PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Last Monday, 25th March, was our first ‘Meet the Year 7 Teachers BBQ’. This informal get together was a time for teachers of Year 7 and the parents and students to meet on an informal basis. We were quite happy with the turn out, considering this is the first time we have tried this event. From the positive feedback we have received we will put on this BBQ again next year, but earlier in the Term. I thank Mr Gerard Kelly for his organisation of the day.

Did you know our Year 8 students improved 26 scale points in Spelling; our Year 10 boys were 13 scale points above the state average in Reading and our Year 10 girls were 11 scale scores above the state average growth in Grammar and Punctuation in their NAPLAN results last year. Another example of the high academic achievements by many of our students.

In the not so good area, a small number of students are receiving N Warnings in a subject. The student needs to complete the task as required and the N warning is then removed. However, if a student does not complete the work required they continue to receive further warnings. These letters are used to keep parents informed if a student is falling behind in their work. Students who fail to satisfy the requirements of the N Warning risk receiving an N Award in that subject, in other words they have failed to satisfy the requirements of that subject. The serious consequences of this in Years 10 and 11 is that the students do not get a RoSA and students in Year 12 fail that subject for the HSC. If a parent has any concerns they should contact the teacher or Head Teacher in the subject.

Darrell Shephard
Relieving Principal

DEPUTIES NEWS

Meet the Year 7 Teachers’ BBQ

We had a good turn-out of parents at the Meet the Year 7 Teachers BBQ last Monday. It is gratifying meeting our parents in person and discussing their child’s educational progress and aspirations. I would like to thank Donna Flanagan (President of our P&C), and Janelle Sims (Canteen Manager) for their presentations to the gathering.

COMING EVENTS

MON 1/4: EASTER MONDAY
TUE 2/4: South Coast School Surfing - Ulladulla
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
WED 3/4: Open Boys Tennis
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
THU 4/4: CHS Swimming Championships
Under 15’s Boys Cricket vs Keira High
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
FRI 5/4: CHS Swimming Championships
Helicopter Visit11.15am-1.00pm + Defence Talks
Yr 8 Science Excursion
Yr 11 Geography-Coastal Fieldwork Ex
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
MON 8/4: Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
TUE 9/4: Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
WED 10/4: SC 15yrs & Open Rugby League Trials
Yr 8-12 Cross Country
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
THU 11/4: Yr 7 Cross Country
Yr 11 TTW Excursion - Family History Centre
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
FRI 12/4: Basketball Final Open Girls
Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams

School uniform

We are very pleased at the level of cooperation by most students with the school uniform policy. It is a terrific reflection on both the individual students, and the school as a whole, when we see the uniform worn with such pride and dignity. If you have any uniform issues, please contact either of the Deputy Principals to clarify the situation. Very clear guidelines are in the student diaries. Remember that sport uniform can only be worn to and from school on sport days - Wednesday for Years 8, 9 and 10 and Thursday for Year 7. On other days, students must wear full school uniform and change at the beginning and end of PE lessons.

Please use these next few weeks to get winter uniform organised. By the time we return in Term 2 the cooler weather will have started. There is a good range of winter uniform options available in the uniform shop. Financial assistance is available for parents who are experiencing difficulty - please contact the office for information.
Kiama High School Newsletter

Student absences
Students absent from school must provide a note to their roll call teacher, preferably on the first day back, but at the latest within 3 days of returning. After this time absences will be recorded as unjustified, and appear on half yearly and yearly reports as such. Students needing to leave school during the day must provide a note of explanation to the front office before school, so a leave pass can be issued. This note must provide a legitimate reason or the absence will be recorded as unjustified. Whether the absence is full day or partial, please use the book of notes provided by the school. These ensure parents provide all the required information and also simplify and speed up the process at the office.

Security of personal belongings
Most students seem to believe that their 'hangout' is safe. In fact, students who have left their bags in their 'hangout' for a short time have returned to find their belongings have been tampered with. This ranges from food missing, Ipods and mobile phones stolen, property damaged or bags missing. In most cases there is very little the school can do. In the case of PE lessons students must put their valuables in the bucket provided by the teacher. While the change rooms are usually locked their security is not guaranteed.

Gerard Kelly
Relieving Deputy Principal

HIGH FLYERS
Well done to Lanae Robinson, Year 12 Legal Studies and to Trina Onrust-Wiggins, Year 8 Environmental Studies for being nominated by Mr Berry as students of the month.

In fact, Mr Berry has said that the following students from the Year 8 Environmental Studies class all produced a fantastic assignment:

Year 12 French students are also to be congratulated. They are making very pleasing progress and have performed well in a recent speaking assessment task.

Eleanor Donovan
Relieving Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS
Kiama High takes student attendance very seriously. Teachers and Office Staff work tirelessly in monitoring student attendance and the school is so very relieved that its parent body largely supports the school’s attendance policy and procedures.

It is obvious that both the school and parents know the value of regular attendance in students achieving educational outcomes and pursuing long term career goals. It’s a ‘no brainer’.

How is your child’s attendance monitored?
One procedure that is used, is the compilation of an attendance report, which identifies students with an attendance rate below 85%. This report is conducted at the mid-term mark and then again at the end of the term. Students with an attendance rate below 85% AND a high number of ‘unjustified’ absences are especially targeted from the end of term report. A Letter of Attendance Concern is then generated and sent out to the parents of these students. The letter has several purposes:

• It informs parents of their child’s attendance concerns. Parents are then given the opportunity to contact the school to discuss their child’s ‘unjustified’ absences. Most of the ‘unjustified’ absences are due to either explanation notes not handed in or not handed in within 7 days of return.

• It can identify student welfare issues, which then allows the school to work closely with parents and the child to put strategies in place to encourage the student to attend school.

• It identifies students who do not follow roll call procedures and attendance discrepancies that the school is responsible for.

On the other end of the scale, a letter is sent home to those parents whose child shows 100% attendance for the term. The student also receives an Attendance Merit Certificate that is presented at the Year Assembly. Students are then put in a raffle with the winning student receiving a canteen prize. ……And let it be known that Kiama High School has many students each term that achieve 100% attendance.

Just for the record, the school does not expect students that are sick to attend school. The best place for these students is at home to concentrate on becoming well again.

Mary Cooper
HT Administration Student Attendance
RESPECT ~COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE~RESPONSIBILITY

WELFARE UPDATE
A number of teachers have expressed concerns regarding students bringing 'Energy Drinks' to school. At our recent P&C meeting, Mrs Cooper raised concerns on behalf of the staff at Kiama High School regarding the caffeine content, undesirable behaviour, sleep deprivation, affect on concentration, anxiety levels and addiction. As a staff, we are hopeful to provide education to parents and students regarding the adverse side effects of energy drinks. We are confident that we can work with our P&C to put in place a policy, which supports our healthy canteen and involves parental support by not allowing these drinks to be consumed on school grounds. Please read the Parenting Ideas article attached to this week's newsletter for more information.

Kiama High School has again had a large number of students interested in the Premiers Student Volunteering Awards (PSVA) Scheme. The PSVA has already attracted in excess of 80 Years 9 and 10 students who are logging in hours spent volunteering in the community and within the school. Every 20 hours spent volunteering, entitles students to receive Bronze, Silver, Gold, Diamond Certificate and for 160+ hours of volunteering, a Black Opal Certificate. Volunteering is a worthwhile activity that is highly regarded by future employers, universities etc.

This year, volunteering activities are coordinated by Ms Eggins and Ms Power. Any students wishing to participate in this program are encouraged to see us and find out more about the activities on offer. In addition, any community organisation that would like support from the Kiama High School Volunteering Program, should also contact us via the school's email.

Please note that the school diary use is an integral part of maintaining an organised and successful approach to high school. Students should be encouraged to pack their diary and bring it into class each period to note when homework and assessments are due. Dates for payment and submission of permission notes can also be recorded. The diary contains a significant amount of information that relates to our procedures, merit system, discipline system, uniform and fees. In addition, students are required to use their diary ‘out of class pass’ page if they need to go to the toilet, sickbay etc. They can also complete the ‘Other School Activities’ pages so that their extracurricular activities can be recorded on their reports. The diary can also be used as a means of communication between parents and teachers. Please remind your child to use this tool effectively to ensure they are prepared and fully informed.

More than ever parents are turning to schools for advice, information and direction about issues affecting their kids. Some of these issues are becoming increasingly complex, demanding specific expertise and advice. To help support parents and provide suggestions, we will be regularly including attachments to the newsletter from Michael Grose’s Parenting Ideas articles. These include useful tips and ideas on raising confident and resilient teenagers. Please see this week’s flyer from Michael Grose called "Is your child a caffeine-junkie?".

Ruth Power
Relieving HT Welfare

NAPLAN
The National Assessment Program Literacy and Numeracy tests will take place on Tuesday 14th, Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th May 2013. All students will have received a letter to parents about the tests. If your child in Year 7 or Year 9 has not brought home a letter, spare copies are available at the front office.

Please contact the school if you have any further questions about the NAPLAN process.

Sherree Harkness
Learning & Support Teacher

SPORT
Congratulations to Kayleigh Darlington (Year 8) and Kurt Darlington (Year 12), who have been selected in the South Coast Lawn Bowls team to compete in the NSWCHS Championships. We wish them both good luck!

Jill McGuinness
PE Department

YEAR 9 & 10 TOUCH SUCCESS
Congratulations to both the boys and girls Years 9 and 10 Touch Teams who were successful in winning the regional touch KO on Wednesday 27th March at Dalton Park. Both teams played strongly and remained undefeated during the day. The boys results were as follows:

**Team 1**
R1 Bye
R2 Defeated Corpus Christie 10 - 1
R3 Defeated Illawarra Sports 10 - 2
R4 Defeated TIGS 10 - 3
R5 Defeated Corrimal 12 - 3
R6 Defeated Keira 9 - 0

In the final Kiama played Holy Spirit College who were also undefeated at the conclusion of the minor rounds. This was a very tight game with the opposition scoring
the first touchdown. The Kiama boys rallied and scored 3 touchdowns to run out winners 3 - 1.

The boys team was Dylan Morris, Alex Boles, Kye Wright, Hayden Moon, Ryan Cahill, Judd Collyer, Reuben Garrick, Beau Doosey, Toby Gumley-Quine and Jackson Hannah.

The success of the boys was matched by the girls team that remained undefeated throughout the whole day. The girl's results were as follows:

R1 Bye
R2 Defeated Keira 6-0
R3 Defeated Warilla 2 7-0
R4 Defeated Corpus Christie 8-1
R5 Defeated Holy Spirit 5-0
Semi Finals Defeated St Mary's 7-0

In the final the Kiama girls team played Holy Spirit College who they had previously defeated in the last round of their pool (5-0). The girls dominated the game once again and defeated Holy Spirit College 5-1. The skill and fitness of the Kiama team was highlighted when the Holy Spirit College Coach approached me and said he was happy that Holy Spirit College was able to get one try past Kiama. The girls only had two tries scored past them during the day and scored an outstanding 38. They should be congratulated on their achievements.

The girls team was Grace Stewart, Kelsey Wishart, Riley Wishart, Claire Farquhar, Kiia Chivers, Sharna Dobson, Audrey Pring, Jasmin Murray, Brooke Bugden, Briannan Bugden, Madeline Taylor, RachaelThiering.

The teams now progress to the NSW State Final to be held in Penrith on the 10th May. Good luck to both teams.

Steve Hudson & Sarah Meppem
PE Department

WOOLWORTHS EARN & LEARN 2013

It's on again! Last year we received some worthwhile Education Resources from the great effort of parents, students and staff in the Earn & Learn program.

This year we will be participating in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program again. Through this program we will be able to get new educational resources for our school.

From Monday 8th April to Sunday 9th June, we are collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Place the Woolworths Earn & Learn Points onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and when it’s complete, the Points Sheet can be dropped into the Collection Box decorated by Kiama High School students at Centro Kiama or here at the school.

At the end of the promotion, we'll be able to get some great new equipment. The range is extensive and offers lots of items ideal for our students - including resources for Maths, English, Science and some fantastic fun supplies for Arts & Craft, Sport and for our library. If you'd like to know more visit woolworths.com.au/earnandlearn

CANTEEN

Lunch: Olivia Fanke, Ciara Rogers, Makayla Toft, Olivia Deans
Recess: Emily Anderson, Emerson Cook

Student Volunteers:

Cash and EFTPOS Accepted
NB: NO CHEQUES ACCEPTED

COMMUNITY NEWS

CHILDREN’S MEDICAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
HIGH TEA SATURDAY 11TH MAY 2013

You are invited to join us for delicious home cooked delicacies provided by our members, endless cups of tea and coffee and beautiful views from the gardens, verandahs and pool area of “Sunnymede”, 48 Campbell St Gerringong. It is Mother’s Day weekend so treat yourself and your mum!

Saturday 11th May, 2pm to 4pm, 48 Campbell St Gerringong.
$20 bookings with Carole Ph: 4232 1683 or 0412 616 852.
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL

OPPORTUNITY 'C' CLASS for 2014

Parents of gifted and talented children currently in Year 4 are invited to attend an INFORMATION EVENING -6.00pm Tuesday 9 April 2013 at Illaroo Road Public School

A Year 5 Opportunity 'C' class will be formed in 2014 for gifted and talented students who are in Year 4 in 2013.

Phone Bob Lowe, Deputy Principal on 4421 0422 for more information.

Disclaimer: Kiama High School will, as a service to parents, advertise community news, which may be of interest. KHS does not necessarily endorse or sponsor the events and accepts no responsibility to the management or organisation.