Welcome to Another Great Year at KEPS!
We are looking forward to seeing our students return with great big smiles on their faces - ready to commence another year of schooling with us.

Our New School Leaders
Congratulations to Acacia R and Joshua W our 2016 Captains and our new Ministers: Jonte V and Sally J, Kallan P and Lachlan W

School Organisation
We are expecting to have 9 classes this year but this will depend on the new enrolments. To minimise disruption we will be placing children in their 2015 classes for the first three school days of the term. We are hoping to have their 2016 placements finalised by Tuesday, week two. During the first three days, students will have technology lessons, Positive Behaviour for Learning lessons and will be given information about the new Behaviour Code and award system. Teachers will also be testing students to determine their reading levels.

2016 Teachers and School Organisation
We are welcoming new staff this year. Miss Annelise Dixon was successful in our graduate merit selection process, Mrs Christie Ashton, an experienced teacher is moving from Sydney to join us, Ms Christine Vial is an experienced teacher who has relocated from the Central Coast and Ms Trudy Miles-Gavin, who did her prac teaching with us, will be joining us replacing Mrs Young for first term and possibly longer. Mrs Bronwyn Mangan has joined our permanent teaching staff after being successful in the merit selection process late 2015.

Mrs Tracy Stevens will be our reading Recovery teacher this year, Mrs Lollback library and technology and Mrs Chow the Learning and Support teacher as well as principal for the two days that I work in the Principal, School Leadership position.
Once again, we have high quality teaching staff on board to work with your children.

We have a new canteen manager, Lil, who is an experienced chef so we are expecting that Lea’s reputation of providing great quality, healthy food will be continued.

Additional funding for schools, previously known as the Gonski funding is enabling us to continue our Quicksmart, Stage three extension maths and Early Explorers (Tuesday) programs this year.

While we have a number of multi year/stage classes this is not a concern as teachers now teach to the academic level of each student rather than the ‘year’ that they are in. This allows us to address each student’s strengths and focus on areas of need. Socially, the students have many opportunities to mix with other students.

Assembly time and will remain at 12.15pm on Fridays.

Class teachers will notify you about individual class routines in a note that will be issued with Tuesday February 9’s newsletter.
**Book Requirements**

All students will need a Home Reading Diary/Senior Diary. These books will be available for purchase from Monday 1 February at the front office (EFTPOS is available for amounts over $10). You are able to send payment in with your child, please complete the slip at the end of this newsletter to send in with payment.

Students will need to purchase a subscription to Mathletics to enable them to use this in their maths classes and at home.

Classroom teachers may decide to request other books. And this will be notified if it occurs.

**Pricing:**

- Junior Home Reading Diary (K – Yr 4) $4.00
- Senior Diary (Year 5 & 6) $5.50
- Mathletics Access $10.00

Kindergarten, Year 1 & Year 2 also have a pack available which includes the text books (not the Mathletics access) and additional items required in the classroom:

- Kindergarten Pack $48.00
  - 4 HB Lead Pencils
  - 1 Pack of 12 Twist Crayons
  - 6 Glue Sticks
  - 4 Black Whiteboard Markers
  - 1 Headphones
  - 2 A4 Size Scrapbooks
  - 1 Art Smock (to cover clothes when painting)
  - 1 A4 Size Whiteboard
  - 1 Pencil Case
  - 1 Junior Home Reading Diary

Year 1 & 2 Pack $27.00

- 5 Glue Sticks
- 3 Whiteboard Markers
- 1 Set of Coloured Twist Crayons
- 1 Headphones
- 1 Junior Home Reading Diary

Every student will need to pay for Mathletics access this year so that they can access this program both for set activities in class and at home. The school is subsidising this cost, so parents will only need to pay $10 a child.

**Voluntary School Contributions**

While the payment of ‘fees’ is voluntary in public schools, we really rely on support from our families to offer all of the little ‘extra’s that we do - small things such as ringing you if your child has forgotten something for their day, providing additional library resources or classroom equipment.

The voluntary school contributions for 2016 are: $62 for one student or $ 118 for a family. We are happy to accept term instalments of $15.50 (1 student) or $ 29.50 (a family).

We accept EFTPOS or if you wish to send the money in the note for this payment is at the back of the newsletter.

We appreciate donations of hand soap dispensers and tissues as the children churn through these over the year. Please consider sending these items in to assist us in having them readily available in classrooms.

**Keeping You Informed and Sharing the Great Things That Happen at KEPS.**

We use a number of methods to keep you up to date but parents do need to activate accounts on Skoolbag, Facebook and ClassDojo if they want to be informed of their child’s behaviour, progress or school events.

**Skoolbag**

If you have not already done so, please download the Skoolbag app on your phone or bookmark the site on your computer. We use this to send out alerts and reminders about school and class events. Class teachers will use this to notify parents if the students have special assignments they are working on.

To get this app go into your phone app store (ie. play store or iTunes etc) search ‘Kempsey East Public School’. When the school name appears download and install this free app to your device.

If you already have the program installed, please remember to change your preferences for alerts so that you get the correct class, stage, team and whole school alerts. By the end of week two we will have the new classes set up and ready for you to join on Skoolbag.
School Website
www.kempseyest-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Mrs Mangan keeps this site up to date with school information and photos of school events. It is worthwhile checking the site as you may see photos of your child and their friends enjoying school life. The school calendar is also on this site. Parents will notice that we do not use surnames on items about students. This protects student privacy in our digital age.

‘Like’ us on Facebook
Kempsey East Public School now has a Facebook page which is another way we can keep parents up to date with coming events and photos of the students. Search ‘Kempsey East Public School’ and be sure to choose the ‘Education’ page with our logo as the picture.

ClassDojo
We will be using this to inform parents of how their child is progressing through the Award system and if their child receives a Red Card, or a Behaviour Notification (previously a contract or support desk). Information on how to join the site and parent passwords will be provided from the end of week 2. The school will not be sending paper copies of notifications this year. Parents who wish to be informed of their child’s behaviour at school will need to activate an account that sends instant notifications to them.

School Attendance
Children must attend school every day that it is open unless they have a reasonable excuse eg illness or they are granted leave by the principal.

New attendance laws mean the parents of children who are regularly late to school or have many unexplained absences will be prosecuted if the attendance of their child does not improve in twenty days after the Home School Liaison Officer takes on the child’s case. Absences must be explained within three days.

We have tried to make attendance explanations easier for you. You can send in a note, use a page from the attendance fridge pad that we provide, ring us or call in. You can also organise to send an email, use Skoolbag or text message but before you use this to send in notifications you do need to complete the form included with today’s notes.

Please remember to always explain your child’s absence promptly.

Families who have used all of their fridge magnet notepads can have a new one sent home if the request form at the end of the newsletter is completed and returned.

Newsletter
We are looking at going to a digital only newsletter from Term 2, 2016 unless parents specifically request a paper copy. With most parents able to access it digitally, on the website or through Skoolbag, there is no longer a reason to justify the expense of a paper copy being sent each week.

Arrival and Departure from school
Teachers will release children to parents at 3.15pm. We ask that parents wait for children at the gates or a teacher will walk the children to the gates/ lunch area each day. Parents are asked not to take children until the teacher releases them. Only children catching busses stay in the assembly area.

Children will be released from the northern & southern gates. We request that parents and children do not use the centre gate as this is used to organise children safely onto busses or the main entry gate to the office.

Drop Off Zone
This continues to be a source of frustration and complaints from parents as people do not use the zone correctly. Please be considerate when using this zone. By law you cannot turn off or leave your car, just remain in the zone while children leave or enter your car. The quicker you move in and out of the zone, the easier it is for others to use it. Moving to the front of the zone is a courtesy that ensures space for the next parent.

Teachers will have the students who are ready to leave lined up along the fence near the drop off zone so parents can see if their child is there. If they are not there we ask that you return in a few minutes rather than park and block up the zone.

If you ask someone else to collect or drop off your children, please inform them about using the drop off zone.

We suggest that you do not arrive in this zone until 3.20pm-3.25pm. That way they will be ready to get into the car when you arrive and you will not need to circle the block waiting for them.
Early arrivals and departures
If you wish to take your child prior to 3.15 pm, when school legally finishes, you will need to obtain an ‘early leavers’ form at the front office and then present this slip to the class teacher.

Class rolls are marked at 9.15 am each morning. If your child is not present for the roll mark, an adult must bring them in to the front office where they can be signed in. If the child arrives late to class and does not go through the office then they may be marked as being absent all day.

Please ensure that your morning routines are organised to ensure that children arrive on time for school. Even 15 minutes late each day means that they miss vital instructions and learning for the day.

Homework
Parents will be able to monitor their child’s reading homework completion simply by signing their home reading diary. Homework will be set each week and reading is expected for 5 nights a week. Teachers will not automatically issue a note if homework is incomplete. Students who have an excellent record of homework completion will be acknowledged at the Assembly of Excellence each term.

If you do have any concerns about your child’s work, please contact the school and organise an appointment with their teacher.

Meet The Staff Function
This year we are planning an informal event early in the year that will allow parents and carers to meet the school staff. Information about this will be in the newsletter.

Sport
Each year the school nominates to participate in a number of PSSA sports. The sports nominated are determined each year by the skills and interests of current students and teacher interest and expertise. Stage 3 students are given the priority in selection and it is very unusual for younger students to be involved. This year we have nominated for Boys’ and Girls’ cricket, basketball, soccer and touch football and netball. The school will participate in non PSSA Rugby 7s and League 7s if available.

Healthy Food
Please do not send junk food to school for your children to eat. We have a focus on healthy food and expect that children eat only fruit before school not fill up on chips, cordial and prepacked sugar bars. All classes allow students to have a water bottle in class (water only!) and have a time each day where the children can eat fruit and vegetables (not messy ones).

Food Allergies
It is vitally important that you inform the school if your child is anaphylactic or is at risk of a severe allergic reaction. We also need to know about any other allergies. All staff have been trained in the management of anaphylaxis and the administration of epi pens. We keep an epi pen here in case of an emergency.

We have some children who are anaphylactic. This means that contact with food or substances that they are allergic to can be life threatening. For this reason we ask that no food that contains nuts is bought to school and that you also reinforce with your child our message of not sharing food with others.

Food that is sent in to be shared eg party foods and birthday cakes must have a list of ingredients on the item.

Teachers conduct a lunch box check twice a term. If products with nuts are found, a note will be placed in the lunchbox to remind parents not to pack these items for school.

Uniform
Labelling all pieces of your child’s uniform will reduce the amount of items ‘lost’ at school. It is surprising to see how many items of clothing are left around the playground each day.

Canteen
We need volunteers to keep our canteen open. We welcome mums, dads, grandparents, friends and relations. Please complete the canteen roster form if you can assist. Being rostered once a month will keep us operational. Your children will love it the day you work in the canteen.
School Information Folder
We have produced a School Information Folder which replaces the previous Information booklet.

This folder is issued to all 2016 Kindergarten families and new families to the school. If you would also like a copy of this please complete the tear off slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to school.

Student Information
This is so important to have up to date. Please ensure that your contact information is always current - particularly your mobile phone details which often tend to change. Being able to contact you is critical if your child is ill or hurt. Please also ensure you inform us about any current legal, health or care matters concerning your child. There is a form to complete which will accompany this newsletter.

Cars
It is a constant concern that some parents are putting both their own and other people’s children at risk by pulling into bus zones - parking near or on the crossing, double parking or parking on the other side of the road and calling children to run across the road. Please also remind your partners/friends/ carers who may be driving your children that it is important to follow the road rules and not endanger our children.

Providing More Learning Opportunities
Last year we introduced an afternoon session where year 3-6 students could choose to participate in and try a new activity. As this was so successful we will be running Interest Electives for students from Years 2-6 on Tuesday afternoons for two terms this year. Last year we offered activities such as dance, healthy cooking, sculpture, golf, yoga, karate and drumming.

To be able to conduct these classes we will be relying on parents and community members sharing some of their expertise with us. We will be surveying our parents for ideas for the classes and also their willingness to come in and support the teachers with the activity. There is a lot of talent out there... we just need to bring it into school so we can teach our students new things... learning for life!

Dance Classes Before School
Breanna Maghazey-Hayes is again happy to run dance classes before school. This gives students the opportunity to learn dance without parents having to run around after school. The cost will be $5 per session totalling - no refunds given for missed days. We are hoping to conduct a Year 3-6 class and a Year K-2 class. I would especially like to see a boys’ breakdance group formed this year. More information will be posted in next week’s newsletter along with a permission note.

Swimming Carnival
This is on Tuesday 9 February for all Year 3-6 students and some Year 2 swimmers. The note is accompanying today’s newsletter, and as it is soon, it is important that you complete and return the note asap.

School Policies
There are many Department of Education and Training and school policies that determine how we operate. If you would like information about any of these- please contact us.

Kindergarten Completion Time
Kindergarten students may be collected each day at 2.45pm by parents or nominated caregivers until 12th February when they will finish at 3.15pm. Bus students will need to remain in class until the end of the day.

Kindergarten parents who are collecting their children at 2.45pm are asked to wait for them under the trees in the lunch area (behind the canteen) and a teacher will bring the children to them, rather than parents coming to the classroom to collect children. Parents sitting outside of the classrooms tend to distract the children while they are in class.

All parents are asked not to wait for children outside the classrooms, but to wait either at the gates or under the trees in the lunch area.

School Photos
We have booked these for Wednesday 10 August. More information will be sent out as this date approaches.
P&C
We have a small, but very keen group of parents who meet monthly to discuss school matters and ways to support our school. Please consider finding the time to join this important group. The date for the first meeting is Wednesday February 17 at 5.30pm at the school.

QUEST Leadership Program
During term 1 Year 6 students can apply to become a Quest Leader. If successful with their application they then will undergo QUEST training prior to being inducted as a QUEST Leader at the end of term 1. These school leaders will have specific responsibilities and the program will develop their leadership skills.

Our Quest Leaders conduct playground activities for our younger students every day.

SRC Elections
These will be held from 8-10th February. SRC members will be presented with their badges 12.15pm Friday 19 February.

Sporting Schools
This is a federally funded sport program to encourage children to be more active. Mr Henry will again be running this two afternoons a week this year. More information will be in the newsletter.

General Permission Note and Information Forms
Again this year we will ask that all parents complete a general permission note that will cover any local walking and bus trips. This will mean that a note will not have to be returned for trips such as walking to the cross country or school presentation day.
Parents will still be notified about all events by either newsletter or by an individual note.
All of the more major trips and excursions will still require a separate note.
We are also again requesting parents complete all of the notes that will be issued for each child. This provides us with current contact details, legal information etc.

Pre Loved Uniforms
The P&C will not be operating a clothing pool from the school but are considering having a uniform trading day where you can sell your uniforms. More information about this will be in the newsletter.

School Excursions
We are currently finalising the details but at this time the Stage 2 excursion will be to Cascades Term 3 and cost approximately $350 and the Stage 3 will be term 4 at Myuna Bay which will be approximately $400.

Meet the Teachers and Disco Night
On the 10th February there will be a Back To School Disco – 5pm-6pm Yrs K-2, and 6pm-7pm Yrs 3-6. There will be a parent session on at the same time as the discos. This will be the opportunity for parents to meet their children’s new teachers. Information will also be given on how our new discipline and award system will operate this year. We will demonstrate ClassDojo and parents can download and set it up at the time. This is the method we will use to inform you of awards your children receive, if they have had a classroom warning or have been issued with a behaviour notification (old contracts and support desks).

New School Behaviour Code
This will commence from the beginning of the year. Students will work towards awards that will be issued each term in a special Assembly of Excellence. Students will accrue points for every day that they are at school and that there are no behaviour issues and for each CoRR card that they earn. This will lead to an Excellent Behaviour Award issued each term. Students will need to earn a minimum of three Excellent Behaviour Awards and other term awards to progress to the annual School Award and Principal’s Badge awards. Other awards issued each term will be for Perfect Behaviour - no classroom timeouts (red cards), behaviour notifications or suspensions, an Excellent Attendance award - 98% or more attendance, an Excellent Homework Award for regularly completing homework, an Excellent Home Reading Award for any student who has read for more than 50 nights that term.

Parents will be able to see how many points their child has earned through ‘Great Behaviour’ each week and any CoRR cards received simply by joining up to ClassDojo when the teacher sends home the invite information.

By joining parents will also be notified when their child receives a classroom timeout (the old red card). If a child receives a Behaviour Notification
a photo of this will be sent via ClassDojo to the parent.

An information night will be held on 10 February while the disco is on. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the class teachers and also the new behaviour system will be explained and and ClassDojo will be demonstrated to parents.

Vale Jerry Egan
Our condolences go to the Egan family after the sudden death of Jerry.
Jerry was a much loved, polite and very popular student. He held the position as a Minister in 2014 and even though he had moved on to Melville HS, Jerry never missed greeting a staff member at the gate as he waited for his school bus each day.
We will always miss his smile and sense of humour.

Please contact us
If you are unsure of anything or have concerns please do not hesitate to talk to us. We can be contacted on ph 65624927, fax 65628979 or by email kempseyest-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au.

Kindergarten Requirements for 2016
Kindergarten packs available for purchase from the front office for $48. Alternatively, if you would like to purchase your own supplies, students will require:
- 4 2B Pencils
- 1 Pack of 12 Twist Crayons
- 6 Glue Sticks
- 4 Black Whiteboard Markers
- 1 Headphones
- 2 A4 Size Scrapbooks
- 1 Art Smock (to cover clothes when painting)
- 1 A4 Size Whiteboard
- 1 Pencil Case

The Kindergarten pack available at the school also contains the Home Reader. This will be available for separate purchase from the school at the start of 2016 if you choose not to purchase the Kindergarten pack.

Kindergarten children should also carry spare underwear in their bags each day.
All items must be labelled with child’s name please

Year 1 & 2 Requirements for 2016
Year 1 & 2 packs are now available from the front office for $27. Alternatively, if you would like to purchase your own supplies, students will require:
- 5 HB Lead Pencils
- 5 Glue Sticks
- 3 Whiteboard Markers
- 1 Set of Coloured Markers
- 1 Headphones

The Year 1 & 2 pack available at the school also contains the Home Reader. This will be available for separate purchase from the school at the start of 2016 if you choose not to purchase the Year 1 & 2 pack.

These items need not be new, items left from last year are quite acceptable and may be replaced later in the year as needed.
All items must be labelled with child’s name please

Year 3 – 6 Requirements for 2016
- 1 30cm ruler (not metal)
- 1 Art shirt
- 1 Liquid soap
- 1 Library bag
- 1 Pair safety scissors
- 1 USB stick
- 1 Box of Whiteboard Markers
- 1 Earphones

Each Term:
- 1 Small pencil case containing:
  - 6 HB pencils – to be replenished if required
  - 2 Blue biros
  - 2 Red biros
  - 1 Eraser
  - 1 Pencil sharpener
  - 1 Basic set of coloured pencils
  - 1 Glue stick (not liquid glue)
  - 1 Set coloured crayons– Texta zoom twist crayons are very good
  - 1 Felt Tip Fine Black Artline Pen

These items need not be new, items left from last year are quite acceptable and may be replaced later in the year as needed.
All items must be labelled with child’s name please
PAYMENTS FOR TEXT BOOKS

Child Name

Class

Kinder to Year 4 Qty

Years 5 to 6 Qty

Online Mathletics Access $10.00  ___

Online Mathletics Access $10.00  ___

Home Reader $4.00  ___

Senior Diary $5.50  ___

Kindergarten Pack $48.00  ___

Year 1 Pack $27.00  ___ (limited packs available)

Year 2 Pack $27.00  ___ (limited packs available)

Payment Method:

Cash: Amount Enclosed $_______________

Cheque: Total Amount $_______________

Credit Card: Please complete below

I authorise for Kempsey East Public School to charge my Credit Card for the following text books:

Total amount to be deducted $ _____________________________

Card Type: Visa ( ) Mastercard ( )

Card Number ________________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Expiry _______ / _______

CCV ________________

Name on Card ________________________________________________

Signed _____________________________________________ Date ____ /____ /____

VOLUNTARY SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

Child Name

Class

Individual Contribution $62 per student per year ($15.50 per term)

Family Contribution $118 per year ($29.50 per term)

Payment Method:

Cash: Amount Enclosed $_______________

Cheque: Total Amount $_______________

Credit Card: Please complete below

I authorise for Kempsey East Public School to charge my Credit Card for the for the school fees:

Total amount to be deducted $ _____________________________

Card Type: Visa ( ) Mastercard ( )

Card Number ________________ ____________ ____________ ____________

Expiry _______ / _______

CCV ________________

Name on Card ________________________________________________

Signed _____________________________________________ Date ____ /____ /____

A receipt will be sent home with your child.

ATTENDANCE NOTE PAD

I require an attendance notepad to be sent home with my child:

Child Name

Signed ___________________ Date ___/___/___

CANTEEN ROSTER FORM

I would like to volunteer for the school canteen.

Name ______________________________________________

Contact Number: _____________________________________

Available Days:

Wednesday    Thursday    Friday

Signed _____________________________________

Date ___/____/___

School Information Folder

I would like to receive a School Information Folder.

Student Name ____________________________

Class ______

This will be sent home with your child.

Signed _____________________________________

Date: ___/___/___