**Principal’s message**

It has been another busy week this week and it’s amazing how quickly the term is flying by already.

On Monday we are heading over to Millfield Public School for a session on ‘Enviromentors’ that is being put on by the local council. We hope to learn lots about composting and how we can use this knowledge to help our school gardens grow. On that note, the students have already started learning about gardening and you can read more about this in Father Graham’s new newsletter section Chaplain’s Chatter.

On Friday 28th February I will be heading over to Kurri Kurri TAFE for a principal’s meeting as part of the Cessnock Community of Great Public Schools (CCGPS). I am looking forward to finding out more about the programs and initiatives that our students will be involved in during the upcoming year.

Miss Elsley will be coming in on a Wednesday this term while I work with Trudy and other people on administration tasks in the office. Please feel free to say hi to Kierrin when you see her. Over the past couple of weeks she has been getting to know the students of Wollombi and it’s great to have her in our school.

Just a quick note regarding student absences. If a child is absent from school a parent/carer is responsible for writing a note to the school to explain the absence within a period of 7 days. If a note is not received the child’s absence is marked as ‘unexplained’. If your child arrives at school later than 9am or you collect your child earlier than 3pm you will need to fill in an early leavers/late note from the office. These are marked as partial enrolments in the roll system.

Have a great week - Michelle Murphie

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### What’s happening?

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<th>Week</th>
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<th>Activity</th>
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<td>Mon 3 Mar</td>
<td>Enviromentors – Compost Critters Millfield PS</td>
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<td>Tue 11 Mar</td>
<td>School photos</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fri 14 Mar</td>
<td>School Excursion – Wollombi Town Walk</td>
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### School Photos

School photo envelopes were sent home Wednesday. Photoworx are again taking our photos for this year. Please make sure you return your child’s envelope on photo day with the correct money inside. This money is paid direct to the photographer and he does not bring any change with him. You can pay by credit card if you wish by filling out the details on the form. If you would like an envelope for a family photo please see Trudy.

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### School Banking

School banking will commence next week.
**Weekly award winners**

**Week 4:**
3-6: Delfin Hughes – creative thinking in movie making.

**Week 5:**
K-2: Cherokee Hughes – for learning to write her name.
3-6: Atticus Burless – for trying hard in maths.

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**Chaplain’s Chatter**

**WHAT DO YOU MEAN? YOU’RE GROWING MUNG BEAN SPROUTS?**

What a great idea for Mrs Murphie to introduce new columns into the Wollombi Whisper from the various parts of the School.

The Chaplain’s column is unusual because Fr Graham (that’s me) usually hangs around as someone to talk to but tends to stay in the background. However, as Mrs Harris was leaving and Mrs Murphie arrived, with the support of both Principals in the transition, I started to take over the role of coordinating the “Kids Matter” program.

“What’s that?” Did I hear you ask? “Kids Matter” has been slowly introduced in a number of Schools across Australia. It’s a program that develops resilience in students and is designed to develop a positive School Community. In Wollombi we had our first session this week. It consisted of 2 components: development and maintenance of the School Garden; and an opportunity to play some games that raise various actions that the students, as growing children, are learning as they grow up.

The first part this week saw all the children learning how to grow seeds (Mung Bean) without soil. They thoroughly enjoyed the experience and will watch and care for the seeds as they grow into sprouts. The second part was a game that helped all the children learn how to listen to other children then discover what lessons they could learn from that listening. What a whiz!

During the game time Miss Elsley held a similar event with the K-1 students.

On Wednesday 12\(^\text{th}\) of March, following the assembly, all the parents will have the opportunity for a cuppa and chat out in the garden. This will give all of us the chance to look at how “Kids Matter” is working out.

**So mark it in your diaries. Wednesday 12\(^\text{th}\) of March at 3pm after the assembly.**

And remember “Kids Matter” because kids matter.

Graham
**Library News with Mrs Baker**

**P.R.C.**
The children have been borrowing each week for the P.R.C. We are hoping that all children will complete the challenge this year.

**Art**
This term the children are looking at Surrealism in art. We have played Surrealist games such as Exquisite Corpse and created a Surrealist Collage. Surrealists enjoyed breaking rules in art and poetry. They enjoyed looking at the world in new ways.

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### Community news

**Introduction to Floristry**
- Want to work in Floristry or learn more about arranging flowers?
- Come along and join our introductory class at Kent East TAFE Campus.

**Details**
- This 4-week course will help you undertake small business or 2 day training and employability.
- Course times: Friday, Term 3 Week 5: 9.30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Learn Kent East TAFE Campus

**Contact details**
- For further information and registrations, please contact: Kent East Campus
  - 02 4739 8100
  - education@tafe.nsw.edu.au
  - Visit: www.tafernsw.edu.au

**“I love to help my students develop the skills they need for their careers.”**

**Google Search TAFE Call 131 255**

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**Café Works**
- Want to learn how to make great coffee and use alcoholic beverages?
- Extra training for bar classification starts at Kent East TAFE Campus.

**Details**
- This 3-week course will help you undertake small business or 2 day training and employability.
- Course starts: Monday, Term 3 Week 5: 9.30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
- Learn Kent East TAFE Campus

**Contact details**
- For further information and registrations, please contact:
  - Kent East Campus
  - 02 4739 8100
  - business@tafe.nsw.edu.au
  - Visit: www.tafernsw.edu.au

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Opportunities for and emphasis on environmental programs www.wollombi-p.schools.nsw.edu.au