

## From the Principal

Welcome to Week 5,

Thank you to all parents for being so responsive to the forecasted catastrophic fire conditions from the RFS NSW yesterday Tuesday 12 Nov. Never before has an area of the state been so vulnerable to fire and continues to be so this week. We are very aware of the need to follow procedures very closely in these times. Staff and volunteers were briefed in procedures and the Fire Plan for KSPS. I feel very confident in the management in which the DoE supplied in having our school operational in this time. In these circumstances it is essential that information comes directly from the Department of Education and RFS NSW.



With the Stage 3 camp being cancelled at 2pm on Monday afternoon, we scrambled to notify children and parents before the end of the school day. We then set about securing new dates for 90 children to have their end of year excursion. **I am pleased to announce the new dates for the camp are Monday 2 Dec to Thursday 5 Dec.** This is week 8 term 4. Same locations, same activities, just different dates. **Today we will send home new permission notes for parents to acknowledge the new date.** We sincerely thank Sid Foggs Buses for their help during this time. It has been very much appreciated.

As the camp is now in week 8, we have decided to move **Light the Night concert to an in-school assembly performance for both Junior assembly in week 8- December 6 and senior assembly in week 7, November 29.** We warmly welcome Parents and community to attend these assemblies and be part of the audience. As the stage 3 children would not be able to participate in the concert, teachers decided to move this to the assemblies, so no one missed out. Thank you for your flexibility in moving these dates, but the change in dates for the camp could not be helped. What matters is that all children have the opportunity to enjoy performing for the classmates and family.

Our asset work continues this fortnight with the painting of exterior buildings across the school. Thank you for your flexibility in accommodating the painters and the need to use other entry points to the school. I am excited to announce that we have been successful in securing replacement windows for the entire upstairs A Block rooms to be ready for the start of 2020. These will contain safety barrier with pin board and banks of louvers windows to allow good airflow in the rooms. We are also in preparations for the movement at the end of the year with our Kinder classes moving to A block for the start of 2020. Stay tuned in next week's newsletter for class locations in 2020.

Teachers are currently writing the Student reports for the end of the year. These will be posted to the Parent Portal (online web version and the *Sentral for Parents* app). If your child is in year 6, a reminder that you will need to print reports before the last day, as once your child leaves KSPS, their reports are no longer available online to parents as they go onto high school.

In regards to the *Sentral for Parents* app, if you are having issues with the app, please turn off your face recognition or thumb print identification, delete the app then reinstall it. This does fix the issue. Sentral are aware of this bug and are working towards the fix. Remember the web version – PARENT PORTAL always works seamlessly.

Yesterday I had the privilege of attending the 2019 Remembrance Day Service at the Adamstown Cenotaph. Our girl school Captain Amber Watt and boy Vice School Captain Jackson McClymont were also in attendance. I had the opportunity to speak about the strong traditions forged by our students

**The Volunteers Moring Tea is fast approaching- Wednesday 11 December, from 11am in the Library.** This is our opportunity to say a very big thank you to all the volunteers who help out across the school year with things like: Ethics and Scripture canteen, reading in classrooms, helping to cover books, transport to and from events just to name a few. **Please RSVP to the office by Tuesday 10 December if you are attending.**

This morning, Miss Martin and her Christmas Choir attended the opening for the 2019 Kmart Wishing Tree Christmas Appeal. The choir were just brilliant and really added Christmas cheer to the event. Thank you to the students, parents and Miss Martin for making this such a lovely event.

Mrs Ball in the front office is retiring at the end of the year. Her last day at Kotara South Public School is 22 November, before she takes some extra leave and a wonderful holiday before the end of the year. Mrs Ball has been at KSPS since 1993- that's 26 years. When you see her next, with her big smile and helping over the front counter, please be sure to wish her well in her retirement and beyond. We will certainly miss her a lot.



Have a great week learning and making #KSPSagreatplacetobe

Susan Maxworthy – PRINCIPAL

# School News

## TALKING TO YOUNG PEOPLE ABOUT BUSHFIRES

Given recent events – smoky air, postponement of Stage 3 camp, school closures and media coverage – our young people are likely to be very aware that bushfires are having a significant impact on our state and even our local area. This can be quite a scary time for everyone and may raise questions or concerns. The following are links to fact sheets that may assist you to have conversations with your child about bushfires.

### Traumatic events, the media and your child:

<https://d2p3kdr0nr4o3z.cloudfront.net/content/uploads/2018/09/11091906/Disasters-the-Media-and-Children.pdf>

### Bushfire preparedness for your family:

<http://tgn.anu.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/Bushfire-preparedness-for-your-family.pdf>

### Preparing your family for the possibility of a disaster:

<http://tgn.anu.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/TGNdisasterpreparedness.pdf>

## Key points:

Lots of people think that if they talk to their children about the potential threat of a bushfire then they will scare or traumatise their children. In fact, talking to your child openly and honestly, and letting them know that you are prepared and have a plan helps them to feel safer and more secure and will also help them to deal with the impact of the bushfire if it does happen.

It's important that parents, carers and other family members help children to cope with the media coverage that they may see of a disaster or traumatic event.

Some recommended ways to manage this include:

- try to be there with your children when they are watching coverage of the event. This way you can talk to them about their fears and answer any questions they may have
- speak to children about the event in language they will understand, and set limits on the amount of time that they are able to watch TV or internet coverage of the event
- explain to your children why you are doing this, that you don't want them to worry unnecessarily, and that adults are managing things
- provide alternative activities for your children to take them away from the media coverage, such as watching a different TV show or playing a game
- give your children information to help them to understand what's happened, why it's happened, how likely this is to happen to you and your family
- remind your children that while what's happening in the traumatic event is upsetting, there are also lots of good things happening in the world, though these don't always receive the same level of attention
- reassure your children that they're safe and that you're there to answer their questions
- provide support and comfort to them if they're upset or feeling unsafe.

*Belinda Robinson* – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

## CHRISTMAS CHOIR

Students from Kotara South Public school shone today at Westfield Kotara, participating in Kmart's Power of Giving celebration. Over 50 students from ES1-S2 learnt and sang in harmony to a variety of Christmas Carols. It was a wonderful experience for our KSPS students to support and perform for our local community.

*Miss Martin* - CHOIR CO-ORDINATOR



# Assembly Awards

## WEEK 3 & 4

<b>K'OR</b>	Eva Bencke Elise Borrman Cian Crowe Jackson Horscroft-Smith Joshua Pinchen Alexander Postol	<b>1/2G</b>	Gemma Green Noah Hamence Lennox McDermott Ivy Owens Lexi Sullivan Maverick Wood	<b>3/4M</b>		<b>5/6P</b>	
<b>KR</b>	Annabelle Lemon Scarlett Migus Caius Pendlebury Allira Predo Ayda Solis Pheobe Westacott	<b>2C</b>	Holly Brock Josie Farrow Imogen Hall Mia Mclvor Hannah Simpson Caleb Sturgeon	<b>3/4W</b>		<b>HSUB</b>	Kiele Lane
<b>K1/P</b>	Hayley Jago Darcy Luks Eva Moylan Austin Spencer Boston Watters Harry Willis	<b>2E</b>	Cohen Capriotti Mia Clarke Chloe Maddern-Richards Charlotte Ryan Alex Vincent Eleanor West-Sooby	<b>5/6J</b>			
<b>1A</b>	Riley Cross Sienna Hain Elka Harrison Marcus Ottery Madeleine Smith Gabriela Vyslysel	<b>3/4F</b>		<b>5/6M</b>			

### MERIT AWARDS



#### Gold

#### Silver

#### Bronze

Jasmine Breen  
Luca Bridges  
Kaylee Taylor

Alexander Bruton  
Maxwell Castagna  
Jaxon Coleman  
Danielle Creamer  
Skylor Crowe  
Elka Hirneth  
Josephine Horvath  
Siara Lange  
Willow Langi  
Sage Roberts  
Saxon Tyrie



Keep track of school events by signing up for notifications on the [Sentral for parents](#) app. 'What's On' reminders are posted each Sunday evening. Or, please check the [Events page](#) of the [KSPS Website](#) for all upcoming dates and details.

# P&C Association

Our P&C meeting is tonight in the Library at 7pm. This is our last formal meeting of the year (our next one is the end of year dinner). Please join us to discuss fundraising goals and activities for 2020, including the Fete!

## TRIVIA NIGHT

Thank you to everyone who helped us to raise approximately \$2000 at the Trivia Night. It was a fantastic evening with lots of laughs and a tie-breaker finish between the Hairy Potters and Thunder Road – congratulations to the Hairy Potters on your victory!

A special thank you to our sponsors: Lucas Ottery Gardener and Lawn Care Services, AG Distinctive (Arianne Galvin), Eyecare Plus Charlestown, and Adamstown ANZAC Committee; and to our prize donors – please see over the page. Thank you also to the P&C members who donated a prize. The lucky winner of our raffle walked away with a \$300 Ninja Parc party voucher and a \$150 voucher from the Newy Cake Fairy!

Thank you to our trivia masters, Rob and Lisa Keyes, and to our MC extraordinaire, Mrs Max.

## SCHOOL BANKING COORDINATOR NEEDED

Our students really enjoy participating in the Commonwealth Bank School Banking program and to keep this program running we need your help. Our current coordinator will be finishing up at the end of the year.

The program requires a volunteer School Banking Co-ordinator to facilitate the banking and distribution of School Banking rewards. This only takes a small amount of your time one day a week and the Commonwealth Bank will provide support in how to run the program. Your help with the program will greatly benefit students as they develop vital saving skills and also help our school with fundraising.

If you are interested in volunteering for this great program, please contact the P&C at [kspspandc@gmail.com](mailto:kspspandc@gmail.com)

If you can start during term 4 you will have the benefit of working alongside our current coordinator, which makes learning the role so much easier. If we can't find a new coordinator then the school banking program will cease.

## BOOK CLUB REWARDS

Take a look at these fantastic STEM resources the school ordered with the Book Club Rewards. Thank you for ordering with the Book Club!!



**Next Meeting: 13 November**  
7pm in the Library

 [kspspandc@gmail.com](mailto:kspspandc@gmail.com)

Find us on 

[Kotara South Public School P&C](#)



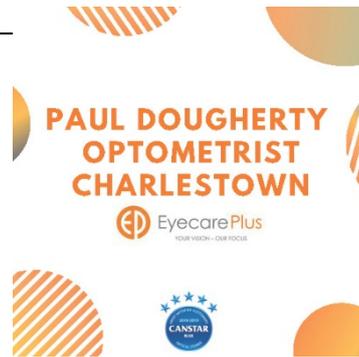
**SENTRAL**  
Parent Portal



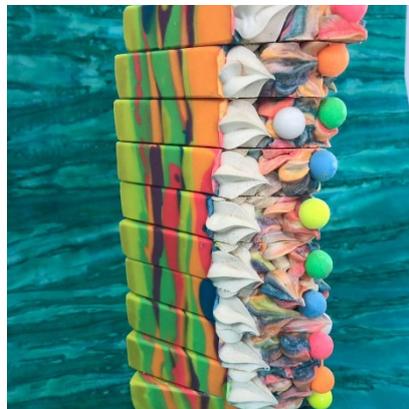
# TRIVIA NIGHT 2019

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

### Lucas Ottery Gardener and Lawn Care



Food Espresso Bar



AW Soapary

