Kiama High School Newsletter
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PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Dear Parents and Students of Kiama High School,

It is with great pride that I take up the Relieving Principal position at Kiama High School. KHS has consistently delivered great outcomes for students in the fields of academia, culture and sport and this year we will endeavour to continue this tradition.

Welcome back to all of the wonderful students that I have met at assemblies and in the playground. Welcome back to all the staff. I would like to welcome two new executive members, Mr Paul Roger as our new Deputy Principal and Ms Judith McLaughlan our new Head Teacher Secondary Studies.

On Wednesday, I met a great group of 193 new Year 7 students – all of them respectful, happy and ready for a brand new year in high school. These students bring a large range of talents and experiences to their new school and we want them very involved in all of the activities that we provide at KHS. Many put their hands up when asked if they wanted to get involved in music, drama, classwork, sport. I said to them to take the opportunities given and get involved. School should be a wonderful experience for all students.

Year 7 parents are very welcome to attend the P&C and get involved. The first meeting is in Week 2 on Monday at 7pm in the Library. The next meeting is in Week 7 and I hope that you can come along. At present we only have a small number of the faithful attending and we really need to expand this number to give as many people as possible a chance to have a say about their school.

As Principal, I value the opinions of the whole school community – students, parents, staff and wider business groups. This term is a very busy term involved in Strategic Planning for the next three years. We have a Planning Team meeting regularly and parents and students are welcome to take part. We will be asking SRC members and the P&C to give feedback and add suggestions. The new model’s main purpose is to ensure that we have a shared vision developed collaboratively and involving as much of the community as possible. This plan must represent the needs of our students and will be the driving force for the decisions we make in relation to curriculum, quality teaching and learning, professional development and resource purchases. We will be reporting back to various groups with progress reports on what we have created and suggested for the plan over the course of the term.

Our budget is not as large as some schools because we have a population that is reasonably well off. The money we get from the DEC under the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) in the areas of Socio-economic Background is based on the income generation of the families of our students. KHS attracts a small amount of budget based on this data. This means that we cannot provide for as many resources and programs as some other schools. Those with lower income families will be given more money to assist students who are not as well off as others. How does the community of KHS overcome this shortfall? The only way we can have more money is by way of parents ensuring that subject fees are paid quickly and that they assist through voluntary contributions. This extra money allows us to provide more for your children.

This year we will be starting off an Incentive Program for Payment of Fees and Contributions. Any student whose family has paid fees and contributions or has entered into an agreed payment plan will go into the draw for a Mini Ipad. In the last week of Term 2 we will hold an assembly to draw out the winner of the Incentive Program. Traditionally, we usually only recover about 50% of contributions from parents. I hope that this will boost the number of parents paying as soon as possible into the year to assist the education of their children. Please note that there was an error in the school diary for Year 7 fees. Invoices and fee schedules will be coming home later in the term.

Good luck to all of you this year. To all the students - stay fast to our school values of RESPECT · COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE · RESPONSIBILITY. Mr Salmon, Relieving Principal

DEPUTIES NEWS

The 2015 school year has commenced very smoothly and I was delighted to see the return of our eager and enthusiastic students. Many shared with me their wonderful holiday experiences and seemed genuinely happy to be back at school catching up with their friends and looking forward to the year ahead.

Student Diaries For Years 7-10

All students in Years 7-10 have received their Student Diary for 2015. At this time of year it is important that students record in their diary any organisational matters that concern them, as they will be receiving a great deal of information and it is either easy to forget or confuse upcoming dates and events. The diary is needed to record any formal homework or assignments issued by their teachers. Parents are encouraged to ask their children to show their school diary so that they can help them meet deadlines. Students need to bring their diary to school every day. Parents may also write messages in the diary if they wish to communicate with any of their child’s teachers.

MyeDiary For Years 11 and 12

All students in Years 11 and 12 have been sent an invitation to create their MyeDiary accounts. This invitation was sent to their DEC email via their student DEC account that students can access through their DEC portal. The MyeDiary has a number of features including:

- The ability for all teachers to insert non-deletable homework to their classes of students
- The ability for our school to communicate live announcements and update school events
- Communicate school policies and showcase galleries of student works
- Allow you as parents to login to check your child’s homework status.

RESPECT · COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE · RESPONSIBILITY
I will let parents know in the future when they will be sent invitations to create an eDiary account.

**School Uniform**

It is great to see that the majority of students are in full school uniform. The school uniform policy can be found on the school’s website and in the student diary. Please read it carefully and refer to it when you are getting uniform during the year. In particular, pay close attention to the information and diagrams of appropriate footwear. Footwear must be solid leather lace-up school shoes or joggers in black or white. Please do not let your child convince you that canvas shoes are OK. Nor is the soft type shoe which is really just a canvas with a thin vinyl coating. Students will not be permitted to participate in practical lessons without appropriate footwear due to Work Health and Safety rules.

The information also states quite clearly suitable length for shorts and skirts for girls, and the requirements for boys for shorts and long pants to cover their underwear.

Single day exemptions for incorrect uniform may be obtained from the Front Office on production of a note explaining the reason. Cooperation with uniform is recorded on school reports each semester.

**Mobile Phones and Ipods**

On a final note, the usage of mobile phones and ipods is not permitted in the classrooms, library, office areas and are to be kept secure and out of sight. The exception is unless it is part of the lesson and sanctioned by the teacher. Students have been reminded of this policy and that contravening this policy will result in the confiscation of the item until the end of the school day. The school will not accept responsibility for lost or stolen phones or ipods. Please discuss this with your child if they bring mobile phones and/or ipods to school.

**Gerard Kelly, Deputy Principal**

**Attendance Matters: It’s Not OK to be Away!**

As Head Teacher Administration in charge of student attendance, I would like to provide parents and carers information from the Department of Education that clearly states the importance of regular school attendance by students and the responsibilities that parents have toward ensuring that their child/children attend school as little disruption to their education as possible.

Please, take special note of what constitutes a ‘justified’ reason for being absent from school. By parents being clear of the correct procedures surrounding attendance and absences, this will alleviate any confusion in future times, especially at report time where unjustified absences are recorded on the student’s report.

**Be on time, Be at school, That’s the rule!**

**M Cooper, HT Administration, Attendance and Facilities**

**SPORT**

**SOUTH COAST TRIALS 2015**

The South Coast trials for Open and 15yrs Girls Tennis and Open Boys Baseball are on VERY EARLY in Term 1 2015. Any students interested in trialling for these teams should see Mrs McGuinness ASAP.

**KHS SWIMMING CARNIVAL 2015**

The annual school swimming carnival is on at the Kiama Leisure Centre this coming Monday 9 February. All Year 7 will be attending the carnival and competitors only in Years 8-12 due to the restricted space at the pool. All interested students (and not just the swimmers who train) are encouraged to attend and participate.

Year 7 students were given an information/permission note at their assembly last week and should already have returned their signed permission note. Any Year 7 student who has not returned their note should take it to the PE staffroom at the top of M Block ASAP.

Students in Years 8-12 will be able to nominate for the carnival during Health and PE lessons this week and will then receive an information/permission note. Students with any questions regarding the carnival should see Mrs McGuinness in the PE staffroom.

Parents please note the arrangements regarding buses to and from the Leisure Centre are on the permission note. Basically, students who catch buses from the northern areas of Kiama should ask their bus driver to drop them off at the pool on the way to school; whilst students who catch buses from the south of Kiama will catch their normal bus to school and then catch a shuttle bus from the school to the Leisure Centre. The shuttle bus will leave the school bus bay at 8.45am.

At the conclusion of the carnival all students who catch north or south buses can be shuttled back to school if required. (North buses will not be picking students up from the Leisure Centre).

**NB: It is a normal school day for those not attending the carnival.**

**ABORIGINAL EDUCATION WORKER**

Kellie Evans, who is our Aboriginal Education Worker, is available on Wednesdays and Fridays and if you need to contact her please call the School.

**UNIFORM SHOP**

Kiama High School Uniform Shop which is run by Daylight Schoolwear is the only authorised shop to sell our uniforms. 10% of all sales are donated back to the school each year which is used to purchase resources for students. Uniform shop has a good supply of all your correct uniform requirements so come on in and support your school.
of the KDNC Facebook page. New members under the age of 18 must provide a copy of birth certificate at registration.

Registration fees are based on the age you turn this year and include NSW Netball Fees, KNA Fees (which have gone up for the first time in many years), umpiring and club fees. This year we are offering an Early Bird Discount (EBD) until 4 February 2015. After this date registration fees will incur an administration loading fee of $10.

Net Set Go (5-6 years) $55 (EBD) $65
Modified (7-9 years) $125 (EBD) $135
Juniors & 10s (10-12 years) $140 (EBD) $150
Intermediates (13-15) $150 (EBD) $160
Cadets (16-17 years) $160 (EBD) $170
Seniors (18+ years) $170 (EBD) $180

JAMBEROO JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE REGISTRATION DAY
Jamberoo Junior Rugby League will be taking registrations on Saturday 7 February at Kevin Walsh Oval from 1pm-4pm. Further enquiries to Connie Dallas 42 360 685 or 0415 194 880 or tdallas@ozemail.com.au

GERRINGONG BREAKERS FOOTBALL CLUB
Junior, men and women players wanted!! The upcoming football season is fast approaching and we would like you to be a part of it. Gerringong Breakers FC Registration has begun for the 2015 season for all age groups.

Registration can be completed online at www.myfootballclub.com.au for current players or at our upcoming registration days:

Saturday 7 February 2.30pm-4pm at Gerringong Public School Hall, Archibald Road, Gerringong.

Monday 9 February 10am-12pm at Breakers Clubhouse, Gerry Emery Reserve, Bridges Road, Gerringong.

Contact Tiffany Cassen on 0431 471 433 or email tcassen@bigpond.com, Javid Sadrnia on 0422 639 356 or email javidsadrnia@hotmail.com

RMS SAFER DRIVERS COURSE
This course will be run in Kiama on 21 February 2015. 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 situations 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 log 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 cost of the course if $140 including GST.

For more information contact Julie Dryer on 0424 628 703.

SOUTHLAKE/ILLAWARRA BMX CLUB
We are having a free come and try day on 14 February 2015 from 10am-1pm at the Croome Road Sporting Complex, Croome Road, Albion Park. For all enquiries contact Andrea Dallinger 0418 245 268, Russell Robelle 0411 645 644 or Tim Robson 0450 095 150.

WERRI BEACH NETBALL CLUB
Registration Days for the 2015 Netball seasons will be held on:
Tuesday 3/2/15, Gerringong Public School, 3pm-4pm.
Friday 6/2/15, Gerringong Public School, 3pm-4pm
Wednesday 11/2/15, Gerringong Public School, 3pm-4pm.
Saturday 14/2/15, Gerringong Bowling Club Bistro from 10am-12pm.

For more information contact Vanessa Mercer 0418 639 874 or Wendy Robertson 42 340 867, 0435 217 533.

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.