



ACT
Government
Education

KINGSFORD SMITH SCHOOL



HARMONY EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPTIMISM



@kingsfordsmithschool



(02) 6142 3399



info@kss.act.edu.au



NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday 25th August 2023

Principal's Address

Principal's Word of the Week: Appreciate

Dear families and carers,

It's hard to believe we are already in the sixth week of the term! The time has flown by with exciting activities and events that have kept our school buzzing with energy. From excursions and sporting events to school camps, science week, book week, and the highly anticipated reading in pjs and musical, it has been a hub of enthusiasm and engagement at Kingsford Smith School.

Despite the challenges posed by the current national teacher shortage, we are incredibly fortunate to have provided these enriching experiences for our students. The dedication and commitment of our staff have shone through as they have worked tirelessly to ensure that our students continue to receive a well-rounded education.

Staffing shortages have been a common hurdle schools across the ACT face, and Kingsford Smith School is no exception. To address this, we have implemented a range of mitigation strategies. These strategies encompass various short-term and long-term approaches to ensure continuity of learning.

Some of the mitigation strategies we have and may continue to adopt intermittently include:

- **Structural Changes:** review our non-essential activities to prioritise core educational functions, so we can make the most of the available resources by streamlining our operations.

Principal's Address

- Timetabling Adjustments: timetables have been flexibly adjusted to accommodate staffing constraints. This ensures that students' learning experiences are optimised even in the face of challenges.
- Staff Allocation: utilising relief staff to fill in where necessary, ensuring every class has dedicated support and supervision.
- Combining and class splits: When needed, we've combined or split classes to maintain a manageable student-to-teacher ratio. This helps in providing effective instruction and support to all students.
- Alternative Learning Methods: In cases where traditional classroom teaching is not feasible, we have turned to alternative methods such as self-directed learning through platforms like Google Classroom. This ensures that students progress in their studies even during challenging times.

As we navigate these staffing challenges, we must highlight the incredible resilience of our students, parents, and staff. The collective effort to adapt, support one another, and maintain a positive learning environment is genuinely critical.

We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work through these challenging times and adjustments. Your ongoing support is invaluable; it is essential to maintain a strong partnership between our school and our families to continue to promote our Positive Behaviours for Learning values. Our continued expectation of our students is that they demonstrate Safe, Respectful, and Learner behaviours.

Acting Principal weeks 7-10

Before arriving at Kingsford Smith School, I secured a four-week approved leave to attend to pressing family matters. During this time, I am pleased to announce that Karen Murray will be stepping into the role of Acting Principal. Karen possesses an extraordinary grasp of the school's strategic and operational requirements and has demonstrated exceptional leadership capabilities. With her guidance, I am confident that Kingsford Smith School will smoothly navigate the remainder of the term. I eagerly anticipate my return in Term Four, where we will collectively assess our progress in line with our annual action plan and set the stage for an exciting and promising 2024.

Principal's Address

Satisfaction Survey

By now, we trust that all parents have received the link to the school satisfaction survey. Your feedback holds immense importance to us, and we encourage every family to invest a few moments in completing the survey. Your insights are critical as we strive to enhance our school's performance.

This survey not only aids us in pinpointing areas where we can celebrate our achievements but also helps us identify opportunities for further development. Your participation is a powerful tool in shaping the ongoing improvement journey of our school, and we eagerly anticipate your valuable input.

Kind regards,
Paula Kinsman

Deputy Principal

What a busy few weeks we have had here at KSS! We had a large amount of students who represented KSS at the Belconnen Athletics Carnival at the AIS. Although not all students who made it through attended, I would like to congratulate all students who qualified. They had a fabulous time in the sun and are to be commended on their behaviour on the day. We also had some year 9 and 10 Jet students who volunteered to help on the day, I don't think the carnival could have ran so smoothly without this help! A huge thank you to Ms Jones and Ms Clewer for attending with our students. Well done to Jacob who has qualified to represent KSS at the ACT level – we wish him luck!

We have also been busy with excursions. Our Kindy students visited the zoo and had a fabulous time learning about the different animals and watching them in their different environments. Our year 5 students also attended camp at Borambola and had an amazing time! Whilst there they participated in a range of activities including rock climbing, mud run, archery and initiatives. The team work they displayed was wonderful to watch and they supported each other beautifully. The food was also delicious. Thank you to Ms Jones, Ms Valandro, Mr Bayley and Ms Clewer for giving up their time to attend camp with our year 5's. Our year 3 students visited Parliament House yesterday and enjoyed consolidating the learning they have been doing in class. We also have some upcoming excursions so keep an eye out for notes.



This week we held our Book Week parade as part of Book Week. We held the parade on a nice sunny morning and everyone enjoyed displaying their costumes. The effort our students put into their costumes was amazing, using books as their inspiration. Teachers also dressed up, with themes across buildings. We also held out before school reading in building one as part of Book Week and it was lovely to see many of our families reading in the morning. We are already planning next years parade.



It has certainly been a big week, with our Reading In PJ's night held last night. I want to thank all our families who attended for making this such a fun night! We started with some yummy pizza and milo before moving into the library for some special guest reading by teacher volunteers. Everyone looked warm and snuggly in their PJ's (some even brought their own pillows!). We had over 300 people attend and somehow we all fitted in the library. Keep an eye out for one of our next events, Marvellous Maths Games Night!

Kind regards

Mrs Murray



Calendar

Date

Event

Wednesday 30th - Thursday 31st
August

Musical

Monday 4th - Wednesday 6th
September

Year 2 Aqua Safe

Tuesday 5th September

Secondary Northside Athletics
Carnival

Wednesday 6th - Thursday 7th
September

Limelight

Monday 11th - Wednesday 13th
September

Year 7 Camp

Year 5

Year 5 had an absolutely amazing time at camp! We were so proud of the teamwork and leadership skills demonstrated by lots of students. Some of our favourite activities included rock climbing, BMX riding, eating pancakes for breakfast and of course... The Mud Run!

In maths, students have been working hard to solve division problems. They have been applying short division, 'fact family' and 'equal groups' strategies. Year 5 will begin learning about multiples and factors and use this knowledge to deepen their understanding of division.

Metaphors, similes and personification are key terms students are becoming very familiar with as they create their own poems. Students have been encouraged to use figurative language as they write acrostic, limerick and free-verse poems. I'm sure they will be excited to read them when they're finished!

We are delving into the lives and perspectives of people from the Australian Gold Rush. The infamous year 5 Gold Rush role play game has sparked creativity and deepened our understanding of what life was like around 1851 on the goldfields. Students have been gold panning and assaying their gold before writing diary entries about the hardships of everyday life for a miner.

Year 5 Teachers,
Nicola Buckler-Jones, Liana Valandro and Teagan Gaukroger



Year 6 PE/Health

In weeks 1-5, we developed our kicking skills. We practised dribbling, kicking, passing and trapping drills. We tested our skills in a round robin soccer tournament between the Yellow, Purple, Green and Orange teams. In the semi-finals there was a nail-biting penalty shootout between the Green and Yellow teams. The Yellow team came out on top and progressed to the grand finals. The Purple team came out victorious after three games, semi-finals and grand finals.

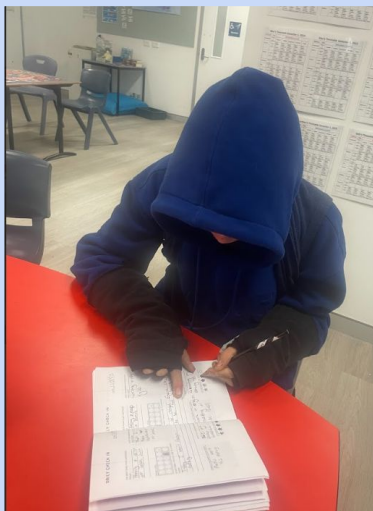
In Week 5, we started a Health unit on puberty. We are learning how our bodies can change during puberty.

- Written by 6 White



Yellow Program

During LINK, students in Yellow participate in a social skills program that focuses on engaging in reciprocal conversations, conflict resolution, and responding appropriately to social situations. Key strategies are taught through the Circle Time method. During Circle Time, students have been exploring storytelling, achievements, behaviour and conflict, and values. Each day, students are given the opportunity to reflect on their best interactions for the day, and record this in their mood journals. The aim of this time is to help students identify the positive moments of their day.



Soccer Gala Day

Over the last two weeks we had our year 7 and 8 girls & year 9 and 10 boys and girls soccer teams attend the Northside Gala Day at Dickson Playing Fields.

The 7 and 8 girls had a great day drawing one game and narrowly missing out on the remaining games of the day. This was most of the girls first ever sports tournament, so it was fantastic to walk away with seven goals over the day and all midfielders and forwards scoring a goal each. A key highlight of the day was watching some of our youngest girls step up into goalie and defence and attack the ball with determination and grit to stop the other team. The sportsmanship shown by the girls ended up with the team getting asked back to play an additional game for the day, a true testament to the camaraderie and teamwork shown by the girls. Well done to our 7 and 8 Girls Team.

The next week we took out our 9 and 10 boys and girls team. Both teams were put into the top pool of the day playing against some of the hardest schools in the North-side of Canberra. Our 9 and 10 girls fought hard all day, improving with every game. They walked away with a tie in one game, but sadly lost out for the rest of the games in the day. We were so proud of our girls giving it a go, with most of the team never even playing soccer before, but being inspired to give it a go and have a great day out with their teammates. Their teamwork and togetherness was wonderful to watch and put a smile on many of the teachers faces.

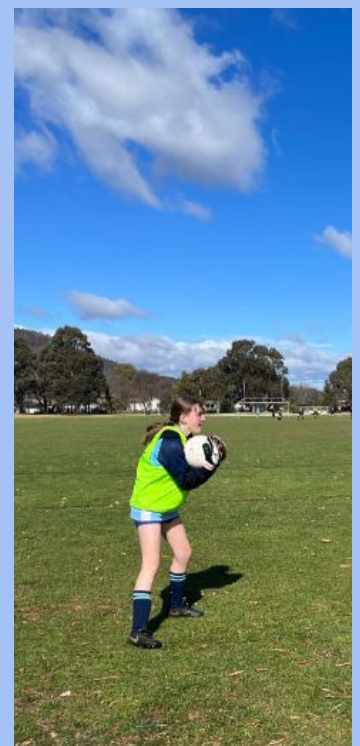
Our 9 and 10 boys fought hard in all games, it was great to see their lunch time skills cross over into the gala day tournament. The boys were determined, ran hard and showed some great ball skills across the day. Between Min and Rafael we walked away with a 'Goal of the Day' penalty shot and really showed the North-side teams what KSS was made of. The boys played with passion and grew support across the day from other schools due to their desire to play hard. The boys grew as a team across the day and are already counting down the weeks until 2024 Soccer Gala Day.

Well done to all three of our KSS Soccer Teams, you all represented our school with pride and we can't wait to see what we can accomplish next year.



Top left to right: Jayla Wilson, Saskia Best, Brisa Albert, Eva Watterson, Cassie Weir, Evie Freeman, Bella Mcardle
Bottom left to right: Makayla Jordan, Muntasa Manzoor, Evie Crisp, June Steele, Taylah Schumacher, Radwa Mohamed

Top left to right: Maeve Scurr, Sam Nash, Abby Jensen, Ella Hollingsworth, Adeng Garang, Francisca Tshoji
Bottom left to right: Elspeth Smith, Maddy Jones, Ambra Attioli, Charlotte Smith, Grace Laylay



Top left to right: Othniel Amanatey, Daniel Poole, Steven Fitzgerald, Charlie Nash, Toby Schumacher, Lachlan Gerrard, Nico Vidakovic, Min Kyow, Yameen Islam
Bottom left to right: Jason Virk, Hanz Sebastian, Rafael Franchini, Ryan Pederick, Eesa Fureje

Evie Crisp - Goalkeeper

KSS IEO and CIC

My name is Leah Brideson. I am Kamilaroi yinarr. 'Yaama' means hello and 'yinarr' means woman in Kamilaroi/Gamilaraay/Gomeroi language. My mob are from the Gunnedah region, with connections to Quirindi and a small town called Breeza, where my stories live, and Ancestors lay.

I have been working in the ACT Education Directorate with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education for 16 years. I began working at KSS at the end of term 2 as the new Cultural Integrity Coordinator (CIC). My role as a CIC is to support all staff to build their cultural integrity and create whole school approaches to understanding and embedding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (First Nations) knowledges, histories, and cultures. I am not here to work with students; however, I will get to know First Nations students across the school so that their voice is valued in the process of enhancing cultural integrity.

Hamid and I will be working together alongside the Staff Cultural Integrity Team. We are planning a community get together for our First Nations students and families' early next term. Please keep an eye out for details to come.



Library News

Exciting times at KSS and in the Library this week as we celebrated Book Week. The Library staff, Lynette and Michelle loved dressing up as book characters to greet students in the library and the students had fun guessing which characters we would be.



It is a busy time for assessment and assignments being completed. The digital backpack now has two new links to support student research: Britannica Online and World Book Online. It is very easy to use, simply log in and go to the digital backpack. The icons are clearly displayed under the heading **Learning**.



World Book Online



Britannica Online

Click on the icons, type your search terms in the search bar and begin researching. If students need any assistance using the sites see the Librarian. The library is open for students to use and the Librarian is present to assist during the following times.

Before school:

- 8.30 am- 9.00 am
- During the school day and
- During both meal breaks for the senior campus.

Reading Tip from the Library

Provide opportunities for children to read different things. Leave reading material around the home including non-fiction, comics, magazines, fiction or maybe poetry that you think your children might find interesting.

<http://bit.ly/40A2c50>



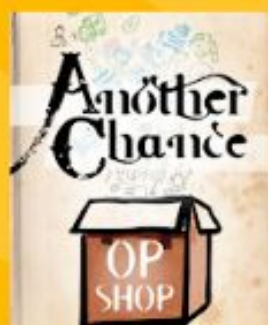
ANOTHER CHANCE OP SHOP

SEPT 4 - 9

SUPER

SALE

50% OFF ENTIRE SHOP



Scullin Shops, Ross Smith Cres, Scullin
Open: Mon-Fri 10am-4:30pm & Sat 10am-1pm

Girls' Programming Network



Girls teaching girls how to code!

GPN is a community of women and girls who are interested in computer science, programming and IT. Workshops are held for girls year 4-12, they are free and no prior coding experience is necessary

Term 3 GPN: Sunday 10 September 2023 at ANU
Registrations open Tuesday 22 August 2023 at 6pm
and close Wednesday 23 August 2023 at 6pm.

Register through the eventbrite website,
search for: Girls' Programming Network Canberra Term 3

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/girls-programming-network-canberra-term-3-tickets-695666415977>



Australian
National
University

COLAB
AN ASD-ANU COLLABORATION



Girls'
Programming
Network



School holiday camps on sale now!



NEW

Minecraft Engineers

PLUS YouTube Creators • Coding • DJ • Roblox
Animation • Design • Minions • Jurassic World

Book now at codecamp.com.au/flyer

SAVE \$25

Use coupon code
EARLY25 at checkout