Principal’s Report
A wonderful start to the 2015 school year
I am so proud of all students in our school for the impressive manner in which they have settled into their new classes and are now busy working on their 2015 learning programs. The transition our Kindergarten students have made to school life has been especially impressive.

Parents in Partnership at Killara
Thank you to all the parents who joined us last Wednesday at our annual Meet the Teacher Evening. It was a fabulous turnout and the teachers all enjoyed sharing their class programs with you. At Killara we strive to provide families with ongoing information about school initiatives, school programs and events and individual information about your child’s learning.

Our assessment and reporting program at Killara is ongoing and includes assessment both FOR and OF learning. This means that assessment of student learning occurs before students commence a unit of work so that teachers are able to provide for the individual learning needs of the students in their class, as well as assessment at the end of the unit so that individual student achievement can be measured. This term we will be having our formal Parent/Teacher Meetings on Thursday 26 March. These meetings provide parents with the opportunity to discuss your child’s progress towards the achievement of stage outcomes as well as how your child has settled into the new school year.

Recognising the Wonderful Work of our P&C
The P&C Annual General Meeting will be held next week, Wednesday 25 February at 7:30pm in the school library. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise all the hard work that this team of parents put in so that our students have access to a high quality learning environment. In 2014 the P&C made a significant contribution to our facilities and learning spaces. Additional interactive whiteboards, solar panels, library books, our fabulous new mural at the front of our school, iPads and syncing trays have all been achieved thanks to your contributions and the P&C’s hard work. The P&C also work closely with the school to find ways to build our school community with initiatives such as the Killara Café, Father’s Day Breakfast, Movie Night and Welcome Morning Tea for new Kindergarten parents. What makes the Killara P&C so successful is the large number of parents who take on small roles which contribute to its overall success. It is fantastic to see so many parents volunteering their time and energy. Each and every contribution is so highly valued.
The contributions that the P&C make to our school provide our students with many resources that we could not otherwise provide. Thank you for your contributions. Last week nomination forms for executive positions were sent home. I look forward to working closely with the P&C in 2015 and I would particularly like to extend an invitation to new parents to come along and find out what is happening at school and learn about ways you can be involved in supporting your child.

Parent volunteers in our school
As discussed by class teachers at our Meet the Teacher evening, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has strict child protection guidelines for volunteers in schools. All parent and community volunteers must complete: a ‘Working with Children Check – Declaration for Volunteers and Contractors’ and a ‘Working with Children Identity Check Form’ (100 point check). If you wish to work in the school as a volunteer (canteen, uniform shop, classroom helper, reading helpers etc) you must complete these 2 forms which are available from the school office.

Examples of suitable identification are: Birth Certificates and current passports (70 points), drivers licence (40 points), Medicare card, current rates notice, lease/rent agreement, (25 points). I know these procedures are time consuming but it is important to follow these guidelines put in place to keep our children safe. Once you have completed the ‘Working with Children Check – Declaration for Volunteers and Contractors’, please bring this form and your documents for copying to the office for the 100 point check.
As a safety precaution when volunteering in the school, all volunteers must sign in and out at the front office. When signing in, please collect and wear a ‘volunteers’ badge and return your badge when signing out. In the case of an emergency, it is essential we know who is in the school grounds at all times.
Thank you to all new parents who have already provided this documentation to the school. Your support is greatly appreciated by our school community.

Communication
As a school we are continually looking at how we can enhance our communication processes to keep you as informed as possible. I encourage you to contact the school if you have any questions, concerns or something you would like to discuss at any time. We are always happy to talk to you about any issue be it big or small. Often small issues can be solved through a discussion between parents and staff before it becomes something big for your child. As a school we make a commitment to listen, respond and work with you to resolve any concerns. The only time we cannot do this is when we are not made aware of things.

How can you contact the school-

- Call the school to speak to your child’s class teacher in the first instance, one of our Assistant Principals (Ms Appave, Mrs Brunker and Mrs Mammarella) or myself. Please remember that most staff are teaching during the day but will return your call at their first opportunity.
- Leave a message at the office asking a staff member to call you or make an appointment.
- Speak to your child’s class teacher at the end of the day when your child is being picked up. Please be mindful that on several afternoons each week staff have meetings so we prefer to make appointments if you feel you might need a longer conversation. This way we can give you some dedicated time.

In our newsletter this week I have also included an article on School Attendance. I ask that you all have a read of this document as it outlines the importance of regular attendance at school and the need, where possible, for appointments and holidays to be made outside of school hours.

Unity Taylor-Hill
Principal
What’s Happening In KC
KC is settling into the routines of kindergarten life! We have been reading lots of books and learning about how words can rhyme. We have also been learning to listen for the beginning sound of a word. "Sun begins with s! Axe begins with a!" On Friday afternoons we have “Golden Time” where we can choose to play or draw something of our own choice.

Ruth Collett
Classroom Teacher

News From St Martin’s Anglican Church
This Sunday 22 February at 3.30pm we will be hosting a Choral Evensong (BCP) with "The Cathedral Singers" and Rev. Simon Manchester preaching. This afternoon is for those who enjoy a more traditional choir and the event is to raise money for AnglicanAid. All welcome!

Matt Heazelwood
St Martin’s Anglican Church
9b Arnold St, Killara

From HQ
You will all be aware of the ongoing traffic concerns in the morning and afternoon around our school. We have contacted NSW Transport to investigate a morning and afternoon bus service to run from Killara train station in the morning and return in the afternoon. We will be sending out an expression of interest with the eligibility details in the near future.

Margaret Quick & Wendy Bright
Welcome Back!

Welcome back to our Band Program for 2015!!

I’m really excited to build on what we achieved with Senior Band last year and beginning the musical journey of our Junior Band which this year consists of 22 musicians!!

All tutorials and band rehearsals have now started and we are already starting to plan for this term’s performances, including the Junior Band’s first public performance at 'The Great Hot Cross Bun Festival'.

If you have any problems or questions regarding the band rehearsals and tutorials please don’t hesitate to contact me so I can help in anyway.

Just a reminder of when rehearsals and tutorials are on.

- Senior Band – Monday 8.00am
- Junior Band – Tuesday 8.00am
- Brass tutorials – Tuesday
- Flute Tutorials – Tuesday
- Woodwind Tutorials – Tuesday

Upcoming performance!

- Seniors Week Performance – Senior Band – 17\textsuperscript{th} March
- The Great Hot Cross Bun Festival – Junior Band – 24\textsuperscript{th} March

What to practise!

- Junior Band – Your conductor and tutors will be setting you your first notes to start practising!
- Senior Band – Evening at the Symphony and Procession of Hero’s.

Section of the week!
This week it goes to the………\textit{Percussion section}!!!

Richard Sandham
KPS Program Manager
Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Gives students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Late arrival is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school, you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child’s absence would be recorded as unexplained. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.
My child won’t go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court — Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory, the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.
**Become an Ethics Teacher or Coordinator at Killara Public School**

Primary Ethics provides the opportunity for NSW public primary school students who don’t attend scripture classes (SRE) to participate in philosophical ethics classes.

We have a few vacancies for volunteers to teach Years K-6 ethics classes. The classes teach children how to approach ethical issues and develop their capacity for considered moral judgement, which will enable them to respond more thoughtfully to many of the problems and issues they will face in their lives. Volunteer Ethics Teachers are trained to deliver our age-appropriate curriculum every week and to use the accompanying learning and teaching materials. For more information, please contact me at emma.dillon4@gmail.com

*Emma Dillon*
*Ethics Coordinator*

**Gardening Club**

Gardening club is being held during Friday lunchtimes. We hope to maintain and beautify the gardens and would love any green fingers to come and give us a hand.

We are also looking for parents that would be interested in spending some time weekly weeding and generally maintaining the Bush Tucker Garden. It would be wonderful if we could have a team of parents that would be willing to give up their time to help our garden flourish.

Please contact the office for more details.

*Ruth Collett       Mitchell Stone*
*Gardening Club Coordinators*

**Up And Coming Events**

| 24 Feb - Swimming Ribbons Assembly | 24 Mar - 4B Assembly |
| 25 Feb - P & C AGM               | 25 Mar - P & C Meeting |
| 3 Mar - 2J Assembly              | 26 Mar - Parent Teacher Interviews |
| 10 Mar - 6/5M Assembly           | 31 Mar - 1H Assembly |
| 11 Mar - School Tour 1 @10am    | 1 Apr - Easter Hat Parade |
| 17 Mar - Seniors Week Assembly   |