcements**

Are you looking to subsidize your income?

Allroad Traffic is expanding and we are looking for somewhere to live. Do you have extra shed/office space on your property? Are you interested in letting out that space? I would be interested in hearing from you. For further information, please call Lee on 0466 725 155.
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight
10 June 2015

$150 TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

APPLY ONLINE NOW!

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of your electricity bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold their account with an electricity retailer.
- Up to $150 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (e.g. caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST
- Be a NSW resident, and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility, and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (e.g. caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

HOW TO APPLY
- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL tax.programs@trade.nsw.gov.au