Welcome Back!

The first days and weeks of school bring butterflies to everyone’s stomach—students, staff and families, as we settle back into routine. The children have returned to school excited and curious, and have brought positive attitudes to make a great start. Of course the transition from holidays to the working school environment brings about challenges as we all adjust to staying focused, working with our peers, and doing our very best.

At Kulpi we are very grateful for the air conditioning in each classroom, as the heat saps enthusiasm very quickly! Imagine the children of days gone past, coming in red faced and puffing to sit in a hot and stuffy room. We are so grateful to work in the cool and there are no excuses about being uncomfortable!

A special welcome to our five new students—Aliyah, Ryan and Zara in Prep, Carmen (Year One) and Morgan (Year 5). Every new student adds richness to the diversity of our student body.

It’s really important in these early days that children learn the routines that make school operate smoothly. We have practised lining up, listening skills, group etiquette, and how to move between classrooms quickly and safely. As we have so many stairs it’s important to know how to get up and down safely too. If all of these behaviours are automatic children move quickly and easily from one session to the next. As normal, staff rotate through classes so that all children work with the teacher each day. We have 16 students spread across five classes and a minimum of three staff (a teacher and two aides) each day so that children receive as much individual attention in small groups as possible.

Parents are partners in their children’s learning and are always welcome to either join us in classes, or speak with me about their child’s progress. On the 15th of February we have our first P & C Meeting, and I’d encourage all parents and community members to feel welcome to be a part of the group. The school has grown because your input is valued and the children know that their families support their school. In addition, we always enjoy a cuppa and afternoon tea together!

Everybody counts at Kulpi :)

Rosita Lever
Uniform Shop Co-Ordinator

We have new stock of school shirts ($18) - just arrived. Payment for uniforms is to Mrs Jull (who has kindly stepped in as our Uniform Co-ordinator) please, as the uniforms are sold by the P and C, not the school. Mrs Jull appreciates the correct change in a named envelope, and is available most days before and after school. Please remember that 2016 is the last year for children to wear previous models of school uniforms.

The first P and C Meeting for the year is on Monday the 15th of February, at 2.45pm, in our senior classroom. Everyone welcome!

Agenda items include:
- excursions for the year
- P and C Budget
- paving the entrance pathway
- building our school community

We look forward to a positive and productive year working together.

ADMINISTRATION DAYS 2016

Mrs Ehrich, our Administration Officer, is working this year at Kulpi on Tuesdays 8.15am—2.45pm and Fridays from 8.15am—3.15pm.

Thanks Jim!

Our thanks to Jim for taking such great care of the school gardens and chickens during the school holidays. Jim has donated an enormous amount of time to water plants and feed/care for the poultry.

In combination with the work of Mark Kruger our Grounds Officer the grounds are looking great, despite the hot weather.

There are lots of chillies ready for picking in the school garden if anyone would like to help themselves!
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 2</th>
<th>Week 3</th>
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| **Watermelon:**  
Labelling parts of the melon  
Understanding the lifecycle  
Health benefits of watermelon  | **Eating and Cooking**  
Watermelon as part of recipes |

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<tr>
<th>Week 4</th>
<th>Week 5</th>
<th>Week 6</th>
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| **Rockmelon:**  
Labelling parts of the melon  
Understanding the lifecycle  
Health benefits of rockmelon  | **Eating and Cooking**  
Rockmelon as part of recipes  | **Honeydew melon:**  
Labelling parts of the melon  
Understanding the lifecycle  
Health benefits of honeydew melon |

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 7</th>
<th>Week 8</th>
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</table>
| **Eating and Cooking**  
Honeydew melon as part of recipes  | **Melon fruit salad**  |

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**Peranga Vintage Festival & Market Day**  
**Saturday 19th March**  
**8.30am to 3.00pm**

**BRING YOUR OLD MACHINERY & TRACTORS FOR DISPLAY IN THE PARK**

- Slow Tractor Races  
- Market stalls  
- Mystery visitors  
- BBQ lunch

**OFFICIAL OPENING OF PERANGA PIONEERS’ PARK**

For information and details phone:  
Barry Taylor – 0419642503 or 46928131  
Gary Deakin – 46928137

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**Absenteeism**

Thank you for making school attendance a priority for your children in 2016, as every day counts.

If your child is absent, please ring the school (4692 8239) and leave a message on the answering machine if there is no answer.

Note that if children are absent for more than 10 days, parents have a responsibility to submit an ‘Application for Exemption from Compulsory Schooling’. This is a legal requirement. When a student is absent, or plans to be absent, for more than 10 consecutive school days for any reason, parents must comply with their obligations in respect to compulsory schooling or compulsory participation by either:

- Seeking an exemption from their obligation, or  
- By negotiating with the principal to make an alteration to a student’s educational program or  
- By seeking a flexible arrangement for the student.

Please see me if you have any questions about this.

Rosita Lever
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Behaviour</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 1</td>
<td>Everywhere</td>
<td>Be a listener</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Be the best participant that I can be</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Be on time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Ask for help</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 5</td>
<td></td>
<td>Be organised</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 6</td>
<td>In the classroom</td>
<td>Participate fully</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 7</td>
<td></td>
<td>Listen to others when they speak</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 8</td>
<td>Outside</td>
<td>Learn new games and activities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>Develop social skills</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Phone calls**

It would be sincerely appreciated if phone calls to school could be restricted to before 8.30am, and after 2.30pm, so that we minimize the distractions and interruptions to our classes. If you call and connect with the answering machine, please leave a short message and we will get back to you as quickly as possible. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

**Hats at School**

Children are asked to wear their hats every day at school as part of our Sun Smart policy. If you wish your child to leave their hat here, we have hooks where they can remain safely until the next day.

When purchasing a hat for your child it would be appreciated if you could choose a royal blue wide brimmed bucket type, or a hat with a toggle to help keep it on their head, thank you.

**School Photos: Date Claimer**

This year school photos will be taken on the 17th March, with Brian Dittman from Naturalite Studio. Further details available closer to the date.
Lost in concentration

It’s more challenging than ever to be present with our kids, and so easy to get lost in concentration on a device. Here are 5 tips to really impact and make the most of every opportunity you have with your kids.

I can’t help but admire my young colleague Sonia, mother of a 4-year-old boy and a seven-year-old girl. She is an avid user of social media and other electronic devices, but she is disciplined enough to set them aside when she is with her kids. Sonia chooses to focus her attention on her children, so she limits her use of communication devices to the times when she is alone – which she admits is less often than she’d like.

Electronic devices such as tablets and mobile phones are ever present. They are heaps of fun, the source of so much knowledge and a great way to stay in touch with others. The flip side is that their hypnotic effect is powerful so that frequently all our concentration is directed at them rather than our kids. When this happens you’ll more than likely miss some wonderful opportunities to really impact your child.

There are five BIG opportunities available to you as a parent if you, like Sonia, choose to be in the moment when you have children.

When you are fully present you can:

1. **Build their language**
   Recently, I saw a mother walking side by side with a young toddler playing a simple language game. She would make a sound with her mouth and her young son would mimic her. She changed or added to the sounds and her son tried to replicate the sounds. This is language building at its most natural and finest, and wouldn’t have happened if this mother was on the mobile phone rather than being present with her child. Whether you are with a toddler, primary aged child or a teen the language building opportunities are endless. You just have to focus on the one you are with and let things happen naturally.

2. **Teach your children about their world**
   Most children are naturally curious and will ask lots of questions. “Why do dogs bark?” “Why is the sun round?” “Where do babies come from?” Yes, some are simple, some are hard to answer and some you are just not ready for. But it’s through these simple interactions that you become your child’s first and most important teacher. My hunch is that most kids will stop asking these questions of you if your attention is focused elsewhere, such as on a mobile phone or other electronic device.

3. **Impact their thinking**
   Influential British educator Charles Des Forges says, “If you want to influence your child’s thinking then you need to talk to him. If parents want more influence then they need to talk more to their children.” According to Des Forges it’s through the conversations that parents have with their children that they impact the way they think, as well as influence their values. Nothing kills personal conversation with a child or young person like a mobile device.


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... Lost in concentration ...

Build relationships
Relationships are built through common interest, good intent and respectful behaviour. I can think of no better reason for being in the moment with your child than the opportunity it presents to build some common interest and rapport. Time spent giving attention to your child is like putting money in the bank for the future. You never know when you are going to withdraw some of the deposits that you’ve made, so it’s reassuring to know that you’ve made plenty of deposits of goodwill to draw on, particularly in the tricky teenage years.

Build memories for you
As a parent of adult children I now treasure the memories of times I was fortunate to have spent with them as young children. It’s strange how these memories resurface at the most unexpected time. Recently, I was in a supermarket and I remembered the time when I enthusiastically asked my youngest, who was three at the time, to get the box of cereal with the big red K. Off she went feeling all important and returned with a triumphant smile armed with a box of dog food. “Thanks darling. Nearly!” was my reply desperate not to quell the enthusiasm to help that only a three year old can have.

Yes, there are million memories such as this available to parents who are willing to focus attention on the children rather than be distracted by the lure of communication devices.

As a parent you have competing demands on your time, and the allure of communication technology can be overwhelming. However, as Sonia is so aware, the time for parents to really impact on kids is limited so you want to make the most of every opportunity you have with them.

The key to positively influencing your kids, building strong relationships and building enough fond memories to last a lifetime is to make sure that your mind is where your body is and be fully present when you are with your kids.

Michael Grose

FREE back to school health check for kids!
12, 13 and 14 January 2016

Foot checks
- Footwear and orthotic advice
- Foot/ankle pain
- Heel pain
- Knee pain

Vision screening
- Squinting
- Headaches/dizziness
- Difficulty concentrating

Nutrition assessments and dietary advice
- Fussy eater
- Healthy lunch box tips
- Allergies or intolerances

Education and development assessments
- School readiness
- Reading ability

Registration essential
Phone 3138 9777 to register or for further information.

www.healthclinics.qut.edu.au
44 Musk Avenue, Kelvin Grove QLD 4059