Dear Parents and Caregivers

This term kicked off with a bang as we celebrated Japanese Day last Thursday. It was amazing to observe our students engaged and immersed in Japanese culture. I would like to extend a very special thank you to Mrs Brydie, Sayaka, our Year 6 students and parent helpers for creating a fantastic learning experience.

I will also take this opportunity to remind parents about our upcoming Science Festival on 6 November – more information is included in this newsletter. The Science Festival is a wonderful community event bringing together concepts from the Australian Curriculum and celebrating students’ investigations and inquiry learning.

NRMA SCIENCE & ROAD SAFETY PRESENTATION

On Monday our school hosted an NRMA Science & Road Safety Day where students learnt about strategies to stay safe on the road.

Students investigated some scientific principles, such as why it is hard for cars to stop in wet or slippery conditions, the forces and inertia involved in car crashes and how seatbelts keep you safe in an accident. Students also learnt how to fit a bike helmet correctly, the importance of exiting and entering a car safely and why driveways and car parks are places of potential danger for pedestrians, especially children.

Parents play a vital role in keeping their children safe, so please take this opportunity to speak to your children about what they learned and what they can do to keep safe on the roads.

ACCELERATED LEARNING PROGRAM – DIFFERENTIATION AND GROUPING

Last newsletter I wrote to you to advise you of a review into the way we group and differentiate students at Kaleen Primary. Staff will continue to assess a range of factors (particularly student’s intellectual, social and emotional needs) in the formation of class groups. Decisions will be made by staff in the best interests of each student’s learning and their ongoing development. The outcomes of this process will inform class groupings for 2015. With this in mind, parents who wish their child to be included in the Accelerated Learning Program will apply annually for their child to be considered for this grouping. Information about the application process will be distributed in the coming weeks.

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Staffing News

I am pleased to let you know that Mr Allan Wylie has been successful in achieving an executive teaching position at Kaleen High for 2015 with the possibility of extension. This has been a long term ambition of Mr Wylie and I am sure you will join me in congratulating Allan on his achievement.

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I extend my appreciation to the parents and staff who attended our Kaleen Primary School forward planning forum last week. Special thanks to Rachel Baker, Sarah Belling, Alice Brown, Janine Correia, Aimee Griggs, Andrew Howie, Tanya Maybury, Margaret McCreath, Joy McMahon, Paula Nash, Michelle Northey, Haida Passos, Sharon Pike, Ying Remner, Kate Rowntree, Jen Rose, Shubhra Roy, Lynne Sheville, Elissa Steel, Katherine Stranger, Julia Tapp, Diana Wallace, Allison Wardle, Keren Wellsmore, Anne-Marlee Wigney and Rochelle Wood. During this process we explored topics including:

**School Facilities:** Improvements to preschool outdoors space, developing an integrated play and activity zone for the early years, fencing the school (the positive and negative impacts) and creating innovative classroom spaces.

**Information and Communication Technologies:** How can we strengthen students’ access to learning with and through ICT; if we want a one to one laptop program for Years 5 and 6 in 2016, what are the pros and cons and learning outcomes that will drive the program – how will this benefit our students?

**Fostering Student Innovation and Creativity:** Teams discussed strengthening opportunities, higher order thinking and how we provide extension and enrichment opportunities for all students. Suggestions included bringing the expertise from our community into our school with artists/writers and scientists in residence.

The forum also explored our curriculum and programs and external partnerships that would benefit our school. How do we enable parents as partners in learning? Our Kaleen Primary vision and values. In our next newsletter I will be detailing the ideas and feedback from the forum. A form will be attached to enable you to add to, express or extend ideas as part of the consultation process. The results from this process will then be collated and discussed with the Kaleen School Staff, the Parents and Citizen’s Committee and our School Board. Through this process we will build on the strong foundations already at Kaleen Primary as we plan for our future.

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**KALEEN PRIMARY SCHOOL – END OF YEAR CONCERT**

We are busy planning for our Kaleen Primary end of year community concert to be held on Monday 15 December from 5:30pm -7:00pm. Each year level from Preschool to Year 6 will perform a short item at the event. Our Kaleen’s Got Talent winners will also feature. Please bring a blanket, purchase a sausage and drink (gold coin donation) to support our school and enjoy the show. You are more than welcome to pack your own picnic dinner.

Everyone is welcome and we look forward to seeing you all there to celebrate a wonderful year of learning.

Laurie Campbell – Principal

**BOOK PACKS 2015**

We are in the process of compiling lists for book packs for 2015. We are very much aware of the cost that the book packs impose on families, so we are pleased to say that the cost of the packs for 2015 is on par with or less than the cost for 2014. The teaching staff have carefully chosen the resources that are needed to support your child’s engagement with the curriculum. Each item has been selected for a specific purpose. For example, the scrap books are used across the school for our “Writer’s Notebook” sessions. Writer’s Notebook is a place for students to structure their ideas using a range of graphic organisers and practise writing using a variety of text types.

Our Mathematics textbooks are designed to cover the Australian Curriculum across the school. Pencils, pens, paints and textas are chosen carefully, so as to give the best value for the quality we receive. Even the shape of a pencil can affect a child’s writing skills.

In the next fortnight you will receive your book pack lists. The orders can be placed online and will have a date when orders are required. As a parent myself I know that some holidays are spent covering books. We ask you not to cover books – your child’s teacher will let you know their preferred process. Some of our teachers prefer to cover books as in class activities for Art, while others have particular requirements.
Please do not hesitate to ask if you have any questions at any stage of the process and check bags for further notes.

STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMS (CURRENTLY BEING TRIALLED)

I would like to remind parents and carers of the following initiatives being trialled at Kaleen Primary that include:

Connect time: Kaleen Primary Resource Centre/Library: An opportunity for students accompanied by their parents/carers to visit, read and borrow. The Library/Resource Centre is open for students and their parents to read, borrow or return books and “connect” with reading (from 8:45am). The Library/Resource Centre is open from 3pm until 3:30pm for students and their parents/carers.

Connect time: Kaleen Preschool: Parents and carers are also embracing connect time at Preschool as Amanda and Sonja are opening the doors at 8:45am. Students, who are accompanied by their parents/carers, are invited to come in and read, do a puzzle or just chat and “connect” to other families. Please note that students are not to be left with their siblings or left unattended.

Homework Club (open to all students): The homework club has started well and is available to all students on Monday and Friday lunchtimes. This is an opportunity for students who need extra time or extra assistance to chat to a teacher and to access technology if required. This initiative is designed as a relaxed place to complete tasks. This week Mrs Sheville learnt the difference between Complementary and Supplementary angles.

Tennis Competition: Once again our Hot Shots Tennis Competition is running. Our Year 6 student leaders are organising the competition, which is enjoying strong participation.

Parents and Kaleen Kids (for parents and friends with young children): This is designed as a drop in time that will enable parents or carers with or without children who are not yet school age, to pop in and have a catch up, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat. This will be held in the meeting room from 9:10am on Wednesday (so you can drop off the children and pop in) or 2:20pm on a Friday (before you pick your children up for the weekend). We look forward to seeing you there.

Please remember that you are welcome to drop into the school at any time to take part in your child’s learning. Please encourage your children to get involved and be active.

Lynne Sheville - Deputy Principal

PIPS IN KINDERGARTEN

PIPS (Performance Indicators in Primary Schools) is a program designed to assess the progress of Kindergarten students in early literacy, numeracy and phonological awareness. We are currently conducting our final PIPS assessments and will be using the data provided to plan targeted teaching to support the learning needs of all our Kindergarten students. Students have an initial assessment in Term 1 which provides valuable baseline data to teachers and parents about individual students. In early term four the students complete the final assessment. Parents will receive a report towards the end of the year, which will identify the progress your child has made throughout the year. Please don’t hesitate to contact us if you require additional information about PIPS, or if you are concerned about any aspect of your child’s learning.

Michelle Northey - Executive Teacher

Kindergarten 2015 Events

Kindergarten 2015 Parent Information Evening
Wednesday 12 November 2014
5:30-6:30pm
In the Kindergarten Unit

Preschool to Kindy Transition Program
(during Preschool hours)

Red and Purple Groups Tuesday 18 November 2014
Tuesday 25 November 2014
Tuesday 2 December 2014

Blue and Green Groups Thursday 20 November 2014
Thursday 27 November 2014
Thursday 4 December 2014
We had another wonderful Japanese Day at school last Thursday. We were blessed with clear skies, a hard working staff who happily ‘turned Japanese’ for the day, outstanding Year 6 leaders, supportive parents, an hilarious in-school performance and class after class of enthusiastic students! We made kites, oni masks, samurai hats, swords and ninja stars; we munched our way through riceballs, sushi and okonomiyaki (Japanese pancakes); we raced in teams of red and white; we played with toys, we dressed up, we ate with chopsticks and we even had a Japanese sushi tea party down in Kindergarten!

We were entertained by Showko, Ninja Ken and the ‘Motainai Monster’ (the ‘don’t waste anything’ monster!) and, in what has now become a Kaleen Primary Japanese Day tradition, we clapped and cheered Year 5 students and the ‘ever energetic’ Burridge-sensei as they proudly and loudly paraded through the school with their mikoshi (portable shrines) which they had spent weeks designing and perfecting!

As usual, my arigatoo gozaimashita list is very long! Thank you to:

- all the teachers for so willingly and enthusiastically jumping into the spirit of the day
- the Year 6 students (and of course their brilliant teachers!) for doing an outstanding job running many of the activities in the junior school
- parents for financially supporting your children to attend the show

- Lida, Chris and Di for your endless support in the Front Office collating notes and counting money for hours and hours
- Felicity, Kate, Sharee Harrild, Karen Stowell, Melinda Knight and Julia Chadburn for organising the sushi lunch – I think we managed to consume about 450 sushi rolls this year
- Cath Jetter for organising the okonomiyaki pancake cooking activity for Year 4 with the usual ‘back up help’ from Ms Knight and Ms Stowell
- Our Japanese mums Takako McPhee (Alyssa 6T), Chihiro Hunter (Emily 6T), Naoko Pham (Jason KD and Dustin 2KS) and Waka Uemura-Burridge (Matia Preschool) who helped and supported in a variety of activities across the school
- Our visitors Natsuko (Mrs Pryor’s friend) who helped in 3LP all day and Sayako, the Japanese teaching assistant from Fraser Primary who spent most of the day in Year 2 making kami deppoo (paper guns)
- Bormann-sensei for organising Showko’s Sit-down Japanese Comedy performance
- Mr Campbell for obviously enjoying the ‘organised chaos’ of your first Japanese Day - we loved it when you Practised your Japanese, got dressed up in a yukata and made a riceball down in Kindy!

Of course there is one person who needs special mention. Sayaka-sensei spent 2 very busy weeks in the lead up to Thursday October 23 helping prepare the many different activities and, on Japanese Day itself, Sayaka performed a myriad of tasks with her usual efficiency, grace and beautiful smile! I cannot thank her enough for all her help in ensuring such a wonderful day.

Ros Brydie – Teacher of Japanese
ICAS ENGLISH RESULTS

Congratulations to the following students on their outstanding results in the recent UNSW ICAS English tests:

**High Distinction (top 1%)**
Year 3: Isaac
Year 2: Alexandra

**Distinction (top 10%)**
Year 6: Spencer, Layla
Year 5: Emily, Asher, Ananya, Sriya, Ben
Year 4: Sophie, Michael, Edward r, Latoya
Year 3: Hamish, Abigail
Year 2: Tessa, Zoe, Sol, Alfie, Nikky

Allan Wylie – ICAS Coordinator

SPORTS NEWS

On Saturday 1 November two Kaleen Primary teams will play in the finals of the Sue Geh Basketball Cup, an ACT primary school basketball tournament. Kaleen Primary made the grand final in both the Year 3/4 Girls and the Year 5/6 Girls competitions. Details are as follows:

11:15am Year 5&6 Girls: Kaleen vs St Thomas the Apostle
12:45pm Year 3&4 Girls: Kaleen vs Holy Family

The games will be held at the AIS Arena and are free to spectators. Come along and cheer our teams on. All the best to both teams.

Di Wallace - Basketball Coach

OCTOBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to:

KD: Sienna
KW: Daniel
KCK: Manoj
1L: Piper
1W: Elliot
2T: Corey
2S: Hanwen
2KS: Bonnie
3LP: Grace
3G: Sarvani
3O: Sarah
4W: Aditya
4H: Brandon
4MB: Ruofan
5W: Roriki
5B: Ton
6S: Llewellyn
6T: Ashley
6V: Ben
SCIENCE FESTIVAL UPDATE – 6 NOVEMBER, 5:30-7:30PM

As our Science Festival draws near, we know that many students and their families are working on special projects and displays to share with our school community. If you have something you would like to share, please refer to the following details about exhibiting your projects and displays on the evening.

**Recycle Robot, Gravity Racer and Straw Construction:** please bring to the gym on the night and display in the designated area.

**Science Photo Competition:** please email your photos to Mr Wylie at allan.wylie@ed.act.edu.au by Monday November 3. Remember to include a few sentences (or even labels) to show or explain the science behind your photo.

**Other science projects** – if you have any other science projects, please contact Mr Bormann at mark.bormann@ed.act.edu.au with a brief explanation about how you would like your project to be displayed especially regarding the space you require. Depending on the project, you can set it up on the evening yourself or bring it to the Front Office before 3pm **Wednesday November 5**.

See you at the Science Festival!

KPS Science Festival Committee

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BOARD REPORT

The Board met on 28 October. Di Frame, our long standing Community Representative has resigned from her position on the Board. Di’s main connection to the school was through Grace Dunlop and now that the school is starting a new phase, she felt it was time to move on. Di Frame has been the community rep for many years and Laurie Campbell thanked her for her valuable service. The Board will continue for the remainder of this year without a community representative.

The Board was brought up to date with staffing, enrolments and facilities. All are running as to be expected at this busy time of year. We discussed the appointment of the new Deputy Principal, Robert Maccioni and his transition to Kaleen Primary over this term with a view to being on deck full time for the beginning of 2015.

The Board discussed the successful Parents Forum last Thursday night. We were thrilled with the turn out, the process as well as the variety of thought provoking suggestions and ideas. All responses are currently being collated and there will be more community consultation later this year.

The Board was updated on the staff’s professional learning. This term has a Literacy, Numeracy, Science focus and they are aiming towards implementing a whole school approach across curriculum areas. We discussed the Student Representative Council’s activities and upcoming focus. The Board was thrilled to hear that Green Team won an award from Floriade for its Gnome painting project.

The next Board meeting is 25 November. You can raise any matters of concern with your board representatives and their numbers can be found on the front of every newsletter.

Kate Rowntree – Board Chairperson and Parent Representative
**Canteen News**

Welcome back to Term 4. We have some good news and bad. The good news is that Term 4 brings warmer weather and we have ice blocks and ice creams for sale at lunch! Prices are:

- Paddle Pop $1.60
- Mini Calippo $1.00
- Lemonade Ice Block $1.20
- Berri Fruit Stick Whole 50c
- Berri Fruit Stick Half 30c
- Ice Cream Cup 60c
- Frozen bag of Fruit 50c

The bad news is that the very popular 50c Fruit Stack ice block is no longer available and unfortunately the Slushie machine has broken down. Until further notice there will be no slushies available. We apologise for any inconvenience. We understand these were very popular products and we are actively looking for new alternatives. These items have been turned off when sending in paper orders not to order them.

Thank you very much to our two regular volunteers who come in on Fridays. We are always looking for new volunteers on a regular or ad hoc basis, particularly on Thursdays. Any amount of time is helpful but if you are able to come in for a whole day from 9am until approximately 1:30pm, you will receive a $5 voucher for your children to use at the canteen. It is not difficult work and the children love seeing you in the canteen.

Felicity and Kate – Canteen Managers

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**WHO MATTERS TO YOU?**

To bring awareness of the KidsMatter program to the students at Kaleen Primary, Ms Tapp delivered an art activity with each class. The KidsMatter logo was used as a starting point for discussion. How many children can you see in the logo? How many adults can you see? The students were asked who the important adults were in their lives and why they mattered. They were also asked to think about the children (siblings, extended family and friends) who were important to them. The two adult and two children figures from within the logo were then used as the basis for their artwork. The students were asked to write a short reason why that person mattered to them. The results of the activity speak for themselves. Mums and Dads were central for most students. Siblings, extended family and friends were important too. There were also some surprising discoveries.

The artwork is displayed in the gymnasium. If you are coming to the Science Festival on Thursday 6 November, please take a moment to visit the Gymnasium to have a look.

Julia Tapp – KidsMatter Coordinator

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**Still Life Watercolour Paintings by 3G**

Still life is simply a painting or drawing of objects. It is different from other forms of figurative work in the sense that it does not move.

We looked at a variety of still life artworks by artists such as Georgia O’Keefe, Paul Cezanne and Giorgio Morandi before creating our own.
Japanese Day 2014