From the Principal
This week:

- Breaking news!!!!! School attendance changes
- Homework Survey + Mathletics passwords
- Meet The Teacher Breakfast

School Attendance
In last week’s newsletter I included information about attendance at school and advised that this year a priority for improvement is the late arrival of students and discouraging absences during the term for family holidays.

There were some major changes to the management of attendance in NSW public schools announced recently. The most significant is that exemptions from attendance can no longer be granted.

Implementation of the ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting means that travel or holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted. These absences will now be recorded on student reports.


Homework Survey + Mathletics passwords available
Many thanks for the great response to our homework survey. Clearly it’s a hot topic for parents as this is the biggest return of a survey I have seen in my seven years here as principal.

I gave a presentation to the P & C last Monday night about this topic and we discussed some preliminary survey results. Significantly, as of Monday night, more than 50% of surveys returned preferred a combination of literacy and numeracy homework. The rest preferred a variety of options and made other suggestions too. Teachers and parents have been consulted and we are going to seek student opinions shortly. Our revised school policy should be completed by the end of Term 1.

Meanwhile, Mathletics passwords will be distributed this week for Maths practice at home. Automaticity of times tables and number facts is essential for quick and efficient problem solving – so practise, practise, practise!

Please advise me if access to the internet is not available at home for homework practice. I hope to be able to arrange access to our school computer lab for students accompanied by parents before school one morning per week to assist. A public internet terminal is also available at Kincumber Library and wi-fi access is free although a fee of $2.20 is charged for computer use per half hour.

Meet The Teacher Breakfast
Thank you for an increase in attendance this year – best ever! Miss McKenzie was not available on the morning and will reschedule a time for parents to meet her soon. Thanks to Linda and the helpful band of lovely ladies who served the hungry masses. The smell of pancakes and syrup was divine!

Some years ago we received feedback that working parents found it easier to get to work a little later than have to leave work early to get back in time for a Meet the Teacher afternoon. Parents also advised that their attendance was impacted due to many afternoon sporting, dance and other commitments. It was also much easier to provide supervision for school-aged children in the morning before school so that parents could attend without having to find or pay for childcare. This suited parents raising children on their own and families where two parents wanted to attend.

I’m interested to know if this arrangement is still suitable for our current community. Please drop an email to me (trish.peters@det.nsw.edu.au) to let me know what you think.

Parents appreciated the two sessions and I was advised at the P & C meeting that a handout that could be given out by teachers would be welcomed if attendance was not possible. We’ve changed the arrangements for kindergarten each year to accommodate new parent needs but we are having trouble getting it right for the majority of families. If you have some great ideas please see Jodi Hardy, Early Stage 1 supervisor, and let her know.

Hope you had a great week at our great school.

Trish Peters
Principal
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 is sent 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 children’s future!
UNIFORM SHOP HOURS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TUESDAY</td>
<td>8.30am to 9.30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEDNESDAY</td>
<td>2.00pm - 3.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>THURSDAY</td>
<td>8.30am to 9.30am</td>
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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.

Class Item 3W continued

Sandwiches - Get Healthy!

Come on down to N.A.K. Sandwiches. We have a wide range of delicious fillings for your sandwich delight.

Get Healthy! Choose from yummy ingredients on your delicious bread goody goodness. We have a range of bread for you to choose, including white, whole grain and multigrain. We also have rolls, if you like.

Choose the easy option. We’ll slap on the cheese and the lettuce, slice on the tomatoes and slip on the bread and there you have it! A perfect sandwich for you and your family, just do it!

Get positive! At N.A.K. Sandwiches we have friendly customer service (if you need help). Come in right now and you will get a second sandwich, FREE!!

Class item 3 W continued

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Gosford Regional Show

Saturday 2 & Sunday 3 May, 2015

Celebrating 127 years

The Regional Show is having a section for children to enter produce that they have grown at home or at school.

Please see the front office for application forms.

Kincumber/Bensville Sea Scout Group

Invites you to ‘Try Scouting’ for both boys and girls

Scouts 11-15 years
Mondays from 7pm to 9pm

Cub Scouts 8-11 years
Wednesdays from 6.30pm to 8pm

Joey Scouts 6-8 years
Tuesdays from 5.30pm to 6.30pm

At our Scout Hall located in Doyle Street, South Kincumber

Scouts Open Day: Gosford Waterfront Sunday 22nd February 10am to 2pm

FREE ACTIVITIES AND FAMILY FUN!

Carol McWhinnie ‘Misty’
Group Leader: Kincumber/Bensville Sea Scouts
Phone: 0404 932 208
Email: groupleaderkinbenseascouts@hotmail.com
Learn VIOLIN in school hours at Kincumber Public School with EVA WEIERMANN accredited teacher (Central Coast Conservatorium) MTA

Students are professionally prepared for AMEB 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

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.

Visit our website to enrol now
oshc.ymcansw.org.au

When school’s out, the Y is in!
oshc.ymcansw.org.au

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