

Mount Keira Demonstration School

Established 1861 "Learning and Caring"

255 Mount Keira Road
MOUNT KEIRA NSW 2500

Ph 02 4229 1446 E mtkeira-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Website www.mtkeira-p.schools.nsw.edu.au



The Summit Term 4 Week 8 Wednesday 30 November 2022

Upcoming events

Wednesday	30 November	K-6 End of Year Concert 6:00pm (Picnic at 5:00pm)
Tuesday	6 December	Jamberoo Excursion (Banskia)
Tuesday	13 December	K-2 Science Space Excursion
Wednesday	14 December	Talent Show
Wednesday	14 December	Semester two reports go home
Thursday	15 December	K-6 Hoyts Movie Day Excursion
Friday	16 December	Year 6 Graduation – 10am
Friday	16 December	Year 6 Farewell Dinner – 5-7pm
Friday	16 December	Last day of term for students
Monday	19 December	Staff Development Day
Tuesday	20 December	Staff Development Day

What's Due?

Activity/ Note	Students Involved	Due Date
Term 4 Invoice	All students	Immediately
Jamberoo Excursion – note & payment	Banksia	Friday 2 December
K-2 Science Space Centre permission	Wattle & Lilli Pilli students	Immediately
Hoyts Movie Day Excursion	All students	Thursday 8 December
Yr6 Farewell Dinner - note & order	Year 6	Friday 2 December

Dear parents and carers,

End of Year Concert

Our End of Year Concert will begin this evening with a picnic dinner at 5pm. The concert will begin promptly at 6pm. Students need to arrive at the concert ready in their costumes dressed to perform. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation. The students are so excited to show you all their hard work. We look forward to seeing you there.

Term 4 Invoices

Term 4 invoices were due by Friday 18 November – if you have not already done so, please arrange for immediate payment. As previously advised, invoices will need to be paid prior to your child attending any excursions this term. Please contact our school office if you would like to discuss any matters relating to your invoice.

Parent Information Session – New K-2 Syllabuses

We held our first parent information session last Tuesday evening on the changes to our K-2 curriculum next year. It was so wonderful to see parents involved in learning about what will be taught in our K-2 classrooms next year. We will be continuing this work, with the introduction of the 3-6 English and Mathematics syllabuses next year and look forward to providing more opportunities for families to be involved.



Early Arrivals

Students are continuing to arrive at school well ahead of our 8.45am start time. If your child needs to arrive at school for a special reason, please contact the school to advise us that they will be arriving early and ensure they wait on the verandah until school commences.

Hoyts Movie Day

A reminder that permission notes and payment are due by Thursday 8 December to secure your child's attendance at the screening of *Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile*.

Year 5 and 6 Jamberoo Action Park Excursion

Banksia students have received permission notes for this very popular end of year activity which is arranged annually as a special farewell for Year 6. Payment for this excursion is separate from the Term 4 invoice.

Ryan Park - Annual Toy Drive

Mr Park, Member for Keira, is urging locals to again rally behind families who are struggling and buy a gift for a child this Christmas. *"Christmas should be a time for celebrating and goodwill. Spending time with those you love the most and reflecting on the good times. Yet for many local families across the Illawarra, it is a time of hardship and struggle. For too many children, it lacks the happiness and joy we all too often take for granted. The ages of the children vary from newborns to teenagers."*

We are asking the families of MKDS to donate new toys/gifts for children of all ages, which we will in turn deliver to the Toy Drive. Gifts may be dropped off to the school front office from now through to December 8. The gifts should not be gift wrapped.

Farewell Assembly

The end of year Farewell Assembly for our graduating Year 6 students, will be held on Wednesday 16 December at 10am in our COLA. All parents, grandparents and community members are welcome to attend this important event to farewell our graduating students.

Year 6 Farewell Dinner

All Year 6 students are invited to attend the farewell dinner to take place at Corrimal RSL at 5pm on Friday 16 December. Official invitations have already been sent home. We look forward to a fun and enjoyable night celebrating the wonderful memories made here at MKDS. Please ensure orders are submitted by Friday 2 December.

Ethics Program

This year, three of our Ethics teachers will finalise their involvement in the MKDS Ethics program. We would like to say a huge thank you to Kerry Sorensen, Angela Milic and Franca Mackie for their commitment to teaching the Ethics Program here at Mount Keira since 2016.

We were fortunate to have two new Ethics teachers join us for the latter part of 2022 - Nerieda Broad and Olivia Cathcart. However, in 2023 we will need to find at least one new Ethics teacher. If you or someone you know is interested in taking on this role, please contact our school office for more information.

Kindergarten Orientation

On Wednesday 16 November, MKDS welcomed the new Kindergarten students for 2023 and their family members. The new students engaged in fun play in the Wattle room, including fine motor skill activities, painting, playdough, craft, and so much more. The new students also got to spend time playing with and meeting their new Year 6 buddies that they will have next year. The students from Banksia interacted positively with the students and made them feel happy and safe.

All the teachers, especially Mrs May, Mrs Robinson and Miss Reskic, were very proud of how they demonstrated our school values on the day, and we know that they will be fantastic buddies to next year's Kindergarten students.

We want to welcome again all our new families attending MKDS in 2023 and cannot wait to have you all as part of our wonderful school community.

A big thank you to Mel Ringer for representing the P&C at the parent information session and for organising the uniform stall. Thank you also to our parent community who contributed to the morning tea to welcome all of our new families.



Poetry

Mrs Robinson has been working with Waratah on poetry this term as part of their English program. Elina and Keira came to visit the principal's office last week to show their incredible poem.

Imagine

By Elina and Keira

Imagine
If we were
Under the sea
Where dolphins dive
And fish swarm
Where colourful coral sway
And waves crash beneath a storm...

Imagine
If we were
Like octopus sinking in the ocean
Where starfish stick
And turtles glide
Where seahorses wriggle
And clown fish hide...

Imagine
If we were
Whales crashing in the ocean
Where lobsters crawl
And seaweed sweeps
Where jellyfish bop
And squids swim deep...

Imagine
If we were
Like sea creatures in the deep sea
Where shellfish scatter
And seagulls are drifting
Where hammerheads float
And the salty sand is shifting...

Imagine
If we were
Like millions of tiny crabs near the ocean
Where narwhals potter
And sharks jerk
Where rough rocks sit
And moss lurks...

Imagine
If we were
Like fish stuck in sticky seaweed
Where pelicans hover
And cranky clams snap
Where old shipwrecks lie
And seals nap...

Imagine...

Reports

Over the past several weeks, teachers have been busy writing student reports. We are now in the editing stage of report comments. Reports will be sent home to parents/carers on Wednesday 14 December. This is a great opportunity to sit down with your child and discuss their progress throughout the year.

Talent Show

We will be holding our end of year talent show on Wednesday 14 December commencing at 9:30am. Singers, dancers, musicians, poets, gymnasts, circus skills and novelty item performers are all welcome to enter. Mrs Travis will be conducting auditions and a timetable of the acts/performances will be sent home shortly.

The students and teachers love the end of year talent show so start rehearsing now! We are looking forward to another event to showcase the wonderful talent here at Mount Keira Demonstration School.

Library Books

We are asking that students please start returning library books. Mrs Kerrigan will be doing a stocktake of our library resources in the coming weeks.

SRC Network Meeting

Today our school captains, Emma and Nathan, attended the Wollongong SRC Network Meeting with other local school student representatives. They did an incredible job sharing what they have achieved this year as an SRC at our school. Emma and Nathan also had the opportunity to write a goal for our 2023 SRC. They received badges for their commitment to the SRC Network this year by attending all three network meetings. We look forward to seeing this initiative continue for some of our SRC members next year!

Have a wonderful week!
Kind regards,

Vanessa May
Relieving Principal



Class of the Fortnight – Banksia

Last Monday, Mrs May taught Banksia how to analyse the visual techniques David Wiesner used in his text, 'Tuesday'. The students learned about a variety of techniques such as salience, vectors and gaze. They then tried to analyse these techniques within the text. Below are some samples of student work showing an analysis of an image from the text.

Image Analysis

In this image, the man eating the sandwich and drinking milk is looking confused because there are frogs flying on lily pads outside the house. The group of frogs outside the house are all staring in the distance as they float away.

When I look at this image, my eyes are drawn to the man eating the sandwich which is the focal point. Then the gaze of the man makes me look towards the window and the frogs. This is also a vector.

The author has used the techniques of salience, vectors and gaze to make the picture crazy and bizarre.

By Luca



Image Analysis

In this image there is a man sitting in his kitchen eating a sandwich and having a glass of milk in his pyjamas while an army of frogs fly by on lily pads in a trance-like state. The man seems absolutely shocked and amazed at the fat frogs flying by his window.

When you first see this image, you can see the gaze technique of offer and you look where the man is looking and see the frogs. The illustrator has also used salience because when you see the image, your eyes go directly to the man having his midnight snack.

I think the author/illustrator is trying to speak without words by using the pictures and that gives it an aura of mystery, wonder and questioning. Because the story is just pictures (not many words), you can't always have a clear understanding of what's happening.

By Dane



Image Analysis

In this image there is a man eating a sandwich and drinking milk. He looks concerned as he sees the frogs on the lily pads floating by. The room the man is in is filled with bright colours unlike through the window where you can see the dark night.

When you first look at the image, it is using salience because the man is the first thing that grabs your eyes. The man draws your eyes to the right-hand side where you can see the frogs through the window. This is using both a vector and gaze. The vector is the line from his eyes to the window, making you want to look. The gaze is offer, not demand, as he is not looking directly at you. Instead he continues to draw his eyes to the frogs out the window.



I think the author/illustrator has used the techniques of vector, salience and gaze to help convey and show the bizarre circumstances and unusual events. It has helped make a magical and mysterious mood.

By Emma

Image Analysis

In this image there is a barn with a shadow of a pig flying. There is half a pig flying behind a second barn proving that it is flying.

When you first look at the image, your eyes are firstly drawn to the pig and its shadow which is salience. The second thing your eyes are drawn to is the barn due to it taking up the entire page. In the image, salience is used to show the readers that pigs are now flying like last Tuesday's frogs were flying. The colours also make the pig and the barn pop out showing the readers what is happening.

I think that the author/illustrator has probably used salience to make the picture help the reader to question what is going to happen next and why the pig is flying.



By Emily

This term Banksia have been writing literary descriptions. We have been looking at a range of literary devices and how authors use these to create imagery when writing. Here are some literary descriptions from our talented Stage 3 authors.

Amazingly white, blinding, and beautiful. Trees. Bare, leafless beings standing strong through countless blizzards. Penguins. Poor shivering things huddled together for safety and warmth; little chicks squished in the middle to protect them: the next generation of precious souls keeping their species alive. Glaciers. Antarctica's cold lifeless lands. Permanently frozen.

By Charlotte

The bleached blizzard fills my boots as I trudge through the icy land. The emerald and violet swirls above me and is reflected in the sea. The whales sing their solemn song. The salt stings my nose along with the cold. The harsh land is the windiest in the world and I can easily tell.

By Harry

Our School Values

RESPECT

Showing that you care for yourself and others



- Wait for your turn
- Listen carefully and follow instructions
- Speak kindly to others
- Allow others to learn and work

RESILIENCE

Having the ability to bounce back after challenges



- Keep on trying
- Be a problem solver
- 'Bounce back' when an issue has been resolved

RESPONSIBILITY

Making good choices and accepting your actions



- Be ready for learning
- Keep the classroom tidy
- Look after your belongings

EXCELLENCE

Always trying your best



- Always try your best
- Find ways to improve
- Learn from mistakes

COOPERATION

Working together to solve problems



- Give everyone a turn
- Contribute to learning
- Work well with others

Primary Ethics at Mount Keira

2022 has been busy year for Primary Ethics at MKDS. The younger children have been encouraged to develop their skills by listening to others, taking turns and giving reasons for their ideas. The older children have developed critical thinking skills on a wide range of discussion based topics.

This year three of the Ethics teachers, Kerry Sorensen, Angela Milic and Franca Mackie will be finishing their involvement in the MKDS Ethics program due to changing circumstances and with children leaving the school. Both Kerry and Angela started teaching into the program in 2016, with Franca joining them at the beginning of 2019. This represents a dedicated and exceptional contribution to the many children that they have challenged to critically explore their reasoning collaboratively across a wide range of issues and topics. A huge thanks to all.

For me, the best part of the journey as a teacher has been the insight into the children's view of their world. The growing maturity of thought they bring to the concepts they do understand (arguing with a friend, understanding their emotions) and the care they showed for others in the concept's they didn't understand (homelessness, living in developing countries). It has been a privilege to share that with children in our classes.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work with the ethics students of MKDS and will miss our wonderful classroom chats

My absolute favourite things about Ethics was it teaches the children HOW to think, not WHAT to think, and involves whole body listening. Listening with not only your ears, but with your hands, feet, mouth, eyes and HEART ♥️.

Primary Ethics Parents Page: <https://primaryethics.com.au/parents/> outlines the full program of topics by Stage taught in 2022 and lots of information about the program. If you are interested in enrolling your child in an ethics class in 2023, please contact the school office.

With Angela, Kerry, and Franca moving on to other adventures in 2023 unfortunately we will not have enough volunteer teachers to fully run the Primary Ethics program here at Mount Keira. Can you, your children's grandparents, or carer assist by becoming a voluntary ethics teacher? Classes are 30 minutes each week and all the teaching material is provided.

To inquire about becoming a volunteer ethics teacher please contact Ann Hollifield, the Regional Ethics Manager at wollongong-region@primaryethics.com.au or 0414 637 256, or Grant (Pippa's dad) at grantellmers65@gmail.com.