Welcome to the 2014 school year. Classes settled very quickly and are engaging in their learning.

I have spoken with all the classes about my focus for this year that is to support students in becoming the best they can be. My approach is three pronged:

Emphasising the need for hard work and its link to learning. - “Smart is not what we are born. It is what we get with hard work”.

Respect - if we are respecting ourselves, others and property we will have a safe and happy learning and teaching environment.

Our public face – commitment to uniform and creating pride in our school.

In addition to these we will be building our Literacy and Numeracy outcomes and strengthening our community partnerships. You will hear more on these throughout the year.

A few reminders:

Student should be wearing a hat during breaks and in the interest of safety, wheeled vehicles are not ridden in the school grounds.

Our trial of black jeans and shorts held in 2013 was not successful with jeans, shorts and tops in many colours making an appearance. The School Board has reconfirmed NAVY as the uniform colour for all pants and shorts. All school shirts and white blouses are available from the uniform shop at Kippax.

If you would like to assist with our reading program, please contact class teachers or myself.

Our ‘drop off’ and disability parking areas are clearly marked and must be used only for the designated purpose.

Regards Jan

100 Starke Street  Web: www.kss.act.edu.au  Telephone: (02) 6207 4455
HOLT ACT 2615  E-Mail: info@kss.act.edu.au  Facsimile: (02) 6207 4456

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**Week 2**
- Mon 10-14 February

**Thurs 13**
- Yr 5&6 Cyber Safety Presentation 9-11am
- Yr 6-10 Assembly in Senior Gym 2.10pm

**Week 3**
- Mon 17-21 February

**Tues 18**
- KSS Beginner Band rehearsal 8-9am Music Room Building 3

**Wed 19**
- KSSP&C Kindergarten Afternoon Tea 3pm-4pm

**Week 4**
- Mon 24-28

**Tues 25**
- Yr 3-10 Swim Carnival 9-1pm
- P-5 Assembly in Primary Gym 2.15pm. All welcome

**Tues 27**
- Apologies, Yr 7&9 Immunisations take place 27th of March.

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**Aerobics 9.30am—10.30am Thursdays @ KSS**

Would you like a free workout? Then come and join aerobics group session held in the primary gym every Thursday morning. Classes are run by a qualified instructor and are available for everyone. The focus is fun in fitness & wellbeing. Young children are welcome to stay & play. Yes, its free!!

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**Homework Club is on again!!**

The Homework Club is an after school, free program available to assist students with completing homework, assignments and preparing for tests. Ambassadors from the Australian National University join the group to provide tutoring, as well as guidance in researching/writing their assignments. There are teachers in attendance to supervise and further support students. Afternoon tea is also provided. Students from year 6 to 10 are able to attend. It runs from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. in the School Library on Wednesday afternoons.
News from Years 1 & 2

Welcome back! The students in the Nest have settled smoothly into the 1/2 routines and have had a productive week. We have begun writing a recount about our holidays and the weekend and have been participating in purposeful word study activities. All classes have been brainstorming what ‘working hard’ sounds and looks like in our classrooms. We have been training the students on how to choose ‘just right’ books for reading to self. In Numeracy, students have been working in groups to develop and practise their number skills. We have also developed our classroom rules and expectations based on the HERO values. Homework has now begun. For the first couple of weeks we would like our students to become familiar with the homework process and routine. Our homework goes out weekly on a Thursday and is due back on a Tuesday. Take home books will be sent out Monday, Week 3, in our blue take home folders. Please take care of your folder and remember to change books regularly and record them in your yellow take home diary. We would like to say thank you to our families who have sent in their book packs. Please see your classroom teacher if you have any queries about book and stationery needs. Remember we still have ‘crunch time’ in the morning. Please pack a piece of fruit in a separate container. Larger fruit such as apples and oranges can be cut up for easy eating. Please supply a healthy packed lunch box and with a bottle of water only for each day. Hats need to be worn every day so please check that your child has a labelled hat in their school bag.

Thanks

Jude Forsyth, Michelle Sheville, Emily Carter, Cara Armstrong, Matt Olsen, Hayley Jones, Chris Wells, Kylie Neylan (1/2 Teachers) and Liz Bujaroski (1-2 Executive Teacher)

News from Preschool & Kindergarten

What’s happening in P/K? What a fabulous start to the year! This year we welcome Miss Charlotte to the Kindy team and Tracey to the Preschool team. All of the children (and educators) eagerly arrived on their first day and left with the same happy smiles. It has been a busy and exhausting week and we are all looking forward to a restful weekend ready to learn, play, read, write, play, draw and play some more again next week. Our first fliers went home this week too so please look out for it.

Please remember to speak to your child’s educator if you have any questions about what is happening at school.

Year 1/2 Parent information session

There will be a parent information session on Wednesday 19th February 3:30 -4:30 in the 1/2 area. This is a great opportunity for you to find out about what the students will be learning, how they will be learning and about homework and take home reading procedures etc. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have for us. We look forward to seeing you then.

Congratulations to the following students on receiving Merit Certificates at the previous primary assembly.

Ladybirds– Marcus, Erin
Dragon Flies– Jaxon, Cody
Honey Bees– Mya, Ayden
Blue Birds– Jazmyn, Isabel
Kookaburras– Isaac, Matthew
Owls– Jayden, Harry
Toucans– Nathaneal, Dakota
Pelicans- Saif, Mackayla
Cockatoos– Seamus, Gorocha, Cooper
Hawks– Nylinda, Sam

Sea Kings– Liam, Jason
Atlantis– Blake, Kahira
Apaches– Hannah, Jaedon
Tigers– Lola, Hayden
Cobras– Brooke, Ella, Matthew
Iroquois– Jake, Caiden
Black Hawks– Cody, Lily
Discovery– Stephen, Keely
Enterprise– Barec, Sophia-Jane
Endeavour– Cameron, Katelyn
News from Year 3, 4 & 5

The Helipad classes have been busy discovering new things about themselves and their new classmates. Our studies of 'Knowing Me, Knowing You' have helped out to get settled in our new classes and be ready to learn lots of literacy and numeracy in the remainder of the year.

**Library days:**
- 3/4 Black Hawks: Wednesday
- 3/4 Tigers: Wednesday
- 3/4 Iroquois: Thursday
- 3/4 Cobra: Wednesday
- 3/4 Apaches: Thursday

The Apaches have started tennis clinics with Adrian from the Kids Tennis Foundation. Each class in Building 2 will participate for 5 weeks at some point in the year.

The Teachers in the Helipad this year are Mrs Thomas, Miss Sinclair, Miss Kim, Miss Kearins and Mr Heffernan. Mrs Hughes is the executive teacher in the 3/4 classes.

Introducing the wonderful year 5 teachers and their space station names:
- Ian Bottomley – Discovery
- Sharon Clewer – Endeavour
- Karen Murray – Enterprise

On Tuesday 11 February, Year 5 students participated in an aptitude session to finalise potential members of the Year 5 Band for 2014. Final placement offers will be made during the upcoming weeks.

The Year 5 Celebration Shirt note went home this week with students. Please return this note and money to the front office.

As we move further into a digital world it is becoming very important for our students to be able to successfully navigate online. Keeping safe and knowing what to do when tricky situations arise are key skills our students need to be taught and practise. This week Years 5 and 6 will be having a visit from the Constable Kenny program to talk about cyber safety. The presentation will cover a range of topics about the online world and will include tips for how our students can stay safe online. More information about online safety can be found by visiting [http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/](http://www.thinkuknow.org.au/)

As part of our Literacy program this term students have been focusing on reading. We’re building students’ skills in five key areas: reading to self, reading to partner, establishing listening skills when others are reading to them, writing and word study. Please discuss this with your child as they are very excited about this new program.

**Library News**

I am delighted to be a member of the Kingsford Smith School community and especially to be the new Teacher Librarian.

The importance of reading is well known and I am keen, not only to help promote reading throughout the school, but to enhance the library collections in order attract new readers and satisfy the needs of established ones. In the near future I also plan to establish a ‘Library Smarts Central’ where students will have access to a range of learning support materials.

All parents, guardians and students can contribute by supporting a culture of reading and by ensuring the return books and other library materials promptly so that our library collection is preserved.

Thank you.

Ms Lyn D Andrews | Teacher Librarian

**KSS Band News**

The Kingsford Smith School Beginner Band will be starting next Tuesday 18 Feb 8am – 9am in the band room (upper level, building 3). Open to students who have no previous experience on their chosen instrument.

The Kingsford Smith School Advanced Band will be starting next Thursday 3:15pm – 4:15pm in the band room (upper level, building 3). Open to students who have had a minimum of one years’ experience on their chosen instrument.

If you are interested in joining either of these groups please contact Ruth Williams for further information. There are still places available on Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone or Percussion, unless you have your own instrument at home that fits into a concert band.

-Ruth Williams -Music Teacher.

**Ginninderra Netball Club Registrations for 2014 Winter Competition NOW OPEN** — Phone Maria: 0416 016 188 [http://ginninderranetball.weebly.com/registration.html](http://ginninderranetball.weebly.com/registration.html)
News from Middle & Senior School

The beginning of the year has been very exciting and we are looking forward to working with all our students and the Kingsford Smith community to achieve the best possible outcomes for all with learning, engagement and positive social interaction.

We would like to introduce the Executive staff of middle and senior school:


**Graeme Lambert**, Executive Teacher for the senior school and the English & SOSE Curriculum Learning Team.

**Bec Smith**, Executive Teacher of Professional Practice and for the Year 6 Learning Team.

**Moira Beverley**, Executive Teacher of Special Education Needs (SEN)

**Aisling Murtagh**, Executive Teacher for Student Wellbeing and the Integrated Learning Team (Arts/Technology).

**Nghi Perrin**, Executive Teacher of Pastoral Care and Languages

**Marg Klee**, Executive Literacy Field Officer

Middle & Senior School Transition officers:
- Sandy Rickert – years 5, 6 & 7
- Dzintra Jones – year 9
- Ruth Williams – year 10

The role of the Homeroom Teacher is to check in with students each morning through roll call and communicate relevant information. They are also the first point of contact and in charge of monitoring and collecting student attendance information and school excursion notes. Please feel free to contact your child’s Homeroom Teacher and initiate a line of communication.

Homeroom Teachers for Middle & Senior classes are:

- 6 Blue: Ms Smith & Ms Paterson, 6 Navy: Ms Andreatta, 6 White: Mr Webb,
- 7 Blue: Ms Langridge, 7 Navy: Mr Sullivan, 7 White: Ms Johnston, 7 Red: Mr McMullin
- 8 Blue: Ms Lefel, 8 Navy: Mr Harper, 8 White: Ms Snodgrass
- 9 Blue: Ms Lefel, 9 Navy: Mr Cavuoto, 9 White: Mr Davies
- 10 Blue: Ms Brack, 10 Navy: Ms Traynor, 10 White: Mr Davies
- Yr 6-10 RES: Moira Beverley & Phil Hopkins

During the beginning of the year students will be participating in some exciting activities in class to support their learning. In the middle school, students will be introduced to safety in the Science laboratory. Year 6 students will be learning about natural and processed materials. In year 7 students will receive their Bunsen Burner Licence.

In Mathematics, students will focus on mental computation & number theory, while in English, students in year 6 will be reading short stories and poetry, and the year 7s will engage in wide reading activities, narrative and persuasive writing. In year 8 students will explore the concept of fantasy in literature and the nature of the hero’s journey. In SOSE, students in year 6 will explore Australian history, Year 7 SOSE is starting with Geography and will be looking at the units “Water in the World” and “Place and liveability”. Year 8 are looking at medieval history and will move on to Geography in Semester 2. Students will improve their kicking and ball skills in PE and be involved in electives choices from four learning areas - music and art, textiles/food and technology. Connected Learning is the structure through which all subject areas are explored, researched and investigated. A ‘big question’ guides the overall focus and ‘contributing questions’ in each subject area direct the students in their understanding of the concepts integrating all learning areas. The National Australian Curriculum provides guidance on achievement standards and the focus of learning in Science, Maths, English and Sose. Other subjects are guided by the ACT Every Chance To Learn Document.

The school will also be holding a Reading Challenge throughout term 1. More information will come soon.

The senior school students are planning for separate camps in term 3 this year. Keep an eye out in future newsletters for more information.

The year 7 camp will be held at Cooba from the 19th – 21st March. All students are really excited and will give a detailed experience of the camp in the newsletter.

If you would like to discuss or meet with any of the above staff please do not hesitate to call the school 62074455.

**ACTION CALISTHENICS INC.** is now recruiting boys & girls in all age groups (2y+) for 2014. We have training at Kippax Uniting Church, Holt. We invite you to trial two classes at no cost. For more information contact Amy 0417 650 162, visit our website: actioncalisthenics.com.au