Dear Parents & Care-givers,

Welcome to the 2013 school year!

We would like to welcome you and your children to Grade 2. It is going to be an exciting year. We are looking forward to working with you and your child, helping him/her to reach his/her full potential. Your support, praise and encouragement of your child’s efforts are an integral part of helping him/her to be the best learner he/she can become.

Year 2 Class Teachers

2CC – Claudia Cifuentes (Room A01)
2SJ – Susie Johnson (Room A02)
2CT – Carolyn Torpe (Room A05)
2KM – Bianca Kotsonas and Rebecca McLaren (Room A06)
2RC – Rebecca Crawford (Room A07)
2MM – Melissa Mellet (Room A08)
Flexible Learning Spaces

In our Year 2 classrooms, we have developed flexible learning environments across the level. As teachers, we all work together and cover the same curriculum; however each learning environment has its own unique design. Some classrooms have seating and chairs for all students, whilst other rooms are designed to create a more fluid learning space. This means that there is less furniture to provide greater areas for small group learning. However your child’s classroom environment is created, please be assured that all students are receiving the same curriculum content.

Inquiry Learning and Investigation Time

Units of work are developed through students’ interests, so students are encouraged to generate questions prior to exploring new concepts. Through an elimination process, a focus is created and sharing their prior knowledge and creating more questions relevant to student interest probe students further. They also have an input of how the learning tasks in their exploration are designed.

During investigation time, students are engaged in a variety of open-ended tasks that encourage them to think creatively. Teachers rove, observe and question students, focusing on ‘why’, ‘how’ and ‘what’. Through this process students are given the opportunity to develop a higher level of thinking.

The tasks students undertake are linked to the numeracy, literacy and the inquiry unit we teach throughout the term. These experiences are designed to help your child take responsibility for his/her learning, explore new ideas in a structured learning environment, as well as interact and communicate with other students effectively.

Our whole school focus values for 2013

By the time learners leave our school every one of them will have improved their ability to be ......
**Wellbeing**

Here at Kilberry Valley Primary School we value the emotional and social development of your child.

Currently we provide a variety of programs such as: You Can Do It, weekly ‘Welfare Matters’ in the newsletter, Kids Hope Mentoring and Kids Matter in order to promote the emotional and social development of your child.

Our whole school behaviour initiatives revolve around restorative practices. These follow a six step student behavior management program that compliments and reinforces the school’s five Golden Rules. A weekly Green Card Reward System reinforces our school's 5 Golden Rules and the Six step student behavior management program.

1. Our aim is to involve the school community with opportunities to interact with each other at organized family friendly events. We would like to invite the parents of our students each Friday afternoon to join us in the school gym for Kilberry Café.

2. Should you have any concerns regarding you child's welfare please contact the classroom teacher first, they may then refer you onto our welfare team.

**Curriculum**

Below is a brief summary of the standards for Level 2 in some of the areas you may not be familiar with. They play a very important role in the way in which knowledge and understanding is attained in the key subjects of Literacy, Numeracy, Science and Humanities.

**Personal Learning**

At Level 2 students participate in a wide range of learning experiences which involve a variety of learning styles and approaches to learning. They begin to record their feelings and understanding about their learning, responding to prompts, which help them acknowledge their successes, noting where improvements could be made, and reflecting on the effort they put into particular tasks.

Students develop strategies to use when they are feeling uncertain about their learning, such as seeking assistance from their teachers. They begin to recognise that learning from mistakes is an important attribute of being a good learner. They begin to recognise their contribution to the achievement of a positive learning environment in the classroom. Students begin to take responsibility for managing their time and begin to set short-term goals related to specific tasks, such as setting a time limit for a particular activity, and to reflect on their achievements.
Interpersonal Development

Building social relationships

With teacher support, students reflect on personal qualities, which contribute to the development and maintenance of friendships. They begin to develop and exhibit appropriate behaviours for maintaining positive social relationships.

Civics and Citizenship

At Level 2 students begin to appreciate the similarities and differences between individuals and groups, including the language, cultural and religious groups which make up the Australian nation. They explore the roles, rights and responsibilities of various family and community members. They discover why groups and communities have rules, begin to question rules, which they believe are unfair, and make suggestions about improving the rules within the community. They begin to appreciate the common values important to groups and individuals; for example, fairness, tolerance, understanding and respect. They explore the purpose and benefits of school, community and national events. Students investigate the ways individuals, families, groups and communities can work to improve their environment.

Information and Communications Technology

At Level 2 students use ICT to acquire new knowledge and skills in all areas of the curriculum and to create and present information in meaningful ways. They learn to organise and classify information and ideas, and present them in a manner that is meaningful to them. To improve the presentation of text and images, students begin to apply simple techniques, such as bolding, centring and changing case. They explore a range of different information products and identify intended audiences. Students develop an understanding of the importance of checking the accuracy of facts that are going to be processed; this being necessary for producing accurate output. Working in a networked environment, students develop the practice of using a file-naming system that is both meaningful to the students, and avoids confusion over who owns particular files.

Communicating with teachers

Your feedback and comments are always welcome; however, please make sure you contact your child’s teacher by ringing the school on 9702 8688 to book a meeting time or writing a short note (not in the diary) that is sent with your child to school.

Parent Helpers

We would like to remind any parents who wish to help out in their child’s class or around the school that they must have a valid Working with Children Check permit. A form can be collected from the office and there is no cost involved.

Once you have received your Working with Children Check card, take it to the office to register then wear your card every time you volunteer at the school. This ensures an even greater level of security for your children.

Please contact your child’s classroom teacher if you are interested in helping out in any way. Parent helpers are expected to remain confidential about what they see and observe within the classroom.
Premiers’ Reading Challenge

Each year Kilberry Valley Primary School students are invited to participate in the Premiers’ Reading Challenge and this year we are extending this invitation to younger siblings of our students. The Challenge will commence **early in March** and will finish in **September** (dates will be provided in future newsletters).

To complete the Challenge:

**Years 3 to 6** need to read **fifteen** books by the closing date - ten must be from the Premiers Reading List and 5 own choice.

**Prep to Year 2** need to experience **thirty** books. Twenty must be from the Premier’s Reading List and ten own choice. These books will be read to the children in class but if you wish to read more you are most welcome to.

Your child’s classroom teacher will provide you with a password so that you can log books read onto your child’s record. The younger siblings will follow the same rules as the children in Years Prep – 2. Your child’s classroom teacher has a full list of books on the Challenge and there is a list on display in the library. You may also access the Book Lists and find out more about the Challenge on the Premiers’ Reading Challenge website: [www.education.vic.gov.au/prc](http://www.education.vic.gov.au/prc). You are welcome to borrow books at our school library before and after school.

For the past three years 100% of our students completed the Challenge. It would be great to do the same this year and to include our younger brothers and sisters. So good luck everyone.
Absences/Late Arrivals

Students are encouraged to be at school every day. If your child is absent from school, please contact the school on the day of absence and provide a signed note upon their return. If arriving at school after 9am, students are required to collect a late pass from the office before going to class. The education department has guidelines for conditions when students must be excluded.

For more information please visit:

It’s cool to be at school, it’s not okay to be away!

Sunsmart

Kilberry Valley Primary School is a Sunsmart school and students are required to wear a navy blue broad-rimmed style hat at all times when outside during terms 1, 2 and 4. This includes recess, lunch, physical education classes and whole school assemblies. Without a hat, students will be unable to access the canteen and indoor areas during recess and lunch.

Lost Items

Please assist classroom teachers by having your child’s clothes clearly labeled with their name. As tags on jumpers often tear off, write their name around the collar. If an item is lost in the playground, it may be handed into lost property, located in the old gym foyer. Parents can check here before and after school, and students can check at recess or lunch. During the last week of each school term any unclaimed and un-named items will be sold for $2 an item.

Incursion/Excursion for Inquiry Unit

In our inquiry units, students will have the opportunity to participate in an incursion/excursion activity each term. This shared experience provides a common understanding of the focus students explore throughout the term.

Proposed Schedule for 2013

Term 1—Safety .......................................Incursion
Term 2—Toying with Technology ...............Incursion
Term 3—Back to Basics ..............................Excursion
Term 4—Creatures in our Neighbourhood……Excursion
Take Home Bags

Each day your child will bring home a different book in his/her Take Home Bag. Please make sure your child reads his/her book to you or another adult each night. You need to fill in the title of the book, if your child has not done in class, and sign at the end of the row in your child’s Student Diary Book. These reading books need to be returned to school each day; however, students are able to re-borrow the book for another night if they need to. Teachers keep a record of which book each child takes home every night. Students need to return their book in order to borrow a new book. Any lost or damaged books will need to be paid for by parents.

Homework

The homework program supports students learning by reinforcing what they have been learning in the classroom. Although the completion of homework is primarily the responsibility of students, parents and teachers play a vital role in encouraging and assisting students to develop effective habits. (Ref. School’s Homework Policy)

In Year 2, students choose individualised spelling words taken from class spelling focus, theme words or errors in their writing, each week. They need to practise these words every night. They also have a maths, grammar or a comprehension exercise in their homework books.

When your child has completed his/her homework, you need to sign the homework sheet. On occasions where your child is unable to complete his/her homework task, a written explanation will be required.

Homework books are sent home every Monday and to be returned to school every Friday of that week.

Year 2 Sport

In addition to PE, Year 2 students participate in a sports session. This takes place on Friday afternoons at 2:00 o’clock on the basketball court (weather permitting). Please send your child to school in appropriate footwear.

During these sessions, students are engaged in various games that encourage them to develop a range of skills, such as ball handling, hand-eye co-ordination, control of gross motor functions, co-operation, teamwork and good sportsmanship. These games are easy to follow and require limited equipment, which gives students an opportunity to play the games with their friends during recess or lunch if they wish or at home with their family. Please encourage your child to tell you about the games they learn at Sport.
Dates to put in your diaries

2013 – Term Dates

Term 1: Wednesday 30th January to Thursday 28th March
Term 2: Monday 15th April to Friday 28th June
Term 3: Monday 15th July to Friday 20th September
Term 4: Monday 7th October to Friday 20th December

January
February
March
IDP meeting- Student, Teacher and Parent Conference
Labour Day (public holiday, no school)

April
25  ANZAC Day (public holiday, no school)

May
1   Whole School Curriculum Day
19-25  Education Week

June
10  Queen’s Birthday (public holiday, no school)

July

August
17-13  Book Week – Read Across the Universe

September
2-5  Whole School Musical

October

November
5  Melbourne Cup Day (public holiday, no school)

December
20  End of school year

For further information, newsletters, notices and updates.
Please visit the school’s web site:
www.kilberryps.vic.edu.au