Kiama High School Newsletter
RESPECT · COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE · RESPONSIBILITY
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PRINCIPAL’S REPORT

Last week we had the pleasure of welcoming many Year 7 parents and relatives to our school at Meet the Teachers Night. We shared food and talk and got to know one another. At the end of the night our parents could put a face to a name and teachers knew their students better through their parents. A strong bond was made that will build a solid relationship where communication can better support the outcomes for Year 7 students. I want to thank all the parents who came along and broke bread with us. I want to thank the staff for staying back and developing these relationships. Amongst the top chefs were Mr Hudson, Mr Kelly and Mr Roger who cooked up a culinary delight. Thanks to Ms Dean for the entire organisation that made the night so successful.

You will recall that we have been very busy developing our next three year Strategic Plan this term. Last Tuesday at P&C I brought copies of the plan developed up to this point to let parents have an input. Next term in Week 2 the P&C will discuss this plan at length. You are all welcome to come along and have your say. At our planning day last Thursday we had the pleasure of the SRC Year 11 Representatives who viewed the plan and process and gave us insightful information from a student perspective. I want to thank the five students who came along; Casey-De Bradbury, Eliza Skorulis, Benjamin McAlister and Nathan Jenkins.

We meet again next Tuesday and these students will lead an SRC forum discussion on the plan in order to make students aware and to get more student input into plans for their education.

The Planning Team met this week continuing building the Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2017. We involved students at this meeting and we invite any parents to take part in the meeting on Tuesday 24.3.15 at school. Please give me a call if you would like to come along. There will be an opportunity to add your ideas to the plan via email, letters to the school or by way of attending the P&C next term. By April 15 the plan as it is will be uploaded to our school website as a working and living document that will grow as Term 2 progresses. Behind the plan will be the nuts and bolts of implementation – the Milestones – programs and processes that drive the plan and a budget to drive these programs. This process of Strategic Plan development has provided an excellent opportunity to review our current programs, practices and processes and re-build them to better suit the needs of our students over the next three years.

In recent articles I drew your attention to what money and budget we receive at Kiama High School and sought your support in ensuring that as much money as possible comes back to the school by way of subject fees and voluntary contributions. I hope this struck a chord with you and that you are able to put money back into the school for your children.

One group that has been very generous towards the school is the P&C through the wonderful work of the Canteen. Not only does the Canteen, under the management of Janelle Sims bring healthy and varied food to our children but the proceeds come back to the school to fund much needed things like welfare programs, study programs, textbooks, excursions and much more. This week they put money towards the Elevate – the study program that is delivered to all students across all years. However, we will be requiring students to pay their share in order to keep this worthy program viable for students to grow. Thanks go to the P&C for funding and subsidising many of our activities. Without these funds and the hard work of the Canteen staff we could not develop nor run programs that bring innovation, motivation and higher learning to our students and children.

Lastly, I want all parents to think hard about the rapidly approaching NAPLAN Tests for Years 7 and 9 and ESSA Science Tests for Year 8. These tests are one external measure of student growth from Year 5 and from Year 7. We use these test results and our internal assessment to understand what resources are needed for your children. We develop programs and individual learning plans for your children through analysis of this data. However, there is a growing tendency for parents to discourage their children from sitting the tests. Not only does this skew the results and give false data, it also prevents teachers from designing best practice lessons suited to your children’s needs. It is like a car mechanic working on your car without any diagnostics, removing the clutch plate and finding that the problem was with the central computer – a big waste of time at great cost.

Since the removal of the School Certificate, NAPLAN is our only significant test that gives us a significant academic milestone from which to focus our teaching and learning practices. It is vital for students and your children to engage with the tests. It is one day of focus on an external testing process. You may not realise that staffing and programs are given to the school based on NAPLAN results. We encourage all students to attend on the day and ask that parents support the school.

Once again, let me thank our staff for their dedication and hard work. Let me also thank our parents and school community for their support. This important relationship creates growth outcomes for your children.

Have a great week
Mr Salmon, Relieving Principal

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DEPUTIES NEWS

Year 12 Exams

Year 12 half yearly commenced last Thursday and will continue until the end of the Term. In most subjects these exams contribute a significant proportion to their final assessment mark. Students need to be in full uniform when undertaking exams. I would like to wish every student the very best in their exams.

Meet the Year 7 Teachers’ BBQ

We had a good turn-out of parents at the Meet the Year 7 Teachers’ BBQ last Monday evening. It is gratifying meeting our parents in person and discussing their child’s educational progress and aspirations. I would like to thank Ms Dean for her efforts in organising this event.

Contact details

Home, work, mobile and emergency contact numbers need to be up to date. There have been times when we have needed to contact parents in an emergency and found that some or all of the numbers we have are out of date. This causes unnecessary delays. Please review these details and send in written notification of any changes.

Medication

Students needing to take any form of medication during the day must leave the medication at the front office. All prescription medication must be in its original packaging labelled with a prescription sticker indicating the students name and dosage. This must be accompanied by a letter from the doctor. All over the counter medication such as cold and flu tablets, Panadol etc. must have a letter from a carer with the students name and dosage labelled on the medication.

Excursions

Excursions are offered to students throughout the year that are related to curriculum, sport or cultural matters. Excursion organisers need to set payment deadlines to facilitate the booking of transport and venues. Students need to meet these deadlines otherwise they will not be permitted to attend. Further, unless directed otherwise in writing by the organising teacher, students must wear their school uniform including leather enclosed footwear.

Gerard Kelly, Deputy Principal

ATTENDANCE MATTERS – IT’S NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

Attending school regularly is important. Schools play a vital role in children’s overall development and wellbeing. This is recognised in NSW by law that has made school compulsory since 1880. The law requires children and young people of compulsory school age to attend school each day it is open for the instruction of that child or young person.

Some parents may be unaware of the benefits of regular school attendance and of the impact of poor attendance.

Many parents are also unaware that when their children and young people don’t attend school regularly, it is a form of child neglect.

What is educational neglect?

- constant lateness for school
- irregular or inconsistent attendance at school
- continually missing school, with or without explanations
- increasing truancy
- developing a dislike for school and a reluctance to attend, with inadequate parent follow up
- excessive absences inappropriately attributed to illness or disability.

Kiama High School recognises the value of having a strong partnership with parents. By and large, parents of KHS students closely support the KHS’s Attendance Policy and Procedures. However, to say that KHS is divorced from attendance issues would be false. There are students who have attendance issues and many of these absences are parent condoned absences.

Recently, there has been evidence of parents picking up their child, without signing their child out at the front office or students ringing up their parent to come and pick them up for various reasons. In both instances, such actions show disregard to policy, procedures and the law, not to mention, putting the school in a vulnerable position should there be an evacuation due to an emergency.

Parents cannot pick up their child from school without presenting to the front office and providing a justified reason and students need to follow school procedure when they are feeling unwell and need to go home. In such cases the student notifies the class teacher, who will send the student to sick bay, where parents will be contacted.

If a student refuses to attend school, parents need to contact the school sooner rather than later, so that both school and parent can work together to resolve this issue.

Remember: Be on time; be at school. It’s the rule.
SPORT
Open Boys Cricketers progress to the third round.

The Davidson Shield side emerged victorious after an impressive effort in the field, restricting Smiths Hill to a total of 64. Ben Grant was the pick of the bowlers, taking 3/10 off 6 overs. He flighted the ball deftly and baffled the batsmen with his wronguns, clean bowling three of them. Flynn Parker bowled with fire taking 1/6 off his 7 overs. Josh Spain (2/4) ‘hooped’ the ball and his second wicket was the delivery of the day, jagging back taking the off bail. Zac Parker took 1/9 off 4 overs, whilst Owen Sutherland bowled 3 maidens in his 4 overs for 1 run. Callum Cooper (1/13) got his left-arm tweakers working in his 8 overs, Brendan Piggott tossed up a few leggies, taking 1/5, and Kane Presland troubled the batsmen in his maiden over. Skipper, Sachin Hall, did a great job in marshalling his bowlers, and also sent down a couple himself.

The ground-fielding was excellent, with Ben Grant, Josh Spain and Brendan Piggott taking catches and Flynn Parker featuring in a run out. Jordan Warren was sprightly behind the stumps and kept motivation levels high.

Our opening batsmen, again batted with resolve, with Brendan and Ryan Micall both making 18 runs. Blake Harrison was settling in when the wicket keeper threw down his stumps, narrowly running him out. This left Sachin (21 not out) and Zac, to steer the side to a comfortable victory.

The boys now take a well-earned rest and will resume the competition in term 4.

Mr Berry

Zone Touch Champions
The Kiama High School Open Girls Touch team are the Shoalhaven Zone Champions for the 5th successive year after defeating Vincentia 6-0, Nowra 4-0, Ulladulla 4-1 and Shoalhaven 6-1 at the Zone Championships last week.

Lily Stewart (Year 10) was in top form, being named Player’s Player and Player of the Tournament as well as being the leading try-scorer. She was well supported by her teammates Jasmin Murray, Sharna Dobson, Audrey Pring, Montana Marsh, Grace Stewart, Jess Davis, Erin Dobson, Riley Wishart, Kelsey Wishart, Claire Farquhar and young guns Demi Stewart, Sophie Taylor and Carly Abbott.

Kelsey, Grace, Riley, Montana, Lily, Sharna and Audrey were also selected in the Zone team to attend the south Coast trials early next term.

Congratulations to all girls involved on the day. A big thank you also to student helpers Indiana Wilson, Trinity Zadro and Emelyn Stuckey for doing such a great job officiating.

MUFTI DAY – JUNIOR SCHOOL
Support the school’s Sponsor a Child this Friday 27th March. Wear mufti and bring a gold coin donation. Years 7 – 10 only for Mufti!

Year 11 are at Striving for Excellence Day and MUST wear full school uniform. Year 12 MUST wear uniform to exams!

VACCINATION PROGRAM
The following dates are the vaccination clinic dates for Year 7 students (boys and girls) and Years 11 and 12 (MMR ‘catch-up’ only)

Students will be receiving the following schedule throughout 2015.

Visit 2: 19 June 2015
Year 7 students
• Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) dose 2
• Varicella (Chicken Pox) vaccine (single dose) catch-up only. Not required if student has had the disease or have received 1 dose as a child.

Years 11 and 12 only
• Measles/Mumps/Rubella vaccine (MMR) (This is a ‘catch-up’ for students in Years 11 and 12 that missed their doses usually given at ages 1 and 4 years. This is not a ‘booster’ dose).

Visit 3: 23 October 2015
Year 7 students
• Human Papillomavirus vaccine (HPV) dose 3
• Catch-up for HPV, dTpa and varicella will be provided to students in Year 7 if vaccines missed at previous visits.

At each clinic held in 2015 catch-up HPV vaccination will be offered to Year 8 students who commenced but failed to complete the course of HPV in 2014.

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.

CANTEEN STUDENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Lunch: Viviana Vespa, Reuben West, Bella Peterson, Tahlia Kona
Recess: Tionne Harris, Chaise Haines-Rice, Sophie Grant, Dane Mathews

PARENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Mon 23/3: Lisa
Tues 24/3: Linda, Janice
Wed 25/3: Carlie
Thurs 26/3: Trish, Gel
Fri 27/3: Will, Heidi
Food Deals
Tuesday – sushi and a small slushi $4
Wednesday – Order a fresh made wrap and buy a popper for $1
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

FAMILY ENERGY REBATE
The Family Energy Rebate is one of a number of NSW Government energy assistance programs to help eligible households reduce the impact of electricity costs.

It takes just two minutes to apply online https://applications.fer.trade.nsw.gov.au/ and once submitted the rebate application begins processing. Applications close Midnight 16 June 2015.

For more information email fer.program@trade.nsw.gov.au or www.resourceandenergy.nsw.gov.au/info/familyenergyrebate

KIAMA WELL BEING COMMITTEE
Have you ever wanted to develop your leadership skills, have a leadership role in a team and have an interest in the well being of our school community? The School Counsellors are looking for students from all year groups who have an interest in organising, coordinating and participating in decision making and events that bring about a positive impact on our school community. A meeting will be held in the School Counsellors room at lunch Friday 20 March. Please bring your lunch and your ideas.

SURFS UP FOR DISABLED SURFERS AT GERROA
The South Coast Branch of the Disabled Surfers Association is running its 14th annual ‘Hands on Day’ at Gerroa beach on 29 March with everyone checking in between 9-9.30am. Cost is free to everyone helping: carers, volunteer helpers and members with the cost being $10 only for non member participants. The day includes a fully supervised surf experience followed by a BBQ lunch and prizes for great deeds.

For more information contact Jim 0458759999 or lan 42844539 or just turn up.

SPORT & RECREATION HOLIDAY CAMPS
Sport and Recreation has some great holiday options for kids and families this Easter. Our kids’ camps provide 7-16 year olds with the chance to branch out and be their own person while trying lots of fun activities. Then there’s our all-inclusive family camps, which give parents and guardians a well-earned rest with accommodation, meals and instructor-led activities included in the price. With over 40 outdoor activities to choose from, including fishing, mountain biking, kayaking, abseiling and rock climbing, there’s plenty to do to keep everyone entertained.


RMS SAFER DRIVERS COURSE IN 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 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. The cost of the course is $140 including GST. Places are available on Saturday 2 May and Saturday 13 June. For more information contact Julie Dryer on 0424 628 703 or www.redcarddrivertraining.com.au.

RIDE 4 ROTARY 2015
Help Rotary raise funds for those charities within the Illawarra supporting Youth at Risk

On Sunday 19 April 2015 cycle the Unanderra Velodrome in one of 12 x 30 minute events on the day commencing at 8.00am. Its fun, it’s easy and suitable for social and experienced riders alike. Road riders: as part of your Sunday ride, why not come via the velodrome. Ride I, ride around and ride out! Bring your family, friends and work colleagues and form a team. Participation is only $25 per rider and, once registered, you’ll receive a link to assist you in generating sponsorship.

For more information contact Stephen on 0488 797 922 or Rowan on 0408 372 792.

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 events mentioned. Kiama High School will accept no responsibility to the management or organisation.

KIAMA QUARRIERS SOCCER CLUB
Kiam Quarriers Soccer Club still require some players for our Youth Side, aged between 16-20, playing in the Illawarra District League. Training Tuesday and Thursday night, 6.30pm start at the Quarry playing fields.

Please contact James on 0419 145 665 or Neil on 0416 178 542.

Minigolf in the Kiama Library
In partnership with the Kiama Youth Centre, Kiama Library is continuing its proud tradition of re-imagining the library for Youth Week. In 2013, we blasted heavy rock music in the library at our ‘Live in the Library’ band day. Now in 2015, Kiama Library will be transformed into a nine hole minigolf course! Numbers are strictly limited, so make sure to call the library on (02) 4233 1133 to reserve your spot. Register as an individual or in a team of up to 4. Putters, golf balls, pizza and snacks provided free of charge. The event will be held Saturday 11 April from 3.30 till 5.30pm, youths aged between 11 and 17 only.

Minecraft Gaming Afternoon
Kiama Library will be testing the creativity of our younger patrons in Youth Week this April! National Youth Week runs from 10 till 19th April with the theme “It starts with us,” and is all about youth expressing themselves. At Kiama Library, we’ll be finding out what our local youth want to build.

From 2.30 till 4.30pm on Saturday 18 April, Kiama Library will be hosting our Minecraft Creative servers for iPads and PCs. Bring along your friends and challenge them to a building competition. You can use our public computers, but numbers are limited so feel free to bring along your own.

For enquiries, contact Kiama Library. Ph: (02) 4233 1133 – Email: library@kiama.nsw.gov.au
Address: 7 Railway Parade, Kiama, NSW, 2533