Dear Parents

Welcome to the 2014 school year. In 2014 the class teachers and specialist staff that will be working with the Year 3-6 children are:

3B  Miss Croft
3W  Ms Wanless
4/3C Mrs Carroll
4R Mr Rimmer (Assistant Principal)
5/4OC Mr O'Connor
6/5E Mrs Espinosa
6D Mrs Davis
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. No child is to play on the climbing equipment before school or after school.

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

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 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. This is particularly important for walking to and from sport, particularly for the primary

**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 maybe sensitive the School Principal is available.

**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. The P & C meets 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 Friday children will walk to the University of N.S.W., Centennial Park or stay at school sport with their teachers where they receive expert coaching and participate in various sports including basketball, volleyball, gymnastics, dance, AFL and swimming. Each child spends one term on a sport unless they need more time to strengthen their swimming skills.

PSSA competitive sport teams for 2014 include Oz Tag and Softball/Tball for Terms 1&4, and Netball and Soccer or AFL for Terms 2&3. These teams compete at Moore, Centennial and Queens Parks each Friday morning (Terms 1&4) and afternoon (Terms 2&3.)

**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 primary students.

**MATHS GROUPS:**
All students will be placed in groups according to the stage in which they are working.

**3-6 ASSEMBLIES:**
These assemblies are held each Friday at 2.30pm during Terms 1 & 4 and at 10.30am during Terms 2 & 3 in the Assembly Hall. Announcements are made by teachers and merit certificates are presented.

**ENRICHMENT GROUPS:**
These begin in Thursday 6 March (Week 6) and will be held on Thursday afternoons from 2.15-3pm. Classes rotate through various activities (Chess, Public Speaking, Computer, Problem Solving, Science, Debating etc.)

**HOME READING:**
All students should read (at their own level) for at least 15-30 minutes each night from books they enjoy. Methods of recording will vary from grade to grade.
**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 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.

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Mr G Rimmer  
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.

Many of the links and resources on the School A to Z website have been produced by the NSW Department of Education and Communities. We have carefully chosen – and will continue to add – links to externally produced sites and resources that may be useful.

However things can change quickly on the internet so we do not endorse any external sites or resources referred to on our site. We recommend you monitor your child’s internet use and check the sites they are accessing.