



18<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Term 3 Week 9

## *Katoomba North Public School Community News*

### COMING EVENTS

#### September

- 19<sup>th</sup> Musical
- 20<sup>th</sup> Musical
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Meet the Street
- 27<sup>th</sup> Stage 2 Excursion to Parramatta
- 28<sup>th</sup> Last Day of Term

#### October

- 16<sup>th</sup> Big Day In
- 17<sup>th</sup> KHS Dance
- 24<sup>th</sup> K-2 – Museum
- 25<sup>th</sup> Open Classrooms
- 30<sup>th</sup> Tree Planting – Melrose Park
- 31<sup>st</sup> Kindergarten Transition begins

#### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> K-2 at Penrith for "The Guffalo's Child"
- 7<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Transition
- 8<sup>th</sup> School Photos
- 9<sup>th</sup> Colour Run
- 12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day
- 14<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Transition  
Camp – Stage 3
- 15<sup>th</sup> Camp – Stage 3
- 16<sup>th</sup> Camp – Stage 3
- 21<sup>st</sup> Kindergarten Transition
- 23<sup>rd</sup> Soccer Gala Day
- 28<sup>th</sup> Kindergarten Transition

*Katoomba North Public School  
presents....*

### *Darryl Kerrigan's Family Snaps*



Wed 19<sup>th</sup> & Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> September, 2018  
6.30pm Katoomba North School Hall

*...and this one's going  
straight to the pool room!*

Barton Street, Katoomba 2780  
Office Hours: 8.30am – 3.00pm  
Principal: Cathy Clark



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## Principal's Log - 20.00 hours – 16<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a busy few weeks we have had! And it continues right up to the end of term.

This week is our **Musical week**. I hope you have bought tickets as there aren't many seats left for either night (Wednesday and Thursday). Every child is in the musical and I'm so looking forward to seeing the final production. Catriona McKay has again excelled in developing "Darryl Kerrigan's Family Snaps" as the theme. The principal cast has worked extremely hard especially over the past few weeks to learn all their parts. Thank you to the parents who have assisted or have offered to help on the nights in some way; costumes, props, lighting, stage, photos, filming etc. I do appreciate your help.

We were planning on having Tuesday this week as open classroom day but without overloading both staff and families we have moved this to Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October (week 2) next term. Some of the "best bits" of the musical may also be encored on the Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**Next week is Science week** at KNPS. A letter should go out this week letting you know the various activities students will participate in. Years 3/4 will be on an excursion to Elizabeth Farm and Govt House at Parramatta next Thursday. Please ensure payment for the excursion is in on time. As always if you require financial support for the excursion please do not hesitate to see me.

The generosity of our community once again was seen last week when we had Farmer for a Day. We have raised over \$1000 for the farmers and half of the ticket price for the musical will go to our fund raising. All money will then be transferred to "Buy A Bale" organisation. They supply farmers with bales of hay, diesel fuel or water. Your support to the SRC's initiative of this fundraiser is truly humbling. Thank you so very much for supporting this cause.

We have a few staff changes this and next week.

Mrs Murrell is away this and next week. Mrs Cullen will be relieving AP K-2 this week and Mrs Fowler will be relieving AP K-2 week 10. I am away week 10 and Mrs Cullen will be Relieving Principal for the week.

This Saturday we are hosting "Meet the Street". This is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday from 2-5pm. The school oval and hall will be used. We are having a cake stall on the day. Organisations such as MOC's, the Rural Fire Brigade, Thrive, Katoomba Neighbourhood Centre and Katoomba Rotary will be attending. The day is to provide the community with information and advice on preparing for this year's bush fire season. Some groups are also providing entertainment including our school, Katoomba High and the Tibetan community.

Our school is participating in "Share our Space" during the holidays. The school's oval, basketball court and play equipment will be open for community to use between 9-5pm on week days. Please feel free to use our grounds.

Perhaps you were fortunate enough to see our dance groups perform at Joan Sutherland Theatre. They were fabulous and did our school proud. They perform again next term at the Upper Blue Mountains Dance Festival at Katoomba High. This is on the first Wednesday back - the 17<sup>th</sup> October. Tickets for this are online from Trybooking.

Big Day In for year 6 students has been moved to the 16<sup>th</sup> October (Tuesday week 1 term 4). It is the same organisation as previously with students being dropped at Katoomba High by parents and picked up at 2pm. Katoomba High School has organized extra transition days for year 6 students who may be very anxious. We have indicated our students who may need extra support. If you would like your child to be part of this please let either see Ms Cosgrove or Mrs Fendall.

There are many opinions regarding children using technology. How much? How long for? Health implications from prolonged use. Any negative impact from not using technology? And so the opinions continue. I came across the following article titled

“I can’t control my child’s use of technology. That statement and life choice needs to be revised.” This adds yet another dimension to the discussions.

Enjoy the spring holidays.

Cathy Clark, Principal of the best school in the Mountains.

## Music News

Well, it's the **Big Week**

Darryl Kerrigan's Family Snaps is here. See you and your family on Wednesday and Thursday evenings this week. Please make sure you're on time ..... and break a leg!

## P & C News

### **BREAKFAST PROGRAM**



Volunteers run this wonderful program Monday to Friday between 8.40 – 9.00 a.m. with the appreciated ongoing support from Bendigo Bank Katoomba, Rotary Club of Katoomba, Earth Recovery, Blue Mountains Food Co-op, parents and students.

Donations of jam, vegemite, honey, marmalade, long-life milk, fruit and milo are always welcome.

Contact Caroline (mobile: 0426 399 355) if you are interested in helping to run our breakfast program or drop off donations to the school office or the community room.

### **SCHOOL CANTEEN**

The canteen is a special part of the children's school week and to keep it going we really need your help. Even if you can only help one Friday a term it would be very much appreciated. Please put your name down in the office if you would like to help.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM NEWS**

Please see Caroline Monday-Thursday down in the hall at uniform shop 3.00pm – 3.15pm and Fridays 2.45- 3.15pm.

Caroline can also be contacted on 0426 399 335 for more information.






## Community News

### **PLAY AND CHAT PLAYGROUP**

**Is on for 0-5 year olds and their parents/carers, Monday and Tuesday mornings, 9.15 – 12.15 during the school term.** Sandpit, cooking, music, outdoor play, painting and more.

All welcome!

# TERM 3 CALENDAR

<b>Term 3</b> 1	July 23 Staff Development Day	24 Students Return	25	26	27
2	July 30 Opera House Choir	31	August 1 Assembly	2	3 Jeans for Genes Day 
<b>Book Week</b> 3	August 6	7 Book Parade	8 Athletics Carnival 	9	10
4	August 13 Stage 2/3 Excursion Operation Art	14 Operation Art Stage 1 (Year 1 & 2)	15 Operation Art Stage 2 (Year 3 & 4) Assembly	16 Kindergarten Excursion – Woolworths Operation Art Stage 3 (Year 5 & 6)	17
5	August 20 UBMMF (practice) Milo Cup	21 UBMMF Performance 6.30pm	22	23 UBMMF Performance 6.30pm	24
6	August 27	28 Dance Rehearsal The Joan	29 Assembly	30	31
7	September 3	4 Joan Sutherland Dance	5	6	7 Zone Athletics
8	September 10	11	12 Information Night Kindergarten 2019 Assembly	13 Farmers' for a Day 	14
<b>Education Week</b> 9	September 17	18	19 Musical 	20 Musical 	21
<b>Science Week</b> 10	September 24	25	26 Assembly	27 Stage 2 Excursion To Parramatta	28

## SCHOOL BANKING

Tuesday is School Banking day this year. Please bring your bank books to the office before 9.30am.

## SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

The **school contribution** is a small yearly fee that is used towards the cost of classroom resources, arts and crafts materials, books and sporting equipment. If you haven't already paid your contribution could you please do so through the school office?

Fees are as follows:

- \$42.00 per year for 1 child
- \$75.00 per year for 2 children or
- \$90.00 per year for 3 children or more.

# Dance Performance



# Farmer for a Day



# I can't control my child's use of technology. That statement and life choice needs to be revised

My child demands to play with matches – and I can't do anything about it.  
**Dr Ragnar Purje** thinks you can

**I** can't control my child's use of matches. Really? If your son or daughter insists that they want to play with matches, what do you do with the matches? You – of course – immediately, without discussion take the matches from the child. You then explain how dangerous this action is. The issue and the danger has been avoided and circumvented.

## **What if the child cries and presents a tantrum in response to this removal?**

You acknowledge the tears and possible tantrum. You then explain that matches are dangerous and you place these matches in a location the child can't reach. Does this action on the part of the parent/guardian become an issue of insurmountable





behavioural problems in the form of tears and tantrums? And if it did – which it never does – would the parent relent and give the matches back to the child to placate the child's temper tantrum demands? No! Of course not!

### And why not?

The answer is self-evident. The parent/guardian is educating the child to not only engage in safe behaviours, but also to provide the emotional and cognitive thoughtful means for the child to develop into a responsible thinking and responsible acting child, teenager and, of course, socially mature adult. What if there are tears and tantrums along the way? So what? Children and teenagers are always pushing to see where the boundaries of life are. That is how we learn and know what is safe and unsafe and what is acceptable and what is not acceptable. This is all a process of personal and social education. The prefrontal cortex develops as a result of circumstances being explored. The child in fact is genetically DNA hard-wired to play and explore and extend. That is how the brain and body (the *hólos*) advances in skills and knowledge. All actions however bring consequences, and as the child, the teenager develops, part of this process, by the mentor is to support, advise, encourage and when required admonish the learner (which does not equate with punishment).

### My child demands that they want to play in the middle of the road

If your child or teenager walked onto a road or highway, or stood in the middle of tram tracks or a railway line, as a train was speeding towards them, and, despite your directives, advice, warnings, pleading, screaming or attempted assertive persuasions the child or teenager refused to listen and refused to move, what would you do?

The self-evident truth is that you would – of course – take *immediate action* to remove your child or teenager from the dangerous situation they have placed themselves in; no matter what they said or how much they protested; or how much they screamed or how often they told you they hated you. You would do the same time and time again. With associated warnings and information, to help the child and teenager to learn that what they

are doing is dangerous and most certainly (and again self-evidently) unsafe.

### My child demands to use the computer – and – with the door closed

What if your child or teenager has walked into their room, and closed the door behind them to now spend hours on the computer, which is the signal to you – the parent/guardian – to stay away? The child has told you through their demands that this is their life. And you have no right to know what they are doing.

Now that is a most interesting scenario. You, as the parent/guardian, have no rights in your own house?

And why is that? Because that is the demand made by the child. And your response to that is: "I can't control the technology use of my child."

So? How come you are able to control the use of matches by the child? How come you are able to control whether or not your child plays in the middle of a road, tram tracks or railway crossing? And yet you can't control the use of technology, by your child, in your own home?

Is there a difference of principle here?

That's right. There is! It is dangerous to play with matches. It is dangerous to play on the road in the middle of tram tracks or a railway line. And because of this danger you believe, and know, you have the right to control what your child is doing.

But when your child demands to play with the computer, for some reason you assume you have no control? And it's safe!

### Actually, it is not safe

Actually, it is not safe. It is not safe neurologically. And neither is it safe developmentally or socially. The research is unambiguously clear. Socially, the children are placing themselves – and your family – in danger. This secretive computer engagement is as dangerous as a stranger coming to the door and asking you if it was okay if they could spend some time with them in their room. And while the door is also closed!

### Neurological rewiring is taking place

Self-evidentially this is dangerous. Neurologically it is also dangerous because the hours of computer use are rewiring

the brain and excluding real life social engagement. What is on the screen is not the same as talking face-to-face with your

family. It is during this face-to-face time and via the social interactions that take place through talking that all-important social skills and insights develop. It is also when cognitive emotional neurological forging takes place. It is this engagement with another human being that makes us human; a healthy, functioning and social human.

The brain-based and social research here points out that children who are engaged on their computer for hours are not only losing social skills. This endless computer use leads to children and teenagers losing their capacity for empathy. When empathy is lost, the research indicates that there is much less capacity on the part of the individual to have a point of view which allows them to have a sense of positive regard for others, or for society itself. And when members of society don't care about each other, this most certainly is not good for anyone.

### Is there a solution?

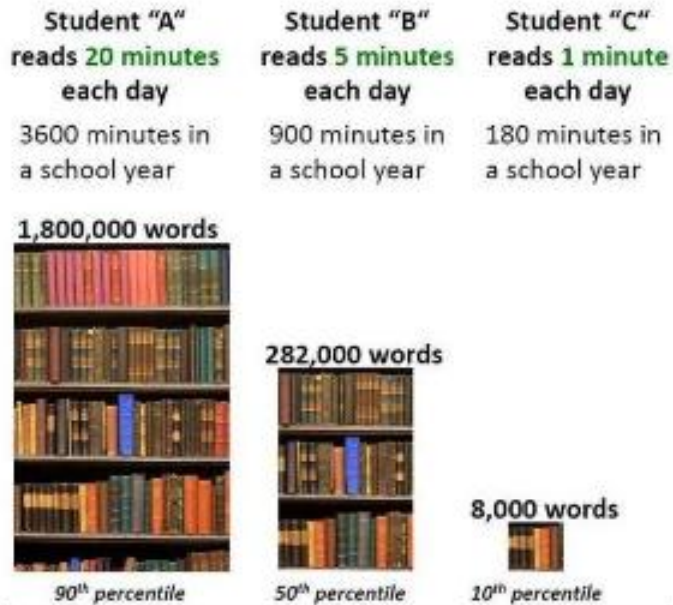
What we are dealing with here is complex; and there certainly is no easy, quick fix solution. One of the most important parts in all of this is the process of personal engagement. Personal interaction has the potential for possibilities that may lead to an array of solutions. What this means is that during the course of these important person-to-person, face-to-face talks, solutions may begin to surface. Therefore, don't look for a single solution. Look for possibilities of potential solutions. Does that mean the child will dictate to the parent what they want, and the parent must then step aside?

Well, what if your child demands they want to play in the middle of the road, what would you do?

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**Dr Ragnar Purje** is a Queensland based academic and writer, he has published and presented widely and has a focus on Indigenous education and issues. Look out for his work in future issues of *Education Today*

## Why Can't I Skip My 20 Minutes of Reading Tonight?



By the end of 6<sup>th</sup> grade Student "A" will have read the equivalent of 60 whole school days. Student "B" will have read only 12 school days. Which student would you expect to have a better vocabulary? Which student would you expect to be more successful in school...and in life?

(Nagy & Herman, 1987)

# meet your street

## North Katoomba 2018

### Bush Fire Preparedness & Resilience

Connect with your Community for a Safer Bush Fire Season

*featuring*

- Tibetan Circle Dance • SES • RFS
- Vocal Locals • Fire & Rescue • Rotary BBQ
- Boomerang Bags • Face painting
- Katoomba High Jazz Ensemble • Stalls
- Katoomba High Instrumental Ensemble
- Nth Katoomba Choir • Billy the Bushman
- Kids activities by MOCS
- Featuring Allegra Dunning

**Sunday 23 Sep 2018**  
**2-5ish**  
**North Katoomba**  
**Public School**

**KNC**  
 Connecting our Community



For details contact  
 KNC on 4782 1117,  
 or check it out on  
 KNC's Facebook page