



LEVEL 4 NEWSLETTER

Kilsyth Primary School

Term 4, 2009

Well....term 4 is here! We all know how fast this term goes by, so it's going to be action stations for the next 10 weeks. Our Year 6s have only a short time left at primary school with lots to fit in before they make the move to high school and the next stage of their life.

Our unit this term is "Where in the World" - hopefully you have already heard a little about it. Each week, we 'fly' to another country and find out important features of our newest destination. Students all have passports and are collecting visa stamps as we progress through our journey! Google Earth makes flying around the world and zooming in on different cities lots of fun. While we were in New Zealand, we learnt the Haka—very noisy! This week, we had a close look at Disneyland, the Hollywood sign, the Grand Canyon and New York! We've also learnt a bit about gridiron.

Year 6 Baby Photos

We have asked the year 6 students to bring along a baby photo for their graduation book **asap**.

The photos will be scanned and returned to you - please name them on the back if possible. There are still a few we haven't received—even though graduation is 10 weeks away, there is a lot to be done now!



Keep an eye and an ear out for more graduation news—as we get closer, there is lots to do. The Graduation Committee are working hard but will need your help!

What's Happening Right Now?

New Building

We are patiently waiting for a starting date, which seems to be coming closer. It is frustrating not knowing an exact date yet, but things have been moving lately, with site inspections, plans to look at and colour schemes to look through.

We are considering using existing rooms around the school to house the Level 4 classes (as well as 4/3H) during the building process. We have been advised that it will cost an enormous amount to move the portables to the car park and re-connect power, gas, storm water drains etc. Spending money on this takes it away from the building budget. We are able to use the Performing Arts room, Library and part of the hall as classrooms for 6 months, ensuring that the building money is spent where it is needed most. Teachers have discussed how we can establish each room as a classroom to continue the students' educational program. As soon as we know anything more, we will let you know.



What's happening soon...?

SO, WHAT IS THIS BIG YR 6 EVENT THAT'S COMING AT THE END OF THE YEAR ????

THE AMAZING RACE

This is our second year of the Amazing Race—a special event for Year 6 students only. Students will compete in teams of 4 to answer questions, solve problems and perform some embarrassing stunts to earn points and find their way around the city with their P.A.L.

(Probably Already Lost)teacher.

SO EXCITING!!!!

Friday December 11th is the big day. More information will be sent home towards the end of November.

OTHER EVENTS

(further info in this newsletter)

- Somers Camp 2010
- Graduation
- Yr 6 Baby photos
- 2010 Yr 6 Bomber Jackets
- Attitudes to School survey
- Excursion costs for Term 4

Homework

It's so pleasing to see the effort that students put into their homework - often we see a student who has put their own ideas into the presentation or have explored the concept further than expected. Fantastic!

General homework expectations are:

- **20 mins minimum reading** each night - to be signed in your child's diary each night.
- **Spelling practice** - spelling words are written in diaries each Monday.
- **Times Tables** - keep up this practise. When your child feels they have mastered a level, they can ask to be tested at school. We will be keeping a list of all levels that have been mastered.
- **Presentation** - is this the best you can do? Are you proud to show your homework to anyone?

Please encourage your child to read the homework activity carefully each week - sometimes parts of homework are being missed. For the next few weeks, homework will be a continuation of the 'Where in the World' contract of activities that your child has selected to investigate. They will have class time each week to work on these activities as well as using homework time as well.



Camp News

CITY CAMP 2010

Because all students in Level 4 now go to Camp together, we need to have 2 different camps for alternate years.

We have organised a 3 day camp for next year which will give the students a city experience. We will stay in the heart of the city and visit lots of places in and around the city centre. The two camps will be quite different in location and time away. We are also conscious of making the alternate camp less expensive than our week-long camp.

A notice will go home in the next few weeks outlining the camp for Yr 5 & 6 in 2010 including a payment plan to help break down the cost into monthly payments if you prefer to pay in instalments. More soon!

STOP PRESS! HATS!

Term 4 is the time for hats again. Please make sure your child has their hat with them each day. Any that are looking scruffy will need to be replaced. We are proud of how we look in our uniform!



CLASSROOM

MATHS

More Marvellous MultiplicationDevishly Devious Division...fractions, networks, decimals, problem solving, measurement and mapping and that will see Term 4 out!

ENGLISH

Lots of work to do with our international travels— finding out all about different countries of the world. Yr 5s are writing scripts for their Prep videos and a book for their 2010 Prep buddies. Yr 6 are working on the articles for Graduation Books. All this plus word study, grammar and novels to read. So busy!

SPECIAL!

Somers Camp 2010

Yr 5 & 6 students

Because of a change to their time schedules, we have the opportunity to attend Somers Camp next year—

April/May 2010 (usually this chance only comes around every 2 years.) 10 of our students enjoyed the experience at Somers this year.

When we have more information, including costs, dates and how many places we have available to us, we will let you know.

ATTITUDES TO SCHOOL SURVEY

There are a number of surveys that are completed each year to collect information about how schools are going—a Parent Opinion Survey, Teachers' Opinion Survey and Student Opinion Survey.

The **Student Opinion Survey** is completed by Yr 5 & 6 students mid year and covers areas such as **Student Relationships** (how they feel about their peers, safety and behaviour); **Teaching & Learning** (what they think about their teachers and their learning) and **Wellbeing** (how they are feeling at school).

Overall, **the results of the survey were high**—students in Level 4 are feeling safe at school and with their peers; they feel that the teachers are working hard to help with their learning; they are not feeling distressed.

There were **a few interesting aspects** that came out of the survey—the two following areas scored low and are something that we would like to improve:

1. **Student Motivation—doing well at school is important to me; continuing or completing my education is important to me; I try very hard in school; I am keen to do well at my school.** These statements overall scored low.
2. **Learning Confidence—I am good at my school work; I find it easy to learn new things; I am a very good student; I think I am generally successful at school.** These statements also scored low.

We are interested to find out why these statements scored a low rating.

- Do the students see that we (parents & teachers) value their learning? Are we showing them that we value what they are learning by talking about it, showing how they have grown and all being proud of what they can do?
- In a student's mind does 'trying hard at school' mean getting all the answers right? We would say that "Be The Best You Can Be" = 'trying hard at school'.
- Are the students happy with 'near enough is good enough' or are they encouraged to do their best?
- Does "I am a good student" mean I get all the answers right? (We would say no, it doesn't!) Or that I try my best and think about how I work within a 'team' of students and in a classroom.
- Does "I am good at my school work" mean always getting the answer right? (We would say no!) Or does it mean that you try, learn from mistakes, try again and slowly build up more knowledge.

These are topics that the Level 4 teachers have been discussing—we would love to hear your thoughts! Feel free to send us an email or call in to see your class teacher.

TERM 4 EXCURSIONS AND EXPENSES

We understand that school can often be an expensive place! We try to make sure there aren't too many payments each term as much as we can. Here is an outline of Term 4 events with approximate costs to help with your planning.

- Hooptime (for finalists) approx \$7
- Athletics Day (Levels 3 & 4) approx. \$5
- Participation Day (Level 4) approx \$5
- Level 4 camp deposit 2010 approx. \$50
- Amazing Race (Yr 6 only) approx. \$20
- Bomber Jacket 2010 deposit (Yr 5 only) approx \$10

CONTACT US

Sometimes it may be easier to contact your child's class teacher via email.

Please make note of our email addresses:

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October 2009

Level 4 Calendar

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
5 Start of Term 4	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Zone Athletics	14	15	16 Interschool Basketball play-offs	17	18
19	20	21	22 Puberty program	23	24	25
26	27	28 Hooptime finals	29	30	31	

November 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
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2	3 CUP DAY	4	5	6 Interschool Basketball final	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Participation Day	14	15
16	19	20 KPS Athletics Yr 3-6	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

December 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8 ORIENTATION DAY for Yr.6	9	10 CAROLS EVENING	11 YR 6 AMAZING RACE	12	13
14 Prep Buddies and Yr 6 to Elizabeth Bridge 9 - 11.30am REPORTS GO HOME	15	16	17 YEAR 6 GRADUATION	18 Last day of Term 4 - 1.30pm dismissal. Assembly 9am Year 6 Pool Day	19	20