Dear Families

On Saturday we have our annual KSS school fete. Fetes are wonderful because they are fun and raise money for our school but equally important is that they are a way of building a sense of community. I had the opportunity this week to look at the volunteer sheet and was blown away by the number of people who are very generously giving their time to support our school. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank Danielle and Lisa, the fete coordinators, and their team for the significant work they have put in to make the day a success. Please come along and join in the fun while supporting KSS.

Work has started on building our wireless capacity to a standard where students can successfully use their own devices to support learning. The questions for us will include:

What devices should students be able to use on the network?

Will we need a ‘lease option’ to support families to purchase devices?

How will we provide for those students who do not have their own device?

Do we have a ‘Bring Your Device’ trial with one or two year levels?

In Term 1 next year we will work together to answer these questions.

See you at the fete!

Jan
News from Preschool & Kindergarten

We had two wonderful Learning Journeys with lots of excited children showing their families around their favourite places in Preschool, both inside and outside and throughout the Kindergarten learning spaces. We were able to make some improvements to our Preschool outdoor learning environment during our Spring Working Bee in Children’s Week. The Preschool educators will be completing the students’ developmental checklists in preparation for their end of semester reports. In the upcoming weeks the children will be visiting the Kindergarten classrooms to explore what “big school” is really all about and to ensure a smooth transition from Preschool to Kindergarten.

The Kindergarten students have been great representatives for the school while attending swimming. A reminder to ensure **everyone has a hat every day** and is wearing sunscreen, especially as the weather warms up. Please be mindful of the clothes the children are wearing and make sure it is appropriate clothing for the warmer weather (short sleeve shirts, shorts, dresses etc).

**News from Year 1 & 2**

In ‘The Nest’ over the past two weeks we have been going to swimming daily. Students have commented on what a fantastic time they have had. The students have learnt about different swimming strokes, kicking and how to stay afloat with regular clothes on.

Our Inquiry unit ‘Kitchen Science’ is now in full swing. Students have started to explore how foods can be permanently or temporarily changed and what effects heating and cooling have on different foods. Over the term we will also be exploring healthy eating and talking about what a balanced food intake looks like. Some students have been looking up ‘Kitchen Science’ activities on the internet. Are there any families prepared to take the challenge and do an experiment at home (outside, probably would be best)? All the materials needed for the experiments are found in your kitchen and on ‘youtube’.

The students are writing some fantastic procedures in our Literacy time and have taken on a range of different topics they would like to explore. Some of these have included how to; read to self, make pancakes, make a hamburger, play go fish and many more. Please continue to share recipes at home to support the language of a procedure. Some of the teachers have been lucky enough to do a taste test – yummo.

Each Monday and Thursday after school Karen Murray is running a reading workshop for students to attend with their parents/guardians. There are refreshments available and a reading pack to help you support your child in reading at home. It occurs straight after school on a Monday and Thursday afternoon in the year 1/2 open area.

Please keep bringing in donations for the school fete raffle baskets. The theme is ‘gardening’.

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**Principal Awards**: Aiesha, Hayley, Nikola

**Deputy Principal Awards**: Jason (Honey Bees), Andrew & Issac (Iroquois). Theo, Dylan, Bilal, Salma, Laura, Matthew & Ella (Cobras).

**Ladybirds**– Paul, Jasmine

**Dragonflies**– Dylan, Cooper

**Honey Bees**– Muamar, Levi, Georgia Carla

**Blue Birds**– Ashton, Dwayne

**Kookaburra**– Kobe Lee, Jarred

**Owls**– Lachlan, Noor, Kayla

**Pelicans**– Thomas, Chandah

**Cockatoos**– Shayde, Isobel

**Hawks**– Melanie, Nicola

**Apaches**– Tamir, Jacqui

**Tigers**– Hayden, Georgia

**Cobras**– Jamil, Theo

**Iroquois**– Andrew, Alicia, Haris

**Black Hawks**– Zainab, Ethan

**Discovery**– Erin, Connor

**Enterprise**– Lara, Jack

**Endeavour**– Ben, Rowaan

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100 Starke Street  Web: www.kss.act.edu.au  Telephone: (02) 6142 3399

HOLT ACT 2615  E-Mail: info@kss.act.edu.au  Facsimile: (02) 6142 3428
News from Year 3, 4 & 5

On the Learning Journey morning, the Year 5 students showed their parents, carers and family the work they have achieved throughout the year. The response from their families was wonderful and positive. It was a celebratory morning!

The Year 5 students have been settling into their new learning environment with huge success. The new design tables and lap tables have allowed, and encouraged students with collaborative work and their own student learning to develop.

We are currently looking at ‘Natural Disasters’ as our Unit of Inquiry. A major assessment piece is for the students to create an action and research plan for their own home regarding bushfires. Please share and encourage your child to discuss any information with you regarding bushfires.

The Year 5 students were given a note regarding ‘Save the Date’ for the whole school class award Assemblies and Year 5 Presentation Day Celebrations Thursday November 11, week 9 Term 4. Please ask your child if you did not receive the note.

Library News

It is always a pleasure to mount a display of student work in the library. Last week the Year 9 and 10 ‘Flat Pack Café Chairs’ produced a great deal of interest and some cases, amusement. I am hoping to mount a ‘Poet-tree’ this week to display some of the exceptional poetry written by students in Year 7.

There is still a dribble of new books coming in. I couldn’t resist purchasing ‘The Doctor Who Character Encyclopaedia’ and of course the latest Manga (graphic art version) ‘Maximum Ride’. There is a small range of new non-fiction books on various topics as well on topics such as Science, Cooking and War.

While I am keen to have students continue to read and borrow, I would ask that students and parents alike keep in mind that the end of the year is fast approaching and that all library books should be returned by their due date. Once again, I thank you for your ongoing support in this matter.

Lyn Andrews I Teacher Librarian

News from Learning Support Unit – Autism LSUA

Work Experience at Bunnings.

Wow! What a great day students from senior LSUA had at Bunnings (Belconnen). They all thoroughly enjoyed their first day of work experience there. They made a tool box and had a lesson on Power Tools.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS)

School age children will transition to the NDIS during the 2015 school year. High school students (7-12) will transition between January and March 2015. Children in primary school (K-6) will transition between April and September 2015. Transition will be from youngest to oldest.

The National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is currently contacting families of high school students accessing Disability Education programs to inform them that they will be phasing to the NDIS from January and that they will be sending out Access Request Packs. Families unsure about whether the scheme is appropriate for them are encouraged to speak with the school Disability Education Coordinator moira.beverley@ed.act.edu.au for support in understanding how this may fit with their current supports including personal care supports and transport.

Thanks Moira Beverley

Thank you!

A great big thank you to the mystery guest who handed in the lovely hand knitted dolls on Tuesday. The white elephant stall will have them for sale at the school fete on Saturday.
2015 Year 7 students Camp Cooba

Our Year 6 students at KSS transitioning into Year 7 in 2015 and our new students coming into Year 7 next year will have a very exciting event to look forward to – the Year 7 2015 Leadership Camp at Cooba Sport and Recreation Centre from Wednesday, March 18 to Friday, March 20. This camp will provide an opportunity for students to build relationships, solve problems, work together, make new friends, gain independence and importantly, to have fun with their peers. Our Year 7 camp program supports and promotes our KSS HERO values – Harmony, Excellence, Respect and Optimism.

To support parents with the payment of Year 7 2015 Camp (total $320) we have organized a payment plan. Deposits ($130) have been accepted already to secure a place at camp and subsequent payments are made over the next few weeks this year and in the early weeks of next year.

We are confident that the early notice of the camp and the March date will allow the majority of Year 7 students to attend. Please be aware that there will be no swimming activities however one of the activities will result in students getting wet. The exciting activities may include: Dirt Buggies, The Flying Fox, The Leap of Faith, a Gladiator Challenge and Team Maneuvers.

For more information about the Year 7 Leadership Camp 2015 contact John Mantinaos or Catherine Le Brun

Immunisation for Year 7 and Year 9 students

Term 4 immunisation for Year 7 and Year 9 male students will be held on Tuesday 9th December in week 9. All Year 8 and Year 9 girls received their vaccination for Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis earlier this year and will not receive any more vaccines this year.

Year 9 boys and all Year 7 students will be receiving the final HPV vaccine, for Human Papillomavirus, and Year 7 will also receive the Varicella vaccine for Chicken Pox.

If your child missed a vaccine during the year due to absence, being unwell or refusing, they can still receive the final vaccinations in December. A letter advising you of the missed doses and a schedule of what they need to catch up on will be sent to you by ACT Health. You will be able to access free vaccines from your local GP from the 1st of December until the end of 2015.

If your child is new to the school and has not received any vaccinations this year, a completed consent card needs to be returned to the school before December. Again they can be vaccinated in December and get catch up doses from your GP.

Contact: Health Protection Services. Ph: 02 6205 2300 www.health.act.gov.au or Ph 6205 2086

Yr 9 Camp to Broken Bay report

In week one of Term 4 the Year 9 cohort went on a camp to Broken Bay near Sydney. It took us longer than the four hours we were expecting as our bus broke down for an extra hour as Mrs Perrim didn’t get us a Murrays bus as requested by Shayla and Gwen, some of us enjoyed the break and stepping out into the cold wind.

When we nearly got to our destination some of us had our first ferry ride. It was great having the spray of the water from the rain and ocean on our faces.

We got dropped off by the ferry at our beautiful location which unfortunately was ruined by the ongoing rain and wind. However we got on with the activities and had a great first day especially with team initiatives. This activity was the best as it involved a lot of communication and team work from all.

The next day, we had challenging activities including abseiling, beach manoeuvres and fishing. Mrs Perrim gave us the challenge that if we caught a fish we would be able to play spotlight and star gaze but she got the instructors to cut the fishing wire once we caught a fish so that we wouldn’t have our star gaze and spotlight night. Gwen almost got an octopus and luckily Alek caught a catfish so we had our fun night.

We finished our time at Broken Bay by completing the ropes course which most of us attempted and we also were able to go down the flying fox.

Our instructors, Matt and Geoff were always encouraging and made us try our best as well as pushing us to our limits. It was great to have instructors who could also have a laugh with us.

Through these experiences we became a closer and more positive group. Broken Bay was a great location for us to chill out (no phone reception!) and we got to know one another and also ourselves.

The food was delicious and filling, especially the chicken schnitzel which was massive and the gravy was fantastic.

Gwen, Shayla and Dylan.
Ben Donohoe Fun Run

On Sunday November 2nd the 10th annual Ben Donohoe Run and Walk for Fun was held in Belconnen, in memory of Ben Donohoe who passed away in 2005. This was the final year for the event as Ben would have been 18 years old as of this year. Sixteen students from Kingsford Smith participated in the run, both in the 3km and 6km tracks (and all our participants beat the Raiders around the course). They all represented our school greatly on the day and we were awarded with the secondary school participant award of $500 which will be split equally into donations for the Ben Donohoe Foundation and to Ronald Mc Donald House Canberra.

Call of the Beast

This Saturday 8th November 2014, the Kingsford Smith School JETs along with their staff, families and friends will be participating in the Call of the Beast, Canberra. This event involves participants competing in a 3.5km or 8km obstacle course through mud and water.

If you have registered for this event and require further details please contact Mrs Jenna Matheson.

Good Luck to all students who are participating in this exciting event.

Many thanks to the organiser of Canberra United Womens Soccer League players who visited our school last Thursday October 30 and run skills sessions with Jets students.

“We had a great time!” -Rebecca

“I received entry tickets to the game for my participation –so cool” -Jayson

Interschool Badminton Competition report

A total of 16 Year 7-10 students represented KSS at the 2014 Interschool Badminton Competition on Monday, 27 Oct and Friday, 31 Oct 2014 at ANU Gym. The students were great ambassadors of KSS. They showed high level of sport spirits and undertook every match against other schools with great enthusiasm. During their free time, they socialised with students from other schools and invited them to play in some friendly matches. Although they were lost to other schools but a greater friendship has been fostered. The students are looking forward to play again in the competition next year.

KSS Giving Tree

Prior notice that the school will be having a Giving Tree to support our local community during the Christmas period.

The tree will be displayed from Mon Nov 24—Fri 12 Dec (week 7-10 Term 4).

Gifts need to be new items, wrapped ready for giving and labelled clearly on an attached card:

- boy/girl/either
- appropriate age
The ACT Education and Training Directorate does not provide any insurance cover for injury, disease or illness to students resulting from school activities or school-organised excursions. Claims for compensation are met where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which any injury, disease or illness was sustained.

As there is no automatic insurance cover for personal injury if your child is injured at school or during a school organised activity/excursion you should therefore consider whether taking out personal insurance cover for your child is warranted.

This insurance might cover contingencies including medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT, and cancellation of transport/accommodation or loss of/damage to luggage.

The ACT Ambulance Service provides free ambulance transport for students who are injured or suddenly become ill at school or during an approved school organised activity within the ACT.