Keeping in Touch

The next P&C Meeting
Monday 20th MAY at 7 pm
Staff Common Room upstairs in A Block
All Parents are welcome!

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A Reminder
Monday 29th and Tuesday 30th April
School Development Days

_Pupils are not required at school._

The extra day has been added to the calendar in order for schools to prepare for the introduction of the Australian Curriculum in 2014

Bryce Murry and Caleb Agostino- Morrow
Congratulations to Bryce and Caleb who have both taken out their respective National Titles over the weekend in Triathlon. This is an outstanding effort!

Easter Break
It has been a long term of 11 weeks but we did have an Easter break in there. Next term will be much shorter, 9 weeks. We will start on a B week in order not to muck up the hours per subject.
Next term will be doubly busy for our senior students who will have their trials in weeks _8 & 9._

Congratulations
Starstruck dancers and Choir for their wonderful auditions (and success in gaining places in this year’s show) over the past week. They have worked extremely hard for this and with the help of their teachers

Uniform
We have been very pleased at the response of students and families in our push to get all students to comply with our school uniform policy. We believe uniform is important.
SCHOOL UNIFORM

Why We Wear Uniform
Kotara High School places great emphasis on the promotion and encouragement of wearing our school uniform. Departmental Policy states “school uniforms foster pride in the school, assist in the development and maintenance of tone and good conduct, and reduce to a minimum distinctions because of clothing between children in the same school”. The wearing of our uniform is important as it serves to identify the students of Kotara High School and foster respect and responsibility.

The wearing of school uniform by all students is mandatory. Parents/Guardians can assist by providing the correct uniform and ensuring their child cooperates in this matter. It is important to consider the reasons why the school community has chosen to have a uniform.

- People judge one another by their appearance. It can shape expectations, influence reactions, often inaccurately. The wearing of a uniform helps to ensure that people are not misjudged as individuals and learners.

- Without a uniform, many students would compete in fashion stakes which can be a costly exercise. The winners would be those who could afford it. This would divide our school.

- By wearing a uniform we identify as one group. Without it there would be splinter groups based on clothing styles.

- Uniforms help us make our school safe. We can easily identify people who should not be in the school and who place students at risk. We can also identify you if you need assistance. Your uniform says ‘You are from Kotara High’!

- We all enjoy and take pride in being part of a successful team. The community supports us in wearing our school uniform, showing we are proud of our achievements and the benefits of being part of our team.

- Most work places have dress codes or uniforms these days. A visit to local businesses, banks, corporations and even supermarkets and shops will highlight this. Therefore, our school Policy reflects the workplace. It helps promote self-discipline and understanding of the importance of neatness in personal appearance.

- Sporting teams have uniforms and team members and supporters take great pride in the way they are ‘turned out’.

- School uniform reinforces that school is about learning and we believe assists students to establish that mindset.

Community
The school community fully supports a policy and set of procedures to ensure that all students comply with uniform requirements. In accepting an offer to enrol at this school, all students acknowledge their commitment to meet school expectations regarding the wearing of the school uniform. Should a student be out of uniform, a ‘green slip’ is given and parents are informed. Persistent failure to comply will lead to detention and parent contact.

However, students who are not able to be in full uniform due to exceptional circumstances must obtain a signed permission from one of the Deputy Principals before school, upon the presentation of a note from a parent/guardian.

We are proud of our school and school uniform, and have high expectations of our students wearing our uniform in its entirety and with pride.

Use Lowes at Westfield Kotara to purchase your uniform. Please refer to the following for our detailed policy on school shoes and sport shoes.

Pictures of the correct uniform are displayed in the foyer.
ACCEPTABLE UNIFORM

**Girls**
- Tartan Skirt is the official school uniform (all girls need to have one)
- White School Blouse (School Crest)
- White School Polo (School Crest)
- White Socks (visible)
- Black Stockings/Tights (worn under the school skirt only)
- Black Jumper/Cardigan/Plain Black Sweatshirt
- School Winter Jacket (School Crest)
- Black Tailored Trousers
- Black School Shorts
- Black Shoes with Black laces or Black shoes with a fully enclosed toe box and a strap and a solid sole.

**Boys**
- Black Trousers or Black Shorts
- White Shirt (School Crest)
- White School Polo (School Crest)
- White Socks (visible)
- Black, Jumper/Cardigan/Plain Black Sweatshirt
- School Winter Jacket (School Crest)
- Black Jumper/Cardigan/Plain Black Sweatshirt
- Black Tailored Trousers
- Black School Shorts
- Black Shoes with Black laces or Black shoes with a fully enclosed toe box and a strap and a solid sole.

SPORT/PD/H/PE

**Girls**
- Black KHS Sports Shorts
- White KHS Sports Shirt
- White Socks (visible)
- Black Track Pants
- Supportive Sport Shoes with laces

**Boys**
- Black KHS Sports Shorts
- White KHS Sports Shirt
- White Socks (visible)
- Black Track Pants
- Supportive Sport Shoes with laces

Additional information about acceptable school shoes is available on the school website.

Going West

In the last week of school I will be visiting some of our Connected Community schools in Bourke, Brewarrina, Walgett and Coonamble. Part of my role on the Secondary Principal’s Council is a contact officer for these principals and having been a principal in the Western Region of NSW for 3 years I am looking forward to this opportunity to visit this country again.

I hope everyone has a safe and restful break.

Peter Sheargold
Principal
**Introduction to High School Day**

On Wednesday 27 March, Year 6 students from several local primary schools visited Kotara High school to gain an insight into what their high school experience is likely to be. This is a very important program for these children who will make the sometimes daunting, sometimes exciting transition to high school in 2014.

After listening to a number of teachers and students including the Principal, Mr Sheargold outline the opportunities for personal development in areas as diverse as music and band, debating, public speaking and Student Representative Council the students went to lunch. Here they were able to experience the self-service Canteen and meet other students who will be part of their Year group next year.

The Year 6 students were then able to get a real experience of Year 7 by attending two classes in subjects of interest to them. This year no particular subject stood out as more popular than another with students indicating a preference for core subjects such as Science, Maths, History and Geography, as well as for the traditionally engaging subjects such as Food Technology, Art, Music, Drama and Woodwork.

Throughout their experience of Kotara High School the Year 6 students were accompanied by a pair of current Kotara High students from the GATS Program who were available to explain the layout of the school, its organization and answer questions. I am informed that many questions were asked and that overall there was a high level of excitement at the prospect of attending this school in 2014.

**Mr R Owens**

**Head Teacher, History**

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**SCIENCE**

The school has recently received the results of ESSA 2012 (for Year 8 students from last year). These results are being distributed to parents via our current Year 9 students. Parents should contact the school if they have not received their child’s results.

**Mr I Stone**

**Head Teacher**
March was a very busy month for Visual Arts students. Year 11 and Year 12 VA students travelled to Sydney to view Art Express 2012 at the AGNSW and then to the MCA at Circular Quay to view the Anish Kapoor Exhibition. The MCA has a whole new wing that housed an exhibition called Volume One, which showcased several artists who the students are currently studying. The opportunity to view these works first hand is of enormous benefit in helping our students appreciate and understand these works.

Year 8 students travelled to Taronga Zoo to draw and photograph the animals in their various environments. Although it was quite a warm day most of the animals were active and very entertaining. The “Dreamtime” workshop was very interesting and well received with students being able to see some Australian animals up close.

On both excursions we received some lovely comments from members of the public as well as from those in charge about the demeanour of our students. This is always very gratifying to hear and makes for a very pleasant day. The drawings and photographs will be used as source materials during class.
Our School Library

WOOLWORTHS EARN AND LEARN

We are excited to be taking part in the Woolworths Earn & Learn program. You can help our school by collecting Woolworths Earn & Learn Points. Just collect Woolworths Earn & Learn Points when you shop at Woolworths between Monday 8 April and Sunday 9 June 2013. We will redeem these for awesome educational resources for our school.

For every $10 spent at Woolworths you will receive a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. Pop them onto a Woolworths Earn & Learn Points Sheet and once it’s completed, just bring it back to school or drop it into the Collection Box at your local Woolies. The more we collect, the more we can redeem. There are thousands of products available through the Woolworths Earn & Learn program, and we’d like to get lots of new gear! Products in the range include resources for mathematics, English, science, art & crafts, through to sports gear, library supplies and more.

We are grateful for your support and look forward to a successful program. If you have any questions, please ask at the library.

Mr T. Pulsford

Teacher/Librarian
Careers Information

Kotara High School recently subscribed to a weekly email titled “Career and Training Links”. This is developed by the local non for profit organisation Career Links who service Newcastle and Lake Macquarie.

Information in this email includes current vacancies/opportunities in the following areas:

- Apprenticeships
- Traineeships
- School Based Apprenticeships or Traineeships
- Casual employment
- Full time employment
- Training courses
- Local careers events

If you would like to receive this email every Monday morning please send your email details to prue.campbell@det.nsw.edu.au, call the school to leave your email details or ask your son or daughter to visit the Careers Office to sign up. Email addresses will then be forwarded to Career Links.

Miss Prue Campbell
Careers Adviser
In June-July 2013 Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Canada, the USA, and Latin America. We are looking for volunteer host families to welcome these students into their homes for between 2-10 months.

I would like to inform Kotara High School students and their families about this is an exciting opportunity to experience a different culture without having to leave their homes. It’s a great way for them to learn about a new country and share an unforgettable experience with the entire family.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. Please note that all our host families are interviewed in their homes and carefully checked for suitability.

Our students bring with them their own spending money, health insurance and a wonderful attitude and desire to learn about their new host country. The whole family….and relatives and friends…..will grow and learn as they all get to know their new ‘son’ or ‘daughter’ from another land.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language/music teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also download some student profiles in PDF Format. This is just a small sample of all the students who will be arriving. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

“Our family hosted Paula from Germany this year and it was the most wonderful experience. How did hosting impact our family? The positive impact having Paula stay with us for five months was incredible. We spent more time together as a family and got to see our local area through new eyes. Most importantly though, Paula was a fantastic role model for our younger children. Thank you Paula!” Robert, Host Dad

“Becoming a Host family for an international student has been much more than we expected. We thought it would be great for our kids to learn a little about another language and maybe something about another country. Instead, we gained another family member and some great new friends, her parents from Germany. We get to show off our country and learn so much about hers. What a fantastic experience for all of us.” Melissa, Host Mum

“Being the youngest and the only one left at home I was looking forward to having another teenager in the house. While Charlotte helps me with my French I help her with her English lessons and I have taught her many Aussie words and sayings. We both love to shop and shop and shop...” Grace, Host Sister

“It’s been a fantastic experience so far...It’s been great having an older brother for our young kids. Simon has been a fantastic role model...Simon helps around the house a lot. One of the first things he said to us during the first couple of days he was here was what should my chores be? I was delighted to hear him say that.” Victoria, Host Mum

If Kotara High School families have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, they can respond to this email, call our office on 1300 135 331 or visit our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to their family. No obligation.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,
Sandra Harders
Hosting Coordinator

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd
PO Box 1420 Mona Vale NSW 1660
T: (02) 9997 0700
F: (02) 9997 0701
W: www.studentexchange.org.au
WEP Student Exchange - Memories and Skills for Life!

Become a WEP exchange student to live and study overseas for a summer, semester or even a year! Imagine yourself enjoying a traditional Thanksgiving in the USA, exploring local treasures in picturesque Europe, participating in a tea ceremony class in Japan or drinking traditional mate in Argentina. With over 20 countries to choose from and many other experiences to be lived, don’t let this once in a lifetime opportunity pass you by!

Scholarships & Early Bird Specials
This year WEP is awarding 22 scholarships to motivated students, wishing to live and study in Argentina or China in 2014. Early Bird discounts for programs starting in Jan-Mar ’14 are also available for the following destinations: Brazil, Belgium, France, Germany, Italy, Mexico, The Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Norway, Thailand and the USA.

Find Out More! Request a Free Info Pack!
Find out everything you need to know about your opportunity to experience life as an overseas teenager. Choose from over 20 countries and make new friends from around the world. Speak to WEP staff and get in touch with returned WEP students to help you make this important decision.
Visit: www.wep.org.au
Call: 1300 884 733
Email: info@wep.org.au

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SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE

As in previous years, Southern Cross Cultural Exchange is once again seeking volunteer host families to host international exchange students arriving in July 2013 for a stay of one or two semesters.

LEARN ABOUT YOURSELF!

As Marcel Proust, a late 19th century novelist wrote:

“the real voyage of discovery consists not in seeking new landscapes but in having new eyes”.

Volunteer to host an international high school student in July 2013 through Southern Cross Cultural Exchange and prepare to be amazed at the way this unique and rewarding opportunity helps your family to become closer, to understand themselves better and to see the world in a new light.

Carefully selected students will arrive in July for one or two semesters from France, Italy, Germany, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Japan, and Spain. They will attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Visit us at our website www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship.

Thanks and kind regards,

Robert Lindsay
National Business Development Manager

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE
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e-mail: robert.l@scce.com.au
Cairns Excursion Update

Thirty two students from Year 12 Geography and Society & Culture have made a firm commitment to attend this excursion. It will take place from July 13 to July 17, 2013.

Students will be flying to Cairns with Virgin Airlines. While in the Tropical Far North they will:

- Take the cable car trip over the tropical rainforest
- Study the tropical rainforest ecosystem
- Visit Mareeba Coffee Works and Jaques Plantation
- Snorkel on the Great Barrier Reef in the Frankland Island group.

Participants are reminded that a second payment instalment of $200 is due by the end of March.

Mr G Mogg
Excursion Organiser

Year 12 Mentoring Program

During 2013 I am trialling a Mentoring Program for Year 12 students. The whole year has been approached and 11 students have indicated their commitment to a weekly mentoring session.

Each session will consist of a “half period” and will involve 5-6 of the student group.

During the sessions students will be discussing issues such as:

- Educational goals
- Study planning
- Revision strategies
- Reading skills
- Assessment tracking and monitoring
- Personal learning styles
- Stress management
- Short and long term goals
- Packing and unpacking information
- Essay writing

There will also be regular ‘challenges’ to extend these students!

Hopefully the success of this program will lead to bigger things in 2014.

Mr G Mogg
H.T. Teaching & Learning
“Do you struggle to understand your child’s homework?” Does your child need to practise their spelling and times tables? Are you looking for inspiration for projects and assignments?

The School A to Z app is an essential tool for every parent of school-aged children. Produced by the NSW Department of Education and Communities, the School A to Z app brings together a wealth of resources to help parents to understand and support their child’s homework”.

This excerpt is taken directly from the Department’s advertising.

The app is available for iPhone, iPad (and I assume Android) and is free.

Mr G Mogg
H.T. Teaching & Learning

KHS Recycling News

Throughout 2012 KHS has been participating in the Newcastle City Council Schools Recycling Program. Bins are placed around the blocks for the disposal of recyclable material. Council has estimated that our school has already produced 7 tonnes of recycling - material that no longer ends up in landfill.

KHS is also part of the Climate Cam program. This program awards ‘stars’ for environmentally friendly activities. We have already developed an environmental plan, and are now working on smart lighting, rainwater tanks and water-efficient taps and bubblers.

Think about your own recycling!

Did you know that:

- Newcastle and Wallsend libraries have receptacles for the disposal of household batteries.
- Old mobile phones can be dropped off at mobile phone retail outlets, or at the school.
- Large quantities of cardboard will be picked up free of charge by Tip Top & Tidy at Carrington.
- E-waste; Newcastle Council has 4 collection days per year (at their collection site). Lake Macquarie Council has a year-round collection site at the Awaba Tip.

Approximately 97% of these items are recyclable. Please don’t send them to landfill.

You can find out more about local recycling at the NCC website: www.newcastle.nsw.gov.au

If you have any ideas or suggestions about environmental action at KHS, let me know.

Mr G Mogg
HT Teaching & Learning
DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2013

APRIL

Wednesday 10th April

Music Concert
7pm in the MPC

Thursday 11th April

Out of Uniform
Support Legacy Gold Coin Donation

Friday 12th - 28th April

School Holidays

Monday 29th April and Tuesday 30th April

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

MAY

Wednesday 1st May

School Resumes - ALL STUDENTS

Friday 3rd May

Y7 “Cyberbullying” Seminar

Monday 6th May

Vaccinations Y7s & Y9s

Tuesday May 7th

Parent Teacher Interviews
Yrs 7 and 11
MPC 3.30-6.30pm

Monday May 20th

P&C Meeting