Dear Parents & Care-givers,

Welcome to the 2013 school year. For many of you the last six years has probably flown by and suddenly your child has reached their final year of their primary education. Our Year 6 students are given every opportunity to spread their wings, take on responsibilities and seek new challenges.

The purpose of this information booklet is to provide you with information about the learning your child will experience and the expectations of Year 6 students. Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s classroom teacher if you need any further information.

### Year 6 roles and privileges

- School Captains
- House Captains
- SRC representatives
- Representing the school at interschool sports and lightning premiership carnivals
- A special windcheater and polo shirt
- End of year graduation ceremony and excursion
- KTV
- Electives

### What are the responsibilities of all Year 6 students?

All students in Year 6 are expected to:
- Display leadership and responsibility within the classroom and around the school.
- Set an example and be helpful to younger students.
- Participate enthusiastically in all school activities and encourage others to also join in.
- Take on responsibilities demonstrating initiative and dependability.
Year 6 Class Teachers

Lachlan Clydesdale – 6LC – Room D07
Hi, my name is Lachlan Clydesdale and I am one of two new members to the Year 6 team for 2013. Prior to becoming a Year 6 teacher, I have undertaken studies within Exercise and Sport Science at Deakin University. Throughout this period, I have worked as a strength and conditioning coach at elite swimming and Basketball clubs across Victoria. My interests outside of school include water sports, health and fitness activities and playing for my local football and basketball clubs. My start to the year has been extremely exciting and rewarding; meeting some fantastic students and teachers. I am looking forward to continuing to grow with my students throughout 2013.

Alex Hayes – 6AH/SW Rooms – D03/04
Hi, my name is Alex Hayes and I’m looking forward to another great year in the year 6 team at Kilberry. I’ve been teaching for 3 years and have worked a variety of students in that time. My background is Science education, and I always like exploring new teach ideas through inquiry and ICT. Outside school, my hobbies include kayaking, Geocaching, hiking, camping, snorkelling and bouldering. I have a passion for the outdoor adventurous activities, and through this work with a variety of youth groups like Scouts and Cadets. The year ahead, although busy will be extremely rewarding and an exciting journey that I enjoy undertaking with the class.

Amanda Middleton – 6AM/KP – Rooms D01/02
Hi, my name is Amanda Middleton and I am very excited to be teaching Year 6 again this year. I have been teaching at KVPS since 2004 and this is now my 6th year teaching Year 6. Outside of school I enjoy going to the football and yes I am a proud Melbourne supporter. I have been a member since I was in primary school. I also play netball with a few other staff members from KVPS. Other interests I have are travelling, going to concerts to watch bands and singers and spending time with my family and friends. I am very excited about the year ahead with this group of Year 6 students.

Kelly Patch – 6KP/AM – Rooms D01/02
Hi, my name is Kelly Patch and I am delighted to be a member of the Grade 6 team at Kilberry Valley Primary School this year. I came to Australia from England six and a half years ago and until January 2013 lived in South Australia. During this time I taught Grade 6/7 for five years and worked as a Youth Development Coordinator for a year. My family, consisting of my husband, two daughters and son, moved to Melbourne as my son is playing sport and attending school here. My interests out of school are spending time with my family, playing sport and exercising, walking my two dogs and reading. I have found the students at Kilberry to be very welcoming and I am looking forward to meeting as many parents as possible at the upcoming interviews.

Stacey Weston – 6SW/AH – Rooms D03/04
Hi, I’m Stacey Weston and I am excited to be teaching Year 6 again. This is my 6th year at Kilberry and I have previously taught Year 3, Year 5 and Prep. In my younger years I was an elite gymnast and travelled all over Australia to compete in various National Championships. I am now an internationally accredited judge and have had the opportunity to judge Olympians such as Lauren Mitchell. My interests are spending time with my family, watching movies and travelling overseas. I am really looking forward to a fantastic year!
**English**

Students are involved in a variety of literacy activities focusing on Reading, Writing and Speaking and Listening skills. Many activities, strategies and teaching tools are used for these focuses. These include:
- Reading circles
- Explicit teaching
- Open-ended tasks
- Independent and shared reading
- BTN, Behind the News (TV news program specifically designed for students in Grades 5 and 6)
- Writing – focusing on structures and features of different text types (informative, imaginative and persuasive)
- Oral presentations
- Debates
- Grammar, punctuation and spelling focuses

**Numeracy**

Students are involved in a variety of maths activities throughout the year. Activities are based on mathematical concepts in the areas of number, measurement, chance & data and space, with a focus on applying skills and concepts to real life situations. These topics are taught explicitly and open ended investigations are used. Year 6 students will be participating in ‘Maths Groups’ for one session per week. Students have been sorted into groups based on their individual needs, with sessions focusing on specific skills that students need further assistance in.

**Inquiry**

"Tell me and I forget, show me and I remember, involve me and I understand."

The last part of this statement is the essence of inquiry-based learning. "Inquiry" is defined as "a seeking for truth, information, or knowledge -- seeking information by questioning."

Memorizing facts and information is not the most important skill in today's world. Facts change, and information is readily available -- what's needed is an understanding of how to get and make sense of the mass of data.

The overview of the inquiry investigations:
Term 1: Government, social justice, political and social systems.
Term 2: How dramatic changes (natural disasters) affect people and the Earth.
Term 3: The effects of space, land and sea exploration.
Term 4: Local and global environmental issues.
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 your 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 4 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

The individual learner
At Level 4, students identify, with support, their preferred learning styles and use strategies that promote learning. They demonstrate the ability to learn independently and with peers, and respond positively to, and act upon, constructive feedback. They persist when experiencing difficulty with learning tasks. They actively contribute to the creation of a positive learning environment in the classroom.

Managing personal learning
At Level 4 students monitor and describe progress in their learning. They negotiate learning improvement goals and justify the choices they make about their own learning. Students develop and implement plans to complete tasks within externally imposed time frames.

Interpersonal Development

Building social relationships
At Level 4, students demonstrate, through their interactions in social situations, respect for a diverse range of people and groups. Students describe the impact of bullying. They accept and display empathy for the points of view and feelings of their peers and others. They identify and use a variety of strategies to manage and resolve conflict.

Working in teams
At Level 4, students work effectively in different teams and take on a variety of roles to complete tasks of varying length and complexity. They work cooperatively to allocate tasks and develop timelines. Students accept responsibility for their role and tasks. They explain the benefits of working in a team. They provide feedback to others and evaluate their own and the team’s performance.

Civics and Citizenship

Civic knowledge and understanding
At Level 4, students describe the nature of Australia’s democracy that developed as a result of Federation. They describe the three levels of government and some of the key functions of each level. They explain the basic elements of Australia’s federal parliamentary system and key democratic principles and values such as freedom of speech and equality before the law. They explain the concept of multiculturalism and describe the contribution of various cultural groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, to Australian identity. They demonstrate understanding of the process of making and changing laws.

Community engagement
At Level 4, students demonstrate understanding of the roles and responsibilities of leaders, and of democratic processes, when engaging in school and community activities. They present a point of view on a significant current issue or issues and include recommendations about the actions that individuals and governments can take to resolve issues. They demonstrate understanding that there are different viewpoints on an issue, and contribute to group and class decision-making.

Communication

Listening, viewing and responding
At level 4 students ask clarifying questions, develop interpretations and provide reasons for them. They explain why peers may develop alternative interpretations. They describe the purpose of a range of communication strategies, including non-verbal strategies, and evaluate their effectiveness for different audiences.

Presenting
At level 4 students use a range of presentation formats to summarise ideas and organise information logically and clearly to meet the needs of audience and purpose. They identify the features of an effective presentation and adapt elements of their own presentation to reflect them. Using criteria provided, they evaluate the effectiveness of their own and others’ presentations.
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.
Information and Communications Technology

ICT for visualising thinking
At Level 4 students apply ICT tools and techniques to explore processes, patterns and cause and effect relationships and to test hypotheses in a range of new situations. They explain how these strategies help them to understand concepts and relationships.

ICT for creating
At Level 4, students safely and independently use a range of skills, procedures, equipment and functions to process different data types and produce accurate and suitably formatted products to suit different purposes and audiences. Students select relevant techniques for minimising the time taken to process data, and apply conventions and techniques that improve the appearance of the finished product. Students create and maintain an up-to-date, logically structured bank of digital evidence of their learning.

ICT for communicating
At Level 4, students use email, websites and frequently asked question facilities to acquire from, or share information with, peers and known and unknown experts. When emailing, they successfully attach files and they apply protocols for sending and receiving electronic information. They successfully upload their work to a protected public online space. Using recommended search engines, students refine their search strategies to locate information quickly. They evaluate the integrity of the located information based on its accuracy and the reliability of the web host.

Transition
There are many important decisions to be made about secondary placements in Year 6. Hopefully by now discussion are taking place at home between parents and children, for 2014 secondary school preferences. In April families will receive a pack of information and a form to fill out indicating your 2 secondary school preferences for 2014. It is important that preferences are selected. It is the parents responsibility to source out accelerated programs or scholarships. If your child requires a written reference from their class teacher please ensure you give your teacher sufficient notice to prepare the reference letter. (minimum 1 week)
Families will be notified of secondary school placements in August If you have any further questions about secondary school selections speak to your child’s classroom teacher.

Graduation
To celebrate Year 6 students graduating from primary we hold a graduation ceremony at the end of the year. The 2013 Year 6 graduation ceremony will be held at River Gum Performing Arts Centre, Fordholm Road Hampton Park, on Tuesday the 17th of December. During the graduation ceremony a number of awards will be presented and all students will be presented with a gift. On this night students will be required to wear semi formal attire (No Denim). Students will also vote on a graduation excursion, which will take place during the last few weeks of Term 4. More information about the Year 6 graduation ceremony and excursion will be sent home later in the year

Interschool Sports/Lightning Premiership
As part of our Year 6 sports program, students are given the opportunity to participate in our Winter and Summer sports competition. Sports in the Winter competition include netball, teeball, soccer, football and kickball. Sports in the Summer competition include basketball, softball, cricket, volleystars and rounders. For this program students are given the chance to travel to other local schools to compete against them in practise rounds. After the practise rounds there is a one day lightning premiership competition where students compete in a round robin competition to determine a winner
The White Studio

The White Studio involves a number of different programs. KTV News is a weekly program run by the Grade Sixes. They present and create items that connect the school community. Students have to write scripts, film and edit videos and run the studio to make the program. The studio also produces Story Time, You Can Do It, Principal Cam and the Award Winning Walt and Wendy Show. The studio has always won the state 60 Second Science competition for the last two years running.

KTV News

KTV News is a weekly program run by the Grade Sixes. Each week the students organize themselves into groups to investigate items that are of interest to the school. These can include interviews with staff and students, current events, camps, excursions and a School Activity Report. They present and create items that connect the school community. Students have to write scripts, film and edit videos and run the studio to make the program. The students really enjoy running the studio and all things that are related to making the program.

Communicating with teachers

If you would like to speak to your child’s teacher there are a few ways to do this.

• You can write a note in your child’s diary for him/her to show the teacher when they get to class.
• You may phone the school before or after school and ask to speak to your child’s teacher (not during school hours).
• You can go to see your child’s teacher in person at their classroom before school in between 8.40 – 8.55 or after school in between 3.30 – 3.45.

*There may be situations where your child’s teacher isn’t available during these times due to meetings or other commitments so you may need to make an appointment.

Diaries

Every student has a school diary. This is a very important communication tool between the school and home and must be at school everyday and taken home every night. Diaries are to be used to record work that needs to be finished, important calendar dates, the text that students are reading at home and signed by a parent and communication between parents and teachers.

Individual Development Plans (IDPs)

IDPs are completed at Parent/student/teacher interviews. 2 – 3 school related achievable and measureable goals are decided upon at these interviews and are reassessed mid-year.
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
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