Principal’s Report

A Splashing Good Day At Our Swimming Carnival
Our annual swimming carnival was held on Monday and we were fortunate to have such wonderful weather after all the rain. I was particularly impressed with the enthusiasm, determination and positive competitive spirit with which our children participated in the event. To see so many children trying their best and supporting each other through good sportsmanship encapsulated the strong community values which characterise Killara. Special thanks also go to our carnival coordinators Mrs Roberts, Mr Thompson and Mrs Brunker, the teaching staff who so smoothly organised the carnival and the parents who assisted. Special mention also goes to our house captains who so expertly fulfilled their first official duties on the day. The zone carnival will be held at Lane Cove Pool on Thursday 7 March and our Swimming Ribbons Assembly will be held on Friday 8 March in our school hall at 11:30am.

Connected Communities 21 Century Learning
Last Friday Killara Public School hosted the launch of the Connected Communities 21 Project and welcomed over forty visitors to our school from Northern Sydney and Western Sydney regions. The day included presentations from researchers at Macquarie University who emphasised the importance of the need for teachers to understand how to not only use technologies but also the pedagogical considerations within each subject area. Presentations also focused on the Australian Curriculum and the changes required with new curriculum implementation. A special thank you to our Year 6 Leaders who were tremendous in welcoming the visitors to our school. You were wonderful ambassadors!

Blame It On Their Brain
A final reminder to parents that next Thursday, 14 March, the Killara Schools Partnership will be holding a special information evening for all parents from the seven KSP schools at 7pm. The KSP has invited Dr Michael Nagel to Sydney to run an informative session for parents to share his research on some of the mysteries of the development of the mind from birth through adolescence by examining the developing brain and shedding light on why children and teenagers may act the way they do. The evening’s presentation will explore these ideas with a focus on contemporary research into how your child’s brain develops, how boys and girls brains may differ and what this might mean for parenting in the 21st century. I was fortunate to see Dr Nagel present at a conference in 2012 and I
would highly recommend this information evening. RSVPs are required to the school office by Thursday 7 March if you are interested in attending.

Why can’t I skip reading tonight?
I recently came across this graph highlighting the importance of reading with your child every day. Of all the aspects of our Home Learning Program, research shows that it is reading with your child that will have the most significant impact on your child’s learning. Research shows that students who maintain a regular daily reading habit throughout their schooling develop greater fluency, a broader vocabulary and are likely to continue this reading pattern throughout their lives. Reading is the gateway to much of our knowledge, opening us to ideas and points of view that we may not experience firsthand. Reading is much more than the focus on the decoding skills of the earlier years of schooling. Once children have mastered the basics it provides a good conversation starter for parents and children to discuss ideas and ‘a window’ into young people’s interests.

**Why Can’t I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student “A”</th>
<th>Student “B”</th>
<th>Student “C”</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>reads 20 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 5 minutes each day</td>
<td>reads 1 minute each day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3600 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>900 minutes in a school year</td>
<td>180 minutes in a school year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1,800,000 words

282,000 words

8,000 words

*By the end of 6th grade Student “A” will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student “B” will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life? (Nagy & Herman, 1987)*

**Killara Robotics Team at National Finals**
The Killara Legobots had a fantastic day on the 24 February competing in the National Finals of First Lego League. First Lego League is a competition that combines robotics with research, problem solving, team work and creativity. Our team had a great time meeting the other teams from around the country and sharing some robotic design ideas with other teams. Making it to the national level of this competition was a wonderful achievement and I was very proud to support them on the day. A special thanks to Mrs Kate Wurth and Mr Jeremy Hart who gave a tremendous amount of their personal time to support this new initiative. In 2013 Mrs Wurth is working towards all students in Stage 3 (Years 5 &6) participating in a robotics program as well as the introduction of Bee-Bots into our K-2 program.
Library News
I can’t believe we are already into Week 6! The children are settling into their library routine and seem eager to borrow from a variety of fantastic books that cater for all ages and abilities. The K-2 children are really enjoying our author study on Julia Donaldson. Pop in and see our gruffalos and truly magnificent, magical brooms. The 3-6 children have been working hard to improve their note taking skills and are eager to get into the ICT suite to start various projects. We have recently purchased some exciting picture, fiction and non-fiction books. Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered their time to cover books. We still have many books to cover and any help covering books would be much appreciated.

Borrowing
It is important for the children to remember their library bags! I am trying to encourage them to take responsibility for bringing in their library bags as they help to protect our precious books. Library bags are available from the uniform shop. Books are loaned out weekly; however children may keep them for 2 weeks if they need to. After 2 weeks books become ‘overdue’. Overdue notices will be sent out from next week. Books may be renewed once, at the circulation desk.

Returning
Please return your books to the library in the mornings before school starts from 8:45am. House points are available to children who return their library books before school.

Opening Hours are Wed - Fri 8:45- 3:15
The library is open during the first half of lunchtime on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1:10 – 1:30 for all students. There are books to read, fun activities related to our author study, books to be made and games to play as well as using the library to research. Well done to those children who are coming in at lunchtime to do research based projects. I am so impressed with 3 boys from 3B who are researching, using the computers and the library to find out information about space.

Library Monitors
We have eager Year 5 library monitors this year. The library monitors have been doing a really good job reading books and playing games with the younger children, as well as helping me with
various library tasks. I am so lucky to have such wonderful monitors, many of whom I taught when they were in Year 3.

**The Premier’s Reading Challenge**
This challenge is a fun way to encourage children to read lots of books which will improve their reading, knowledge and interest in literature. I encourage all students from Kindergarten to Year 6 to participate. Children can logon from 7 March and record their books online. [https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/faqs.html#school1](https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/faqs.html#school1) has all the details. Parents, please support your children in completing the PRC and maintaining their reading log. Thank you.

**Caring For Your Library Books**
Please could you ensure that reasonable care is taken for our precious books. Please ensure that your children do not eat or drink while reading and keep books out of the reach of toddlers and pets. Most importantly, don’t allow them to write in books or fold the pages. Report any defects or damage to books so I can repair the book. Thank you for looking after our books!

**Help In the Library**
Volunteers are very welcome to cover books or help out during K-2 class borrowing. Please see me and thank you very much for your help.

*Cathy Roberts*  
**Teacher Librarian**

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**1D Has BeenWondering……Are We There Yet?**
1D has been learning about making connections between the stories we read and ourselves. We have been working hard to become good readers who think carefully about the story as well as reading the words in a fluent and expressive way. Last week we explored the story “Are we there yet?” by Alison Lester. This is an exciting story about a family travelling around Australia. When we reached the part in the story about the family travelling along the northern coastline we shared what this part of the story reminded us of with our thinking partners. We then continued reading until the family reached Sydney. 1D then worked independently to make connections between the family’s experiences and our own.

*Katherine Dean*  
**Classroom Teacher**
Mathletics: World Maths Day
Wednesday, 6 March is World Maths Day. All Killara Public School students are able to participate in this world-wide activity by using their username and password to log in to Mathletics and then clicking on the link to World Maths Day. Alternatively, go to www.worldeducationgames.com and use your normal Mathletics username and password to log in. World Maths Day will continue for as long as it is 6 March anywhere in the world.

Congratulations Go To:
- Belinda Y for being in the top 100 students IN THE WORLD in the 4-7 years age group during practise sessions for World Maths Day, and
- Sarah C for recently being in the top 100 students in Australia in the Mathletics Hall of Fame.

A Reminder:
- Please remember to “Always allow” pop-ups for the Mathletics website,
- If you find that some of the activities will not display, please check that you have the latest Flash player installed on your computer.

Helene Brunker
Mathletics Coordinator

Certificate Of Merit
The following student has received their Certificate of Merit for achieving 5 Merit Awards at Assembly: Jerry C 6M.

Term 1 Week 4
KH   Ebony TS, Matthew Y    3/4T  IQ V, Belinda Y
KR   Cameron W, Lucy B      4B   Angel Y, Sophie S
K1/M Tatiana T, Zachary C   5W   Billy Y
1M/C Rhys VT, Calum W       5/6H  Calvin L, Ken K
1D   Adele P, Adam O        6M   Anika V, Anna G
1/2R Lachlan J, Sophia L    Library Sarah B, Bryce M
2C   Joe B, Cadence S       Music Olivia G, Elliot K
3B   Emilia L, Medina O     PE   Lilly H, Sara M

Term 1 Week 5
KH   Ewan M, Penny D        3/4T  Maxim B, Jake K
KR   Evie G, Mika’il A       4B   Ashleigh K, Jason P
K1/M Yang Y, Erin P         5W   No recipients
1M/C Enya C, Keanu C        5/6H  Lewis H, Sarah B
1D   Anisa R, Josh H        6M   Thomas M, Bryce M
1/2R Daniel B, Simone W     Library Penny D, Louie T
2C   Liam T, Zachary N      Music Sascha T, Sarah G
3B   Josie F, Jasper O      PE   Nicholas W, Mia G

Up And Coming Events
7 March - Zone Swimming Carnival
14 March - Killara Schools Partnership Parent Evening
18 March - Area Swimming Carnival
19 March - OZ Opera
20 March - P & C Meeting
21 March - Harmony Day
22 March - Seniors Week Assembly
25 March - Stage 2 Camp (25/3 to 27/3)
28 March - Easter Hat Parade
4 April - Parent/Teacher Interview
12 April - Anzac Day Assembly