



ACT
Government
Education

KINGSFORD SMITH SCHOOL



HARMONY EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPTIMISM



@kingsfordsmithschool



(02) 6142 3399



info@kss.act.edu.au



NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday 15th December 2023

Principal's Address

Principal's Word of the Week: Doniferous

As we close on another fantastic year, I want to thank each of you for your continued support and commitment. A special acknowledgment goes to our School Board and the Parents and Citizens (P&C) committee. Your tireless efforts and commitment to the betterment of our school have played a pivotal role in our improvement journey.

To our incredible teachers, staff, students, and parents – your dedication has made this year full of new learning, friendships, and action-packed moments.

Celebrating student achievement through the various milestones at Kingsford Smith School has been an absolute privilege and a particular highlight. The annual Kingsford Smith Awards Ceremonies have served as special moments where we come together as a community to recognise and applaud the outstanding accomplishments of our students. Witnessing our students' growth, dedication, and talents during these ceremonies has been genuinely inspiring. Additionally, the Year 5 graduation and the Year 10 formal mark significant transitions in our student's academic journey. These events are not only moments of achievement but also occasions for reflection on the progress and potential that each student embodies. Being able to share in these celebratory occasions has been a joy.

The end of the school year is also a little bittersweet as we bid farewell to some cherished teachers and support staff; it is with mixed emotions that we express our gratitude and best wishes for their future endeavours. To those venturing to new schools, your passion and dedication have left an indelible mark on our community, and we are grateful for your contributions. For those embarking on interstate or overseas adventures, may your journey be filled with exciting experiences and continued success. To those exploring different professions, your talents and skills will undoubtedly shine in new and diverse roles. While we will miss seeing you each day at Kingsford Smith School, we are excited about the opportunities ahead for each of you.

School Reports

We are pleased to inform you that the Semester 2 reports for all students have been sent out via email. Each report provides valuable insights into your child's academic progress, achievements, and areas for growth. If, for any reason, you have not received your child's report, we kindly request you to check your email's junk or spam folder before reaching out to the front office. We aim to ensure that every family has access to this important information, and we appreciate your cooperation in this matter. If you encounter any difficulties or have further inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact the front office for assistance.

Looking forward to 2024

We are thrilled to announce that in 2024, Kingsford Smith School will be joining the prestigious University of Canberra Affiliated Schools Program. This initiative, part of the Future of Education Strategy, enhances student learning through professional development for pre-service and current teachers and fosters research in schools.

The UC Affiliated Schools Program represents a collaborative effort between the ACT Government and the University of Canberra. This partnership signifies a shared commitment to placing students at the forefront of their educational journey. It also underscores the importance of cultivating a highly skilled and professional teaching workforce with access to cutting-edge research and professional development opportunities.

We are excited about the possibilities and benefits this affiliation will bring to our school, enriching the educational experience for students and educators.

Beginning of the year arrangements

Next week students in Preschool to Year 5 will receive communications regarding their 2024 classroom teacher. This will include some general information regarding the first day of school and where to line up to meet their teacher.

Students in the Year 7(2024) should have already received communications regarding the commencement of 2024. Please contact info@kss.act.edu.au if you did not receive your email.

Students in Year 6, Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 will meet in the school gym on Wednesday, 31 January 2024. They will then separate into year groups to meet their homeroom teacher and receive their timetables.

During January our email address info@kss.act.edu.au will be monitored by administration periodically to respond to any urgent enquiries. The main office will be open from Thursday 25 January for new families needing to provide paperwork.

2024 Term Dates

Term 1 –

- Teachers commence on Monday 29 January 2024 (student-free day).
- New students start school on Tuesday 30 January 2024.
 - Preschool, Kindergarten and Year 7 start and stay for a full day of schooling.
 - All other new students are invited for a 1 hour meet and greet session between 9.00am-10.00am.
- All students return to school on Wednesday, 31 January 2024.
- Term 1 ends on Friday, 12 April 2024.

Term 2 –

- Teachers commence on Monday, 29 April 2024 (student-free day).
- Students start school on Tuesday, 30 April 2024.
- Term 2 ends on Friday, 5 July 2024.

Term 3 –

- Teachers commence on Monday, 22 July 2024 (student-free day).
- Students start school on Tuesday, 23 July 2024.
- Term 3 ends on Friday, 27 September 2024.

Term 4 –

- Teachers commence on Monday, 14 October 2024 (student-free day).
- Students start school on Tuesday, 15 October 2024.
- Term 4 ends on Tuesday, 17 December 2024

I wish you all a safe, joyful, and relaxing break as we enter the holiday season. May it be filled with precious family, fun, and celebration moments. Here's to a well-deserved holiday and an exciting new year ahead!

Preschool

Grasshoppers

The grasshoppers have had such a wonderful term. We enjoyed a visit from Kenny Koala, who talked to us about keeping safe when we cross the road. The children loved walking out of the preschool gates to see Kenny's car with lights and sirens! We worked so hard on our assembly item 'Taba Naba', learning tricky words in a different language, and making beautiful watercolour headbands based on animals you find in the reef. Students performed so well on stage and we were very, very proud of them all! Children have spent the last few weeks of learning participating in kindy transitions. They have had the opportunity to spend time in each kindy classroom, enjoying some literacy and maths activities, as well as doing a tour of the school and learning where to find things. We wish everyone a safe and happy holiday, and all the best for Kindergarten next year! Emily, Wendy and Danielle.



Caterpillars

What a busy term 4 we have had! We loved having grandparents and special friends come to visit us at school and help us to plant some seeds. The children have enjoyed watering them and watching them grow, we are so close to having some sunflowers! We have also been so lucky to watch tadpoles grow and change this term too! They arrived in week 1 just as tiny little tadpoles, and we saw them grow bigger, grow back legs, grow front legs, then finally we had a frog! The tadpoles sparked lots of questions about life cycles and changes and we spent a lot of this term investigating the children's wonderings. We have enjoyed learning with your children this term, and wish them all the best for kindergarten next year! Emily and Wendy.



Busy Bees

Yet another busy Term for the Busy Bees. We partnered with Frog watch ACT and provided a 'home' for some tadpoles, observing them on their journey to becoming frogs. We discussed their life cycle, their natural environment vs their school environment, recorded their progress and researched different types of frogs and their habitats. The children assisted in the 'care' component measuring and changing the water as well as feeding the tadpoles. The main aspect that the Busy Bees learnt was that of patience- as we only had one tadpole turn into a frog, that was in week nine- but 'oh my' the excitement generated!!! The children chose to explore outer space, including the solar system. They made mobiles, life sized rockets from boxes, as well as discussing gravity and creating a much used dramatic play area.

We welcomed our Grandfriends to Preschool. One of the activities that we did together was planting mini sunflower seeds, this planting complemented our spring discussions and discoveries.



The Puggles

Our Puggles put on the reef-themed bracelets and joined our Grasshopper friends to perform 'Taba Naba' at the assembly.

Many families joined our Grandfriends day as we planted our sunflower seeds and had our biggest morning Acknowledgement of Country. Our children followed our indigenous educator Cody and engaged with weeks-long efforts in learning about Indigenous symbols and we all created our symbol map to communicate our meanings. Many students chose to convey stories of bush tuckers, families and friends.

We enjoyed the excursion to the national museum. The Indigenous Elder Deb shared the Dreamtime story of Bogong Moth and showed us many cultural artefacts. We shared our knowledge about the symbols and the land, and together we enacted many native animals.

The Puggles learned more about native animal birds and echidnas. We learned about echidna's spines and how they use their long tongue to hunt for ants through Dreamtime stories, videos and songs.

In the rainy seasons, kids played in the muddy puddles, on sunny days, they scavenged for bugs and roamed for ant mound and ant hills.

The preschool educators shared memorable learning experiences with our puggles. For our big puggles, we wish them all the best for kindergarten next year, for our smaller puggles, we look forward to another Koori year. Rebecca, Andy, Cody and Ruby.



Blue Beetles

What an amazing term!

Our Blue Beetles continued to put in hard work in singing their way through nursery rhymes. This term we have covered Round and round the garden, Zoom, zoom, zoom, If you are happy and you know it, Where is Thumbkin, 5 little Speckled Frogs, Tiny Tim, One little finger, Once I saw a little bird, and Sleeping bunnies. Our Blue Beetles were so keen each week to make the corresponding craft to showcase to their families.

Our Blue Beetles are becoming full-day preschool ready in the upcoming year, they have a strong awareness with routines, fair plays, turn-taking. Our Exec educator Mrs Harleen came and showed us the KSS Zones of Regulation to better communicate their needs. The 3yo preschool educators wish our children all the best moving forward to the full-day preschool next year. Rebecca, Andy and Ruby.

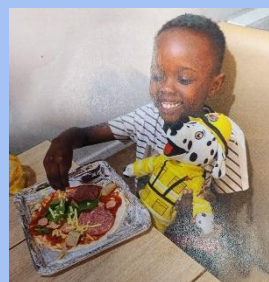


Sparkie Kindergarten Fire Safety Program

Kindergarten students participated in fire safety program with the local ACT Fire Service earlier in the year. As a follow up the students had an opportunity to take Sparkie home, take photos and draw about their time with Sparkie. The fire service will collect the information students and families provided about the number of smoke detectors in their homes.

Remember if you home has a fire -

Stop, Drop, Cover, Roll



Year 1

Our Year 1 students have been busy with science investigations, excursion reflections and word noticing with our reading LINK cycle of learning. We have shared ideas and knowledge about Connecting to Country with our recent National Arboretum excursion. Students had the opportunity to participate in a range of yarning and cultural experiences with the educational program onsite. We tested out our playground skills with the Pod Playground and enjoyed a picnic style break overlooking the rest of Canberra from the hills! Students refined their skills with throwing a boomerang and learning about the different ways this is done. Asking questions, sharing ideas and developing further understandings related to place through visiting a significant site was a culmination of student inquiry learning this semester. Students have explored time, money and problem solving with a range of operations in mathematics. We encourage all students to share their strategies and use hands-on materials, games and language to explore different number concepts. Students have thoroughly enjoyed their Fresh Tastes program with high school buddies. Each fortnight we shared food safety techniques, prepared a different recipe and worked in small groups as a team to focus on fresh produce with healthy eating. KSS students were able to exhibit their PBL skills to work respectfully with others in our high school Food Technology stations. This involved cleaning up and organising the learning space at the end of each session. We encourage all students to keep up their literacy skills with everyday reading and writing to record their holiday experiences with the upcoming break.

The Year 1 Team - Kirstin Brown, Jordan Stewart and Sarah Warren



Year 2 Aquasafe

Every morning during Week 9 Year 2 students participated in the Aquasafe program at CISAC in Belconnen. Each day the students had two lessons about water safety and awareness. Royal Life Saving instructors taught skills to get into and out of a rubber raft, take excess clothes off while in the water, float and to feel comfortable having their face in the water. For many of our children they had their first experience in the big pool. All the students had fun and improved their water skills. The instructors encourage the students to visit a pool over the holidays to continue water awareness and have fun.

The Year 2 teachers also delivered lessons in the classroom earlier in the year to support Aquasafe. The program was rescheduled on other occasions so a big thank you to Mrs Elliott for her work to make Aquasafe happen for our students.



Year 8 Small Group HaSS

Currently, in the year 8 LSP HaSS we have been learning about business and economics. We have created our own business on market day which ended up in a profit. Which is what we believe makes a business successful. The business was called Supa jelly and we sold a variety of jelly with cartoon characters matching the colour of the jelly. We also created a gaming business to increase incentive for customers. To create the business we learnt about marketing/advertising, roles/responsibilities and the ability to share workloads evenly. On the day, we came up with a deal to encourage more sales. We said if you beat the high score on Pac Man you could win a free jelly. This brought in a lot more sales. To continue expanding our knowledge on business, we have been playing Star Wars Monopoly. Monopoly has helped expand our negotiation and numeracy skills.



Transport Canberra has announced today that the [school holiday timetable](#) will be implemented from Monday 18 December 2023 to Sunday 28 January 2024 inclusive.

The school holiday bus timetable will deliver the same reliable network and frequency that is currently in place while only removing the school services and diversions over the six-week period.

Free travel will be available on Christmas Day and from 5:00 pm New Year's Eve for bus and light rail services.

Christmas Day

Other changes over this period include a special Christmas Day bus timetable. Light rail will run to a regular Sunday/public holiday frequency.

New Year's Eve

On [New Year's Eve](#), a regular Sunday bus timetable will operate until 10:00 pm, followed by additional Rapid services scheduled after 10:00 pm (excluding the Rapid 8) to support the New Year's Eve celebrations.

Light rail will deliver an extended timetable and increased services on New Year's Eve. This will offer 10-minute frequency from 4:30 pm from Gungahlin Place until last service at 1:00 am, and 5:00 pm from Alinga Street until last service at 1:30 am.

Keep in touch

Stay up to date with important Transport Canberra news, including changes to services and the latest project and event information. Sign up to our weekly [e-newsletter](#) or you can like us on [Facebook](#) and follow us on [Twitter](#).

School holiday bus timetable in place



FROM 18 Dec 2023

Free travel on Christmas Day and from 5:00 pm New Year's Eve

PLAN AHEAD

CIRCUS RIO



CARNIVAL

Biggest Circus
in Australia

Book Now - Hurry!



EARLYBIRD

SAVE UP TO 20%



www.circusrio.com

Gungahlin, Flemington Rd & Manning Clark Cres.

TWO WEEKS ONLY

9 Feb - 18 Feb



NACT JANUARY HOLIDAY CLINICS



JUNIOR SCHOOL HOLIDAY CLINICS

16TH, 17TH & 18TH
JANUARY

9AM-12.30PM

BOYS & GIRLS
AGED 5-11

1 DAY = \$65
2 DAYS = \$120
3 DAYS = \$150

GET YOUR
TICKETS HERE:



TRAIN LIKE A GRIFFIN

18TH
JANUARY

9AM-12.30PM

SPECIAL ONE-DAY
CLINIC FOR
BOYS AGED 11-15

COST: \$65

GET YOUR
TICKETS HERE:



FUTURE STARS CLINIC

23RD & 24TH
JANUARY

9AM-12.30PM

GIRLS
AGED 12-15

1 DAY = \$65
2 DAYS = \$120

GET YOUR
TICKETS HERE:



CONTACT CAITY HANNA IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS - CAITLIN.HANNA@NETBALLACT.COM.AU

Saturday Coding & Robotics program 2024

Southside - Canberra College
Northside - Harrison Primary

Term 1 2024
register online or
book FREE
Trial Class

to learn more or book a trial
goto ozcodeacademy.com
or email
info@ozcodeacademy.com

All levels from
beginner to
advance

