

Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

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The Summit Term 4 Week 10 Tuesday 17 December 2019

Term 4 Week 10

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

Term 1 Week 1 2020

Tuesday 28 January	Staff Development Day- no students
Wednesday 29 January	Year 1-6 students return
Thursday 30 January	Kinder students commence- with welcome morning tea

Term 1 Week 2 2020

Wednesday 5 February	School Swimming Carnival 12-3pm- students 8 years & older
Friday 7 February	Welcome BBQ 5-7pm

Dear Families

It is hard to believe that this is the last Summit of the term and the year. It truly has been an eventful year since Mrs Robinson and I took on this role and the time has flown by. We have both enjoyed the extra responsibilities that come with this role, including the external validation process, the conclusion of the playspaces project but most importantly working with and for our students at MKDS.

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful festive season and hope that you enjoy your family time together.

Captains' speeches

Well done to the students who participated in the 2020 leadership speeches. All of the students involved did a great job in presenting their speeches, making it a very hard decision for the students and teachers of MKDS. It is always difficult for the children who miss out on the roles, however this is an important life lesson for our children and does build resilience. After a very close count I would like to congratulate:

School Captains: Riley and Sarah
Sports Captains: Ayden and Dalby

These students will receive their badges this coming Wednesday at the Graduation Ceremony with our current leaders handing over their roles and responsibilities to our new leaders for 2020.

Showcase Concert

Congratulations to our beautiful students for their performance on Wednesday night. I loved watching the smiles on their faces and the joy that most of them were feeling at performing for their parents. Thank you to Mitchell and Charlotte for being wonderful MCs. A special thank you to Mrs K and Mr John who saved the day and, after many trips in to Wollongong, managed to get our sound system working.

Thank you also to the P and C who organised and prepared the delicious food in the new kitchen. Your dedication to this community event was very much appreciated.

It was a wonderful night celebrating the hard work of the teachers, parents, school community and most importantly the wonderful group of students here at Mount Keira Demonstration School.

Our students wrote a recount of the night for my mother, who was unable to attend as she was unwell. We asked them to give her a true account of the night and, having a real purpose for their writing, they wrote some beautiful recounts. We have published a selection of them at the end of the Summit.



Advantages of a small school

I have always believed in the philosophies and culture of a small school and was thrilled to read an article on the weekend extolling the advantages of a small school at <https://lindastade.com/benefits-of-small-schools/>. Ms Stade explains succinctly why small schools are such a good option. I recommend this to you.

Scripture and Ethics Thank you

Thank you to those dedicated volunteers who give up their own time to teach our students Scripture and Ethics. To all of you, we greatly appreciate the time you give to our children to further instil the values that we all deem to be important in our children's lives.

Year 6 Farewell activity at Jamberoo Action Park

Last Tuesday, our Year 5 and 6 students attended Jamberoo Action Park. Everyone had a fantastic time.

Veggies for sale

Our veggie garden is doing well and as a result we have a few red cabbages, beetroot, and lots of herbs for sale. On Wednesday, before our graduation ceremony, there will be the opportunity to purchase some of our produce and also a few frangipani trees and some bunches of hydrangeas. Please donate a gold coin for the herbs and the veggies. The frangipanis will be \$10.00 and the hydrangeas at various prices. The funds raised will go towards purchasing more seedlings for the garden next year.

Smith Hill performance

Last week, a group of students from Smith's Hill High School came to MKDS to perform their annual school production. It was a wonderful performance showcasing some very talented students from our local selective high school. Our students thoroughly enjoyed this extra-curricular activity.

Year 6 Farewell

Year 6 will be having their farewell this coming Wednesday at Corrimal RSL in Suite 168. The farewell begins at 6:00 pm and concludes at 8:00 pm. This event recognises the great contributions our Year 6 students have made to the school over the past seven years. I look forward to celebrating this eventful night with you all.

Congratulations to all of our Year 6 graduating students.

Farewell

I would like to take this opportunity to farewell the following families whose children will now be moving on to high school. Thank you for sharing so many wonderful memories with the Mount Keira School Community:

The Boerebach family (Sophie)

The Cross family (Bethany)
The Whalan family (Charlotte)
The Colquhoun family (Jack)
The Ganassin family (Phoebe and Louis)

I also wish to farewell the Palmer family and the Hollis family. We have loved having you as part of our school community and wish you all the best for the future.

Talent Quest

Yesterday, we held our annual Talent Show and as usual we saw our talented students performing some absolutely outstanding acts. Congratulations to our performers.

Reports

Semester 2 reports went home on Friday 13 December. Please sit with your child and discuss his/her report with them. If you have any questions regarding the report please contact your child's class teacher to arrange an interview time.

Staff News

Mrs Carroll returns to the role of Principal from maternity leave next year. At this stage she will be working Tuesday to Friday and I will be working on Mondays in the Relieving Principal role.

Congratulations to Mrs Cook who has announced she will commence long service next year and will then retire. Thank you Mrs Cook for your contribution to our school over the past 5 years. Your passion for helping students in the library is greatly appreciated by all. We wish you and your husband all the best for the future with a long, healthy, happy retirement.

Our best wishes to Mrs Robinson and her husband Craig as they await the arrival of their latest family member. We wish them all the best and look forward to meeting the new addition in the New Year.

Congratulations also to Mrs Satori and her family were blessed with another baby girl Piper last week. All are going well.

Miss Green is thrilled to announce that she is expecting an addition to her family next year. We are so excited for her and Ryan and wish her all the very best as they celebrate their new life together in January.

As a result of this news there will be some staffing changes next year which will affect the K/1 class. However Miss Green will continue to work with us until the end of first term. We thank her as always for the wonderful teaching she has done with our K/1 class this year and are pleased she will continue to be on the staff for at least the beginning of next year.

2020 Class Requirements

Teachers are currently organising classroom requirements for 2020. These requirements will be finalised by the first 'meet and greet' session early in 2020, however we are mindful that parents like to

get organised during the school holidays. If you are wanting to purchase some items to begin 2020 with, please consider the following:

- 4 large glue sticks - white glue, Bostik brand (1 per term)
- 4 boxes of tissues for shared classroom use
- 1 packet whiteboard markers (1 per term)
- HB pencils (regular supply throughout the year)
- 1 packet of coloured pencils
- Erasers
- Ruler – no metal rulers please
- White out tape for stage 3 No liquid paper please
- Blue and red pens for stage 3

All belongings should be clearly marked with your child's name.

Please note the above is only a guide. Individual class requests – teachers will issue any specific class requests when classes are finalised early in 2020.

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!

Community watch is the best form of security.

Last day of school

The last day of school for students is this Wednesday 18 December. Staff will have a Staff Development Day on Thursday 19 December before finishing up for the year. Staff completed a series of additional professional learning hours throughout the year in lieu of the usual two school development days at the end of the year.

End of year sum up

We look forward to seeing students in Yr 1-6 back at school on Wednesday 29 January. Kindergarten will begin on Thursday 30 January. Staff will begin the 2020 school year with a School Development Day on Tuesday 28 January.

It has been a highly satisfying, productive and enjoyable year. Once again the staff join me in wishing you all a happy holiday and we all look forward to another educational year in 2020.

Mrs Lanyon

Relieving Principal

Christmas Concert Reflections from Waratah

Ariella

Last Wednesday I was bursting with excitement, it was the day of the Christmas concert!

Bella, Bethany, Lani and Charlotte performed a spectacular dance, it was called 'Scars to Your Beautiful'. I absolutely loved it. The girls performed so well and had too much to remember. They were good.

The Early Stage one's country was Italy and they were so cute; I remember that they were having so much fun.

I really enjoyed the finale. I think that the whole school enjoyed the finale and the audience.

The Christmas carols were so nice for the whole school to get together and just sing.

I had a great time and I hope you can come next year.

Eva Smith

This year's concert theme is Everyone Belongs. The first beautiful act is performed by our wonderful Stage Three girls. It is entitled 'Scars to your Beautiful', it is performed by three girls named Lani, Charlotte and Bella. The three girls choreographed the 'Scars to Your Beautiful' dance.

The next thing in line was Charlotte and Mitchell making a speech about the theme everyone belongs and talking about no matter where you come from or what religion you are, we all belong in the world.

The next act was performed by our adorable Kindergarten students. The country was Italy and the song they performed was 'Mambo Italiano'. A dance teacher, who came last year, choreographed all the class dances and that is what she did this year too.

The next act was the fantastic choir, also known as the vocal group, singing 'Let There be Peace on Earth' and Sophie B had a great solo part in front of everyone and singing was very fun.

The next act was Years 1 and 2 dance choreographed by Sam. The country was Greece and the music were really great. I felt like they were really put together and the timing was great.

The next thing in line was a play about being yourself and love yourself and it was titled 'Odd Dog Out'. In the play the part 'Odd Dog' was played by Sophie B.

The next act was Year 3 and 4 dance choreographed by Sam and I'm in Year 3 and I am in the dance. The dance was put together wonderfully.

The next act was performed by the choir again. They sang 'This is my Wish' and it sounded the best. They had soloists myself and Sienna.

Lola*Christmas Showcase 2019*

The Christmas showcase was one of the best showcases this school has ever seen. Ryan Park came to officially open our wonderful new kitchen since he wasn't able to make the first time.

The first dance to start off the school concert was entitled 'Scars to your beautiful' danced by three-year sixes. Charlotte, Lani and Bella as well as coming up with the song they also came up with the dance moves and the costumes. It was the perfect dance to start off our wonderful showcase!

The second dance was just as wonderful as the first. The Kindergartens' country was Italy and they were amazingly in time and the audience loved it!

The next act was in fact not even a dance it was a performance by our brilliant choir. In all the choir performances there were no costumes but that didn't get in the way of it being wonderful!

The Stage One dance was definitely a showstopper! Their country was Greece and got the impression that they were puppets and people were controlling them but all in all the Stage 1 was definitely fun to watch.

The fifth act was an act for all ages it was a drama piece performed from year four to year six called 'Odd Dog Out' and it was about a dog that wasn't like the others so she left her home behind and travelled the world. When she was too tired to keep walking she found a place to rest where everyone was a bit different like her. She felt like she belonged there.

Next was the Stage 2 dance, my dance! The song they danced to was a mashup of 'We Will Rock You' and 'Twist and Shout' The girls had to wear "Footloose/ Twist and Shout" vibe and the boys had to wear a rock vibe.

The seventh act was yet another performance by the choir. They performed 'This is my Wish' in perfect tune and harmony.

Next was the Year 5 and 6 dance and it looked like they had to wear bright clothes and accessories to match Cuba.

And all I can say about the finale is that it is definitely my favourite!

Ari

I enjoyed the whole concert. But "Scars to be Beautiful" was the first major striker. It gave the audience a hint that the concert theme was belonging.

Now, the first dance was up, the Kindergarten dance! With the theme of Italy. It shocked the audience like crazy from out at the ball to pure goofy disco. The teachers had all the Early Stage 1 all herded up into partners of gender.

The choir was back at it, it was a whole lot of beautiful voices put together singing into state-of-the-art microphones "Let there be Peace on Earth".

Lilli Pilli was doing Greece and even though their dance had no words it still delivered a shocking blow to the crowd, as it sped up at the end. The whole earworm really stays in your head.

The next act was a play called 'Odd Dog Out'. It was a favourite for the parents and teachers. It was enjoyed by most of the audience and was about a difference conspiracy.

We were doing England but with an elegant start up but then a rocky middle and a twist and shout end. It was a surprise for the audience to go from 'high-heel' to 'stamp-stamp-clap'.

The choir was at it again but this time with 'This is my Wish' they were singing with pure music to anyone's ears. It sounded lovely as a bird calls mixed with the shatter of leaves.

Stage 3 was doing Cuba and they did it beautifully, it was filled with solos and synchronising and made it look good.

We've not got to the end final with the year six girl solo at the beginning to the carols at the end it was filled with smiling faces of pure joy.



MKDS Newsletter
17 December 2019
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WHATS ON IN 2020!

Kindy Morning Tea – Thursday 30 January 9.30am

Join the new Kindy parents for morning tea on our second day back at school. We will let you know on the Wednesday if we need volunteers. Donations of a small plate of food would be appreciated.

Welcome BBQ & Working Bee – Friday 7 February 5pm and Saturday 8 at 9am

Our traditional welcome BBQ will be held on the second Friday of Term 1. Bring a salad or dessert to share (not compulsory) and we will bring the sausage sandwiches. Bring your own drinks or we will have some available to purchase. Looking forward to a great event and good weather.

NEWS AND REMINDERS

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone in our amazing school community who have worked so hard this year. We have achieved many great things, finalising large projects, giving our kids space to move and room to grow.

Thank you to the parents and teachers who joined us in the outdoor kitchen last night to celebrate a very successful cookbook that raised over \$75000 for the play spaces project. Thank you Lili and Ashlee for all of the food prep, the grazing table was stunning and delicious.

Thank you Walid, Dean and Hayley, for coordinating the installation of the pavers. They look amazing!

Thank you Glynis, Allira, Kim, Kate, Abbey, Ashlea, Wendy, Rebecca, Sharon, Rebecca, Lisa and John. Our kids love you and cannot wait to see you next year. Enjoy a well-deserved break with your own families.

Goodbye and Thank you

To the Boerebach, Colquhoun, Cross, Ganassin, Whalan, Hollis and Palmer families we wish you all the best in the future. We greatly appreciate all of your support as individuals in progressive dinners, school discos, working bees and bbqs. Thank you also to your children who have contributed to our school in so many ways.

Goodbye Wendy and thank you for all of your support in the office. Enjoy your retirement!

Have a safe and happy school break and we will see you in 2020.