

From the Principal

Welcome to week 9 term 4.

Well, we have almost made it through another year of school. For some people, this is their last time for a KSPS newsletter as their child moves to high school and the association with KSPS comes to an end. For others, their child has just finished their first year of school. These years of your child's education are the best times where they grow, develop, change learn and experience many and varied opportunities. I feel very proud of how our students have engaged and connected with these experiences and have grown from them.



This Friday, our Student reports will be uploaded to the Parent Portal. Please remember, if you're a year 6 parent, you will need to download and save or print your child's reports from Sentral as once they go to high school they are no longer on our system. If you require support with the Parent Portal, please contact Mrs McMahon in the front office. Remember the Parent Portal is the web-based platform for all communication across our school. This can be accessed through the KSPS website at : [Parent Portal](#)

In this final newsletter for 2019, we have included a stage summary of what has been happening in classes. There are lots of photos to share with family and friends. We hope you enjoy it.

I am currently in the final stages of consolidating with the Kotara South OOSH the final requirements for our new Lease Agreement to be able to house 100 places at OOSH. This is fantastic news for our KSPS OOSH. I know they have been inundated with enquiries and unfortunately still have a waiting list of approximately 10 families. We therefore are keeping the service of St Nicholas OOSH who have their pick up arrangements to be here by 3pm. We are working hard to support OOSH in having the necessary requirement to be able to have all our KSPS kids on site for OOSH. I thank our KSPS community for their support to continue and grow our OOSH.

In the coming days we are busy moving classrooms, finishing off construction and replacement of windows and pin boards upstairs in A Block, hosting the year 6 farewell Thursday night at Kahibah Sports and Rec club, having a special assembly on Friday afternoon at 1:30pm to present the last of the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, present the Premiers Reading Challenge awards and the Premiers Sporting Challenge Medal. We are unable to hold this in the morning as our KSPS Kids Playgroup are having their Christmas party and we have 50 new kindergarten children having games and Christmas fun in the hall. Next week we will settle children into new class locations. And the final day of school is Wednesday 18 December. Our afternoon final assembly will be from 2:30pm, where we wish our year 6 children well and have a school 'clap-out'. We hope you can join us for this final assembly.

As mentioned on Presentation Day assembly this previous Monday, it is very possible that our class structure may change and we add another stage 2 class. At present all stages are very full and we are nearing our enrolment cap. Our classes are in the process of moving, with stage 3 (the biggest children with the need for the biggest physical space) moving into the old junior end of the school. We will have our Kinders, years, 1,2,3,4 in the main part of the school. This reverse of locations will give our senior students more room to move, access larger play spaces and be able to work closely together. Our HSU students will also have regular integration close by for these senior students.

On some staffing matters: we have already farewelled Mrs Ball our front office lady, however we also farewell Mr Baker- class teacher for HSU. Mr Baker will be taking a permanent position as an Itinerant teacher for the deaf based on the western side of the lake. We wish Mr Baker the very best in his career and thank him for his time at KSPS. The teachers coming on HSU will be Ms Kim Talbot job sharing with Mrs Erin Wilson. Both teachers are known to our school and have been working closely with Mr Baker to ensure a smooth transition to the new teacher. We also welcome Miss Gabi Marchant to stage 2, replacing Mrs Fear. Mrs Fear will be moving into the role of our Learning and Support Team coordinator, whilst maintaining her role as stage 2 Assistant Principal. This dynamic and challenging role is an exciting change for Mrs Fear.

Tonight we meet for our final P & C meeting. I would take this opportunity to sincerely thank all members of our P & C executive and the members of the P & C who tirelessly lend their time and support to our school. The work done across many areas of the school is very much appreciated and we couldn't do it without your help. A

very special thank you to Mrs Best our amazing Canteen Coordinator. This year she has supported us all with amazing food, looking after us and always with a big happy smile. Thank you Mrs Best #theBESTcanteen

Further on in the newsletter, there is a report from stage 3 teachers about our camp at Bathurst last week. I must commend all our students on their outstanding behaviour whilst on camp. Their independence and self-control was exemplary and all teachers were very proud of them. I must thank Mrs Fear, Miss Martin, Mr Warren, Joshua Harvey, Mrs Ward, Ms Payne, Mr John, Mrs McClymont and Mr Armstrong for taking time away from their families to be on duty for 4 days straight and take the greatest care of our students whilst on camp. I know the valuable learning which takes place on camps and the memories that are made.

Finally, congratulations to all the recipients of Awards at our annual KSPS Presentation Day. All recipient names are listed further on in the newsletter. I particularly would like to congratulate the incoming Leadership Team for 2020: R-L

School Captains: Elodie Playdon and Ben Belcher

Vice School Captains: Matilda Sharkey and Nate Ward

Prefects: Zali Smith and Madden Willott

I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Have a safe and Happy New Year. Rest, Relax and Renew. 2020 is going to be an amazing year at KSPS. Thanks to you all for making #KSPSagreatplacetobe

Susan Maxworthy – **PRINCIPAL**



School News

A REVIEW OF STAGE 2

The year's end always brings with it a tremendous sense of accomplishment. Our Stage 2 students have achieved so many things this year. From our school sleep over to our two night excursion at Mowbray Farm. Many of our students have also been involved in an extraordinary number of activities such as Star Struck Choir, Coding Club, Chess, Dance Group and a variety of sporting opportunities. Of course, we should not forget the tremendous amount of learning which has taken place during the year. Throughout all of these activities our students have demonstrated great character. Keep shining brightly Stage 2, you are all stars!

STAGE 2 TEACHERS



STAGE 3 CAMP REPORT

Stage 3 had a fantastic time last week on their camp to Bathurst. Students were involved in numerous educational activities on the Goldfields and participated in gold panning, boomerang painting and throwing, damper baking, making mud bricks and lapping around Mount Panorama.

The first day we attended the Cattle Drome in Bathurst and had a fantastic time learning about farm animals. We all loved the baby goats and the Brahman cow was massive! Jack got up and close with the stockwhip while Lexie M was super surprised with her tail docking experience. Mrs Max showed us how to crack the whip and we all left with some knowledge about farm life.

We visited Gulgong Pioneer Museum, Mrs Max's parent's farm, The Fossil Museum, the National Motor Racing Museum and many other attractions. We all loved patting Molly the horse and looking out towards Katoomba and beyond from the top of Mount Panorama.

The best part was spending time with our peers and chilling out and having fun. Kriztian and Isaac showed off their persistence while snagging 70 Frisbee catches in a row. Everyone joined in with cricket, soccer or touch footy and many of us tried new things. We were all so organized with our belongings and were super quick to tidy up our rooms during Mrs McClymont's room inspections. At Jenolan, we all got our steps up while exploring and conquering 910 stairs in the Lucas Cave. The cave formations were fascinating as were Scotty's (our tour guide) jokes!

Most importantly our students were all complimented on their outstanding behavior at every stop. All the teachers were super impressed by their organization, manners and listening skills. Well done Stage 3 on a fabulous and fun camp!

Sam McClymont and Deb Payne – STAGE 3 TEACHERS





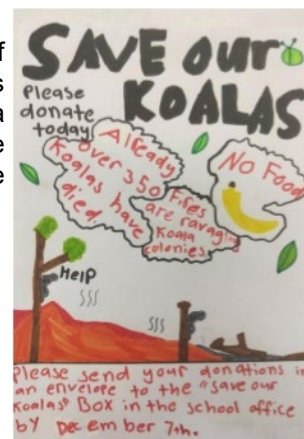
STAGE 1 TERM 4

Stage 1 students have had a fabulous term kicking off with the Intensive Swimming Scheme for Year 2 in the first two weeks. Students developed their water confidence and learnt skills in water safety and survival.

During English, students increased their knowledge of persuasion through the study of a variety of texts including expositions, letters and advertisements. The recent devastating bushfires and loss of many koalas in NSW led to Stage 1 students organising a fundraiser to help save our koala population. All students in Year 1 and Year 2 designed a persuasive poster to advertise the fundraiser. The power of persuasive writing enabled Stage 1 students to raise \$1100 to help save our koalas. What a fabulous real-life learning experience for our students!

In Mathematics students learnt about:

- Australian coins and notes and how to make different combinations that represent the same amount;
- efficient strategies to add and subtract one and two-digit numbers;
- three dimensional objects and their properties;
- the volume and capacity of containers;
- halves, quarters and eighths; and
- the likelihood of events occurring.



Stage 1 students engaged in a variety of other activities including our fortnightly assemblies, our excursion to Blackbutt, the Responsible Pet Program and Light the Stage performances.

Congratulations Stage 1 on a wonderful term of learning!

Mr Armstrong, Ms Gibson, Mr Eldridge, Mrs Cox, Mr Baker – STAGE 1 TEACHERS





STAGE 1 SAVE OUR KOALA FUNDRAISER

Congratulations Stage 1 students for raising awareness in our community on the importance of saving our precious koalas.

Thank you to everyone who donated money to help save our koalas. Special mention to Tobias Taylor from 2E who donated \$100 from his birthday money and Hannah Simpson from 2C whose uncle visiting from England donated \$105. Special mention also to Nicholas McCallum from 3/4F for collecting donations through the Scouts.

In total our KSPS community raised \$1100! This is a fantastic effort for such a worthy cause. Every cent definitely counted!!

We will be donating all money raised to help the Port Stephens Koalas.

Violet Cox – **EARLY STAGE 1/STAGE 1 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL**



YEAR 6 FAREWELL

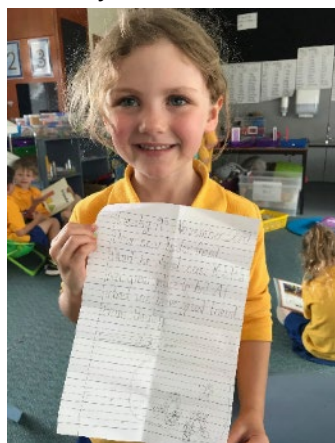
The Year 6 Farewell is being held this **Thursday 12 December**. All Stage 3 students are attending this event. This year the Farewell is once again being held at Kahibah Sports Club in the function room. All Stage 3 students have participated in Dance 2b Fit sessions this term and have learned a number of traditional and contemporary dances in preparation. Dance 2B Fit will be coordinating the disco on the night. Our Year 5 students have been busily creating place settings, decorations and the Year 6 DVD. We are all looking forward to a wonderful evening!

Catherine Ward – **STAGE 3 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL/INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER**

KINDERGARTEN TERM 4

This term, Kindergarten students have been exposed to various engaging learning opportunities including in-class activities, excursions and performances. In English, students have enjoyed reading and listening to a range of quality informative and imaginative texts to explore topics including monsters, fairies and letter writing. They have applied their writing skills to create their own descriptive sentences and letters to share with others. In Mathematics, students have been reviewing most of the concepts taught earlier this year which included problem solving using addition and subtraction, 3-dimensional objects, measuring volume, capacity, and area and revising 2-dimensional shapes. Students enthusiastically practised their Christmas performance for Light the Stage as well as learnt a Kindergarten Graduation song just for fun. Some of our Christmas choir students were lucky enough to sing at Westfield Kotara to help spread the holiday spirit. To consolidate our learning about Australian animals, Early Stage 1 attended Oakvale Farm where they participated in numerous animal adventures including a reptile talk, goat and koala petting and milking a cow! The Kindergarten students in HSUB even attended the Irukanidji Shark and Ray Encounters exhibit. Throughout the learning adventures that have taken place this term, each student has proven to be a responsible member of our community and should be proud of their representation of Kotara South Public School.

Kelsey Ross, Shannon O'Reilly & Brooke Partridge – CLASSROOM TEACHERS



HSUB REPORT

HSUB have had a very busy term. We have continued to develop our speech, language and listening skills, and have enjoyed communicating with our friends and teachers from other classes. All students have enjoyed increasing their integration into various mainstream classrooms with their same-aged peers and participating in numerous excursions with their peers. This term students from HSUB have attended the Stage 2 Mowbray Farm camp; Stage 3 Bathurst camp; Kindergarten Oakvale Farm excursion and Stage 1 Blackbutt excursion.

We also had a great day at the Hunter Region Primary School Deaf Picnic Day at the Irukandji Shark and Ray Centre at Bob's Farm. We got to hop into the water with a variety of sharks and rays and could even pat and feed them. The best part was spending the day with old friends and making lots of new ones.

David Baker – HSUB CLASS TEACHER



COUNSELLOR CORNER

This time of the year can bring with it a range of emotions. If you or someone you know needs support over this Christmas period, please know that help is available:

Kids Helpline – <https://kidshelpline.com.au/>

- 1800 551 800

Headspace – <https://headspace.org.au/>

Reachout.com - <https://au.reachout.com/>

Beyond Blue – <https://www.beyondblue.org.au/>

Lifeline - <https://www.lifeline.org.au/>

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe holiday. I hope that everyone has the opportunity to have a break and to recharge.

Belinda Robinson – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR

GRATITUDE PROMPTS

WHOLEHEARTED
HEALTHY CONNECTIONS

1. A **strength** of mine for which I am grateful is...
2. Something **money** can't buy that I'm grateful for is...
3. Something that **comforts** me that I'm grateful for is...
4. Something that's **funny** for which I'm grateful for is...
5. Something **in nature** that I'm grateful for is...
6. A **memory** I'm grateful for is....
7. Something that **changes** that I'm grateful for is...
8. A **challenge** I'm grateful for is....
9. Something **interesting** that I'm grateful for is...
10. Something **beautiful** I'm grateful for is...

PRESENTATION DAY

Our annual Presentation Day was held on Monday. Thank you to all our guests who attended to share in the academic success of our students in 2019. Well done to the choir and drama groups who performed beautifully during the presentation performing Shallow, The Circle of Life and the 12 Days of KSPS Christmas. Thank you to Mr Mark Sneddon, Mrs Emily Harland, Ms Jodie Harrison and Mr Steven Hopton for attending our assembly and presenting awards on the day. Congratulations to all our class award winners:

Class	Excellence in English	Excellence in Mathematics	Most Improved	Class Citizenship
KO'R	Bobby McKee	Harry Vaughan	Elise Borrman	Jaxon Coleman
KR	Hadley Cook	Alexander Bruton	Ayda Solis	Maxwell Castagna
K1/P	Scarlett Morrison	Boston Watters	Madison Tasker	Sophia Askew
1/2G	Noah Hamence	Maverick Wood	Blake Mitchison	Essence Boeree
1A	Riley Cross	Callan Regan	Patrick Steel	Madeleine Smith
2C	Maya O'Brien	Juliette Creamer	Connor Dwyer	Lucy Holmes
2E	Aiden Luks	Peter Jago	Bowie Harrison	Chloe Maddern-Richards
3/4F	Lily O'Brien	Thomas Hayward	Jessica Kelly	Jai Donnelly
3/4W	Sophie Oliver	Wesley Martin	Jackson Pinchen	Molly Hamence
3/4M	Nina Thomson	Xavier Cowie	Sonny Hulsman	Eloise Horvath
5/6J	Chloe Henshall	Cooper Holmes	Clare Gascoine	Thomas Phelan
5/6P	Arabella Bourke	Benjamin Belcher	Nate Ward	Sophia Hannan
5/6M	Lilly Dunn	Bodie Fenwick-Mulcahy	Stela Vyslysel	Jack Blissett
HSUB			Jack Engelman	Aissata Diaw

Congratulations to the Year 6 students who received special awards:

Kyran Dormand – Sportsperson of the Year

Patrick Dunne – Les Hopton Encouragement Award

Elissa O'Connor – Jodie Harrison Community Spirit Award

Jackson McClymont – Sharon Claydon Leadership Award

Cooper Donnelly – Citizen of the Year

Cameron Oliver – Year 6 Public Speaking Winner

In addition to those awards, we were thrilled to present the annual Dux of KSPS award. This year, we had the pleasure of presenting this award to two students. Congratulations to Lucinda Powell and Cameron Oliver.





STAGE 3 SEMESTER 2 WRAP UP

Stage 3 have had quite a busy semester. We hit the ground running with some explicit teaching of poetry, involving all stage 3 teachers and our Instructional leader, Mrs Ward. We learnt about rhyming couplets and studied the poetry of Banjo Patterson. We also delved into the life of Ned Kelly when we studied the novel *Black Snake*. Our opinions were tested when we debated whether he was a hero or a villain. This gave us an insight into life as a bushranger and helped prepare our knowledge for our Goldfield's camp. Year 6 are prepared and ready for high school, after attending their transition days. Year 5 have worked on their leadership skills in preparation for their roles next year. All students participated in the Dance 2B Fit program, polishing their dance moves ready for the Year 6 Farewell tomorrow night. Thank you for a fantastic year Stage 3. Merry Christmas and have a safe and happy new year.

John, Mrs McClymont & Ms Payne



TERM 4 INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER

It has been a wonderful year of learning at KSPS. Throughout the year I have worked with all teachers in all classrooms and supported staff in developing quality programing, assessment, feedback and differentiation strategies across English and Mathematics. Each term was a different Stage focus – S1 and S2 (Terms 1 & 3) and ES1 and S3 (Terms 2 & 4). During each term, I worked collaboratively with all teachers to plan for effective teaching and learning. This time enabled us to plan quality assessment tasks, analyse student results and monitor the teaching cycle. I then spent time in classrooms team teaching and providing small group instruction. In addition to this, I had the pleasure of working with a group of Stage 2 students on a poetry and newspaper writing project.

The major focus for KSPS in 2019 was writing. All students were tracked and monitored throughout the year to enable us to provide appropriate intervention, differentiation and support as well as to identify the 'where to next' for all students.

As a result of this focus, our 2019 NAPLAN data indicated whole school improvement in the area of writing:

Year 3 – 88% of students achieved in the top 3 bands (100% above national minimum standard)

Year 5 – 72% of students achieved in the top 3 bands (73% of Year 5 students made expected growth)

In each of these areas, KSPS was above the state average. I look forward to building on these results in 2020.

Catherine Ward – INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER/STAGE 3 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

KSPS KIDS PLAYGROUP

What a success KSPS Kids has been this year! This year we have had 2 playgroups running alternate fortnights during Term 3 and 4 on Friday mornings. KSPS Kids has provided a gentle introduction to school life by bringing our 2020 Kindergarten students and their families together in an informal school setting to learn, play and grow. Our KSPS Kids have had so much fun participating in engaging activities, making new friends and familiarising themselves with school routines. They are all so ready for "big school".

Ms Madge and Mrs Keyes – PLAYGROUP TEACHERS



Assembly Awards

WEEK 7 & 8

K'OR	Lexi Clarke Jaxon Coleman Skylor Crowe Jackson Horscroft-Smith Josephine Horvath Bobby McKee	1/2G	Cooper Hill River Siswoyo Chilli Rippon Bronte Rippon Essence Boeree Breanne Allado	3/4M	5/6P	
KR	Braden Clarke Elin Zentner Leonardo Stormon Scarlett Migus Natalie Henderson Kodah Wicks	2C	Hugo Evans Lucius Pendlebury Luca Bridges Tygah Green Lucy Holmes Sebastian Castagna	3/4W	HSUB	Jack Engelman
K1/P	Tahlia Abel Darcy Luks Elke Hirneth Edward King Colby Wilson Amber Sharpe	2E	Rory Fenwick-Mulcahy Hugo Bourke Bowie Harrison Peter Jago Matilda Page Tobias Taylor	5/6J		
1A	Cooper Betts Jed Alexander Vivienne Bencke Abigail Cousins Cameron Menzies Christopher Outram	3/4F		5/6M		

MERIT AWARDS



Gold

Silver

Lucy Holmes
Peter Jago
Eloise Postol

Bronze

Sia Cristaudo
Charlotte Burton
Ashton Moss
Hayley Jago
Scarlett Morrison



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

2019 WRAP UP

Thank you to all P&C members, volunteers and the wider KSPS community for your support in 2019. Through our fundraising activities the P&C has raised over \$13,000 this year, which has been returned to the school in the form of new library furniture, curriculum and classroom resources, library books and subsidising student activities.

We have supported the school through our ongoing services: the Uniform Shop, Book Club, School Banking, and Grounds and Gardens working bees. I'd like to thank the volunteer coordinators of these activities for all their hard work: Stephanie Dooley, Nicole Maytom, and Casey Outram. I'd particularly like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Matt Playdon, who is stepping down this year after several years as P&C vice president and Grounds and Gardens coordinator. Thank you, Matt for all your efforts.

Thank you to Mrs Best and all the volunteer parents and grandparents who have helped in the canteen this year – it truly is the #BESTcanteen!

Thank you to the P&C's Executive team: Megan Wood and Matt Playdon as Vice Presidents, Andrew Luks as Treasurer, Valerie Main as secretary and Steve Hill as fundraising coordinator.

There are many other P&C members who have contributed to organising and running events, cooking BBQs and selling food and drinks at discos. These volunteers contribute what they can, when they can, with every small (or large) act of service combining to make our school a better place. I would like to thank all our P&C members and volunteers for their time and dedication to the P&C and to our school.

SCHOOL FETE IN 2020

Next year the P&C will be holding a school fete on **Saturday 24th October, 2020**. We will be raising funds for new signage in and around the school, and the addition of new natural and sensory play spaces for students. Early in the new year we will be asking for expressions of interest from the wider school community in becoming involved with fete planning, sponsorship, prize donation or volunteering on the day. Thank you in advance for your support!

UNIFORM SHOP HOLIDAY HOURS

This Friday is the last opening day for the Uniform Shop in 2019. We will be open on the following times in January:

Sunday 19 January: 3.00pm to 4.00pm

Saturday 25 January: 10.00am to 11.00am

Tuesday 28 January (the day before school goes back): 10.00am to 11.00am.

Our regular Uniform Shop opening hours will commence from Wednesday 29 January (Wednesdays 2.30pm to 3.00pm, Fridays from 8.45am to 9.15am).

MERRY CHRISTMAS

This week is the last week of operations for the canteen, school banking, and the uniform shop. As we wind down our school duties and ramp up our Christmas preparations, the P&C would like to wish all of our school community a very Merry Christmas, a relaxing break, and a safe and happy 2020.



Next Meeting: 11 December
7pm in the Staffroom



kspspandc@gmail.com

Find us on 

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



SENTRAL
Parent Portal

2020 P&C Meeting Dates

P&C Meetings are usually held in the Library on the 2nd Wed of the Month (School Terms) at 7pm

12 Feb

12 Aug

11 Mar (AGM)

9 Sep

8 Apr

14 Oct

13 May

11 Nov

10 Jun

9 Dec



Healthy doesn't = expensive

Packing everyday foods in the lunchbox can actually save you money.

Try these cost saving ideas:

- Swap from a chocolate muffin to two pikelets and save 40c.
- Buy fruit and vegetables that are in season
- Buy a big packet of rice crackers instead of individual serves and save 20c per serve



For more tips on saving money visit

<http://www.goodforkids.nsw.gov.au/primary-schools/swap-it/tips/tips-to-save-money/>



Good for kids
good for life

