

Katandra Weekly

NO 40 – 11/12/13



17 -27 Bankin St, Katandra West, 3634



www.katandra-west-ps.vic.edu.au



(03) 58283350



(03) 58283512

FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK



END OF YEAR ARRANGEMENTS

The end of the year is creeping up on us very quickly. Next week is our last week. On Tuesday the P&F will be giving our students a barbeque lunch. Our last day of Term, on Friday 20th, will be an out of uniform day and students will finish at 2.15 p.m.

FINAL ASSEMBLY

Next week, the last week of the school year we will be having assembly on Friday morning at 9.30 am instead of on Monday. This is so we can farewell our Grade 6 students on their last day at primary school. All welcome!

END OF YEAR EXCURSION

Despite the weather, the school excursion last Thursday to Starbowl and Kids Town was a huge success.



ORIENTATION DAY

Yesterday our Prep class for 2014 joined us as did some of the children in other year levels who will be attending next year.

Our Grade 6 class also had a day at their respective high schools.

A new resource, from the education department, to support students in their transitions is available at:

education.vic.gov.au/backtoschool

THANK YOU

Thanks to Amber who donated some irises for the garden. The students planted them around the amphitheatre.



CHOOKS

During the holidays we need someone to care for our chooks. If you are able to help out please let us know.

MOVE TO NEW BUILDING

Next Monday we will start to move the P/1 and 2/3 classrooms over to the new building. As there will be no assembly on Monday, we will be able to start at 9.00am. Many parents have already offered their support, but if you pitch in, even for a short time, it would be greatly appreciated.

Angela Buxton
Principal

At Katandra West - WE OFFER THE BEST

IMPORTANT DATES

	DECEMBER		JANUARY / FEBRUARY
Tues 17th	Parents & Friends - End of year Lunch	Mon 27th	Australia Day Holiday
Wed 18th	Grade Parties	Tues 28th	Staff Return – In-service
Fri 20th	Final Grade 6 Assembly 9.30 am End of school year. Dismissal 2.15 pm	Wed 29th	Pupil Free Day – Preparation of classrooms.
		Thurs 30th	Students Return
		Fri 7th	S.C. Picnic Day at Aquamoves

Parents & Friends

Thank you once again to the P&F who have worked really hard over the last two weeks. Their efforts have certainly not been in vain with the following amounts being raised:

P&F Lunch \$249.00, Christmas Raffle and Drinks \$942.80, Bunnings Barbeque \$1192.00.

The P&F have kindly donated \$800 to each classroom. P/1 have purchased new readers, 2/3/4 Lego and the 5/6 room purchased an extension Maths program. These are all fantastic resources for the students and very much appreciated.

5/6 CANBERRA CAMP 2014

We are working on costings for the Canberra Camp and it looks like being around \$350.00 per child. The actual cost before rebate / GST / P & F and School Council contributions would be \$605.00.

The Camp is being held from Monday 3rd to Friday 7th March.

Next week we will send out a letter regarding Camp details with the option of a payment plan.

STUDENTS OF THE WEEK



Brooke M, Will C, Lachlan Mc and Brylee

Helping children resolve conflict

Suggestions for parents and carers

The skills needed for resolving conflict effectively are complex.

They involve managing feelings, understanding others, communicating effectively, developing options and making decisions. Parents and carers play an important role in helping children resolve conflicts. You can also play a critical role in establishing positive guidance that teaches children the skills needed to resolve conflicts effectively.

How you can guide children's conflict resolution:

- **Set the scene for cooperation**

Show how to cooperate and respect others through your own approach. Ask children to help solve the conflict and express confidence that they can work it out cooperatively. It is very important that children approach the conflict in a positive way, and believe that they can work together to work it out.

- **Help children handle emotions**

Children may need encouragement and help to stay cool in a conflict – especially if they feel they are being accused or blamed. They may feel anxious and need support to stay calm if they feel intimidated. In conflicts that are particularly heated, children may need to have time away from each other to cool down before going on to work out ways of resolving the conflict. Taking time to calm down can help children overcome the tendency to react aggressively or withdraw from the situation.

- **Encourage empathy and respect for others**

Teach children to listen to and understand the needs and concerns of the other person. Help them to ask why the other person wants something and consider what it might be like to be 'in their shoes'. Learning to understand the other person's perspective is a critical foundation for conflict resolution and for building positive relationships.

- **Practise communication skills**

Effective conflict resolution relies on clear communication of feelings and wants. This can be especially difficult when under pressure in a conflict. Learning to speak clearly and respectfully takes practice. You can help children practise what to say to initiate conflict resolution, for example: "If we talk about this, I'm sure we can sort it out." Practising assertive ways for children to express their wants and concerns is also particularly helpful, for example: "I want you to ask before using my things."

- **Encourage creative solutions**

In conflicts people often get stuck in their own positions and can't see other options. This is why it is so important to get the creativity going when thinking of possible solutions. The brainstorming rule, that no-one is allowed to say that something won't work, is intended to help with getting creative. Steer children back to the point if necessary, but leave evaluation of the ideas they come up with for later. It's okay for adults to help children think of alternative solutions if it helps them to get creative.

- **When enough is enough**

Some conflicts are too big for children to work out. Sometimes children are not ready to sort them out and the conflict continues to escalate. If children's conflicts become very intense or lead to physical aggression, then it is important for an adult to step in. When a mutual solution is not possible you can still help your child to think through the alternatives that are available to him/her and choose the best one.

This resource is part of the KidsMatter Primary initiative. We welcome your feedback at www.kidsmatter.edu.au



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing



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**Katandra West Annual Carols
Walkabout and Family BBQ**

Monday 23rd December 2013

Katandra West Recreation Reserve

6.30pm

Gold coin donation

Featuring singing by the Pullen family

Activities for the kids

Glow sticks and candles will be available to
purchase to raise funds for
Katandra West Junior Guides

A great night for the whole family

*In the event of wet weather the evening will
be held at the Katandra West Hall*

