

## Kindergarten Curriculum Overview – Parent Information Term 1, 2021

Dear Families,

Welcome to Term 1, 2021. We would like to introduce the Kindergarten Kookaburras (KMC), the Kindergarten Emus (KJB) and the Kindergarten Owlets (KKH). We will be introducing the children to these class names using books, songs and rich literacy activities.

It has been wonderful to welcome all our students into Kindergarten and observe them stepping up to the new experiences offered. Children are settling into routines and learning about school life. We have had the pleasure of getting to know your children and look forward to fostering their growth throughout the year.

Important Events and Dates		
Week 3	All week Monday 15 February Tuesday 16 February  Friday 19 February	Kindergarten BASE Term 1 Curriculum Overviews on SeeSaw Meet and Mingle Community BBQ with Kindergarten Teachers 4:00pm-5:00pm Newsletter available on website
Week 4	All week	Kindergarten BASE Kindergarten Home Reading Program Starts
Week 5	Friday 5 March	Step Up to Clean Up! Newsletter available on website
Week 6	Monday 8 March	Canberra Day Holiday
Week 7	Friday 19 March	Harmony Day Newsletter available on website
Week 8	Friday 26 March	Earth Hour
Week 9	Tuesday 30 March Thursday 1 April	Term 1 Learning Progress Statements home Last day of Term 1 (Term 2 commences Monday 19 April)

### Curriculum Information

#### **Purposeful Play**

It is well researched that PLAY is the richest learning experience for young children, particularly when play is supported by interested adults and shared engagement in activities. Purposeful Play is an integral part of our program. Children will be led in planning their play in the Play Diary, engaging in diverse activities that follow their interests and the curriculum guidelines, and reflecting on their play experiences through writing and drawing. Teachers will skillfully guide children to make Purposeful Play an integrated, extended and dynamic learning experience, where each child is able to work independently and collaboratively, to explore diverse concepts and skills. The Purposeful Play sessions throughout the week provide opportunities for all children to engage with learning at their own pace and follow areas of interest.

## **English**

The students will be involved in a wide variety of activities to develop strategies and understandings across areas of reading, writing, listening, viewing, speaking and creating. Kaleen's beliefs, practices and the Australian Curriculum will continue to underpin the class program to ensure children are provided quality, rich learning experiences across all areas of English.

Reading is an integral part of learning which is why daily reading is a valuable part of our program. We will also enjoy many shared books that will often be followed up with activities that strengthen enjoyment of reading, build comprehension strategies and increase vocabulary. Because we believe all children can find joy and connect with books, at KPS you will see reading with quality literature every day (both in the classroom and at home as part of the home reading program).

Throughout Term 1, students will be involved in a variety of writing, spelling and phonics activities. Spelling strategies and development of letter-sound knowledge will be a focus during writing and reading workshops. Because we believe all children are writers, at KPS you will see writing every day. This is also the case for the learning of letters and sounds and word knowledge.

Oral Language is a valued and fundamental part of the literacy program and is the foundation for the development of literacy skills and plays a pivotal role in early reading and writing development. Students will listen to, respond to and join in with poems, rhymes, chants and songs. Talking about stories, authors and what happens in stories assists in building vocabulary. Remembering and following instructions, sequencing ideas and retelling known stories is encouraged and developed. Because we believe that oral language development is fundamental to reading and writing, at KPS you will see opportunities for your child to speak, sing, rhyme, perform, converse and have fun with words.

We strongly believe that children should be exposed to and immersed in literacy. At KPS you will see educators modelling speaking, listening, reading and writing and explicitly naming and teaching reading and writing strategies with intention.

## **Mathematics**

Our Mathematics program involves hands-on activities that invite students to investigate concepts and develop their mathematical knowledge and thinking using manipulative materials. Concepts are planned using the Australian Curriculum. Students will work on developing their knowledge and understanding of numbers. They will also explore the areas of measurement, space, chance and data. Students have very different levels of understanding, particularly in numeracy. Children will be grouped according to their needs for early number development. Opportunities for both support and extension will be provided through our play based learning sessions.

## **Science**

In Science we will be learning about the weather. During the term we will observe and investigate how changes in the weather impact our daily lives and the everyday choices that we make. We will observe and discuss seasonal changes throughout the year. We will look at how Indigenous Peoples described seasons and made use of weather knowledge for everyday living. We will extend children's understanding of weather and explore connections between weather and how it affects our choices of clothing and activities.

## **Health and Physical Education**

Children will be participating in Health and Physical Education within their classroom room groups. The children will also participate in our twice weekly gross motor sessions. We will be focusing on fundamental motor skills, coordination and balance.

## **History and Geography**

This semester we will be exploring the theme 'All About Me'. Children will have opportunities to share information about themselves, their family, their interests and experiences. They will be invited to make connections with others and recognise that we are all the same and we are all different. Children will be actively involved in creating a classroom culture of acceptance and kindness. Conversations with your child will support their learning and understanding about who they are and their family setting.

Oral storytelling and learning from the wisdom of past generations are both important elements of Indigenous culture. Children will be invited to learn a story that is part of their family history and share it back in the classroom. We will send home a guide sheet about this, later in the term.

## **The Arts**

The Arts enable students to express their creativity and individuality in many ways. In visual arts students will be encouraged to explore ideas using paint and other art mediums. Throughout the year, we will investigate techniques and styles used by a range of artists, and use these as provocations for our own artworks.

During Music this term, students will be involved in a program which allows them to engage with music through song, movement, instrument play, listening and creation. They will explore simple rhythms using classroom instruments, create dance movements and enjoy musical games.

## **Specialist Programs**

Specialist lessons are on Thursdays during morning sessions and Fridays in the middle sessions.

### **Japanese - *Kitasaka Sensai***

This term Kindergarten students will begin to learn essential building block vocabulary by singing songs such as the greeting song, the colour song, the weather song, the season song, the family song, the day of the week song, the number song and a variety of the body parts song. Students will also start to recognise Katakana characters.

### **Sustainability - *Jo Keens***

Each week Kindergarten students will learn about sustainability concepts with Mrs Keens including how we care for living things. We will also be suggesting ways people can care for familiar places. We will start with understanding how to use our whole school resource management system to ensure we put our rubbish in the correct bins. We will also learn about what happens to our rubbish when it leaves our bins.

### **STEM - Digital Technology - Apprentice iPad Engineers- *Lynn Leon***

This term students will learn about what iPads can do and how they can help in our everyday lives. They will learn to use a variety of apps (Applications), so they can complete a set of tasks. This will require the students to examine iPads to understand their functions. They will compare functions and evaluate them. The students will work towards gaining a licence as an iPad engineer. This licence will unlock their *Apprentice Robotic Engineers* course, in term two. Stay tuned...more to come in term two.

## **Admin Details**

### **Seesaw**

Seesaw is our platform for students to create digital portfolios. Seesaw provides real time feedback and enhances connections between home and school, allowing parents the opportunity to have a greater understanding of the learning taking place in the classroom.

Please use Seesaw posts as an opportunity to talk with your child about their learning and the things they are enjoying at school. It is a great way to build oral language and share highlights of the day.

If you are having any problems accessing Seesaw please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

### **Library Resource Centre**

Your child will be visiting the library each week. Your library day is listed below. Please remind your child to bring their library bag each week to ensure that our books are looked after. This can be anything from a handmade bag to a plastic shopping bag with their name clearly marked on it.

Library days are

Kindergarten Kookaburras (KMC): Wednesdays

Kindergarten Emus (KJB): Thursdays

Kindergarten Owlets (KKH): Fridays

Please don't hesitate to contact us via the Front Office on 6142 1750 or by email if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards,

*Mary-Caitlin Cox (KCB), Jess Bulluss (KJB) and Karina Harris (KKH)*

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# *Daily Life In Kindy*

*~ how families can help ~*

When you consider that a Kindergarten classroom is one teacher and twenty children, you'll understand why the following tips really help us out!

**Absences:** At school absences need to be emailed to the front office : [KaleenPS.Absences@ed.act.edu.au](mailto:KaleenPS.Absences@ed.act.edu.au)  
Children arriving late or leaving early need to go by the front office to be signed in and out.

**Hats:** Our school is a SunSmart school and follows the Education Directorate's policy. Students will need to wear hats when outside. Hats often go missing but tend to find their way back. Please send a spare hat when needed - any hat will do including their old preschool hat!

**Hats at ASC:** Children who go to Afters need hats. It is a good idea to keep a hat in their school bag for Afters and their school hat at school in their tote tray.

**Fruit break:** Students are encouraged to bring a fruit or vegetable snack to have during our morning session. Please send this in a SEPARATE container and unpack it into their tote tray each morning.

**Water bottles:** Students need to have a labelled water bottle, which can be kept in class and accessed as required.

**Lunches:** Please think carefully about appropriate amounts of food for your child. Too much is overwhelming and they aren't sure where to begin.

Please provide containers that your child can manage for themselves. Of course we are happy to lend a hand but children feel more confident if they can manage their own lunches, including fitting things in and out of their bag several times each day.

**Canteen:** Lunches can be ordered and purchases made on Thursdays and Fridays. Please be mindful of food that can be managed by kindy children. eg milks and large frozen objects tend to be disastrous!!

**School Bags:** If your child can't pack their bag at home, then they probably can't do it at school either! Please practise this skill and make it as easy as possible in terms of size of bags and items packed.

## **Toileting:**

Children need to be independent with toileting, including wiping themselves. Of course there is help when accidents occur but children need to manage the toilets themselves. Bathrooms aren't as handy or supervised like they were at preschool, so please practise any necessary skills at home! Thank you.

## **Shoes:**

Children need to wear shoes that are suitable for being active in - no slippery sandals please! Where possible please have velcro fasteners as doing laces tightly is beyond most children's skill level.