At last week’s assembly the students read poems about Sorry Day. During the course of this week art works will be produced further illustrating student understandings of the Reconciliation Week theme ‘Let’s Talk Recognition’ —with a focus on how Australians can better recognise each other, and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

**National Sorry Day** acknowledges and raises awareness of the history and continued effect of the forced removal of Indigenous Australians.

**National Reconciliation Week** is focusing on how Australians can better recognise each other and recognise the contributions, cultures and histories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Please see Page 2 for important safety information for our community
Important Safety Information

On Friday at 3.00pm as students were leaving the school a male adult threw fire crackers towards another gentleman walking his dog beside a fence in the park adjacent to the school. This occurred at a time as the students left the gate via Finucane Park. Parents and students heard the fire cracker sound. Thankfully, no student was in the path of the firecrackers, however the fact that they were even nearby is concerning.

Staff and parents responded quickly investigating the situation. Police and the Safety and Security Unit were contacted. A report was provided to police who visited the school.

The police will report to the school the results of their investigations.

Understandably, parents who heard about this during the weekend were very concerned seeking further information. This newsletter, a day earlier, is in response to the concerns. As this event happened after school on Friday, this has been the earliest opportunity to inform parents.

Firstly, we have ceased the use of the Finucane Park playground at lunchtime until further notice.

Secondly, we will review our use of the playground, working with council as to their policies in allowing the school to access this vital piece of playground space.

Students who arrive and/or leave via the Finucane Park gate will be asked to leave via the Lawson Street or main path at Menin Road. Bikes and scooters must be walked across the basketball court and out the Menin Road gate.

In addition we will hold our evacuation and lock down rehearsal, held each term, tomorrow to continue the awareness with students.

This incident followed one that occurred three weeks earlier where a gentleman, with a dog, who had used strongly inappropriate language towards some students playing in the park with their parents, after school on a Friday at 3.10 pm. The four parents went to the police with their concerns.

It is important to be alert but not alarmed.

Your child is safe at school. Please remind students to use the Lawson and Menin Road gates when coming to or leaving school.

These extra measures are precautionary until we find out all the facts and fine tune our procedures when leaving the school.

Reading Help - KJ & KH

As you are aware an excited Kindergarten has now started Home Reading. If you have a spare 20-30 minutes on a Monday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday morning please pop into the Kindergarten room and listen to a few of our great readers. Miss Jokai

Library – Reading Help

Are you able to assist in the Library for just 30 minutes on a Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday 9-9.30am? On these days a group of children come to the library for help with their reading skills. They practise reading sight words and read a book each session with a volunteer. Unfortunately, this term some of the reading helpers from last term are unable to come to assist and I am in urgent need for some parents, neighbours or grandparents to assist. You may come one, two or three days for 30 minutes at the beginning of the school day when you drop off your children. You will be assisted by Mrs Jones & Mrs Vandenberg and will find the help you give very rewarding as you see the progress of the child.

PLEASE come along if you can afford to volunteer just 30 minutes for this fantastic program.
Books in Homes News

Last week I received 24 boxes of brand new books! With 3 books for every child from preschool to year 6, there is a lot of work involved in sorting and organising the books for each class. If any parents or grandparents have some spare time on Wednesday 29 May or Wednesday 5 June from 1-3pm, please put your name down on the list at the office. If you are available at another time please feel free to write down your name and let me know when you are available. The books will be presented to K-2 at a special assembly in week 7, and 3-6 will receive their books in class after assembly. Thanks everyone!

Miss Westcott

Schoolkids Bonus

If your child is starting primary school in 2014, you need to know about the Schoolkids Bonus. It is a new payment to help eligible families with the costs of primary and secondary school studies.

If you receive a family or income support payment, including Family Tax Benefit Part A, you may be eligible for up to $410 each year for your child to help cover the costs of uniforms, stationery, sporting gear, school fees or excursions. Half is paid in January to help with back-to-school costs and half in July for ongoing costs. When your child moves into secondary school, the rate increases to $820 per year.

Each November, Centrelink will write to Family Tax Benefit Part A customers whose child is likely to be starting primary school in the New Year and ask them to check and update their child’s education details. If you’re eligible, all you need to do is tell Centrelink to activate the payment and it will continue to be paid for as long as you remain eligible.

Please note that children in preschool are not eligible as preschool is not part of formal primary education.

For more information, including the full eligibility criteria, visit australia.gov.au/schoolkidsbonus

Indigenous Veterans Day

On Friday student representatives will attend the special service to commemorate our Indigenous Veterans. Students will travel by bus attend the ceremony and have their photo taken with the Governor of NSW the Rt. Hon. Marie Bashir.

Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is now on and children are encouraged to enter online. The information below is directly from the PRC Website (access via Google) and all information can be found there.

1. The Challenge runs from 1 March to 1 September 2013. Ongoing reading is encouraged. Books read from 1 September 2012 can count towards the 2013 Challenge.

It is a condition of entry that students entering and successfully completing the Challenge will receive a PRC certificate and appear on the PRC Honour Roll (see rule 5).

2. Teachers, teacher-librarians and public librarians can assist students to choose the Challenge level and books that are appropriate for their age, interest and maturity levels. K-2 students who can read simple chapter books independently are encouraged to attempt the 3-4 Challenge.

3. Students must complete a set amount of reading to meet the Challenge, see table below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Minimum Number</th>
<th>Maximum Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5-6</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please encourage your children to challenge their reading and achieve success. PRC books in the Library are all marked with a special sticker. Classes K-2 participate in the classroom to meet the challenge but it is far more beneficial if books are shared at home and entered via the student portal. Should you like more information please call into school and I will gladly assist.

Mrs Jones, Teacher Librarian

Uniform Shop

Open this week on: Mon, Wed & Fri 9.00 – 9.30am

Please note that there are no eftpos facilities at our school if parents could please assist the uniform shop and office by paying by cash or cheque.
P&C Meetings

The minutes for meetings held on Monday 13 May and the special meeting on the 22 May have been uploaded to the schools website. Have a look at [www.matravilss-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/your-p-c/minutes-of-meetings](http://www.matravilss-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/your-p-c/minutes-of-meetings).

Parents and Carers who attended last Wednesday’s special P&C meeting to discuss the replacement process for the principal’s position, were informed that the position will go to advertisement shortly. The P&C elected a representative to the panel as did the staff elect their representative earlier in the day.

Merit Awards

Congratulations to the following children

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KJ</td>
<td>Rina Rexhepi</td>
<td>Baya Lowe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KH</td>
<td>Ethan Jusuf</td>
<td>Ililana Firulevic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1M</td>
<td>Ali-Jane Paki-Moke</td>
<td>Keanu Prince</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2C</td>
<td>Jamie Leuzzi</td>
<td>Lachlan Jones</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3R</td>
<td>Skye Wickett</td>
<td>Aimee Glacken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4J</td>
<td>Tayt Lambley</td>
<td>Jazmyn Birtles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5A</td>
<td>Molly Becerra</td>
<td>Daejon Hamana Moke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6M</td>
<td>Benjamin Leuzzi</td>
<td>Tahlia Skordas</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Concerned Parent

We received a note from a concerned parent regarding the safety of our students going to and from school. Some of our students walk, ride bikes or scooters and are not always fully aware of the dangers when it comes to cars. So please be very careful, it is up to us, the adults to make doubly sure it is safe for us to proceed, a small time delay beats years in hospital recovery.

Sport

Round 3 Friday 31st May

Netball Vs Daceyville at Heffron Park (Netball)
Rugby League Vs Malabar at Heffron Park (Poolside)
Soccer Vs Rainbow St Yellow (Coral Sea 2)

Please send a $1 coin with your child each Friday

Congratulations to Amy Driver her selection in the ESPSSA Softball Team.

Staffing

On Monday 6 June we welcome Mr Michael Abbey, a visiting associate teacher from Sydney University for a period working with Miss Hume and KH until 21 June.

Musical Students

Torrens Bell and Ben Royston performed with the Australian Youth Choir on Saturday night. A wonderful concert which showcased excellent singing from our young people. The highlight was The Beatles Medley to conclude the concert. It’s great to see the kids using their skills in the performing arts. Well Done!

Last Tuesday the school hosted a visit by Ms Maxine McKew, from the University of Melbourne, discussing various programs the school is implementing to meet student needs. Ms McKew was very impressed with the Kindergarten literacy program and the explicit teaching being undertaken, particularly the ‘Sentence of the Day’ program. In addition she looked at the music program where she saw our K-2 choir and Amelie and Nate playing with Rain Sticks.

On Thursday 6 June eight senior students will be recording Don Spencers’ new song ‘For Love of Country’. This song is a tribute to the ANZACs paying tribute to all Australians, who participated in war.