Keeping in Touch

The next P&C Meeting and AGM for 2014 is on

Monday 17th March at 7pm in the LIBRARY in D Block

Monday 17th March - All parents of our new Yr 7’s and parents of new students for 2014 are invited to a Barbecue in the Canteen Area and a school tour at 6pm. Entry off Corriston Cres.

The Term has been bustling along with lots of class activities, sporting events and excursions taking place.

We commenced our new timetable on 3rd March. Its introduction went very smoothly with all students adjusting quickly to the change. Thanks to Mr Tweed and Mrs Regent who put in a lot of extra hours to get the timetable up and going. Also thanks to staff and students for their patience.

Last week we had an arborist in the school checking all the trees. There are 14 trees that have to be removed under the new guidelines of which 7 are category one. All these trees have been roped off with the appropriate signage and students have been informed to keep out. These trees will be removed as soon as possible.

Next Monday 17th of March is the school’s “Welcome to New Parents bar-be-que and tour of the school”. All parents of Year 7 and any new parents to the school have received an invitation. However if you are not a new parent to the school but you wish to attend the bar-be-que or tour, you are most welcome.

Congratulations to our swimming team who did very well at the regional carnival. We have signed off on many students’ applications to compete at the state level. Congratulations to all these students.

Also we have been having great success in the public speaking area. Two students, Ellen Frohlich and Jacqueline Welling, have progress through the first two stages of the Lion’s Youth of the Year Competition. We wish both the girls all the best at the next level.

The school is trialling a “school app” to help improve our general communication with our parents and students. It will be a free app for parents and students. You will be able to download the app onto your Iphones, ipad or android devices to receive messages and reminders from the school. These would include messages about returning excursion, upcoming events etc. We will not be able to send you a message directly about individual students using this app. When the 30 day trial is over you will receive more information about how to sign up.
I am presently working on the School Plan for 2014 – 2015 which I hope to be able to present to the P&C at either the March or April meeting. The major areas of the plan are

- Curriculum, assessment and pedagogy in Years 7 to 9 around the Australian Curriculum and the new Senior Years 10 to 12 Curriculum Structure.
- Embedding the K-10 Numeracy Continuum through the ILNNP
- Professional Practice
- Sustainable Management through the Empowering Local Schools project.

If you ever need to know more or you have questions please contact the school.

Mr Stephen Barnett
Principal

**NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2014**

Each year NSW Health offers the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2014 the following vaccines will be offered:

Year 7 students (males and females)

- dTpa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) one dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) one dose
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3 dose course

Year 9 students

- HPV vaccine in a 3 dose course, male students only

* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

Parent Information Kits will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided and return the form to their child’s school

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation)

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.
Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at the clinic. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- Tick the coloured boxes on the front of the consent form for each vaccine/s you would like your child to receive

- ensure your child has eaten breakfast the morning of the clinic
- ensure your child is wearing clothing that enables the upper arm to be exposed
- ENSURE FORM IS COMPLETED CORRECTLY, AND SIGNED
- COMPLETE CONSENT FORMS IN BLUE OR BLACK PEN ONLY
- Ask your child for the record of vaccination when they arrive home on the day of the clinic – keep this record in a safe place (e.g. babys’ blue book), ideally notify your GP for their records.

VACCINATION SCHEDULE 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY APRIL 7</th>
<th>THURSDAY JUNE 26</th>
<th>MONDAY NOVEMBER 10</th>
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| **Year 7 Girls**: Diptheria, Tetanus, Pertussis  
Chicken Pox  
HPV  
**Year 7 Boys**: HPV | **Year 7 Girls**: HPV  
**Year 7 Boys**: HPV  
**Year 9 Boys**: HPV | **Year 7 Girls**: HPV  
**Year 7 Boys**: HPV  
**Year 9 Boys**: HPV |
| **Year 9 Boys**: HPV |
Maths Problem Solving Day

On 28th March Kotara High is running a Maths problem solving day for the students in 8MA1 and 8MB1. The workshops are presented by Inquisitive Minds which is a Sydney based educational business as a joint venture with The Mathematical Association of NSW. The students will participate in an interactive lesson on strategic problem solving and work on a series of original hands on problems. The students that attended the event in Maitland last year had an enjoyable day and it is expected that our students will benefit from attending. We’d like to consider this as a compulsory activity for our 8-1 students. Notes and money are due to the Front Office by Friday 14th March.

Mrs A McPherson
Organising Teacher

Library News

A long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away...

This month in the library we are celebrating books that have been adapted into movies. With recent movie releases such as The Book Thief and Catching Fire the library is showcasing great books students should be read before watching the film. It is not often that the movie is better than the book, unless you have an exceptional lead actor; see Meryl Streep in The Devil Wears Prada, so we are encouraging students to lose themselves in the thrill of reading the novel first. From the fantasy world of Middle Earth created by Tolkien in The Hobbit to the romance of Nicholas Sparks’ The Notebook we have a multitude of adapted novels for loan. Follow Harry Potter on his journey to become a great wizard or Ellie’s fight for survival in Tomorrow, When the War Began, unleashing the imagination of one’s mind. We also have series such as The Game of Thrones, Twilight and Divergent to take the reader to the places where the movie cannot. So for a real Oscar winning performance come and grab a book from the library.

Mr. Pulsford
Teacher Librarian
Technology and Applied Studies (TAS) Faculty

It is a pleasure to join the Kotara High School community as the Head Teacher of the TAS faculty. The following staff are part of the TAS Team for 2014:

Rebecca Murphy, Darren King, Gary Jenness, Shane Llyod, Nerida Regent, Peter Cook, Wendy Scott, Kristy Germon, Caley Kiker, Cara Karakasch, Chris Hopkins, Anna Goldsmith, Chris Dibben and Kylie Battle.

We welcome our Year 7 cohort. Timetable changes have impacted on student’s Technology classes, delivering teachers and the area of technology studied. Stage 4 Technology is a 2 year course with students having a broad range of options to select in Year 8.

To support the Curriculum of the Year 10 Senior School initiative a new curriculum has been introduced. This includes Information and Software Design and Industrial Technology - Engineering and the early commencement of the Vocational Framework - Metal and Engineering. Food Technology and Construction courses now encompass Vocational skill sets into their programs. These curriculum initiatives aim to support student transition into Years 11 and 12.

We look forward to the development and completion of the Year 9 and 10 students completion of timber and metal projects, with greater pressure on Year 12 students to undertake their major projects for the HSC.

Special events – As a faculty, staff and students will represent Kotara High by participating in the Science and Engineering Challenge, Lego Robo Cup, Co2 Dragster and Formula One Racing competitions supported by the ME program and The University of Newcastle.

Some lucky school community members will be invited to attend special student catering initiatives as the year progresses and Child Studies students will surprise us with the individually designed sensory toys.

Workplace Health and Safety - A reminder to parents and students that enclosed non slip leather shoes are mandatory in all technology workshops.

Subject Contributions – To assist in providing materials and commodities to our students in various technologies, parents and care givers are requested to support the payment of subject contributions. Contributions can be paid at the front office during office hours. A payment plan can be negotiated.

Work placement – All vocational courses have a mandatory 70 hour work placement component. This is undertaken in the specialise industry field and must be successfully completed for the students to be eligible for the HSC.

R Murphy   Head teacher TAS
BURGER BRAIN – THE SCHOOL MUSICAL!!!

Kotara High are presenting a musical in week 3 of Term 3. It tells the story of Hackett’s Hamburgers and their quest to take over the world one teenager at a time.

Year 11 Drama are in charge of the production with Mrs Hawkins directing and Mrs Saunders co-ordinating. Mr Danvers and Mrs Ellicott are directing the music.

While all elective Drama students will be performing in it, congratulations to all the students who auditioned and have also been cast in roles:

Year 11: Alli Whalley, Ellen Frohlich and all Y11 Drama

Year 10: Chris Shanko, Callum Robson, Lahni Cook, Chloe Beed, and all Y10 Drama

Year 9: Jaida Jones-Wilson, Emma Masters, Theo Williams and all Yr 9 Drama

Year 8: Tannah Morris, Cameron Young, Mitchell Metcalfe and Bentley Cooke

Year 7: Caitlyn Linz and Paris Scott
Year 7 Camp

Last week our fresh Year 7 students travelled by coach down the rolling Pacific Highway to sunny Kincumber for The Great Aussie Bush Camp experience. There were 182 students and 9 teachers in tow, being one of the largest contingents ever to leave this learning facility at Kotara High School.

For three wonderful days our students were involved in activities that challenged their young minds, pushed their bodies to the extreme, learnt new ways of doing things and formed many great new friends. Being out of their comfort zone, many students found the challenges confronting and scary, but having pushed through, were rewarded with growing confidence and the ability to take on new challenges.

The rain did come down in buckets full, but failed to dampen the spirits of our Year 7 students who were full of energy. It was interesting to note when asked what the most enjoyable aspects of camp were, students said the activities were not high on the list. Students said it was the simple things such as sitting around the campfire at night, talking to friends in their cabins and the bus trip home. Just goes to show it’s the simple things in life that really matter.

Darren King

Year 7 Assistant Year Advisor
WHS White Card Training

The school will run a White Card course Week 1 Term 2.

If you are going to be completing Work Experience in a trade you MUST have a White Card to be approved for this placement.

Cost is $90

Please see Miss Campbell in the Careers Office to get a note and register.
Canteen News

Volunteers – The Canteen is still desperately in need of more volunteers, so if you can give us a few hours of your time we would greatly appreciate it.

WHAT’S NEW IN THE CANTEEN

Gluten Free – We are now able to supply Chicken Burgers, Chicken Tenders, Fried Rice and Salad Boxes. Sandwiches and toasties made with Helgas gluten free bread or Rice Cakes.

Vegetarian – We have Spring Rolls, Fried Rice, Hash Browns, Sweet potato and Chickpea Burgers, Vegetable Sausage Rolls, Cheese and Spinach Rolls and Salad boxes.

Special – Tell us you want the KIT Special and receive 30cents off any burger you buy on Thursday and Friday week 4.

Price Rise – Unfortunately we have had to raise the price of Billabongs and Bulla Frozen Yoghurts from $1.30 to $1.40. Also JJ’s will now be $1.00

Katherine Owens
Canteen Manager
WEP Student Exchange –
A Once-In-A-Lifetime Opportunity!

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is now accepting applications from students who wish to participate in 2014/15 exchange programs for a summer, semester or year. Students can choose to study and live life with a carefully selected host family in more than 25 countries.

Exchange students return to Australia with maturity, confidence, and in many cases, proficiency in another language. If learning another language is not for your child, excellent programs to the USA, Canada and Ireland are also available.

I did it! 10 months in a foreign country, without knowing the language or culture. Thinking about all the amazing people I’ve met, the lessons I have learnt and things I have seen, I feel truly lucky to have been here living a different life. I have no regrets, as I have grown to be more mature, open to life and aware of the world around me. Despite it being hard, it has also been the best thing I have ever done for myself. I now feel ready to start life in Australia with a clearer idea of my strengths, weaknesses and my future goals. Exchange has really helped me define myself.

Alison (Moreton Bay College) year program to Italy

Become a WEP Host Family!

Experience the joys of hosting an exchange student and gaining an international family member. We have students arriving in July from Belgium, Italy, The Netherlands, Norway, Finland, Switzerland, Canada, France, Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

Find out More!
Request an information pack online or attend one of WEP’s online or group information sessions. Visit www.wep.org.au to find out more.

Early Bird Specials are now available for programs commencing in 2015!

Web: www.wep.org.au
Phone: 03 9598 4733 / 1300 884 733 (cost of a local call)
Email info@wep.org.au

Upcoming Information Sessions
Newcastle
Cardiff RSL - 45 Macquarie Road, Cardiff
1 March 2–3:30pm
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JANUARY 2014
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS
IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In January 2014 we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, Japan, the USA & Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. To this end, we would again be grateful if you would place a notice in your newsletter/bulletin or mention it on your website.
You can download the newsletter notice here in Word format or as a JPG.

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 teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also view some student profiles on our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

“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

"Hosting Kirstine has brought our family closer together. We’re doing things we used to do when our kids were little, like boiling the billy, having a BBQ and baking apples up the paddock. She’s helped us remember how to have fun when we’re working and take time out for adventures.” Sharon, Host Mum

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331. No obligation.

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd
PO Box 1420, Mona Vale  NSW 1660 Australia
T: (02) 9997 0700 F: (02) 9997 0701
W: www.studentexchange.org.au

Suite 2590, PO Box 83000,
Wellington 6440 New Zealand
T: 0800 440079 F: 0800 440077
W: www.studentexchange.org.nz

ABN: 49 101 489 356

We are the first and only student exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System).
Are you interested in playing Junior Baseball?
Baseball is a great non-contact team sport where everyone gets a fair go. We play from April to September.
Age division's start at U/8 & U/10 (T-Ball) with U/12, U/14 and U/16's playing modified rules to suit their level of development.
Baseball with Boomerangs is one of the least expensive sports you can play; we supply almost all you need to play.

For more information:
Contact Blair 0438 483 154 or Wayne 0420 928 557
Registrations and Training February 9th, 16th, 23rd
March 2nd, 9th, 16th. 9.00am - 11.00am Boomerang Field, Industrial Drive, Mayfield West.
DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2014

MARCH

Wednesday March 12th – Thursday March 13th
School Athletics Carnival

Monday March 17th
A Barbecue for Parents of New Y7’s and new students
At 6pm in the Canteen area

Monday March 17th
P&C AGM 7pm in school Library (all parents welcome)

Monday 24th March - Wednesday 26th March
Bundanoon Art Camp

Friday 28th March
Yr8 Maths Problem Solving Day

APRIL

Wednesday April 2nd
School X Country

Monday April 7th
School Immunisation Y7 & Y9 Boys