Dear Parents & Carers,

Welcome back to Term 3. By now all students should have received their semester 1 reports.

**Year 12** are back to complete their last term of school. At the end of last term they sat for their trials and are presently receiving their results. Overall, we are pleased with the progress they are making towards their HSC. In the not too distant future an interim report will be issued around their trials. They will receive their final report at their farewell assembly on Friday 19th September.

Many of our Year 12 students are in the process of completing major projects in a range of subjects or sitting for practical examinations in Music, French & Drama as part of their final HSC examination mark. We wish all these students the best.

**Year 11** is also facing a busy term as they prepare for their final Preliminary exams in the last two weeks of this term. However, they do have some relief in week 4 when they are off to the snow for the week.

We have already commenced the organisation for next year. Year 10 are presently choosing their subjects. This will be followed by Years 8, 7 and then 9.

In week 4 **Year 10** will be completing a week of work experience. If any student does not have a placement organised as yet you must see Ms. Campbell **urgently**.

Put aside either the night of Wednesday 30th July or Friday 1st August for the theatrical experience of your lifetime when the cast and crew of Kotara High School put on the performance of Burger Brain. The students have been rehearsing all year and spent a lot of time at school over the holidays perfecting their performance. The tickets are $10 for an adult and $5 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased through the front office.

**Kotara High School is part of the National Consistent Collection of Data from school Students with Disabilities (NCCD). For more information please see the attachment about the NCCD in KIT.**

Stephen Barnett  
Principal
Parking safely near the school

The school has been contacted by concerned parents and neighbours about parents who are parking illegally outside the school, when dropping off or picking up their children.

Parents are reminded that parking unsafely can put children's lives at risk. Behaviour such as calling children across a road, dropping children on the wrong side of the road, leaving children in a car without adult supervision, double parking, parking in a bus zone or driveway or making an illegal U-turn put children at risk outside of schools.

Fines and demerit points apply when certain offences are committed in an operating school zone. The minimum penalty for parking or stopping on or near a pedestrian crossing is a $344 fine and the loss of 2 demerit points. Parking in a bus zone or no stopping zone could result in a fine of $258 plus the loss of 2 demerit points.

Please take care, be safe and considerate of others when picking up or dropping off your children at school.

L. Morton
Year 10 Senior Subject Information Day

A reminder that under the New Education Act it is now compulsory to remain at school until AGE 17 unless fulltime employment and/or engaged in formal education.

Work Experience

Year 10 Work Experience is Week 4 of Term 3 (4th-8th August). Students received their Work Experience packs earlier this term during their fortnightly careers lesson. Included in the pack are the following documents:

- Introduction letter to the employer (white form)
- Student Placement Record (yellow form)
- Preparation for Work Experience (purple form)
- What activities are prohibited (yellow form)
- Student Guide to workplace learning (red booklet)
- The Workplace Learning Guide for Parents and Carers (green booklet)
- The Workplace Learning Guide for Employers (blue booklet) (this is to be given to the employer)

Students and parents are to endeavour to organise a suitable placement. Once this has been arranged the Student Placement Record needs to be completed by all parties stated on the form (student, employer, parent/carer) and then returned to the Careers Office. Completed forms are due Week 1 of Term 4 so that the placement can be approved. If there are any concerns or there are difficulties in gaining a placement, please contact me for assistance.

Please feel free to contact me by phone on 4943 4033 or email prue.campbell@det.nsw.edu.au if you have any questions.

Miss Prue Campbell - Careers Adviser

Debating and Public Speaking

The Debating and Public Speaking Club has continued to produce some impressive results lately. Last Wednesday, 4th June 2014, the Years 9 and 10 debating teams went up against Lambton High School. The result of the day was three wins to Kotara High School and one win for Lambton High School. The students had a great day and really tested their skills in developing arguments within short time-frames. Kotara’s Year 9 team will go up against the Year 10 team in the next round with the hopes of progressing to the Zone Finals.

Next Wednesday, 18th June 2014, The Year 7 and 8 teams will head over to Lambton High School for their first two rounds of the Premier’s Debating Challenge. We are all looking forward to some good arguments and developing improved public speaking skills. Watch this space for the results!

Any students interested in joining the club are welcome. We meet on Thursday afternoons from 3.15-4pm.
Throughout Term 2 the Numeracy Committee continued in its testing of Year 9 students based on their placement along the Numeracy Continuum. The purpose of these tests is to measure the improvement in the level of numeracy from the same cohort of students over a two year period. Students are ranked on a five point scale from well below expectations to well above expectations. The role of the school is to provide assistance for students to improve their numeracy not only between these bi-annual tests but also across the whole curriculum.

We are pleased to report the Kotara High students have shown a gradual improvement in their test results over the last twelve months. Data collected suggests the student group has reduced the percentage of students well below expectations from 8.5% to 2.35% and those below expectations from 25% to 15%. The area of greatest improvement is with students who exhibit numeracy levels at expectations shifting from 23% to 38%. Above expectation has shown a 5% rise whilst well above expectation has grown 1.5%.

Whilst these results are pleasing we are striving as a school to sustain this growth in numeracy and also target the top end students to attain results well above expectations. To achieve this all faculties will be developing their numeracy resources throughout Term 3; numeracy booklets will continue during roll call; maths classes will be working through critical thinking activities and; parents are encouraged to facilitate the use Maths Online at home to help support their child's learning.

Tim Pulsford
ROBOGALTO KOTARA HIGH

Bringing Engineering to Girls

Robogals is a student-run organisation that aims to engage school girls in engineering from a young age, with the long-term goal of increasing female enrolment in engineering, science and technology courses at universities.

Their primary activity is having university student volunteers (both female and male) visit (primary and secondary) schools to run LEGO robotics workshops and mentor teams in LEGO robotics competitions. The university students are provided with the necessary training to teach LEGO robotics, and an important goal of the organisation is not only to have a positive impact on the students, but also to provide a rewarding experience for the dedicated students who volunteer their time and skills to the organisation.

Robogals was founded by undergraduate engineering student (Young Australian of the Year - 2012) Marita Cheng at the University of Melbourne. As of 2012 Robogals has chapters at the University of Melbourne, University of Queensland, Australian National University, Tokyo Institute of Technology, Columbia University, University of Arizona and the Imperial College London to name a few.

The Robogals ran workshops in the Design and Planning Room for Year 7, 8 and 9 students. Each student participated in group robotic programming activities and the response was awesome.

Here are some school photos of the highlights
BURGER

BRAIN

The School Musical

Rehearsals are going well for the school musical.

Drama lessons, sport time and Thursday afternoons see students being directed by Ms Hawkins, or learning songs with Ms Saunders.

Jaida Jones-Wilson and Chris Shanko are proving to be awesome leads and the Hacketts Family Restaurant staff of Year 10 students are hugely entertaining.
TAS FACULTY

WORKPLACEMENT – HOSPITALITY YEAR 11 2014

Congratulations to all the students who participated. Many have been offered part time employment.

The learning experience that work placement has provided will have a positive impact on students’ work ethic and ensure success when they make the transition from school to work.

Thank you to the hosting establishments who support the program throughout the year. They included:

Pegs Cafe – Whitebridge
Lotus Express – Westfield
Café Bon Oz – Westfield
Little Bear Rock Café – Charlestown
Grill’d – Charlestown
Chaddies on Regent – New Lambton
Café Fresh – Charlestown
Fernleigh Café – Adamstown
Maxi’s Café – Adamstown
2 Blend café - Lambton
Air Force Cadets offers sky-high opportunity for local youth

Young people in the Hunter region who are looking for a challenge are invited to join a dynamic and exciting youth organisation.

The Australian Air Force Cadets (AAFC) is a voluntary organisation which aims to equip young people for community life by fostering initiative, leadership, discipline and loyalty. It is supported by the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF).

Officer Commanding 3 Wing (NSW & ACT), Wing Commander (AAFC) Wayne Laycock said cadets participate in a wide range of activities.

“Our syllabus includes practical aviation, bushcraft and survival activities,” Wing Commander Laycock said.

“In addition to weekly meetings and weekend activities, cadets have the chance to apply for specialist courses conducted on Air Force bases during school holidays.”

Cadets develop a range of life skills including self-reliance, teamwork, initiative and a sense of mateship. They also make new friends and importantly, have fun! There are a number of Air Force Cadet Units in the Hunter region.

No 316 (City of Lake Macquarie) Squadron meets on Friday evenings during the school term and will hold two recruit information session on Thursday 5th and 12th June at 7.00pm. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

No 321 (City of Newcastle) Squadron meets on Wednesday evenings during the school term and will hold two recruit information session on Wednesday 16th and 23rd July at 7.00pm. Address: Bullecourt Barracks, Military Road, Adamstown.

Anyone interested in joining the AAFC should attend the appropriate information night with their parent or guardian to learn more. New applicants must be between 13 and 18 years of age.

For more information about Australian Air Force Cadets, visit www.aafc.org.au.
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER!
Let’s get organised early!

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2014 for their 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Austria Japan, the U.S.A and Canada will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange. Call your local coordinator today on: 0429406126 to request our little booklets of international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JUNE/JULY 2014
EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS
IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation that is registered with all state and territory Departments of Education around Australia and with the Ministry of Education in NZ. We are the first and only secondary exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System) and we ensure the highest standards of care and support to our participants.

In June-July we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, 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 looking for host families across Australia to welcome these students into their home.

Our students originate from a variety of countries. Below is a sample of students who will be arriving. Miranda loves the outdoors. Whether it be, bike riding, running, swimming or dance. Miranda would be a wonderful addition to any family with a ‘sparkling curiosity for life.‘

Victor is a passionate cook with a specialty for chocolate cake and croissants. He comes from a large family and is an avid movie fan. Victor hopes to continue with his drama lessons. Felix would be very happy in a large family and is hands on with household chores. A very curious boy and is excited to be on his way to enjoy a ‘new life’ and ‘new culture’. He enjoys basketball and BMX bike riding.

Anna-Maija is an avid photographer of wildlife and nature. This is a great opportunity to brush up on your photography skills. She also enjoys sports such as soccer, volleyball and tennis.

Celine enjoys young children, animals, and loves to cook. She would also like to become a primary school teacher in the future. 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. You might even make a friend for life!

"Just give it a go, the benefits will surprise you. I highly recommend it", mentions Australian Host Dad Andrew, from the Stuart family. "Not only do your children benefit, but the benefits exist for the parents too."

The Stuart family were thrilled to have Danish student Simon stay with them for 8 months. As commented by host mum Victoria, "it has been a fantastic experience. Simon has been an awesome role model to our two young children, he has been like an older brother to them." Victoria continues, "The experience has benefited us too, as it has allowed us to have greater free time and flexibility as a family. I was very impressed with Simon, as within the first couple of days he was here, he asked what should his chores be? Host Dad, Andrew continues, "We are so lucky to have Simon come stay with us. He is a fantastic student, easy going and not very demanding. He has fitted into the Australian way of life so easy. He even obtained his Bronze Medallion. We are so proud of Simon."

The Stuart family talk about their hosting experience further and discuss the ups and downs of hosting, why they hosted and the benefits of being a volunteer host parent.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HOST AN OVERSEAS EXCHANGE STUDENT

Learn about another culture, learn a new language or perhaps improve your culinary skills

Hosting - An Experience for Life

Student Exchange is looking for host families across New Zealand to welcome overseas students into their home

Visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student or call 1300 135 331 for more information
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. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Sandra Harders
Hosting Coordinator - Aust

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
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carers about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).
WHAT INFORMATION WILL BE COLLECTED?
Your child’s school will collect and report information every year about:
- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?
Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:
- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?
Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:
- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?
When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the MySchool website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?
It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every school child who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION
Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability
DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2014

JULY

Monday 21st July

P&C Meeting in the Library
in D Block 7pm

Tuesday 29th July

Parent Teacher Interviews
Years 8,9,10 in the MPC

Wednesday 30th July

“Burger Brain”
The Musical 7pm in MPC

AUGUST

Friday 1st August

“Burger Brain”
The Musical 7pm in MPC

Sunday 3rd August -
Friday 8th August

Jindabyne

Monday 4th August –
Friday 8th August

Year 10 Work Experience

Monday 18th August

P&C Meeting 7pm

Tuesday 19th August

“Lizottes” Music Night
Year 12 –Final Performance