

Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

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The Summit Term 3 Week 6 Tuesday 28 August 2018

Term 3 Week 6

Wednesday 29 August	WCC Art Gallery Enrichment Program nominated Year 4 students
Thursday 30 August	Father's Day Stall \$5.00 per gift
Friday 31 August	WCC Art Gallery Enrichment Program nominated Year 6 students
Friday 31 August	Father's Day Stall \$5.00 per gift
Friday 31 August	Southern Stars Performance as WEC

Term 3 Week 7

Monday 17 September	Monday Munchies- kebabs
Monday 3 September	World Enviro Day at Botanic Gardens- Years 5 & 6- drop off at the gardens
Monday 3 September	Premier's Spelling Bee finals at Austinmer PS
Tuesday 4 September August	WCC Art Gallery Enrichment Program nominated Year 5 students
Wednesday 5 September	WCC Art Gallery Enrichment Program nominated Year 6 students
Thursday 6 September	Visit by WCC Lifeguards for Surf Education

Other important dates for 2018

Thursday 27 September	Showcase Assembly 2pm
Friday 28 September	Last Day Term 3
Monday 15 October	Students and staff return to school
Wednesday 14 November	Kinder Orientation
Wednesday 5 December	End of Year Performance
Friday 19 December	Last day of school for students

Dear Parents

WOW!!! What a fortnight. MKDS has been a very productive and busy school. I cannot believe we are already half way through Term 3-Time flies when you're having fun!

Our Book Week parade was lots of fun.



Class of the Week-Banksia- Author Dr Dell Brand's visit reports

Last week we had the privilege of a local author, Dr Dell Brand, coming to visit our school. While Dell was here, she showcased her four children's books, AKA the "History's a Mystery" series. She answered our many questions, as well as enlightening us about little snippets of history. All in all the visit was a great experience for Stage 2 and 3. Ella

Dr Brand's visit was thoroughly enthralling. She is the author of four children's history books (and a few adult books as well) all of which we would love to read. She explained that she had been all over the world, researching the places featured in her books. She had things like the Ancient Egyptians, more recent events like 9/11 and the Sydney Olympics. She left us business cards with her website and contact details on them. She also told us we can order her books through the school. We will definitely be ordering these books!
Bella & Bethany

A couple of days ago we had an Australian author, Dr Dell Brand come and visit the students in years 3-6. Dell said she loved to travel and she had made all her books about history. All her books have many different adventures and the characters travel back in time to learn about history.

During her time with us Dell explained what happens in the books and what the characters think about it. She has written four books over the past few years. The collection starts with History's a Mystery, next with History's a Mystery Again, after that is History's Still a Mystery and the collection ends with History's a Mystery Once More.

By the time she had published the first book she had requests for another book but she had no idea what to write her adventures about. So she went to schools and asked the kids and published more books with their ideas. She also added pictures that kids had submitted to her. By the time she finished talking about her books we got to ask her some questions. Bronte

Dr Dell came during Week 5 and talked to us about her books. I loved all of them and her ideas for them. I also love how she used a few ideas from kids and drawings from them as well. I haven't read her books yet but I assume they will be great. I loved talking to her, I really enjoyed what she came up with. She also made a really good slide show to show us and told us what each book was about and all of the adventures the characters had in the book. Sarah

Dr Dell Brand came to our school and she was talking about her wonderful book series 'History's a Mystery' it is a series of four books.

Dell has been to nearly every place featured in her history books and she has taken the most amazing photos we have ever seen. She took photos in front of a GRIZZLY BEAR and she has also been to the amazing underground city in Derinkuyu, Turkey.

Dell told us about her first book that had a lot of interesting facts about Ancient Rome and much more. She also gave us a sneak peak of the start of that book. Dr Dell Brand's visit was quite amazing and we enjoyed every bit of it. Xman and Xavier.

Dr Brand has kindly left us a display of her books (both adults and children's) in the office and we will be purchasing four of the children's books for the library. Please feel free to pop in and have a look. If you or your child are interested in purchasing one of the books please put your name, class and book title required on an envelope and include correct money in cash (we cannot use the online payment system for these purchases). Orders must be placed no later than Monday 3 September. Ms Brand will be autographing the books for the purchasers so let us know if they are for a particular person. For more information about her books visit <http://www.authordellbrand.com.au/>

Education Week

Last week we celebrated **Education Week**. It was wonderful to see so many parents and visitors coming to our school to celebrate the achievements of students.

Thursday was our official open day and the classrooms were abuzz with students, parents and teachers dancing, singing, playing maths games, using the interactive whiteboards, reading and having a great time. Walking around the school you could see and hear the fun that everyone was having. Mount Keira Demonstration School is definitely a great place to be.

Thank you to parents and visitors who supported the students and the school during our Education Week, Book Week and Literacy and Numeracy Week celebrations.

Congratulations to the school community: students, parents and teachers working together to create ***"Today's schools – creating tomorrow's world."***



Book Parade

Last week there were **lots of 'strange' people** here at school as we celebrated **Book Week** with an amazing parade of book characters. You could have been forgiven if you thought that school was going slightly crazy. We had Alice, Cinderella, Homer Simpson, Puss in Boots just to name a few and of course there was Harry Potter in all his splendour. It was terrific to listen to the children laugh and have fun. One student came up to me and said "Mrs Carroll, I love days like this". Thank you parents for dressing your children up and helping us to make learning so enjoyable. I hope you are all planning your costume for the next parade!!



Literacy and Numeracy Week

Last week, students were involved in a number of activities throughout the week including a treasure hunt, library visit, author talks, shared reading sessions, Maths madness and a book trivia competition. WOW!! We had lots of 'whizzes' in our school who knew a lot about books and their characters.

A particular highlight was the K-2 visit to the Thirroul library. The students had a wonderful time exploring the library, being entertained with presentations by the librarians on various Book of the Year nominate books and then visiting Thirroul Park for a Book Week themed treasure hunt. What a fabulous day!! Thank you to the Thirroul library staff for giving our children this great experience.

We look forward to next week's Treasure Hunt performance as a finale to our celebrations. The talented performers will bring to life many of the Children's Book Council Book of the Year nominees in what is sure to be an outstanding show.

It is important that children are continually exposed to a variety of books and text types. They learn reading and communication skills. They learn to interpret and make meaning from written language. Reading is a skill that all further learning hinges on. It encourages curiosity, reflection, imagination and enthusiasm. This week is Book Week and next week is National Literacy and Numeracy week. Share a special time with your child by 'grabbing' a book and reading it to or with them. Ask questions, discuss events, share opinions.....

You'll be amazed at how clever they are!



Teachers are Learners Too!

This week staff participated in a variety of Professional Learning sessions. Staff had a two hour session based on the 'Introduction of the new Learning Progressions', formative assessment continued to be our key focus during staff meetings and Monday saw a number of teachers attend a professional learning day related to Effectively using School Data. Teachers utilised online learning tools to develop their skills in analysing student data and ways to use this data to support future planning and improved student progress. These wonderful learning sessions allowed teachers the opportunity to develop deeper skills and knowledge in how to plan using data to differentiate learning for their students.

Proud is an understatement! Tournament of the Minds

It was a big weekend on 26 August for our Tournament of Minds team. After many terms of hard work and creative thinking, our team of seven amazing students, competed at the University of Wollongong with over 40 other primary and high schools. The first part of the day was spent performing 'The Arts' Challenge that the students had been working so hard on before during and after school. The second part involved responding to an unseen spontaneous challenge- with just four minutes of preparation and one minute of presentation.

The team showed incredible perseverance, teamwork and positivity and absolutely excelled on the day receiving **HONOURS** for their efforts on the day.

A huge congratulations to all involved including the dedicated Miss Green for all of her hard word and enthusiasm in bringing this wonderful activity to Mount Keira Demonstration School. Congratulations to Alyssa, Sarah, Ella, Savannah, Saul, Lilly and Sophie B who represented our school with such pride. I CAN NOT wait for next year!



District Athletics

Congratulations to all of our 30 competitors who attended the Central Wollongong District Athletics Carnival which was held at Beaton Park. All competitors should be proud of their efforts, both in their athletic performance and behaviour. It was wonderful to see the team spirit our students displayed towards each other and the other competitors. Special congratulations to Kobi N who qualified to compete at the Regional Athletics Carnival to be held in Canberra later next month.

Life Education

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Life Education has been postponed until early November. Additional information will be sent out closer to the date. Thanks for your understanding.

Adventure Gully

The Adventure Gully is in 'full swing.' Many laughs and new adventures have already been discovered. It has been so wonderful to see the students laughing and playing together, (it really is a wonderful sound to hear!)

In order to keep each and every student safe whilst learning 'how to play' in the new area, a few rules have needed to be implemented. Please discuss the following rules with your child to ensure a smooth transition and fun for all.

GULLY RULES

OPEN AT LUNCH ONLY	
1 st Half of Lunch Years 3-6	2 nd Half of Lunch Years K-2
You MUST line up along the fence until the teacher on duty says you can play	
The teacher will ring the bell at the beginning of second half to swap	
The COLA will be closed at lunch, but open at recess	
Food is NOT allowed in the gully	

Safety. It's Everyone's Business

Southern Stars

This Friday 31 August, a group of students will be heading down to the WIN Entertainment Centre to watch this year's production of Southern Stars. Southern Stars is the biggest performing arts spectacle in Southern NSW and one of our very own students (Ella S) will be performing as part of the choir ensemble. If your child is unable to attend because of illness please let us know as we have a waitlist of students who would like to go but did not submit the expression of interest by the required date.

For more information about tickets for this spectacular performance please see the message from Southern Stars team later in this Summit.

Spelling Bee

On Monday 3 September, Oliver, Sarah, Bella and Liam will represent Mount Keira Demonstration School at the Regional Spelling Finals. We wish them the very best of luck. I am sure you will do us all proud!

Year 5-6 Excursion to the Botanic Gardens

Our Stage 3 students will be attending an excursion to the Botanic Gardens next Monday 3 September to take part in the annual World Enviro Day program. On the day schools from across the region will come together to focus on creating sustainable environments and improving the health of our planet.

Please ensure you have read the information and replied via Skoolbag. Children are to be dropped by 9.15am at the Murphy's Lane garden entrance and they will return to school by bus. They are to wear sports uniform, a hat and sunscreen. We ask that all students bring "nude food" to eat throughout the day in keeping with the environmental theme on reducing rubbish.

Father's Day Stall

Our P and C Father's Day stall will take place on Thursday 30 and Friday 31 August. Please make a note in your diaries to remember to send your child with money on the day to pick something nice. Gifts are \$5 each.

Science Fair

Our Stage 3 students have been busy designing, making, testing and drawing conclusion to their projects for the upcoming Science Fair.

In Week 8, the students will participate in the Wollongong Performing Arts High School Science Fair, where they will have the opportunity to showcase their research projects. Each group of students will present their ideas and display their findings on large poster boards. Judges will be walking around on the day asking students questions and discovering all about their findings whilst giving all students positive feedback.

The Science Fair is a great opportunity for students to develop their scientific skills and investigate the incredible universe around us.

I look forward to seeing the weird, wacky, wonderful world of science come alive.

SASS Week

Next week is SASS Week, a week to recognise the amazing work done by our School Administrative and Support Staff. This includes Mrs Christlo and Mrs Cook who work in our School Office to guarantee our school runs smoothly. It also includes Mr Claridge our general assistant who makes sure the school is looking its best. Mrs Kerrigan our School Learning Support Officers who help students in the classroom and in the playground.

This band of hard workers do a lot of 'behind the scene' work that ensures the school runs efficiently. Why don't you make their day by giving a big thank you to them as you see them working around the school. I'm sure this would put a big smile on their dial. Mount Keira Demonstration School is definitely

a great team- students, teachers, SASS staff and parents all working together in the best interests of students.

Thank you SASS staff for the wonderful job you do each and every day.

NAPLAN Online

As part of the transition to NAPLAN online in 2019, our school will participate in the School Readiness Test in Week 6 this term. Students in Years 3 and 5 will be involved. This will provide an opportunity for school staff and students to familiarise themselves with the online platform and process whilst testing technical and administrative readiness. The NAPLAN Readiness Tests will not be marked; it is not an assessment for students. The tests will be held over two days:

Year 3 will complete one test only – Omnibus (Reading and Language Conventions.)

Year 5 will complete two tests - online writing + Omnibus (Reading and Language Conventions).

Some of the main benefits of students taking part in NAPLAN Online include:

Better assessment – and more precise results. NAPLAN Online uses a tailored test or adaptive design, where the test automatically adapts to a student's performance and asks questions that match the student achievement level, allowing the student to demonstrate their knowledge. This provides teachers and schools with more targeted and detailed information on students' performance on the tests. Tailored testing also provides an opportunity to broaden the scope of the assessments.

Faster turnaround of results. Delivery of assessments online significantly reduces the time it takes to provide feedback to schools, students and parents, so teachers can respond more quickly to learning needs.

More engaging. ACARA research into online assessment has shown that students have engaged well with electronic tests.

Information has already been sent home however if you require additional information please access the NAPLAN Online website, which provides more information about the school readiness test: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/student-assessment/naplan-online/nsw-transition-approach/readiness-activities>

Rubbish

Our school grounds are very attractive. Lots of seating, shady areas, beautiful views and immaculate gardens. Unfortunately, these beautiful areas are currently being swamped with rubbish.

Students have been regularly spoken to about 'caring' for their school by putting their rubbish in the bins and looking after our school grounds. To combat this issues the students will be involved in a regular clean up. Every Wednesday afternoon (5 minutes after Fitness) and every Friday (5 minutes before the end of lunch) students will do a quick 'run around' to clean up our school and do their part in saving our environment.

Please discuss this issue with your child and be mindful of the packaging being sent to school.

Lost Property

Our lost property basket is still well and truly overflowing. Please ensure **that all belongings are clearly labelled with your child's name and class**. Lost property can be returned to children quickly and easily if they are clearly labelled.

Please encourage your child to take responsibility for their own items and pick up after themselves as many items are being left behind on a regular basis. This makes our classrooms and playground, messy places to be. We take pride in our schools appearance and encourage children to be independent in looking after their belongings.

Term Fees

Term 3 invoices were sent home last week with the eldest child in each family. They are due by Tuesday 11 September. Please feel free to make instalments if that is easier for you. The preferred payment method is online via the "Make a Payment" tab on the school website. Please list the full amount of the invoice under one child's name and we will work out the breakup. There is no need to list individual students or activities just list the full amount as "other".

Should you be unable to meet the payment by the due date please see Mrs Carroll to arrange a repayment plan. Student assistance may be available to eligible families.

Issues with Skoolbag

Several parents have reported issues with the Skoolbag App. As per the notification sent home via Skoolbag last fortnight all parents should check to ensure that the App icon they have for Skoolbag is the blue bag not the Mount Keira School icon. If you still have the Mount Keira icon it is important that you uninstall that App and reinstall the new one as per the instructions sent home.

If you are still having problems seeing the information make sure you are going to the groups button on the bottom of the App which will take you to your selected classes specific activities.

Should you have any further issues please see Mrs Christlo.

Kinder 2019 Orientation

We have had to reschedule Kinder Orientation until Wednesday 14 November. Invitations will go home to families early Term 4. If you know of anyone in the area who may be looking to send their child next year please ensure they contact the school as a matter of urgency.

Premiers Reading Challenge

The Challenge ends this Friday 31 August. Please ensure you have gone online to <https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/logon.html> and recorded any books your child has read at home. Thank you to those parents who have assisted their children with the Challenge at home this year.

School Safety

Please remember that if you ever hear noise or notice unwanted visitors to our school please contact **school security on 1300 88 00 21**. This kind of behaviour is disappointing and comes at a large cost to the school.

Have a wonderful Father's Day

Keep smiling ☺

Mrs Carroll
Principal

A message from the producers of Southern Stars

Show Week for Southern Stars 2018- ICONIC

After almost a year of preparation and many months of rehearsals, Southern Stars 2018 **ICONIC** is in the final and most exciting week – show week!

Over 2500 public school students from the Illawarra and Southern NSW will perform in Southern Stars 2018 **ICONIC**, displaying their many and varied talents in music, dance, drama and even circus, at the WIN Entertainment Centre on Friday August 31 (10am and 7.30pm) and Saturday September 1 (2pm and 7.30pm).

ICONIC is a two hour professional and high quality arena style show which has something for everyone. Featuring the most iconic songs, moments, concepts and fashions of our time **ICONIC** has everything from rock to pop, hip hop to Bollywood, soloists to a cast of thousands - this is not your typical school production!!!



You can visit our **Southern Stars – The Arena Spectacular** Facebook page and take a look at the finale videos from past years to get an idea of the scale of the show.

It doesn't matter if you know anyone performing or not, it is worth taking your friends and family members to see one of the best variety entertainment shows in the country. The matinee show on Saturday in particular is ideal for families!

If you haven't purchased your tickets yet, they are still available through Ticketmaster, but be quick!
www.ticketmaster.com

What's Due?

Activity/ Note	Students Involved	Due Date
Term 3 Invoices- yellow notices sent home last week	All families	Tuesday 11 September
Monday Munchies Kebabs \$5- see P & C news	Interested students- except Yrs 5 & 6	Thursday 30 August 3.15pm
Fathers' Day Stall- see P & C news	Interested students	Thursday 30 and Friday 31 August
WCC Art Gallery Enrichment Program payments \$36.50	Nominated students Years 5-6	Overdue

P and C News



WHATS ON!

Father's Day Stall: Thursday 30th and Friday 31st of August Heather V has sourced some great Father's Day gifts for the stall this year. All father's day gifts are \$5 each and there are extras available for grandads and other family members.

NEWS AND REMINDERS

Book week: Thank you to all the amazing volunteers who helped at the Book Week BBQ. It was great to see the kids in their costumes and sharing their maths and literacy games with parents.

Pavers: We will be placing an order for named pavers early next week. We intend to seek orders every 2 years so our next call for pavers will be in 2020. If you are considering a paver for your children, then put in your order by this Friday 31 August. Order forms are available from the office

Monday Munchies: Kebab orders are due Thursday afternoon. Cost is \$5.00. Kebab bags are available from the library. Please only take a bag if you intend to use it as we only get a limited number. Do not place loose money in the kebab bag please put money in an envelope or plastic bag with the kebab bag. Your child's name and class should be clearly written on the side of the bag as the top is rolled down when the kebab is put in.

As Banksia are at the Botanic Gardens on Monday please do not order for them.

Father's Day Stall: We are looking for one volunteer for Thursday and one volunteer for Friday's lunch time Father's Day stall. Contact Kerry on 0421480441 or via WhatsApp if you can help.

Playground rubbish, nude food and lost property: We all love and appreciate our beautiful grounds but in recent months we have had a lot of rubbish and unclaimed lunch boxes and clothing items being left around the school by the students. We are working with the school to look at how we can reduce this problem in the school in the future but these small steps should have a big impact in the interim:

- be mindful of the amount of packaging you are sending to school in lunch boxes
- teach your children that the wrappers and scraps should put in the bin or brought home
- ensure all lunch boxes and clothing items are labelled so they can be returned
- make your child accountable for their lunch boxes and clothing items.

TerraCycle: We still need more toothbrushes, toothpaste tubes, floss containers etc to reach the 2 kg required to enter the competition for a veggie garden. Please drop items off to the library.

Telstra Kids digital kit: We are delighted to announce our success in applying for a Telstra Kids digital kit. Telstra Kids helps kids across Australia connect to a digital future by building STEM skills.

Thanks to Guy Sorensen from Telstra, who was the referrer, for applying for the funding for us.

pandc.org.au: See the NSW P&C website for news regarding effectiveness of online Naplan, Fair Funding Now campaign and information on Gonski Review Report released in April 2018.

