

# Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

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The Summit Term 4 Week 6 Tuesday 17 November 2020

## Upcoming events

Thursday 19 November	Sporting Schools basketball program commences- 4 sessions
Tuesday 1 December	NSW Public High School Orientation Day
Wednesday 2 December	School Captains nominees' speeches
Wednesday 16 December	Last day of term for students and Year 6 Farewell Assembly
Thurs/Fri 17/18 December	Staff Development Days

Dear Parents/Carers

Here we are in Week 6 of Term 4 and the year is rapidly coming to an end. How did we get here so quickly?

We are very excited to be able to share with you the school tour video that we recently had produced for Kinder Orientation. We are sure you will agree that it certainly captures the spirit of Mount Keira. We hope you enjoy it as much as the staff and our Kinder families have. The video can be accessed via the Kinder Orientation tab on our website <https://mtkeira-p.schools.nsw.gov.au/kindergarten-orientation.html>.

### National award winners

I am so proud to share with you all that on Thursday afternoon, I received an email from Christine Erskine, Executive Officer at KidSafe NSW stating that Mount Keira Demonstration had won the **NATIONAL** Playground Design Award for Infants and Primary Schools and was the overall winner of the Leicester Meares Memorial Award.

According to correspondence received, ALL Judges agreed on recognising our special play space. They believed the design incorporated creative approaches to utilising otherwise unusable space to create 'learning' pockets and physical challenges for students.

They went on to say the use of recycled and repurposed materials was impressive, resulting in a play space that demonstrates a respect and connection to nature and the local and Indigenous communities.

It was decided the design introduced a range of both free play, self-directed learning and formal outdoor learning spaces and different environments for students to intentionally or inadvertently spend time in more interactive natural settings.

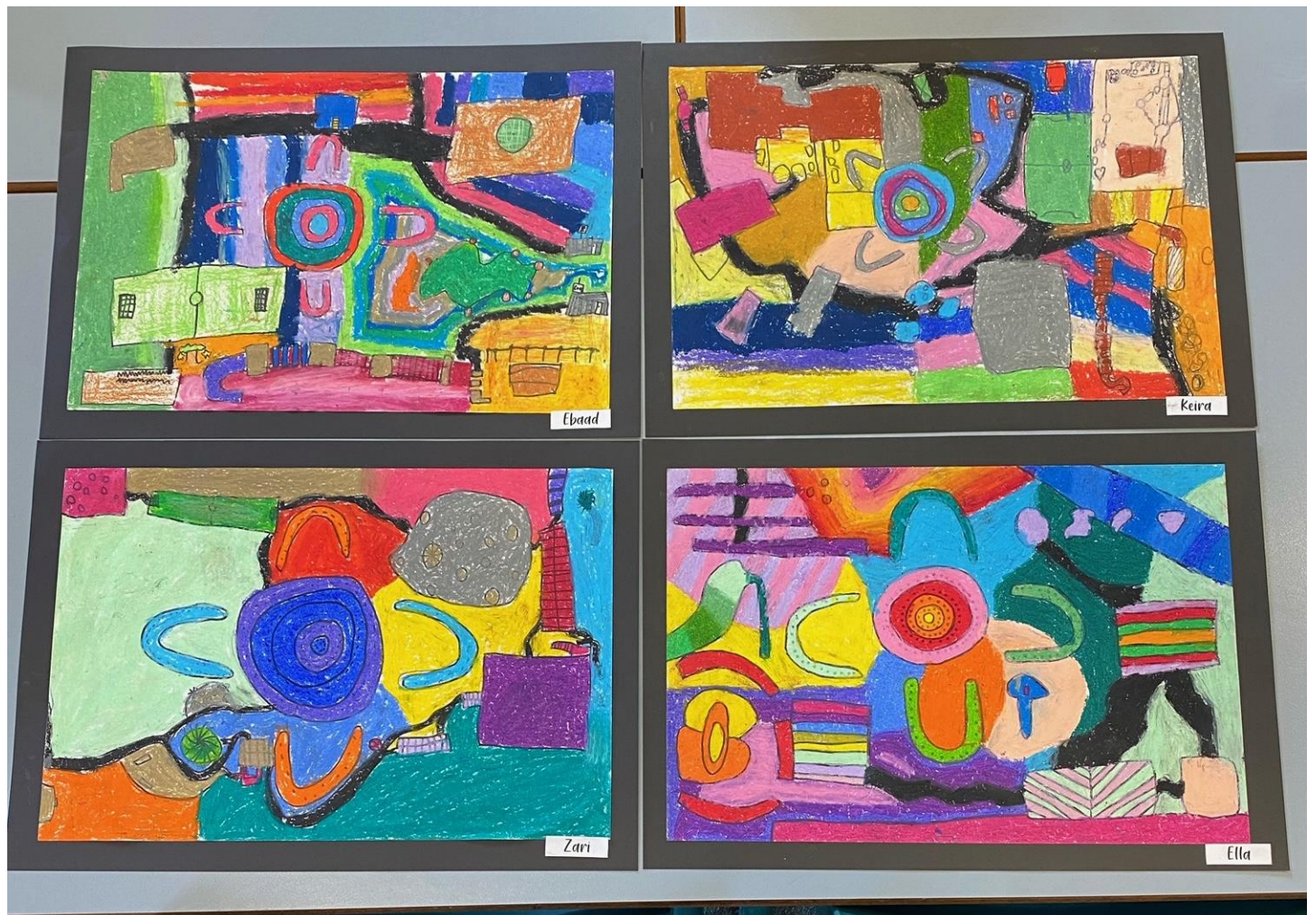
The KidSafe playground awards are held every two years to recognise excellence and innovation in the provision of safe, creative playspaces across Australia. The awards aim to promote inspirational, innovative, best practice play facilities that encourage healthy participation in recreational activities for all children.

This is a huge achievement for our school and the team behind its design. Ben from PlaygroupEd and I submitted an application in May for this annual award with high hopes that our play spaces would be recognised for their design however we never expected to win the National award. We are so fortunate to have so many wonderful play spaces for our children to learn, discover and explore in each and every day.

Well done to all involved and a special thanks to Ben from PlaygroupEd.

### Class of the week- Lilli Pilli

Last week Lilli Pilli enjoyed listening to and reading stories of the Dreaming. We looked at common symbols used in artworks and used this to create our own piece. These artworks show the students' representation of our school from a birds eye view and we used the amphitheatre as our meeting place.





## NAIDOC Week 2020 – Always was. Always will be.

NAIDOC week was recognised and celebrated at MKDS last week. All classes shared daily Dreamtime stories, read 'The Story of Five Islands' in the outdoor learning spaces and created some amazing artworks that reflected their knowledge of Indigenous culture.

We also had a fabulous excursion to the National Park where we received first-hand learning experiences from Uncle Shane, a local Aboriginal Elder from Country. Many of the students made their own artworks, had a bush walk to important sites and the younger students even got to build a 'gunya' using natural materials. It was a truly marvellous day for all that participated.



## End of year activities

We are currently finalising our end of year events, ensuring they meet the most current COVID guidelines. The new guidelines allow for parents to be involved only when the physical space allows for 1.5m distancing and 4m<sup>2</sup> per individual. This included students, staff and visitors.

To be COVID safe and compliant, we need to plan all arrangements on the total number of students and staff likely to attend before we can invite visitors. This requirement means, we will only be able to invite Year 6 parents to our end of year **Graduation Assembly**. There will be a limit of two adults per child to ensure we maintain social distancing. More information on the exact details will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Mrs Gehrke and our Year 6 students have been busy planning our **Year 6 Farewell Dinner**. Unfortunately this event will look different from previous years as it will now be taking place at school during lunchtime. The students will still be able to celebrate in style and reflect on their time here at Mount Keira Demonstration School. Letters and information will be sent home in the coming weeks.

Finally in regards to our **end of year concert**, we have unfortunately had to make the very tough decision to cancel this annual event. We are currently looking at the possibility of streaming individual class items and will advise of the outcome in the coming weeks.

## Remembrance Day 2020

On Wednesday 11 November, Waratah and Banksia collaborated as a group to discuss, learn and share stories that reflected their thoughts on Remembrance Day. At the eleventh hour we held a minute silence together to pay our respect for everyone who has sacrificed so much for us to live the way we do today.



## Reports

Teachers have been very busy analysing data and beginning to writing Semester 2 reports. **These reports will go home on Friday, 11 December.** Reports will not be completed prior to this date. If your child is absent during this time and will not be here to collect their report before the end of the semester, we can post it to you at your request. Alternatively, you can collect it at the start of the 2021 school year. Our Semester 2 reports reflect the learning and achievement of students only during Term 3 and 4 2020.

## 2021 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 2021 school year.

All Year 5 students will meet with Mrs Gehrke and myself this **Friday 20 November** to discuss the role of leaders and the nomination process. Nominations are open to all Year 5 students. Nominees will have until **Wednesday 2 December** to prepare a short speech outlining the reasons they believe they should be elected as a school leader for 2021.

## Coding Program

It has been wonderful to see the growth of the children's understanding of coding programs this year. Our latest five week program has just concluded and the students have once again enjoyed being challenged by the specialised teachers from Scope IT. Students who wish to further their learning may be interested in their after school CIY Club sessions which are partnered with the University of Wollongong.

## Term 4 Fees

Term 4 fee invoices were sent home with your eldest child on Friday afternoon. Please check you have received your invoice or contact Mrs Christlo if you need another copy. Fees are due on Monday 30 November. There is no need to breakdown payments to individual children or fees to activities just list the full amount under one child's name. Our preferred payment method is via online via the school website however cash or cheques may be paid at the office.

If you are unable to meet the payment by that date please let the office know and we can discuss a repayment plan. Partial payments can be made over the coming weeks. Should you be having financial difficulties financial assistance may be available, please make an appointment with me to discuss.

## MP Paul Scully book drive donations

Our SRC have decided to support the Paul Scully book donation drive. This initiative distributes books to children in our local schools to assist them to maintain their literacy skills over the summer holidays. If you have any new or good quality used books that are no longer needed and you would like to support a local child with their reading, you can send your books in to the history room at the school or you can donate them directly at Paul Scully's local office on Crown Street until 10 December.

Keep Safe, Keep Smiling 😊

**Tenae Carroll**

**Principal**

## What's Due?

Activity/ Note	Students Involved	Due Date
Term 4 student invoices- sent last week	All families	30 November

## Out of School Hours Care parent survey- a message from the Dept of Education

We want to offer families more flexibility with their work commitments and child care arrangements and to create more opportunities across the whole community. Having Out of School Hours Care available at local schools is a great way to achieve this.

As part of the NSW Government's \$120 million Before and After School Care (BASC) commitment, parents at all NSW schools were recently invited to complete a Have Your Say survey. The survey asked parents to tell us how they are using Out of School Hours Care, how much it costs them, whether they plan to keep using it, and what difficulties they experience in accessing it. The survey results have helped us to better understand the needs of families and what's important to them.

We are now asking all parents to complete a [quick follow-up survey](https://surveys.education.nsw.gov.au/s3/OSHCParentSurvey) by **Friday 27 November 2020**. You can access the survey at <https://surveys.education.nsw.gov.au/s3/OSHCParentSurvey>. This information will help us to target the rollout of more before Out of School Hours Care services in the right areas

If your child does not require Out of School Hours care, we ask that you please still complete the first section of this survey as it gives us important information about the level of demand at your school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your school at Mount Keira Demonstration school or the BASC Program team by phone on 1300 244 145 or email at:

[BASCReform@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:BASCReform@det.nsw.edu.au)