Message from School Principal

A Board Working Party has been reviewing the KSS Homework Policy. Input has been received from students, staff and parents/carers. At the last Board meeting it was decided that the draft policy would now go the school community for feedback. If you would like to respond to the request for feedback you can do this in writing or by making an appointment time to speak with me. This consultation phase will finish on the fourth of August so that any adjustments can be discussed at the next Board meeting.

We will have a few staffing changes for next semester. Jodie Pang has been successful in winning a temporary Early Childhood Executive Teacher position at Franklin Early Childhood School until the end of the year. Miss Meghan Adamson will be teaching the Ladybirds for the remainder of the school year. All of our Kindergarten students already know Meg as she has been teaching in the classes.

Karen Murray will be our National Partnerships Executive Teacher in terms 3 and 4. Miss Allison Lamond will be teaching the Enterprise class for the remainder of the year. All Year 5 students know Allison through work she has previously completed at KSS.

Bec Smith has won the Early Childhood Executive Teacher position at KSS. She will continue on with her Year 6 class.

I am sure you join me in congratulating all three teachers in their respective new roles.

I hope you all have a wonderful break with your children and that the weather warms up. - Jan

Message from the Minister—Parental Engagement A Priority

During Public Education Week at the end of May, it was very good to see the achievements of our students, schools, teachers, and staff showcased and celebrated. On show were so many examples of where you and your communities are actively involved with your children’s schools; through different activities and programs.

I will continue to focus on putting children, parents, carers and communities at the centre of our education system and will be looking at further ways of communicating the values of the public education system.

For example, the online enrolment system has simplified processes for parents and carers, and we have also launched the ‘Parents and Students At The Centre’ page on our website, which features stories of parent-school engagement, including one about how ACT public schools are increasingly using Facebook and Twitter to enable parents and the community engage and stay up to date on their activities and achievements.

Other initiatives include the ‘Fresh Tastes’ program which encourages learning about nutrition and healthy food and drink choices in schools and we have also launched a series of fact sheets for parents and carers of gifted and talented students.

I also recently launched the ‘100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra’ book which features fascinating stories of people who have influenced, or have been influenced by our public education system.

‘100 Stories: Celebrating public education in Canberra’ can be viewed online at www.det.act.gov.au.

Joy Burch MLA—Minister for Education and Training
KINGSFORD SMITH SCHOOL DRAFT HOMEWORK POLICY

Homework at Kingsford Smith School is designed to:

- maintain positive attitudes to learning
- be relevant and achievable
- cover a variety of activities
- encourage parent involvement and interest in students’ learning
- reinforce classroom activities and provide opportunity for practice
- support communication between home and school
- assist students in the development of self-discipline and time management

Homework is a partnership between school and home. Teachers, parents and students each have responsibilities.

**The teacher’s role is to:**

- provide homework appropriate for the varying abilities in the class
- provide a balance of open-ended, creative and practice activities
- give clear guidance and advice on what is required in homework activities
- Follow up on completion of homework with students and parents
- Acknowledge/recognize completion of tasks

**The parent’s role is to:**

- assist their children where possible
- talk to their children about the work they are doing and time management
- communicate with the class teacher about homework

**The student’s role is to:**

- accept responsibility for the completion of homework
- complete homework as well as they can
- ask for help from their teacher and family if necessary
- Programs such as the Homework Clubs, lunchtime review and targeted tutoring sessions provide support for students.

**Homework Guidelines:**

Homework should renew and reinforce concepts taught in class - not introduce new content.

Homework routines recognise that children need to be active and include an understanding that many students are involved in extra-curricula activities/clubs and teams.

We recognise and acknowledge that homework should not be onerous or disrupt family life. Homework in the primary school will be issued weekly and completion time will include a weekend.

We encourage homework to be presented and completed in a variety of formats.

A strong focus on literacy skills is encouraged. Activities should include reading, word study and numeracy. Other activities should reflect integrated units of work and emphasise the growth and development of the ‘whole’ person.

No more than three major assignments will have a due date in any one week - one on any day.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Suggested Core Homework Activities</th>
<th>Time Limit (core &amp; optional activity time)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>Reading/alphabet/ word study/ numeration</td>
<td>10 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Reading/word study/alphabet/numeration skills</td>
<td>15 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Reading/word/study/alphabet/numeration skills</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills</td>
<td>30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills/projects</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 7</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills/assignments/test preparation</td>
<td>40 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 8</td>
<td>Reading/word study/numeration skills/assignments/test preparation</td>
<td>60 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Assignments/test preparation/ reading/word study/numeration skills</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Assignments/test preparation/ reading/word study/numeration skills</td>
<td>90 minutes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other homework activities:**

- Play a board game with your family (Chess, Monopoly, Dominoes etc)
- Read the newspaper and/or watch the news/current events discuss an article with your parents
- Prepare or help prepare a meal for the family
- Help someone else with his or her homework
- Set the table for dinner
- Find three clean jokes and tell your parents
- Organise/participate in family expression of faith family prayer
- Complete a puzzle
- Organise a family outing
- Wash up the dishes/do the laundry/ironing
- Learn to play a new card game
- Go for a run
- Feed/walk the dog
- Visit the library and borrow a book
- Research information on the Internet or at a library
- Make a card and give it to someone you love
- Clean your bedroom
- Draw a picture
- Go for a bike ride
- Spend time on your hobby
- Read a book to a little brother or sister
- Empty the dishwasher
- Attend training
- Do the recycling and put out the bins
- Learn a short poem
- Complete a craft activity
- Visiting a sick relative/friend
- Write own story
- Make a book/poster
- Cook a cake or some biscuits

*See also: Ian Lillico – Homework Grid*

Parents are welcome to contact the class teacher if they wish to seek detailed information about homework.
News from Preschool & Kindergarten

Next week is NAIDOC week. The teachers in preschool have provided opportunities for the children to participate in activities including dot painting and listening to stories. Kindergarten have been busy practising reading and writing. The Dragonflies did a great job presenting the assembly on Tuesday. A highlight of their assembly was the rendition of 'Dinosaur Stomp'. They wore the masks they had made of dinosaurs. We wish everyone a fun and safe holiday and look forward to seeing you again on 21 July.

Ladybirds– Brayden, Mahlia, Blair, Seth, Abraham, Alija, Marcus, Deng
Dragonflies– Scarlette, Jakobi, Tara, Chloe
Honey Bees– Nate, Annaliese, Nico
Blue Birds– Madalyn, Abdul
Kookaburras– Dominic, Tyler
Owls– Scarlet, Harry
Toucans– Jack, Hudson, James
Pelican– Grady, Adam
Cockatoos– Ethan, Owen

Hawks– Charlotte, Sam
Sea Kings– Jason, Ricky
Apaches– Oscar, Funaki
Tigers– Alysha, Jake
Iroquois– Patrick, Nyandeng
Black Hawks-Noah, Taylor
Discovery– Erin, Shaye
Enterprise– Brodie, Joel
Endeavour– Graham, Ben.B

Principal Award: Cooper

News from Years 1 & 2

The Nest has had a very busy term. In our Mathematical learning we have been revising concepts learnt throughout this term such as addition, subtraction and multiplication. It would be a great opportunity for students to continue to practise skip counting and learning their times tables over the break. In our literacy block each class has continued the Daily 5 program. Our students are to be congratulated on developing their ability to articulate the reading strategies they are learning and providing examples of how to use them when reading to self or to someone.

It is now a good time to check with your child what stationery supplies are needed. Please replenish and ensure all items are clearly labelled. Does your child have a pencil case to keep their stationery items safe and improve your child’s organisational skills? Having the appropriate equipment ready for next term will help support students begin tasks quickly and have the necessary equipment to complete tasks efficiently.

Next term our unit of inquiry is a history and geography focus. The students will be investigating features in their local community and significant places and people. Families are encouraged to visit significant landmarks around Canberra over the holidays. This may allow students to have an authentic experience which they can then share with their class. If you have any old maps or photos of any historical information about Belconnen or Canberra including any Indigenous items or links please pass on to your child’s class teacher.

The disco on Thursday was a fantastic way to celebrate the hard work and effort displayed by our students this term. All the children had a great time dancing to old favourites and current top forty hits. Mr Wells showed some cool dance moves to the song ‘Gangnam style’. We hope that over the holidays you continue to read each night with your child and continue to provide opportunities to write. Have a safe and happy holiday and we look forward to seeing everyone refreshed and eager to learn next term.

Do you know where this playground/landmark is?
Library News

The big news this week was the visit by Dr Cameron Stelzer, author of the popular Stroogle children’s books.

Cameron impressed students from Grades 3, 4 and 5 with his ability to produce imaginative and humorous characters from model animals and successfully encouraged the students to do the same. The results of the exercise will be displayed in the library during Term 3.

In contrast, Cameron engaged Grade 6 students in the writing process; his aim being to enhance their ability to write descriptively and expressively. He accomplished this by presenting students with a range of scenarios to work with, and provided them with strategic and critical feedback.

Many students were keen to purchase his signed books and they have already arrived for those students to enjoy during the holidays. I shall purchase a range of his titles for the library in due course also.

I would sincerely like to thank the Principal, Jan Day, for supporting the initiative both educationally and financially.

Lyn D Andrews I Teacher Librarian

News from Middle School

What a fantastic first semester we have had in the Middle School. Our new Year 7 students have settled very well into KSS and are a valued addition to our school community. There have been many successes and events in first semester, including: the swimming carnival, cross country carnival, football, futsal, rugby and hockey competitions, Year 7 camp, the disco, open night and NAPLAN. Many of our Middle School students participated in these events. Fantastic work has been produced in all subject areas. Year 6 has been learning about The Federal Election and each class has held its own election and investigated how laws are made. In year 7 and 8 Science classes have been using the online Into Science program to study the topic of Water. We wish everyone an enjoyable break and we are looking forward to term 3.

News from Senior School

Over the past few weeks, a Year 9 English class from KSS and ANU students have come together to develop their understanding of poetry and their poetic skills. Our students were enthusiastic about the course, creating some fascinating poems, and really enjoyed exploring the text type. This culminated in a Poetry Slam and workshop run by the ANU on Friday afternoon, working on and presenting their poems with students from around Canberra. Those who attended said they enjoyed the event and that they loved the poems that the other students presented. They enjoyed working with students from the different schools and the creative atmosphere that occurred. We would like to thank the ANU for running this program and hope to work with them again next year.

Year 10 students will be attending a 3 day leadership camp in Sydney on Wednesday 30th July to Friday 1st August. These 3 days will be full of exciting activities and the kids are getting very excited. All payments for the camp will need to be finalised by the end of this term. If there are any problems or questions in regards to this excursion please feel free to contact Ruth Williams (Year 10 Transition Officer).

KSS Farewells Frances Bruce

Frances Bruce, a long term teacher/leader and DP at KSS will be taking long service leave next term with view to retirement. WE thank Frances for her major contribution to education over the past 35 years and the work she has done here to build school climate and to ensure we are well staffed. Please join with me in congratulating her and wishing her well for the future.

News from Canteen

Thank you everyone for all the donations so far towards the KSS Pantry Drive 2014. We encourage you to keep bringing them in. We haven’t received many donations from senior school. We still need margarine, foil, tinned crushed tomatoes, honey and dishwashing liquid. Thanks Amelia
Internet Safety & Awareness

Thank you to the parents that attended last week’s ThinkUKnow presentation on Internet Safety.

The information that was shared by Jane Tully was quite an eye opener to the parents.

One area which was of strong interest was reputation management.

It is astonishing to think that what we do through our devices whether it be computers, phones or games can affect us since our digital footsteps can not ever be erased.

Here is some advice from the ThinkUknow website to perhaps discuss not only with your child but between family and friends also.


Reputation Management

Everything you do and say online or using a mobile device can be permanent and is a reflection of you and your reputation. At ThinkUKnow, we refer to this as your digital shadow – a digital representation of you that will follow you throughout your life.

This digital shadow can be a great thing: it can show others how creative, friendly and intelligent you are. It can also do the opposite: it can show others that you don’t care about your reputation or how you treat others.

What are the key steps I can take?

I want to know more...

Tell me everything!

What are the key steps I can take?

- Encourage your child to think before they post
- Suggest your child searches themselves online – and do the same

Remove any content that may damage your reputation.

Once something goes online, you have very little chance of deleting it. It could remain out there in five different ways:

1. Copied – it’s not that difficult for someone to right-click on an image and copy it. Once they have their own copy, even if you delete the original version, it may still be accessible to others

2. Forwarded – if you allow someone to access your content, you can’t control who they share it with and they may forward your material onto others who don’t have your best interests at heart

3. Posted elsewhere – if someone can copy or forward or content, they can also post it elsewhere online, perhaps a very public website. The same goes for emails, private messages and texts – you may share them with one person but they could always post them elsewhere.

4. Saved – you may not realize that someone has saved your content until they decide to use it against you. Someone could have saved your content on their device or even made a hard copy, and are waiting for an opportunity to share it with others.

5. Cached – caching is a form of archiving which search engines like Google and Bing do where they take a snapshot of what a web page looks like at a given point in time and stores this in an area of the internet which others can search.

Even though any of these five instances may have occurred, it is still a good idea to remove content you have previously posted to make it that much harder for others to find and access in the future.

So what advice can you pass onto to your child?

- Encourage your child to think before they post – take two seconds to pause and reflect on what they are posting and how it could affect them and others, now and into the future.

- Suggest your child searches themselves online and do the same – you can use normal search engines such as Google and Bing, or meta search engines such as pipl.com and dogpile.com which search multiple databases at once.

- Remove any content that may damage your reputation – this also means asking friends to remove content they have shared about you.

- Discuss with your friends what material they can and can’t share about you and do the same for them!

- Have a look at the people who can access your content (such as friends or contacts) and remove any which you don’t think would help you to manage your reputation.

- Change the settings on your social network profile around who can tag you in posts and photos.

- Think about what online activities could help you achieve the careers and relationships you aspire to.
Year 10 Excursion to the National Museum of Australia

On Friday the 27th June, 21 year 10 students attended an excursion to the National Museum of Australia. Within class, Year 10 students have been studying WWII, Rights and Freedoms (particularly the fight for rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people) and Popular Culture as outlined in the Australian Curriculum. By visiting the Museum, students were able to interact, learn about and explore many primary sources from these time periods.

The students found the following elements of particular interest:

- The outback radio that promoted Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander news and music
- The outback hut many Indigenous people lived in circa 1900’s
- The gate from Kinchella boys home, Kempsey
- The skill of fishing techniques used by traditional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander fisherman
- The propeller from Charles Kingsford Smith’s plane
- The desks, rules and dress code expected of students in school’s circa 1900’s
- Traditional Indigenous Artwork
- The convict chains (they even locked themselves up)
- Nova Peris’s gold medal
- Colonial farming techniques
- Pocket watches of our early inland explorers e.g. Charles Sturt
- Old Camera equipment
- Germaine Greer’s coat and her book “The Female Unique”
- How housing and infrastructure planning has changed over time in Australia (focus was on Brisbane)
- Old modes of transport

The students learnt a lot from this experience and it has generated much in depth conversation about Australia’s past – particularly the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

As the supervising teacher, I would like to thank Mr Mantinaos for driving us there in the school bus. I would also like to thank the National Museum of Australia plus our students whose behaviour was exemplary. The staff at the museum even commented on their polite demeanour.

We look forward to more exciting adventures in SoSE so that the students have the chance to experience and interact with more primary sources.

Dzintra Jones - Supervising Teacher

Monday 28 July is KSS JETS Fun Night.
McDonald’s Kippax is donating 20% of counter sales to JETS! From 5-8pm