From the Principal's Desk...

Welcome to Week 2 - Term 1

Welcome back everyone!!! We have had an amazing start to the year. On Wednesday and Thursday of last week all staff met and undertook a range of professional learning and organisational meetings in an effort to ensure the smooth start of all students to the new year. The Ready Set Go Program, which is aimed at establishing routines and expectations for the year, has been well received across the school with many new and innovative additions to the program to ensure student engagement. I hope that we see you at the special family events planned for Friday. It will be a real celebration marking the start of a productive and positive year.

I would like to welcome all of our new staff members most of whom were able to visit last term. I welcome Ms Erin Cooper (foundation), Ms Andrea McKenzie (grade 3), Mrs Emma White (grade 4), Mrs Fiona Johnson (grade 4), Ms Emily Dennis (grade 5), Ms Samantha George (grade 5) and Mr Nick Williamson (grade 6). I also welcome Mrs Amy Thompson (grade 1) and Mrs Andrea Lewis (senior art) who return to our school. We have a new leading teacher, Ms Carolyn Crowther and her role includes numeracy co-ordinator as well as Inquiry and aspects of ICT. Last but by no means least I welcome Kylie Pyne who is working in the office this year with Kim Parker. Her professional and personable nature has endeared her to our community in the short time she has been here.

I would like to thank Michael Bourne, principal of St Pats, and his staff for welcoming our wellbeing and integration team to their school on Thursday. St Pat's hosted a professional development workshop on Autism and invited our staff to attend. The PD was well received and all participant found it extremely valuable learning. This marks the start of what Michael and I hope to be a productive and support relationship between the two schools. I visited St Pat's at the end of last year and Michael, along with the principal of assumption College Kate Fogarty, will be visiting our school on February 15th.

A huge thank you needs to be extended to Tracey and Geoff Crane for their work in organising the repair of the walls and repainting one of our classrooms in the grade one area in preparation for the new year. Tracey organised the donation of paint from the Kilmore Mitre 10 Store and I thank the hardware for their generosity. The classroom looks amazing now and is an inviting learning environment. Russell Edwards, Coby and Fisher Crane, Kristy Brooks, David, Lachlan and Sam MacBean as well as Julie McCarthy need a mention as they responded to Tracy’s call for assistance and donated their time to assisting with the painting. Great team effort everyone.

Timetable Changes
As you will be aware, from the end of last year several changes have been made to the school structure in response to our school review and consequent whole school improvement plan. After consideration of the data and responses from staff, students and the community, most grades this year are straight classes and in single rooms. Another change is the timetable. Children now work in hour sessions with a two hour block before and after morning recess and a one hour block after lunch. This model optimises children’s use of prime learning time at the start of the day. Children will have designated healthy snack times in the middle of the two hour blocks. Can you please make sure that you pack two healthy snacks for children, along with a morning recess snack and lunch. Healthy snacks must be fruit or vegetables and involve no wrappings.
Timetable Changes.....continued
For younger children in particular it is a great idea to cut fruits like apples and oranges up as they are more inclined to eat smaller pieces than finish a large item. Celery, carrots and snow peas are all great alternatives to traditional fruits. The options are endless!!

Stationery Packs
Hopefully all children will have their stationery by now. We did change the process a bit this year by retaining the stationery packs at school. We trialled this as we had problems in the past with packs going home and not coming back for extended periods of time or coming back with missing items. For those families who want to cover the books individually please see your child’s teacher and arrange a night where you can take the books home and have them returned the next day.

Classroom Helpers Training
It is our hope that we have many parents wanting to help in classrooms this year. The individualising of the curriculum is reliant on having additional adults in the classrooms particularly in the earlier years. It is a Department requirement that if you want to work in classrooms you must have a current Working with Children Check (WWCC) and attend a school based training session. If you have not had the training and would like to be a classroom helpers please register for one of the sessions below. At the sessions I will help organise the WWCC.

Classroom helpers training sessions:
February 10th 9.00am – 10.00am
February 12th 2.10pm – 3.10pm
February 17th 9.00 – 10.00am
Please ring the office to register for one of the sessions.

School Newsletter
Our school newsletter will now be distributed via email. If the school has your email on file then you should receive an electronic copy of the newsletter each Wednesday. If you are unsure if the school has your email address then please contact the office on 5782 1268. You can opt out of receiving the newsletter electronically by contacting the office or sending an email to the school at kilmore.ps@edumail.vic.gov.au.

There will only be a small number of copies available from the office counter.

I am truly excited about the year ahead and hope that together we can create an amazing experience for all of our students. Remember that open and honest communication is a key. If at any time you have concerns or questions, please contact your child’s teacher, one of the leadership team or myself.

Kim Laffan
Principal

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY IS COMING

SchoolPix will be coming to photograph Kilmore Primary School on 15/03/2016

More information to follow shortly.
Ready, Set....Celebrate!

Who? Parents and family members

When? Friday 5th February 2016

Where? Kilmore Primary School

What? Open Classrooms, PA Quiz, Picnic, Scavenger Hunt & Assembly

10:20am KPS Trivia Quiz
Join your child/children for our very first KPS Quiz conducted over the PA system by our student leaders with questions written by each class.

11:20am Open Classrooms
Visit your child/children’s classroom and see what they have been doing so far this year.

12:15pm Whole School Scavenger Hunt
Students will work in small teams (parents welcome to join in too!) to find the answers to different clues in the playground.

1:20pm Whole School Picnic
Join your child/children for a picnic.

2:25pm Whole School Assembly
Each class will present their motto and a representative will share the class’ ‘Happy Highlight’ of the year so far. Foundation students will finish at 3:10pm today.
CSEF - Camps Sports and Excursions Fund
Application forms for 2016 are now available. If you are the holder of a valid means-tested concession card, please request a form from the Office.

Applications close 24/06/2016.

Late applications can not be accepted.

The office needs to sight and take a copy of your concession card as per the CSEF policy.

If you are unsure whether you are eligible or not, please see Kim Parker in the school office.

Conveyance Allowance
What is Conveyance Allowance?
Conveyance Allowance is paid to parents/guardians to assist with the transport cost of driving their child/ren to and from school.

Am I eligible for Conveyance Allowance?
For student to be eligible for a Conveyance Allowance they must;
• Be aged over 5 years by 30th April
• Live more than 4.8 km by the shortest practicable route from the nearest bus stop, and
• Be enrolled at the nearest government school.

Applications close 03/03/2016.

Late applications can not be accepted.

Forms are available from the office. If you are unsure whether you are eligible or not, please see Kim Parker in the school office.

What’s happening at KPS?
The office must have your email address on file so you can received an electronic copy of our weekly newsletter.

If you are unsure if the school has your email address then please contact the office on 5782 1268.

Excursion Payments Due
Please note any payment received after the due date will not be accepted.

Calendar
FEBRUARY

Friday 5th February
Special Whole School Assembly, 2.30pm

Monday 8th February
Whole School Assemble, 9.00am

Tuesday, 16th February
Parent Information Night, 6.30pm

Monday 22nd February
Whole School Assemble, 9.00am

2016 School Term Dates
Term 1: 27 January to 24 March
Term 2: 11 April to 24 June
Term 3: 11 July to 16 September
Term 4: 3 October to 20 December

School Hours And Bell Times
8.45 am - First School Bell
Session 1  8.50am – 9.50am
Session 2  9.50am – 10.50am
Recess  10.50am – 11.20am
Session 3  11.20am – 12.20pm
Session 4  12.20pm – 1.20pm
Eating Time  1.20pm – 12.30pm
Lunch  1.30pm – 2.10pm
Session 5  2.10pm – 3.10pm
End Of School  3.10pm
Mighty Thankful to Kilmore Mitre 10

A huge big thankyou to Kilmore Mitre 10 for providing us with paint to give the teachers and students of 1T a new look for their class room, the walls have been painted with Silver Thread, and a big bright feature wall of Deep Mauve. We are lucky to have the wonderful support of Kilmore Mitre 10 who over the years have helped us with so many events and projects. If you get the chance say thanks next time you are in store.

Thanks also to the Staff, School Councillors and their families who were able to prep and paint the room. It really looks super.

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Garden News

As always there are lots of exciting ideas and improvements planned for our school grounds this year. The kids love to have your help and we love to hear your ideas. Don’t be shy, even ten minutes to help water is greatly appreciated.

Over the weekend the new shade sail was put up over the playground. This was purchased with the wonderful achievement of fundraising efforts. Thank you to everyone who has supported this.

The Foundation garden area will see some big changes, keep your eyes open… Little Red Riding Hood will be coming to the garden. Watch out for the wolf dressing up as Grandma! We look forward to working together with students, friends and families to bring the area to life.

We have been lucky enough to receive a little boat for our garden, which will become a garden bed feature in a new beach themed sand pit. Does anyone have any contacts or the ability to paint the fibre glass boat for us please? We would also like to see some great big rocks, soft native grasses and beach nostalgia to be included. Please leave your details at the office if you can help.

Tracey Crane
Student Banking at Kilmore Primary School

-School banking is processed weekly, (every week of every term).
-Bank books should be placed in the box at the office on Tuesday mornings.
-Teachers will hand bank books back to your child on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday.
-Deposit as little as 5 cents.
-Every 10 deposits earns a reward, chosen by your child from the Reward List.

3 Easy Ways To Open an Account;
#1. at a CBA branch,
#2. online (if a parent is a CBA customer) or
#3. by dropping a filled in application form to the school office.
- If your child already has a Dollarmites/Youth Saver account, they can start banking through the school right away.
Just make sure their bank book has their name and account number (including BSB) filled in, on the inside cover of the bank book.
-Consistent savers will be presented with certificates.
-School banking teaches kids good savings habits, and might even get them doing a few extra chores to earn some money!
-The school fundraising benefits from student banking from a commission paid by the CBA, which helps purchase and upgrade equipment around the school.