Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to what will be another term of great teaching and inspired learning. I would encourage all parents and carers to take time early in the term to re-establish good school routines in order to maximise the learning potential of students. The daily completion of homework including reading and spelling is very important for steady gains in literacy acquisition.

**Parent Teacher Meetings** – I would urge all parents and carers to complete the interview return slips that were sent home with student progress reports at the end of last term. These meetings are a great way to strengthen the school and home partnership that will maximise student performance and engagement in school.

**School Development Day (pupil free day)** – The teachers and I engaged in a great day of professional learning on Monday when teachers resumed duty for the term. The topics covered on the day included the following:

- The importance of positive relations to promote student engagement in learning;
- Effective monitoring of student progress in literacy and numeracy;
- Integration of technology in the teaching of mathematics;
- The teaching of the Child Protection program; and
- Personal development, health and physical education – the *Live Life Well* program.

**Education Week** – Monday 28 July – Friday 1 August 2014 marks the 60th anniversary of the first Education Week.

School Education Week events will include:

- A special assembly to showcase the many talents of our students;
- Open classrooms for parents and carers to visit;
- A Book Fair and Book Parade; and a
- Community barbecue.

Further details will be provided via a special Education Week note.

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**Child Protection** - Child Protection education forms part of all students learning in Personal Development Health and Physical Education from Kindergarten to Year 10. This term, students will learn skills in recognising if they could be unsafe and strategies for protecting themselves. Learning is organised into three themes: *Recognising Abuse, Power in Relationships and Protective Strategies*. Stage leaders will provide you with weekly updates about what is being covered in classrooms throughout the term so that follow-up discussions to consolidate the learning of this critical subject can occur at home if required.

Condolences are extended to Clay Foley and his family for the recent loss of Clay’s father. Further condolences are also extended to the Yates family for their recent and unexpected loss of Georgia’s grandmother.

Together we can make a difference.

Jesmond Zammit
Principal

**Dates to Remember**

- **Monday 28th July - Friday 1st August**: Education Week
- **Wednesday 30th July**: Open Day - Education Week Book Parade
- **Monday 4th August - 3.10pm**: P & C Meeting

**Kindergarten Supervisor – Kim Lansdowne**

Welcome back we hope you all had a happy and relaxing holiday.

**Parent Interviews** - Parent interview notes were sent home last term. We would encourage all parents and carers to take the opportunity to talk with your child’s teacher so we can work together to continue to make school a positive learning experience.

**Homework** - New homework schedules are going home this term.

**Hunter Central Coast Public Speaking Competition** - Notes were sent home at the end of last term. Children are to prepare a speech on a topic of their own choice to present to their class in Week 2. The speech should only be 1-2 minutes long, no props and they may use palm cards if they wish.

**Kindi Farm** - A note will be sent home shortly about the farm visit and how much it will cost.
Welcome to Term 3 - Welcome back to all students, parents and carers. We hope you all feel refreshed and energised after a relaxing holiday. This term is going to be busy and we are looking forward to many fun and exciting learning activities both at school and outside of school. These activities include Education Week, Parent/Teacher interviews and our excursions - Year 1 to the Reptile Park and Year 2 to the Wetlands in Newcastle.

Parent/Teacher interviews - Please remember to send in your interview forms ASAP to your child's teacher as we are hoping to see every child's parent this term to connect with you and celebrate your child's learning achievements with you.

Child Protection - We will be teaching Child Protection lessons this term and will keep you up dated each week on the issues that we are covering so that you can also discuss these with your child at home.

Class Captains - Class Captains assembly will be held in Week 3 and we will keep you up dated with information regarding the assembly and Book Week activities.

Public Speaking competition - Your child should be working hard on preparing a speech that will be presented in class during Week 2 and 3. Please ensure they are fully prepared and have your support and encouragement with their efforts.

Canteen roster 2014 - Week 1 Term 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Staff</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 17th July</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Sue King</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 18th July</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham, Susan Cheney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 21st July</td>
<td>Janine Vine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 22nd July</td>
<td>Belinda Bermingham</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 23rd July</td>
<td>Help needed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 24th July</td>
<td>Paul Tydeman, Vicki Smith</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 25th July</td>
<td>Shayne Dodds, Tina Jones</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Welcome back everyone, we hope you have had a great holiday.

Great Aussie Bush Camp - Please continue to make regular payments for your child’s camp. Full payment must be made by Friday 7th November.

Canteen News

Welcome back to another exciting and busy term. We hope you and your family had a safe and happy holiday.

Education Week/Book Parade - Week 3 is Education Week. We will be celebrating with a special assembly, open classrooms and our fabulous book parade on Wednesday 30th July. All parents, carers, family and friends will be invited to attend these celebrations. The 2014 Book Week theme is ‘Connect to Reading’. We are looking forward to seeing your children’s great costumes.

Supplies - Please ensure your child has a lead pencil, glue stick, whiteboard marker and a rubber to use each day at school.

Labelling - Please remember to label all belongings, especially hats and jumpers.

Speech - Year 3 and 4 homework this week is a speech. Information has been sent home. We understand the short timeframe so students may bring their speeches in on Monday.

Student Information - Please advise the office if you have changed your phone number or address during the holidays. It is also important that we have the correct medical and emergency contact information for your child in case of illness/accident.

The book fair is coming - As always our Book Parade and book fair will take place during Education Week in Week 3. This year’s theme is ‘Connect to Reading’. I'm sure we'll see some amazing costumes.

P & C News

This term’s P&C Meeting will be held on Monday 4th August, 2014 at 3.10pm in the SAC Centre. At this meeting we have a representative from School Photography coming to discuss school photo options for next year, so if you want to have a say in this decision please come along to this meeting. All welcome.
Bully-proofing kids

Despite the fact schools are very pro-active when it comes to making them safe places for kids, bullying unfortunately, is something that's still with us. According to the 2009 Australian Covert Bullying Prevalence Study one in four kids from Years 4 to 9 experiences some type of bullying at school.

*Often children will tease, argue and sometimes fight, which shouldn’t be confused with bullying.*

Bullying is selective and intentional. It’s also repetitious rather than a one-off or occasional event. It can be physical, verbal or social exclusion. It also now happens online, which means some kids no longer feel safe at home. Kids generally feel powerless when they experience bullying.

Knowing when kids are being bullied?

Some research suggests that around 20 per cent of bullying goes unreported so it can be difficult spotting children who experience bullying. However, kids will usually show signs in three ways:

1. **Acting out:** outward signs such as displays of unusual aggression at home, talking about hating school and getting into trouble more often.

2. **Acting in:** subtle behaviour changes such as sullenness, withdrawing from usual activities, being uncommunicative, feigned illness, bed-wetting and altered sleep patterns.

3. **Telltale signs:** more obvious physical signs such as torn clothes, items missing, altered school routes and physical injuries.

Children who are bullied usually display a combination of signs. Children often find it hard to communicate that they are being bullied. Some don’t have the language required. Many kids feel ashamed, or even believe what bullies tell them. Sometimes kids are also reluctant to tell adults about bullying, as they fear that they will take the matter out of their hands, so your approach needs to be gentle and non-judgmental.

Here are six things to do if you suspect your child is being bullied:

1. **Listen to their story:** It really is important to stay calm and get the real story. Kids need to be believed when they are bullied, so make sure they get the chance to talk.

2. **Get the facts:** Bullying behaviour usually follows patterns. An accurate picture will help you determine your next course of action, for example, whether you need to give your child some avoidance or coping strategies or gain assistance from your child’s school.

3. **Recognise & validate their feelings (anger, fear & sadness are common):** Bullying always elicits strong feelings so make sure kids can share their thoughts and feelings with you.

4. **Give them some common coping skills & defence mechanisms:** Look for some simple ways to help them handle the bullying such as making sure they stay in pairs, practising a comeback line or even walking and talking confidently.

5. **Get the school involved:** If your child continues to struggle with bullying contact your child’s school. Resist the temptation to confront suspected bullies, or their families. Teachers generally have very practical, tried and true ways to tackle bullying.

6. **Help build your child’s support networks & their self-confidence:** Positive peer groups are great protective factors for kids when they are bullied so do all you can to encourage and build their friendship groups inside and outside school.

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2014 Kindergarten Transition Program

We would love you to attend our 2014 Kindergarten Transition program. Our aim is to allow your child to experience “big school” in an informal, supportive, caring environment. You and your child are invited to attend on the following dates:

- **Wednesday 27/8/14, (9.30-10.30am)** - Children and parents to visit the school at 9.30am, enjoying morning tea under the COLA (children to bring a drink and morning tea in a lunch box.) Locating and using “big school toilets” and use play equipment. Parents to attend technology talk with Mr Zammit and Mr Mitchell Gibbs in the KL classroom.

- **Wednesday 3/9/14, (9.30-10.30am)** - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend Best Start Assessment talk with Mrs Myree Kent in the Before and After School Centre.

- **Wednesday 10/9/14, (9.30-10.30am)** - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities. Parents to attend a talk about speech and language with Mrs Michelle Everson in the Before and After School Centre.

- **Wednesday 17/9/14, (9.30-10.30am)** - Children will visit a Kindergarten classroom and participate in activities.

- **Wednesday 8/10/14, (9.30-11.00am)** - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

- **Wednesday 15/10/14, (9.30-11.00am)** - Orientation for parents will be in the hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

- **Wednesday 22/10/14, (9.30-11.00am)** - Orientation for parents will be in hall. Children will participate in classroom activities.

RSVP the school by 22.8.14 by phoning 43924200.

Please note when enrolling your child you need to bring their birth certificate and immunisation details.

Please RSVP by phone on 43924200 to advise the dates you are able to attend these transition programs.