Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to Week 10.

CONGRATULATIONS AND WELCOME

I would like to congratulate and welcome Mr Scott Staveley to Metella Road Public School as our new Deputy Principal. Mr Staveley has 23 years teaching experience, all in public schools in the Western Sydney Region. He was the Assistant Principal at Quakers Hill East PS from 1999-2011 and was Deputy Principal at The Meadows PS since start of 2012.

Mr Staveley has extensive experience in the leadership of Literacy, Numeracy and Learning Support / Student Welfare programs. He also has extensive involvement in school sport at school, zone, regional and state levels, as trainer for the NSWPSAA Australian Football team. Many parents may have seen Mr Staveley as the MC for the Blacktown Music Festival. We look forward to welcoming him at the beginning of Term 2.

WORKING BEE

Can you lend a hand? School staff and parents will be gathering this Sunday 7 April from 8.00am—12.00pm at school to make our school safe and beautiful! Parents, students and friends are invited to help. Parents are welcome to bring their children, as teachers will be providing fun activities to allow parents to lend a hand.

Here are a list of tasks we will be taking on this Sunday and tools needed:

- clean up the nature garden (trim low branches etc) - pruning saw, gloves, hat and sun cream.
- gather branches/sticks to be mulched - gloves, hat and sun cream.
- spread mulch - shovels, rakes, wheelbarrows, gloves, hat and sun cream.
- prune hedges - pruning saw, gloves, hat and sun cream.
- water blast paths - water blaster, gum boots, hat and sun cream.
- clean drains - shovels, gloves, hat and sun cream.
- paint safety strip on stairs - masking tape(supplied by the school), paint brushes, hat and sun cream.
- whipper snip edges - whipper snipper, safety glasses, hat, sun cream, appropriate footwear.

If you are able to make it please meet under the Year 3-6 COLA at 8.00am on Sunday, see you there!

PRINCIPAL’S DISTINCTION AWARD

Laxsheshan J 4B
Christine J 5C
Hayley McL 5C

PARENT / TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Just a reminder that our Parent / Teacher interviews are to be held on 3 April beginning after school. Teachers will be conducting the interviews in their classrooms.
TERM 2 EXTRA STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

An extra staff development day has been added to Term 2, Tuesday 30 April. Schools have been provided with an extra staff development day (pupil free day) so that schools can prepare for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum. This means that in Term 2 this year Monday 29 and Tuesday 30 April, families will need to make alternate arrangements for their children.

.........Mr P. D’Ermilio
Principal

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

ANZAC CEREMONY

Our ANZAC Day Ceremony will be held on Friday, 12 April at 10.15am. Those students who belong to service organisations (Guides, Joeys, Scouts, Gifts / Boys Brigades) are invited to wear their uniforms on the day and be part of our Guard of Honour. Don’t forget that we need LOTS and LOTS of flowers for the arrangements. Flowers should be taken to the office on Friday morning.

.........Miss Wilson
Relieving Deputy Principal

STAGE 1 NEWS

Stage One can’t believe the end of Term One is fast approaching! The students have all settled into a routine wonderfully and have participated in many activities during this term including Harmony Day, Sports Mufti Day, the combined Scripture assembly and the Easter Hat Parade. What a busy term!

Stage One teachers are looking forward to Parent/Teacher Interview night. If you are unable to attend and wish to discuss the progress of your child please make an alternative appointment with the office.

During the holidays you can continue to assist your children with their education by ensuring they read on a daily basis. Keeping a holiday diary is also a great idea to help keep up with their writing. Mathematics can be a fun, real world experience through every day activities such as cooking, looking for signs and the use of money through shopping. Use every day mathematical language!

Have a safe holiday and keep up the great work Year One and Year Two!

.........Ms Cheung
Relieving Assistant Principal

ICAS COMPETITIONS

Please note that we are no longer taking entries into these competitions. The closing date was last week. No late entries will be accepted.

LOST PROPERTY

We have a large supply of lost property in the Office. Items include jumpers, jackets, hats, lunch boxes and drink bottles and towels. If you have lost anything please come and check as items will be disposed of on the last day of term. Please take the time in the school holidays to check that your children’s clothing is clearly labelled.

UNIFORM SALES

Please remember that the weather is getting cooler now and you may want to get your winter uniforms ready for next term.

MONEY

Due to the end of term office procedures, NO money will be accepted on Thursday, 11 April or Friday, 12 April. Could all payments please be finalised before Wednesday, 10 April at 11.00am.

.........Mrs Ryan

PSSA NEWS

The summer PSSA competition games will be played as follows:

Friday, 5 April
AFL vs Pendle Hill PS @ Binalong Oval
Softball vs Darcy Rd PS @ Darling Street
T-Ball vs Warriors @ Parramatta Park
Newcombe Ball vs Pendle Hill PS @ Pendle Hill PS
Cricket vs Greens @ Daniel Street

Friday, 12 April
AFL vs Girraween PS @ Binalong Oval
Softball vs Westmead PS @ Darling Street
T-Ball vs Westmead @ Parramatta Park
Newcombe Ball vs Girraween PS @ Girraween PS
Cricket vs Darcy Rd PS @ Bathurst Street

.........Mr Calnan
PSSA Co ordinator

PARENTS AUXILIARY NEWS

We would just like to let you know that our Mother’s Day Stall will be held in Week 2 on Thursday, 9 May. The gifts will range in price from $2.00-$6.00. A flyer will be sent out next term to remind you when the stall is on.

If anyone is available on the day of the stall to help with selling, we would love to see you. The stall will be held in the morning from approximately 9.00am until 11.00am.

.........Parents Auxiliary

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KL: The students in KL have enjoyed their first term at school. They have worked hard throughout the term and have learnt many new and exciting things. KL would like to share some of their Term 1 highlights with you.

Aaliyah: I read a book with my buddy.
Abby: I like to play at the back field.
Abigail: I like to read books in the engine room.
Anissa: I write words on the whiteboard.
Arjun: We made Easter hats with our Year 6 buddies.
Bailey: I like to play basketball on the basketball court.
Harrison: We do sport with Mrs Wilkinson.
James: I like doing familiar reading.
Jessica: I had lunch with my buddy on Harmony Day.
Joseph: I like doing Science with Mr Hands.
Kye: I like going to the Computer Room.
Kylah: We go to the library with Mrs Gluchowska.
Luka: I made an apple tree.
Mansie: I like writing sentences in my book.
Michael: I play on the ipad.
Nabeshan: I made a red rocket.
Ryan: I like doing my homework.
Tyce: I borrow books from the library.
Walaria: I play under the COLA with my friends.

KG: Mrs Boase is most proud of KG’s effort in class time, borrowing in Library, making new friends and remembering school rules this term! Reading groups have been impressive, as our children are now focusing on their work and literacy games.

Term 1 has been demanding for our little ones! So many things to learn, so many people to meet and yet they have settled in beautifully. Well done KG, you are GREAT! 😊
KA has been working hard this term in Literacy groups and are enjoying the group work activities. We enjoy playing Literacy games with the parent helpers and on the computers. We have also been getting better with counting and learning about the days of the week. We are thankful to our buddies who helped us make our beautiful Easter hats, which we loved parading at the Easter Hat Parade. We have had an interesting and fun term.

KA WOW! KA has had an amazing start to the year. We are learning how to read and write in the engine room and have settled in well to school life. We would like to thank the mum’s and dad’s who give up some of their time to help us during Literacy groups.

KA wanted to share what they like to do at school.
Ally: I like doing familiar read.
Ashr: I like writing on the whiteboards.
Amelia: I like to read books in the engine room.
Alexander: I like to play with my friends.
Arora: I like to play on the iPad.
Bailey: I like to write in the engine room.
Grace: I like to do craft.
Gabriella: I like to make new friends.
Jay: I like to play Dinosaur Dance.
James: I like to learn my letters playing Dinosaur Dance.
Jessica: I like to play at the COLA.
Kyle: I like to play with my friends at the backfield.
Levi: I like to read in the engine room.
Levi: I like to play with my friends in the playground.
Liam: I like to play with my friends.
Maheswari: I like to write in the engine room.
Makenzie: I like to make new friends.
Pranav: I like to play with my friends at the COLA.
Raven: I like Science with Mr Hands.
Sierra: I like to play with my friends at the backfield.
William: I like to play Dinosaur Dance.

KB have had a wonderful start to Kindergarten. This term we have had lots of fun participating in all of the literacy activities during L3 groups. We are getting very clever at learning how to read and write.

We have some fantastic mums who have come in to help out with group activities this term - thank you so much to our parent helpers ... KB really appreciate it and the groups work so much better with helpers! We have fun using the Envision Maths program and creating interesting and colourful art works in Visual Art lessons. We love having picnic lunches at every possible opportunity and learning all about our school in HSIE and Science lessons. Mrs Bratovic is very proud of how hard we are trying and how clever we are becoming at school. KB are brainy, bright, beautiful, bubbly and brilliant :-)
Swimming against the parenting tide

Going against popular opinion, particularly when it belongs to a young person, takes some parenting steel. It helps if you are less intent on being popular with your young person and more intent on being respected.

Sometimes as a parent you need to swim against the tide of popular opinion - that is, what your kids and fellow parents think. Obviously, that takes some parenting steel.

It seems that you must do this a great deal when you are parenting teenagers. You may intuitively know what’s best for them. You are too young to go to that party! It’s just too risky! Yet you/ask an argument, or not being spoken to for a week if you stand your ground. It’s easy to give into young people to maintain your relationship, and to be liked.

But you don’t always need to be liked by your young person. However, you do need to be respected. Aim for respect, not to be liked, as they won’t always approve of your decisions.

Here’s the rub.

Respect often comes later... much later when they are older and understand that you were acting in their best interests. Respect is earned by treating young people respectfully; but also acting in their best interests, which often means swimming against the tide of popular opinion.

Here are 4 ideas to help you swim against the tide and maintain the respect you need to influence young people:

1. Double up: If your partner is available, then you need to present a united front on many issues with young people, particularly around risk-taking activities and relationships. It’s plain hard work alone. Single parents need to draw strength from friends, relatives and other colleagues.

2. Call in the troops: If in doubt, speak to other parents and find out what they think and what they are doing with their young people. It’s easier to stand your ground when you know what other parents think and do. Kids use the ‘divide and conquer’ principle a lot when they want to manipulate their parents.

3. Refer to a respected adult: Sometimes it’s useful to call on a respected ally in your child’s life. Often they’ll listen to others but not to you, even though the message is the same. Even if you can’t call on a respected adult ally in person, you can bring them into the picture saying, “What do you think your uncle would say?” Most of the time, they’ll know!

4. Use one point communication: When teens want to engage in an argument, rather than a conversation, or they want to continue a fight way after negotiation has finished, use one point communication to get your message across. That is, don’t respond and don’t make eye contact with them. Looking away robs them of their power. I’m not suggesting we harm your relationship, but you do need to use assertive communication techniques to help you stand your ground.

Remember: aim to be respected by teenagers and children as an adult who has their long-term best interests at heart, not necessarily to be liked, which is short-term and not always the wisest strategy.