Principal's Report

KPS Buzzing with Opportunities
The school is buzzing with wonderful opportunities for all students. Last week I had the pleasure of attending a combined string ensemble performance at Killara High School with our fabulous string players. The combined performance with over 130 string players was a great opportunity for our students. Our Kindergarten students welcomed baby chickens into their classrooms last week as part of a Science unit of work focusing on living things. Students have been investigating the needs of living things and caring for the chicks each day. Last Friday's Movie Night was a fabulous success as our hall was filled with children in their PJs and Onesies to enjoy the movie Paddington. Thank you to our Year 6 parents for coordinating this special evening!

Maintenance Day
I encourage as many families as possible to come along to our Maintenance Day on Sunday 31 May beginning at 12:30pm. 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 24 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.

Driver Behaviour and Road Safety
The safety of our children is of paramount importance to all of us and while the majority of parents and carers display great care when dropping off and picking up students to and from school, there is an increasing number of drivers engaging in dangerous driving behaviours. There are some basic rules that must be followed if we are to avoid a tragic accident on the roads around our school.
1. **Slow down.** With the current volume of pedestrian and vehicle traffic at drop off and pick up time and given the narrowness of the roads even 40km is too fast. Be particularly careful when turning into Highbridge Rd from Spencer St and around Fitzroy St.

2. **Do not make 3-point turns** in Highbridge Rd or Ridgeland Ave. Three point turns pose a hazard to our children in such a narrow street due to the height of our students and the blind spots in vehicles. Please continue in the same direction that you are driving and turn in the turning circle of the school or park in Spencer Road where making a three point turn is less hazardous.

3. **Do not pull up on the opposite side of the road** to allow your child to enter or exit your vehicle.

4. **Ensure your child enters your vehicle on the kerbside.**

5. **Please ensure that you approach Ridgeland Ave slowly.** Our Children’s Crossing has been placed close to the corner of Highbridge Rd and Ridgeland Ave. Please be prepared to stop at the crossing to allow children to cross Ridgeland Ave safely.

The school will be putting up new signs around our school to remind drivers about the road rules around our school. No initiative, however, is more powerful than a decision made by all parents to engage in safe drop off and pick up practices.

### 2015-2017 School Plan

Our 2015-2017 School Plan is now on our school website. The school plan articulates the school’s long term vision for improvement and ensuring we are providing an outstanding educational experience for all of our students. It is organised around three core strategic directions which are informed by our school vision. This week I would like to share with you our progress so far this year with our Successful and Confident Students Strategic Direction.

### Successful and Confident Students

The purpose of this Strategic Direction is to develop learning programs that explicitly reflect innovative evidenced-based pedagogies that result in improvements in student learning outcomes in literacy and numeracy and provide students with the opportunity to be successful and confident learners. So far this year, in classrooms across Killara Public School, teachers have been exploring the following questions and implementing a number of strategies including:

➤ **What makes a good learning intention?**

A learning intention is what we hope students will learn as a result of engaging in a particular sequence of learning activities. The best learning intentions are not too closely tied to the...
context of the learning. This makes it easier for students to see that what they are learning is transferable, and it also makes it easier to decide how to assess whether the students have learned what was intended.

What have my students really learned during a lesson?
Strategies implemented include; learning logs, triangles of learning, reflections sheets, traffic light tubs, no hands up – except to ask a question and mini white boards. These strategies provide teachers with the opportunity to gauge how well students understand the concept, and whether to continue to teach the concept.

How can I provide feedback to my students that make them think?
Strategies implemented include; two stars and a wish, find and fix your mistakes and focused marking. These strategies provide more focused feedback so that students are able make individual gains in their learning.

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. Please do not hesitate to contact the office on 9498 2397 if you have any questions regarding enrolments. I look forward to seeing everyone at our P&C Meeting tonight in the school library at 7:30pm.

Mrs Unity Taylor-Hill
Principal

What’s Happening In 3L
In UOI this term, Stage 2 is looking at the topic “Islands in the Sun”. We are learning about the climate in Australia and our region and their built environments. 3L are also creating artworks relating to this unit.

Last Friday, 3L began creating artworks after analysing the works of Albert Namatjira. We used pencils to sketch in the form of Namatjira’s landscape artwork, Ghost Gum. They aren’t quite finished yet, but they are going to look great!

Eleanor Lyell
Classroom Teacher
Ryde School Spectacular

On Tuesday 26 May, 26 children in Year 3 and 4 went to the Ryde Civic Centre for the first Ryde Spectacular rehearsal. They joined around 600 other children from schools in the Ryde district for the practise. They have been busy learning their songs and practising all the words. The group have only had their music for 5 weeks and they have worked very hard to learn the first 10 songs. It was a tiring day, focusing on Mrs Whiteman, listening to the instructions for each song, learning the actions and remembering the song lyrics without using their books. The children sounded fantastic and it is exciting to think how good they will be by the end of the year at the actual performance. Well done, everyone on a great day. You were wonderful representatives for our school.

Miss Somerville
Ryde Spectacular Choir Co-ordinator

Up And Coming Events

Term 2
27 May – P & C Meeting
3 June – Multicultural Public Speaking
31 May – Maintenance Day
2 June – Math-a-thon
2 June – Cross Country Ribbons
9 June – KA Assembly
15 June – ICAS Writing this week
16 June – School Tour – 10am
ICAS Spelling
Year 2 Excursion MCA Light Show

3B Assembly
19 June – Year 1 Excursion MCA Light Show
23 June – 1B Assembly
24 June – P & C Meeting
24 June – Reports go home
26 June – Last day of Term 2
14 July – Students resume for Term 3
14 July – SRC Induction Semester 2
21 July – 4/3C Assembly