Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2014 school year. In 2014, the class teachers and specialist staff that will be working with the K-2 children are:

KM - Mrs N Marshall  
KH - Ms K Howley  
KK - Ms Z Krivosic  
1C - Mrs M Carroll  
1P - Mrs J Parsons  
1V - Ms N Vlahos  
2C - Mr B Colmer (Assistant Principal K-2)  
2RP – Ms J Robinson (Mon-Wed) and Ms A Peyrou (Thurs-Fri)  
2/1S - Mrs A Samarakoon

Miss McDonald – Library (Assistant Principal)  
Miss Wright – English as a second language  
Ms Chen, Ms Guo, Mrs Alexandrou and Miss Wang – Language Teachers  
Ms Fredman – Performing Arts  
Mrs Mendelsohn and Mrs Blanch – Specialist Teachers

Office Staff- Mrs Sibel McKenna, Mrs Christine Horton and Mrs Veronica Venianakis

The following information are reminders for parents, regarding school rules and organisation.

SCHOOL CALENDAR AND NEWSLETTER:  
Please refer to our website: www.kensington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au for important information on upcoming events, copies of permission notes and latest news from our school. It also contains information from the DEC on back to school resources, selective high schools as well as other relevant links. By clicking on the newsletter link you can also subscribe to the weekly newsletter.

SCHOOL HOURS:  
School hours are 9.00-3.00. Could you please ensure your child is at school on time each day. However, no child should be at school prior to 8.30, as the playground is unsupervised. On arrival, all children are to go to Area 1(beside the Assembly Hall) with their bags, until the bell rings. Should it be raining, students are to stay under the covered awning near the Library until a double bell sounds, indicating the children may then go to the hall or their classrooms as directed by the teacher on duty.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT: No child is to play on the climbing equipment before school or after school, including younger siblings. Rule: No Teacher, No Play.

LIBRARY/EXCURSION BAGS: Please provide a library bag for your child’s library books. These are available from the school Uniform Shop. We have a no bag, no borrowing policy.
PARENT ONLINE PAYMENTS (POP):
Parents are encouraged to pay for school based activities using the ‘make a payment’ button on the front page of our school website. [www.kensington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.kensington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au)

HOW TO ARRANGE A MEETING
Parents are asked not to approach teachers at the lines or classrooms. If you wish to discuss your child’s progress or have a query, please see the teacher before the 9.00 bell or after school or better still, make an appointment with the class teacher. If this procedure is followed, there will be minimum disruptions to lessons.

SCHOOL BANKING
Parents are encouraged to teach children about financial literacy using the Student Banking service each Tuesday morning. Information Packs are available at the front office.

MEDICINE:
All medications must be handed in to the Administrative Office with written instructions concerning dosage and time to be administered. An indemnity form must be signed. No child is to keep medication in his/her school bag. The only exception to this rule is a “puffer” used for asthma.

NO NUTS:
We have a number of students severely allergic to nuts. We ask parents to exclude ALL NUT PRODUCTS (including peanut butter & nutella). Please help us to safeguard these children at school by observing this precaution.

NO LOLLIES:
Kensington Public School has a rule that lollies and chewing gum are not brought to school! This includes lolly bags. We seek your co-operation in this regard.

REPORTING TO PARENTS:
The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has a formal policy of two reports per year (June/December) and one interview (April).

Interviews with teachers to discuss your child’s progress are encouraged at any other time after making an appointment at a mutually convenient time. Parents are urged to discuss any queries or concerns they have directly with the teacher involved, mostly this would mean the class teacher. This ensures that the person who can affect the most impact is involved.

Should parents wish to seek further clarification after they have spoken with the relevant teacher please speak with an Assistant Principal.

Finally, for matters that remain unresolved or effect school policy or procedures or may be sensitive the School Principal is available.
SCHOOL UNIFORM:
Full school uniform (appropriate for the day's activities), including school hat, is to be worn everyday, this includes black shoes and green socks.

WET WEATHER:
Could you please ensure your child has a raincoat in his/her bag everyday. Umbrellas are discouraged, as accidents may occur.

MOBILE PHONES/VALUABLE EQUIPMENT:
If brought to school, these must be handed in at the Administration Office before school, and picked up at 3.00pm. No student needs private telephone access during school hours. No valuable equipment eg iPads, are to be brought to school.

P & C:
The P & C is a volunteer organisation that promotes the interests of our children by bringing parents, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation. The P & C is involved in encouraging parent and community participation in the school, promoting the welfare of students at the school and funding facilities and equipment for the school. They meet on the fourth Tuesday of each month and all parents are encouraged to attend.

ABSENCE NOTES:
If your child is absent from school for any reason, the Education Act 1990 requires parents to send a note explaining the absence, when he/she returns. These are checked by the Home School Liaison Officer. Should parents know in advance that their child will be on an extended absence, such as a family holiday, we encourage you to apply for an exemption from attendance.

SPORT:
Each Wednesday the children will be involved in a skills development sporting program. The program is operated by Sportspro. Please return the permission notes and money as soon as possible.

SCRIPTURE:
Scripture classes are held each Wednesday from 1.45-2.15pm. These classes are taken by visiting volunteers from Catholic, Anglican, Greek Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim and Buddhist denominations. Ethics classes are also offered to Year 1 and 2 students.

K-2 ASSEMBLIES:
These assemblies are held each Tuesday at 2.20pm in the Assembly Hall. Parents are most welcome to attend when their child’s class has a performance. Please see the weekly newsletter for the K-2 assembly roster. Please be seated by 2.15pm.
HOME READING:
All students should read (at their own level) from books they enjoy for at least 15-30 minutes each night. A record of this reading should be kept, signed by you. This year the K-2 have a reading log book or recording sheet and bag that will be sent home each night for you to record your child’s reading.

STUDENT WELFARE:
Peer Support Program, Child Protection, Drug Education and Road Safety will continue this year during our scheduled time of Thursdays 1.45-2.15pm.

SCHOOL COUNSELLOR:
The School Counsellor will be at Kensington Public school attends for 1 ½ sessions each week. If you need to consult the counsellor about your child’s needs, please ring the school to make an appointment.

The long established culture for parents/caregivers and children at our school is one of respect and feeling safe at school. To continue this belief we ask parents and caregivers not to approach another adult (besides staff) or child should a problem occur at anytime. Misunderstandings may occur. Should you have a question or concern about issues at school please direct it to the class teacher or an Assistant Principal, so that problems do not escalate and cause undue stress.

The teachers will be working closely together to ensure your child learns in a happy, stimulating environment, in which to develop academic, social and creative skills this year.

I hope the 2014 will be another fruitful year for all at Kensington Public School.

Mr B. Colmer
Assistant Principal

Mr M.I. Johnston
Principal

We all want the best for our children, which is why the Department of Education and Communities have created the School A to Z website.

The site has been designed with you in mind – parents who are keen to support their child’s learning, and the work being done in the classroom, so they have every chance of success in the future.

The site provides practical homework help for school subjects, project starters and tips on learning, along with articles and resources that provide more information about how you can assist your child’s social, physical and mental development so that they grow into happy, healthy, well-adjusted adults.