A Superb Start To The Year!
Welcome to 2013.
It is going to be a great year at Bankstown South Infants School. I would like to say welcome to all our new students and their families and welcome back to those of you who were part of our school community last year.
I am so impressed with all our fantastic Kindergarten students who have settled so easily into their classes and routines. Yesterday I had the pleasure of spending time with the students in KH while they were doing their Maths lesson and they were all counting very well, as well as behaving beautifully and following the instructions the teachers were giving them.
Today I had the pleasure of visiting K/1B to observe their learning about short and tall. They were able to answer some very tricky questions that I gave them. The Kindergarten students then did some excellent pictures of Humpty Dumpty and all the kings horses and all the king’s men, while Year 1 were doing some exciting writing.
Year 1 and 2 are very settled and they are already working at a more sophisticated level than last year. They have been outstanding models of behaviour in the playground as well.
There are a number of exciting programs happening this year and I am going to talk about them throughout the newsletter. As well as that we have some new teachers this year who will be administering some of these exciting programs, so let’s meet them!
Mrs Simpson.
Principal

Introducing Our New Staff Members
Hello families of Bankstown South,
My name is Lisa Powys and I will be joining the team of teachers at your school for 2013. I graduated from the University of Western Sydney with a Masters in Primary Education in June 2012. I spent term 4 of last year at Bankstown South Infants School as the Creative Arts teacher, so a lot of the children are already familiar with me. This year I will be undertaking a support teacher role with a focus on literacy sharing my time between both of the fantastic Kindergarten classes. I am extremely excited to be at Bankstown South this year and am looking forward to working with your children and helping them to become the best learners they can be.
Kind Regards,
Lisa Powys.

My name is Brooke Gersback and I’d like to tell you a little bit about my background. I have recently graduated from the University of Western Sydney with a Masters Degree in Primary Education. I have a strong Creative Arts background, which includes the study of dance at a tertiary level, 23 years of competitive dance and experience as a Performing Arts choreographer, Creative Arts director and Principal/Director of my own personal dance academy. I am extremely excited about joining the staff at Bankstown South Infants School for 2013. It will be a great pleasure to be able to share my Creative Arts experience and expertise with each individual student this year through my role as the Creative Arts teacher and the Choir and Dance Trope coordinator.
Regards
Brooke Gersback
My name is Ashlea Curran and my role is to support classroom teachers in Mathematics through the use of technology. I have a Masters in Teaching, which I received through the University of Western Sydney. My strengths in mathematics and technology will allow me to assist classroom teachers in establishing multi-engaging experiences during Maths. My technology implementation will be primarily through the use of IPad’s and computers. Our technology implementation program has already begun and I look forward to further implementing technology in the classroom to enhance students learning experiences.

Preschool News
The children have settled into Preschool nicely and are already making new friends. They are becoming familiar with their new surroundings, and beginning to feel they belong here. A big thank you to all parents for helping us make a smooth transition with your children. Once again, as in previous years, we are full with 40 new enrolments. We look forward to an exciting and challenging year ahead.

Mrs Jill Long
Preschool Teacher
(Preschool - Yr2).

Student Safety
We are focusing very consistently on Student Safety at present. The staff and I are talking to the students regularly about staying “inside the yellow lines” that are clearly marked on the asphalt playground.

Parking is not allowed in the school grounds at any time as we only have sufficient space for staff and deliveries.

I realise parking is difficult and minimal in Stacey Street, however space is also available in Lancaster Street, Homedale Avenue and Boxley Crescent so please make use of these areas.

I would also ask parents to leave space outside the shop “Bumbalinas” as they require that space for their customers.

I would also ask all parents to enter and leave the school grounds through the small gate and NOT the Carpark Gate. This is for the safety of all students and younger brothers and sisters who are with you. It would also be appreciated if the small gate could be opened and shut by each family as they come and go so that younger siblings cannot run out of the gate and onto the road.

Our student’s safety is our combined responsibility and our highest priority so please adhere to these requests.

Mrs Curran
Principal
(Preschool - Yr2).

Meet the Teacher Afternoon
On Tuesday 19th February we will be holding Meet the Teacher Afternoon at school. It will start at 3:30 p.m. in your child’s classroom. Your child’s teacher will give you lots of information regarding the learning programs that will take place this year, homework routines and expectations, upcoming events, home reading routines and advice on making the year a successful learning experience for your son/daughter. Please come along. Students can wait in the library with Mrs Simpson.

(Preschool - Yr2).

School Sport
Our Sport Program will commence next Thursday 14th February. The lessons are conducted during class time by a specialist teacher from Sportspro. Students should wear their Sports Uniform and joggers on the day. The cost per student is $45:00 and should be paid in the office by Friday 22nd February. After this date students have to sit out until payment is made.

(Preschool - Yr2).

New Programs To Enhance Student Learning

1. Values Education
This year, within the Key Learning Area of Personal Development, Health P.E. we will be teaching Values Education. Students in all K-2 classes will be learning about the following values in the following weeks.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Value</th>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Co-operation</td>
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<td>Respect</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Participation</td>
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<td>Care</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Fairness</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Excellence</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Responsibility</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Tolerance and Inclusion</td>
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At each Monday morning assembly there will be a Principals award given out to one student in each class who has demonstrated this value in an exemplary way. It would be great if parents could discuss these values with their children as well.
awards can be counted towards a Bronze Award as well.  
(K-2 Only)

2. Technology In Maths Program
At the end of 2012 we purchased eight iPad’s with National Partnerships Low SES Funding that we receive from the Commonwealth Government. They are for teachers and students to use. The students find them very engaging and we are committed to ensuring our students have the technological skills they need to be 21st century learners.

This term Miss Curran will be working in K/1B, 1C and 1/2J classrooms to develop students skills in Technology within the Mathematics program. The teachers have already planned with Miss Curran to devise some incredibly exciting activities. The program started this week and the students are working hard. KH will join the program in Term 2.

*We would be very grateful if families could purchase a $20 ITUNES card from any supermarket or department store and donate it to the school so that we can purchase a range of “App’s” for our new iPads. Please bring them to Mrs Simpson and we will reward your child/children with an award and publish the names of the family in our newsletters. – The DEC does not fund us for these items which is why we are asking families to contribute.*  
(K-2 Only)

3. Dance Group
Miss Gersbach will be forming a Dance Group who will be starting to learn dances and practice their skills on Friday afternoons before assembly. We are very fortunate to have access to her expertise in this area and are looking forward to seeing the ongoing development of the Dance Troupe.  
(K-2 Only)

4. Choir
Miss Gersbach will also be forming a choir with students who enjoy singing and who also have talents in this area. The choir will be learning and practicing their songs on Wednesday afternoons. The group will be performing later on in the year.  
(K-2 Only)

Uniforms and Hats Have Arrived.
Our supplies were delivered today so any families requiring uniforms or school caps can purchase these at the office starting tomorrow morning.  
(K-2 Only)

Swim School
This year Swim school will commence on Monday 2nd April and Year 1 and 2 students will attend for 9 school days. It will be held at Revesby Pool and students will travel by bus with Mr Cox and Miss Jenkins. A note will go home in a couple of weeks and will need to be returned to the office with payment by Thursday 28 March.  
(K-2 Only)

School Contributions and Textbook Payments.
Thank you to all families who have already made payments. The School Contribution is $37:00 per child or $65 per family and the cost of the Handwriting books are $12:00 each.  
(K-2 Only)

Library
At present we are asking each child to purchase a library bag so that they will be ready to borrow. Library bags are available from the office at present.
If you wish your child may bring a library bag from home. Any strong cloth, nylon or plastic bag is acceptable.
Please make sure the bag has your child’s name clearly marked on it.
Borrowing will start in the next couple of weeks.
Mrs Stephandellis  
(K-2 Only)

P & C News
Our next P & C meeting will be held on Friday 15th February at 9:30 a.m. At this meeting we will be electing our office bearers for 2011. The positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer are all vacant and will require refilling. I would like to thank the 2011 Committee members for their hard work and commitment throughout 2011. Please join us at 9:30 in the Multi Purpose room for a “cuppa” and a chat. All families are most welcome to attend.  
(Preschool - Yr 2 Only)

Parking
Parking is difficult outside our school. Parents are not allowed to park in the school grounds at all. *We also request that parents refrain from parking in front of the shop across the road.* The shop supports our students by offering lunches and Rose the owner relies on passing traffic for her trade.
Please try to park as close to the next vehicle as possible. Many people are leaving large gaps between cars stopping other people from parking close to the school.  
(Preschool - Yr 2 Only)
School Dates to Remember
Term 1 – 30/1/13 – 12/4/13
Sport every Thursday – starting 14/2/13
Meet the Teacher Afternoon 19/2/13
P&C Meeting – 15/2/13
Swimming School starts – 2/4/13 till 12/4/13

Student of the Month

Our first Student of the Month Assembly will be held on Friday 22/2/2013. All parents are welcome to attend. It will be held in the Library.
(K-2 Only)

Healthy Lunches

Salads to go. Why not pack a healthy salad for your child to eat at lunch. Here are some suggestions;

- Rice and Corn Salad
- Carrot and Apple Salad
- Pasta and Tuna Salad
- Oriental Noodle Salad
- Coleslaw
- Tabouleh (Bulgar and Tomato Salad)
- Ten Minute Salmon and Couscous Salad
- Potato Salad

Always pack plenty of water

Healthy Start to the Day

Here are some healthy options for breakfast and lunch you might like to try.

- Raisin toast
- Cheese melts
- Fruit bread
- Egg and ham breakfast rolls
- Yoghurt with fruit or muesli
- Toasted sandwiches
- Focaccias and wraps
- Burgers
- A variety of sandwiches and rolls
- Salad and fruit salad tubs
- Pasta based dishes, including macaroni cheese and spaghetti bolognaise
- Fried rice and stir fires

Or try these healthy snacks.

- Cheese and crackers
- Frozen fruit pieces
- Fruit kebabs
- Dried fruit and popcorn bags
- Pretzels
- Corn on the cob
- Dips with vegetable sticks or grissini

- Rice paper rolls
- Pikelets

Supplement these foods with a range of dairy and frozen treats such as custard and fruit, fresh and frozen yoghurts, frozen and 100% juices, milk drinks and water.

(K-2 Only)

Photos of Kindi and Preschool enjoying school.