Principal’s Report Term 1 2017

Welcome

Welcome to the first P and C meeting for 2017. I would like to extend a warm welcome to the 2017 school year to all of the families of Mount Keira Demonstration School.

New Families

This year we welcome five new families to our school. The students from our new families are:

Lachlan Yr 4 and Xavier Yr 2
Phoebe Yr 4, Louis Yr 4 and Olivia Yr 6
James Kinder, Eva Kinder, Harry Kinder

New Classes

All classes started the New Year very smoothly. We had already advertised teachers and classes at the end of 2016. This helped to make a smooth transition into classes 2017.

School Structure

In 2017 our enrolment has reached 87 students.

This term I will be continuing in my role as relieving Principal. I continue to thoroughly enjoy working with the wonderful Mount Keira school community, its staff and students. It is truly an outstanding school with the highest ideals and I consider myself very lucky to have the privilege of working here every day. As a teaching Principal I will be continuing on in the role of Learning and Support Teacher, Teacher Librarian and Release Teacher on a varied timetable each week.

This year our Early Stage 1 class (now known as Wattle), comprising 15 children from Kindergarten will experience the continued expertise of two teachers—Mrs Lanyon will teach the class every Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and I very warmly welcome Mrs Celia Lewis to the school who will be teaching the class every Thursday and Friday.

Mrs Allira Robinson will be teaching our Stage 1 class (now known as Lilli Pilli), with children in Years 1 and 2.

Mrs Sarah Martin will be teaching our Stage 2 class (now known as Waratah), comprising students from Years 3 and 4.

Miss Rosalyn Saunders will be teaching our Stage 2/3 class (now known as Banksia), comprising students from Years 4, 5 and 6.

This year, we also welcome another new teaching member of staff, Ms Alicia Wira, who will be working with children from all classes across the school.

We also welcome back in 2017 Mr John who will be working in our school grounds each Tuesday.
Mrs Christie will be continuing the amazing job she does managing the administration side of our school. She will be supported in our office each Tuesday by Mrs Cook.

We will have some new and continuing School Learning Support Officers supporting students in all of our classes with their learning and running our highly successful lunch clubs each day. This includes Ms Mel, Miss Tina, Mrs Katie and Mr Todd.

Our priorities for the 2017 year ahead are:

Finalising school plan strategic directions and milestones from the three year plan 2014-2017.

Strategic direction 1: Differentiated and Personalised Learning

We will be focusing on differentiation and gifted and talented support and success throughout 2017. This will start with rich professional learning for teachers at the University of NSW and a Gifted and Talented group being trialled in Term 1 with Catherine Haines.

Strategic direction 2: A rich relevant and future focused curriculum

We will be focusing on the Visible Learning initiative working with Wollongong West and Coledale Public Schools.

Strategic direction 3: An inclusive and connected school community

We will continue to work with the Community of Schools on initiatives. We will continue to build our relationships and connections with the school community.

School Leadership

The role of students in leadership positions is an important aspect at Mount Keira. In 2017, there will be four Year 6 student leadership positions - 2 School Captains, Ciara and Jake and two Sport Leaders (one each from house) Keira- Emrys and Nebo- Ashton.

Parent information evenings

This year, all of our teachers had Parent Information Sessions for the parents of children in their classes. At these sessions teachers discussed timetables, programs, units of work and routines that are unique to each class.

Term 1 Sport

This term, our Early Stage 1 and Stage 1 children will be participating in popular Scoorman and Milo Cricket programs. These sports will occur on the school grounds each Friday morning. Our Stage 2 and 3 children will be participating in a multi-sport program to be held at the University of Wollongong Recreational Centre for the first 6 weeks and then a four week Milo Cricket program.
Fitness

Fitness this year will be held each Wednesday. As a trial we would like all children to wear sports uniform each Wednesday and Friday for the rest of the term.

Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to all our children who swam so well at our School Carnival. It was lovely to see the children so supportive of each other.

Our District Carnival will be held on Wednesday 22 February at Western Suburbs Pool. Forms for selected competitors will be sent home this week. Please ensure they are returned to school as soon as possible.

Communication

This year, once again, the Skoolbag app will be the school’s main channel of communication in the event of an emergency, to relay the Summit and send permission notes for excursions. This year, all classes throughout the school will be using the Class Dojo app as a way of communication between parents and classroom teachers.

Interrelate Sessions

The popular, high quality Sexuality and Relationship Education Program will be return to our school on Thursday 9 March. Session 1- Where did I come from will be held at 6pm and Session 2-Preparing for Puberty will be held from 7.15pm.

Allergy Awareness

At our school we have students with an anaphylaxis allergy to nuts. This is a severe allergy and is potentially a life-threatening condition. I ask that all parents please be aware and considerate of this when packing your child’s lunch box and sending shared food to school for events such as birthdays or class parties. Please also explain to your children that at no time should they share the food in their lunch boxes with any other children. I sincerely thank you for your assistance in ensuring a safe learning environment for all of our children.

Library Borrowing

This year all classes will be returning books on a Tuesday. Please ensure your child returns their books to the returns basket in the library upon arrival at school so that they can be returned before class borrowing time.

Guitar Lessons

Please confirm with Mrs Christlo if your child is to continue to participate in guitar this year or if you would like them to commence lessons by Friday.
Chinese Students

We have an opportunity to host a group of Chinese school students later this year. If you would like your family to be involved in this wonderful cultural experience please contact the school. Families can host one or two students for 10 days in your home including the weekend. The students come to school to participate in classes. On the weekends families do lots of touristic activities. The visit would be from 20 March until 30 March 2017.

Relieving Principals' Meeting

This Thursday 16 March our School Education Director will be hosting the area’s Relieving Principals at our school. This is a wonderful opportunity to showcase our beautiful school to other Principals in the area. School and Sports Captain will be required to stay until 3.45pm to welcome our guests.

Scripture and Ethics

Scripture and Ethics will be starting on the 22nd of February 2017. Thank you to our volunteers for their great programs.

Guitar Lessons

Unfortunately Doblix Guitar are no longer able to run our guitar lessons. Before we begin to negotiate with another supplier we need to have an idea of numbers. So far only 4 students have confirmed they are interested in lessons for 2017, as requested in the Summit last week. Please let Mrs Christlo know by Friday at the latest.

Welcome Barbecue and Working Bee

Our Welcome BBQ on Friday night was a huge success. It was wonderful to see so many members of the wider school community attending the BBQ, especially as it was such a record breaking heat wave. I thoroughly enjoyed meeting so many families. It was a great opportunity to welcome themmany new families to the Mount Keira community.