Good afternoon family and friends,

Walking around the school you can see our students are busily engaged in learning, reading and writing. There is a great ‘vibe’ here at Kenthurst Public School.

Teachers are currently completing assessments for all students to collect the data that will improve student learning.

Our new Skoolbag App is ready for you to access and information on how to download is in this newsletter. Thank you Mrs Gaskin for your initiative and also to Mrs McHugh and Mrs Dickson for collating the information.

Thank you to all of the parents who came to the Information Nights held this week. Later this semester we will be holding parent interviews where you can speak with your class teacher.

Our Swimming Carnival was held this week at Riverstone Pool with enthusiastic parents cheering from the sides. I was very impressed with the ‘have a go’ attitude of our children and great team spirit.

The bus company has contacted the school with concerns over cars parked in the turning area of Dural Street. Just a friendly reminder, check the signs as there is a very small time frame. From 3.30pm the area needs to be clear for the buses to turn around. There is also a very hefty fine. It would be advisable to park along Kenthurst Rd and walk up to collect your children rather than the busy Dural Street. There is a Kiss and Drop area where you need to stay within the vehicle and your child will be brought to the front gate. Thank you for your understanding in this matter. Safety is the number one priority and as we always say, our children are the most precious gift.

All of our professional development this year will be centred on the understanding and implementation of the English and Mathematics curriculums. Visual Literacy is another area where our teachers are working with a highly qualified and exciting presenter. Lessons have already been enriched with the knowledge learned from our Tuesday morning meetings.
Both Band and Choir have started practicing for our first big event, Grandparents Day – 28th March. There will be the Easter raffles, Hat Parade and performances. Please let your families put the date in their diaries, because we want to make this the biggest Grandparents Day ever!!!

New guides for primary school parents has been launched by the NSW Minister for Education to help parents reinforce the reading, writing and mathematics skills primary school students learn at school.

They help parents to understand how they can support skill development in reading, writing and mathematics through every day activities. The guides explain what a child should be able to do at each developmental stage, in simple terms and with practical examples. The Board of Studies recognizes the role parents play as teachers from day one and that they are instrumental in the development of skills young children need before they commence formal education - a role that doesn’t stop at the school gate.

The guides are available for purchase through the P&C Federation and the Board of Studies online shop at:

Yours, in quality education.

Caron Dodd – Principal

Leadership Camp – Vision Valley
Congratulations to all Kenthurst Public School Captains and Leaders who received their badges last week at assembly.

Term 1 - 2013

**Week 4**
Friday 22 February 9.20am Sport

**Week 5**
Thursday 28 February Band
Scripture

Friday 1 March Zone Swimming
Clean up Australia Day

**Week 6**
Thursday 7 March Band
Scripture
K – 2 Assembly

**Important dates coming up:**
14 March – Selective High School Test
28 March – Grandparents Day
Adrenaline Autoinjectors – EpiPen
The Department of Education and Communities has recently announced that all government schools will receive a general use adrenaline autoinjector (an EpiPen) for their first aid kit.

This does NOT replace the need for parents to continue to provide the school with an adrenaline autoinjector and ASCIA Action Plan for Anaphylaxis signed and dated by their doctor when their child has been diagnosed with anaphylaxis. Instead the general use adrenaline autoinjector is intended to be used if:

- An undiagnosed student has an anaphylactic reaction at school
- There is a misfire of the adrenaline autoinjector that has been prescribed for a student
- A student requires further adrenaline autoinjector to be administered after his or her own adrenaline autoinjector has been administered.

Please contact the school if you would like further information in relation to this matter.

Kenthurst Public School App – Skoolbag
Kenthurst Public School now has their own app!!! Check out the features! You'll also find our newsletters there and parent calendar, flexischool information and announcements.

How to install Skoolbag on your smartphone

**iPhone Users:** Simply search for “Kenthurst Public School” in the App store on your phone, PC or Mac and install. This app is free.

**Android Users:** Tap the applications icon, then tap the internet icon to open your web browser. Type [www.skoolbag.com.au/kpsnsw](http://www.skoolbag.com.au/kpsnsw) into the address bar. Once loaded you can save the Skoolbag icon to your home screen for easy access every day.

Any queries please contact the school.

Kirsty McHugh
Computer Coordinator
**PREMIER’S READING CHALLENGE 2013**

Once again our children have taken on the Premiers’ Challenge with great enthusiasm and we have been involved since its inception in 2001.

Not content with just completing the PRC we have some students going beyond their age group and reading books from the lists above them.

All our classes have taken up the challenge this year.

The K-2 Challenge is open to students in ES1 and Stage 1. These students must **experience 30** books.

In Stage 2 and 3 students must **read 20** books.

This is an amazing effort especially for those children who find reading difficult.

The Challenge ends on 31st August and we are well on the way already in 2013.

The following is a list that I will update in each Newsletter of the students that have completed the challenge.

KA - Imogen
KC - Annalise
S1S
S1O
S1T
S2SR
S23B
S3N

Well done to all those children!

Happy Reading

Kerry Parnaby – Librarian

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**Clean Up Australia Day**

1st March 2013

Next Friday the students will be joining the nationwide effort to clean-up Australia. Each class will be given a sector of the school grounds to tidy and collect any rubbish. To help keep your child clean, could you please send him/her to school with a pair of gardening gloves and a plastic bag.

Thanking you

Melinda Ristuccia - Environment Coordinator
Mandarin Connected Classroom Program
Last year Kenthurst Public School students took part in the Mandarin Connected Classroom Program, it was great success. So we have chosen to be part of this again. Cost per child will be around $40 for a term. Below is a link to show you how the connected classroom program works.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E438PBdAGNo

Listening Parents Program
Each year a dedicated group of parents listens to students in Stage 2 (from Year 3 to Year 6), read. These are students who are still developing their reading skills and who need extra reading practice.
I am asking for as many parents as possible to join this group so that all students in need have extra reading practice. I am appealing to any and all parents, that is, parents of students from Kindergarten to Year 6.
If you can spare ½ hour each week please join our Listening Parents group.
We use a very positive method of listening called the Pause Prompt and Praise. This is an extremely easy way of listening, which assists students to use the skills they are being taught in class.
Training in Pause Prompt and Praise will be held Wednesday 27th February, at 2.20pm, in the Learning Centre.
If you are interested in joining our very valuable and much appreciated group, or if you can’t and just want to learn about Pause Prompt and Praise, to effectively listen to your own child read, could you please send a note of expression to me, via the office?
I look forward to meeting with as many parents as possible
Mrs Joan Ghisla
Learning and Support teacher

……………………………………………………………………………………….Please fill and return to office

Listening Parents Program
• I can listen to children read for ½ hour, one day each week
• I will be at the training session                   Yes                      No

Days I am available (please circle all the days you are available. I will only put you down for one).
Monday            Tuesday              Wednesday           Thursday                  Friday

Please print
Name:_______________________Child’s name and class:___________________
The 2013 Kenthurst Public School Swimming Carnival!
The carnival was a great success. I would like to thank once again the dedicated band of parent helpers without whom the day would not have succeeded.

What our swimmers lacked in numbers they made up for in enthusiasm. Everyone put in their very best effort. Approximately 32 students qualified for zone, those competitors will be going to Blacktown Pool next Thursday 28th February, 2013 to compete. The winning house will be announced Monday morning 25th February at our morning line up assembly, along with the presentation of ribbons.

Thank you again

Sharon O’Reilly
Carnival Organiser

Visual Literacy Lessons
Teachers at Kenthurst Public School were extremely fortunate to be able to participate in demonstration lessons conducted by Mrs Asha where she modelling teaching strategies for picture books and visual images. Mrs Asha is involved in many professional development experiences for teachers, one of which is her work with the new syllabus for English to be implemented in 2014. We are very privileged that Mrs Asha is part of our community and can assist us in preparation for this transition to the new curriculum.

Mrs Kate Barrat
Assistant Principal

Students enjoying Visual Literacy lessons presented by Mrs Jennifer Asha
P&C Welcome Movie Night

Friday 15th March is our welcome to 2013 movie night at Kenthurst Public School. Bring your blanket and enjoy a movie under the stars. Food and festivities kick off at 6pm....more details soon."

Kenthurst Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is now open on Wednesday Mornings 8:30am to 10:30am
If you wish to swap or try on uniforms, you are most welcome.

For your convenience orders can be placed on Flexi-Schools.

Any problems please feel free to contact Tracey Nelson on 0447874924
Kenthurst Canteen Needs You!

The Canteen would love Helpers.

If you would like to see the smile on your child’s face, please come and volunteer your time.

Volunteers do not have to spend the whole day. We appreciate any amount of time that you can give. Please call or text Tracey on 0405145323.

Please find below our Price List for the Canteen.

Please note that we have had a price increase on Sushi Tuna or Vegetarian

New Price is: $3.50
Ellabelle’s Preschool and Early Learning Centre
174 Kenthurst Road, Kenthurst 2156
(Opposite Caltex Service Station)
9654 2009

*7:30am to 6pm
*A “NCAC” Accreditation of “High Quality” in all areas of Early Childhood Education
*Extensive Transition to School/Pre School Program for children aged 3-5 years
*Children are divided into groups according to age with qualified staff programming for each group
*All meals provided
*Licensed for children aged 6 weeks to 5 years
*Some casual days available
*Child Care Benefit available
*50% Childcare rebate on all pre-school

Kenthurst & District Soccer Club

➢ It’s not too late to register!
➢ We can still accommodate boys and girls in most age groups including U6’s, U7’s, U9’s, U10’s, U11’s & U14Gs
➢ Phone 96541251 or 0409997813 or email cathye@tpg.com.au for further information.

www.kenthurstsoccer.com.au
Lion Park’s Tae Kwon Do
And Self-Defence

**Tuesday:** Kenthurst Public School
Cnr Kenthurst Rd & Dural St Kenthurst
Time: 4:30pm-5:30pm

Classes run for a 1hr period, with a focus on high discipline and moral standards
In this time students will undertake a variety of:
- form techniques
- stretches
- punching and kicking techniques
- engage in one step sparring
- speed training
- free sparring

Classes are conducted in a pleasant and positive atmosphere
Catering for children through to adults
Contact Sa-Bum-Nim Michael 4th Dan Black Belt on 0409 928 534

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Galston
Community of Schools
We accept players wishing to join a team or register your friends as a COMPLETE TEAM

We are a small friendly club drawing players from local schools and surrounding areas.
Games are played Saturday’s at Kellyville courts.
Contact - www.kenthurstnetball.com.au
Sally 0407 942 986 or email mitre@tpg.com.au
Come & Try BMX
1-3pm Saturday 23rd February
At Fred Caterson Reserve
Off Gilbert Rd
Castle Hill

Bring a BMX bike of any description & wear a helmet and long sleeved shirt and pants, shoes and socks.