Dear Parents,

**Every Day Counts – School Attendance**

You may have been reading in the press lately that the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) will implement new guidelines for student attendance at school. Below is an article I have been asked to include in the Valley Views.

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day. Missing school can have a major impact on a child’s future – a student missing one day a fortnight will miss four full weeks by the end of the year. By Year 10 they’ll have missed more than a year of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Coming to school every day is vital, but if for any reason your child must miss school, there are things we can do together to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.
- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.
- Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

From 1 March 2014, new laws will mean that parents can be fined for not sending students to school without an acceptable reason.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.


An information sheet is included later in the newsletter. This will remain on the website for your perusal.

As the above states, any time off school means students miss out on vital aspects of their learning. Obviously illness hits us all at some stage and we need to be away during these times, and there are other circumstances that involve being absent. The Every Day count campaign raises the awareness of student attendance and I ask you to read the matter and give it some thought.
Principal's Message

Meet and Greet Interviews
The bookings for the ‘Meet and Greet’ meeting to be held between 17th and 21st March have been opened and your child should have brought home an information sheet outlining the method to log on and select your preferred time. For ‘old’ community members this is the same process we have used for a few years now. I encourage our ‘new’ members of the school community to follow the simple instructions and I am sure it will be easy enough to follow. If you have any issues at all please ring the friendly office staff for assistance. Or you can utilise the computer in the school foyer. It will be set up for anyone without computer access at home or work to book a ‘Meet and Greet’ time.

These meetings are a great way for you to meet with your child and their teacher to outline anything you feel the teacher should be aware about your child. It will also be the opportunity for you to have input into your child’s Individual Development Plan (IDP). Your child’s teacher will have developed some thoughts regarding this but we would love to get you, and your child’s input to ensure the IDP is relevant and applicable to their current stage of learning.

You may notice that I have also opened times for any parents who wish to meet with me to discuss any positive observations or ideas you may have regarding the school. I trust you are aware that I am open to discuss any aspect of the school with you at any time. Simply catch me in the yard or make an appointment if the selected times don’t suit you.

School Council - Congratulations
At the close of nominations last week I had received the exact number of nominations to meet the advertised vacancies and am happy to announce that Michelle Hosking and Abi Ruthiradas were the successful parent nominations and Christine Taylor was the successful DEECD nomination.
This means our 2014 School Council consists of:

Parent Members: Michelle Hosking, Preety Sharma, Malal Athauda, Jacinta Parkinson, Abi Ruthiradas
DEECD Members: Christine Taylor and Kylie Spalding
Executive Officer: Neil Cunningham

We also have regular attendance from Chris Christian and Zania Cope.

We do have a vacant 12 month co-opted Parent position for School Council. This is held for Council to be able to request someone join Council rather than going through the nomination and election process. If you would be interested in filling this please contact me for details.

I greatly look forward to working with the Council to ensure we continue to seek for improvement at Kilberry Valley.

Cultural Diversity Week
During ‘Cultural Diversity Week’ (17th March to the 21st March) we would like to invite parents/guardians to come into classrooms to share favourite books with students. We are hoping that children will be able to hear stories from various cultures and in languages other than English. If you would be interested in reading a story either in English or another language, please see your child’s classroom teacher to arrange a time or contact Mrs Holtkamp. Please see page 3 of the newsletter for more information about this exciting event.

Swimming Sports
I congratulate our swimming team for their efforts last Monday. Unfortunately we do not have any students going on to the next regional round of events, but I am informed the effort given by every team member was wonderful to see. Congratulations to you all.

Have a great week and keep smiling!

Neil Cunningham
Principal
We used sultanas and toothpicks to make groups of 10!

Then we got to eat them!
2014 Breakfast Club

There will be FREE toast & cereal for EVERYONE!

Time: 8:30- 8:55am
Day: FRIDAY mornings
Place: New Gym
Cost: FREE for all students
      10c for all additional meals

We are always looking for parent helpers.
If you have a current WWCC (Working With Childrens Check) and would like to help us out on FRIDAY Mornings please contact Mrs Cavanagh in the new Gym.

(Please note that this is a non profit program- all money collected is spent on buying items for our Breakfast Club)

PEANUT ALLERGIES: Unfortunately we are unable to offer Breakfast Club to children with nut allergies. Although we do not serve ‘nut foods’, we cannot guarantee that our kitchen is complete ‘Nut Free Zone’. Thank you for your understanding.
Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education. Students learn new things at school every day – missing school puts them behind.

Why it’s important

We all want our students to get a great education, and the building blocks for a great education begin with students coming to school each and every day.

If students miss school regularly, they miss out on learning the fundamental skills that will set them up for success in the later years of school.

There is no safe number of days for missing school – each day a student misses puts them behind, and can affect their educational outcomes.

Each missed day is associated with progressively lower achievement in numeracy, writing and reading.

Getting in early

Attendance patterns are established early – a child regularly missing days in kindergarten or in the early years of school will often continue to miss classes in the later years, and receive lower test scores than their classmates. It’s vital that students go to school every day – even in the early years of primary school.

What we can do

The main reasons for absence are:

**Sickness** – There are always times when students need to miss school, such as when they’re ill. It’s vital that they’re only away on the days they are genuinely sick, and setting good sleep patterns, eating well and exercising regularly can make a big difference.

It’s vital that holidays are planned during school holidays where possible, and not during the term if it can be avoided.

**“Day off”** – Think twice before letting your child have a “day off” as they could fall behind their classmates – every day counts.

**Truancy** – This is when students choose not to go to school without their parent’s permission. There can be many reasons for truancy. The best way to address this is for schools and parents to work together.

If for any reason your child must miss school, there are things you can do with your school to ensure they don’t fall behind:

- Speak with your classroom teacher and find out what work your child needs to do to keep up.

- Develop an absence learning plan with your teacher and ensure your child completes the plan.

Remember, every day counts. If your child must miss school, speak with your classroom teacher as early as possible.

Openly communicating with your child’s school about all absences is a good way to prevent attendance issues being escalated to a School Attendance Officer. A School Attendance Officer is a Department of Education and Early Childhood Development Regional Director who has authority to follow up attendance issues. Attendance issues that are escalated can lead to an Infringement Notice.

If you’re having attendance issues with your child, please let your classroom teacher know so we can work together to get your child to school every day.

For more information and resources to help address attendance issues, visit: www.education.vic.gov.au/school/parents/behaviour/Pages/studentattendance.aspx

Department of Education and Early Childhood Development
**Kilberry Valley Primary**

**School Lunch Order**

**Bag Fundraiser**

*New lunch order bags available for order now!!*

The insulated PEVA lining keeps food and drinks hot and/or cold.
Large zipper pocket separates money from contact with food.
Transparent pocket displays name and class.
Can be used as a regular lunch bag
Available in black with your choice of blue, red, or grey edging.
http://www.stickybeaks.com.au

*Please see the office to view a sample of the bag.*

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**Please return order form by**

**Thursday 13**\(^{th}\) **March!**

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Student name: ..............................................................
Class: .................................
I would like to order ........... insulated lunch bags @ $10 each.
My colour choice is: ........Red ........Blue ........Grey
Total order amount: .................
Amount enclosed: .................
(Please enclose correct money – cash only)

*Delivery expected last week of Term 1 or first week Term 2*
KILBERRY VALLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL
TERM 1 WORKING BEE

Our first working bee for 2014 will be held on Friday 28th March. The fun will begin at 4.30pm and we will finish at about 6.30pm. Soft drink, tea, coffee and a bbq will be provided to end a fantastic evenings work.

The focus will be the garden beds and general grounds maintenance. Things like weeding, mulching and some digging. If you are able to bring along some gloves, spades and rakes that would be great.

To assist us with numbers for catering a notice will be coming home for you to indicate if you will be able to attend.

You can also find out more information on the Kilberry Valley Facebook page.

We look forward to seeing you.

Date: 28/3/14
Time: 4.30-6.30pm
Heart Foundation

Walking

Would you like to join a fun, free walking group?

What: Kilberry Valley Walking Group
When: Every Thursday 9.15am
Where: Meet us in front of Kilberry Valley Primary School Office

Heart Foundation Walking groups are a great way to make friends and look after your health. Beginners are welcome and it’s free.

For more information about joining this group please contact Abi on 0423 963 403 or email on abi060686@hotmail.com
Starting 13th of March!!
www.heartfoundation.org.au/walking
Dear children/parents/staff of Kilberry Valley Primary School,

My Name is Abi, and I have two boys. Arun is in Year 1 at KVPS
And Aakash is in 4 Year kinder.

Why am I telling you all this?? Well
hearing my son, Aakash's story might
encourage you to donate to Royal
Children’s Hospital. That’s why!!

Aakash was born on 3rd September 2009. The day after he was born, he was diagnosed with
something “extremely wrong” but we didn’t know what. He was rushed to Royal Children’s
Hospital, and had his first surgery for Bowel Obstruction at 2 days of age. This day was the
beginning of a very long road to recovery. In the next 2 years Aakash was diagnosed with 2
rare bowel conditions (Intestinal Atresia, Total Colonic Hirschsprung’s Disease), underwent 6
major and 4 minor surgeries, had a Colostomy Pouch to relieve bowel obstruction, had all of
his Large Intestine and 20cm of his Small intestine removed, contracted Bacterial Meningitis,
had seizures, went into a coma and was suppose to be an invalid for the rest of his life. But
no, against all odds, my child has thrived and grown and proven to the world that he is a
survivor!

We were lucky, that Aakash is able to lead a normal and productive life as a child but there
are many at RCH who are not so lucky. These children and their families need us, they need
our support.

What better day and way to donate than on The Good Friday Appeal... Please give! Every cent
counts!! You will always have my gratitude!!!!!
Kilberry Valley Notices Sent Home
The following notices have been sent home to families and require your prompt attention:

School Lunch Order Bag Fundraiser
$10 Due Thurs 13 March. Sample at school office

ICAS & AMC
Final payments will be due by Friday 21st March, 2014.
Refer to consent form for cost of competitions.

Working Bee
Reply slip due Friday 21st March, for catering purposes.

GRADE 5 CAMP 2014 (WARATAH BAY)
Final payments will be due by Monday 24th March, 2014.
The approximate cost of the camp is $255.

Students who do not return consent forms and payments by the closing date for incursions/excursions will not be able to participate in the activity. We would appreciate your support and co-operation with these matters. Thank you.

DIARY DATES –TERM 1 2014
Monday 10th March – Labour Day Public Holiday
Tuesday 18th March – Harmony Day Concert (2.15pm)

WELFARE CORNER
Managing tantrums
Managing tantrums once they occur may involve ignoring your child and walking away if it is safe to do so until the tantrum stops and praising them for doing so. While this approach is often effective for toddlers it is more difficult when other children or visitors are present. Tackling tantrums may take a few weeks of concerted effort and consistent application of Time-out and other strategies. To help you see if progress is being made try to jot down each time you use Time-out and how long it takes. After a week, the tantrums should be less frequent, and you will be well on your way towards helping your child learn some important new social skills.

Tantrums in public make it difficult to use strategies as ignoring or Time-out. Instead, find a safe quiet place to sit with your child such as a park bench or your car and tell them they must sit quietly. Wait beside them (without talking) until they have been quiet for about 30 seconds before going on. If this is unsuccessful, you will probably have to abandon your trip to take them home for immediate Time-out. You can always try again next time.

Zania Cope – Assistant Principal

Working with Children Check
We would like to remind parents who are interested in helping at the school in any way, that you will require a Working With Children Check.

YOU CANNOT ASSIST IN ANY CAPACITY WITHIN THE SCHOOL UNLESS YOU HAVE A WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK.

THIS INCLUDES EXCURSIONS INCURSIONS & CLASSROOM HELP.

There is no cost involved.

Application forms can be accessed by visiting the Department of Justice website at www.justice.vic.gov.au and follow the link for Licences and Certificates.

Once you have received your Working With Children Check card, bring it to the office to register and wear the card whenever you volunteer at the school.

This will ensure an even greater level of security for your children.

Thank you

CanTeen News
New price lists for 2014 for the canteen are now available at the School Office.
You can also view it online at our website www.kilberryps.vic.edu.au

Our canteen now serves Gluten Free items but please ensure that you mark your lunch orders accordingly if you need to select this option.

Please remember also that if you DO NOT provide a bag for your lunch order that you MUST pay 10 cents so that the canteen can provide one for you.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding in this matter

MONDAY 10TH MARCH
LABOUR DAY
PUBLIC HOLIDAY