



HARMONY EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPTIMISM



@kingsfordsmithschool



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NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday 11th March 2022

Principal's Address

Principal's Word of the Week: Proposals

Hello again to our supportive and resilient Kingsford Smith School Community. It has been a great couple of weeks and I have a few items to share about the happenings in our school.

Firstly I wanted to share this photo of our senior students running some break time music to give our students some enjoyment on the playground while they get some valuable practice using the music equipment.



We have lots of students finding ways to support our school, particularly through our senior LINK classes. Last week I had the pleasure of hearing some proposals by groups on how to enhance our school environment. The ideas ranged from painting rooms to sporting facilities, all planned and organised by students. We also have students who support our teachers in their work, as well as students running assemblies and events to benefit the whole community.

Most importantly we continue to have students produce this newsletter and again another crop of students are learning their craft under the guidance of Caitlyn Mansfield. They would welcome any feedback you have so feel free to drop them a line. If you do so, remember they are learning and making mistakes is an important part of this, so be constructive in your feedback.

Great news! After safety concerns last year were addressed and now rectified, the Blue Playground reopened this week on Wednesday. Sarah Warren's Year 4 class organised a grand opening during the day. I want to thank our business manager, Lyndsee Mahl and Building Services Officer, Brad for supporting the process of getting this long missed piece of playground equipment back up and running.

The Hospitality students have been working towards starting their regular cafés. This year they will be running lunchtime 'Grab and Run' café on Monday first break and on the alternate week Wednesday, will be running a dine in café before school for a yummy breakfast. Thanks to Lynette Dickson for organising this great opportunity for our hospitality students to practise and then demonstrate their skills.

Our P&C held the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this week from 7-8 pm on Tuesday at the Ginninderra Labor Club and online. Our P&C, as well as other important supporting functions, administers the canteen at the school. Without their support the canteen would be an unviable and / or expensive option on which many of our families rely. There are still spots available on the executive with varying amounts of time commitments so if you can help out please contact the KSS P&C on contact@ksspandc.org

Lastly, a reminder that while many restrictions have eased in the community at the moment, all ACT schools including Kingsford Smith School, still have the same COVID restrictions for at least the remainder of Term 1. In particular for our Year 7-10 students, masks are still mandated and recommended for Year 3 to 6. We also still have restrictions on drop off and collection of students as well as parents on school grounds without an appointment. As is always the case, students who are sick or have COVID symptoms should not be sent to school and will need to be collected promptly if they present with these symptoms at school. Please contact the school if you are unsure of what the rules are.

Thanks again for your ongoing support. Until next time, stay safe.

Paul

Deputy Principal

It is hard to believe we are more than halfway through the first term! The learning experiences that students are participating in are outstanding and I am hoping you are hearing all about them when your children get home. It is wonderful to walk past classrooms and have students excited to share their work as so proud of what they are doing. All classes are very settled, with students following their class PBL expectations.

It has been a very exciting week with the much anticipated opening of the blue playground! I'm sure you have heard all about it. We had an official opening directed by the year 4 Sea Pickles, with students creating written pieces on how excited they were about being able to use the playground again. Their writing was presented to the cohort during the official opening and it was great to see how much effort they had put in. There was also a ribbon cutting ceremony by Mr Branson to officially open the playground. It has certainly been very popular at breaks, as well as the source of many discussions in classrooms.



I would like to remind families of some of our covid processes that remain in place at school. If you are walking your child to school, please use the top gate as the front area is for quick drop offs and pickups. If you have an older sibling in high school who walks home with a primary child, they are able to walk to their classroom at the end of the day and collect them, before exiting through the top gates. In the morning they can enter the school through those top gates, drop their primary sibling off and continue into the high school area.

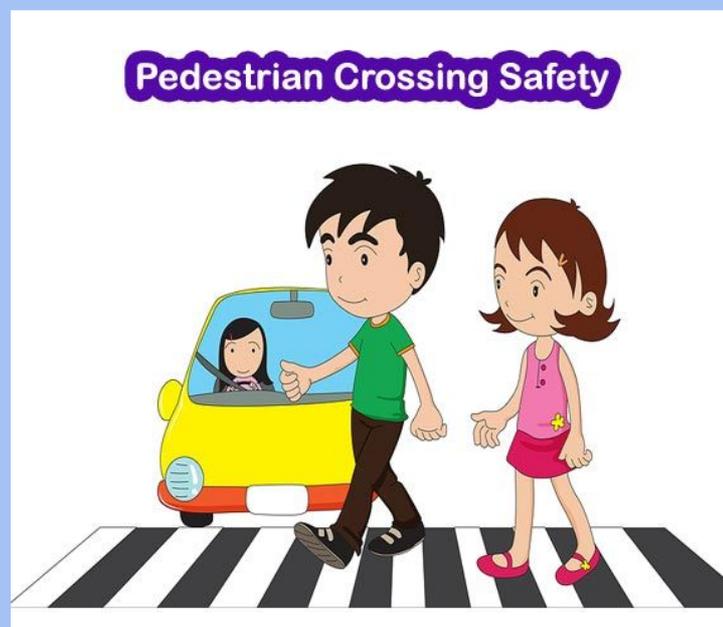
A reminder also that preschool runs from 8:45am until 2:45pm. Parents are required to walk their child to the preschool gate at the front of the school and collect them from the same gate at the end of the day. Our educators will be there at these times for handover and to support transitions, with no supervision in the preschool area outside these times. Please do not drop your preschool child in the car park or leave them to walk into preschool from the top gates by themselves.

We have had some concerns raised by families regarding road safety, with reports of students running through traffic and not crossing the road at the designated crossing. Teachers have held discussions with students on road safety and reminding them to use the crossing at the front of the school when walking home. We would appreciate your support in this by having similar conversations with your child if they walk home.

The weather has taken a cold turn and it is a reminder that jumper season is almost upon us. There is a large amount of jumpers in lost property without names so if you need a jumper for your child please let their teacher know their size and we will see if we can find one for them. Hats are still an essential part of our playground and it has been great to see that most of the students are wearing these. If you need a hat they can be purchased through the front office in house colours for \$15.

Take care and enjoy the long weekend.

Mrs Murray



CALENDAR

Dates

Monday 14th March

Friday 25th March

Events

Canberra Day long weekend

Newsletter sent out



Year 5

What a wonderful start to the term for year 5!

During maths lessons we have been looking at place value and mental computation strategies for addition and subtraction. The students have been applying their understanding of these strategies with small group games such as 'Place Value Mastermind' and 'Bingo'.



Literacy lessons have been focusing on developing different reading strategies such as applying prior knowledge and predicating. After reviewing these strategies, students have been applying their understanding using a text of their own choice. Natural disaster books have been many students' book of choice. We have been continuing on with our Narrative development using our understanding of nouns, verbs and adjectives to provide more detail to our stories. We have been using Wordle to build upon our vocabularies which has been a very enjoyable challenge for the students as they work together using the clues to guess the words.

Science and inquiry lessons have been a favourite for the students. Natural disasters and animal adaptations have captured their interests and sparked many interesting conversations!



Our PE lesson focus has been working on fair play. The whole year 5 cohort has been working together to build up their sportspersonship and support of each other.

We cannot wait to see what great learning the next few weeks will bring,

Taylor and Nicola

Year 6 English

This term, year 6 have been listening to and reading short stories by a variety of authors. We are doing this to expand our knowledge on key factors that are needed to entertain an audience when writing a short story. We have been choosing a few general complications and resolutions that we can use in any story. We are thinking of an interesting plot to base our stories on and coming up with a twist to make it exciting. We have been developing our character and setting descriptions, so that when you read these, you are transported into our stories.

Here are a few samples of complications/resolutions the students have thought of:

- *Tim was poor - He got a high paying job offer.*
- *Hope suddenly becomes poor because of a curse - She tries to break it somehow.*
- *My baby brother flooded the house with the bathtub - I opened the front and back doors.*

Here are a few character or setting descriptions students have developed:

- *'has jet black hair and has sparkling green eyes. She loves books and crocheting. She has the most prettiest face you could ever imagine.'*
- *'but worse, old skylights that have gunk everywhere and big poles keeping the place together, the escalator is full of gunk as well and the railing has a bunch of fingerprints.'*

The students are very excited to create their own short stories and we can't wait to share them with you.

They have also been busy reading a collection of books for our Cooperative Reading activities. This is where we read for a short time, then participate in a writing activity based on what they have just read and then join together with other students to share their activity and talk about their books. We are currently reading 'Wonder', 'Danny the Champion of the World' and 'Billionaire Boy'.

Ms Wakeling and Mrs Carswell

Year 7 HaSS

What are we learning in HaSS?

Year 7 HaSS have been learning about Economics and Business.

The focus has been on the laws of supply and demand .

The laws of supply and demand have been shown to use through the prices of bananas and ice cream!

One idea explored is if lots of people wanted apples, the price would increase but the higher the price, the lower the quantity of a good or service that will be demanded by consumers.

If supply is low though, the producers can demand a higher price!

As a consumer, I did not know that there are ways that we need producers and they need us!

By Paige Loughton (7 Blue)



Construction

This term, construction students have been learning about the processes of a job site and how we keep it safe. One way is through the use of signage.

In the last few weeks, students were tasked with selecting signage and putting it up in a correct spot that will help remind anyone on our job site of the safety required. Now that the site is safe, the students will begin planning a garden project and building a picnic table.



Library

Fun fact – did you know that reading reduces stress by 68 per cent?

Welcome to week 6 in the Library!

Children's Book Council of Australia

With Book Week coming up in August, we were excited to see the list of [notable books](#) released on 22 February. We are looking forward to the announcement of the Shortlist on 29 March!

The theme “Dreaming with eyes open” really captures what happens when you get lost in a good book.

Just keep reading!

Last week we shared photos of some of our teachers and what they're currently reading. What are our parents reading? What were your favourite books to read when you were at school? It's always a good conversation to have with children to raise their interest in reading, and to see that the adults around them value and enjoy reading too!

Chief Minister's Reading Challenge

Our Year 6 and Year 7 English classes are now busy reading for the Chief Minister's Reading Challenge this year. We hope everyone is enjoying the challenge and reading things they really love to read!

We encourage students to ask us in the library for reading recommendations.

Got any suggestions for us?

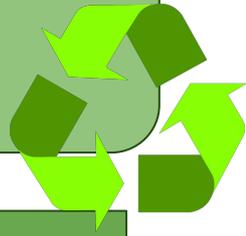
We'd also love to hear from students if there are any favourite books they'd like us to add to our wish list, or if there are any other ideas you have for library activities and services. All suggestions are welcome! Let's build a library everyone wants to use!

See you soon in the library 😊

Fun Fact source: <https://www.takingcharge.csh.umn.edu/reading-stress-relief>



Sustainability Tips



- ❖ It's important to select plants that match your growing conditions. This means putting sun-loving plants into a sunny spot, choosing heat-tolerant plants in warm climates, and giving ground-gobbling vines like pumpkins and melons ample elbow room (or a trellis to climb). Do your homework and pick varieties that will grow well where you live and in the space you have. And to get a step up on success when growing veggies and herbs, start with vigorous young plants from Bonnie Plants instead of trying to grow from seed.
- ❖ Knowing your "hardiness zone" can help you choose the best plants. Simply put, it describes the coldest place a plant can grow. The higher the zone number, the warmer the climate. So if a plant is "hardy to zone 4" and you garden in zone 5, that plant will survive in your yard., If, however, you're in zone 3, it's too cold to grow that particular plant. Find out your hardiness zone.
- ❖ Planting too early (or late) in the season can spell disaster for your garden. You need to know the last average spring frost date for your area so you don't accidentally kill plants by putting them out prematurely. It's also good to know your first average fall frost date so that you get your plants harvested or moved indoors before late-season cold damages them. Discover the average first and last frost dates for your area.



- ❖ Apply a layer of mulch that's 2 to 3 inches deep around each plant. This will help reduce weeds by blocking out the sun, and reduce moisture loss through evaporation, so you have to water less. For a polished look, put down a layer of Scotts bagged mulch. Or, you can put down straw, shredded leaves, pine straw, or some other locally available material.
- ❖ We've already talked about the importance of starting with great soil, but that soil works best in concert with regular boosts of high-quality nutrition for your plants. In other words, amazing soil + top-notch plant food = super garden success! So, a month after planting, begin feeding your garden with plant food like Miracle-Gro Water Soluble All Purpose Plant Food. Be sure to follow label directions.
- ❖ Misjudging sunlight is a common pitfall when you're first learning to garden. Pay attention to how sunlight plays through your yard before choosing a spot for your garden. Most edible plants, including many vegetables, herbs, and fruits, need at least 6 hours of sun in order to thrive.
- ❖ One of the best gardening tips you'll ever get is to plan your new garden near a water source. Make sure you can run a hose to your garden site, so you don't have to lug water to it each time your plants get thirsty. The best way to tell if plants need watering is to push a finger an inch down into the soil (that's about one knuckle deep). If it's dry, it's time to water.

The 9/10 Sustainability LINK Class



Have you heard about 3 Year old Preschool?

Do you have a 3 year old at home or know of a family in the Belconnen area who has a 3 year old? We would love to hear from you!

What is 3 Year old Preschool at Kingsford Smith School?

We know that children's early years set the groundwork for their lifetime learning. Because of this we are making sure eligible three year-olds can take part in an early intervention program. This is a key part of [Set up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT](#).



Is my child eligible?

We currently have vacancies. Please contact the front office on **02 6142 3399** to find out more. Alternatively, please email macilene.moyo@ed.act.edu.au.



E - Scooter Safety

E-Scooter Safety

With the number of e-scooters, both privately-owned and hired, increasing in Canberra, all riders must ensure they are riding safely and adhering to all relevant rules and laws.

E-scooters can be ridden in many areas, but users have to remember they are responsible for their own safety, and that of others.

Riders should be aware that:

- it is legal to use e-scooters on shared paths and footpaths; however, riders must give way to pedestrians
- persons under 12 years of age must be supervised by an adult when using an e-scooter
- a rider cannot carry a passenger
- an approved bicycle helmet must be worn and the e-scooter must have a warning device such as a bell
- the speed limit for an e-scooter on a shared footpath or cycle path is 25km/h, 15km/h for footpaths and 10km/h when at a crossing.

<https://www.police.act.gov.au/road-safety/share-road/e-scooters#:~:text=pers%20under%2012%20years%20of,where%20there%20is%20no%20footpath>



**CANBERRA
YOUTH THEATRE**



BELCONNEN ENSEMBLES

THEATRE WORKSHOPS

**ENROL NOW FOR
SEMESTER 1 2022**

Years 7–9

Wednesdays 4:30–6:30pm

Belconnen Arts Centre

CANBERRAYOUTHTHEATRE.COM.AU/WORKSHOPS