Kiama High School Newsletter

RESPECT · COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE · RESPONSIBILITY
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Term 1 · Week 5A
23 February 2015

PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

There is certainly no shortage of activity at Kiama High School. By the end of this week we will have been involved in all sorts of sports activities and trials, Hospitality and Business Services Placements, Links to Learning Program, Work Ready Program, Indigenous Personal Learning Plans, Year 7 Peer Support Camp, Year 10 Self Awareness Day. Not to mention all the great things going on in classes.

The Year 7 campers have returned from The Tops at Stanwell Park. Having visited the camp on Tuesday evening I was impressed by the cooperation and energy of the students and staff. The atmosphere was involved and happy with students going from activity to activity. The camp went very smoothly and this was due to the excellent and tight organisation of Ms Desborough and Mr Robertson and their fantastic crew of teachers. Talking with the students during dinner, I got the solid impression that they were having a great time and being involved in everything thrown at them. The idea of the camp was to give students a chance to meet others, develop friendships, build self-esteem and work with our wonderful Year 11 Peer Support leaders. A great success and I thank the leaders and staff for all their efforts and tireless enthusiasm. Most parents do not know that staff who go on these camps are volunteers and receive no extra pay for the endless hours of supervision. Well done to all happy campers!

I want to thank the members of the Strategic Planning Committee who are working as we speak on our next three years of direction.

Our process is and will be to ensure that we encourage staff, student and parent input into our plan. As the plan unfolds, teachers are feeding back information on the School Vision Statement

KHS is committed to fulfilling the needs, aspirations and potential of all students through the provision of a broad and rich curriculum, which is supported by innovative, and inclusive quality teaching and learning practice.

We foster caring, involved and responsible global citizens, celebrating student and staff success that is underpinned by our core values of Respect, Commitment to Personal Excellence, Responsibility.

We commit to equipping our students with knowledge, understanding, skills, attitudes and opportunities that prepare them for a dynamic future in a 21st Century context.

We have developed our three Draft Strategic Directions

- Aspirational empowered students making choices that build their personal best
- Purpose
- Passionate, high performing world-class educators
- A dynamic and inclusive community

and we are currently working on Purpose Statements and will be moving on to expanding on these over the next few weeks. What this team develops with input from the community will be brought back to key groups over this term – P&C, Finance Team, SRC. At the end of this term we will be offering an opportunity by way of a forum to again look at the plan and get more community input.

Please remember that Open Night is on in Week 7 10 March and I would like to thank Hayley Dean for her work on this organisation and the staff for their time and effort. As well, coming up is our Year 7 Meet The Teacher’s Night. Letters will be sent home soon.

Finally I will remind you of our mini iPad incentive raffle being run to urge parents to finalise school fees and contributions.

Have a great week,
Mr Salmon, Relieving Principal

DEPUTIES NEWS

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.

Students that have difficulty accessing their DEC portal need to see Mr Rozadilla or Years 11 and 12 class educators who is located at the western end of the Library.

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.

Years 5 and 6 Open Night
Open Night for Years 5 and 6 parents and students will be held on Tuesday 10 March. This is an opportunity for prospective students and parents to have a look at what Kiama High School does. Following on from this, the closing date for applications for Year 6 students to enrol at Kiama High School for 2015 is Friday 20 March. If you know of anyone in the drawing area who is not in a government school, but is considering enrolling here, could you please pass these dates on to them.

Bus Passes
Bus passes have been issued to students. Students must use the numbered bus that corresponds to the number on their pass. This is done to balance the numbers and prevent overcrowding on the buses. Any student who did not collect a pass needs to come to the front office as soon as possible to do so.

School Uniform
As I stated in the last Newsletter, parents are reminded to check the length of their child’s skirt and shorts. Girl’s skirts and shorts should not be more than 10cms above the knee; and boy’s pants must be worn at hip level and fully covering underwear. Parents can refer to the uniform policy on pages 20 and 21 of the 2015 student diary, or visit our website: http://www.kiama-h.schools.nsw.edu.au.
Students that are unable to wear their uniform on any particular school day need to bring a note from home explaining why they are out of uniform. This note needs to be taken to the Front Office before roll call to receive an ‘Out of Uniform’ pass for the day.

School Photographs
Students have been issued with their individual school photograph envelope. This envelope contains all the details for securing a wonderful photographic memory of your child. School photographs will be taken on Thursday 26 February. A catch-up day has been organised for Thursday 5 March.

Year 12 Striving for Excellence – A Study Skills Day
Year 12 students will be attending a Striving for Excellence study day on Friday 6 March. This is a compulsory day for all Year 12 students and a great opportunity to improve skills which can only help with exam and HSC preparation. The Year 12 half yearly exams will commence on Friday 20 March and continue until Thursday 2 April.

Peer Support
Year 7 had a marvelous time on the Peer Support Camp. This camp provides an excellent opportunity for Year 7 to make new friends and strengthen old ties. I would like to thank the Year 11 peer support leaders for their participation. This is a valuable experience for these students to demonstrate their leadership skills.

Five Secrets To Improving WORK-LIFE Balance
We’re all busy! We all have lots of things that we must do, should do and could do with every second of every day. Despite the amazing technology that is available to us, almost all of us are busier than ever before.

Steve Francis is an expert in work-life satisfaction and an author. He offers 5 secrets to improving our work-life balance.

Secret # 3 Look After Yourself
Your physical well-being has a direct connection with your stress level and mental attitude. Often one of the first things we stop doing when we are ‘busy’ is exercising. It is vital that in times of stress we make time for physical activity, eating well, drinking two litres of water each day and getting the sleep our body needs. Alcohol Free Days (AFDs) are also recommended. These areas need to be priorities – especially when we are busy.

Gerard Kelly, Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS: IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!
From the beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered exempt. Travel outside of vacation period is now counted as a student absence and consultation between the Principal and parent(s) will need to occur regarding the intention of travel. Where the Principal considers travel as appropriate during school term, parents will be issued an ‘Application for Extended Leave-Travel’ and informed that if the application is accepted the absences will be recorded as “L” i.e. Leave.

Travel is considered to be domestic or international travel for the purpose of a family holiday, family business, bereavement or other reasons and the application form needs to specify the reason for extended leave. The Principal will request travel documentation, such as travel itinerary or e-ticket, which needs to be attached to the application.

When the travel period exceeds one school term, access to Distance Education must be considered by the parent.

If the Principal accepts the parent’s application for extended leave or travel, a ‘Certificate of Extended Leave-Travel’ will be issued, with the original presented to the parent and a copy placed in the student’s file. If the Principal declines the parent’s Application for Extended Leave-Travel, the parent must be advised in writing.

If student(s) does not return on the specified dates, the parent is contacted to establish the whereabouts of the student. If contact is not established, then procedures will lead to the application of a Home School Liaison Program support.

These new procedures reflect the concerns put forward by the newspaper article that was published in the school newsletter for the past two weeks. The article clearly indicated that Principals were concerned about student attendance and in particular, student absenteeism as a result of parents organising family holidays during school terms, rather than during school vacation periods.

Kiam High School seeks the support of parents on this matter and requests for extended leave, especially family holidays, to be organised during normal school vacation periods. Traditionally, the bond between the school and its community is very strong and it is necessary for this relationship to continue to strengthen, to ensure both welfare and educational outcomes of students are achieved.

Remember, Be on time, Be at school; It’s the rule.

WELFARE UPDATE
Welcome back to another great year at Kiama High School. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new students and their families to Kiama High School. Our Year 7 students have had a great start and have a very enthusiastic attitude about the opportunities that are available to them. We can’t wait to hear of their many achievements and successes.

Year 7 and Year 11 peer support leaders attended a peer support camp at Stanwell Tops from the 16–18 February. This is always an excellent opportunity for students to expand their friendship groups whilst developing key skills in resilience, assertiveness, decision-making, problem solving and leadership.
Congratulations also to the following Age Champions:
12 yrs: Ela Patterson, Tom Prosyer
13yrs: Sarah Williams, Kade Roberts
14yrs: Carly Abbott, Emillo Goytizolo
15yrs: Elizabeth Gorman, Liam Williams
16yrs: Rhylee Bamford, Angus Farrell
17yrs: Bradley Dawson

Girls U16yrs AFL Trials
Any girls interested in trialling for the Greater Sydney Girls U16yrs AFL team to play in the NSW All-Schools Carnival should see Mrs McGuinness for information. (NB the trials are in Blacktown).

SOOTH COAST SPORTING TRIALS
Term 1 is a very hectic term for sports trials and carnivals. Following is a list of South Coast trials that are occurring in the first weeks of this term. Interested students should ensure they listen to the green sheet and see Mrs McGuinness ASAP. Please note that unless otherwise stated, trials are for Open teams ie up to Year 12.

TRIAL DATE
Boys & Girls Volleyball 25 Feb
Open Boys Basketball 27 Feb
15yrs G&B Touch 26 Feb*
Boys & Girls Football 10 March
Golf 9 March

*Please note change of date

NSWCHS TRIATHLON
The NSWCHS Triathlon Championships are on at Penrith on 26-27 February. Any students interested in competing should see Mrs McGuinness ASAP for an entry form. There are both individual and team events.

SPORT
Swim Carnival Results:
Congratulations to DUNSTAN house, KHS Swim Champions for 2015! Dunstan finished with 302 points, followed by Bass (268pts), Kendall (216pts) and Flinders came 4th with 185 points.

SCIENCE EXCURSIONS
Students in Years 8 and 10 will be undertaking Science excursions this term to compliment the work being undertaken in class. Full information for each excursion has been provided to all students. Year 8 will be studying the Geology of the Kiama area on Friday 27 February. Payment is due on or before Friday 20 February. Year 10 will be studying Motion at Luna Park on Friday 13 March. Payment is due on or before Friday 27 February.

All payments should be made by the end of recess to the front office on or before the due date. Permission notes are to be returned to the front office with payment.

Mr A Page, Head Teacher Science

KOORI KIDS & COPS FISHING PROGRAM
The Aboriginal Community Liaison Officer with NSW Police-Lake Illawarra, Michael Lett is running a program during the school holidays on 10 April from 10am-2pm at Reddall Parade, Lake Illawarra. A BBQ lunch will be provided and also includes:

- Educational workshops
- Rules and regulations
- Casting techniques
- Fishing safety
- Knot tying
- Line rigging and baiting
- Retrieval of fish and fish handling

All participants will receive a rod and reel. FREE of cost. Ages 10-15yrs. For expressions of interest please contact Michael Lett on 0439 600 332, there are only 25 spots available so get in quick.

UNIFORM SHOP
OPENING HOURS
Tuesdays 10.30am – 2.30pm
Fridays 11am – 3.00pm
Cash and Eftpos Only
Between the Hall and L Block
Please be considerate with closing times.

CANTEE STUDENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Lunch: Madi Harrod, Jack Morris, Ewan Stevens
Recess: Kira Loiterton, Abby Allen, Savannah Armstrong, Grace Thomson

PARENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Mon 23/2: Sue
Tues 24/2: Reita G
Wed 25/2: Carlie
Thurs 26/2: Geraldine
Fri 27/2: Julie/Jane, Michelle B

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.
COMMUNITY NEWS

RMS SAFER DRIVERS COURSE

This course will run in Kiama on 21 March 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 learner driver log book. The cost of the course is $140 including GST. For more information contact Julie Dryer on 0424 628 703.

FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENTS AND SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

To help you with practical advice about

- Supervising learner drivers
- Completing the learner driver log book
- Providing on-road driving practice
- L and P Plate licence laws

Bookings are essential – workshops are held from 6pm-8pm on 22 April. Contact Kiama Municipal Council on 4232 0444 or email council@kiama.nsw.gov.au

LEARNER LOGBOOK RUN

Do you have your L’s? Want to get more hours for your log book? An opportunity for you and your supervisor to experience a variety of driving conditions including Police RBT, Speed Check and Driver Reviver.

Daylight – Sunday runs are held at Shellharbour and Kiama 10am-12.30pm
Night – Tuesday runs are held at 6pm-8.30pm in Shellharbour and Kiama only.

All learner drivers must have 40 or more log book hours.

Bookings are essential. Contact Shellharbour City Council or Kiama Municipal Council on 4221 6124 or email jenny.davies@shellharbour.nsw.gov.au

CHILDREN MEDICAL RESEARCH

Please join us and bring your friends to our screening of “The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel” at Greater Union, Shellharbour on Friday 6 March, 6.30pm for tea/coffee/slice and sandwiches followed by the movie at 7pm.

Tickets $20 from Belinda o 4234 0224 or 042 134 9505 or belwall@bigpond.net.au

KIAMA JUNIOR RUGBY UNION REGISTRATION DATES 2015

Is on at the Kiama Rugby Club House, Bong Bong Street, Kiama on Wednesday 25 February 4.30pm-6pm.

New Players – or didn’t play in 2014, please bring your original birth certificate and a photocopy of proof of age.

All Players – still need to attend to update forms and have photos taken.

Enquiries – Lucy Blackmore, lblackmore5@bigpond.com or 0409161687.

All New Players Are Welcome – see us on Facebook or www.kiamajuniors.rugbynet.com.au

STOP UNDERAGE DRINKING

What’s the penalty for providing alcohol to a minor without their parent or guardians’ permission? 12 months imprisonment and/or $1,100 on the spot fine or up to $11,000 court imposed fine. Stand Your Ground www.stopunderagedrinking.com.au

GERRINGONG PUBLIC SCHOOL FETE

Kiama HOCKEY CLUB REGISTRATION DAY 2015

Is on Sunday 22 February from 4pm-6pm at Mary Marley Hockey Centre, Croome Road, Albion Park. Come and join the Club and have a hit around on the turf, BBQ and drinks available. For more information contact Andrew McGeechan 0400 354 482/ajm095@hotmail.com or juniors@kiamafootball.org.au

FOSTER KIDS NEED MORE PEOPLE LIKE YOU

Great kids come from good families. Please help. We urgently need respite foster carers to care for children on a regular short term basis. Come along to one a free foster care information session on Thursday 26 February at Dapto Ribbonwood Centre, Princes Highway, Dapto from 5pm-6pm. To reserve your place call 1300 130 585.

CAMP OUT INFO DAY

A pre-camp meet up for interested campers, their parents and guardians. When: 2-4pm Sunday 15 March 2015.

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.

Where: Twenty 10, Level 1, 45 Chippendale, 5 minute walk from Central Station.
RSVP: info@campout.org.au or check out www.campout.org.au for more information.

YOUTH REFERENCE GROUP

Headspace Wollongong is currently seeking applications from enthusiastic young people aged 16-25 years, to join our Youth Reference Group.

For more information www.headspace.org.au/headspace-centres/headspace-wollongong/youth-reference-group or see your School Counsellors, Julie or Nathan. Applications close 15 March.

FEMALE YOUTH DROP IN CLINIC

Come to the Illawarra Women’s Health Centre for a chat with our Youth Social Worker Denika on Tuesdays 2-4.30pm at Belfast Avenue, Wollongong. Gain free access to nurses, contraception/pregnancy advice and counselling. All enquiries contact Denika 4255 680 or denikat@womenshealthcentre.com.au