PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Parent, Carers and Students,

Thanks go to members of the P&C – Mrs Sharon Blair and Mrs Geraldine Flowerdue for their assistance with trying to make Saddleback Mountain Road a safety drop off zone for our students and children. Together we have approached the RMS, Kiama Council and the local member Gareth Ward in our journey of trying to fix this dangerous situation. Last Monday and Tuesday Mrs Flowerdue and I addressed Council to try to gain funding now. However, Council deferred the decision with a view that they would assist investigation into a more long-term solution to our drop off problem. We are meeting next week with Council, engineers, P&C and the DoS to view some alternative solutions. I want to give credit and thanks to Kiama Council Councillors and officers in their genuine attempts to help our student welfare and safety.

It is ironic that the safety issue comes directly from parents dropping off children; doing dangerous three point turns, driving erratically and disobeying legal signage. I must say that Council had a difficult time trying to understand that our parents and carers continue to put their own children at risk with this kind of driving and lack of care. I give you warning that I am receiving reports on a weekly basis from students, staff and parents about near misses.

In the interim and until we can find a solution I would again ask parents to use the utmost care and consideration in dropping off their children. There are strategies that can be employed if parents so choose. You could drive around to the north entrance and drop off in a safer location. You could drop off on the south side and then drive up Saddleback Mountain Road over the bridge, turn around where there are no cars, pedestrians or houses and drive on.

I ask you to consider the price you are willing to pay for the safety of your children and the children of other parents.

HOMEWORK – I have had frequent conversations with parents about homework. It is the never-ending debate about too much or too little. The guide for doing work at home for all high school students from 7 to 12 is the following...

a. Every student should come home and revise the day’s lessons – 5 minutes per subject at least – read over the notes, re-read the textbook or teacher notes, make your own notes or mind maps.

b. This revision should foster interest in some further research or discussion at home on those topics.

c. Teacher given homework should be completed.

d. Diaries should be checked to see what assessments or assignments are coming up to start or continue – these should be plotted on a study chart so that students and parents can see them coming up.

Assessments and Assignments should be worked on a nightly basis until completed ahead of the due date.

This steady consistent approach to study builds discipline and creates a work ethic that will allow your child to improve and to be able to cope with the level of work necessary to achieve at a high standard.

However, it is up to you and your child to decide how much is enough in order to attain their very best and to gain those outcomes desired. Please contact the school for support or guidance in these matters.

Finally, a word to those students and parents who might be considering Distance Education due to not acquiring the course wanted in Years 10 into 11 selections. Distance Education should only be applied for if the subject is not being offered and is absolutely necessary to have for a career or a tertiary course. Remember that working alone without a cohort of peers and a material teacher in front of you at all times is not easy. Units of work are sent often and the assumption is that you will complete them on time and handed back. I would warn those students attempting to apply for a practical subject that this is even harder and the school may not have the resources to assist students who are doing a straightforward academic theoretical course. In the end it will be the Principal’s decision to support all applications and I will need to be totally convinced that a student and family are going to succeed and that we have the resourcing to support it.

Don’t forget that there is an Orientation Night for Year 11 students starting the HSC course on Tuesday 27 October 2015 in the School Library – organised by Ms Judith McLaughlin, Head Teacher Secondary Studies. It is vital that you attend with your child to acquire much needed information, hints, tips and support in order to do your very best at the HSC in 2016.

Good luck to all students over the course of this term.

John Salmon, Relieving Principal

DEPUTIES NEWS

YEAR 11 TO 12 INFORMATION EVENING AND STUDY PROGRAM

A reminder that the Information Evening for parents/caregivers of our 2016 Year 12 students is being held in the Kiama High
School Library, commencing at 7:00 pm on Tuesday 27 October 2015.

A presentation will address questions and concerns that parents frequently express with respect to the HSC year, including:

* assessment policies and procedures,
* attendance requirements and procedures
* learning and wellbeing support networks,
* post-school options, including University Early Entry and scholarship applications,
* VET requirements and procedures and
* strategies to assist your child to optimise their HSC performance and results.

Faculty Head Teachers and course teachers will be available to answer questions about coursework and assessment programs.

YEAR 10 YEARLY EXAMS AND SCHOOL LEAVING DATE

Year 10 will be sitting for their Yearly Exams during Week 7, Monday 16 to Friday 20 November. Students will receive their Exam Timetable shortly before Week 7. Under the school leaving age all Year 10 students are required to be at school until Wednesday, December 16. The only exemption to this is for those students who are taking up full time employment after the Yearly Exams. Those students must provide a letter from the employer guaranteeing a minimum of 25 hours work per week and a letter from the parents giving permission for the student to leave. Students who take up this option will automatically be removed from the subject purposes:

Students in Year 10 will have the opportunity to complete a period of Work Experience. This work experience period commences on the 23rd November and runs for three weeks. For more information about the Work Experience Program, please contact Mr Grove - Careers Advisor. Gerard Kelly and Paul Roger, Deputy Principals

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

UNIFORM SHOP

Thank you to all the students, parents and carers who purchased their new uniforms during the 20% off sale at the end of last term. Now is the time to top up students uniform requirements for the 2016 school year. The uniform shop will be open for Year 7 2016 students to be fitted and purchase their uniforms on Wednesday 2 December 2015 from 5pm-7pm. This orientation night is only for Year 7 students starting in 2016.

Kiama High School uniform shop is the only authorised shop to purchase your uniform from, 20% of all sales are given back to the school to purchase resources for the students each year and your child will have the correct uniform. The uniform shop will be open limited hours in January and these days are extremely busy and wait times can be long so please organise your uniform needs before the end of this year. Uniform shop’s last day is Tuesday 15 December 2015 10.30am-2.30pm. Uniform shop is now situated at the northern end of E Block, parking is available behind the canteen in the car park.

CANTEEN STUDENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER

Lunch: Emilio Goytizolo, Jack Flint, Jai Rooney, Lucy Steel
Recess: Courtney Bofinger, Emily Kerr, Sam Scobie, Lucy Munro
PARENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Mon 26/10: Jude, Leta, Kim
Tues 27/10: Tracey, Marella
Wed 28/10: Kath T
Thurs 29/10: Julie, Michelle, Jane
Fri 30/10: Gill, Help Needed

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
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.

HAVE AN INQUIRING MIND? LEARNING LABS WILL CHALLENGE YOU
Learning Labs is an academic enrichment program for high achieving students in Years 7-10. Workshops are held in the January school holidays. All workshops are held over two days and cover a range of disciplines, presented by university academics and specialists who are experts in their field.

To apply visit: www.uow.edu.au/in2uni-myway/flapplicationform closing 3 November 2015 or contact Sarah Smith at sarsmith@uow.edu.au.

WOLLONGONG JUNIOR CHESS CLUB
Junior chess tournament for under 18 year olds, 7 round swiss to be held on Sunday 1 November 2015 10am-4pm at Fairy Meadow Community Centre – Keira Room, Guest Park, Cnr Cambridge Avenue and Princess Highway, Fairy Meadow (opposite Woolworths). For more information contact John Mazziere 4283 3080, email mazziere@exemail.com.au.

KIAMA COUNCIL 2016 AUSTRALIA DAY AWARDS
Know anyone in our community whose contribution deserves recognition? Kiama Council is currently seeking local heroes for their 2016 Australia Day Awards.

RMS SAFE DRIVER COURSE KIAMA
The Safer Driver Course aims to provide learner drivers with driving strategies such as speed management, gap selection, hazard awareness and safe following distances so students are more prepared when they drive unsupervised on their provisional licences. The course also aims to help learners identify situation that will put them at greater risk of a crash and consider strategies that will help avoid them. Participants must have 50 actual hours logged in their books to be eligible for the course. On completion of both modules of the course a learner driver will receive a 20 hour credit in their learner driver log book.

The next courses are being held on 14 November, 15 November and 5 December. For more information visit www.redcardrivertraining.com.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.

Nominations may be for volunteer work, an outstanding sporting achievement, special accomplishment in the field of arts, efforts to improve our local environment or academic success of a young person.