February 5, 2015
P & C meet the third Monday of every month, 7.00pm - President P&C: Cherie Castaing

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday February 12</td>
<td>Meet The Teachers Breakfast 7.45 - 9.20am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday February 13</td>
<td>Book Pack Payment Required</td>
</tr>
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From the Principal
This week:
Welcome back to the school year for 2015. The staff and I trust you had an enjoyable break from the routine of school and had fun with your children through Christmas. We welcome all new families to Kincumber PS and hope your time with us is a great experience.

This really lengthy newsletter contains information about:
- Communication
- Class Organisation
- Staffing for 2015
- Playground
- Hats
- Voluntary School Contributions
- Other Costs
- Money Collection
- Volunteering
- Wildlife Alert
- Raising concerns
- Meeting Your Child’s Teacher
- School Website
- Kincumber Public School Sesquicentenary
- Trash Free Tuesday

Although much of the information contained in this newsletter is a refresher for you and has appeared in previous newsletters, there are new dates, changed information and updated hyperlinks, so please read each section.

Communication
The newsletter is published weekly on Thursdays on our website, on Skoolbag and emailed to your most current email address (unless gremlins interfere or it’s the first week back at school). The school communicates with parents mainly through the newsletter and individual letters sent home with students. Please regularly check with your child about these communications.

Our school also has a very handy smartphone app that calendar events, newsletters and important alerts are posted to called Skoolbag – and it’s free!

Should you need to contact the school, please use the phone numbers above. The school does not have an answering machine. Therefore your personal call during office hours is considered our official means of communication.

The school also receives your communication (and many others) by email on the above address. However, school email is checked daily before 8:30 and any communication received later that day can only be acted upon the next school day.

I am available to see parents by appointment after 9.30am most days and these can be made through the office. As the only class free school executive, I hope you understand that my priority is teachers and students before the start of the school day.

Teaching staff are pleased to make appointments for face-to-face or telephone interviews any time a request is made. However, they are unable to have impromptu interviews on the classroom doorstep as children are entering class for the day or during teaching time. Please do not be offended should any teacher refuse to hold an interview with you at these times. There is an opportunity for a formal conference in the last two weeks of first term each year, where progress can be discussed and learning goals for the year set.

Official office hours are from 8.15am to 3.00 pm. Before or after these times the office phone may not be answered as school staff may not be in the office area.

Class Organisation
Children were placed into classes on a tentative basis last year. Children have settled fabulously into school and were already hard at work by 9am on the very first day, even though the torrential rain caused a little havoc.

It is possible that with a number of new enrolments, some changes to the number of classes or class organisation may be possible. I will be able to advise any proposed changes after 6 February.

Staffing
Miss Monica McKenzie and Miss Brianna McPhee have been permanently appointed to Kincumber Public School and have taken up the reigns of 3M and MC as of 27 January. Please make them welcome.

Mrs Wicks has been promoted to Assistant Principal creating a classroom teacher vacancy and Miss Abbie Stone is currently taking 3A until permanent teacher, Miss Rachel Andrew, commences next Monday. Rachel is a very experienced teacher transferring from Point Clare Public School and will be leading our choir and new ipad/tablet programs. She is also a former student of Kincumber PS and we welcome her back!

Playground
All children are required to place their bags under the COLA on arrival at school. Children may then play on the asphalt and/or grass area below the COLA when supervision commences at 8.20am. No children are to go to classrooms to put bags away. When you bring your child to school would you please walk them to the COLA and not to classrooms. The playground equipment cannot be used for at least the first couple of weeks until all students have had their orientation to safe use conducted by class teachers.

I have to send a big thank you to our General Assistant, Mr Ken McWhirter and the wonderful blokes from the Kincumber Men’s Shed who have refurbished our playground equipment over the holidays. It looks great!

Important information about accidents to students during school-related activities
From time to time students have accidents at school. The information provided at the link below explains about insurance for such injuries.

h t t p : / / w w w . s c h o o l s . n s w . e d u . a u / s t u d e n t s u p p o r t / studentwellbeing/insurance/index.php

Hats
Please assist school staff in the implementation of the school’s sun protection policy. A broad brimmed hat, with a brim of at least 7cm, or a legionnaire’s style hat, are the only approved styles of hat to be worn at all times while on the school playground. These are available at the uniform shop at a reasonable cost and in uniform colour.

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Students of Week 1, Term 1, 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Student</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KN</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KP</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MC</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1B</td>
<td>Chloe Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1C</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1E</td>
<td>Abbie Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Jay Kelaher</td>
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<tr>
<td>1T</td>
<td>Belle Morley</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2C</td>
<td>Brodie Kennedy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2H</td>
<td>Jake Underwood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2K</td>
<td>Elijah Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2M</td>
<td>Zack Visconti</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3H</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3A</td>
<td>Samantha Neal</td>
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<tr>
<td>3M</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3S</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3W</td>
<td>Jessica Deakin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library</td>
<td>No star this week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Voluntary School Contributions
After Week 3 of Term 1 a letter will be sent home for school contributions. These costs are very reasonable at $35 per student or $70 per family.
With the introduction of the school bookpack, the School Contribution represents an amount to supply students with art supplies, first aid consumables, phone calls to parents for first aid & emergencies etc.

Other costs
Notes went home last week regarding our Mathletics program and bookpack. This online interactive maths program can be accessed at school and at home for 2015 and replaces the need for a mathematics textbook. Following payment, students will be issued a password which enables them to login to the exercises for the year - at home and at school. Payment is required as soon as possible to begin class work.
Advice about proposed excursion costs will be sent home next week and is on the website. To help spread the costs, parents of children in Stages 2 and 3 can begin to send in prepayments to cover the costs of the major excursions at any time.

Money Collection
All money collection of amounts greater than $10 should go straight to the office in a sealed envelope, clearly marked with your child’s name, class, amount enclosed and what the payment is for. Envelopes can be placed in the letterbox on the wall near the photocopy room before school. All other money should be sent to your child’s teacher in an envelope. The school has credit card facilities to assist secure payments and is preferred for large amounts. Please do not send your child to school with large amounts of money. Our canteen manager notices me of any students presenting at the canteen with notes over $10 in denomination.

Volunteers
We love having parents and community members help out at school. Many of you have skills and talents that could enhance what we can offer here at school and we look forward to your offer of time and assistance.
So that all volunteers are aware of their special responsibilities under school policy, I will be holding an information session on Friday 20 February from 9am – 10am in the library.
Volunteers required currently working with Children Check (valid for five years unless revoked) for either volunteering or paid employment or to provide 100 points of approved identification annually before commencing in any volunteering role at Kincumber Public School.
At this session you will be informed about the school’s volunteer policy and be able provide us with 100 points of approved identification and sign a declaration.

Wildlife Alert
At the beginning of the school year after a period of no students to disturb them, all sorts of creepy crawlies (snakes, wasps, spiders, lizards) are likely to come out to find shade or food. School is no different to anywhere else, so please remind your children to be aware and alert to possible danger.
PS – Mosquitoes are particularly abundant in summer too, so combine your sunscreen and insect repellent is a great way to protect your child from the sun and the biting insects. Please apply before school and pop a small tube in your child’s bag so they can refresh it during the day.

Concerns
I extend a reminder to all that if at any time you find that you have a concern about anything to do with the school, you are encouraged to come to the school and tell someone so that your concern can be resolved. It is our aim to work with all of our school community to ensure that we do the very best we can to ensure a productive, safe and enjoyable experience for our students. Office staff will direct your enquiries to the staff member with responsibility for the area of your concern.

However, should you feel that you must raise a concern formally, the NSW Department of Education and Communities has procedures for ensuring that complaints are handled fairly. Information is available on the Department’s website at: http://www.det.nsw.gov.au/about-us/how-we-operate/how-we-handle-complaints/schools
shop at reasonable cost and in uniform colour.

Meeting Your Child’s Teacher
On Thursday morning, 12 February, from 7.45 - 9.20am we are holding a Meet The Teacher Breakfast. A note was sent home this week with details. Our canteen will be selling pancakes and fruit sausages with either blueberry or strawberry toppings from 7.45am until 8.45am. At 8.20am parents are invited to go to their child’s classroom to meet the teacher. Non - teaching school staff will supervise students in the playground until 9.20am (or a little later) when school will start for the day. We would love to have some helpers in the canteen for the breakfast - you’ll be able to go and meet your teacher at 8.20am with everybody else.

School website
Among my many responsibilities is keeping the school’s website news and calendar information up-to-date. Please read the newsletter and check the website calendar for important dates and upcoming events. While I strive to be on top of the flow of information to you, from time to time, I don’t keep up, so checking the newsletter and calendar is a good idea.

Kincumber Public School Sesquicentennial
Although about seven years away, we are starting to prepare to celebrate 150 years of public education at Kincumber Public School in 2020. The school’s history was last documented in 1970 and we have a rather large job on our hands to research and document the last fifty years. Our wonderful librarian, Mrs Donna Judd, is coordinating the information search and would welcome any information you or others may have including photos, stories, connections and any other resources that would help in this project. We’ve got six years to work on it and any help would be appreciated.

Trash Free Tuesday
It is estimated that each school child produces approximately 30 kilos of waste per year from their lunch box alone. KPS has over 400 students, so we would generate more than 13 tonnes of lunch box waste!
In an effort to make a difference to this problem and encourage the students to be part of the solution, not the cause, we are hoping to continue Trash Free Tuesdays at KPS. So please be mindful when packing your child’s lunch box on Tuesdays, that there is no “single-use” plastic packaging such as tetra packs, plastic straws, plastic/cling wrap etc. If that packaging goes to school, it will be sent home in their lunch box or bag at the end of the day.
By supporting this simple step to reduce wasteful packaging, the whole KPS school community is raising awareness regarding this important issue, breaking old damaging habits and creating positive change in our environment. Together we are thinking globally and acting locally for the benefit of our childrens’ future!

That’s enough for the first newsletter isn’t it? So…
Welcome back, have a great year at our great school!
Trish Peters
Principal

P & C Update
On behalf of KPS P&C I’d like to warmly welcome all new students, families and staff to our thriving school community.
Understanding the workings of the school can be daunting and I encourage you all to check out the school website and in particular our updated SCHOOL HANDBOOK on the website. The handbook will answer a lot of your questions from bell times to explaining PBL (positive behaviour for learning).
Over the summer I had the chance to browse through a book by David Gillespie called Free Schools and would highly recommend it to those interested in the debate over the choice of public vs private schools, or how to choose a “good school”. It is a well researched and accessible book written by an Australian former corporate lawyer and father of six.
In summary the following are a list of things that DO NOT deliver better educational outcomes for students -

- public vs private
- mixed vs same sex schools
- size of school
- class size, beyond K-1. (though it may have an effect on teacher well being)
- streaming
- teachers with postgrad qualifications
- teaching experience, except for those with less than 3y experience.

HIGH EXPECTATIONS consistently deliver high results.
"Parents who expect a lot from their kids invariably create kids who expect a lot from themselves" but teacher expectations of students and student self expectations are linked and work together greatly.
Critical issues are effective teachers under an effective school leadership team. Fostering a love of learning in the culture of the school, monitoring student performance and mentoring teachers are essential...
Other things he included as very beneficial were learning music and also a second language, effective discipline managing disruptive behaviour (which quickly involves parents when necessary). David Gillespie found good schools had regular and effective parent communication.
While in recent years our P&C has done an excellent job in fundraising it does more than this. It provides an opportunity to meet with school leaders to reinforce parental expectations, provide feedback, understand our school expectations, what it teaches and how it teaches.
It’s the way to make our very good school great.
KPS P&C meets on the 3rd Monday of every month at 7pm in the school staffroom. Next meeting is 16th Feb, all new faces warmly welcomed!
Our AGM is held in March and to vote or nominate committee members a $1 membership fee needs to be paid prior to AGM.
Cherie Catasing
P&C President
UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

Library 2015

Library Borrowing
Each class is timetabled to visit the library once a week. Students return books and re-borrow each week. Loans are for a two week period, however most students borrow weekly.

The use of a library bag is to protect library books from school bag mishaps. Parents can support the weekly routine of packing library book/s in a bag the night before library by prompting students. We hope that our students will become independent in this weekly organisation task, however even Year 6 students benefit from an occasional reminder.

Monday KN, 1B, 2C, 3A
Tuesday 1C, 2H, 2K, 3W
Wednesday KJ, 1E, 1T, 2M, 3S
Thursday KP, MC, 1G, 2/3H, 3M

The 2015 Book Fair will be held in Term 2. The commission from sales is used to purchase new books for our library. (see Parent Help)

Lunchtime Library Activities
The Library is a popular space at lunchtime. Students enjoy reading, drawing, chess, Lego building, farm animal play, dinosaurs play and computer games. Our Library Monitors do a wonderful job supporting younger children at lunchtime.

Thank you so much to all of the mums who have volunteered to cover books and readers for the library. Your assistance is very much appreciated. If there is anyone else who would like to donate some time to the library please contact Mrs Judd.

Premier’s Reading Challenge
Each year our students participate in the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge. Students who complete the challenge will receive their certificates later in the year.

Students from K-2 complete the PRC in library and class time. I will process the PRC reading log for students K-2. Students 3-6 will log their own books at the PRC website. Students can add to their log from home and in library time at school. I encourage parents to view their child’s PRC progress when they are logged in at home.

All students at KPS participate in the PRC. The Premier’s Office publishes a list of participating schools, and a separate list of students who complete the challenge. Information on data privacy can be found at the NSW PRC website. Please contact Mrs Judd in the Library if you have any questions.

Dear Parents
Due to the high number of requests from schools and parents the start date of our programs have been postponed by 1 week. The program will still run for 8 sessions. Classes will now commence week beginning Monday 9th February.

Make sure your child is enrolled, IT IS NOT TOO LATE!
ENROL NOW via www.big5sports.com.au or www.danceoz4kids.com

Saratoga Hawks
Saratoga Oval, Saratoga
2015 Registration Days
11am – 1pm Sunday 8th February 2015
11am – 1pm Sunday 1st March 2015
Saratoga Oval
We Play Sunday Footy
Auskick (Boys and Girls 5-8 year olds)
Boys: U9’s, U11’s, U13’s, U15’s, U17’s
Youth Girls: U14’s, U18’s
For further information please contact Phil Sennett on 0428 428 460
Or head to playafl.com.au

Gosford Regional Show
Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 May, 2015
Gosford Showground
Showground Road
Gosford

‘KINTEEN’- CANTEEN ROSTER
2015 TERM 1 - WEEK 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday February 9</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday February 10</td>
<td>Need Help!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday February 11</td>
<td>Rachael</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday February 12</td>
<td>Wendy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday February 13</td>
<td>Jo</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Don't forget to use our online ordering, a great way to order your children’s recess and lunch.

Fleximeals on line: www.fleximeals.com.au
If you would like information on how Fleximeals works please call Linda the school’s canteen manager

UNIFORM SHOP NEWS
Volunteer Needed

The P&C seek your help to enable us to keep the Uniform Shop open on Wednesday afternoons.

If you are able to work in the Uniform Shop from 2-3pm on Wednesdays (or any other time) please let the office know and we will contact you shortly.

Thank you

Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to Come and Try Guides!
At your local Girl Guide unit
For girls aged 6-17 years
Leadership opportunities for adults 18 years and over
For information on the location and times Region Membership Adviser on helenEG2@live.com.au
Or visit our website www.girlguides-nswact.org.au to find out more about Guides

HAVING FUN TODAY - LEADING THE WORLD TOMORROW

Dear Parents
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The day of the program will NOT change. ie: if your program is on a Wednesday it will remain on a Wednesday.

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Youth Girls: U14’s, U18’s
For further information please contact Phil Sennett on 0428 428 460
Or head to playafl.com.au
Learn VIOLIN in school hours at Kincumber Public School with EVA WEIERMANN accredited teacher (Central Coast Conservatorium) MTA

Students are professionally prepared for AMER EXAMS fetes, school and Opera House performances 5 years to 12 years Violins available for hire Private lessons also taught at Copacabana All ages and standards.
Phone: 4382 2194 or 0401 523 255

Platinum Tree Services Pty Ltd
0449 117 812

Patrick McHugh & Co Solicitors & Conveyancers
Let our friendly and experienced team of Legal Professionals help you at our local office. We look forward to being of service. Ph 4369 6975

Before and After School Care includes:

- Breakfast Club - To ensure children don’t miss out on the most meal of the day, the Breakfast Club helps to get their school day off to a healthy start.
- Outdoor Play - Children participate in free and structured social outdoor play, have fun and experience something new everyday.
- Creative Arts - Children enjoy exploring their creative sides, learning new skills and exercising their imaginations.

- Afternoon Tea - Children are provided with a healthy nutritious snack each afternoon to sustain their active body and mind.
- Physical Activity Program - YMCA educators design programs that actively encourage a variety of experiences, creating opportunities to practice, enhance and master skills and knowledge through a diversity of team and individual sports.
- Homework - A space is available for children to complete homework tasks.

- Other program options - Children will enjoy unstructured, supervised play and stimulating activities using a variety of materials and resources including arts, crafts, music and cooking.

Kincumber Public School does not endorse the products or services of any advertiser. No responsibility is accepted for the information contained in advertisements or claims made by them.