



17th September 2019, Term 3 Week 9

Katoomba North Public School Community News

COMING EVENTS

September

- 18th Play Day
- 22nd Meet the Street
- 23rd Dental Clinic at KNPS
- 24th Kindy Prep. 2020
- 27th Last day of Term 3

October

- 14th **Students return to school**
- 15th KHS Dance
- 22nd Kindy Prep
- 23rd Assembly
- 29th Kindy Prep
Planetarium

November

- 5th Kinder Prep
- 6th Assembly
- 7th School Photos
- 8th Teddy Bears Picnic
- 11th Swim School commences this week
- 12th Kinder Prep
- 18 Swim School continues this week
- 19th Kinder Prep
- 20th Assembly
- 29th Year 6 Gala Day

Kindy Prep has commenced. Our new kinders for next year are having so much fun creating and learning what "big" school is all about.



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



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Principal's Log - Sunday 15th September – 20.30 hours

Dear Parents, Carers and Community,

Learning at Katoomba North- exciting days ahead!!!

This Wednesday is the start of our “Play Days”. Play is one of the most important learning times for everyone but especially children. For those of us old enough to recall we played all day outside with friends. A lot of the time “pretend” games were the highlight. Bush huts were constructed, roads carved out of the ground, rocks substituted for cars and trees were climbed. Whilst it sounds fun I’m sure the danger factor was there too. I have included an article written by educators Pasi Sahlberg- Finland and Australia and William Doyle - US.

There has been research on the importance of play and using whatever is around to have fun and play. You are probably aware of the bank near the oval that stage 3 have their stick huts and town on. This has been going for about 2 years now.

Some Kindy and stage 1 students decorated the tree just outside the office with sticks on Thursday and it looked fantastic. In the mornings before we start school, I see many children playing chasings on the grass.

We will have two play sessions on Wednesday for children to really use their imagination. Staff hope to increase this next term with “themed” days. Please take time to ask your child what they did Wednesday and perhaps share your fun times as a child with them too.

Perhaps you are not aware of our program we have with the Katoomba Men’s Shed. Each Thursday men from the shed visit our school and work with students in years 5/6. Students learn to measure, use wood and equipment as well as working with older members of the community. Students complete a project on the day. Our glass cabinet in the office has a continual display of finished products. This program has been part of our creative program for close to one and a half years. We have included photos of the students enjoying the Thursday sessions.



Our two drumming groups are practicing for their next assembly performance. I’ve heard both groups and I think there is a bit of friendly competition between the groups. I look forward to hearing them in early term 4.

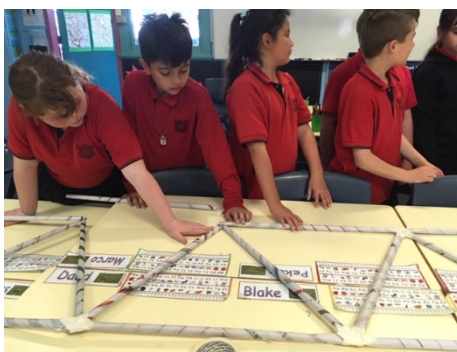
Enjoy the spring holidays.

Cathy Clark Principal of the best school in the Mountains

Art Group Friday Afternoon

Our wonderful art group on Friday afternoons have created animals made out of clay. The group concentrated on rolling coils and joining them together to form their sculptures. Students waited patiently as they dried and the following week they painted the dried clay. These animals are now on display in the administration building. What fantastic sculptures, well done!

Ms Abela



Learning About Space

Stage Two have been learning about space this term as part of Science. Students have built amazing rockets using craft materials. They also have assembled a Moon Habitat to understand how NASA is developing and constructing a sturdy but light structure for astronauts to live in for many months on the Moon. The school community is welcome to see the rockets and Moon Habitat in the Stage Two building. Well done Stage Two!

Ms Abela



Stage 1 – Schoolyard Safari – Blue Mountains Council visit



Blue Mountains and Nepean Dance Festival

Our Junior and Senior Dance Groups performed at the Joan Sutherland Centre in Penrith last week. Once again Katoomba North PS students were amazing. They rehearsed every Friday afternoon during Creative Arts time and had to learn a variety of difficult movement patterns. There is a lot of brain work remembering all the steps and moving to different areas of the stage in time with 25 other students.



Members of the organising committee congratulated us for our fabulous routines and our outstanding behaviour at both the rehearsal day and during performances! We have quite a reputation now as being one of the schools the Festival Committee like to work with each year! A huge thank you to Mrs Holmes for making the senior costumes – and to Mrs Payne and Mrs Cayzer who assisted with finishing off costumes and washing all the shirts and socks!

The dancers will perform again at the Upper Blue Mountains Dance Festival on Tuesday 15th October at Katoomba High School. There are a few tickets still available for this performance via trybooking.com

Well done to all our wonderful dancers! Thank you for being such an enthusiastic group of performers to work with each week.



Katoomba North's Play Day!

If we remember back to our own childhood days we probably all have a story or two to tell about the many different ways we filled our days with play, often with very minimal resources!!

With an increasing number of people relying on the use of screens and technological devices we are forgetting how important play is for the development of our children's brains – academically, socially and emotionally.

At Katoomba North we will be incorporating some play days to encourage children to be creative, imaginative and active during play times.

Our first Play Day will be on Wednesday 18th September. We would love you to take the time to ask your children what they did on this day... and maybe you could share some ideas with them about play from the past.



Thank You to Yamaha Australia!

Last term we applied to be one of 50 schools that would be given a new recorder worth up to \$300. This is part of Yamaha's contribution to the Festival of Instrumental Music each year.

Our application was successful and we received a new Tenor recorder this week from Yamaha Australia. We will be able to further extend our recorder group with this new addition to our recorder collection.

Music News

What a sensational evening of singing our Senior Choir experienced at the Sydney Opera House, a few weeks ago. Our students were well prepared for the Festival of Choral Music rehearsal and concert. We even impressed diners at the restaurant that evening with a surprise rendition of our school song!

Our Junior and Senior dance groups also performed brilliantly at the Joan for the Nepean Dance Festival. Congratulations Dancers!

We are now working towards all our end of year performances now, so stay tuned for more of our talented student performances coming up soon....

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, Coles 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 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 & 4 CALENDAR

2019 Term 3 9	September 16	17 Kindy 2020 Prep	18 Play Day	19	20
10	23 Dental Clinic	24 Kindy 2020 Prep	25 Assembly	26	27
Term 4 1	October 14	15 KHS Dance	16	17	18
2	21	22 Planetarium Kindy 2020 Prep	23 Assembly	24	25 Summer Games
3	28	29 Kindy 2020 Prep	30	31	November 1
4	November 4	5 Kindy 2020 Prep	6 Assembly	7 School Photos 	8 Teddy Bears Picnic 
5	11 Swim School Begins 	12 Kindy 2020 Prep 	13 	14 	15 
6	18 Swim School Continues 	19 Kindy 2020 Prep 	20 Assembly 	21 	22 
7	25	26	27	28	29 Year 6 Gala Day
8	December 2	3	4 Assembly	5	6
9	9	10	11	12	13 Presentation Day
10	16	17 Farewell	18 Graduation Students Last Day	19 Staff Development Day	20 Staff Development Day

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking is on Fridays this term. Please bring your bank book to the office before the bell goes in the morning.

SCHOOL CONTRIBUTION

The **school contribution** is a small yearly contribution that is used towards the cost of classroom resources, arts and crafts, materials, books and sporting equipment. If you can pay 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.

Have Your Say on Before and After School Care

The NSW Government is committed to providing before and after school care to all students of public primary schools in New South Wales. As part of the reform, [a parent web form](#) has been established by Service NSW that will enable parents to tell the department about their specific care needs and to stay up to date with any new developments.

The information provided by parents will help the Department of Education to understand your needs, give them insights into where there are gaps in service delivery and help to ensure the extra places are delivered where they are required.

Have your say today at <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc>.



NSW Department of Education

Before and After School Care

Have your say

The NSW Government is committed to increasing the provision of before and after school care.

Have your say at
<https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/basc>

Online feedback closes December 2019


NSW
GOVERNMENT

The following extract is from an article in the Wall Street Journal Aug. 8, 2019 written by William Doyle and Pasi Sahlberg, both eminent educators. Pasi Sahlberg is passionate about the importance of play and its positive effects on children and learning. As this article is based on his US experience I'm sure you will be able to eliminate some aspects of the article and still retain the main ideas. Please do not hesitate to give us any feedback on this article or the play days we will have at Katoomba North.

To Really Learn, Our Children Need the Power of Play

Five years ago, we switched countries.

Pasi Sahlberg came to the U.S. as a visiting professor at Harvard University, and William Doyle moved to Finland to study its world-renowned school system as a Fulbright scholar. We brought our families with us. And we were stunned by what we experienced.

In Cambridge, Mass., Pasi took his young son to have a look at a potential preschool. The school's director asked for a detailed assessment of the boy's vocabulary and numeracy skills.

"Why do you need to know this? He is barely 3 years old!" Pasi asked, looking at his son, for whom toilet training and breast-feeding were recent memories.

"We need to be sure he is ready for our program," replied the director. "We need to know if he can keep up with the rest of the group. We need to make sure all children are prepared to make the mark."

Pasi was flummoxed by the bizarre education concept of "preschool readiness." Compounding the culture shock was the stunning price tag: \$25,000 a year for preschool, compared with the basically free, government-funded daycare-through-university programs that the boy would have enjoyed back in Finland.

Pasi had entered an American school culture that is increasingly rooted in childhood stress and the elimination of the arts, physical activity and play—all to make room for a tidal wave of test prep and standardized testing. This new culture was supposed to reduce achievement gaps, improve learning and raise America's position in the international education rankings. Nearly two decades and tens of billions of dollars later, it isn't working. Yet the boondoggle continues, even as the incidence of childhood mental-health disorders such as anxiety and depression is increasing.

Meanwhile, in Finland, William Doyle entered the school system ranked as #1 in the world for childhood education by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the World Economic Forum and Unicef—a system built in large part on research pioneered (and increasingly ignored) in the U.S. Rather than pursuing standardized-test data as the Holy Grail of education, Finland focuses on equity, happiness, well-being and joy in learning as the foundations of education.

Finnish parents and teachers widely agree on several mantras rarely heard in U.S. schools: "Let children be children" and "The work of a child is to play." A Finnish mother told William, "Here, you're not considered a good parent unless you give your child lots of outdoor play."

".....the American Academy of Pediatrics, which has a membership of 67,000 doctors..... "The importance of playful learning for children cannot be overemphasized," declared the academy's 2018 clinical report ["The Power of Play."*](#)*

According to the doctors, play—including recess, playful teaching and discovery, as well as periods of self-directed intellectual and physical activity by children with minimal direct interference by adults—boosts mental and physical health, develops executive function and offers “the ideal educational and developmental milieu for children.”

.....A new emphasis on play can be seen cutting across cultures and ideologies. In China, an experiment in outdoor-play-based preschool and kindergarten known as Anji Play is proving so successful in more than 100 rural schools that it is being expanded—and widely hailed as a national model for early childhood education. In Singapore, education officials are trying to shift a nation of high achievers away from stress, academic ranking and over-testing toward a new vision of childhood exploration and “purposeful play.” In a 2018 speech, Education Minister Ong Ye Kung said, “There is room for parents to step back, give children space to explore and play.”

“ ‘The lifelong success of children is based on their ability to be creative and to apply the lessons learned from playing.’ ” —American Academy of Pediatrics

Meanwhile, in school districts in Texas, Oklahoma, South Carolina and New York, tens of thousands of children are being given up to 60 minutes of daily outdoor, free-play recess. These experiments are directly inspired by Finland’s schools—and educators are reporting sharp improvements in academic performance, concentration and behavior.

Our own children now attend public schools in two great global cities, New York and Sydney, Australia. In both cities and countries, play is an endangered or nonexistent component of education—even though the American Academy of Pediatrics notes that “the lifelong success of children is based on their ability to be creative and to apply the lessons learned from playing.”

We should take a lesson from Finland, follow doctors’ orders and build our schools, homes and communities on the learning language of children: play.

—This essay is adapted from the authors’ new book, “Let the Children Play: How More Play Will Save Our Schools and Help Children Thrive” (Oxford University Press). Mr. Sahlberg is a professor of education policy at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, and a former director-general at Finland’s Ministry of Education. Mr. Doyle is a scholar in residence at the University of Eastern Finland.”



Katoomba North Public School

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Cake Stall and Barbeque at 'Meet the Street' Sunday 22nd September 2-5pm

On Sunday 22nd September Katoomba North PS will once again host 'Meet the Street', a local community event. Our school will open its gates to numerous community groups and emergency services. Many visitors will be looking forward to enjoying a traditional sausage sizzle and cake stall!

The Staff and P&C are calling on families to give some of your time to raise money for school equipment and resources. You can bake for the cake stall and/or help out on the day. These are always fun events and help create a sense of community and school spirit.

Baked goods can be dropped off to the stall on the Sunday afternoon. Please attach an ingredients list to your item/s.

Please fill in and return the slip below to school if you are able to help. You can return it to the office or your child's teacher.

Cathy Clark

Cathy Clark
Principal

Parent/Carer name: _____ Phone #: _____

My child/children's name: _____

Class: _____

- ☐ Yes, I will bake goods for the cake stall
- ☐ Yes, I am available to sell cakes at 'Meet the Street' - time I am available _____
- ☐ Yes, I am available to cook/serve sausage sizzles - time I am available _____