



HARMONY EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPTIMISM



@kingsfordsmithschool



(02) 6142 3399



info@kss.act.edu.au



NEWSLETTER

Week 6 Term 4 20 November 2020

Principal's Word of the Week - Ambassadors

Principal's Report

Hello again to our resilient and supportive Kingsford Smith School Community. There has been more to celebrate this week, as we hurtle towards the end of what has been a unique and challenging year.

A great sign that we are opening up to more activities was the senior girls participation in the Alan Tongue Rugby League Cup this week. The students were great ambassadors for our school both off and on the field. As a bonus they were undefeated all day, taking out the grand final against Mary McKillop. They showed great composure and sportsmanship in all their games, with each and every player getting in and having a go. Lola and Aiesha captained the team, and led by example in attitude and effort. I would like to thank the whole team of Brooke MM, Aiesha B, Lola F, Olivia L, Funaki P, Seini K, Kyah T, Jemma F, Chevelle E, Zainab J, Mieke S and Amber Tilley for their hard work which brought the success they deserve. I would also like to thank their coach Kate Langenhorst for once again bringing out the best in this group of students.



This week we celebrated with the ACT Education Directorate the excellent work of our school staff. We had five staff nominated for three categories but could easily have had many more. Karen Mansfield and Wendy Garbutt were nominated for Support Staff of the Year, Ellie Brotchie and Taylor Peacock-Britton were nominated for New Educator of the year and Kristen Kauhanen was nominated for Secondary Educator of the Year. Congratulations to these staff for their nomination.



We have had a number of events these last two weeks including Remembrance Day virtual assembly as well as NAIDOC week activities that you will read about in coming newsletter articles.

Also you should have received a link to the Kingsford Smith School Spectacular that our senior students in the KSIT team filmed, edited and produced as a video for our school community. This was a massive effort and I thank the team and their teacher Garth Bradfield.

Lastly just a reminder that while we have made arrangements for end of year events, the easing of some restrictions means there will be some changes to our end of year activities. We will be sending out notes via email so keep an eye out for these changes.

Till next time, all the best

Paul

Deputy Principal's Report

We have been very busy recently. Teachers in years 3-5 have been visiting our neighbouring schools of Macgregor and Latham to look at the practices of colleagues and share ideas. This is a method we use to ensure consistent practice in the areas of literacy, especially the 10 Essential Literacy Practices and writing. Next year we will be continuing these visits, with staff from these schools once again coming to observe teachers here. Teachers in all year levels have been completing assessments in preparation for reporting. Reports, including grades, will be emailed to families in week 10.



Students have been on exciting excursions, with Kindergarten off the Zoo today. Preschool held a NAIDOC week event organised by Gunghalin Child and Family Centre. Students created a hand painting which will be on display in the front office shortly. Miss Meg and Miss Brotchie took a large group of students to the National Gallery of Australia to view The Art Ways of Learning. This event is in development to promote, celebrate and enrich learning about the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts by centring Indigenous voices, through Indigenous ways of learning of knowing, being and doing. Students particularly enjoyed the weaving outside and the 7 Sisters exhibit.



Information on the Year 5 Fun Day will be emailed home today, with a note coming out next week – very exciting for our year 5 students. I can also let you know we have had an update on easing restrictions, and we can now have 2 parents for each child attend the Year 5 Graduation ceremony. We are still sorting the details for this to comply with what we need to do, and once we have finalised plans we will send out information to families.

Book pack information will be sent to families next week. This year we have changed the process for ordering book packs, as you will buy straight from the supplier, rather than the school. With your book pack list will be a link to go online to order and pay, with a code for different years. This year, there are Essential items (to purchase from the supplier) as well as Optional items (you can choose where you buy these from). All book packs for all years (including high school) will be

delivered to school. As usual. If you require any assistance with this, please contact me or Kate Greeney.

Regards

Karen Murray

Brick and Block

Over the past four weeks year 10 construction have been participating in the CIT brick and block Program. This course allowed students to learn how to use a range of tools and machinery related to laying bricks. They also had the chance to use these tools to make walls, piers, and even an archway. Have a look at the photos and you will see the student's awesome work over this course





Creating Safe School Environments

Creating a safe environment around our school requires a collaborative approach from everyone, including parents, teachers, children and the broader community. Please drive slowly around the school (particularly in the car park), be courteous to other drivers and show respect to teachers, they only have the interests of our children at heart.

A great way to improve safety around the school is to decrease the number of cars on the road, particularly during the peak times. Encouraging children to walk or ride to school has many great benefits, including less congestion, increased safety, and healthier and happier children.

If you need to drive your children to school, please obey the road rules and be polite and respectful to other drivers, teachers and surrounding residents, because a little bit of courtesy can go a long way.



Library News

Despite all the interruptions and uncertainty this year, the library has been embracing change in response to the needs of the school and in accordance with the new teaching agreement. Primary School teachers were awarded an extra half hour for planning and administration purposes this year, and the new arrangements that were designed to accommodate this change began at the beginning of Term 3. While previously Primary classes always visited the library accompanied by their classroom teacher for the purposes of borrowing and reading, their time in the library is now managed by the Teacher-Librarian, Ms Lyn Andrews alone, and usually consists of a mini-lesson as well as borrowing and reading time. So far, the new arrangements are working well. With the end of the year approaching, it is time to think about returning books, especially those long overdue. Could parents please support their students in doing this. Also, please be aware that borrowing ends at the end of Week 7. Students will still attend the library during their regular timeslot, but they will not be allowed to borrow.

CRCS Christmas Giving Tree

Each year Capital Region Community Service (formerly Belconnen Community Service) provides Christmas Hampers to over 100 vulnerable individuals and families across Belconnen. These hampers contain some basic food items (which CRCS provides). We rely on donations from local schools and businesses to provide special Christmas cheer items such as gifts, treats, decorations etc. Our school is supporting this appeal and we encourage our staff, students and families to donate a gift to help some of the less fortunate in our Belconnen Community. Gifts and items should be new and in sealed packaging. CRCS have recommended gifts of \$10- \$15 in value. These could include

toys, games, vouchers, toiletries, books, puzzles, stocking fillers. There is always a shortage of gifts for teenagers and male adults. We encourage you to leave these gifts in the collection containers in our main reception. Thanks for supporting those in our local community who will do it tough this Christmas.



GIVING TREE DONATIONS

Make the holiday season a little brighter for someone in Canberra by giving generously to the CRCS Giving Tree.

Donation suggestions:

- Store and movie vouchers
- Children's toys
- Delicious Christmas treats
- Christmas decorations
- Sports equipment
- Interesting stocking fillers
- Homewares
- Books
- Board games
- Stationery gift packs
- Personal care gift packs
- Items appropriate for older children, young people and adults are encouraged.



Ginninderry visit

A group of students from The Sustainability Group have continued working on Ginninderry Vertical Garden. After travelling on the Ginninderry Bus the student arrived at The Link Building, Ginninderry. They conducted a full clean of InvertiWall system by removing all the pods in which the plants grow and classified these on the table. This was a valuable lesson in plant classification. The students then completed a full clean of the system returning the plants and refilling the water tank and replacing the nutrients. One set of plants – the spinach was transplanted to the herb garden at The Link Building. In this exercise the students learnt about soil structure and how to transplant. Through this engagement the students have been able to understand the process undertaken in an enclosed man made vertical growing system that is able to supply greens for the Café at

Ginninderry. The return trip on the Ginninderry Bus was active with chatter about when their next visit was going to be.



The students removed all the pods from the InvertiWall system and harvested the leaves for the café and once the system was cleaned, the plants were returned.



Sustainability Group completing a system clean

Year 10 hospitality

This week the Year 10 hospitality class hosted their last Café. Students have been working hard all year, providing great food, drinks and service to teachers and senior students. All members of class were successful in receiving their certificate I in Hospitality. A big thank you to all staff and students who

came into the Café and supported these students throughout the year. Congratulations to all Year 10 Hospitality students on this huge achievement, good luck in college



PBL News

The KSS PBL mascot is a plane and it needs a name!

KSS students will be given the opportunity to submit a name for our mascot plane. Everyone will vote for their favourite choice of name, during class over the next two weeks. If several students submit the same winning name, the winner will be drawn out of a hat. The winning name will be announced at the KSS PBL Launch during House Day in Week 9 this term. There is a \$50 Dymocks voucher to the winner of the naming competition. Everyone should get their thinking caps on to name our KSS PBL mascot!



What is bullying?

It is more than having a fight with someone or not playing with someone because you don't like them on that day. Bullying is using power to repeatedly mistreat someone. **It is targeted and occurs regularly (not just a fight once with a friend).** It causes psychological harm to another person. Bullying happens with the deliberate intent to harm someone with unkind words. Bullying can also be physical or social. Bullying is never okay.

A good source of information for children and parent/carers is at the following website - <https://kidshelpline.com.au/kids>

Stem Weekend Workshops

Young Engineers Canberra has partnered with National Dinosaur Museum and Canberra Miniature Railway to provide a series of STEM weekend workshops to kids in ACT & Queanbeyan bringing different aspects of Science and Engineering together.

Kindergarten

Kindergarten children are busy learners. In literacy we are learning how authors use language in some of our favourite picture books, such as 'Possum Magic' by Mem Fox. Our children's writing includes such choices for example they select descriptive words to use when writing their own picture books. Our little learners are expanding their problem-solving skills in mathematics by developing mental strategies such as 'counting on' to add numbers. Challenge your child to use these math skills at home by counting on from a group of pegs or items in the kitchen. Kindergarten students are excited to bring home their colourful Sandra Silberzweig inspired self-portraits created in visual arts lessons! This week we look forward to the much-anticipated excursion to the National Zoo and Aquarium. Your child will have lots of stories to share on the weekend about the animals and the events. Our 2021 transitions times have started with the current preschoolers swapping rooms. Kindergarten children enthusiastically enjoyed returning to the preschool yard for a short time riding tricycles and having turns on the swings. The daily temperatures are rising. Please remember to pack a water bottle along with their healthy lunch box. We promote sun safety therefore all children require a brimmed hat for outside times.

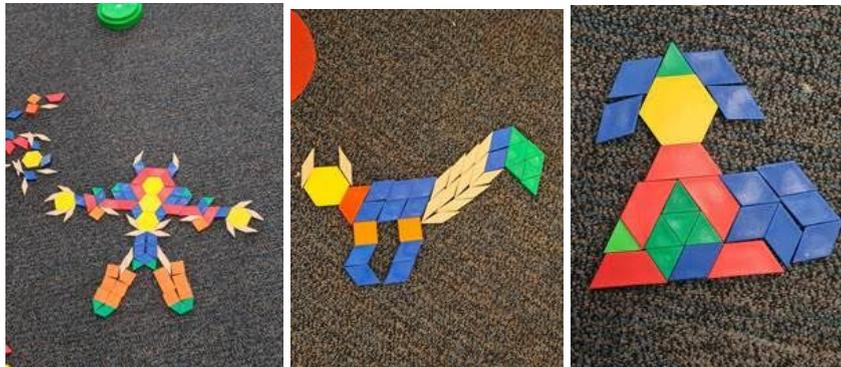
Year 2

Year 2 has been busy over the past few weeks in all areas of school. We were lucky enough to have an incursion with Aaron from Dreamtime Connections who taught us about indigenous plants. We learnt about the many different types of plants including one that you can rub in your hands to make soap. Students then spent time planting in the garden and trying wattle seed cookies - they were delicious.



Students are looking forward to our AquaSafe program next week. They have been learning how to stay safe around water at home, at the beach, in the community and at the pool. Students will now spend two weeks learning how to be water safe at the pool. This will include learning to float, tread water, fall safely into the water and save ourselves when we are clothed.

During maths students in the Penguins spent time using two-dimensional shapes to make pictures. Can you guess what we made?



During our inquiry unit on water students conducted a water audit of the primary school. They were very pleased to find that we had no dripping taps or running toilets! We will now move on to look at how indigenous artworks use symbols to represent water and create an artwork.

Year 4

Coming to the middle of the term the year 4's are continuing their hard work throughout all areas of their learning.

In mathematics, students are continuing to look at the likelihood of events and the correct terminology to use when placing chance on a scale from impossible to certain. They have also been exploring the Fibonacci sequence as they identify patterns in numbers.

We have been continuing our poetry investigations as we look further into different types of poetic devices and their purposes. The year 4 students are demonstrating their understanding of these devices through the construction of their own poems.

Sustainability has the students thinking of alternate options for everyday plastic items as well as the effects the 'fast fashion' industry is having on the world. Students will continue to look at these topics as well as looking at sustainability from an indigenous perspective as we investigate the sustainable practices Aboriginal people have used for thousands of years.

In the science unit 'Beneath our feet' students participated in an experiment to test water erosion. Students observed different areas in the school and the impact water erosion has on that area. Students identified a range of variables and reported their findings into an investigation planner.

In physical education lessons, year 4 students have been working on bouncing and dribbling a range of sports balls. The focus for the term has been on controlled bouncing involving alternating hands and eyes forward through the bounce. Students have been applying their knowledge of these skills through class and cohort ball games.