



# NEWS

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

February 28, 2018

Hello everyone and welcome to 2018 at Karingal Heights Primary School. I would like to welcome all of our students and families back and I hope that our new families, especially those of our Foundation students are feeling welcome.

It has been a very busy start to the year. A new School Council was elected last week with the first formal meeting to take place on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We thank those who nominated. A walk through of the buildings and grounds took place before the meeting and a list was made of items that needed attending to. We began by topping up the sand in both of the sand pits and the children have had great fun playing in them. Our main corridor had new carpet tiles laid on Saturday (an early start for me) which completed our three year plan to replace the old carpet. It makes the building look much better. Concrete and asphalt repair will hopefully take place soon.

On Friday March 9<sup>th</sup> we will be having a mini working bee at school beginning at 2.00pm and finishing by 4.00pm with a cup of tea and cake. This type of working bee will hopefully take place twice a term in order to help maintain our gardens. No machinery is required, just some gardening gloves if you have them as well as a Working with Children check. You can complete these checks on line and bring your receipt to Pauline. The tasks that need completion are tidying the sand pits, weeding the vegetable garden beds, dead heading plants and general weeding. We hope to see you there.

We still have many children arriving late to school with no valid reason except 'late'. One of the most stressful times for a child is when they arrive late. The beginning of the day consists of setting the scene for the day, social skills and literacy. If your child is 30 minutes late each day, he or she is missing 2 ½ hours a week. Add this up over a year and it is a lot of time. School begins at 9.00am and finishes at 3.15pm. This is the time your child should be at school.

We are experiencing a high amount of absences by children. The Education Department website states:

*In general, it is expected that principals would excuse absences for:*

- *medical and dental appointments, where out of hours appointments are not possible or not appropriate*
- *bereavement or attendance at the funeral of a relative or friend of the student, including a student required to attend sorry business*
- *school refusal, if a plan is in place with the parent to address causes*
- *cultural observance, if the parent notifies the school in advance*
- *family holidays, where the parent notifies the school in advance and the student completes any Student Absence Learning Plan agreed by the school, student and parent.*

If your child is absent from school please contact the office or leave a message on the absence line.

Thank you,

Kerryn Riley

Acting Principal

## IMPORTANT DATES

### March:

Friday 2	Mini working bee 2-4pm
Monday 5	Grandparents and Special Friends morning
Thursday 8	Special Hot Dog Lunch
Monday 12	Labour Day Public Holiday
Thursday 15	School Council Meeting 4:00pm
Friday 16	No Bullying Day
Wednesday 21	Harmony Day
Friday 23	District Athletic Sports
Thursday 29	Easter Parade
Thursday 29	Last Day of Term 1. 2:30pm finish

### April:

Monday 16	Term 2 begins
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### GRANDPARENTS AND SPECIAL FRIENDS MORNING

Our annual Grandparents and Special Friends morning is on again. This is one of our busiest mornings of the year. It will be on Monday March 5<sup>th</sup> beginning at 9.10am with assembly and finishing at 11.00am. Morning tea will be available with the assistance of McClelland College's VCAL students.



### DISTRICT ATHLETIC SPORTS

Mr Hurford has been working very hard training children for the District Athletic Track Events. These events are for children from the age of 9 who are able to complete the distances required and are eager to compete. If you are able to assist on the day please see Mr Hurford. The events will take place at Ballam Park on Friday March 23.

We were delighted at the end of last year when Anglicare approached us and asked if we could be the Karingal base for the Family Wellbeing Hub. Of course we said yes. We had done some work with Skye previously and was pleased to hear that she would be the coordinator of the program. Skye is available for families to talk to if you need advice or assistance of some kind. She is also available to come and have a casual chat to. Skye is based in our Parents Room and is at school on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

