Kiama High School Newsletter

RESPECT · COMMITMENT TO PERSONAL EXCELLENCE · RESPONSIBILITY

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PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Dear Parents, Carers, Students, Staff and Community,

I have included some detail about the tests with some links for you to research if you have doubts.

The National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is an annual assessment for students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. It has been an everyday part of the school calendar since 2008.

NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May. NAPLAN is made up of tests in the four areas (or ‘domains’) of:

- reading
- writing
- language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation)
- numeracy.

NAPLAN tests skills in literacy and numeracy that are developed over time through the school curriculum.

You can find an easy to understand infographic that gives useful information on the NAPLAN tests and their benefits at http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/naplan.html

To get a sense of the ‘look and feel’ of the tests and to understand what types of questions are asked, a full set of example NAPLAN tests is available.

For more information about the move to deliver NAPLAN in a computer-based environment, go to NAPLAN online.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS

TERM 4 2016 will take place on the last two days of the term – Monday 19 December 16 and Tuesday 20 December 16. This year the staff is wanting to apply for a variation to those days. This variation would mean that these days would not occur and that the professional development time form those two days would be spread out across the terms for 3.6 hours at the end of the school day at 4-5 sessions for teaching and SASS staff. The reasoning for this is to allow the school to have its professional development at times that are more useful and timely. Staff would be expected to attend each of the additional meetings in order to not have to attend the last two days of Term 4. These changes would have no impact on students, as their last day of the term is 16 December 2016. Effectively the school would be closed at the end of the 16 December 16. There would be some administrative staff available on the Monday and Tuesday.

I would appreciate your feedback on this proposal if you would like to do so.

CAREERS PROGRAM CHANGE

From Term 2 onwards, there will be a change in the structure for Careers lessons at the school with Year 10 no longer timetabled for fortnightly Careers lesson. This is part of a broader change where students will be completing careers activities at appropriate and relevant times throughout Years 10, 11 and 12. I take this opportunity to remind parents that they can access careers information via www.kiamahighcareers.com where they can sign up for regular careers newsletters.

Alternatively, send an email to mitchell.grove2@det.nsw.edu.au and ask the Careers Adviser (Mitchell Grove) to add you to the mailing list.

Important dates and meetings coming up are as follows –

1. Open Night for Years 5 and 6 – Tuesday 1 March 16 – School Hall at 6.30pm
2. Parents and Citizen Night (P&C) – Monday 7 March 16 at 7.00pm in the Library after the Meet the Teachers Welcome BBQ on that afternoon.

John Salmon, Principal

DEPUTIES NEWS

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Last Thursday school photos were taken. This is a massive job to photograph over 1100 students, 100 staff and family and sporting groups in one day. The cooperation and friendliness of students made this job much easier. Well done. Congratulations to Mrs Liddle for her smooth organisation. There is a catch up day this Thursday, 3rd March, for those that were absent last week.

YEARS 5 AND 6 OPEN NIGHT

Just a quick reminder that Open Night for prospective students is on Tuesday 1st March, commencing at 7.00 pm in the hall. Expressions of interest close on Friday 18th March.
MEET THE YEAR 7 TEACHERS BBQ
The Year 7 ‘Meet the Year 7 Teachers’ BBQ’ will be held on Monday, 7th March. This event, starting at 6.30pm, is an excellent opportunity for you to discuss with Year 7 teachers how your child is settling into high school and learn about some of the wonderful things they are doing in their subjects. I would like to emphasise that this is not a parent/teacher evening where teachers would have assessment results to indicate your child’s academic progress. Students will receive an information note to take home to their parents.

YEAR 12 HALF YEARLY EXAMINATIONS
The Year 12 Half yearly exams will commence on Wednesday 23rd March and continue until Friday the 8th April. Students have to be in school uniform but only need to be at school if sitting for an exam.

DROPPING STUDENTS OFF AT SCHOOL
For safety reasons parents are requested not to drop their children off in the Staff Car Park located at the northern end of the school. Parents are urged to drop their children off in Shoalhaven Street. Parents are also reminded that the bus bay is a bus only zone on school days. Parents are requested not to drop their children off in the Staff Car Park located at the northern end of the school.

KOORI KORNER
REMEMBER: Bulima (Kiama) Aboriginal Consultative Group Inc is meeting on Thursday 25 May at Minnamurra Public School from 4pm-6pm.

HELP NEEDED: We are wanting to create some murals in our school to enhance our school environment and we currently have two walls cement rendered so if you know of a parent or friend could you mention this and we are happy to advertise their business for free in our publications.

RACISM – IT STOPS WITH ME
This term Kiama High is focusing on the Racism - It Stops With Me campaign and our aim is to create awareness of racism and how it affects individuals and the broader community by working together so we can change for the better. Details are yet to be confirmed.

PERSONALISED LEARNING PLANS
This term you will be hearing from our wonderful Norta Norta tutor, Mrs Jane Littrich, about your child/ren PLP and it will be reviewed at the end of Term 2. Jane will either phone or email you as a first point of contact or a meeting can be requested.

DONATION PLEASE
Do you have an old surfboard you no longer want and is gathering dust in your garage? If you do, we are more than happy to take it from your hands to be painted up in Aboriginal designs from our students and parents/community for display either in the office or an area where all the students/parents and community can see the board. Ideally we would love to have two surfboards to represent our local community and totem of the Illawarra, the Whale.

KELLIE EVANS, ABORIGINAL EDUCATION WORKER

KIAMA HIGH SCHOOL YEARS 5/6 OPEN NIGHT
Kiama High School staff and students wish to extend an invitation to Years 5 and 6 students and their parents/caregivers to the Kiama High School showcase for 2016. Be entertained by drama students, clap your hands with the dance and music students, somersault with the gymnasts in PE, be mesmerised with a science experiment, observe some cooking and be amazed at the quality of work that faculties have on display. It’s a great opportunity to wander the school grounds, experience the facilities and meet staff and students.

WHEN: Tuesday 1 March, 6.15pm-8pm
WHERE: KHS Hall, followed by displays around the school

PARKING: Saddleback Mountain Road, staff car parks at Shoalhaven Street entry to school Expressions of Interest (EOI) close on Friday, 18 March 2016.

SPORT
Congratulations to Flynn Parker for being in the NSW Schoolboys CHS second XI at the recent NSWCHS Cricket Carnival, whilst playing for South Coast.

At the Carnival, the team won 3 out of their 4 games and they took out the Adam Gilchrist ‘Spirit of Cricket’ trophy, which is awarded to the team performing sportsmanship, respect to the opposition, as well as a number of other factors which contribute strongly to the positive spirit that cricket is played in. Flynn will play in the All-Schools Carnival against the Independent and Catholic rep teams from Monday 7 March until Friday 11 March. We wish Flynn the best of luck.

Paul Berry

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.

CANTEEN STUDENT VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Lunch: Amelia Plum, Anne Alards, Aribah Amal, Kalani Atkins-Maguire

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**ROYAL LIFE SAVING**
The NSW Aquatic and Recreation Industry is seeking to employ pool lifeguards and swim teachers (AUSTSWIM) to meet community demand. For more information email nicolajamieson@royalnsw.com.au.

**BREAKING THE ICE IN OUR COMMUNITY**
The Australian Drug Foundation in partnership with NSW Health and local agencies is hosting a series of forums across NSW to help you and your community get the facts about crystalline methamphetamine or 'ice' use. For more information please visit adf.org.au/breakingtheice.

**CANNABIS WORKSHOPS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, PARENTS, CARERS AND SERVICE PROVIDERS**
Cannabis: Myths & Facts – a workshop for young people, Monday 7 March 3.30pm-5.30pm. Are you aged 25 or under? Get the answers to your questions in this free workshop with the experts from Illawarra Drug and Alcohol Service. Topics covered will include synthetic cannabis, tips on harm minimisation (reducing risk if you choose to use), and what the research tells us about cannabis use.

Where: headspace Wollongong (Level 1, 85 Smith Street, Wollongong).

Bookings: www.trybooking.com/KHUL or contact Donna on 4254 2700. Bookings are essential as spaces limited.

**FINISHED YEAR 12 AND LOOKING FOR A PATHWAY TO UNI OR WORK**
Cert IIs and IVs in Business Administration or Accounts are starting soon – call us today!

For more information contact Kiama Community College Inc on 4232 1050 or www.kcc.nsw.edu.au.

**LEARNER LOG BOOK RUN EXPERIENCE**
An opportunity for learner drivers and their supervisors to experience a series of practical and powerful demonstrations whilst gaining log book hours on a planned route. All learner drivers must have 40 or more log book hours.

Starts and finishes at the Lake Illawarra PCYC on Sunday 20 March 16 9am-1:30pm. Bookings essential: Shellharbour 4221 6111, Kiama 4232 0444 or Wollongong 4227 7111.

**KIAMA HOCKEY JUNIOR AND SENIOR REGISTRATIONS**
Please contact Kath 0400 399 681 or at juniors@kiamahockey.org.au or Nic/Will at president@kiamahockey.org.au. All ages welcome. Competition starts 19 March for junior teams.

**KIAMA BASKETBALL**
Learn To Play – Years 2 and 3 – Fun Skill Building Activities from 4-5pm Wednesdays.

Miniballers – Years 4-6 Comp 4-6 Mondays mixed teams. No experience required.

Juniors – Years 7-11 Comp Tuesday afternoons.
Register – Kiama Leisure Centre on Friday 11 or 18 March from 4.00pm-5.30pm or email zwickerfamily@bigpond.com for info pack, including details for online rego.

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.