Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Zone Swimming Carnival
On Tuesday 10 March, 13 students went to Bradbury Pool to compete in the Zone swimming carnival. It was a great day for swimming and it was not long before we saw some winning swims. Rhiannon Cooke-Jones had a great swim, coming 1st in 50m Freestyle, Backstroke, Butterfly and Breaststroke, as well as 2nd in the Individual Medley and the 100m Freestyle (but not by much!). Other students who qualified for the Regional Carnival include Thomas Ferro and the Senior Girls Relay of Rhiannon Cooke-Jones, Vanessa Redzic, Sadie Wyer-Manock and Sophie Moore. Well done to all the swimmers that represented Kentlyn proudly.

Thank you Mr Saunders and Mrs Price for a great day.

AFL Team – Campbelltown PSSA Zone

Marcus Zapirain is representing our great school today in Zone AFL. We wish him all the best in the competition.

2015 Zone U11 League Team

Congratulations to Khy Shelton for being selected in the U11 League Team. We are very proud of his achievements and wish him all the best in the competition.

Regional Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all students who attended our Regional Swimming Carnival yesterday. Thomas did a Personal Best at 1:04 in his event, breaststroke, our relay team gave it their best as well as getting a 5 second Personal Best, representing our school proudly……..

**And…..**

Our flying fish has done it once again @ Rhiannon will be proudly representing our school, as part of the Sydney South West Team State Carnival next week, Tuesday and Wednesday. This is the 3rd year that Rhiannon has achieved these great results. 😊😊 Yesterday Rhiannon achieved the following awesome results at the Regional Swimming Carnival:

- 3rd in Backstroke
- 2nd in Butterfly
- 1st in Freestyle - being 2.1 seconds faster than her competitor 😊
- 11 Year Age Point Score Champion

AND.....

Rhiannon will be representing our great school at Girls Regional Soccer at Liverpool next Tuesday.

World’s Greatest Shave/Crazy Hair Day

A huge ‘thank you’ to Mr Saunders and all the staff and students for a great day. Congratulations to
everyone involved for raising over $1600 to donate to the leukaemia foundation on behalf of our great school.

**Building Resilience in Children**
I think one of the most important things we can teach our children is 'resilience'. To do this parents need to coach their children through some of their more challenging moments and reviewing what they may have learned for next time. It's also important that we avoid solving all their problems for them and let them come up with their own solutions. Michael Grosse says you can promote a lasting sense of resilience in your kids by:

1. **Having a positive attitude yourself.** Your attitude as a parent impacts on your child’s ability to bounce back from some of the difficulties they face. Make sure you model a ‘you can do it’ attitude for your child when he/she meets some of life’s curve balls.

2. **Look for teachable moments.** Many learning opportunities are disguised as problems. Make the most of these opportunities so that kids can grow and learn from some of the challenges they face.

3. **Make children active participants in the family.** Active participation in a family develops the self-help, problem-solving and independence skills that are necessary for resilience.

4. **Build kids coping skills.** There are plenty of strategies you can pass on to your child/ren to help them cope when life doesn’t go their way, including acceptance, getting away for awhile, and normalisation.

Promoting resilience in kids is not a single event but a continuous process that requires adults to be supportive and empathetic when things don’t go their way. It also requires you as a parent to have an understanding of resilience, so you have faith in your own, and your child’s ability to cope.

**School Attendance Policy**
I would like to inform parents and carers that there has been a change to the Department of Education and Communities School Attendance Policy.
As part of the implementation of the National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences.

A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday or travel during school vacations.
If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary, parents will need to complete an Application for Extended Leave - Travel, at the school office for the approval of the Principal.
If the application is approved your child’s absence will be marked as Leave. If you have any questions regarding the new DEC procedures, please contact our school on 46282455.

**P&C and our 2015–2017 School Plan**
It was great to catch up with a number of parents and review our progress with the 2015/2017 School Plan last year. Through discussions and explanations about how these plans will work, a number of important changes were made to this document which will be driving our overall directions for the next three years.

Our School Plan was presented and discussed at our P&C meeting last week. P&C have endorsed the plan and indicated that they were very happy with the directions that the school is taking. Our Principal School Leader, Mr Bradley Mitchell, has also had the opportunity to review the plan and his overall comment was that we do have a really good plan that should provide an excellent blueprint for driving improvement in our school over the next 3 years.

By the end of this term our school plan will be on our website available for everyone to view.

**School Leaders and SRC Policy**
The staff and I are currently revamping our 2012 School Leaders Policy and adding a Student Representative Council section to start in Term 2 2015. The premise of the policy will be to provide opportunities for students to develop leadership and representation skills. Student leaders and SRC representatives have the potential to influence school environment and the behaviour of their fellow students by becoming advocates for positive change in the community.

At Kentlyn Public School, we believe that we need to make student leadership development programs a more formal part of student welfare, so that parents, students and staff are clear about what is being offered and what is being required of them.

We will continue to have our 6 Student Leaders in the form of 2 School Captains and 4 Student Leaders with the introduction of each class from grades 1 - 6, composite or mainstream, to be voting
for 2 SRC Representatives per semester to represent their class and their school. Kindergarten students will get the opportunity to participate in Semester 2.

Once staff and I finalise the draft policy, students and parents will have the opportunity to view the policy before its implementation at the beginning of Term 2.

**Cyber bullying at a glance**

The statistics around cyber bullying are sketchy, mainly because it often goes unreported. What we do know is that the likelihood of children being bullied online or over the phone increases as they get older and use technology more frequently. We also know that parents typically monitor their younger children’s online activities more than they do tweens and teenagers. Unfortunately the age when kids are most likely to be cyber bullied coincides with when you’re least likely, as parents, to know about it.

Having published these and other interesting findings in a *2009 research report*, the *Australian Communications and Media Authority* (ACMA) has created tips for parents to help keep their kids safe online and to give some direction for those who think their child may already be experiencing online bullying.

**Say NO to cyber bullying – tips for parents**

1. Talk to your child about cyber bullying before it happens. Work out strategies to address cyber bullying that both of you are comfortable with so your child knows what to expect if they do report their concerns to you.
2. Establish one or two other trusted adults your child is comfortable in approaching about their concerns.
3. Be aware of what your child is doing online and explore it with them.
4. Keep the lines of communication open so your child will be comfortable about talking to you if something is worrying them. Help your child to develop the skills they need to interact safely and respectfully online. Guide their online activities and help them learn to communicate appropriately with friends and family.
5. Try to locate the computer in a shared or visible place in the home.
6. Discuss the kinds of sites that are ok to explore and those that are not and have clear rules about online activities.
7. Help your child to block anyone who sends offensive content. Most social networking services allow users to block and report someone who is behaving badly.

**What to do if you think your child is being cyber bullied**

1. Discuss any changes in mood or behaviour with them. If you are concerned, help your child to stay connected to friends and family they trust.
2. Notify the police immediately if you have serious concerns for your child’s safety.
3. Work with your child to save some evidence of cyber bullying behaviour – it may need to be followed up by the child’s school, internet service provider (ISP), mobile phone carrier or the police.
4. If you need to involve your child’s school, ask them to thoroughly explain their processes so that you can work toward achieving a positive outcome. (NSW public schools have anti-bullying policies which you can ask to see, or can often find on their websites.)
5. Cyber bullying won’t stop if it’s ignored – you can help by listening to your child and working with them to take control of the situation. 


**Hard Copies of our Newsletter:**

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.

**UNSW ICAS TESTS**

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.

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.

Easter Raffle:
This week your child/ren received a small bag with 5 Easter Raffle Tickets to sell at $2.00 each. We would really appreciate your support in selling these tickets. As part of this we are also asking for Easter themed donations for prizes. This could include Easter Eggs, books, stuffed toys, egg cups, craft items or anything else you can think of.

All money raised will of course be put back to our students at Kentlyn PS. Please also ensure that all money raised is returned to the office by Monday 30 March 2015 with any unsold tickets.

Harmony Day - Friday 27 March 2015
On Friday 27 March Kentlyn Public School will be celebrating Harmony Day as well as acknowledging National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence.

Children are invited to wear orange mufti clothing which should include sensible footwear, as we will be participating in sporting activities. Mufti hats may also be worn on the day. Singlets, thongs or sandals must not be worn.

A gold coin donation will be required if your child/ren choose to participate in the mufti day. All children who donate a gold coin will receive a Harmony Day wristband.

Stage 3 will also be having a cake stall. Prices will range from 50c-$2. They will be on sale during lunchtime.

The canteen will have a selection of orange foods available to purchase during lunchtime.

Parents are invited from 11:10am to enjoy a picnic lunch with their child/ren as well as participating in classroom Harmony Day activities from 12:00pm. An assembly will follow at 1:00pm in our school hall.

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 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.

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.

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.

School Banking
The core value of school banking enables us to teach children a basic understanding of financial values and money management skills. The first step is to teach children the importance of saving. The emphasis of the program is on regular savings, not the value of each deposit. To support this, there is no minimal deposit required when participating in the program. By nurturing this savings habit at a young age, the bank highly supports that consistent savings behaviour will stay with them later in life.

We would like to thank all the parents for their involvement in supporting this program and our goal to teach our children lifelong money skills. For all our outer space savers, please note that we’re on our intergalactic mission every FRIDAY, which is our banking day. Remember every bank counts if you want to earn an entry into winning a family trip to Disneyland. For more information, visit www.commbank.com/au/schoolbanking

Please remember that every FRIDAY is banking day.

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:**
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

Monday 30th March - Wednesday 1 April - Parent and Teacher interviews

Thursday 2 April - Easter Hat Parade - more details to follow

AND

Last school day in Term 1

Important Term 2 Dates for your Diary:

Monday 20 April - Staff Development Day (no students)
Friday 24 April - ANZAC Day Assembly 10:30am in the hall

Monday 27 April - Gymnastics lessons begin K-6 in the hall

Thursday 30 April - Our Cross Country - TBC
Tuesday 12 May - Thursday 14 May - NAPLAN
Friday 15 May - NAPLAN catch up day
And
Grip Leaders Conference
Friday 29 May - School Disco
Wednesday 3 June - ICAS Science Test

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.

Canteen Request: We are currently in need of egg cartons. If you have any please bring them to the canteen. Can be dropped off at Marian’s if the canteen is closed.

The smiles you give come back to you!

Androula Kavallaris
Principal
FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Buddy Teaching
This year, I have had the wonderful opportunity to work with both year 6A and 1/2C on a Buddy Reading Project. Each morning students from 6A graciously spare 5-10 minutes to work with students from 1/2C to listen to them read. It is fabulous to see the amount of knowledge the year 6 students are able to share with their buddy and the level of engagement given from all students. Year 6 take the opportunity to listen to their buddy read a text based at their level as well as guide and support their buddy in skills and strategies that good readers use.

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.

Homonyms
Homonyms (also known as homographs) are words that are identical in pronunciation and spelling but have different meanings. They can be nouns, adjectives or verbs. The context gives them their meaning.
Ask your child for an example, like this one:
I refer a fine tip on my pen.
He gave me a tip for the Melbourne Cup.
Don’t tip the water on the floor.
You gave the waiter a generous tip.
Yours in Education
Tanya Neal

P&C News
Our great P&C will be holding an election BBQ on Saturday 28 March. There will be a cake stall, a sausage sizzle BBQ and a plant stall. The BBQ will run from 8:00am until all the food is gone. This is a great opportunity to fundraise for our school and take advantage of all the people coming in to vote.
P&C would love any donations of cake which can be delivered on Friday or Saturday as well as any parent volunteers to help out, even for an hour on the day.
Principal’s Awards
Elizabeth Webster 6A
Brad Smith 1R
Jack Griffiths 2/3H
William Griffiths 1R
Thomas Ferro 4/5S

Value of the Week Awards
Co-Operation
K-2
Holly Cheney 1/2C
3-6
Dominic Howarth 2/3H

Fairness
K-2
Khloie Wolf KG
3-6
Hannah Walker 6A

Congratulations!