Welcome!
Welcome to years 5&6. Our teachers are:
Room B2  Sue Niedermair
Room B3  Michael Gerber and Julie Zabielski
Room B4  Teresa Cauchi
Room B5  Emily Gilbert
Room B6  Kerryn Green

Our team leader is Kerryn Green. We are your first point of call to discuss any cares or concerns. If you wish to speak to us please phone to arrange an appointment after school on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

We are excited to start implementing the use of iPads in all aspects of our learning in our classrooms. This will be discussed further at our parent information evenings.

You Can Do It!
The 5D’s
The 5/6 team often talk about the five D’s in our classroom. We are very passionate about what they represent and how they can assist children to develop the skills and foundations of the ‘You Can Do It’ program while developing positive life long skills.
The 5 D’s are:-
Desire Is all about developing a goal that you really, really want to achieve to the best of your ability.
Determination This is when you recognise that this goal is so special you are prepared to work hard and practise consistently to achieve this even if the practise is difficult or challenging. Remember many successful people get places because they are determined to work hard to achieve what they want. (2% talent and 98% hard work).
Dedication This is where you are prepared to show effort and persistence at practising to achieve your goal. Never giving up – hard yakka.

Decisions This is about making good choices to ensure you achieve your goals. Extend yourself when given challenges. Doing that little bit extra, practising that little bit harder and longer.

Destiny This is about what you do, the decisions you make and the effort you exert will affect your future. You need to take responsibility.

Only you can know what you really want to achieve!

Parent Helpers
We value the support of volunteers in our classrooms and extra curricula activities. There are many ways you can assist such as helping run small groups and compiling resources.

To protect your child’s privacy and ensure volunteers feel confident about how to help, we require all helpers to participate in our Parent Helpers induction session which will run during Term One on Wednesday 20th of February at 9.00am and 7.00pm.
Please let your child’s teacher know if you are able to assist in their classroom

**Please note parents who participated in 2012 induction programs do not need to attend again this year.**

Reading
Students will experience a variety of literature and be challenged to develop their fluency and comprehension skills. Persuasive texts will be read, discussed, analysed and used as models for their own writing. Samples of persuasive texts can be found in daily newspapers (Editorials and Opinion pages such as 50-50 columns).

Your child will be explicitly taught and encouraged to independently use a range of specific and highly effective reading strategies.

Writing
Students will be taught the structure and strategies of persuasive texts, through explicit instruction and modelling.
Editing and proof reading skills will be reinforced and extended. Handwriting will be practised weekly with emphasis on legible writing.

Spelling
At this level students are expected to use phonics (speech sounds), visual information (letters) and prefixes, suffixes and root words when spelling.
Automatic application of these strategies will be consolidated through teaching and learning activities including:

Syllabification Breaking words up into syllables (ab-so-lute-ly)

THRASS spelling choices

Spelling Rules: Adding endings to words (eg neighbourhood)

Word Study: Words within words, compound words, word building (direct, directing).

Students will undertake weekly Look Say Cover Write Check activities to extend their range of known spellings.

English
Speaking & Listening
Students will practise their listening skills by learning to listen, actively, critically and constructively. Students will be given the opportunity to speak to different audiences on a variety of topics.

There is a whole school focus on ensuring students speak in complete sentences.

**
Personal Development
Our School Values

Learning: Getting better at what we do and how we think.
Honesty: Being truthful.
Cooperation: Working with others for the good of everyone.
Responsibility: Making good decisions and setting a good example.
Caring: Looking after yourself and being considerate of others.
Respect: Being polite and taking care of our environment.

Mathematics

Students will be assisted in understanding and developing a range of different strategies to assist in solving number and word problems.

Pre tests assist us in assessing student’s understanding of mathematical concepts and processes. Class groupings allow us to differentiate our program in order to address identified needs.

During term 1 we will be studying:
Number/Place Value: Students are working on representing the structure of whole numbers up to 7 digits.

Number facts and tables are regularly reviewed and reinforced.
Number Patterns & Sequences: Students will be taught to recognise patterns and rules in increasingly difficult number sequences.

Inquiry Learning

In Term One students in grade 5/6 will be studying the three levels of government in Australia and will investigate examples of the features, functions and services of these governments.

Key inquiry questions include:
What are the values of Democracy and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship?

What importance do we place on the values of respect and tolerance in a multicultural society?

What are the processes of making and changing laws and the role of courts in Australia?

Our Canberra camp provides an opportunity for students to see democracy in action and learn about our Nation’s Capital.

Home Learning

Children are expected to read for a minimum of 15 minutes every night. Homework is set on Monday and due back completed by Friday.

How you can support us at home

Discuss the week’s homework with your child. Be aware of the tasks and when he or she needs to have them completed. Ask if you can help, then check to see if the homework is done. Please support school programs by returning permission envelopes by the due date. If you have any difficulties please speak to the classroom teacher or the principal.

2013 Year 6 Transition

We work closely with our local Secondary Colleges to provide a supportive process for families and students as they prepare for the next stage of their education.

While exact dates are yet to be set the schedule below provides a general guide:
March/April: Enrolment letters sent out. Colleges visit primary schools to speak with year 6 students.
May: Open days for Sunbury Downs and Sunbury College.
May: Enrolment applications due.
August: Placements letters sent out by Secondary and Downs

Better Buddies

We are all excited about the introduction of the Better Buddies framework at Kismet. The aim of the program is to create a friendly and caring school community that supports students as they move through the school.

We will be holding regular Better Buddies activities throughout the year. Our first key event will be our ‘Better Buddies Welcome’ to be held on Friday 15th of February. If you would like further information about Better Buddies please visit www.betterbuddies.org.au.

Dates to Remember

6th Feb: Community Welcome Evening
7th Feb: House Swimming
12th Feb: iPad Launch 5/6Z, 5/6C, 5/6N)
13th Feb: iPad Launch (5/6G, 5/6K)
15th February: Better Buddies Welcome
20th Feb: Parent Helpers Induction session
26th-27th Feb: Parent Teacher Interviews
28th Feb: Twilight Swimming
1st March: House Athletics
4th-8th March: Canberra Camp
11th March: Labour Day holiday
12th March: Curriculum Day (Student free day)
18th March: School Photos
20th March: Interschool Athletics
22nd March: Australiana Fete
28th March: House Cross Country
28th March: End of Term 1