Principal’s Report

Let’s Talk Recognition! – National Reconciliation Week
The focus of National Reconciliation Week this year was to explore how Australians can better recognise each other and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. At last week’s special assembly the students enjoyed a presentation and Acknowledgement of Country from Ms Lea Harlow, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the Hornsby Region, who taught us how to sing Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes in the local Guringai language. Congratulations to Taylor B. and Pika K. for their highly commended award at this year’s Schools Reconciliation Challenge. Many thanks to Mr Jeremy Hart and Miss Nicole Mooney for their organisation of our Reconciliation Week events. Our Reconciliation Week events have continued this week with our Artist in Residence program with celebrated artist Margaret Adams working with all children from Kindergarten to Year 6. These artworks will be displayed at a special exhibition during Education Week early in Term 3. Many thanks to the Evatt family for their enormous contribution to this program and Miss Victoria Rampton, our Visual Arts Coordinator.

Canberra
I was delighted to accompany our Stage 3 students and their teachers on their excursion to Canberra last week. We had a fabulous time and learnt a great deal. Have a look at the photos and report later in the newsletter. At every venue our children were complimented for their excellent behaviour, great thinking and involvement in the activities. They were outstanding ambassadors for our school and I couldn’t have been prouder. Events such as overnight excursions do not take place without a huge amount of effort on the part of our staff. Special thanks go to Mrs Kate Wurth, Mrs Elena Mammarella, Mr Jeremy Hart and Mrs Sue Salter for all of their hard work organising the trip and accompanying the children. Their hard work, care and compassion was appreciated.
**Maintenance Day**
I encourage as many families as possible to come along to our Maintenance Day on Saturday 15 June beginning at 1pm. We appreciate any time you can spare to spruce up our school grounds and do some jobs around the school. We always want to keep improving it!

**Student Reports**
All teachers have commenced writing reports on the progress of students’ learning in Semester 1. This mid-year report is part of the communication program between parents/caregivers and the school. Other aspects include teacher,parent interviews in Term 1, Best Start assessment reports for Kindergarten parents, parent/teacher interviews as needed, NAPLAN test results, Merit Awards and end of year written reports. From the 26 June, Semester 1 reports will be sent home to parents and carers. For separated families, if you require more than one report to be sent home, please email the school.

Finally enrolments for next year are filling quickly if any students have siblings who will be starting next year or know of anyone who would like to become part of our school community please pick up an enrolment form from the office or download one from our website [www.killara-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.killara-p.schools.nsw.edu.au) Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 9498 2397 if you have any questions regarding enrolments.

**Unity Taylor-Hill**  
Principal

**What’s Happening In 4B?**

It has been a busy time in 4B this term. Along with 3B and 3/4T, we have been investigating the relationship between the moon, the Earth and the sun in our Unit of Inquiry “Cycles of Change.’ We have been learning some fascinating facts and figures about the sun, the moon and the Earth. Did you know that the distance between Earth and the sun is approximately 149,600,000 km and that the Earth travels at an average speed of 30 km per second as it orbits the sun? Whilst we were researching the phases of the moon, we soon realised that, being in the Southern hemisphere, we actually see the moon from a different perspective from people in the Northern hemisphere. Our phases of the moon are up-side-down when compared to the Northern hemisphere!! We have been finding out about the importance of gravity, and are about to learn how the Earth’s tilt affects the seasons and the weather. Last week, we began a web quest to investigate the phases of the moon.

We have been lucky to have two special teachers visiting us this term. Ms Honeybourne has been coming in on Thursdays to help us with our writing skills. We have been learning how to create interesting characters when we are writing narratives by building verb groups which describe actions, thoughts and feelings. Mrs Salter has also been visiting us on Thursdays; together with Mrs Brunker, she has been facilitating circle time and role play activities which focus on anti-bullying strategies, team building and resilience.
Last week, as part of Reconciliation Week activities, we conducted research into the life of Charles Perkins. We each decorated a hand with Aboriginal colours on one side and important facts about his life on the other side. On Friday, we planted our hands in the Reconciliation Week ‘Sea of Hands’ outside the library. We are really looking forward to learning more about Aboriginal culture when we work with Auntie Marg in her art workshop.

Helene Brunker  
Classroom Teacher

Maths Olympiad
Our first Maths Olympiad test was held on Monday 20 May. It was a very challenging paper and the students worked hard to solve the problems. Harry H and Joshua M scored 5 out of 5. Momoko H, Grace N and Oscar H scored 4 out of 5. Well done to all students who participated. The next Maths Olympiad test will be on Monday 17 June at 8.30am sharp in 1MC classroom.

Helen MacDonald and Ruth Collett  
Maths Olympiad Coordinators

Stage 3 Killara High School Debating Workshops
On Monday morning, our Year 5 and 6 students were fortunate enough to be involved in workshops exploring debating techniques and the importance of these skills in their learning and everyday life. The workshops, planned and presented by students from Killara High School, gave students a valuable opportunity to develop their expression, articulation and voice projection in a supportive and engaging environment. The experienced Year 11 and 12 students also assisted our children in writing and presenting balanced arguments, in which they incorporated a range of devices to engage and persuade their audience. The Stage 3 students and teachers are very appreciative of this wonderful opportunity and thank Killara High School for the professionalism and maturity displayed by their students.

Schools Reconciliation Challenge at the Australian Museum
To recognise Reconciliation Week (27 May – 3 June), 5W and 5/6H entered the Schools Reconciliation Challenge. This involved examining ongoing relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians and creating artworks exploring the concept of recognition and reconciliation. A selection of the artwork was entered into a national competition, which encourages young people to share their artistic voices and promote important discussions. Two of Killara Public School's young artists, Taylor B. and Pika K. received a highly commended award for their jointly-constructed artwork “We Have Our Ups and Downs”. This artwork will be exhibited in the Australian Museum between 31 May -26 July, along with other student artwork from across Australia. Taylor and Pika attended the opening of the exhibition, on the evening of Friday 31 May, at which they received their certificates and heard from influential Indigenous and non-Indigenous leaders. We congratulate the girls on their impressive achievement.
Maintenance Day
We encourage all families to come and be part of the Grounds Maintenance Day on Saturday 15 June. For the new families, Maintenance Day is an afternoon when all families are encouraged to volunteer their time to do maintenance around the school. This is a great way to keep our environment looking wonderful and show our children that we take pride in our school.
Please bring wheel barrows, garden rakes, shovels, garden forks, small spades for weeding, garden brooms, secateurs and garden gloves and meet at school at 1pm.
Looking forward to seeing you there!

Danielle Paynter
Maintenance Coordinator

Zone Cross Country
The Zone Cross Country team travelled to St Ives Showground again this time minus our Stage 3 runners (due to clash with the Canberra excursion) and competed with great pride and enthusiasm. Thankfully a break in the wet weather allowed the event to run and made for a soggy course for the competitors. The Killara team found it hard to compete against the bigger school but showed that the Killara spirit was alive and well. No one from Killara advanced to the next level but all did the school proud. Well done to all the Killara team.

Parking In Calvert Ave
It is disturbing to hear that parents are parking across driveways in Calvert Ave when picking up their children in the afternoon from school. A resident has approached the school requesting that we ask parents to consider our neighbours and park legally and under no circumstances block driveways. As our school numbers grow it is important that we are mindful of our neighbours and only park in a safe and legal manner.

Year 5 and 6 Canberra Excursion
Last week Stage 3 made Killara proud when we travelled to Canberra for four days to learn more about the Australian Government.
Here are what some of the children had to say.
“Last week stage 3 went to Canberra for camp for 4 days and 3 nights. It took 4 hours to get to Canberra! But it was all worth it. We had heaps of fun because we learnt lots of great things. One of the best activities was going to the Old Parliament House where we found out about the previous Prime Ministers and the old Senate. We had a great time acting in the Senate with Daniel and Annabelle from Year 5 playing the roles of the first Australian Governor General and our current Governor General. We also went to the new Parliament House where Year Six were lucky enough to be able to see the Prime Minister Julia Gillard during Question Time in the House of Representatives.

Our accommodation was at the Canberra Carotel where we ate our breakfast and dinner and slept. We stayed in cabins. If we had any spare time in our busy schedule, we got to spend it in our cabins. Some cabins even had dining tables big enough to fit ten people! All the cabins had television but some were bigger than others.
On the last day we went to Questicon and we did lots of fun activities. We played some science games and we got to go into the earthquake house. When you went in to the house, it was just like a normal house to start. First we watched the news and then the earthquake came at a random moment. The walls cracked and fell down. It was great!

We were all exhausted by the time we got back on the coaches to go home that day. It was a great trip that we will never forget.”

Annabelle B, Bella C and Cindy F (5W)

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their National Capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist you (the parent) in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government has contributed funding of $20 per eligible student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme toward the travel expenses incurred. This contribution will be paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Reconciliation Week at Killara Public School
Reconciliation Week is celebrated across Australia each year between the 27th of May and the 3rd of June. It is an important time of reflection and commemoration as we think about Australia’s Aboriginal culture and history. The theme of Reconciliation Week this year is ‘Let’s Talk Recognition’.

The students of Killara Public School focused on different aspects of recognition, and reflected on the wide range of contributions that are made to the Australian community by Aboriginal people. Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 learnt about the storytelling aspect of Aboriginal culture through a study of literature and music. Stage 2 focused on prominent Aboriginal figures including Charles Perkins, Cathy Freeman and Bronwyn Bancroft. Linking in with their HSIE Power and Influence unit, Stage 3 explored important human rights concepts connected to the 1967 referendum which gave Aboriginal Australians the right to vote.

Reconciliation Week culminated on Friday 31st May when the students made a Sea of Hands that visually reflected their interpretation of the theme ‘Let’s Talk Recognition’. It was a beautiful representation of the relationships to Aboriginal culture that we are building here at Killara Public School. During our school assembly on Friday Ms Lea Harlow, the Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer for the Hornsby Region, made an official Acknowledgment of Country. Much to the students’ delight, she also taught the school ‘Heads, Shoulders, Knees and Toes’ in traditional Guringhai Aboriginal language. Our focus on Indigenous Education continues this week with our Artist in Residence program commencing with Margaret Adams.

Jeremy Hart and Nicole Mooney
Reconciliation Week Coordinators
Walk To School Safely
It was great to see so many children walking to school on Friday 24 May.
A special thank you to all the parents and staff that coordinated the walk, especially as it was a cold and wet morning.
Wouldn’t it be wonderful to see more of our children taking the opportunity to get some fresh air and exercise at the beginning of their day!

Merit Awards

Term 2 Week 3

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<th>KH</th>
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<td>5W</td>
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<td>Music</td>
<td>Evan D, Tom G</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B</td>
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<td>Sport</td>
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Term 2 Week 4

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<td>1/2R</td>
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<td>2C</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<tr>
<td>3B</td>
<td>Emilia L, Deen A</td>
<td>Sport</td>
<td>Hannah D, Madison W</td>
</tr>
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Up And Coming Events
13 June – Area Cross Country  
15 June – Maintenance Day 1pm  
17 June – 21 June - ICAS – Writing during class time (to be advised which day)  
18 June – ICAS – Spelling 8am  
19 June – P & C Meeting  
24 June – Reports go home  
26 June – Multicultural Public Speaking Regional Final  
28 June – Last day Of Term-Sausage Sizzle  
16 July – Students resume for Term 3