



ACT  
Government  
Education

# KINGSFORD SMITH SCHOOL



**HARMONY EXCELLENCE RESPECT OPTIMISM**



@kingsfordsmithschool



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## NEWSLETTER

Date: Friday 3rd November 2023

# Principal's Address

Principal's Word of the Week: Revitalisation

I hope this message finds you all in good health and high spirits as we enter Term 4. It is my pleasure to welcome you back to school, where I do not doubt that the upcoming term will be filled with fresh learning opportunities, enriching experiences, and countless celebrations of achievement.

It has been a busy start to the term in the art and performance arena! Well done to our band students who attended and performed at Floriade. The students performed beautifully and proudly represented Kingsford Smith School from all reports.

Congratulations to our remarkable Lion dancers, who were invited to perform at the V.I.P Launch of the 50th Anniversary of the ACT Public School System Exhibition on Monday evening. Their performance was a testament to their dedication, hard work, and artistry.

Further, congratulations must go to our Year 9-10 dancers, who have shown incredible dedication and skills in their recent participation in the 2023 Ausdance Youth Dance Festival. As I had the privilege of watching from the audience, I was thoroughly impressed with the passion and energy they brought to the stage. It was evident that they thoroughly enjoyed performing in front of a live audience, and it was a joy to witness their enthusiasm. I want to thank all staff involved in preparing for the events and their commitment and dedication to our students. Their guidance and mentorship have been instrumental in helping our students shine on stage. They have, without a doubt, sacrificed precious time with their families to ensure our students could participate.

## Kingsford Smith School: Supporting Our Community

On Saturday, Families and neighbours came together at Kingsford Smith School to vote in the Referendum. The BBQ sizzled with delicious sausages and refreshing beverages bubbled, adding to a community atmosphere. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our devoted KSS staff for their tireless efforts in making this event a success through their volunteer work and dedication.

As a school community, we acknowledge the outcome of the vote impacts families in different ways. As we grapple with uncertainties, we maintain a keen sensitivity to the potential impact of current events, both nationally and globally, on our children and families. We invite you to engage with us if you require support and access to resources, especially during difficult times.

### School processes and 2024 planning

You may have noticed a slight adjustment to the primary timetable, and we want to clarify this change (Break 2 is now at 1:00 p.m.). This modification was necessary to align with the new working conditions for our dedicated teachers under the current Enterprise Bargaining agreement. As we gradually phase in these new conditions and address the ongoing challenge of the National Teacher shortage, you may encounter some alterations to our familiar routines and rituals in the upcoming year, 2024. Additionally, we are actively working on implementing strategies to ensure a smooth transition and minimise disruptions to your child's learning experience. Please stay tuned and continue reading our newsletter for regular updates as we work together to navigate these necessary changes and ensure the best educational experience for our students. Your understanding and support are greatly appreciated.

One way you can assist is by informing us if your circumstances have changed and you no longer intend to have your child or children remain at Kingsford Smith School for the upcoming year; we kindly request that you notify the front office as soon as possible. Your cooperation helps us make informed decisions and ensure the best possible educational experience for all our students. Thank you for your continued support and partnership in shaping a bright future for our school community.

## Teachers as lifelong learners

Congratulations To Marina Leko who attended the HTAA National Conference: Contested Histories and was one of seven recipients of the Hilary Brettell Scholarship.



## Term 4

As we rapidly approach mid-term and the school year's conclusion, we want to inform you about the exciting and busy term ahead. The next few weeks are packed with assessments, report preparations, and various celebration activities that mark a challenging and exciting time for our students.

While it's understandable that this period can bring about stress and excitement in equal measure, we must also remind our students about the importance of maintaining a positive and respectful attitude towards their learning until the end, including Week 10.

Recently, we have observed a few instances where some students have become disengaged from their learning, requiring reminders about safe and respectful behaviour in our school environment. As a community, we must come together to reinforce these expectations and values during these moments.



We kindly ask all our families to support us by reinforcing the expected behaviour at home and having open conversations with your children about the importance of maintaining a respectful and engaging approach to their learning. Participation in the upcoming celebratory activities is a privilege, not a right. Our responsibility is to ensure that all students attending these events do so with a sense of responsibility and respect towards our school's staff, students, and community members.

Our commitment to providing a safe and inclusive learning environment is a priority, and we believe that, together with your support, we can reinforce these values in our students. By doing so, we can ensure that the upcoming celebrations are enjoyable and memorable for all students while maintaining the high standards of safety and respect that our school community deserves.

Thank you for your support and partnership in creating a positive learning environment for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to contact us. We look forward to an exciting and successful conclusion of this school year.

## Reports

We want to inform our school families that while schools can exclude comments from the reporting process, Kingsford Smith School has included comments on student reports in 2023. In Week 10, your child will receive their school report via email, following the same format as mid-semester reports. In the coming weeks, teachers may reach out to discuss any academic concerns. Your child's report should not be a surprise.

## Facebook

Kingsford Smith School has recently created a Facebook page to share and celebrate the positive events and achievements at our school with you. While this is a social media platform, we want to clarify the following points:

1. This page is for publishing information only. If you have any questions or concerns about the school or your child, please continue using our traditional communication channels, such as emailing teachers or contacting the school via email and phone ([info@kss.act.edu.au](mailto:info@kss.act.edu.au)/ 6142 3399).
2. Please refrain from posting any negative comments or feedback on this page. Instead, we encourage you to send such feedback directly to the school so that we can address your concerns effectively.

3. We will only share pictures of students who have provided media permission. If you'd like to update this permission for your child, please get in touch with the school.
4. Lastly, we would greatly appreciate your support by clicking the link below and liking or following our page. There are already some exciting updates on the page that you can explore.

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61552304338923>

Thank you for being a part of our school community!

# Deputy Principal

What a great start it has been to term 4!

Our year 9 cohort were off at camp last week in Tathra working on team building and leadership skills as they start to transition into their final year of high school. Thank you to Mr Ebbott, Mr Britton, Ms Leko, Ms De Almeida and Ms Gao for taking the kids and ensuring they had such a great time.



On Wednesday evening our 9/10 dance class participated in Dancefest. The theme was 'Bread and Circuses' and was inspired by the Roman Empire's strategy to distract its people with food and entertainment. The class danced brilliantly and represented Kingsford Smith School well. Thank you to Ms Howard for taking the class and preparing them so well and to Ms Wakeling for supporting them on the night.

Congratulations to Skye Mitry who has won a major award, and Maeve Scurr and Abby Jensen, who are receiving achievement awards for their entries into the Litlinks short story writing competition. Their awards will be announced at an online ceremony in November. The girls all wrote brilliant stories that highlighted their creativity and passion for storytelling. Well done ladies.

Last term, Bec Thompson and Ms Leko organised a formal op-shop for our year 10 students. They partnered with Vinnies and received a huge number of community donations. On the day of the shop, 98 individual items were sold to year 10, with some students purchasing their entire formal outfit for less than \$5. It was a wonderful community and sustainability initiative - thank you Ms Leko and Bec for giving our students such a wonderful opportunity.

# Calendar

## Date

## Event

Tuesday 7th November

ABCN Program Excursion

Wednesday 8th November

Year 7 Immunisations

ABCN Program Excursion

Friday 10th November

Remembrance Day Assembly

Tuesday 14th November

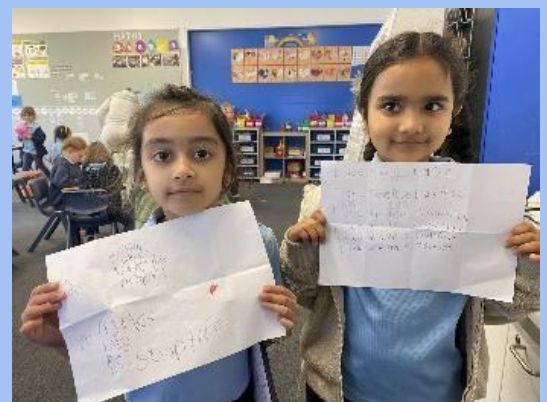
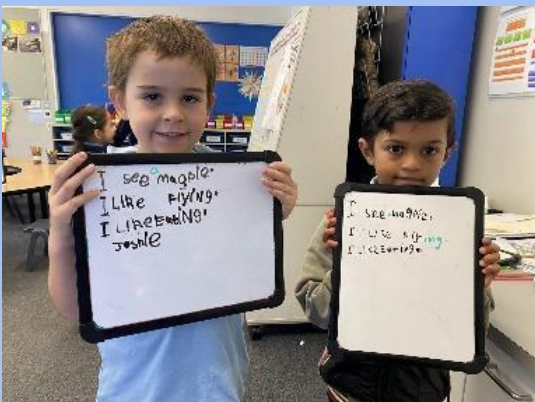
Year 10 Immunisations



# Kindergarten

Kindergarten students are very proud of the progress they are making with writing. Everyday students practise writing simple sentences using capital letters at the beginning and punctuation at the end of their sentences. In Maths, we are learning to ask questions to collect data and make inferences from the data. We are planning to learn about position and understand simple maps in the coming weeks.

For our Inquiry, we are learning how different things move for example, a ball rolls, a book slides. This is a fun topic to ask big questions and observe moving things in our environment. We encourage reading regularly with our enthusiastic kindergarten students. If you have any questions, please contact your child's teacher for an appointment.



# Year 3

Welcome back to the last term of year three!!! We are so proud of you all and can't wait to get back into the rest of the terms learning.

We have been starting off by writing instructional texts. We attempted to teach Mr Bayley how to sit on a chair and drink a glass of water. Some of the instructions weren't descriptive enough and Mr Bayley had some accidents, we had fun and after some edits became successful. We are going to continue working on our instructional texts over the coming weeks to develop some truly wonderful skills.

We have also been working hard on fractions. We have done some great hands on learning and got more comfortable with all of the numbers between numbers. We've really been measuring up to the task of mass. We have discovered how to weight things accurately and understanding what we can measure in grams and kilograms.

Term 4 has been a great time to learn about the rotation of the earth, working out how the day and night cycle works and why we have seasons. It has been out of this world.

We have begun to start researching significant people of the past. Australia has had some truly interesting people, and we are really looking forward to learning all about them. We are beginning to learn some tennis and skills in our PE lessons and it has been super fun to learn some new tricks.

Term 4 is starting out really strong and we are really keen to get all the learning we need to get done to be ready for year 4!



# The Depot

The Depot students have spent the term researching pets. We learnt about habitats and diet. Did you now that guineas pigs need to eat all the time so their teeth don't grow too long? We researched what each animal needs to be healthy and happy. Some pets were harder to care for than others. Some needed lots of space and others needed special heaters. After doing lots of research we decided to trial Guinea pigs to see if they make good class pets. We have three guinea pigs that are on loan to us. We have learned how to care for them – we know what each one likes to eat and how they like to be held and patted. We also know how to recognise when the guinea pigs want to be left alone. We are transferring our new knowledge into social situations. We have been surprised to find that they also help us to feel calm. If you need help choosing a pet we can help



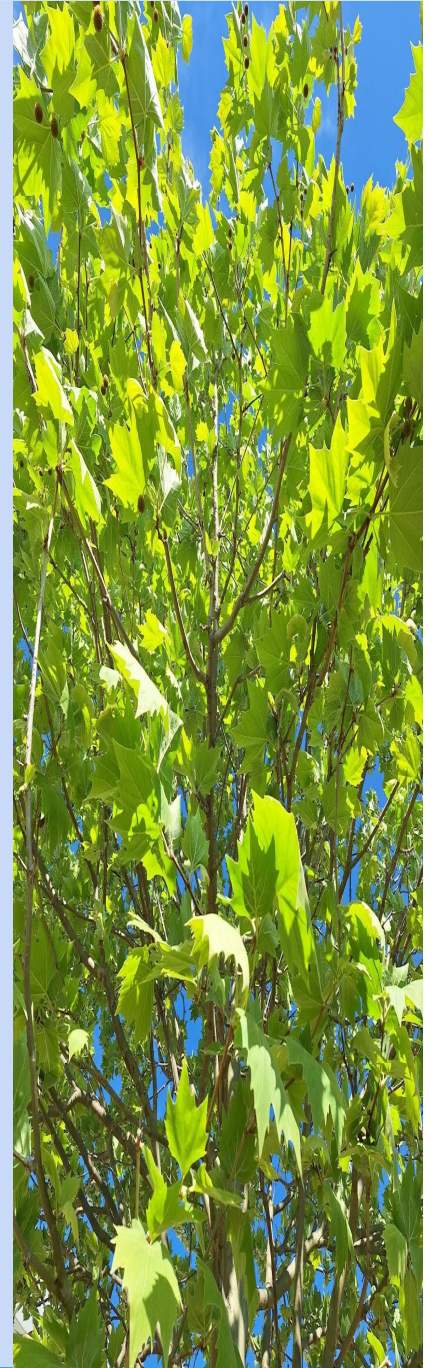


# Year 6

Term 3 saw our year 6 classes exploring the states of matter. They participated in an experiment to demonstrate how matter could transition from a solid to a liquid and then into a gas. They designed experiments to add or remove energy and move water through its different states. The year 6ers identified, described and demonstrated the properties of each state of matter.

This term, our year 6 classes will be delving into energy and electricity. They will be exploring how we as a society generate electricity and explore the benefits and downsides to renewable and non-renewable energy sources. We will be transforming energy from chemical forms into potential and kinetic energy as we strive to develop an understanding of how our world is powered and how we can power it better in the future. Already we have observed that the school is generating a large amount of its own electricity through its new solar panels (by turning photons into electricity) and we observed how plants do almost the same thing naturally (turning photons in an energy source they can use.)

The students will be creating simple circuits to power lights and small motors and engaging in a research task that will involve some model building. It's going to be an awesome term!



# Kids in Space

Last term, a team of six Kingsford Smith School year 6 students entered and won the 2023 Kids in Space competition. The competition involved the whole of 6 White identifying a current problem in space (our team investigated how to build a habitat on the Moon for when the Artemis Astronauts arrive), devise a solution to the problem (our team decided to design a fleet of robotic builders that could use the natural resources on the Moon to 3D print a habitat), design the means to solve the problem (using 3D design software Makers Empire), 3D print the robotic builders using our 3D printers, review their designs, redesign and reprinting final models. Then a team of 6 students volunteered to be our spokespeople at the Kids in Space Showcase where they had to create a display to show off their work and explain to the judges the process and thinking they had developed to solve their problem. We walked away from that showcase victorious and were immediately entered into the National Finals!

The National Finals will be happening from the 29<sup>th</sup> until the 31<sup>st</sup> October at the Australian Space Agency in Adelaide and our amazing team will go up against the winners from every other state in Australia. While the prize money we received from winning the ACT Kids in Space round did not cover all of our expenses and I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank these people and organisations who have helped our students raise the money to get to Adelaide.

Makers Empire- Prize money \$4,6000

Beth Beresford and Phil Wilkinson- Donated \$1,000

Rotary Club of Canberra- Donated \$1,000

Draco Scout Fellowship- Donated \$1,000

Rotary Club of Belconnen- Donated \$1,500

The Masons- Lodge Commonwealth- Donated \$500



We were also able to raise money through our ongoing KSS Container Deposit Scheme (CDS), amounting to \$594 and, as a result of our efforts in running the KSS CDS we also won *The Canberra Times ACT CDS Eniron Champion* competition and received \$500 as prize money.

In total, through community support and hard work, we have been able to raise \$10,694 which will cover airfare, accommodation, travel and food for our entire team!

Good luck to the team, I know you will all do your best and show Australia what students from Kingsford Smith School are capable of!



# Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL)

As part of our Positive Behaviours for Learning (PBL) framework that underpins our ethos here at Kingsford Smith School of all students being safe, respectful learners - we are committed to reviewing our whole school approach to the prevention of bullying behaviours within our school.

The first step in this process is developing a school wide understanding of what bullying is and why students use bullying behaviour. Last week in our whole school sector meeting, all teachers viewed and discussed the current national definition of bullying.

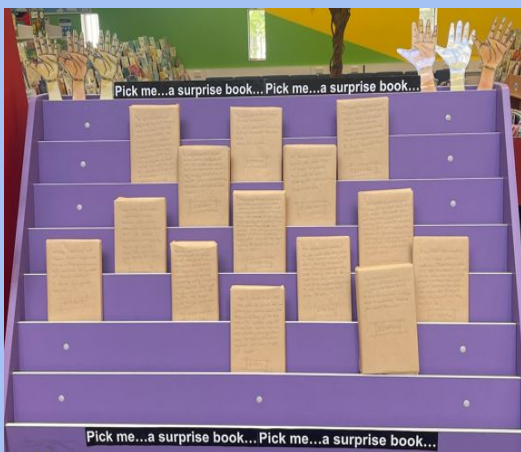
→ 'Bullying is an ongoing and deliberate misuse of power in relationships through repeated verbal, physical and/or social behaviour that intends to cause physical, social and/or psychological harm. It can involve an individual or a group misusing their power, or perceived power, over one or more persons who feel unable to stop it from happening. Bullying can happen in person or online, via various digital platforms and devices and it can be obvious (overt) or hidden (covert). Bullying behaviour is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time (for example, through sharing of digital records). Bullying of any form or for any reason can have immediate, medium and long-term effects on those involved, including bystanders. Single incidents and conflict or fights between equals, whether in person or online, are not defined as bullying.

We would welcome any feedback or questions from the community.

Please email these to [info@kss.act.edu.au](mailto:info@kss.act.edu.au)

# Library

The Library has had a busy start to the term. Last week we ran a Book Fair every morning before school and every afternoon after school until 5pm. A very big thank you from the Library to all those Kingsford Smith School families that came to the fair and made purchases. Every sale generated commission points that the school could use to purchase new books for the school. I hope you are all enjoying your purchases and it was so lovely to see so many families enjoying the fair.



During Library lessons we have been discussing how to choose a book to read. The fiction section of the library has been sorted into genres for example, mystery or fantasy which helps direct students to books that may interest them. Sometimes the graphics on the cover could be interesting or the title could grab you, but when that fails we discussed trying to read a few passages inside the book. To encourage reading and reading something you may not otherwise choose, I have been covering books and writing a short passage from inside the book to create some interest. This is proving very popular and keeping up with demand has been a challenge, which is a fabulous problem to have.

## Reading Tip from the Library

Don't forget the best way to encourage reading is to model reading yourself.

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







**TIGERS FOOTBALL CLUB**

**NPL  
pathway  
club**

# **YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM TRIALS**

**Trials  
remain  
open all  
Term 4**

**Open to boys & girls U10 to U13 years (2024 season age group)**

**U10/U11**

**5pm Wednesday 11 & Tuesday 17 October 2023**

**U12/U13**

**6pm Wednesday 11 & Tuesday 17 October 2023**

**Fields 101 & 102, Banaga Place, Aranda**

**For more info contact: [Tigers1@gmx.com](mailto:Tigers1@gmx.com)**



# Come and Try Rugby Day



**Thursday 30 Nov  
5pm - 6pm**

**Weetangera  
Playing Fields**



- Bring the family
- Meet coaches
- Learn skills
- Free sausage
- Free drink
- Have fun



[secretary@westsjuniorlions.com.au](mailto:secretary@westsjuniorlions.com.au)

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