Earthkeepers program continues ...

On Monday 4th November, as you all know, Years 3/6 went on an excursion. The first few days of this excursion were dedicated to teaching us how to become apprentice Earthkeepers. Even the teachers had to get involved! We earned our ‘K’ Knowledge Key and ‘E’ Experience Key while we were away. In order to earn the last two keys, the ‘Y’ Yourself Key and the ‘S’ Sharing Key, we needed to return to school.

On the first Monday and Tuesday back at school, we talked about how to earn our ‘Y’ Key by becoming more environmentally friendly at home. In order to earn our ‘S’ Key, primary students needed to teach the infants students what we had learnt on our excursion for the ‘K’ and ‘E’ Keys. So, we had one lesson a day where the primary students became the teachers in order to share their Knowledge and Experience. I believe they all really enjoyed this experience.

By Miss Grinter

On Monday the 4th of November, as we got to Mt Kosciuszko National Park, we met Dan and Jill who are the guardians of the keys. They told us we had to earn four keys, K.E.Y.S. to become Earthkeepers. The ‘K’ stands for knowledge, ‘E’ stands for Experience, ‘Y’ stands for Yourself and ‘S’ stands for Sharing. We earned our ‘K’ key on the first night and the ‘E’ key on the third day. Then, when we got back to school on the 11th and 12th of November we started to share our knowledge with the infants students, as work towards our ‘S’ key. On Monday there were four different groups which were each doing something different; of these four groups we each chose two. The groups were Energy Flow, Cycling, Change and Interrelationships—the group I chose to do first was Energy Flow. This group helped the infants students to learn about Munch lines by looking for signs of munching, gathering signs of munching in our munch trays and completing a munch line puzzle.

The second group I did was Change, and in order to complete this we made and buried a time capsule. Our time capsule had to show what an area was like in the past. For this activity the infants student had to find the time capsule by using a map we made.

On the second day, Tuesday, we did something fairly similar to the previous day’s work, except for the fact that the group tasks changed to Solitude, Discovery, Observation and Immersion. The first one I chose was the Solitude group, which helped the infants students to find their magic spot in a natural area and shared ways of getting to know their magic spot.

The second group I did was Discovery where I had to introduce an infants student to a new natural area by making a map and writing a diary for them to follow when exploring the spot. They enjoyed it.

By Georgia

On the excursion, we became apprentice Earthkeepers. On the first two days back at school, we did some more work to earn our keys. During the first day, Riley and I taught Lana and Thomas what a speck trail is. Riley and I also made a map so Lana could find a time capsule. By Charlie

Earthkeepers home learning

All 3-6 students should be completing the conservation section of their course - parents will have a blue form which needs to be signed off after 4 weeks of your child making a conscious effort at conserving water, power or waste.

After 4 weeks we will have a key ceremony, and I am sure all children will want to get their 2 extra keys.
**Summer of cricket starts at Ladysmith Public ...**

On Wednesday, Yrs 2-6 students had a wonderful learning experience on the cricket pitch. Mr Morris reports there was plenty of learning happening as the students noticed what others were doing. They participated as a team (collaboration) and listened to the coaches. As the day progressed, students were able to put into place their new skills.

Some comments I heard from the year 2/3 girls were— “I actually learnt how to play the game”; “We improved so much”; “It was great playing against others our age!”

Year 6 boys commented that they improved as the day went by, and the yr 2-4 boys were stretching their collaboration strategies as well as developing new skills.

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**Order of Australia recipient coaches our students**

Thursday saw more cricket coaching happening - this time our students were given new practice drills to practice to improve their cricket skills.

Alex and Lachlan’s great uncle, Warren Smith, who is also an international cricket coach, came to school for the morning to spend time with our students and pass on some excellent knowledge.

We now need to keep addressing these areas to ensure the knowledge reaches the long term memory lobes of our brains.

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**CANTEEN DAY—FRIDAY 22ND NOVEMBER**

Our first canteen was a great success with Joannah putting in a lot of effort, although some students forgot their money and wrote out IOU’s – which we hope have been paid. Year 5 students and their families have gone to a lot of effort to ensure you enjoy the canteen and they deserve the respect of being paid. This Friday, no IOU’s will be allowed—we need to put our remembering skills into place and if you do not bring money, we presume you do not wish to participate.

**ALL FUNDS** raised go towards the Year 6, 2014 trip to Young Leaders in Sydney. This project is part of the Year 5’s leadership campaign and helps them develop organisational skills.

This Friday, Georgia will be selling the following items at recess—so please bring along your money and show your support.

- **Vanilla Custard Slice**—$2.00 each
- **M&M Biscuits**—$1.00 each

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**End of year production**

Please find attached a list of costumes we would really love your child to have at school by **Wednesday 11th December** so we can have a dress rehearsal on **Thursday 12th December**.

If you have any difficulty arranging these clothes, please let me know as soon as possible so I can make appropriate arrangements. Thank you for your assistance in this matter.
**APSMO—Australasia Maths Olympia Results**

We strived for growth and we achieved it ….. this year, 9 students entered the Maths Olympiad which consisted of 5 monthly problem solving challenges.

If you remember, last year one student was in the top 10% of all entrants and everyone else participated. 2013 saw great progress and many new challenges being met.

Three students participated and improved on their scores— Riley Whiting, Cameron and Georgia.

Five students moved up into a top 25% ranking— Ben, James, Riley Wilson, Joannah and Lachlan.

Eddie, once again, scored in the top 10% with 21 / 25 questions correct.

**Congratulations** on the outstanding efforts put in by these students.

Understanding that effort is what gives the results, ensures the results are achieved.

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**BOOKCLUB REMINDER**— Please return orders and payment by this Friday, 22nd November. Thankyou.

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**Library Books**

Who’s noticed old library books coming home … ????

Hopefully everyone … these books are for your family to keep. Please **DO NOT** return them as they have been decommissioned from our library – deemed no longer necessary for our students learning.

**BUT** library books that have been borrowed need to be returned this week, please. We will send home a list of outstanding books so you can have a search and then we’ll close the library for 2013.

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**P&C NEWS**

As we will have 3 learning areas in 2014, the P & C have set a challenge to raise funds so the school can install an interactive whiteboard in the library building.

**Therefore, we are keen for everyone to support our Chef’s Toolbox fun night by coming along and bringing a friend who may like to meet other Ladysmith people—**Wednesday 27**th November 7pm** at the Hall.

$15.00 to attend (which goes to the P & C) and a percentage of orders also heads their way.

**All students are asked to bring an item to the front office, and place in a basket, which will develop into a Christmas hamper/raffle which will be drawn on Presentation Night. Please send in anything that is non-perishable that relates to Christmas.**

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**End of year reports**

Advance notice ….. on Monday 16**th December 2-3pm**, you are invited to come along to learn from your child, receive their report and discuss anything you like with their teacher…..Your child will send you a personal invitation. Please bookmark this time and date as it will replace teacher interviews.
K-2 have been developing their creativity and imagination skills while attempting to create their own dreamtime stories after a week of studying Aboriginal stories and the meanings behind those stories.

**Adelaide Eady**—for demonstrating learning in her ability to ask questions in order to extend or clarify her knowledge.

**Eddie McDougall**—absorption in all learning.

**Teya O’Brien**—for perseverance in writing a sequenced story.

**Charli Whiting**—exceptional effort in all learning.

**Collaboration and Effort**—It was amazing to see Year 6 orchestrating a castle building exercise. Is it their last fling as Primary students in the sand pit? Whatever the reason, the result is collaboration with listening and noticing occurring. They are imitating and making links to prior knowledge—all excellent life long learning skills.