

# Kingsford Smith School Newsletter

## June 2024



### Principal's message

Dear Families,

It's hard to believe we're already in week 9 of Term 2, and what a busy term it has been! I want to express my deep appreciation to all the parents who took the time to attend our recent community forum. Your feedback and voices are not just valuable; they are the very heart of our student-centred improvement journey. By the end of this week, I hope to provide all families with the "Listening Report," which captures the common themes we've heard from those who attended.

Once this report is distributed, we will create additional opportunities for families to contribute to the school's strategic directions. This will include smaller group forums, surveys, and the chance to provide written responses in the annual School Satisfaction Survey in Term 3.

I would also like to congratulate the staff and students who hosted our Year 7 Information Evening. It was an excellent opportunity to showcase the depth of learning across the high school, meet teachers, and hear from students about their KSS experiences.

I hope you enjoy reading the rest of our newsletter to get a snapshot of what's happening across the school.

Staffing News:

I am thrilled to introduce Brittany Rayner Smith as our new executive teacher for the preschool and kindergarten. Her expertise and dedication will undoubtedly enhance our early education programs. I am equally delighted to welcome Sally Duncan as our new Community Liaison Officer. Her role will foster strong relationships between the school and our community.



## Dates to remember



### **Week 9**

#### **Monday 24th June**

- Year 4 camp-Birrigai

#### **Tuesday 25th June**

- Year 4 camp-Birrigai
- Year 3 Geoscience Excursion

#### **Wednesday 26th June**

- Year 2 Hall Excursion
- 3-5 Assembly

### **Week 10**

#### **Monday 1st July**

- Year 10 Hawker College Excursion

#### **Tuesday 2nd July**

- Year 9-10 Music venue Excursion

### **Wednesday 3rd July**

- P-5 Assembly

### **Thursday 4th July**

- Year 8 Zone Bowling excursion

### **Friday 5th July**

- Last day, term 2

### **TERM 3**

### **Monday 22nd July**

- Pupil free day

### **Tuesday 23rd July**

- Students first day, term 3

## **Year 1**

Hello from the Year 1 team,

We are as busy as Beebots, working hard and learning lots of new things. In our technology lessons, we have been learning all about logging on to our computers, accessing Google Classroom, and typing into a Google Doc. We have also begun to learn to code with our Beebots, inputting a series of instructions to get our Beebots to follow a path.

In maths, we are focusing on place value. Did you know that every number has a place that affects its value? We have been playing lots of card games, using the MAB, and making and ordering 2- and 3-digit numbers.

This term, we have also been doing our unit on Protective Behaviours. This involves looking at ways that we can stay safe. So far, we have learned about the early warning signs our body gives us when we are in danger, who the safe adults are, and next up is safe and unsafe touching. Please come and see your child's teachers if you have any questions about this.

Just a reminder to put your child's name on their clothing. We have a significant pile of lost property in Building 1 and would love to return it, but most of it is nameless. Please check the table outside Building 1 in the mornings.

Stay warm in this crazy cold weather!

Ms Aniya, Miss Perryman, Miss Harleen

## Year 2



Hello,

What a busy term we have had so far!

Year 2 has enjoyed participating in many wonderful events and activities.

In week 5, we sang and danced our way through a wonderful performance by Majeda. Majeda shared some fantastic songs and dances with us from the Torres Strait Islands for Reconciliation Week.

We had our whole school athletics carnival in week 6. It was a chilly day, but the Year 2 students put on some amazing performances in the skills of running (100m and 200m) and long jump. It was wonderful to see the students cheering for and celebrating their peers. There were lots of PBL tokens being given out to students displaying safe, respectful learner behaviors.





Last week, we had the opportunity to experience a new sport. We participated in a volleyball clinic thanks to Mrs. Warren and the sports committee. In this clinic, we learned how to 'set' the ball and push it over the net using our hands. It was lots of fun!



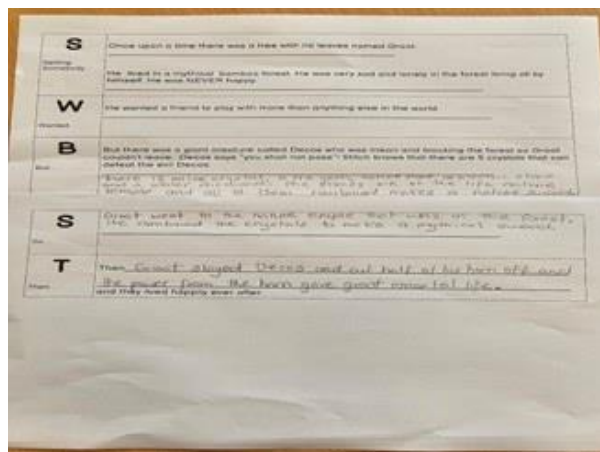
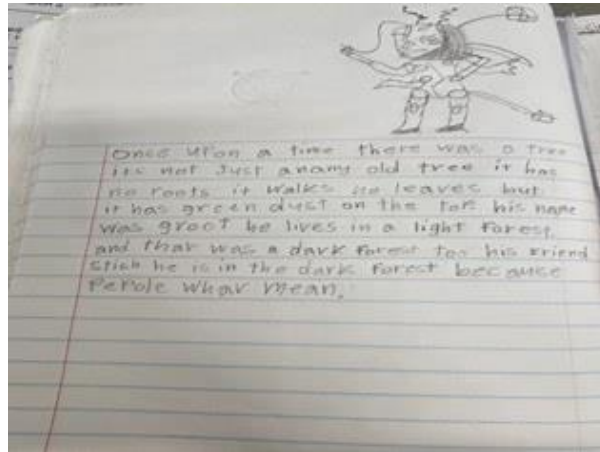
Next week, we are really looking forward to 'going back in time' on our history excursion to the Hall School Museum and Heritage Centre. We are excited to learn more about what school was like at the start of the 20th century; it will make for an interesting comparison to school life now. If you need a copy of the excursion note, please speak to your class teacher or the front office.



In literacy sessions, we have been working hard at writing narratives. We have been learning about what it takes to write a really interesting introduction to a narrative. We now know that we need to:

- Introduce and describe the character(s).
- Introduce the setting. Where and when does this story take place?
- Describe what the characters might want. This will lead us to writing about the problem.

Watch this space as we start publishing our incredible stories over the next few weeks of term.



In Mathematics, we have begun a unit of work on shapes. We are learning to identify and describe the features of various shapes. We have been playing games where we have to ask a peer yes-or-no questions to figure out a mystery shape. We have been asking questions like:

- Does it have four sides?
- Are the sides parallel to each other?
- Does your shape have three vertices (corners)?
- Is your shape a quadrilateral?

In celestial sciences, we have been learning about the cycles of the moon. We observed and asked questions about images of the moon, and we have been particularly curious about the 'dark side of the moon.' To explore this concept further, we painted our own moons. We then designed a series of

steps that we could take to investigate this concept. We conducted an experiment with a torch to show how the sun's movement casts light on the moon, which is also rotating. Through our experiment, we realized that there is no dark side of the moon, only areas of the moon that are not being lit up by the sun.

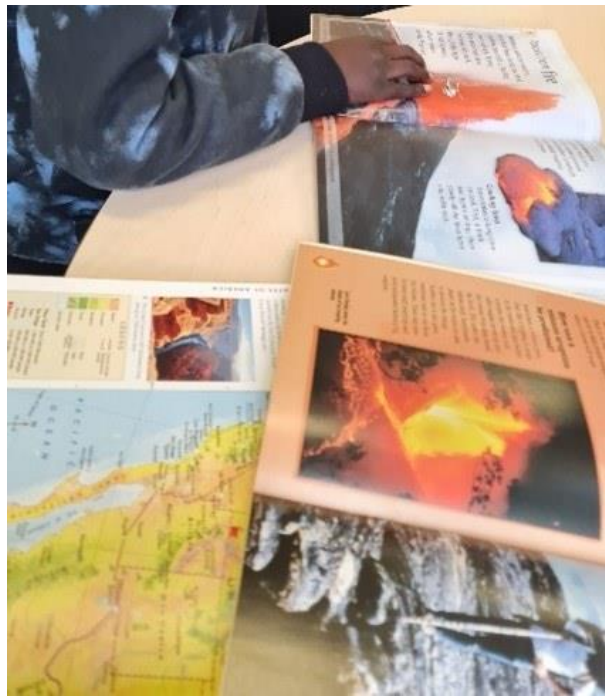




## Year 3



The Year Three students have been investigating rocks as part of our new science inquiry. They have been looking at various areas where rocks are found, exploring, questioning, and researching the different types of rocks using print and digital resources. Students have discussed their personal responses and explained strong emotions in situations using the Zones of Regulation Language in health sessions. In PE skills sessions, students have been building their fitness in running, kicking, and skipping, and they have been exhibiting teamwork with games in small groups. We have participated in a range of cooperative skills clinics, and students have commenced specialist volleyball clinics that will continue for the rest of the term. Year Three is excited about their upcoming excursion to Geoscience and has been sharing relevant wonderings to assist their scientific learning about rocks. Weekly library challenges with Lynette and Diane have included information literacy learning on how to locate non-fiction texts using the catalogue system. Students have identified how to use symbols and graphics to assist in selecting good-fit texts for the classroom. In mathematics, students have completed shape and object construction, discussing the various properties of 2D and 3D items in collaborative groups. Students have shared their ideas about planning information reports and have used conferencing to develop sentences to reflect individual topics. In dance and movement sessions, students have used body percussion and designed short performances with a range of music.



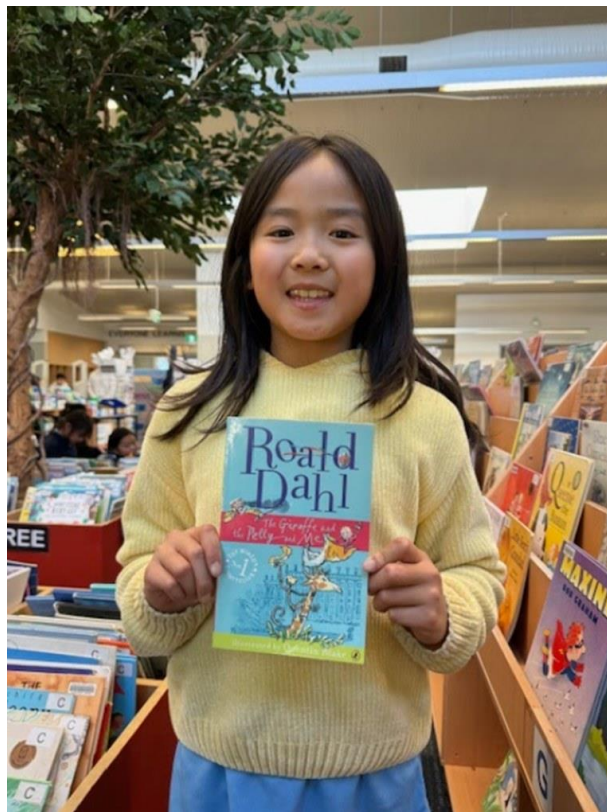




Year 4









Year 4 has been refining their learning about the levels of the Australian Government. We went to the Legislative Assembly and learned all about the levels of government. Did you know that the ACT doesn't have a state government? The Legislative Assembly is responsible for all state and local issues in the ACT. We roleplayed debating and passing a bill on no uniforms! Thanks to the crossbench, we passed a bill to get rid of uniforms in the ACT (we wish it was real!). While at the Legislative Assembly, we asked Jo Clay, Member for Ginninderra, and Laura Nuttal, Member for Brindabella, some hard-hitting questions, such as, "What can a minister do to improve our school and get it painted?" After asking these questions, we were encouraged to email our local members about improving our school. We have since learned how to write informal emails, sending them first to our friends and then to our teachers. We are gradually working up to writing a formal email to a minister to request improvements to our school.

Excitement is building among Year 4 students for our camp to Birrigai! We will leave on Monday morning, and while at Birrigai, we will be braving heights, going on a flying fox, participating in team-building activities, building campfires, and making damper. Don't forget to pack lots of warm clothes—it will be chilly!

In science, we have been building our knowledge about forces. Thanks to the Academy of Future Skills, we were able to investigate and measure the static friction of friction blocks across a range of different surfaces. We are going to apply our knowledge of forces to build a functional marble run. If you have any cereal boxes, straws, pipe cleaners, or masking tape, we'd love to have them!

Last Friday, we started volleyball clinics. We learned how to throw, catch, and set over a net. We look forward to developing these skills





## Year 5

Hello everyone,

Year 5 have been working hard over the last few weeks. Firstly, we have been having a lot of fun learning about light and how it works. It's been exciting to conduct experiments using special lights and filters to see how reflection and refraction work. It has been illuminating to observe the different ways various shapes refract light, as well as how concave and convex mirrors reflect light.

We have also been discovering how factors and multiples work, which has given us different perspectives on division and multiplication. Additionally, we have been fortunate enough to try a new sport with our special volleyball clinics. It is fun to try new sports and learn new skills. We also had a great time at the athletics carnival, where we did our best in shot put, long jump, and running races. It was great to cheer on our houses and friends.

We have been wrapping up our learning for Term 2 and finishing off many projects. We are looking forward to Term 3 and moving on to new topics and subjects.

This term, both Year 5 and Year 6 bands participated in their respective combined band sessions. In each case, KSS played host to the visiting school.

On Tuesday, 21 May, Year 6 hosted the Year 6 Woodwind band from Latham Primary School. After rehearsing a number of pieces, the two bands confidently performed for the primary students.

Then, on Thursday, 6 June, it was Year 5 band's turn to host Macgregor Primary for their first combined band session. In addition to playing as a big brass band, students also gathered into their respective instrument groups for intensive skill development. This was a great opportunity for students from both schools to meet and play together. There will be additional combined sessions occurring next term.

A big thank you to Mrs. Murray for organizing the setup and ensuring it all ran smoothly.

There is also some exciting news coming up concerning the Canberra Symphony Orchestra, Floriade, and even a marching band. Watch this space.

Bob Crisp, School-Based Band Teacher

## Primary school band program

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Bob Crisp, School-Based Band Teacher





## Primary school drama class



In Drama this term for years Kindergarten and Year 1 we've had a strong First Nation perspectives focus. Our focus was to explore symbol work and use symbols to communicate a "movement" or "action" in a drama performance. We had a go at drawing common well known symbols and also made our own symbols for the picture book "Little Birds Day". Using the symbols, we created a class performance. In year 3 this term we also had a strong First Nations focus, using our KSS Acknowledgement to Country and co-creating symbols to replace selected words. We then used these symbols to make an action. Students performed the whole KSS Acknowledgement to Country with words and matching actions from reading the symbol posters. We are still building our confidence in our performance so hoping soon we will get to showcase our hard work in a future assembly. Please feel free to ask your child to show you our KSS Acknowledgment to Country actions





## Primary school Mandarin



Kindergarten - Year 2:

We continued to practise family words, love and numbers this term. The children listened to classic Chinese stories and tracked the animals

Then we sequenced nature-themed pictures after writing down the Mandarin numbers.



Kindergarteners watched a video about how Panda parents take care of their young babies. Then we sat down to draw our own panda to take home.

We focused more on using interactive games to revise our learnings, singing the songs or integrating the Mandarin phrases in their games.





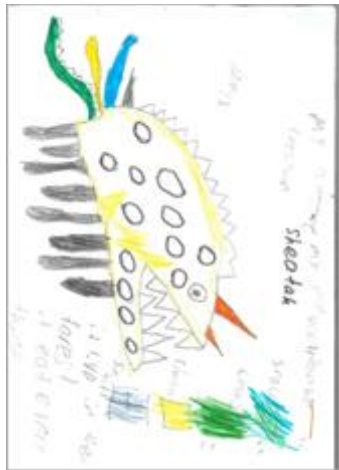
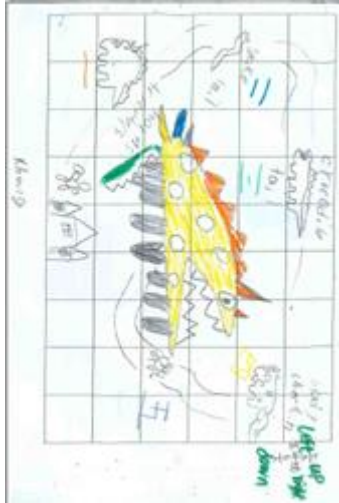


Years 3 -5

We continued to practise family words, love and numbers this term. The children listened to classic Chinese stories. We then sequenced the story chapters and tracked the animals in the number order.

We have continued our mythical creature creation story. Most students have now mapped their creature's origin story journey, each stop noted with a Mandarin number. Next, we are going to immerse ourselves in wild animal stories in preparation for recording our origin story on our tea-stain paper.







## Senior school highlights





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## *Solar experiments*

*Last term, the Year 8s were challenged to build their own solar ovens. Each construction had to be made from recycled materials and be capable of cooking a pikelet. The group recording the highest internal temperature would win their own golden solar oven trophies and have their names recorded on the new Annual Solar Oven Challenge Perpetual Trophy.*

*CONGRATULATIONS to Evie and Taylah for recording the highest internal temperature of 72 degrees Celsius (that's slightly less than your slow cooker at home) on a cool 16-degree morning, using nothing but cardboard, glad wrap, and some paint!*

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### *Volleyball Gala day*

*Kingsford Smith School entered two teams into year 9/10 Volleyball Gala Day. Both teams represented our school with true HERO Values showing great resilience and sportsmanship. Both teams won 2 of their games and came 3rd in each of their pools.*

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*The 7/8 Girls Volleyball Team compete in the A.C.T School Sport Gala Day. Most of the girls have only recently taken the sport of volleyball up and faced some tough competition. They did the school proud winning their first game and showed an excellent attitude throughout the day.*

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### ***CIT Bridge challenge***

*Earlier in the term, some of our year 10 students attended CIT Bridge challenge. Multiple schools attend this event to design and construct a bridge using materials supplied to them. The bridge that can hold the most amount of weight, wins.*

*In our first challenge, the KSS bridge held 40 KGS.*

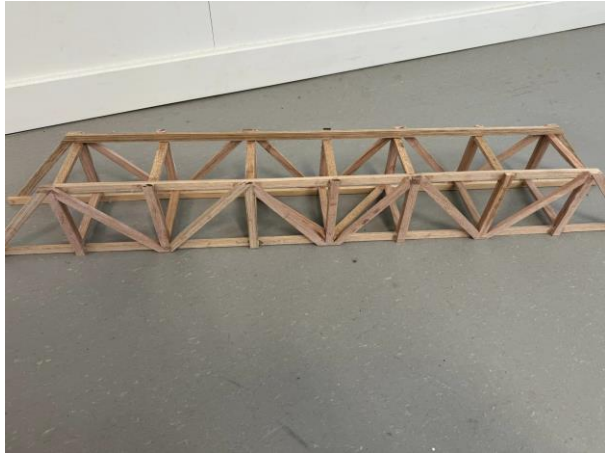
*Last week, the students had an opportunity to return for the finals and they won!*

*This time constructing a bridge that was able to hold a massive 220KGS!*

*Well done team! Congratulations on becoming bridge champions!*

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### Poetry

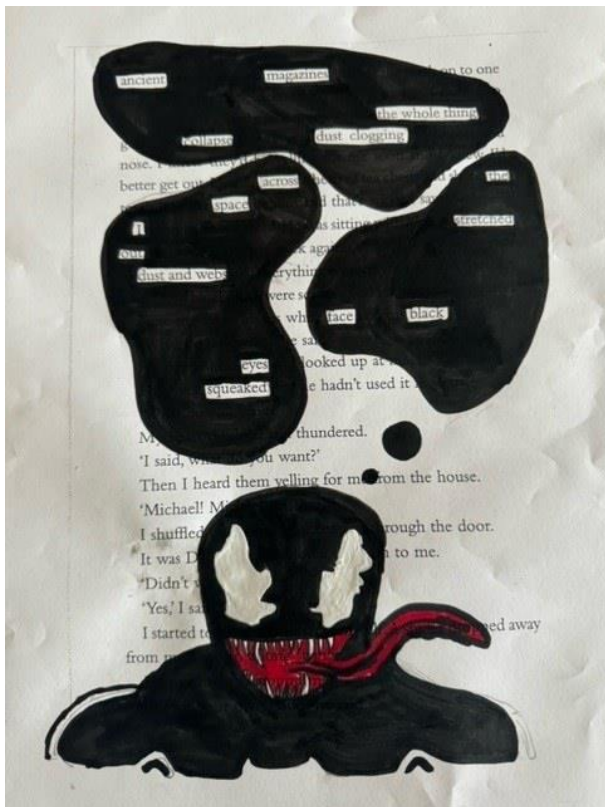
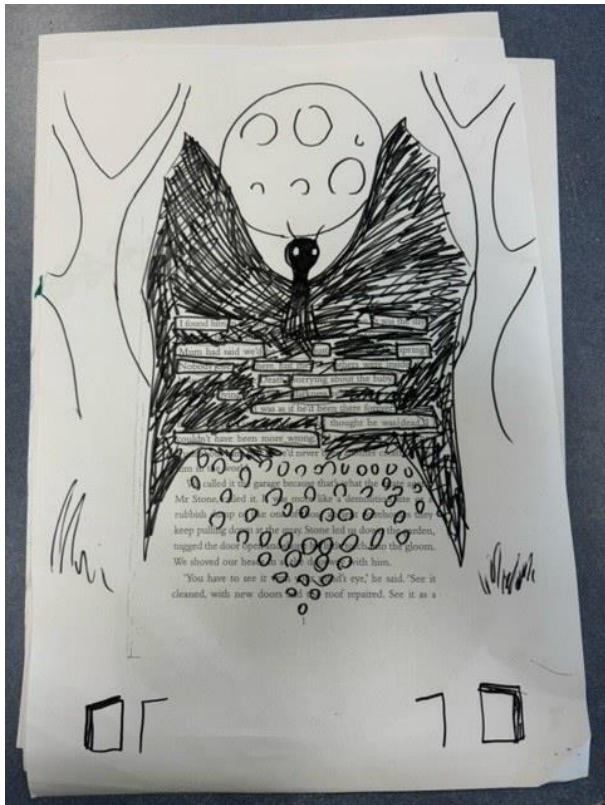
*The year 8's have had their creative brains switched onto max this term. A recent creation being some Blackout poetry.*

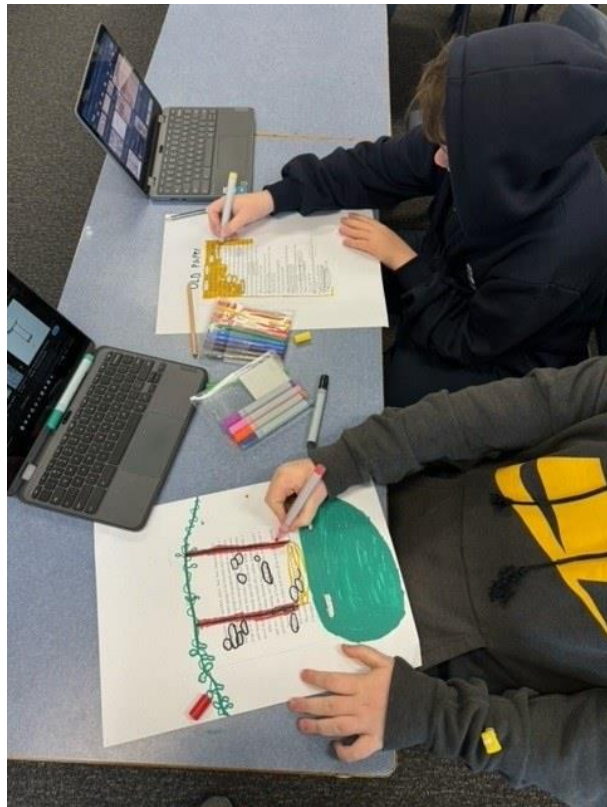
*Blackout poetry is made using an existing piece of piece of text from a magazine, news paper or book, and shading in some areas, leaving some words blank to create a new piece of text with what remains uncovered.*

*It was wonderful to read through their work. Well done year 8!*

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### *CIT Barista course*

*Our Year 10 hospitality class made their way over to CIT to participate in a barista course. Here, they refined their skills and not only learned how to make coffee using a professional machine and receive an introduction to latte art, but they also practiced presentation as though they were working in a café. Back at KSS, these Year 10 students run an in-school café that opens every second Friday, where they can showcase food cooked off a menu that updates each time the café opens, serve coffees to staff, and, of course, hot chocolates to students. This course is perfect for assisting them in practicing*

*for the in-school café, and it also offers skills that students can be proud of and add to their résumés as they begin to transition into the working world.*

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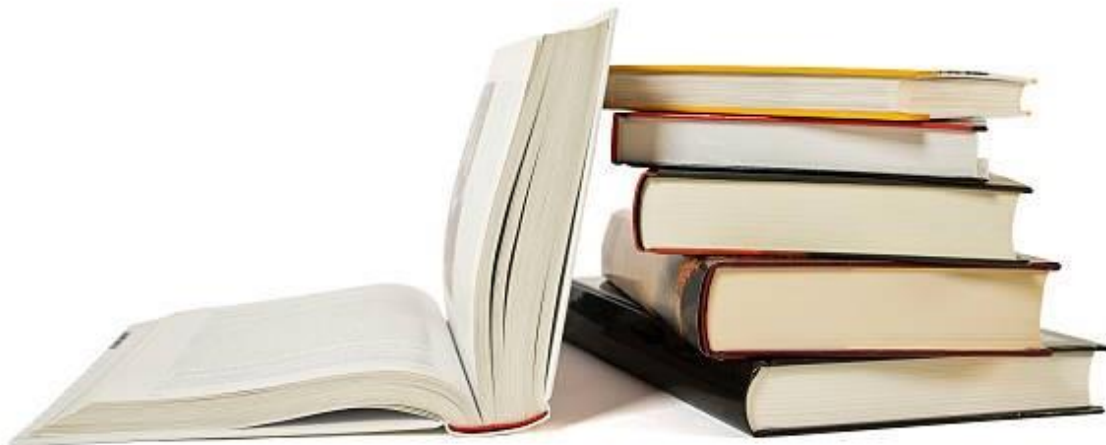








## Year 6-10 Reporting update.



We would like to inform you of a slight change to the Year 6-10 reports that will occur in the upcoming semester one reports. To align with other ACT Public High Schools, the reports will include

your child's achievement of assessed Australian Curriculum standards, their work habits, and an A-E grade for each subject. Each subject report will **NOT** include a comment from the teacher. In place of this, we will be hosting a parent teacher night early in term three. Below are the key dates for the reports.

- Year 6-10 reports distributed to parents/carers – by Tuesday 2nd July (Week 10, Term 2)
- Parent/Teacher night – Wednesday 24th July (week 1, term 3)

Reports will be distributed via email as well as shared on the Parent Portal. Parent/teacher night bookings will be made available when the reports are distributed (Tuesday 2nd July) and can be made via the Parent Portal.

Please contact the school on 61423399 if you have any questions or would like to discuss this in more detail.

## Parent portal

Parent Portal is a secure online platform used to share student information between you and your child's teachers.

### **Using the Parent Portal on your mobile phone, tablet or computer, you can:**

- notify us if your child is sick or explain an absence
- book parent-teacher interviews
- receive academic reports
- receive our school newsletter
- receive messages from your child's teachers
- make payments
- access the school calendar and your child's student timetable.

One of the many benefits of the Parent Portal is that it will be used by all ACT public schools from preschool through to year 12, so there will be no need to use a different system as children change schools during their public-school journey. If you have children at nearby schools you will not need to sign up to the system twice. You will be able to easily add a student to your account once their school has access to the Parent Portal.

If you already have a Parent Portal account, use this [Parent Portal access](#) link to start using the great features. You can't access Parent Portal directly through the ACT Digital Account website, you need to use the link above.

If you have any issues with creating your ACT Digital Account and completing your level 2 identity verification you can get in contact with ACT Digital Account to resolve by calling [13 22 81](tel:132281).

When you are logged into Parent Portal, we recommend saving the browser as a favourite or to the homepage on your mobile phone for quick access in the future. The website can only be viewed using a web browser on your computer, mobile phone or tablet. An app is not available at this time.

If you still need to register, you will need an access key and a Parent Portal registration link via email to link your existing account to your child's records. If you haven't received this, please contact the school's front office team for assistance.

If you have any questions, please contact Student Services at [info@kss.act.edu.au](mailto:info@kss.act.edu.au) or on (02 61423399).

For more information about Parent Portal, visit the Education Directorate website: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/public-school-life/parent-portal>.

## PBL and school uniform













At Kingsford Smith School, students are expected to be in full school uniform this year. The school uniform for years 6-8 consists of a navy school polo or a plain navy shirt. For years 9-10, it is a white school polo or a plain white shirt. Pants are to be navy or black, and shoes should be fully enclosed.

Shorts and skirts should be at the student's fingertips if the shoulders are relaxed and the arms are fully extended.

The PE school uniform is a grey school polo shirt. It is encouraged that students wear shorts or tracksuit pants that are loose-fitting to allow for movement. It is a requirement that students change into the grey school polo shirt before physical activities.

As it is getting colder, we are aware that you may require extra layers to keep warm during the cold Canberra winters. Jumpers should be navy blue and have only a small logo (the size of a fist). You can wear plain navy shirts under the appropriate school shirt.

Congratulations to our PBL award winners from last week. These students demonstrated positive learning behaviour that aligned with our values of being safe and respectful learners. Thank you for being upstanding role models in our school and wearing your uniform always. Keep it up!

## Advertising

Hi there,

Do you have students who are looking at tertiary education options and may be interested in a career in the Australian Defence Force? The Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) welcomes you and your students to explore a unique university opportunity at the 2024 Open Day. This year, you can attend online or in person.

**ADFA Open Day** Visit the Canberra campus and explore what ADFA has to offer firsthand.

**Time:** 9am to 4pm

**Location:** ADFA Campus, Northcott Drive, Campbell, ACT

### Virtual Open Day

If your students can't make it in person, they can still experience all the action online. **Time:** On-demand

**Location:** Stay tuned, we'll share the link soon.

Call us on: 13 19 01



## HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS™



The next Holiday Happenings edition is now available online.

To see the Programs, Activities & Events happening these holidays go to:

[www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet](http://www.holidayhappenings.com.au/online-booklet)



## HOLIDAY CAMPS

**CAMP 1: 3RD - 5TH JULY**

**VENUE**

**CAMP 2: 10TH - 12TH JULY**

**DEAKIN**

**CAMP 3: 17TH - 19TH JULY**

**MINT**

### PHILOSOPHY

*We are passionate about helping each and every player achieve their goals and reach their potential through expert coaching in a fun, challenging, positive and professional environment. Through the game of cricket we ultimately aim to help our players learn, grow and develop into becoming better people.*



### OUTLINE

*Designed for cricketers of all ages and stages from 5-12. Players will experience up to 3 days of high quality coaching and T20 Games with specialist coaches in batting, bowling, fielding and WK focusing on the specific requirements of each player.*

*Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios and drills that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.*

*Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Camp.*

**\$325 - 3 DAYS**

**\$120 PER DAY**



**BOOK NOW**







## TOURNAMENT DETAILS

**11TH & 12TH JULY 2024**  
*Dickson Oval, Antil St Dickson*

**\$110 Per Day**

### PURPOSE

*Designed for talented cricketers aged 12 - 15. Players will experience 2 days of high intensity T20 Cricket while being coached and mentored by Cricket Australia Qualified coaches.*

*Teams of 8 players (form your own team) or come along individually and be allocated a team.*



### FORMAT

*2 days of high intensity match play T20 cricket. When not playing players will be taken through our pro performance coaching stations to work 1:1 with one of our coaches on all facets of their game!!*

*Players will be exposed to a variety of match scenarios that aim to improve confidence, self belief, concentration, team work and leadership skills all while having a ball with their friends.*

*Pro performance player report with feedback provided to each player at the completion of the Tournament.*



**BOOK NOW**





Radford College

Enrol Now!

## School Holiday Program

### Karate School Holiday Program Great for Beginners

When: 8th of July to 19th of July  
Monday to Friday, 10.30-11.30am

Where: Radford College  
G. Wigg Sports Centre  
Enter via Batty Street,  
off Haydon Drive, Bruce

Cost: \$105, includes  
Up to 10 Karate Classes  
Lifetime Membership  
Free Uniform



**Register early to secure your spot.  
Limited student numbers.**

Contact to register: Sensei Ky  
Phone, 0493 275 695  
Email, [kjones@gkrkarate.com](mailto:kjones@gkrkarate.com)

