Dear families,

I was thrilled to watch our KSS students perform at Wakakirri last week. The dance story was excellent and the performers ‘did us proud’. Their efforts were rewarded with them winning the Best School in Public award. This is awarded to the school that demonstrates best cooperation, collaboration, listening skills, behaviour and performance manners. Huge congratulations to all.

We had some good news from our Directorate last week relating to our wireless network. Currently we have problems when many students try to connect computers and other devices at the same time. Connection can be quite slow with frequent ‘drop outs’. The good news is that our system will receive a major upgrade and the majority of the funding for this will be in addition to our normal budget. After the upgrade we will be well placed to consider a move to a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) environment. This is where students may bring their own designated devices to school to use to support their learning. A big advantage of this system is that the same devices can be used both at school and at home. There will be a strong consultation process with our Board and community before any decisions about BYOD are made.

Book week was recently celebrated in great style. We had students and staff dressed as characters from a full range of books; fantasy; fiction; non-fiction etc etc etc. This year we also had many of our middle and senior students join in. Our visiting author was unable to attend at the last minute but will be doing a make-up visit for us. Research shows that even ten minutes of reading a night can make a significant difference in children’s learning.

A few reminders:

Please check pencil cases to ensure students have all the equipment they need for lessons

All students should be in full school uniform including winter tops

Leggings are not acceptable as outer clothing and should not be worn to school

KSS has a Board approved school uniform and details can be found on the school website. All students must wear uniform to school.

Jan

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**Week 7**

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**Week 8**

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**HOT DOG DAY $3**

Wed 3 Sept. Kindy—Year 5

Primary students are encouraged to supply an order form & payment to Canteen by Fri 29 Aug

Thurs 4 Sept. Yr 6-10

Middle-Senior students can purchase Hot Dogs from Canteen at both break times. Toppings are extra.

Halal sausages are available on request.

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**Newsletter**, Thurs Aug 28, 2014

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HOLT ACT 2615

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Telephone: (02) 6207 4455
Facsimile: (02) 6207 4456
Congratulations to the following students on receiving Merit Certificates at the previous primary assembly.

Ladybirds– Deng, Reaghan
Dragonflies– Jakobi, Dylan, Scarlette, Andrew
Honey Bees– Aleisha, Nate
Blue Birds– Laura, Luca
Kookaburras– Darwin, Indie
Owls– Anush, Lachlan
Toucans– Hudson, Mia
Pelicans– Sam, Lachlan
Cockatoos– Owen, Zoha, Vincent

Deputy Principal Awards– Tayla, Phoebe, Charlotte (Ladybirds) Georgia (Dragonflies) Jarrod (Apaches) Rafi, Aiesha, Nikola and Hayley (Cobras).

News from Preschool & Koori Preschool

Preschool children are very excited about the new furniture that has been arriving. Some children have helped Educators put some of the furniture together. This has been a great learning experience using tools and following diagrams.

Koori-Pre Happenings

Here are some of the children and family members who attended our Excursion to the NGA.

Rose our guide told some lovely stories related to paintings we viewed. We made a Dot painting.

Congratulations to Kasey Neuss, Kings Macgregor Graduate 2014.

Kasey has been attending swimming lessons for 7 years! As a graduate, Kasey can swim 1000m of continuous Freestyle, is competent in all four strokes, has completed Swim and Survive components and program. Kasey will be presented at her swim school graduation ceremony on Saturday.

News from Year 1 & 2

Students from the Nest are working hard to demonstrate positive behaviours. The ‘peg up’ charts in the classrooms are working effectively with our students. Positive behaviours are being observed and all students are working towards being a super student for the day. We now have a number of students on the ‘Tree of Triumph’. In our inquiry unit we have provided the year 1/2 students with an authentic experience to help them learn about their community. Our classes have been enjoying walks to Kippax Town Centre. Whilst on the walks, students identified natural and man-made objects and were privileged to have a talk by an expert at the West Belconnen Community Centre about the history of the local area.

Please encourage your child to keep reading at home. We ask parents to fill out reading journals and return them to school so that teachers can sign off and place a sticker when students have read a certain number of books. Families are also kindly reminded that homework is to be completed each week and returned every Tuesday. Please ensure that you help your child with the work sent home to allow them to practise the skills they are learning at school.

Every day each class has crunch and sip where students can enjoy a small piece of fruit and a drink of water. Please ensure a small healthy piece of fruit is packed for this time e.g. cut up apple, orange, banana, or a small serving of dried fruit.

Families are reminded that it is again time for students to wear hats during outside play times. Please check with your child they have a suitable hat (bucket hat or legionnaire’s) at school and it is clearly labelled. Students without a hat play under the shaded canteen area. Thanks for your support.

1/2 team
Kingsford Smith students take out ‘Best School in Public’ award at Wakakirri.

On Thursday 21st August students from Years 3—6 performed in the Wakakirri Story Dance Event at Canberra Theatre. Their exciting showcase was called ‘Sweet Dreams are Made of These’ featuring tarantulas and teddy bears. The students enjoyed performing on a real stage, experiencing what it is like for a performer to stand and entertain a large audience under the bright lights.

The students were excellent ambassadors for the school, demonstrating our KSS HERO values throughout the evening. They displayed Harmony by working together get ready for their dress rehearsal; Respect by listening to the teachers who went with them on the day, the Wakakirri organisers and each other; Optimism by waiting patiently back stage for their turn to perform (even though they were very excited); and, finally, Excellence through earning themselves the award of ‘Best School in Public’ award.

Jan and the teachers could not be prouder of the teams’ achievements, showing what awesome students we have at our beautiful school.

If you would like to watch the Wakakirri Team perform ‘Sweet Dreams are Made of These’, we are performing it at the KSS Spectacular. Stay tuned for more information.

News from Years 3, 4 & 5

Tuesday 26th of August there was a Year 5 Combined Band day at Hawker Primary School. KSS students performed with students in front of Hawker students and overall they day went very successfully.

This week students have being studying patterns and algebra in Mathematics. Students are also doing excellent writing in reflective journals from the prospective of an immigrant in the 1850’s Gold Rush to Australia in our Gold Experience activity.

Year 5’s are also preparing some fantastic wanted posters of their Journal character from the gold experience.

Indigenous Health Day and Three Legged Race

On Tuesday 12th August, 12 Indigenous students attended a Health Day and World Record attempt at Northbourne Oval. Students participated in a series of rotations including painting, footy skills with Raiders players, health tests and Indigenous dancing. After a delicious sausage sizzle and lime milk lunch students got ready for the Three Legged World Record attempt. Students were paired up with an Army cadet to run a lap of the oval. There were not quite enough competitors to break the record but they all had fun participating. The behaviour of students was outstanding and we had a fantastic day. A special thanks to Ms Williams for driving us to the event.

News from KSSP&C

The 2nd hand Uniform shop is now operating in the Canteen area on Tuesdays of even weeks of school term. Same day as Primary Assembly.

Open hours are 2.30pm—3.30pm

Lost property has been sorted. If your child has lost clothing please come and have a look in the cupboards of Canteen area.

Thank you to all the volunteers and participants for making the Car Boot Sale a fun day for everyone.

Thursday 4th of September is the next Canteen Meeting to be held at 2pm in Canteen area. All welcome.
**News from Middle School**

‘Into Science’ is a new, interactive program that all year 7 and 8 Science students started as part of their science course this year. It gives each student a customisable avatar in a 3D digital environment that allows them to complete activities in the research lab, observatory and digital field environments as well as access to over 120 unique science environments such as the Crash Test Zone, Cell Explorer, Energy Island, the Aswan Dam and many more engaging learning spaces.

Students earn inquiry points for completing activities and achievements. Students in each class with the highest achievements or the completion of the most activities receive awards at school assemblies. They can track their own progress throughout the environment. Many students have also started to explore a digital recreation of the Australian Jenolan Caves as part of an online excursion available to students across the country. Students in year 8 will be exploring this as part of their term 4 unit on Geology.

In year 7 students are exploring the concept of forces and simple machines. They have been carrying out experiments testing levers, pulleys, ramps and gears. They have also used K’Nex kits to combine these ideas in building complex machines, such as cars, beam balances and paddleboats. Pictured are two of the completed machines.

**News from Senior Resource Class**

**Volcanoes Erupt at KSS!** Students in the school’s resource room have had some fun this term looking at “Natural Disasters” and building their very own working model volcanos with great success as the blow photos will show.

Students used an empty coke bottle and scrunched up papers. They coated them with Plaster of Paris strips and moulded them into shape. They painted a finish with acrylics and some added a touch of glam with coloured glitter.

Once complete they added warm water, washing up liquid, baking soda and then finally, white vinegar with great effect!

Perhaps, you’d like to try this at home. Students also experimented with coca-cola and mentos!

**KSS Students Go Dotty.**

Following on with the topic of Ancient Civilisations, our Resource Room students recently decorated the room’s boring old stools with their interpretation of indigenous art. It was a fun exercise using powers of concentration to create some flashy designs.

**Year 10 War Memorial excursion recount**

We arrived at the Australian War Memorial, expecting it to be an average day. As we got off the bus, we started talking about the play we were going to watch.

We entered the theatre, and we sat down and talked quietly.

A man came onto the stage, and set up his guitar. He sat down, getting comfortable as we all did the same.

He introduced himself as Brett Hunt, saying that he was going to do a one-man play called 'dusted off'.

We sat and listened as he strummed his fingers on the guitar strings, making music. As he was playing that guitar ever so beautifully, he began to speak a story of his mum and dad. He spoke about the funny stories that his dad told him when he was younger. He added sound effects that made you think you were there, with his father, going off to war. He spoke about the good times, but also the worst. Everyone in the theatre was silent as they listened to the words, tears in their eyes. They were all laughing at the jokes and tearing up when he sang about the times that his father had during the times of war.

When he finished, the lights came on and every began to clap loudly, wiping the tears from their face.

It was deep, it was emotional, it was beautiful.
Library News

Book Week, last week, celebrated the significance of reading and story in our lives with various displays and activities.

On display, and not for the first time, were the books shortlisted by the Children’s Book Council of Australia and the winners.

Primary teachers in particular took advantage of this and read a range of them to their classes during a visit to the library. A number of students were also invited to write the title of their favourite book on the glass doors of the library, reanimating many enjoyable memories.

The Annual Dress-Up Parade was a huge success as well. Many students and teachers from both the Primary and Secondary School took up the challenge to dress up as character from a book. I, came as Dewey the library cat. Thanks must go to the Primary teachers who helped organise the magical event.

Thank you to everyone who participated in The Great Book Swap. We raised a very respectable amount of money for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation and the students enjoyed the experience of picking over the range of books and discussing their merits.

Our enjoyment of all things literary is still going strong with the celebration of Literacy and Numeracy Week this week. Competitions will be happening all week and prizes will follow. Details can be obtained from the library.

Lyn Andrews | Teacher Librarian

Community News

Being a parent is the hardest job we’ll ever have.
All parents at some time experience difficulties and stress.

Parentline ACT

is a confidential, anonymous telephone counselling and information service.

Phone Parentline if you would you like:

- To talk with someone about those parenting issues.
- Help with some ideas on raising children.
- Support in the important job you are doing.
- To know what is available for parents, teenagers and children.
- To build better relationships in your family.
- Help to understand your child or teenager’s behaviour.

Parentline ACT is available Monday to Friday (except on public holidays), 9am to 5pm. Phone: 6287 3833

SOFTBALL ACT REGISTRATION / COME & TRY DAY

14th of September 2014 FROM 1pm – 4pm
NORTHSIDE MORNING COMPETITION

Where: Hawker International Diamonds
When: Saturday mornings
Starting 11th October to 13th December 2014
Time: Game times are 9am & 10.30am
West Belconnen Softball Club—
westbelsoftball@gmail.com
Phone: 6278 3000 Email: softballact@bigpond.com
Web: www.act.softball.org.au

ANU Extension

Public Information Evening

ANU Extension provides an enhanced learning experience for Year 11 and 12 students and is open to all students with a concurrent full-time enrolment at an Australian secondary school. In 2015 courses in Astrophysics, Discovering Engineering, Chemistry, Conservation Biology, Chinese (Mandarin), Indonesian (culture), Japanese, Specialist Mathematics and Music will be available.

Tuesday 2 September 6.30pm
Manning Clark Theatre 2, Building 26a
(See campusmap.anu.edu.au and search 26a)
Classes for Year 11 students commence in Term 2, 2015.
Current year 10 students and their parents/carers are particularly encouraged to attend.
Enquiries anu.extension@anu.edu.au
On Monday 18 Aug, the Northside Schools soccer tournament was held at Dickson Playing Fields. The Yr 7/8 girls’ squad won 1 game, draw 1 game and lost 3. It was a fun filled day and each member tried their best.

“It was so much fun and I was exhausted at the end of the day. Looking forward to next year now” - Alakiir.

Special thanks to Miss LeFel for training the squad.

Year 7/8 Boys report: The weather was cold and threatening to rain. We all thought it could be cancelled luckily the gala day went ahead. The squad played their best and wouldn’t give up against some great opponents. As the team comprises mostly of Year 7 we are looking forward to next years competition.

We would like to thank Mr Mantinaos for coaching us.

On Wednesday 27th August the 9/10 girls competed in the Northside Soccer Carnival at Dickson playing fields. What started off as a cold and dreary morning turned into a spectacular day of fun, football and great competition. The girls played their hearts out each game and after the final whistle they came off with smiles and encouragement all around. We started off the day with a 0-0 draw and as the day went on, we unfortunately did not come away with a win, but began playing together as a team, passing the ball and marking our players. We were placed in a tough pool against some experienced and well-oiled teams, yet each game we challenged them to get the ball pass our defence. Mikaela played each game in goal and did an amazing job to keep her chin up and continue to make it difficult for the other team to score with some amazing saves! Our defence began to work together to pass the ball out of danger and catch the opposition offside. Laura got a heavy knock which put her out of a few games, but bravely fought on and played the last game with Alek, Emily, Maddy and Erin supporting her in defence. Shayla displayed some speed up front and with support from Kyla, Mirella and Sam came close to scoring on more than one occasion. Our midfield including Melody, Brianna, Brittany and Deanna were consistent in supporting the defence line as well as playing some great through balls for the strikers. All the girls should be commended for their enthusiasm and attitude for day.

The KSS JETS would like to thank the following sponsors for their contribution to the program.

McDonalds Raiders Belconnen Energy Fitness Luton Kippax Elite Meats - Kippax Kippax Vet Hospital

KSS JETS members will be participating in the Call Of The Beast event Sat Nov 8, 2014. If family & community members wish to participate please visit the website and register as soon as possible.