

Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

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The Summit Term 4 Week 6 Tuesday 19 November 2019

Term 4 Week 6

Tuesday 19 November Coding Program commences (5 weeks)-Wattle

Term 4 Week 7

Monday 25 November Monday Munchies- Kebabs

Monday 25 November UOW Debating- selected Year 5 students

Wednesday 27 November Opening of Kitchen Project by Ryan Park 2pm

Term 4 Week 8

Monday 2 December Dress rehearsal for concert

Tuesday 3 December Year 6 to Year 7 2020 Orientation for Public High Schools

Wednesday 4 December End of Year Performance from 5pm

Thursday 5 December Smith's Hill High inschool performance

Friday 6 December Coding Makeup Session- 1-6

Other important dates

Monday 9 December Monday Munchies- Klaries Kitchen

Tuesday 10 December Year 6 Farewell at Jamberoo Action Park- Banksia

Tuesday 10 December Hawks visit- K-4

Monday 16 December Talent Quest

Tuesday 17 December Class Parties

Wednesday 18 December Last Day of School- Year 6 Farewell Assembly and Farewell Dinner after school

Thursday 19 December Staff Development Day- no students

Friday 20 December Staff Development Day- no students

Tuesday 28 January Staff Development Day- no students

Wednesday 29 January Year 1-6 students return

Thursday 30 January Kinder students commence

PLEASE NOTE: WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAYS EACH WEEK REQUIRE SPORTS UNIFORM.

Dear Families

The past two weeks have been satisfying and productive indeed in terms of learning and community. Our Kids in the Kitchen program has been operating very successfully, outdoor classrooms are being used and in the classrooms teachers are working with your children to assess and finalise teaching/learning programs.

Our children utilised the kitchen to make many of the goodies for the Kinder Orientation morning tea. My thanks to our parent helpers and to Mrs Kerrigan for their assistance. The children will again be working in the kitchen this week to cater for our afternoon opening of our playspaces with Ryan Park, Dr Margaret Turner and Mrs Carroll next Wednesday 27 November. We hope you can join us from 2pm for the Opening and afternoon tea.



Thanks also must go to all of you for your understanding last Tuesday when the school was non-operational. I appreciate how difficult it is to make arrangements for your children at such a late stage and I apologise for the time it took to inform you on Tuesday night. Schools were compelled to wait until we were informed by the Department as to whether or not we were operational and this notification did not come through until after 6 pm.

Please monitor your Skoolbag notifications regularly in coming months as the fire danger is expected to remain high. Please also familiarise yourself with the Bushfire Emergency Plan which is available on the Skoolbag app.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Last Monday we commemorated Remembrance Day in a ceremony organised by Mrs Gehrke and presided over by our school captains, Mitchell and Charlotte. It was very moving with poems read by Lewis and Bronte and we reflected on the sacrifices made by those who went to war.

A new addition to this ceremony was the ringing of our old black bell, 11 times at 11 o'clock following the minute's silence. The ringing of the bells occurs in England and in Europe and is a beautiful tradition. It was actually a very emotional moment as our old black bell, rung by Kobi, tolled across the playground and over Mount Keira, although it did cause the magpies to take flight!

Kindergarten Orientation

Last Wednesday, Mount Keira welcomed our newest school members. Our new students were all extremely excited to meet their buddies and to spend time in the classroom and in the playground. Once again our Year 5 buddies, who have been instrumental in helping them settle in to school life, were wonderful role models, taking their new responsibilities seriously and enthusiastically.

Our vocal group sang our school song beautifully and I must congratulate Sarah and Oliver for their contribution to our Q and A about the school and their thoughts.

Orientation Day is the beginning of such a special journey for the children and their families and it is such a privilege to be a part of it. We are so lucky to have such a welcoming and supportive community that help us bring the day together. We look forward to many more years sharing the new children's journey with them and to welcoming them all again in 2020.

Thank you to Mrs Christlo, Mrs Kerrigan and Mrs Butson for their preparation behind the scenes for our new Kindergarten families and to our parents for coordinating a memorable morning tea in our new kitchen.



Christmas Concert- Wednesday 4 December 2019

Our end of year concert is fast approaching. The students have been practising tirelessly to master their dances for the night's events. Please keep an eye out on Class Dojo for specific costumes/props for individual class items. We will be holding our first dress rehearsal on Tuesday 26 November so please ensure you have all their requirements before that day. Costumes should be clearly labelled and stored in a bag with the student's name on it. Please also ensure school uniforms, shoes and socks are also clearly labelled as they all look the same when the children take them off and it is often difficult to work out who owns what without labels.

We will be holding a number of rehearsals over the next few weeks. Please ensure that your children have adequate water, sunscreen and a hat as we need to practise outside. We do ensure that your children are kept in the shade wherever possible but there are times when they need to be on the basketball court. Teachers are keeping a vigilant eye on the condition of the children and will halt the proceedings when necessary.

The P and C will be coordinating food from 5pm (details in the P & C news) and the concert will commence at 6pm. Children will need to be at school ready to perform by 5.45pm. The evening usually concludes around 8pm. We look forward to what will be another wonderful community event.

ICAS Competitions

Congratulations to all students who participated in the ICAS competitions for English, Maths, Science and Technology and Spelling Bee. Our results ranged from participation through to credit. Certificates are handed out at our Wellbeing afternoons.



UOW PEX students

This week we farewell our three PEX students: Miss Staniforth, Mr Swindells and Miss Eklund. Thank you so much for your work with our children and we wish you well in your future teaching career.

Year 6 into Year 7 Orientation

On Tuesday 3 December, all Year 6 students attending a public high school will have their orientation day. These schools include Wollongong High School of Performing Arts, Keira High School and Figtree High School.

After discussions with the Principals from these schools, please provide sufficient travel time when dropping off and picking up your child around the high schools as these times are always very busy with limited parking available.

We hope all the students attending have a wonderful day and look forward to hearing about their experience when they return.

2020 School Leadership

In the coming weeks, Year 5 students will have the opportunity to nominate themselves for a school leadership position at Mount Keira Demonstration School for the 2020 school year.

All Year 5 students met with Mrs Gehrke and myself today to discuss the role of leaders and the nomination process. Nominations are open to all Year 5 students. Nominees will have until **Friday 13 December** to prepare a short speech outlining the reasons they believe they should be elected as a school leader for 2020. They will present their speeches to their peers K-6, who will then vote to select our leaders for 2020.

The nominees will be advised of the outcome on **Monday 16 December**. Our current school leaders will then officially hand over their title to our newly appointed leaders for 2020 during the graduation ceremony on **Wednesday 18 December**.

Good luck to all those students seeking to develop their leadership skills by working in the leadership team for next year.

Start Smart workshop

On Monday our students participated in workshops designed to introduce them to the basic tenets of financial literacy. The feedback from the teachers was that the program was extremely beneficial resulting in some Stage 3 children beginning to develop a business model!

School Fees-reminder

Term 4 invoices were sent home three weeks ago with the eldest student in your family. Payment is due this Friday 22 November. If you are unable to meet the full payment by that date please see myself or Mrs Christlo to discuss a repayment plan. Please see Mrs Christlo if you are unsure if you have paid.

Attendance

Each semester the Department of Education states that all school must submit their student attendance reports. Last week, Mount Keira Demonstration School submitted their school attendance report and had a staggering amount of student's absences-majority due to family leave/holidays. Please be mindful that attendance at school is vital in your child's education. I have attached the 2020 calendar to help plan any upcoming holidays. Thank you for working with the school and following departmental policies.

Please also be mindful that supervision of the students in the playground commences at 8.45am. We currently have a large number of children regularly arriving before this time. If your child needs to be dropped off early please instruct them to wait on the verandah outside the office until the teacher on duty arrives.

School Terms 2020			
	Start	Finish	Duration
Term 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tuesday 28 January 2020-Staff return Wednesday 29 January 2020-students Thursday 30 January 2020 Kindergarten 	Thursday 9 April 2020	11 Weeks
School Holidays	Friday 10 April 2019	Sunday 26 April 2020	
Term 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 27 April 2020-Staff return Tuesday 28 April 2020-students return 	Friday 3 July 2020	10 Weeks
School Holidays	Saturday 4 July 2020	Sunday 19 July 2020	
Term 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 20 July 2020-Staff return Tuesday 21 July 2020-Students return 	Friday 25 September 2020	10 Weeks
School Holidays	Saturday 26 September 2020	Sunday 11 October 2020	
Term 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monday 12 October 2020-staff and students return 	Wednesday 16 December-students Friday 18 December 2020-staff	10 Weeks
School Holidays	Wednesday 19 December 2020	Tuesday 26 January 2021	

Staff News

You may have noticed some of our staff members with big smiles on their faces. Congratulations to Miss Green, who last weekend announced her engagement to Ryan Doyle. Our love and best wishes for a happy life together go to both of them.

On the weekend Mrs Christlo's daughter, Kaitlin was married to Simon Rocchi. Kaitlin attended our school and it was an absolute privilege for me to attend the wedding which, as you can imagine, was a beautiful occasion. Another of my ex-students was a bridesmaid and it was so special to catch up with her and to see how my kids have become such caring, kind adults.

On another note, Mrs Sartori has taken maternity leave-her baby is due in December- and will be replaced by Mrs Newton on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Our love and best wishes to Mrs Sartori her husband and family.

School Security

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. The school staff and students appreciate your help with this. We want to come back to our school the way we leave it!

Please keep an eye out for any trespassers that are using school property and report them to the number above.

Community watch is the best form of security.

As always, my thanks to this wonderful community. Your support of the children and the staff is always greatly appreciated.

Mrs Lanyon

Relieving Principal

What's Due?

Activity/ Note	Students Involved	Due Date
Monday Munchies- Kebabs \$5	Interested students	Thursday 21 November 3.15pm
Term 4 invoices - sent home three weeks ago	All families	Friday 22 November ++-
Scholastic Book Club- payment must be made using their online ordering scheme	Interested students	Monday 25 November



MKDS Newsletter
19 November 2019
mkds.pandc@gmail.com



WHATS ON!

Kitchen Opening with Ryan Park – Wednesday 27 November 2pm

Ryan Park will join us on November 27 to formally open the school kitchen. Leading up to the event it would be great if parents can consider opportunities to prepare food in the kitchen with the children during Wellness Wednesdays, or to prepare food for the children e.g. Taco Tuesday! The new kitchen offers a lot of opportunities to the school we just need ideas and willing volunteers

End of Year Performance - Wednesday 4 December

We will be serving a multicultural dinner this year at the school concert to match the theme. A Skoolbag notification will go out this week for orders and requests for volunteers. Please assist where you can as it is a busy time for all and many hands make light work.

NEWS AND REMINDERS

Thank you!

Thank you to the many parents who helped at Kindy Orientation last Wednesday. It was great to meet the new families and see the Kindy's of 2020 having a great time with their buddies.

Working Bee Jobs – Pavers

Thank you Walid for coordinating parents to help with the installation of name pavers.

Monday Munchies – Kebabs Monday 25 November. Orders due Thursday 21 November at 3.15pm

How to order – Kebabs \$5

- Your child will have to collect a kebab bag from the library.
- Fill in your selection directly on the bag.
- Please write child's name and class on the side of the bag, not the top as it is rolled down when the kebab is put inside.

- Return your order and correct money (**no change given**). Do not place loose money in the kebab bag please put it in an envelope so that the kebab bag is not contaminated.
- Orders close Thursday 3:15pm, (**No late orders accepted**)

Help Wollongong City Council create our Cycling Strategy

Whether you're a weekend warrior, a novice with training wheels or someone who never hops on a bike, we want to hear about your cycling experiences. Council is updating our bike plan – lets' continue to make Wollongong cycle-friendly for all. Please visit our website at <https://www.haveyoursaywollongong.com.au/help-shape-the-wollongong-cycling-strategy> and complete the survey.

We welcome feedback from all members of the community by Monday 9 December 2019.

Time for Healthy Habits



Do you have a child between the ages of 2–6 years and live in NSW? Do you wonder if they are eating enough of the right foods, being active enough or getting enough sleep?

We are offering a **free** program to help parents give their young children the healthiest start to life.

For more information and to register please visit www.timeforhealthyhabitsnsw.com/ or contact time-healthyhabits@uow.edu.au

Proudly funded by



This project has been approved by the South Western Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee, HREC Reference HREC/18/LPOOL/472, and delivered in partnership with Murrumbidgee, Illawarra Shoalhaven, Southern NSW, Hunter New England, and South Eastern Sydney Local Health Districts.