

Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

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The Summit Term 4 Week 5 Wednesday 3 November 2021

Upcoming events

Wednesday 10 November	Celebration Day- wear mufti and enjoy a sausage sizzle
Wednesday 17 November	Kindergarten Orientation
Wednesday 17 November	Opportunity Class Yr 5 2022 placement test
Wednesday 8 December	Showcase Concert 2-3pm (TBC)
Wednesday 15 December	Year 6 Graduation Assembly 2.15pm (TBC)
Thursday 16 December	Last day of term for students
Friday 17 December	Staff Development Day

What's Due?

Term 2 Fees were sent home last term and reminders have been sent home throughout this and last term. If you are having trouble meeting the payment by the end of the week please let us know via email or telephone.

Activity/ Note	Students Involved	Due Date
Term 2 invoices- reminders sent home yesterday	All families	Overdue
Celebration Day 10 November- let the office know if you do not wish for your child to have a sausage sizzle or iceblock	All families	8 November
Scholastic Book Club- sent home last week	Interested families	12 November
Selective High School Yr 7 2023 applications	Year 5 students	Exp of interest to school 10/11/2021 Online application 17/11/2021
Photos for Year 6 Yearbook via ClassDojo	Year 6 families	As soon as possible

Dear families

Welcome back to another week of face to face learning. The school is 'buzzing' with the return of our students. It is so amazing hearing laughter in the playground and the busyness of classrooms with student learning.

World Teachers' Day

Last Friday 29 October, we celebrated World Teachers' Day. The theme this year is 'Teachers at the heart of education recovery'. A very fitting theme for the times that we are currently in.

It was a day to remind us all about the importance of teachers and the hard work and dedication they put in to your children each and every day. It was a day that marked the vital role that teachers play in shaping the world around us.

This year, we also recognise how critical teachers have been during the pandemic. Through all the challenges, they have kept our students connected to their education day in and day out, going above and beyond for our small community.

A very big thankyou to those parents that sent messages of thanks. Such a small gesture which makes it all worth it - the feeling of appreciation!

Enrolments for 2022

We are currently in the planning stages for our 2022 class structures.

Last week our panel met to discuss our out of area applications and we are now finalising our 2022 enrolments.

If your child is not returning to Mount Keira Demonstration School in 2022, please notify the school office as soon as possible. The staffing of schools is based on the number of students enrolled and this information is vital for our school organisation for 2022.

Kindergarten Orientation

On **Wednesday 17 November** all 14 of our new Kindergarten students will attend MKDS for their Orientation Day. Due to current restrictions our day will run a little differently, but our students and school community are still as excited as ever to welcome lots of new little faces. Please be mindful that on this day the office may be busier than usual so your patience and understanding will be much appreciated.

We hope you can join the P and C at Byarong Park to welcome our new parents. There are more details in the P and C news section.

Better Buddies Program- from Mrs Lanyon

We have once again implemented our Better Buddies program in order to ensure a smooth and happy transition to school for our new Kindergarten children. Over the past two weeks our Year 5 students have been given the opportunity to apply for roles as buddies for our new Kindergarten students.

This is one of our programs whereby our older students begin to take on leadership roles in the school.

Every year I ask for feedback from the students to ensure that this program is continuing to produce good results by helping the new students to assimilate into the school. The feedback is overwhelmingly positive and it is particularly heartwarming to hear of the older students' experiences and memories of their buddy.

At the beginning of the program I ask the children to reflect on the attributes they may bring to the role. Many of the children wrote about wanting to support the younger students; helping them to become comfortable and relaxed about being at school; wanting to see their faces glow when they meet their buddies and wanting to take on leadership skills.

Our Year 4 students have also been given the opportunity to be either Kinder buddies or welcome buddies for any new students that we might have next year.

I am thrilled with our new group of buddies and look forward to seeing them interact with our new students.

Celebration Day

Next Wednesday we will be celebrating having the students back to onsite learning. We will be having a day filled with fun and togetherness activities - cohort based of course!

Students will be allowed to come to school in mufti clothing and will be provided with a sausage sizzle and ice block for lunch (no cost).

Students will be involved in fun and engaging activities to celebrate the return of school and build connections with our school.

If your child has food allergies or dietary requirements and you do not wish for them to have a sausage sizzle and/or ice block, please inform the school office by Monday 8 November.

We look forward to celebrating together and promoting wellbeing across our school.

'Check in' Assessment

Next week our Year 3 to 6 students will participate in a 'Check-in' assessment. This is an initiative implemented by the NSW Department of Education. Students in Year 4, 5 and 6 will be familiar with the 'Check-in' assessment as they have previously participated online.

The assessment complements existing school practices to identify how students are performing in literacy and numeracy. This process enables staff to establish where individuals are in their learning so that teaching can be differentiated to individual student needs and further learning programs and progress can be monitored over time.

Graduation Ceremony and Year 6 Farewell

Last week myself and Mrs Gehrke met with our Year 6 students to discuss our end of year celebrations. These discussions involved planning the Year 6 Graduation Ceremony and our Year 6 Farewell. I was so pleased with their honest and open approach to discussing their needs and wants in such a mature manner. There were many great suggestions and discussions had. I am happy to announce that we have our end of year celebration dates locked in.

Based on students' feedback we have slightly altered the way our Graduation Ceremony and Farewell will take place. We will be holding our Year 6 Graduation Ceremony on Wednesday 15 December. This ceremony will be similar to previous years with students being farewelled at a ceremony, followed by a guard of honour and the ringing of the bell.

Students will then have their final day at Mount Keira Demonstration School as a fun filled day where they decide on the day's activities. On Thursday 17 December students will arrive in mufti clothes and complete fun activities throughout the day. This will be followed by a Farewell Luncheon at the school. This was a huge success last year and something our Year 6 students wanted to be a part of this year.

We are hoping that restrictions have been lifted for our school community to share in these wonderful events.

More information will continue to be communicated to our Year 6 students and parents.

I once again would like to congratulate the students on their mature approach to these open and honest discussions and I am pleased that their end of year celebrations are based on student voice.

Student sickness

The Department of Education has very clear guidelines in regards to student sickness whilst at school. If your child is showing any signs or symptoms of COVID-19 they are sent immediately to the office and sent home.

Students sent home or those who develop symptoms outside school hours are requested to have a negative COVID test before returning to school, or provide a medical clearance certificate stating they do not have any signs or symptoms.

Please work with us to ensure our entire school community is kept safe.

Student attendance

All students are now expected to be at school unless:

- They have a medical certificate which states that they are unable to return to school due to an ongoing medical condition
- They are currently unwell.
- NSW Health has asked them to self-isolate

If your child's leave does not fall into these three categories they should be at school each and every day. Students have already missed so many days onsite, experiencing face to face quality teaching and learning. Students will be marked as having unjustified leave unless a valid reason is supplied.

Birthdays, rest days etc are considered unjustified and your child should be at school.

ICAS testing refunds

As mentioned in the last Summit, due to the late return to face to face teaching, we will not be able to participate in ICAS testing this year. If you paid for your child to participate you can arrange a refund directly by emailing the provider at icasassessments@janison.com. We did try and arrange a refund for everyone on your behalf but this was not an option. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused. If you have any issues call them directly on 1800 931 775.

In the refund request you must specify:

- Order no
- Reason for the refund
- Partial/Full refund
- If it is a partial refund please specify the subject
- Name of the school

Scholastic Book Club

Issue 7 was sent home with students last week. Please complete orders online by 12 November. Items may be selected as gifts and will be held at the office for collection by parents. Late orders cannot be accepted however you can pay an additional delivery fee and have them sent directly to your home.

Keep Safe, Keep Smiling

Tenae Carroll
Principal



MKDS Newsletter
3 November 2021
mkds.pandc@gmail.com



Uniforms

As mentioned in the P and C update sent out last week Poppets have a shortage of uniforms in some sizes. Please order early for 2022 to ensure your needs are met.

The clothing pool sale went well on Tuesday and we will be holding another one this Friday from 3-3.30pm in front of the driveway. Due to Covid restrictions you can only visit the store if you have made a booking. Please email the P and C mountkeirapublicschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au or message them on the What's App to make your booking.

Due to Covid restrictions there is to be no mingling in the area and masks must be worn at all times to keep our community safe.

Kindergarten 2022 Orientation 17 November 2021 with welcome morning tea 10.30-12.00

We hope you can join us to welcome our new parents at our Kinder Orientation morning tea which will be held at Byarong Park this year.

The P&C would really love a few donated cakes or slices. If you have some time we would also love you to meet and greet the new parents with us.

Please indicate on the attached Skoolbag eform if you can assist.

Sub-committees

We are creating a few sub-committees to help move some important tasks along. Please let us know if you are interested in joining either:

1. Uniform Sub-Committee: Is it the right time to change our kids uniform in any way? We would love your thoughts and input regarding possible changes, as well as a gender-neutral option for the children.
2. Outdoor Sub-Committee: our major fundraising item from the 2021 Progressive dinner saw \$5,000 raised for an outdoor events area. We have a big dream ahead of us, so please join this committee if you can offer knowledge in building or inspiration for ideas.

Please indicate on the attached Skoolbag eform if you are interested in participating.

Fundraising Initiatives

Bunnings BBQ 27 November 2021

Can you help with our first Bunnings BBQ for the year? A few hours at Bunnings in Wollongong will go a long way, as we would love to raise some funds for our school's wish list. Please indicate on the attached Skoolbag eform if you think you will be able to help on that day. We will send out a roster closer to the time.

Cookie Dough Drive December 2021

We will have a cookie dough drive, in time for Christmas, where a portion from each dough bucket sold goes to our MKDS P&C wish list for 2022. These could make a great Christmas gift.

Fundraising 2022

The P&C committee will soon send out a survey to gather insight in to prioritising where our fundraising funds can be spent in 2022. We have a wish list from the teachers and would love your suggestions and support on what you would like to see in our school.

Monday Munchies

In line with current restrictions, Monday Munchies is currently unable to go ahead this term. However, we all know how rapidly things change so we will keep you updated about when this much-loved program will be able to recommence.

Thank you for your support,
Angie and all the Committee