Keeping in Touch

The next P&C Meeting for 2014 is on

Monday 18th August at 7pm in the LIBRARY in D Block

Dear Parents & Carers,

If you didn’t get along to the school’s musical performance of Burger Brain then you missed something special. It was great to see our students, who had worked so hard over a long period of time, pull it together in their four performances. This included the students on stage and our school band playing all the music. It always amazes me, the amount of talent our students display across so many areas. Congratulations to all the students involved in Burger Brain and a huge thanks to Mrs Saunders, Mrs Bryant, Mr Danvers and Mrs Ellicott who put in so much of their time and energy to make this a success. Thanks also to Mr King and all the staff who did the work behind the scene.

Year 10 work experience went very well. The feedback from the employers when visited or contacted by the staff was always positive. The students really enjoyed the experience and have come back with a better appreciation of the real world. The co-ordination of the placement of 174 students could not have happened except for the wonderful work of Ms Campbell, our career advisor.

Without her effort chasing the numerous number of students who had not organised themselves and making sure all the paperwork was completed and handed in, this program would not get off the ground.

Year 11 have returned from their annual trip to the snow. This is another wonderful opportunity for these students. I would like to congratulate students and staff for the way they represented the school. They all had a wonderful time and by their efforts & behavior they brought credit to themselves and the school.
All Year 12 parents should have received their student’s progress report following the Trial exams. They will receive their final report at the Year 12 Farewell Assembly on 19th September. Year 12 parents are asked to put the morning of this day aside to come and celebrate with us the achievements of Year 12.

Our robotic students lead by Mr Hopkins attended the University of Newcastle Robotic Competition. Two of the team, Aiden Connaught & Eden Wilson won the Robotic soccer competition and $1000 worth of Robotic equipment for the school. They are off to the state title later this term.

Congratulations to Brianna Robards who was presented with a $500 scholarship by Sharon Claydon MP on Thursday 7th August.

The scholarship is to help cover her golf expenses. Brianna has also been chosen in a NSW under 19 team to complete in New Zealand next year. At the same awards presentation, Melanie Edwards was presented with a special award for basketball. Michelle represented NSW in the National titles in July and the team finished third. Well done Michelle.

Our 2015 timetable is well underway with elective choices having been made and elective lines constructed. There is a long way to go still.

Our present school cycling of planning comes to a conclusion at the end of this year. We are now in the process of preparing the Strategic Plan for the next 3 to 5 years. We will be asking for parental input through surveys. Your participation in these surveys will provide us with the information so we can plan successfully to continue to drive the school forward. There will also be input from the students and staff. The new school plan will be available on our website before the beginning of next year.

ATTENTION ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND TEACHERS

There is a drop off and pick up area ONLY, for our disabled students in the Staff car park off Corriston Cres. Please take care and use caution when driving through the car park to drop your child off outside the school gate.

There is also a speed limit of 20km to be used in this area for the safety of both staff and students

The Principal

Stephen Barnett
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
On Thursday August 7th, 114 Kotara High students competed against several hundreds of thousand other high school students from across the country in the Australian Mathematics Competition, administered by the Australian Mathematics Trust. Students solved 30 problems in 75 minutes, facing a range of questions from categories such as arithmetic, algebra, geometry and problem solving with students of all standards able to progress through questions and find a point of challenge.

The style of questions posed involves mathematics used to solve relatable real world problems and help identify the strengths and weaknesses of students in mathematical thinking, skills and application. Each student will receive a detailed report on their performance as well as wider statistical rankings. Students who obtain outstanding results are also considered for awards and medal recognition from the Trust.

N Philpott – Organiser
Kotara High School offers numerous courses to help students obtain financial literacy or equips them with the skills to pursue a career in business.

Financial literacy is the ability to make informed judgements and to take effective decisions regarding the use and management of money. Students, who can gain good financial literacy skills, are in a better position to meet these responsibilities, plan for their financial needs and achieve their financial goals. All students through the Mathematics syllabi study financial problems.

In Year 10 students can choose the subject “How to Make Money”. In this subject besides learning skills such as budgeting, they are also involved in hands on activities such as the “Share Market Game” and constructing a market day where they order make and sell a product. The students in planning this learn how to construct a financial report. In the senior years the students can choose Business Studies or Economics which provide them with the knowledge to pursue a business career. Jack Shearer a Business Studies student in Year 11 was selected to participate in the UBS Finance Academy 2014 which was fully paid for by UBS. He was one of 49 students across the state that was given this opportunity.

Student in Years 10 and 11 can also choose to study the VET course Certificate 2 in Retail Studies. Students learn hands on skills like using the cash register and ordering and selling goods. This course involves them working in a Retail environment.

J. Marks
H.T Social Science
‘Burger Brain’ the Musical

The Drama and Music departments recently put on a musical called ‘Burger Brain’ featuring students from years Seven to Eleven. During week three there were two matinees for the local primary schools and two evening shows which were heavily supported by parents, friends and staff. When Lyn Saunders first brought ‘Burger Brain’ to the table Chris Danvers and Lucy Hawkins agreed it would be an exciting, relatable show that would allow every cast member to have time in the spotlight. After the auditions it was clear that there was a huge amount of talent in our school. Working with such a large cast from Years Seven to Eleven had its challenges, but seeing the students intermingle across the years and the group cohesion that developed was priceless.

No matter how many times we rehearsed the show, Jaida Jones-Wilson and Chris Shanko continued to amaze as they worked in such harmony with their stunning voices. The rest of the cast so ably supported them with their energy and ability to work as a team.

The production team led by Lyn Saunders worked tirelessly to make the show look so professional. The moment those lights first came on during ‘Savages on the Dance Floor’ we were blown away!

We would like to thank the staff at Kotara High School for supporting the rehearsal process and the students (and their parents) for their commitment both in school and during their holidays. We would especially like to thank Ava Tollard and Cassidy Schiavone for choreographing the dance numbers and the rest of the cast for stepping up and making some movement suggestions along the way.

We are lucky to have had this experience of working, working and working with these Burger Brains!
Music News!

The music department has had fast food on the brain this last term with the school’s production of Burger Brain. The band for Burger Brain consisted of members of the Kotara High School band and they spent many hours mastering the parts. Conducted by Margaret Ellicott and Matthew Law, in conjunction with Chris Danvers, this group of students produced some of the best work they ever had, providing the backbone for the performance. This collaboration with the Drama department helped the students understand the role of musicians in a stage production and they impressed us immensely with their dedication, patience and maturity.

The musical stretched the abilities of the students and provided a fantastic experience that some of them may have again. The musical has been a rousing success and a testament to the energy, dedication and talent of the current Kotara High School student body.

Now that the dust has settled the school is working towards several important goals. This term marks the end of the HSC course and many students are preparing their final performances for their exams. On the 26th of August, the HSC Performance Night will be held at Lizotte’s in New Lambton. This event will provide the students with the final opportunity to gain valuable experience performing in front of a live audience. Tickets are $10 plus booking fee on the website.

As always this is a busy time but we still look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events!

M Ellicott

12 Drama Showcase

Year 12 Drama have been working hard this term and will be showcasing their Group and Individual Projects on Wednesday 20th August in the Drama room at 6pm.

Lucy Hawkins and Lyn Saunders (Drama Department)
Year 12 Engineering Studies

Students studying Engineering this year in year 12 have successfully completed the first two modules of a four module course. Their first module, Civic Engineering focused on the study of bridges. From the historical development of bridges through the ages, to the materials and engineering techniques used in modern bridges including the bridges used on the Hunter Expressway have been analysed. Students completed the module by building a bridge of their own with strict parameters. These bridges were made from radiata pine and were tested to destruction. A strength to weight ratio was the determining factor in whose bridge was deemed the best. Lucas Wiggers had the best strength to weight ratio.

Personal and Public Transport was the second module and the push bike was their focus product. However, students were rewarded for their efforts in this course by attending an excursion at Xtreme Go Karts, Warners Bay. Apart from having a great time students are now completing exercises on motion, momentum, friction and forces related directly to the weight of their cart and the measurements taken from the track.

Mr Dibben
Engineering Studies teacher
RoboCup Junior is a project-oriented educational initiative that is designed to introduce robotics programming in a fun education setting. RoboCup fosters Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics research by providing a standard problem where a wide range of technologies can be integrated and examined. The initiative also serves as a basis for project based learning.

RoboCup Junior Australia is a national robotics competition for schools. This is a unique event that motivates students to program for Robot Dance, Rescue or Soccer.

This year, RoboCup Junior Hunter Regional was held at The Forum Newcastle University on the 31st August 2014.

11 students divided into 5 teams from Year 8 and 9 students were selected from Kotara High to participate in the RoboCup Junior competition. There were 4 teams entered into the RoboCup Rescue; which was an obstacle course with a set time limit and 1 team in the RoboCup Soccer.

Even though the odds were stacked against our competing teams, Kotara High Robot Rescue teams missed out being in the finals. This was an outstanding effort when taken into account there were 42 competing teams with a large representation of schools who specialised in robotic education. Congratulations to all our students and their efforts.

This year, Kotara High entered a robot soccer team. The team won the RoboCup Junior Soccer 2014 discipline and the latest Mindstorms EV3 robot kit. The EV3 robot kit will be presented to the Kotara High at Quality Awards ceremony day on 2nd September 2014 by two University of Newcastle representatives.

The team now progresses onto another challenge, the RoboCup Junior NSW 2014 Competition held on the 28th and 29th of August at the University of NSW. Congratulations to Aidan Connaughton and Eden Wilson on their excellent outcomes.

C Hopkins
KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL OZ TAG GALA DAY

Kotara High School recently had the chance to play in the Newcastle All Schools Oz Tag Gala Day. The event was held at Waratah Oval on Wednesday the 30th of July and schools from Waratah, West Wallsend, Wallsend, Maitland, and Newcastle High School participated in the competition. Our team consisted of 12 girls from both Years 7 and 8 and we played in 6 short games throughout the day.

The girls played extremely well and kept up high spirits and energy. For some, it was their first time playing Oz tag, but it did not take long to pick up on some of the tricks of scoring a try.

Our top try scorers were Maddison Dwyer, Jessica Meehan, Molly Parkinson and April Shearer. Although we did not make it into the Grand Final, a great time was had by all and we are looking forward to competing again next year.

Well done girls… Miss Watson
YEARN 11 JINDABYNE TRIP

Wow! What a week! The weather gods were clearly smiling down upon the 67 students who attended the annual Year 11 ski trip. After leaving Newcastle in the wee hours of Sunday morning the student’s enthusiasm for the excitement levels began to rise as we glimpsed the snow-capped mountains as we neared our destination. This was further heightened once everyone was suited out with their clothing and equipment.

Monday morning students were greeted by a cool but glorious sunny day. This trend would continue for the entire week making for some of the best skiing conditions in recent years. Placed into their lessons based on their ability, most of the students spent the day on the Magic Carpet learning how to snowplough or fall like a leaf, whilst the more experienced skiers and boarders dusted off the cobwebs on the advanced slopes. The smiles on the faces could not be contained as students returned for a quick bite to eat before racing back out onto the slopes for more practice.

As the week progressed and the skills were refined, student’s spread out across the resort with Pleasant Valley becoming a favourite run for the beginners. The more advanced skiers and boarders found Guthega to their liking with crowd-free, near perfect groomed runs. Unfortunately Wednesday saw our first trip to the medical centre to treat an over-zealous skier for a dislocated shoulder. The good news was the shoulder relocated itself with the skier only suffered muscle strain; the bad news was he spent the next two days off the slopes. Fortunately we would only visit the medical centre once more throughout the week.
The improvement over the week was great to see with all students progressing beyond the beginner slopes and the more adventurous attempting the steeper, more challenging blue runs of the resorts.

Even the Brumby T-bar was ridden without fear or incident…mostly. Throughout the whole time the excitement never waned. By Friday afternoon the students were physically shattered from carving up the slopes for five fantastic days, but the smiles still remained. Unfortunately all good things have to come to an end and we reluctantly left Mt. Blue Cow with a mixture of emotions; elated for the experience but dejected that it was over.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Year 11 students who participated in the camp. They represented Kotara High School very well and we received great feedback from the both the Sport and Rec staff and the general public.

Many thanks to Mrs Couper, Mr Dibben, Mr Goldsmith and Mrs Threadgate for their time and support throughout the week, ensuring the students were safe and had an awesome time.

Tim Pulsford
Head Teacher
Information for applying for university through UAC

Students are to apply through UAC’s website. Applications open 6th of August and the on-time closing date for applications is the 30th of September and it is at a cost of $28. You can still apply after this date, but late fees apply. NSW and ACT Year 12 students will need a UAC Personal Identification Number (PIN) to apply. This is different to your HSC PIN. Your UAC PIN will be posted to your home address in early August.

Students should have collected their UAC Guide from the Careers Office and it also included 5 supplementary handouts with useful information. For the whole document on the application process go to: http://www.uac.edu.au/documents/publications/year11-12-booklet.pdf

To apply for interstate universities there are other procedures to follow and the applications are NOT managed by UAC. QTAC manages QLD universities and VTAC manages Victorian universities. Visit their websites for more information.

Careers advice, guidance and information

- With only half a term to go for the current Year 12 students, I encouraged Year 12 students to make an appointment to meet with me to discuss their future plans beyond school. Many students have already taken up this opportunity, and I am eager to meet with those that have not yet discussed with me their future plans beyond school.

- Students are encouraged to regularly check their DET emails and the Year 12 Kotara Facebook page to ensure they are receiving all important careers information. Information is circulated and updated on a regular basis.

- The foyer in front of the Careers Office has a whole range of information from universities and private colleges. Students are encourage to utilise these resources.

Ms P Campbell
Careers Adviser
Can your Students Climb Sydney's Tallest Building?

We would love to invite your students to be part of the ‘School’s Challenge’ at this year’s Sydney Tower Stair Challenge on August 24. This is a great chance for teams of 4 to take on the 1504 stairs from Pitt Street Mall to the Observation Deck at the Sydney Tower Eye. Participants have to be 12 years or older.

Each stair climbed will assist Giant Steps who operate a school and intervention service for children and young people (2-20) who have been diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

For more information and to register simply go to www.active8change.com.au. Alternatively you can contact Steve Corrie at Active8Change on 0439 975 759 for specific event day information or Michelle Jocum at Giant Steps on (02) 9879 4971.

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 February 2015 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 some student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
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](http://www.aafc.org.au).
- English, Maths, Sciences
- All levels Years 5 - 12
- Exam preparation workshops
- Essay writing & study skills
- Small group & one-on-one tutoring
- HSC specialists
- Qualified, experienced teachers
- Your child is special & deserves the best

**Book now for Term 3!**

40 years of helping Newcastle students succeed

4929 2522
arrendell@ozemail.com.au
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/carer 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 My School 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

AUGUST

Monday 18\textsuperscript{th} August \quad P&C Meeting 7pm

Wednesday 20\textsuperscript{th} August \quad Year12 Drama performance
\quad In B Block Drama rooms
\quad 6pm

Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} \quad GATS Parent Meeting
\quad 7pm in Library D Block

Monday 25\textsuperscript{th} August -
Friday 29\textsuperscript{th} \quad HSC Art Exhibition MPC

Tuesday 26\textsuperscript{th} August \quad Year12 –Final Performance
\quad at “Lizottes” Music Night
\quad 6pm – 6.30 if having a meal
\quad Performance at 7pm

SEPTEMBER

Monday 15\textsuperscript{th} September \quad P&C Meeting