

From the Principal

Welcome to Week 9 Term 3.

Welcome to the final newsletter for term 3. Reading continues to be our focus across all grades at Kotara South PS. This term I have run a series of articles in all newsletters explaining different aspects of reading. These holidays can I strongly encourage all families to continue time reading with your child. Even a few minutes a day makes a difference to a child's learning and keeps those reading aloud skills sharpened. Visit the local library and borrow some books. Take your book on a picnic and soak up the sun. Doing some spring cleaning over the break and perhaps making a reading nook in the bedroom or lounge room could be an easy way for your child to keep engaged in reading. Don't forget to model reading by reading aloud to your child and showing them that you are a reader yourself.



We have now really got into the rhythm of 'doing school' in COVID times. For us at KSPS this means we have the benefit of a huge playground for children to run, play learn and have fun with friends. Teachers also utilise this space to get outside and learn. For us COVID has been about taking the circumstances we have and adapting to the restrictions. We have always had a lens of innovation over what we do to ensure that we can still engage fully in the business of learning and teaching. There have been several things that have changed for us due to these restrictions. There are two specific events that we are working on in the background knowing that COVID has thus far prevented them going ahead: 1. Kindergarten orientation and 2. Stage 2 and 3 camps. At this moment in time it is very unlikely that we will be able to run the stage 2 and 3 camps in term 4. Not only are we awaiting on the go ahead from the Dept of Education, but also there needs to be the easing of restrictions for venues etc. We are making alternative plans for students back at school, for example, year 6 will have some special events for their last year of primary school. The children are handling this information very well with a common sense approach and coming to terms with the differences.

In regards to Kinder Orientation for 2021, we have been busily working to bring the information to parents. In recent weeks, we have shared with our enrolled Kinder 2021 parents a video presentation with all the Kinder enrolment information you will need. Miss Partridge has also shared the Interview of our Kinder 'reporters' sharing information about Kindergarten from this year's Kinder students. At the start of next term, we will have weekly reminders for the parent information. In regards to running Kinder Orientation session inside the school and what this may look like. Of course all of this depends on the new round of restrictions from DoE after the term break. With the current guidelines on Kindergarten Orientation programs, we are looking for a different approach to orientating our new Kindy children for 2021. This will include a mix of online forums for parents and some different approaches to bringing children on site in term 4. Please know we are just as troubled as you when we think about our Kinders and the fun and learning we want them to be having when transitioning to big school. Stay connected with our KSPS Facebook, and the Skoolbag 2021 Kinder group for further information. If you know of a new or existing family in our school zone who have a Kinder aged child ready for school in 2021, please encourage them to enrol ASAP.

At present, every school in NSW is undergoing the new school planning process, starting with a situational analysis. The situational analysis is a key component of the School Excellence cycle and is an essential step in the development of a Strategic Improvement Plan (SIP) that will effectively prioritise our school's identified areas for growth. Conducting a situational analysis allows our school to develop a rich and highly contextualised understanding of our current situation. As part of this situational analysis, every school collects qualitative and quantitative data, collates evidence,

collaborates widely, and engages with research. At the P&C meeting in November, I will be presenting our work to engage with our school community.



Attendance: last fortnight we released our Spring in to School initiative to keep school attendance on everyone's radar. Even though we are all working to ensure we keep everyone safe with COVID symptoms, our attendance data actually is one of the strongest in the Glenrock network (over 3000 students). What a WOW for KSPS! A very big thank you to all parents and carers for your common sense approach, keeping children at home if they are not well, getting COVID tested, sharing the negative result with school and returning when they are better. Thanks again everyone.

BE AT SCHOOL, ON TIME, EVERYDAY... unless you're sick then stay away.

Term 3 Attendance at KSPS across the year levels.

Kindergarten Term 3, 2020 100.0%
Year 1 2020 Term 3, 2020 100.0%
Year 2 2020 Term 3, 2020 98.1%
Year 3 2020 Term 3, 2020 98.2%
Year 4 2020 Term 3, 2020 98.1%
Year 5 2020 Term 3, 2020 97.6%
Year 6 2020 Term 3, 2020 97.7%

This information does not include absences that are COVID/cold and flu related.

Most days, we are only having less than 5 students away across the entire school. This has dramatically decreased in the last month.

This is just wonderful!



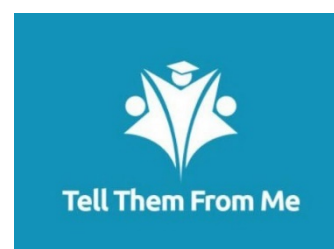
Next week is the last week of term 3 and we have some fun end of term activities planned. On Thursday we have the Year 6 Mini Fete. See information. On Friday we have our Disco day. Juniors are before recess and seniors are after recess. Both are out of uniform days. No money is required for the disco.



The Tell Them from Me (TTFM) survey is still open and we encourage all parents and carers of KSPS to complete this survey.

Survey Link: <http://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/ksps2020T3>

Our school is participating in the *Partners in Learning* parent survey, another part of the DoE Initiative *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys (student, teacher and parent surveys) on student engagement. The survey asks parents and carers questions about different factors that are known to impact on student wellbeing and engagement. Running this survey will help our school understand parents' and carers' perspectives on their child's experience at school.



This voluntary and confidential survey is open to all KSPS parents/carers, is conducted entirely online and will typically take 15 minutes or less to complete. The parent survey closes **23 October**

There is a TTFM Parent Survey FAQs for Parents & Carers at:

Over the break enjoy your time with family, stay safe and well. We all look forward to the whole school returning to school on Monday 12 October.

Thanks for making #KSPSagreatplacetobe

Susan Maxworthy – PRINCIPAL



COUNSELLOR CORNER

Managing emotions

Primary school children are still learning to identify emotions, understand why they happen, and how to manage them. As children develop the things that provoke emotional responses change, as do the strategies they use to deal with them.

Some children show a high level of emotional maturity while quite young, whereas others take longer to develop the skills to manage their emotions. This is really normal – everyone develops at different stages and paces.

All children need support from their parents and caregivers to understand their feelings, as well as encouragement to work out ways to manage them – some might just need a bit of extra help to figure things out.

Understanding your child's feelings

Supporting children's emotional development starts with paying attention to their feelings and noticing how they manage them. By acknowledging children's emotional responses and providing guidance, you can help children understand and accept feelings, and develop effective strategies for managing them

For more information on how to support your child please see <https://healthyfamilies.beyondblue.org.au/age-6-12/raising-resilient-children/managing-emotions>

Belinda Robinson – SCHOOL COUNSELLOR



YEAR 6 MINI FETE

The Year 6 Mini Fete is an annual event planned and organised by Year 6 to provide all KSPS students with an afternoon of fun while raising funds for the Year 6 farewell and the Year 6 gift to the school. This year the Mini Fete will be held on Thursday 24 September (Week 10) from 12-2pm. There will be lots of fun and plenty of stalls to enjoy so please remember to bring your money. Stalls will start from 50c and show bags will be sold at a price of \$6.50 – see below for examples of some of the show bags on offer. There will be stalls offering food (chips, drinks and ice creams), activities and games. See the flyer further on in the newsletter for more information. Year 6 look forward to the Mini Fete every year and are very excited about presenting this event to the school.

Note that this is an event for students only and will be an out of uniform day.

Mrs McClymont, Mrs Ward, Mr John and Ms Payne – YEAR 6 TEACHERS



KHS ZOOM LESSON

This Friday 18th September, all Year 6 students will participate in a Zoom session with staff from Kotara High School from 12.40 – 1.40pm. They will be shown how to read a school timetable, watch some short videos put together by current KHS students and be provided with an opportunity for some Q&A time. This is a great opportunity for all our Year 6 students to touch base with KHS given current COVID restrictions.

Catherine Ward – INSTRUCTIONAL LEADER/STAGE 3 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

STAGE 2 - SCIENCE AND GEOGRAPHY

Students in 3/4W and 3/4G have been learning about different materials in Science. They are conducting an experiment to find out what materials decompose.

As part of Geography they have explored different climates around Australia and the world. Marco has provided the class with his experiences coming from the northern hemisphere.

Mr Patrick Warren – CLASSROOM TEACHER



3/4B- NATIONAL PARK DIORAMAS

This term, 3/4B have been learning about the importance of sustainability and the capacity of the environment to continue to support our own lives as well as the lives of other living creatures into the future. Students have looked at the characteristics of different places on a local, national and international scale (as far as neighbouring countries). In particular, students have investigated the cause-and-effect interconnections such as deforestation and loss of habitat of orangutans in Borneo, and products containing palm oil in Australia.

To support their learning, 3/4B made dioramas of their own national parks.

Kara Brailey – 3/4B CLASS TEACHER



MISS MARTIN'S MUNCHKINS!

WOW! What a marvellous term 3/4M have had! This term students put on their eco-warrior hats and wrote a variety of persuasive texts about the importance of taking care of our environment. Students focused on using emotive and high modality language to express their concerns. A highlight for students was collaborating together, to write and perform a rap about deforestation. (This can be found on fb – check it out). Students will spend the remainder of the term filming a persuasive advertisement on iMovie, convincing the public that Kotara South is a Great Place to Be!

This term, Maths has brought much excitement to 3/4M. When students were told they were using Minecraft as part of their learning, screams and cheers could be heard from a far. Working in small groups, students were given the challenge to measure the perimeter of each building in the school and use decimal notation to record their results. Using a scale students skilfully built each room in Minecraft. Amazing teamwork and problem solving was shown by all.

Art is always a favourite in 3/4M. Students have been focusing on the natural beauty in Australia and created dioramas of their favourite places. 3/4M are so proud of their creations and our room is now filled with colour and imagination.

Miss Martin – CLASSROOM TEACHER








The Learning and Support Process at KSPS

The Learning and Support Team (LST) at KSPS are dedicated to supporting the implementation, monitoring and reviewing of personalised learning adjustments to support students with a range of learning/ social/ emotional and physical needs and challenges. There are a myriad of ways we do this but key to our success is the communication between staff, parents/carers and medical practitioners. All relevant information from parents/carers and reports from Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists and Psychologists are submitted to the LST to ensure the recommendations are available to inform current and future class teachers in supporting students. When emailing reports/ recommendations to the school please always ensure you add 'attention class teacher/ LST' in the subject line.

Please see the chart below for a summary of the roles of the Learning and Support Team in our school.

Regina Fear – **LEARNING & SUPPORT TEACHER/ STAGE 2 ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL (REL)**

KSPS LEARNING AND SUPPORT TEAM			
Principal	Susan Maxworthy		Coordinates support for students with additional needs. Collaborates with community, specialist support services and non-DEC agencies.
Assistant Principal ES1/Stage 1	Violetka Cox		Provides support to teaching team to identify learning and support needs and to implement processes and strategies to support students.
Assistant Principal Stage 3	Catherine Ward		Provides support to teaching team to identify learning and support needs and to implement processes and strategies to support students.
Assistant Principal Hearing	Deborah Munro		Coordinates a team of itinerant support teachers, works collaboratively with parents/carers and the LST, liaises with government departments and other agencies.
LST Coordinator/ Assistant Principal Stage 2 (rel)	Regina Fear		Provides specialist assistance to students with additional learning and support needs and their teachers. Plans, implements and monitors personalised adjustments for students.
IVT (Intervention Teacher)	Tracey Godden		Supports teachers in identifying and responding to additional learning needs of students. Supports students by implementing specialist support in specific learning areas.

School Counsellor	Belinda Robinson		Strengthens school's student welfare provisions and provides psychological assessments of students with specific needs.
Senior Psychologist Education	Steve Britt		Coordinates and professionally supervises a team of school counsellors and psychologists. Works closely with School Services teams and school counselling teams.
APLaS (Assistant Principal Learning & Support)	Lee Sharpe		Works collaboratively with schools to support students with disability and additional learning and support needs.



THE MECHANICS OF READING IN THE EARLY YEARS

Learning to read is a complex skill.

Oral language is the foundation for learning to read. Children who are surrounded by rich and increasingly complex conversations have an advantage in vocabulary development, language structures and tuning in to the sounds of the English language.

In the early years, children learn how print relates to the speech they already know. They learn that letters **represent** sounds (phonemes) and they are taught to say all phonemes clearly and precisely.

Phonemic Awareness is the ability to hear and manipulate the sounds in spoken words and understand that spoken words and syllables are made up of sequences of speech sounds. It is auditory and does not involve words in print. Phonemic awareness is fundamental to mapping speech to print. If a child cannot hear that "dog" and "dirt" begin with the same sound or cannot blend the sounds /ssssssuuuuunnnnn/ into the word "sun", he or she may have great difficulty connecting sounds with their written symbols or blending sounds to make a word. Without phonemic awareness, phonics makes little sense.

Phonics is the ability to associate sounds with written letters and use these sounds to read words. Children are taught to identify the sounds that different combinations of letters make – such as 'ch' or 'oa' and blend sounds together from left to right to make a word.

Phonics and phonemic awareness are the keys to successful **decoding**.

Decoding involves taking apart the sounds in words (*segmenting*) and blending sounds together. It requires both knowledge of letter-sound relationships, as well as an ability to apply that knowledge to successfully identify written words and make meaning. Decoding is essential to reading. It allows children to work out most words they have heard but may not have seen in print, as well as sound out words they are not familiar with. The ability to decode is the foundation upon which all other reading instruction—fluency, vocabulary and reading comprehension are built.

How You Can Help Your Child Decode

- Look through the whole word from left to right.
- Use your finger to segment the words into sounds, syllables or chunks
- Blend the sounds
- Listen to your own voice and think... Does that word make sense?
- Ask for help if you are unsure

Try to make time to read with your child every day. Grandparents and older brothers or sisters can help, too.

Violet Cox – **ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL – ES1 – STAGE 1**

Tracey Godden – **INTERVENTION TEACHER**



Assembly Awards

WEEK 7 & 8

K'OR	Layne Alexander Abel Carpenter Emily Furner Makai Green Georgia Menzies Braxton Peters	1/2A	Jackson Horscroft- Smith Annabelle Lemon Sage Roberts Keira Wallace Gemma Green Angus Playdon	3/4G	William Outram Hannah Simpson Sophie Willis Flynn Ward Zander Peters Marco Gasparini-Ito	5/6J	Archie Wilson Lucas O'Connor Jackson Westacott Myah Konjarski Stela Vyslysel Chelsea Drysdale Jennifer Phan
KG	Toby Sneddon Amber Tynan Isabel Moran Blair Farrow Flynn McDermott Paige Cutro	1/2C	Madeleine Smith Pippa O'Brien Henry Thomson River Siswoyo Lexi Sullivan Steffen Herkentrup-Albring	3/4M	Kaylee Taylor Jesse Rabbitt Lucy Holmes Bella Vaughn Liam Buchanan Rhys Hirneth	5/6M	Thomas Hayward Evie Hutchison Edan Tearne Bella Turner Imogen Fazzari Molly Green
K1/P	Alastair Falconer Cooper Mason Lily O'Brien Braden Clarke Millicent Wall Scarlett Migus	1/2E	Harper Hudson Maverick Wood Imogen Moran Tahlia Abel Edward King Sophie Bland	3/4B	Jada Capriotti Nate Hefferen Mia Clarke Caleb Smith Zahli Hac Joseph Kyle-Whitson	5/6P	Charli Hodgson Zali Smith Oliver Grant Xavier Cowie Xavier Hammond Lily O'Brien
		1/2MC	Josie Horvath Saxon Tyrie Skylor Crowe William Maddern Richards Alani Restall Hayley Jago	3/4W	Maya O'Brien Callum Watt Alex Vincent Xavier Peters Harper Edgington Essence Boeree	HSU	Aissata Diaw Edie Kavanagh



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.

CANTEEN – END OF TERM SPECIAL

Mrs Best is putting together a fabulous end of term canteen lunch order special. Only available on the **last day of term (Friday 25 September)**, the special includes:

- A chicken burger OR 6 chicken chippies (with optional tomato/bbq sauce); and
- A super special mega milk cup, all for \$5!

You won't want to miss this one! **Stocks are limited** and we encourage you to pre-order on Qkr. If you don't use Qkr you can pre-order by filling out a lunch order bag with \$5 enclosed, with a note clearly stating the student's name, class and "end of term special" – make sure you include whether you want a chicken burger or chicken chippies (and sauce if wanted) – and drop it at the canteen before the last day. A notice will be sent out on Facebook and Skoolbag if we sell out prior to the last day.

The canteen roster for Term 4 is now available online. If you're available to help, please sign up online 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 8.30-8.50am) until approximately midday. All canteen volunteers must sign in at the school office before heading to the canteen, and must follow Covid-safe practices. 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!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS

While we haven't been able to run any new fundraising activities, we do still have Entertainment Books for sale (digital version only) – even if you are not going out for dinner, you can still use your membership to buy discounted gift vouchers for grocery shopping and other major retailers. 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. If you have any issues with incorrect sizing, please return the items to the uniform shop via the school office, with a note saying who they are from, and what size you'd like to receive in exchange. We process exchanges at the same time each week as new orders.

If you are interested in purchasing second-hand items, please send an email to kspsuniforms@gmail.com with details of what you want, including sizes, and our uniform shop coordinator will check if we have any suitable items for you. We will send them home via your child's class so please include your child's name and class in the email. We will then email you an invoice for the items purchased that can be paid online. All second-hand items are \$5 each (plus a small card processing fee). If you have second-hand items to donate that are in good condition, these can also be sent in via the school office.

QKR!

You can download the canteen's Qkr! ordering app for your phone or tablet from the Apple or Android stores, or you can access the ordering system via any webpage at this link: <https://qkr-store.qkrschool.com/store/#/home>. Once you've set up your account and profiles for your child/ren ([instructions here](#)), it's easy to order from our canteen menu up to two weeks in advance. The main thing to remember is that **orders close at 8.50am each day** – so please be sure to place your order prior to the cut-off time. **Please take care to order your child's lunch for the correct day and date.**

We welcome use of your reusable lunch order bags – just send them in with a note stating "online order" and we'll match your child's bag with their order (be sure to label the lunch bag with their name and class). Lunch order bags are available for purchase via Qkr or over the counter at the canteen, for \$10 each.

The P&C wishes all students, staff and families a restful and safe holiday break. See you in Term 4!



Next Meeting: 14 October
7pm on Zoom

✉ kspspandc@gmail.com

Find us on 

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

Skoolbag 