Dear Parent, Staff and Students,

We wish to congratulate all of our students on the manner in which they have settled into their year of learning. It has been an extremely productive and rewarding term, full of fantastic, sporting, academic and community events. These have included our inaugural Twilight Community BBQ’s and Information nights, House Athletics, Swimming Sports, Interschool Athletics and Twilight Swimming Programs, iPad Information session, Parent Helpers Induction, Parent-Teacher Interviews, the Year 1-2 excursion, Year 3-6 “Design Seeds” workshop and our Special Better Buddies Welcome and Cyber Safety Day.

Strong partnerships between home and school will further build our capacity to provide all students with opportunities for personal excellence and success. Thank you to all parents who have assisted in classrooms, carried out administrative roles, attended sports days, information sessions, Parent-Teacher interviews and completed the Parent Helper training. Your support in all of our community events and programs is greatly appreciated.

New Awards Program

Next term will see the commencement of our new award system, recognising students for outstanding contributions and achievements at each School Assembly. As we embark on our journey as a KidsMatter school, the focus will be upon recognising students who demonstrate not only our You Can Do It! behaviours but also those who shine in the areas of the Performing Arts, Sport, Academia and positive school community role models. So keep a look out for the announcement of our first recipients and the special pin they will wear as a reminder to all of their fine efforts.

Term Two Dates

Please remember that school resumes on Tuesday 22nd April and that Friday 25th April is ANZAC Day so school will be closed on that day. Kismet Park will be inviting our Junior School Councillors along with staff members to represent our school at the Sunbury RSL’s early morning ANZAC Day ceremony on the Village Green. Arrangements and notifications to parents for this event will be finalised during the first week of Term Two. Our next Community Calendar with all of our special events will be sent home in Week Two of Term Two.

Kismet Park

Empowerment & Excellence in Education for all

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3rd April, 2014

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 10

HAPPY EASTER

Happy Easter

D a t e s  t o  r e m e m b e r

Friday 4th April: Last Day of Term 1, early dismissal at 2:15pm
Tuesday 22nd April: First day of Term 2
Tuesday 29th April: Money due back for Prep Excursion to Bundoora Park
Thursday 1st May: Prep-2 Athletics 9:00am– 11:00am
Friday 2nd May: Working Bee from 4pm-7pm

CANTEEN CLOSED TOMORROW FOR CLEANING

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**MESSAGE FROM PTA**

* Next PTA meeting is Tuesday 28th April at 9:00am— All welcome.

* Mother’s Day Dinner– Keep Saturday 3rd of May free, Venue to be advised!

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**DESIGN SEEDS WORKSHOP**

On Tuesday eight students from Kismet Park attended the Design Seeds workshop as part of Melbourne International Design Week 2014. Callum Bishop, Isabel Brown, Renee Warrior, James Munro, Joel Parsons, Tomas Mueller, Shaelyn Connor and Kyla Ward participated in a session where they heard how everything around us is designed. They were then set the challenge of designing something that would help in their own lives. Their ideas included a colour sorting wardrobe, a watch that helps you pay attention, a faster aeroplane, a dishwasher unloader, a hologram habitat, a robot that does your chores, a toaster that takes out your hot toast; and a machine to help you wake up in the morning. All the students enjoyed the opportunity to explore design, their work will be displayed on Saturday 5 April on the lawn of the Arts Centre Melbourne between 9-3pm. They will also be displayed at Scienceworks later in the year.

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**EASTER RAFFLE RESULTS**

Thank you to all who supported our Easter Raffle. The PTA raised **$1,940.00** and this money will be used towards the garden makeover during the school holidays.

**Congratulations to our winners,**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beverly Keenan</th>
<th>Rachael Clarke</th>
<th>Alexander Woodford</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Charlotte Satchwell</td>
<td>Sandra Glennon</td>
<td>Charlie Hines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Reburn</td>
<td>Melanie Stevens</td>
<td>Ang Wilske</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sue Geytenbeek</td>
<td>Bob Cooper</td>
<td>Bob Jones</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosalee Dunn</td>
<td>Cooper Dunne</td>
<td>Amy Bonnaci</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tamara Threlfall</td>
<td>Mark Lewis</td>
<td>Angela &amp; Dylan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Janine Hodgson</td>
<td>Kaitlyn Bott</td>
<td>Wal Wilske</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mackenzie Thomas</td>
<td>Breanna Bradley</td>
<td>R. Collins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicity Dobson</td>
<td>Abby Hilderbrand</td>
<td>Xavier Berry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chloe Glennon</td>
<td>Paula Satchwell</td>
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**Sunbury Downs College Discovery Night**

**Tuesday 6th May at 6:30pm**

Program 6:30pm—7:00pm: Principal’s Address

7:00pm—7:30pm: ACE Information Session

7:30pm—9:00pm: College Tours of Classrooms & Displays

Sunbury Down College, Mitchells Lane Sunbury– 9744 7366
How to talk more with your kids

The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to talk with kids from a young age is indisputable. Published by Michael Grose Presentations. All rights reserved.

For more ideas, support and advice for all your parenting challenges visit: www.parentingideas.com.au

If you were to focus on one thing to give your child an advantage then do what should come naturally – talk with them. The links between school achievement and parents’ ability and propensity to engage in conversation with kids from a young age is indisputable. The language stimulation they receive when they talk with parents is one factor. The language of first borns is generally more extensive and richer than their siblings who spend less time in one-on-one situations with a parent. But engagement in conversation with parents benefits kids in a far broader sense. It is trite to say that kids learn a great deal from their parents but, in fact they do when we talk with them.

In many ways it is through conversations that kids get a real sense of us and who we are. It is by talking with kids that we impart some of our knowledge, ideas, wisdom and thoughts as well as how we get a window into their worlds and how they think. Getting conversations going with kids can be a massive challenge. Busy schedules, homes designed for individual enjoyment rather than group living, and kids that clam up are some of the blockers to conversation that parents meet. So you may need to be a little cunning, a little proactive and a little inventive to get some chat going at home.

Here are five ideas to help you get more conversation going in your family:

1. Turn off the TV (and other screens). Most homes have a range of electronic screens that you compete with to get their attention. Don’t be afraid to take control of those screens and create a little conversational space. Start with a screen-free day each week or screen-free hour each day if you are a home full of screen junkies.

2. Turn on the TV (and other screens). If you can’t beat them, join them. Some television programs provide great conversation-al fodder particularly for older children and teens. This can range from “who’s going to win Australian Idol?”, “what happens to the winners of Australian Idol?” to “what is the point of Australian Idol?”

3. Have more mealtimes (with the TV off). The family that eats together talks together…or they shouldn’t. I have a theory that families with a strong food culture (i.e. they love food and value the whole eating experience) have strong bonds. So make mealtimes special and insist that kids sit until everyone finishes rather than they eat all their peas. Avoid turning mealtimes into food fights.

4. Move more. If sitting and chatting is not your child’s thing then try getting them up and moving. Boys will often talk when they walk or play so consider getting some action happening. When their hands are busy the tongues will often loosen up.

5. Try shoulder-to-shoulder parenting. Sitting together in a car, washing dishes and playing a game can provide opportunities for talk. Take the eye contact out of the equation and you may find the talk just flows with some kids. Every family has their own way of getting the talk happening. Figure out what works for you and make sure it happens. It seems to me that the best communication in families happens when no one is working at it BUT in busy modern families you do need to work at communication. That is the way of it. You have to work hard at family.
In Grade 3/4B we have been using the 'Daily 5' reading program to help us become wonderful, avid readers. We use the C.A.F.É strategies to improve our skills. C.A.F.É is an acronym for Comprehension, Accuracy, Fluency and Expanding Vocabulary. Below are some of the books we’ve been reading this term and our comments about ‘Daily 5’.

We like Daily 5 reading because “there are lots of different, fun and serious activities, we learn new things with each new book, we get to choose our own ‘Just Right’ books for independent reading, we learn new and interesting words, it helps us to become better readers, it makes us feel relaxed and happy, we can travel to new places by using our imagination, the menu activities help us to learn more about the book that we’re reading and it is exercise for our eyes”. Miss Brodrick loves the program because her students ask ‘when are doing reading today?’ when they enter the room.