Principal’s Report

Our Year 6 Leaders Shine at Young Leaders Day
On Monday 25 March our 2013 Year 6 Leaders and I had the opportunity to attend the National Young Leaders Day at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Our Leaders were joined by over 5000 other Year 6 leaders from across New South Wales and heard from an inspiring line-up of speakers including Creel Price, Jess Fox, Brett Lee and Nathan Hindmarsh. Many thanks to Mrs Pat Scholefield who accompanied us on the day.

Parents in Partnership
It has been excellent to see so many parents booked in for Parent-Teacher interviews later this week. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank my teaching staff for giving up many extra hours this week to conduct the interviews. We all appreciate their efforts. If you have been unable to make an appointment, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange one. We like to ensure we have had the opportunity to talk to all parents before the end of term.

Dedicated Teachers at Killara Creating a Dynamic Learning Environment
Occasionally your child’s class teacher will not be teaching their class because they are participating in a comprehensive program which provides training for all of our staff. This ensures our teachers have the most up to date skills and knowledge to do the best job possible for your children in the classroom. Today, for example, Miss Dean is participating in an exciting course which focuses on the use of iPads in the classroom. This professional learning opportunity will enable us as teachers to source, evaluate and classify quality, educational apps for teaching and learning and become familiar with using a research-based app classification scheme to assess the relevance and quality of apps. In addition, last week Mrs Wurth attended the first in a series of professional learning workshops to support us in implementing a new NSW English syllabus for 2014. This syllabus is based on the Australian curriculum. It is a fantastic curriculum framework which we are looking forward to introducing to your children. New syllabus documents in Mathematics, Science and History will follow the English. I look forward to sharing these in greater detail throughout the year. The training of all teachers in this new curriculum is extremely important and for this reason there will be an additional staff development day for all public schools at the beginning of next term. This means Monday 29 April and Tuesday 30 April will be student free days and all students will return to school on Wednesday 1 May for the beginning of Term 2. I encourage you to view the parents’ guide to the new NSW K-10 Syllabuses on the NSW Board of Studies website. New K-10 syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum

Our Stage 2 Adventurers
Last week 80 of our Year 3 and 4 students headed off to the Great Aussie Bush Camp for a tremendous adventure-packed three days. Students participated in a wide range of activities including high ropes, orienteering, raft building and archery. My thanks go to Mrs Brunker, Mrs Bodegraven, Mr Thompson and Miss Somerville who gave so generously of their time to take our students away and provide them with a valuable opportunity to learn and grow.
**Child Safety**

There has been a worrying incident that has been reported to me today in regards to strangers approaching children walking to and from school and home in the local area. Please reinforce child safety messages with your children by talking about safety measures that they can take when walking by themselves.

*Unity Taylor-Hill*

**Principal**

**The Great Aussie Bush Camp 2013**

Stage 2 students travelled up to the Great Aussie Bush Camp just north of Newcastle in Week 8 for three days of fun and adventure. Mrs Brunker, Mrs Bodegraven, Miss Somerville and Mr Thompson also went along for the ride.

The group of 80 students were ready bright and early on Monday morning filled with anticipation of what was in store. There were a few tears (mostly from parents) as the buses began the 2.5 hour journey to camp. Before we knew it we had arrived and unloaded our bags and grabbed a bite to eat.

Soon after lunch the activities began. Over the next 3 days the students participated in archery, orienteering, high ropes, raft building and many more fun and exciting activities. Many students conquered their fears during camp and learnt how to work as a team.

Wednesday came and it was time to go home. All the children were worn out (as were the teachers!) and were looking forward to sleeping in the comfort of their own bed. A great time was had by all.

Here is what the children said:

- I thought the camp was brilliant because we did all types of activities that were extra fun, the instructors were really cool and the food was tasty.
  *Aryan 3/4T*

- I liked the camp because it had the best flying fox and the best staple climb.
  *Josie 3B*

The things we liked about the camp were the activities, instructors and late night. The instructors were Kate, Giraffe and Pingu and they were friendly, encouraging, nice and funny.

*Sophia & Ying 4B*

The instructors were really enthusiastic. We liked that you got a good hour on every activity. Our favourite activity had to be the high ropes. It was also good to get away from our parents!

*Finn C and Edan 4B*

**Oz Opera**

On Tuesday 19 March the students from K-6 all enjoyed a visit from Oz Opera who performed a wonderful opera called “The Magic Flute”.

Here are 2 reviews from students in 6m:-

_In my opinion The Magic Flute is one of the best operas I have ever seen! It is amazing how music from Mozarts time (1791) is still enjoyed today. It’s an amazing story about how a humorous birdcatcher goes on an excruciating journey and on the way meets Papagena, Tamino, Parmina, Lady, The monster and the Evil Queen Of The Night._

*Anika 6M*
In The Magic Flute a prince named Tamino falls in love with the Queen Of Nights daughter, Pamina. Tamino along with a bird catcher Papagena go and save Pamina from the supposedly evil Sarastro. The story takes an interesting twist and the plot is revealed. At the end the Queen Of The Night is defeated and they all live happily ever after.....This story is highly amusing and fit for the whole family!

Oscar 6M

What’s Happening In 2C

This term 2C has been learning about families. We have been exploring the reasons why certain people, events and days are important to ourselves and our families. As part of our unit we brought in an artefact that has special significance to our families. We enjoyed looking at all the different artefacts and listening to the interesting stories behind them!

We interviewed a family member to see what their lives were like when they were our age. We asked questions about their schooling, their friends and what they liked to do in their spare time; we compared and contrasted their lives with ours. We have written some fabulous family acrostic poems, drawn our family trees and created our time-lines.

One of our favourite activities was creating our own Family Shields; each section of the shield represents something about our families. We thought about something that represents our name, where our family comes from, what our family likes to do and what we are good at. We began creating our shields with our grandparents on Seniors’ Day, we found out some very interesting things about our families!

Donna Carruthers
2C Classroom Teacher

News From HQ

Just a reminder that all students are expected to return for Term 2 in winter uniform. Uniform shop is opened Thursday mornings from 8:45 to 9:30am.

We still have a lot of plates left over in the office foyer from Seniors’ Day. Please collect them as soon as possible.

As we approach school holidays a reminder that we have several brochures in the office foyer to keep the kids amused over the holiday break. Please come and have a look to get ideas.

Harmony Day

The school was awash with orange on Thursday 21st as we celebrated Harmony Day.

The children participated in activities during the day and talked about where their families had come from. It was a wonderful opportunity to remember what a diverse country we live in.

Maree Somerville
Harmony Day Coordinator
Gifted And Talented Creative Writers Workshops

In the first of our three sessions for Gifted and Talented Creative Writers 30 Year 5 students from Lindfield, Lindfield East, Roseville, Killara, Gordon East and Beaumont Road Primary Schools attended Killara High School. At first a little nervous, the Year 5 students quickly settled in, meeting students from other schools and eagerly answering questions about creative writing. In fact Ms Marchesin and Ms Recny were blown away by the extensive knowledge these students already had about creative writing. After ascertaining what was already known, the students chose one story starter from a choice of ten and started writing their own story.

We then had an afternoon snack and many of the students started to make friends with students from schools other than the one they attended. After the break, we focused on character, the central element for any piece of creative writing. The first session was a success and a positive experience for both teachers and students.

Much less nervous in the second session, the students quickly picked up where they had left off and found the friends they had made two weeks ago. We started the session by recapping last session and then we brainstormed how we can make creative writing pieces more realistic. We discussed how to improve descriptions through the use of all five senses and poetic techniques such as similes and metaphors. We then discussed how anchoring our stories with elements the writer is familiar with, can strengthen the effectiveness of the piece.

After an afternoon tea break of donuts and juice, the students came up with five characters, settings and events. Some of the ideas included George Washington, an arctic bunker and the sun getting too hot. In groups the students had to pick an element from each of the sections and then produce a ‘Tableaux’. Each group had to show three freeze frames one from the beginning, one from the middle and one from the end of their story. They were not allowed to speak or move in each frame which posed a challenge for some! Dr. Carter, Principal of Killara High School, watched these performances and was very impressed. All of the students had a great time and we look forward to seeing them for the final workshop in three weeks time.

Certificate Of Merit
The following student has received their Certificate Of Merit for achieving 5 Merit Awards at Assembly: Oscar F 3/4T.

Up And Coming Events
4 Apr - Parent/Teacher Interview
12 Apr - Anzac Day Assembly
For more important dates our school calendar can be found on our website.