Welcome!

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to Killara Public School for the 2015 school year. I hope that you and your family have had an enjoyable holiday period and that your children are excited about the prospect of more exciting learning in a new grade.

This year the Early Stage 1 team are aiming to provide all students with a nurturing and creative environment and have so far planned lots of experiences that will captivate your child’s mind.

The purpose of this newsletter is to give you an insight into our classroom routines so that together, as parent and teacher, we can ease your child into the learning routines and create a safe and memorable year of school that will ignite your child’s love for learning.

General Information

School begins at 9:10 am. Please aim to have your child at school with enough time to allow them to hang up their bag and walk up to the supervised top asphalt to play with friends. Encourage them to walk back to class independently, when the bell rings, where their teacher will be ready to greet them and start the morning routine as quickly as possible. Ensure that your child knows who will be picking them up or if they are going to after school care.

If your child is late to school, they will need to collect a note from the office before they come to the classroom.

After school please wait for your child under the Infants COLA. The teachers will bring their classes down and ensure that all children are picked up by a parent or guardian.

A friendly reminder to support our school’s waste free lunch project and to provide your child’s food in small reusable containers that are clearly labelled.

1. Munch’n’Crunch – students need to be provided with a small piece of fresh fruit or veggies to eat during Munch’n’Crunch which will happen mid-morning before recess.
2. Morning Tea
3. Lunch

A reminder also, that no nuts or nut products are to be brought to school due to an increasing number of severe allergies.

School requirement lists will have been sent home attached to the first KPS Newsletter. Please send the requested items to school with your child as soon as possible if you have not already done so. A reminder that the clear contact is to be kept at home and used to cover your child’s books.

We are always looking for opportunities to involve you in your child’s learning at school. Parent helpers are regular visitors to our classrooms for many different lessons.

Each class also has a nominated class parent who may or may not be able to come into the classroom regularly, but is involved in supporting the classroom teacher with activities such as:
• coordinating parent helper rosters
• coordinating parents to help with resource-making to support learning
• organising parent social events

If you are able to help in the classroom in any capacity it would be greatly appreciated.

If you have any concerns about your child please see your classroom teacher. We understand that everyone’s experience of school is different and we want your child’s year to be as safe and happy as possible.

Class Timetables

KA will be involved in the following programs this term:
Library Borrowing - Friday
P.E. - Friday
K-2 Sport - Thursday
Music - Wednesday
K-2 Choir – Wednesday

KD will be involved in the following programs this term:
Library Borrowing - Tuesday
P.E. - Tuesday
K-2 Sport - Thursday
Music - Wednesday  
K-2 Choir – Wednesday

KC will be involved in the following programs this term:  
Library Borrowing - Tuesday  
P.E - Tuesday  
K-2 Sport - Thursday  
Music - Wednesday  
K-2 Choir – Wednesday

Library  
We are very fortunate to have Mr. Mitchell Stone teaching in our Library. This term, students will be involved in reading rich texts with rhyming patterns, supporting our phonemic awareness and phonics programs. These lessons will meet elements of the K-10 NSW English Syllabus.

P.E  
Mr Luke Thompson will be taking the students for sports sessions each week, focusing on developing basic gross motor skills.

In addition to the class-based sports session with Mr Thompson, students will participate in a K-2 sports session on Thursday mornings in mixed grade groups. These lessons will meet elements of the NSW Personal Development, Health and Physical Education Syllabus.

Music  
Mrs Jenny Whiteman will take the students for two, weekly music sessions – a class session on music appreciation and composition and an infants’ choir session. Both of these sessions meet elements of the Creative and Practical Arts syllabus.

Assembly  
On Tuesday afternoons of even school weeks from 2:30pm onwards, children from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2 meet in the school hall for an assembly at which merit awards and birthday awards are handed out and class items are performed. Once a year your child’s class will perform an item at assembly. Your class teacher will let you know when your child’s class is performing and we warmly invite and encourage you to attend.

Teaching Overview

English  
The new NSW K-10 English Syllabus was implemented throughout NSW in 2014. The key strands of the English syllabus for all stages of learning are:

- ‘Speaking and Listening’
- ‘Writing and Representing’
- ‘Reading and Viewing’
- ‘Thinking Imaginatively and Creatively’
- ‘Expressing Themselves’

In our Kindergarten classes this term, students will be given the opportunity to communicate both informally and formally with other children in their class and with teachers. They will participate in class discussions in all Key Learning Areas. They will also be asked to deliver short presentations or ‘news topics’ to help support their learning and to involve you, the parents, in the learning process.

Students will develop reading, viewing and comprehension skills and strategies using grammar and phonics to make meaning. This term they will begin to develop sound and letter knowledge, including the use of rhyme, letter patterns and sounds in words.

We use a balance of modelled, guided and independent strategies to support reading and writing in the classroom. In modelled literacy sessions the teacher demonstrates strategies through sharing skills and explaining concepts. In guided, students are encouraged to try, explore, problem solve, take risks and practise the skills and strategies that have been demonstrated. Finally, students are encouraged to independently demonstrate and apply the skills and strategies that have been practised.

Mathematics  
The new NSW K-10 Mathematics Syllabus will be implemented throughout NSW in 2015. Students will work throughout the term to achieve outcomes in:

- ‘Number and Algebra’
- ‘Measurement and Geometry’
- ‘Statistics and Probability’

In Number this term, students will be concentrating on identifying the basic structure of 10. They will be ordering and comparing numbers. Learning to:

- Count up from 1
- 1,2,3,4,5...
- Count back from 10
- 10,9,8,7...
- Count on and back (without counting up)
- 6,7,8,9,10

They will be learning basic addition and subtraction to 10 through various methods including games, the interactive whiteboard and the use of concrete materials.

At this stage of development we encourage children to use their fingers when counting. Fingers are the perfect, concrete base ten material with which to work!

In other areas, we will be looking at repeating patterns using colour, shape and number, sequencing times and events in our day, using everyday language to describe position, understanding and representing data and learning about 2D shapes.

Last year we introduced a new resource to support the maths programs that are taught in the classrooms. As all teachers felt that these were a valuable resource we will be continuing to use them this year. To assist in maximizing quality teaching programs all students will own a personal ‘Numeracy Box’.

The numeracy box will contain a variety of maths tools and resources that students will be able to use and access throughout the day. On Parent Information Evening, next Wednesday, 11th February your class teacher will give you details about the box and how to assist in creating it for your child.
Unit of Inquiry

Amazing Me! “As I grow and change, I discover new things about who I am and what I can do.”

This unit provides opportunities for students to explore their feelings, their likes and dislikes, their physical form, themselves as part of their family, how they are growing and changing, what they can do now and aims for the future. The children will be asked to bring in a photo to talk about.

Health and Personal Development

Related to our ‘Amazing Me’ unit of work we will be looking at ourselves and expressing needs, feelings and wants in appropriate ways. We will also be focusing on interpersonal relationships to gain an understanding of how we can cooperate and care for each other and make and keep friends.

As an integral part of our Health and Personal Development program we will also be continuing to focus on our PBEL school values: ‘Endeavour’ ‘Respect’ ‘Mindful’ -what these mean and what these look like in different areas of the school.

Homework

The homework that will be provided for Kindergarten children is designed to be a gentle way for parents and their children to connect and share the incredible learning journey that each child is embarking on. Home reading is pivotal to a child’s academic success and this be will at the heart of Kindergarten homework. The structure of homework for each class will be explained in detail at the Meet the Teacher evening.

Important Dates

Feb 4
New Parent Information Evening

Feb 11
Meet the Teacher

March 26
Parent / Teacher Interviews

March 17
Senior Week Assembly

April 1
Easter Hat Parade

Unity

I dreamt I stood in a studio, And watched two sculptors there. The clay they used was a young child’s mind, And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher, the tools he used Were books, music, and art.