Dear Parents and Caregivers,

It is with mixed feelings that we are announcing that Mrs June Thompson, our School Administrative Manager, (SAM) has decided after 38 years of service to schools that she will retire.

Mrs Thompson’s work commitment and ethics have always been above and beyond what the job required. Everything for Mrs Thompson is always no trouble and always happy to help and assist in any aspect of the school. It’s hard to imagine our workplace without her!

2010
Back Row: Mrs Painter, Mrs Grover, Mrs Lynch, Mrs Thompson, Mrs Fetterplace, Ms Stevanoni
Front Row: Mrs Gilyatt, Mrs Holt, Mr Turnbull, Mr Clarke, Mrs Muller

While Mrs Thompson's presence will be greatly missed in the office, the great work she did here ensures that she will not be forgotten anytime soon.

Mrs Thompson has 38 years of background on Kentlyn Public School, and that’s not easy to achieve! I’m sure that the whole school community will join with me to thank Mrs Thompson for being a tireless professional, a helpful coworker, and a good friend. From March 11 onwards it will be her time to relax and enjoy all the things that she always wanted to do, but simply did not have the time. 😊

Below is an extract that I wrote about Mrs Thompson, in our 2012 Bulletin Newsletter, Week 8 Term 1. Everything that I said then, still stands true today.
There is nothing Mrs Thompson can't do and with her winning smile she achieves what her role as School Administrative Manager requires of her and so so much more. An example of this was last Thursday, the day most of the school was flooded and the calls of help came from classrooms, playgrounds, the principal’s office and so on. She responded to all of them and did it all with a smile and an “it’s my job” type of approach.....which really is so much more than her job description. The Kentlyn staff have a permanent “thank you” to Mrs Thompson on their weekly administration meeting agenda as she does not discriminate, she helps everyone out equally 😊😊😊")

I know that there are many parents in our community who would also love to wish June all the very best. Mrs June Thompson’s last day will be Friday 11 March 2016.

A Flying Start 😊

We are well and truly into the swing of things this term and our major focus in the classroom is of course, literacy and numeracy. As per our school plan, our 3 Strategic Directions, Learning, Leading and Liaising are leading the way in all aspects of our teaching. As always literacy and numeracy are our top priorities and the focus of our learning.

Our whole school focus is Inquiry Based Learning and incorporating the 7C’s into our everyday curriculum. The 7C’s consist of:

* Critical thinking
* Creativity
* Collaboration
* Cross-Cultural Understanding
* Communication
* Computing - ICT Literacy
* Career and Learning Self-Reliance

Our students compete on a global stage and they need new skills to prepare them for further study and jobs - many of which have not yet been created. The rate of change in technology and in society is so rapid that to prepare young people to live, work and be successful in the 21st century, they will need the ability to think both creatively and critically, problem-solve and work collaboratively.

Inquiry based learning is a technique whereby a teacher involves students in the learning process through focusing on questions, through problem-solving activities, and the use of critical thinking. Some students prefer this type of learning approach because when they become involved they understand concepts better. Below are some of the strategies that we are implementing in our classes throughout 2016.

Using collaborative learning – working in small groups

Using open ended questions to assist students with their inquiries

Incorporating discovery into lessons. Giving students a chance to discover things on their own can make a difference with their understanding of some concepts.

Incorporating observation into lessons.

Trialing and testing out their theories/concepts

Using model-building exercises in lessons.

Incorporating design techniques and hands on activities into lessons.

Action Learning for Innovation
Kentlyn Public School is involved in the Action Learning for Innovation project this year, along with our Community of Schools. This project aims to develop the capacity and skillset of teachers and leaders to become better practitioner researchers, utilising evidence-based practices to address contextually relevant learning issues. This capacity will be developed both individually and collectively within our community of schools.

Sporting Schools Program
A very big thank you to Miss Heriot for applying and being successful in receiving a “Sporting Schools” grant for Term 1. Our six week program this year will focus on “Orienteering”. This program is what is
known as a "thinking program" where students are working in small groups and collaborate in order to solve a problem, or work through a course set up by the coach. This program will begin tomorrow.

Forensic Science Excursion

What a wonderful experience this was for our 3-6 students. They got the opportunity to fingerprint, find out about DNA and how that works, look through a microscope and study various evidence as well as see some hidden writing through a ultraviolet light.

Our school hall was turned into a 'forensic lab' where they all had to work as a team to solve a murder.
Thank you to Alissa Van Soest for providing this excellent opportunity to our great school.

Interest Groups - Our Lunchtime Program was launched this week. Students every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday can belong to an interest group. They can choose to attend library for quiet activities, yoga or dance. The SRC meetings are held on Thursdays.

School Evacuation and Lockdown Drills
In light of recent school evacuations in Melbourne and Sydney, following hoax threats made, I would like to reassure families that we do revise our evacuation and lockdown drills on a regular basis. If you are in the school as a parent helper, volunteer or in the office you must also follow staff instructions and participate in the drills. I also need to remind and inform parents who volunteer, or come into the school during school hours, that it is essential that you come in to our school office and sign the visitors’ book. Volunteers need to collect a ‘Visitor’s Badge’. We need a record of who is at the school at all times, other than parents dropping off and picking up children at the start and end of each day. Parent volunteers also all need to have a current ‘Working with Children’ clearance and this needs to be copied and on file at our school office.

Communication Technology
The Mathletics program will once again be available to all students K-6. Kindergarten students will also be introduced to the program later on in the term or early Term 2.

The Mathletics Curriculum contains essential material for students from K to 12. It complements and supports classroom teaching. The program responds to the strengths and weaknesses of students. Our teachers set learning activities catering to individual needs of students. Students working above stage level are motivated to extend their learning. Students gain confidence as they experience success in activities programmed to address their needs. Live Mathletics engages students in challenging other students from around the world in real time games of speed and skill. Students love competing and gain a lot of satisfaction from increasing their speed and accuracy in mental maths. Students receive instant feedback about their performance and teachers can access this information to assist in planning and reporting.

The program has many benefits for students and we are once again incorporating it as part of our homework this year. Your child will be set tasks to complete, making sure that we are catering for his/her individual level. We will be showing all students how to use and access the program at school. Please ask your child to show you his/her log in details so that you can also be part of his/her learning.

Once again a very big thank you to our dedicated and hard working P&C who have donated the total amount of $2,272.73 to implement this program K-6
SKWIRK Website
Once again all students K-6 will have access to this great website within a few weeks. This fee was paid by the school, and this will be one great example of how the school fees contribute to your child’s education.

FAMILY CONTRIBUTION FEE FOR 2016 - SUPPORTING US TO MAINTAIN OUR 21st CENTURY VISION
Thank you to all the families who have sent in their 2016 contributions.
The Family Contribution Fee, although voluntary, will make a difference to our school finances. In 2015 this financial support assisted us greatly with our goal of purchasing an XO laptop for every child. This year’s contribution will go towards the maintenance of the XO’s as well as purchasing new furniture for the library.
The total cost of the Family Contribution Fee in 2016 is $45.00. However, if you do wish to contribute more towards this very worthwhile cause, you are more than welcome.
Money or cheques can be enclosed in an envelope with your child’s class, total amount enclosed and clearly stated that it is for “Family Contribution Fee”. Students can hand that envelope in to the office. As always, a receipt will be provided to you via your child once the money has been receipted.
Thank you in advance for your support in this matter.

Clean up our School Day
Kentlyn Public School will be participating in ‘Clean up Australia Day’ on Friday 4 March 2016. All students will be helping clean up our school grounds for approximately 20 minutes. They will help with the collection of papers and general rubbish. Teachers will be vigilant to ensure that all students are safe at all times and only picking up papers, wrappers, popper boxes etc. Any other items that are not deemed safe will be collected by the classroom teacher.

We ask that you send your child to school with a pair of gloves (gardening or plastic) and a plastic bag. Together we can keep Australia beautiful.

These items can be brought in earlier and kept somewhere safe in their classroom.

Scripture
Scripture classes will commence on Wednesday 17 February. Thank you to Mrs Grover for organising and contacting all the scripture teachers.

Scholastic Bookclub
Scholastic Book Club orders are issued twice a term to students. Please return orders by the due date. Due dates are advertised in the classrooms.
Orders and money should be sent in an envelope to the Front Office. Please keep your receipts as proof of payment until your books arrive.
Every bookclub order earns the school 20% in book rewards for our school.

A very big thank you to Mrs Muller who comes in on her day off to organise this for our fantastic students

Premiers Reading Challenge - Registrations open on Tuesday 1 March 2016.

About the Challenge….
It is a condition of entry that students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge.
All Student Reading Records are submitted online. Students can enter their books as they read them. An electronic Student Reading Record is completed by either entering the PRC ID number of each book or clicking on titles from a drop-down PRC list.
The Challenge will end early August 2016

2. Enter your child’s username. This is the same username that they use at school to access the portal.
3. Enter your child’s password. This is the same password that they use at school to access the portal.
4. Click on the student reading records tab.
5. Move the cursor to the titles box. If you start typing the title of the book read, a drop down list of possible titles will appear. Select the appropriate title. The details will fill automatically.
6. If your child does not know their username and password, please contact your child’s class teacher.
In 2016 we are aiming for 100% participation in the Premiers Reading Challenge 😊

P&C News
Thank you to all the parents who attended our Annual General Meeting for P&C. Firstly a very big “Thank You” to our 2015 P&C committee for their hardwork and dedication. We had a very successful 2015 and I know we can do the same in 2016 😊

Our 2017 committee is as follows.

President: Mrs Judith Seeney
Vice President: Mrs Heather Campbell
Treasurer - Mrs Naomi Roberts
Secretary - Mrs Jen Smith
Fundraising Co-Ordinator - Mrs Naomi Churton

“Thank you” to our 2015 P&C committee for their hardwork and dedication. We had a very successful 2015 and I know we can do the same in 2016 😊

Students With Allergies:
We have several students who have allergies and in particular severe allergies to NUTS. Please do not send your child to school with any nuts, Peanut Butter or Nutella sandwiches.

ANAPHYLAXIS
As we have students enrolled at our great school who have been diagnosed as being at risk of having an ANAPHYLACTIC reaction to certain foods we seek your assistance and ask that you do not send the following things to school with your children:

- Peanut butter sandwiches
- Nutella sandwiches
- Bars or biscuits that contain nuts

Thank you for your support.

The smiles you give come back to you!

Androula Kavallaris
Principal

Important Term 1 Dates for your Diary:

Wednesday 17 February - Scripture starts
Thursday 18 February - Sport in Schools
Friday 26 February - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm
Tuesday 1 March - Premier’s Reading Challenge Registrations open
Friday 4 March - Clean up Our School Day
Tuesday 8 March - Zone Swimming Carnival
Friday 11 March - GALA Day
And
Mrs Thompson's last day 😊
Monday 14 March - Responsible Pet Incursion K-2

Tuesday 15 March - Regional Swimming Carnival
Wednesday 16 March - High School Enrolment Forms returned
Friday 18 March - K-6 Assembly 1:00pm
Monday 21 March - Harmony Day
Thursday 24 March - Easter Hat Parade tbc
Friday 25 March - Monday 29 March - Easter Long Weekend
Friday 1 April - GALA Day
Friday 8 April - ANZAC Service 10:00am in the school hall and K-6 Assembly - Leaders 1:00pm tbc
Last Day of Term 1.

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.

No Nuts please

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Principal
Principal’s Award
Bronwyn Zapirain 4H

Value of the Week Awards

Excellence
K-2
Holly Cheney 2CS
3-6
Shannon Dobinson 5/6S

Respect
K-2
Jack Jones KG
3-6
Bronwyn Zapirain 4H

Congratulations!

Community Announcements:
25th Anniversary Campbelltown City Challenge Walk
- 13 March 2016
The Australian Botanic Garden, Mount Annan