Welcome to our Stage 2 newsletter for Term 3, 2015.

Term 3 is going to be an action-packed time for our students. Among the activities they can look forward to are: the athletics carnival, our Education Week Open Day, a Cyber Smart workshop, school photos, a visit from the renowned author Kate Forsyth, a drama incursion, Father’s Day breakfast and a performance of Cinderella by Opera Australia. As you can see, our students are very fortunate to be able to participate in such a wide range of in-school activities, as well as the extra-curricula sporting and performing arts activities which are also offered throughout the year.

English
This term, English activities will focus on the concept of perspective. Students will investigate how events and stories can be expressed through the different perspectives of writers and illustrators. The classes in Stage 2 will be using the novel Nanberry, by Jackie French, and Tom Appleby, by Jackie French, to explore the concept of how different people can be involved in similar events but view them from different perspectives. We will be using these novels to explore the way in which authors use different language choices to convey the emotions and perspectives of the different characters. Students will also explore the grammar of visual literacy and develop an understanding of how visual elements such as line, colour, shape, texture, space, symbols, pattern and composition can create meaning in visual texts. Visual literacy skills are important for children to learn in today’s ever more visual world, and they will be examining how vectors, colour, balance, texture, salience and placement are used to influence the way we view and interpret visual texts. Spelling and writing activities will be closely linked to, and integrated with, work on our Unit of Inquiry, and students will continue to develop their reading comprehension through the study of quality texts.

Mathematics
Maths groups in Stage 2 will continue to be class-based, providing a range of engaging differentiated activities. The focus concepts for this term are:

a) ‘numbers can be partitioned, rearranged and regrouped’: the mathematical topics covered by this concept include applying a variety of strategies to solve problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication and division; investigating and modelling fractions and decimals, including money.

b) ‘mathematical attributes can be compared, classified and measured’: the particular mathematical topics covered by this concept will include: comparing and describing the features of three-dimensional objects; measuring, comparing and estimating the volume and capacity of different objects; measuring, comparing and estimating length; modelling and comparing decimals, and reading and recording time, including timetables and calendars.

Problem solving activities will be incorporated into daily mathematics tasks, with a focus on taking care when reading instructions and selecting the most appropriate strategy for solving the problem.

How you can help your child with maths
• Get involved - be positive and supportive – make maths fun,
• Practise multiplication tables regularly.
• Encouraging children to think about money, saving money and considering how they spend money are important skills for all children to develop:
  o Encourage your child to work out how much change you will get after buying something.
  o Investigate costs for family trips together. For example, a visit to a theme park may include transport costs, entry ticket costs and food costs.
  o Discuss saving money for presents or something your child may want to buy. Work out how long it will take to save this much if they get a small amount of money each week.
  o Encourage your child to save a percentage of their pocket money or birthday money, and work out how much this would be. For example, how much money would you have if you saved 40% each week?
Inquiry learning
Our Unit of Inquiry for Term 3 is Perspectives on Colonisation. During the course of this conceptual Unit of Inquiry, students will be examining how different groups of people have viewed the impact of colonisation of Australia. We will be investigating key questions, such as:

- What was life like for local Aboriginal people before the arrival of the British?
- Why did the British choose to establish a colony in Australia?
- What were the expectations and experiences of different people on the First Fleet?
- What were the experiences and perspectives of different groups of people during early colonisation?

Students will also take a look at some of the great journeys of exploration and complete a study of a world explorer or navigator.

A number of exciting activities have been planned to complement this Unit of Inquiry:

- During Weeks 2 and 3, each class will complete a series of hands-on activities using the authentic materials supplied by the Australian Museum’s ‘Indigenous Australians’ Museum in a Box. These boxes contain materials which will provide a rich insight into Aboriginal cultural history and the way in which Aboriginal people lived on the land.
- In Week 7, on Monday, 24 August, all the students in Stage 2 will participate in a Colonial Day drama workshop. This is a complete, whole-day interactive educational show that allows children to experience what life was like back in the colonial times, during the colonisation of Australia. It will include authentic equipment, real-life anecdotes, songs and events from the past.

Costs associated with these activities have been included in your Term 3 invoice. A permission note for the Colonial Day, including more information about the activity, will be handed out prior to the incursion.

Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
In Term 2, students will have weekly P.E. lessons with our sports teacher, Mr Thompson, and will participate in sports skills programs on Friday mornings. Class P.E. lessons are as follows:

- 3B – Friday
- 3L – Monday
- 4/3C – Thursday
- 4B - Monday

PSSA soccer and netball will continue this term. Students who are not in a PSSA team will participate in rotating sports activities on Fridays.

In Personal Development and Health this term, students will be engaged in the Child Protection program. Lessons will involve discussions on how to identify safe and unsafe situations, and how to recognise situations of potential abuse or when abuse is occurring. During these lessons, students will be using anatomical terms to describe body parts. Please contact your class teacher if you require more information about the content of this program. Students will also participate in lessons on anti-bullying strategies, as well as learning about sun protection and what procedures should be followed in an emergency situation, such as a playground injury.

Creative Arts
Classroom Creative Arts activities will have links to this term’s Unit of Inquiry; students will explore the concept of line and perspective in visual arts, and, in music, with Mrs Whiteman, they will be learning Australian songs with a colonial theme. The dance group, band, recorder and string group continue this term. Members of the junior choir are rehearsing for the Ryde Schools Spectacular (RSS), and the dance group will be auditioning for a chance to also perform at the RSS at the Sydney Opera House.

What are Pre-tests?
Pre-tests are given to students before a lesson or unit of work to assess what they already know. Pre-tests allow teachers to see if what is about to be covered in a lesson or unit is already known or understood. They can ascertain children’s prior knowledge or understanding and help teachers to plan and differentiate the activities to suit the children’s abilities. Pre-tests, when run in conjunction with end-of-unit assessments, can help measure learning and demonstrate improved student understanding.

Home learning
Home learning will commence in Week 2. Homework is designed to consolidate the learning which has been occurring in the classroom in English, Mathematics and Unit of Inquiry. It is important that your child continues to read for at least 20 minutes every day, and they should be encouraged to read from a wide variety of texts and authors. This term, it would be wonderful if students could explore the world
of historical novels. Our school library has a wide range of books with a historical theme, and Mr Stone would be very happy to assist your child select an appropriate book. We would like homework to be a positive experience, so if you have any queries about your child’s home learning, please speak to your child’s teacher.

Punctuality, absences and uniform
Please remember that school starts at 9:10am. It is DEC policy that students are punctual to school. If you arrive after 9:10am please have your child sign in at the school office before going to class.

When your child is absent from school, it is important that, on their return, you advise the school of the reason for their absence. You should send in an absence note or email the school with the relevant information. As a matter of courtesy, you should also advise the school if your child is unable to participate in their PSSA competition so that the team managers can organise substitute players.

When the weather is wet, please ensure that your child has a raincoat. Umbrellas are discouraged for safety and storage reasons.

Stationery supplies
Please ask your child if they have items missing from their pencil case which need to be replaced, e.g. pencils, erasers, glue stick, pencil sharpener, scissors, black-line marker, red ballpoint pen, etc. If possible, please write your child’s name on these items so that, if they are misplaced, they can be easily returned.

Communication
Thank you to everyone who has returned the assessment tasks which were included in your students’ Semester One reports. We hope that, by providing you with samples of your children’s work, you will gain a better insight into the areas of learning they have been engaged in during the first half of the school year. Parents should remember that homework activities also provide examples of the work currently being covered in class and, as such, allow you to enter into discussions with your children about the topics they are studying.

You are reminded that you are able to access copies of all school notes and letters on our school website: www.killara-p.schools.nsw.edu.au Our P&C and school newsletters are posted online and emailed to all families, so please ensure that you log-in regularly to our school’s website, as well as check your emails, in order to be fully informed of upcoming school events and class activities.

Important dates for Stage 2:
- July 21  Class 4/3C assembly
- July 22  Athletics carnival
- July 27  Athletics carnival back-up day
- July 28  ICAS English – 8:00 am
           Education Week assembly and Open Day
- August 11  ICAS Maths – 8:00 am
             Stage 2 Cyber Smart workshops
- August 17 & 18  School photos
- August 24  Stage 2 Colonial Show incursion – all day
- August 27  Author visit – Kate Forsyth
- September 4  Father’s Day breakfast
- September 16  Opera Australia – Cinderella
- September 18  Last day of term

Mrs Helene Brunker – Assistant Principal
Mrs Cathy Bodegraven  Ms Eleanor Lyell  Mrs Donna Carruthers