

From the Principal

Welcome to Week 5 term 4.

As always, I like to start our newsletter with information about the learning and teaching that is taking place in our school. Whilst I can share things about reading, numeracy, geography and other subjects, what I'd like to share with you is the whole-school sense of calmness and mastery in students' lessons. When I'm moving through classrooms, I hear confident answers from students, I hear children attempting to have a go, asking questions, thinking through ideas and being critical and creative thinkers. All of these skills come with taking learning risks... risks to get it wrong, problem solve and being persistent to get it right. I am so proud of all our students for stretching themselves and allowing the challenges to help them grow and not give up when it's tricky. Well done KSPS learners.



Currently our teachers are in the midst of collecting assessment information for Student Report cards. These will be finalised and shared through our Sentral Parent Portal online web platform at the end of week 9 this term. This is the location where you pay for camps/excursions, see attendance information, change your contact details and of course read Student Reports. If your child is in year 6 and leaving our school, please ensure to download your child's Reports and save these for future reference as they go off our system when the child moves to high school.

Our Kindergarten Orientation sessions are happening again tomorrow. The children will engage in the Teddy Bear's Picnic and a play with their new friends in the hall. KSPS Kids Playgroup is on Friday, entry at gate 3 on Rae Cres. Can I take this opportunity to thank parents for their commitment to attending sessions so that our new Kinder children have the best opportunity for starting their education journey in 2021. If you know of a child starting school next year, please encourage them to come and enrol in school as soon as possible.

Next week we will be celebrating NAIDOC week at KSPS to allow for all students to be involved. Further details will be coming out regarding the week's activities. Our KSPS AEC students are planning for a week of fun and sharing culture across our whole school. Keep any eye out later this week for the schedule of activities for NAIDOC week.

As you read this newsletter, our Stage 3 students will have arrived at camp in Dubbo. Our three day experience will involve some local sites such as the Dubbo Cultural Centre, The Old Dubbo Goal and the Taronga Western Plains Zoo. We are staying at a Big 4 Discovery park and I know the water splash zone, pool and jumping pillow will be a favourite of all the teachers.... Oh I mean the students! Final payments for stage 3 camp are due this Friday.

In week 8 of this term our Stage 2 students will travel to Toukley for their three days sport and rec camp. So many exciting activities planned for this camp too. More information to come. Please contact Mrs Maxworthy at school for financial assistance with camp.

P&C meeting this evening via zoom. Please email the P&C at kspspandc@gmail.com if you would like the zoom invite to the meeting. Hope to see you online being involved.

You may have heard recently in the media that the start of the year 2021 staff development days (SDD) have been changed and gazetted by the government for 2 days at the start of the year. So that is the Wednesday 27 January and Thursday 28 January are SDD's and this leaves Friday 29 as the first day back. We know how frustrating and ridiculous this is to families and the big deal it takes to get children back for their 'first day' only to be met with the weekend right after. Let common sense prevail here as we have the opportunity to bring the first three days of that week 1 of term- Wednesday to Friday as the SDD's and have all children start school on Monday 1st February. This would allow for parents to start all their children on the one day- Kindergarten to Year 6. Parents could even use the week for an Australia Day long weekend and having a final getaway before school starts for the year. This in turn would make the final week of school in term 4 a full week and students and staff last day would be Friday 17th December. This will be discussed more at the P&C this evening. With plenty of notice and clear communication with parents, I am hoping that families can take advantage of this time and staff can make the best start to school for quality planning for all students.

A huge thank you for the support of the year 6 Minsters and Mr John for their fundraising efforts with the Colour Run last week. I know that students and staff had a wonderful day of fun with friends. The atmosphere was alive with energy from us all. The total amount raised was close the \$3000. Did you see our KSPS Facebook page for gallery of pics. WOW! what a rainbow of colour.

Have a great week of learning and thanks to each and every person for helping to make #KSPSagreatplacetobe

Susan Maxworthy – PRINCIPAL

COUNSELLOR CORNER

Solving Problems

Life can throw all sorts of things at us, and effective problem-solving skills can mean the difference between being able to cope and feeling completely overwhelmed.

By learning to negotiate solutions to everyday problems and make decisions for themselves, your child will gradually become more [independent and responsible](#). It also helps them feel confident and good about themselves, which is an important part of mental health and wellbeing.

You can support this process by practicing with your child, giving them space to figure things out themselves, and helping them reflect on what works and why.

A strategy you can try...

This strategy works best when your child is feeling calm and relaxed. If they're very anxious or angry, help them to calm down first (quiet time, take some deep breaths) or leave problem-solving for another day when they are feeling calmer.

1. Identify the problem

Kids don't always have the words to tell you how they feel or know exactly what the problem is. Finding a quiet space where they feel comfortable and relaxed may help them to start talking about it. Remember to step back and not jump in to solve the problem.

2. Find solutions and try them out

Brainstorming two or three solutions is a good place to start – any more can be overwhelming. You can encourage their thinking with questions like “what do you think you/we could do?” With practice and support from others, they will gradually be able to come up with more of their own solutions. If they get stuck, you may need to make some suggestions in the beginning.

3. Check in: how did it go?

Once you have both identified some options, you can decide together which one to try first. Work out a plan for how they will try out their solution.

Do they need support from you, another child or a teacher? When will they get a chance to try it out – at home or in the playground? Once your child has tried the solution, check in with them as soon as possible. Did it work? If not, why not? What can they try next?

Remember to give them lots of support and encouragement if the solution didn't work out. Sometimes we have the right solution, but need to practise it many times. Other times, we may need to return to step one to see if we correctly identified the issue.

[Source: <https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/raising-resilient-children/solving-problems>]

Belinda Robinson – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR/REGISTERED PSYCHOLOGIST

UPCOMING EXCURSIONS

Stage2 – Toukley

Stage1 – Hunter Valley Zoo

EarlyStage1 – Oakvale Farm

Please make sure you have the Skoolbag app and subscribe to Year/Stage Groups. Notifications about excursion/camps will have a link that will take you to Sentral Parent Portal where forms for permissions or a google form for medical.

If there is any issues with either Sentral or Skoolbag please call the school office.

Annette McMahon – SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

Yr 7 ENTRY INTO SELECTIVE HIGH SCHOOLS IN 2022

Government schools use a range of strategies to meet the educational needs of gifted and talented students. One such strategy is selective high school placement which provides intellectual stimulation and an educationally enriched environment for gifted and talented students.

If you currently have a child in Year 5 and intend for your child to apply for selective high school placement in 2022 you must complete an application form online. Our local selective school is Merewether High School.

Online applications have opened and must be completed by **16 November 2019**. Detailed instructions on how to apply online is available at [https:// education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7](https://education.nsw.gov.au/public-schools/selective-high-schools-and-opportunity-classes/year-7). Further information has been sent to all Year 5 parents through Skoolbag. Please see Mrs Ward if you have any questions. This is the last week to get online and apply.

Yr 6 KHS ORIENTATION DAY

REMINDER: All Year 6 students attending Kotara High School in 2021 will attend an Orientation Day on Monday 16th November (week 6). Students from our local schools will also be attending on this day. This will provide an opportunity for our students to meet their peer support leaders and make new friends as they transition into high school. Mrs Ward and Mr John will accompany our students on this day. KHS will be providing a bus to transport our Year 6 students (who are attending KHS in 2021) to and from the high school. A link to give permission has been sent home via Skoolbag. Please complete this as soon as possible.

YEAR 6 INTO 7 PARENT INFORMATION EVENING - CHANGES

Due to DET COVID restrictions, KHS will be unable to hold their Year 6 to 7 Parent Information Evening on Monday 16th November as previously communicated. At this stage, the high school is working towards arranging an evening for each individual primary school. We will inform parents of this date via Skoolbag once we have been informed by the high school.

STAGE 3 CAMP - DUBBO

While you are reading this, our Stage 3 students will already be in Dubbo! Please keep an eye on Facebook and Skoolbag as we will post photos regularly.

YEAR 6 FAREWELL

Our Year 6 Farewell is on Thursday 10th December. Due to COVID restrictions at offsite venues, we have made the decision to hold this event at school. Our staff organising committee (and Year 5 students) will decorate the hall, purchase balloons and use our Yr 6 graduation banner in order to arrange a memorable event for our students. By holding this event at school we can have our disco and dance (operated by Dance 2b Fit) as well as have a sit down meal. Please note, that this will be a student only event. At this present time, we are unable to confirm what the Year 6 Graduation (presentation of graduation certificates and Yr 6 DVD) will look like. We will update you on these details in the coming fortnight.

Catherine Ward – INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER/STAGE 3 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

K-2 DECODABLE READERS

The new Dandelion decodable readers have arrived at KSPS! This wonderful reading resource for our K-2 students and teachers is being used to support our phonics program in the early years. The books are suitable for beginner readers and are specifically designed to launch children into reading.

The Dandelion decodable readers may be used for individuals or group reading and are used by class teachers, learning support teachers and Ms Godden, our intervention teacher.

Learning to read is like learning to solve a code and the English Phonic Code is complex. It needs to be introduced to a learner in a step-by-step progression that starts from the simple part of the code and progresses to the more complex part. The readers offer children a safe journey through the process of learning to read as they introduce new sounds very gradually and provide the opportunity to practise reading these sounds in different combinations in simple words.

When children read, they need to practice reading individual words. They also need to practise reading these words within sentences and stories. The Dandelion decodable readers provide this for student's right from the beginning and children enjoy the experience of reading words within the context of a story.

Keep reading boys and girls!

Mrs Cox – EARLY STAGE 1 & STAGE 1 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

NAIDOC WEEK 2020

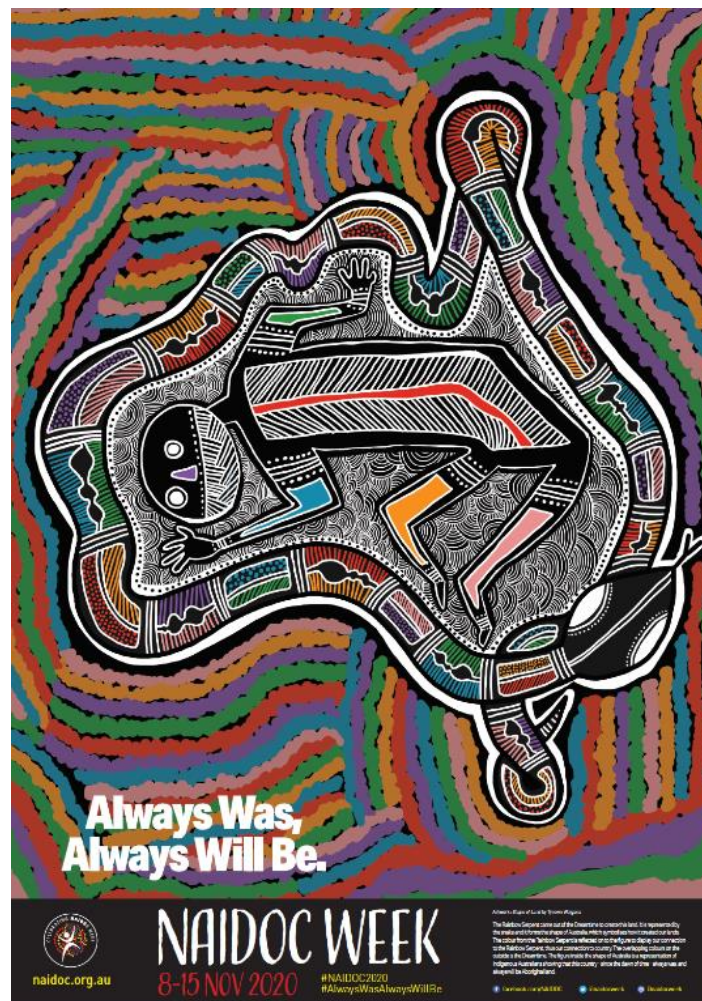
NAIDOC Week celebrations are held annually to celebrate the culture, history and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This year's theme 'Always Was, Always Will Be' acknowledges that this land belongs to our First Nations people and allows us to learn and recognise the true history of our country.

Our school will be celebrating NAIDOC Week next week, in Week 6, due to our Stage 3 students on camp this week.

Our Aboriginal Education Committee students have been busy planning meaningful activities for us all to participate in next week. We can't wait to share this with you all and to continue to learn, understand and promote our First Nations culture throughout our school.

Happy NAIDOC Week!

Miss O'Reilly, Ms Squire and Miss Meek – ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE COORDINATORS



COLOUR RUN

Last Friday, Kotara South Public School ran its first colour run. All the students had a great time running through the colours and throwing the powder. Altogether, we raised a profit of \$1500. This money will be going towards the Year 6 present to the school and Year 6 Farewell. Year 6 are very grateful for your participation, cooperation and donations. We hope all students enjoyed the school colour run.


Jess & Josie – YR 6 SPORT & REC MINISTERS





Assembly Awards

WEEK 3 & 4

K'OR	Braxton Peters Georgia Menzies William Harris Emily Furner Toby Allard Abel Carpenter	1/2A	Ellie McIlLveen Jed Alexander Siara Lange Angus Playdon Austin Spencer Colby Wilson	3/4G	Seanna Keats Charlotte Ryan Indri Siswoyo Jacob Gundry Hugo Evans Kayla Konjarski	5/6J	Jennifer Phan Eloise Horvath Hayden Aebi Ollie Ellis Adam Cowie Stela Vyslysel
KG	Blair Farrow Toby Sneddon Matilda Sharp Isabel Moran Paige Cutro Zayed Amanat	1/2C	Scarlett Morrison Boston Watters Ruby O'Brien Bronte Rippon Amber Sharpe Henry Thomson	3/4M	Lennox McDermott Madeline Watson Alex Maytom Sonny Hulsman Alex O'Donnell Lucius Pendlebury	5/6M	Ben Love Holly McAlister Toby Beker Molly Green Clara Hodge Cooper Main
K1/P	Evelyn Rice Cooper Mason Alastair Falconer Rio Michalitsis Amber Brock Millicent Wall	1/2E	Riley Cross Willow Langi Tahlia Abel Harper Hudson Vivienne Bencke Lexi Clarke	3/4B	Jasmine Breen Ava Buchanan Mack Tearne Chase Hain Caleb Sturgeon Zoe Cutro	5/6P	Sophie Oliver Oliver Grant Sean Pua Bowen Josie May McMahon Isaac Smith Leila Donnelly
		1/2MC	Noah Turner Harry Vaughan Ariana Vizer Gemma Ward Harry Willis Beau Simpson	3/4W	Kaynen Furner Tommy McClymont Phoebe Cannon Callum Watt Luciana Gentle Torres Holly Brock	HSU	Aissata Diaw Kiele Lane

MERIT AWARDS

Bronze Bryce Gundry Sophia Layzell Rosie Nikolic	Silver Alani Restall	Gold
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Keep track of school events by signing up for notifications on the [Skoolbag](#) app. 'What's On' reminders are posted each Sunday evening. Or, please check the [Events page](#) of the [KSPS Website](#) for upcoming dates and details.

P&C Association

NOVEMBER P&C MEETING

Our next P&C meeting is tonight, **Wednesday 11 November at 7pm, via Zoom** video conference. If you're not a P&C member and would like to attend, please email the P&C and we will send you a meeting link. All are welcome – tune in to listen to what's happening at school, from the comfort of your own home.

CANTEEN

The BEST school canteen managed by the fantastic Mrs Fiona Best is open five days a week, but this can only happen with the help of volunteers. If you are available to help, please sign up on the online roster or call the school office to pass a message to Mrs Best. You can find the online roster here: [Online Canteen Roster](#). Each shift is from school drop off (around 8.45am) until approximately midday. Fiona will send you home with a delicious lunch as a thank you for your assistance. Thank you so much for supporting the BEST canteen, and don't forget to download the Qkr! app for easy online lunch ordering, if you haven't already done so. **Qkr! orders close at 8.50am each day.**

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

Did you know that the Entertainment Book is now Digital Only? This means that no matter when you purchase your membership, it is valid for 12 months from the date of purchase. Offers and vouchers are updated regularly via the Entertainment app on your phone. Thinking about the lead up to Christmas, you could purchase eGift cards for Woolworths (4% discount), Dan Murphy's (5% discount) or Big W (5% discount) – it all adds up! For every Entertainment Membership purchased, our school receives 20% of the purchase price. Please use this link to make your purchase while supporting KSPS, thank you! <https://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/346s62>

UNIFORM SHOP

Our online store is at: <https://kotara-south-public-school-pc-association.square.site/>.

All orders are filled on Tuesday mornings – if you would like to receive your order that day, we need to receive it prior to 8.30am. Please write your child's name and class in the "Notes to Seller" during the checkout process so we can send your order home with your child. Thank you for supporting KSPS P&C!

For new kindergarten parents, we there is a sample rack of uniforms at school (please check with school staff for location – currently in the school office area), with sizes available from 3 to 8 for you to have a look at and try on your child if needed. You can then order what you need online and we will leave it at the school office for you to pick up (Just write "2021 Kinde" in the Notes to Seller when you order). If you have any questions about uniforms, please email Steph, our uniform shop coordinator, at kspsuniforms@gmail.com.

We will be opening during the summer holidays (in the last two weeks of January) for pick ups for online orders, and for new kindy/new student parents to bring their children in to try on items if required. We will share opening dates and times as soon as they are locked in.

SECOND-HAND ITEMS NEEDED

The uniform shop has second-hand items in good condition available for purchase for \$5 per item, with all proceeds returning to the school via P&C fundraising. If you would like to donate any uniform items to the uniform shop, please send them in to the school office. We are particularly in need of smaller sizes for our new kindy students. Please make sure that all donated items are clean, and in reasonable condition (eg working zippers, no holes or stains).

Thank you for your support!



Next Meeting: 11 November
7pm on Zoom

✉ kspspandc@gmail.com

Find us on 

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

Skoolbag 