**PRINCIPAL’S NEWS**

Welcome back to all students and staff! The last term of the year is a reporting term with students from Years 7 to 11 receiving feedback on how they have progressed in Semester 2 of 2015. It is very important that students try to do their very best in class and in assessments and exams coming up shortly. Please check the school website calendar to see when exam and assessment periods are scheduled for your child’s year group. Of course, any leave should be thought about carefully in light of these assessments.

**YEAR 12 BEGIN THEIR HSC EXAMS**

This week at Kiama High School. The entire staff and I wish them the very best of luck in the exams. Every one of them must put their head down now until their exams are complete. We will all have a chance to celebrate at the Year 12 Formal after exams. Good luck!

**POLICIES, PROCEDURES AND PROTOCOLS**

Kiama High School has a student enrolment of around 1100 with a teaching and non-teaching staff of around 100. Such a large institution and business must run on tight organisation and systems. We are a teaching and learning institution and this is the predominant work that most staff are engaged in and busy going about. If you need to speak to or have a meeting with any member of staff, could you please ensure that you ring the school and ask for an appointment time. Please do not arrive at school without warning and expect an interview or a meeting to take place. We are flexible but cannot guarantee that this can happen. Our Front Office staff has been asked to take your calls and requests and see if a person is available, but they cannot guarantee an interview and will probably have to schedule another time to do so. Please have patience and understand the complexities of running our organisation.

**SUBJECT SELECTION**

has been taking place for Years 10 to 11 and Years 8 and 9. Please be aware that we cannot guarantee all subjects will run or that all courses will run. However, the selection program we use is very comprehensive and state of the art in trying to achieve the most first choices for students. Our success rate in this procedure is around 95%. This is an excellent result. However, it does not placate those students and parents who have not got exactly what they want. I ask that you be aware and have patience. We will work with you and your child to try to get the best possible scenario and outcome given our parameters.

**UNIFORM**

checks have been going well last term and will continue into Term 4. Thanks to the staff involved and the Deputy Principals for managing this process. Thanks to the students and parents for their support in trying to get our school looking the best and to adhere to those key values of Respect, Commitment to Personal Excellence and Responsibility. Don’t forget that the Uniform Shop will be open during the next holidays for Year 7 students coming next year. Hours to be advised.

**KIAMA COMMUNITY OF SCHOOLS**

Kiama High School has a close relationship with all our partner primary schools – Kiama Public, Minnamurra Public, Jamberoo Public and Gerringong Public. We have been working closely to ensure that the transition from Primary School to High School is smooth and welcoming and that the teaching and expectations are uniform and consistent. At present we are engaged in a lot of planning in terms of online collaboration and communication to develop common and consistent approaches with teaching and learning. We will be having meetings with Executive and staff of the schools to move these ideas and programs forward. As teachers we are all most concerned for all students who are in our local educational community.

Work hard and make sure that you have fun doing so!

John Salmon, Relieving Principal

**DEPUTIES NEWS**

**LITERACY AND NUMERACY TESTS**

Students intending to leave school can take optional online literacy and numeracy tests. The tests are for students who intend to leave school before completing their HSC. They are designed to show an overview of a student’s level of achievement in these areas. The opening date for the tests is 6 October 2015.

The tests focus on literacy and numeracy skills required by school leavers for employment and further education. There will be one test for literacy and one test for numeracy. The tests will be 60 minutes long and the two tests will be completed in one sitting. However, students can determine which test they do first and may choose to do only one of the tests. Some students may change their mind and choose to remain at school after completing the literacy and numeracy tests. They can take the tests again at a later stage if they choose to do so.

Student achievements on each of the tests will be reported as a mark as an Australian Core Skills Framework level. Students will receive separate reports that will detail their results in the literacy and numeracy tests. Test results will **NOT** appear on the ROSA credential. Students can access an eRecord of their results via their Students Online account.

Students wishing to undertake these tests are to see Ms Jaeger in M Block.

**YEAR 12**

At the end of last term we held the Year 12 Graduation Ceremony in the new gym. This is a wonderful occasion where we celebrate the terrific achievements of our Year 12 students. As always the talents of our students in the academic, cultural and sporting fields are amazing and it’s not until we put it all together at such a function that we see just how great they are.

Our special guest speaker and ex-student Bryan Moses, who graduated from Kiama High in 1992, delivered a truly inspirational and humorous occasional address. Bryan’s background is amazing! Bryan has written and directed several award winning short films. He is a five time finalist in Tropfest.
Australia. His latest film, ‘The Mistake’, has been watched over 4 million times on YouTube. Bryan wrote, directed and starred in the Australian comedy TV series ‘Double the Fist’ which won the AFI Award for Best Comedy Series 2004. Recently Bryan worked with Guy Sebastian and Jessica Mauboy for the ‘Eurovision Song Contest’ on SBS.

Year 12 will start their HSC exams on Monday 12 October and we wish them well over the next month, as they finalise two years of hard work. We look forward to hearing great results.

A UNIFORM REMINDER
Footwear must be solid leather lace-up shoes or joggers in black or white. This has not changed however it is one area that always causes problems. Further, black shorts, jeans or tops are NOT uniform. Please do not let your child convince you that black clothing is OK. The uniform policy states quite clearly the suitable length for shorts and skirts for girls, and requirements for boys for shorts and long pants to cover their underwear.

The uniform policy and opening hours of our School Uniform shop can be found on our website at: http://www.kiamah.schools.nsw.edu.au/parent-information/uniform

Gerard Kelly, Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!
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 has many students each term that achieve 100% attendance.

M Cooper, HT Administration Student Attendance

SPORT
NSWCHS ATHLETICS MEDALS FOR JENNA AND NATHAN
Jenna Bentley and Nathan Cowgill have proven themselves to be among the best athletes in the State by winning Bronze medals at the recent NSWCHS Athletics Championships. Nathan won his Bronze in the 15yrs Javelin event, whilst Jenna won her Bronze in the 14yrs 200m. Jenna also narrowly missed out on another medal in the 100m sprint, claiming 4th place in the final.

Our relay teams also performed exceptionally well, with three teams making the finals. The 13yrs Boys came 6th (Haziq Cunningham, Beau Higbid, Beau Hallett, Jesse Griffiths); 14yrs Girls came 7th (Taylor-Lee Byrne, Jenna Bentley, Jem Joyce, Maggie Tomlinson); and the 12yrs Girls came 8th (Mackenzie Ford, Elia Patterson, Chloe Egan, Samara Cox). The 13yrs Girls relay came 11th (Demi Stewart, Carla O’Meley, Daisy Pring, Lily Mitchell).

Other outstanding individual results were also achieved by Georgia Lee (7th in 100m); Kate Lewis (7th in Long Jump; 11th in 100m, 14th in 200m); Baxter Kane (14th in 400m); and Mackenzie Ford (16th in 100m).

Congratulations to these talented athletes on such terrific results at the State level!

SOUTH COAST CRICKET TRIALS
Any boys and girls wishing to trial for the South Coast Open Cricket teams should see Mrs McGuinness in the PE staffroom.

SPORTING RECOGNITION AWARDS
Any student who has represented Kiama High School in three different sports this year is eligible for a “Sporting Recognition” special award, which is presented at the end of year awards’ assemblies. Eligible students should see Mrs McGuinness ASAP for an application form.

YEAR 11
I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Longhurst for taking on the role of Year 11 Adviser whilst I was on leave during Terms 1-3. Assisting a year of approximately 180 students is no easy task, however, the time and effort he has given the students in this role has been appreciated.

I look forward to assisting all the students as they enter their final school year. If you have any questions regarding the welfare of your child please do not hesitate to contact the school or myself.

I recently came across an interesting article about setting goals and having the mindset to overcome setbacks. I recommend setting 5 minutes aside to read it. It is quite inspiring. Go to http://api10.com.au/blog/passion-disappointment-kona-busted-foot-toe.
I look forward to continuing to work with all the students and families throughout the year.

Vanessa Sullivan, Year 11 Adviser

Help is always needed if you can spare an hour we would love to see you. Our school canteen is P & C operated and all funds raised go back to the P & C and school via funded support. We are taking names for Term 4 now; call the Canteen 4232 2007 if you would love to join our team.

COMMUNITY NEWS

K.W.R. GROUP PRESENTS “I AM A GIRL”
Date: 16 October 2015
Where: Gerringong Town Hall, Fern Street, Gerringong.
Time: 7.30pm
Donation of $10 per head (includes light supper). For reservations contact Sharon on 3237 8422 or nknc@hotmail.com. Tickets will also be available at the door.

KIAMA SWIMMING CLUB
Our Summer Season 2015 commenced on Friday 9 October and we run throughout the school Term 4 2015 and Term 1 2016. Racing starts at 7pm each week. Kiama Swim Club offers a fun and friendly environment for swimmers for all ages and abilities with races ranging from 25m through to 400m. Come along and try your first 2 nights for free.

For details on registering your children for the 2 free trial nights and our full summer program, please email Corinna on kiamaracesecretary@gmail.com or Lisa on sales@fairyfrocks.com.au.

CMRI MELBOURNE CUP LUNCHEON
You are invited to join us at the Gerroa Boat Fisherman’s Club on Tuesday 3 November from 11.30am. Enjoy canapés as well as champagne on arrival. This will be followed by a buffet lunch, tea/coffee and slice along with live coverage of the Cup, sweeps and raffles and a TAB run. Drinks at bar prices and the courtesy bus can be booked through the Club.

Tickets: $50 per person from Cronin’s Liquor. Enquires Lorraine on 0417 342 606.

NSW/ACT YOUNG ACHIEVER AWARDS
These awards aim to recognise, encourage and reward the positive achievements of young people across the State. Nominations close 9 December – for enquiries email nswyaa@awardsaustralia.com or telephone 1300 735 445.

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS
Learn Safe Workshops help you with advice and practical tips about supervising learner drivers; current laws for L & P licence holders; completing the Learner Driver Log Book; benefits of supervised on-road driving experience.

Next workshops are on 21 October 2015 from 6pm-8.30pm. For more information and bookings contact Road Safety Officer, Kiama Municipal Council on 4232 0444 or email council@kiama.nsw.gov.au.

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.