Keeping in Touch

The next P&C Meeting for 2015 is on

Monday 16th MARCH at 7pm in the LIBRARY in D Block

All Parents and Carers are welcome.

Dear Parents & Carers,

I am very pleased to announce that the school year has started very smoothly with most students settling in and working well. A reminder for all our new parents that next Monday 16th March, there will be a welcome bar-be-que at 6pm, followed by a tour of the school. The Bar-be-que will take place next to the canteen area of the school. This will be followed by the P&C’s AGM in the library.

The Year 12 Parent/Teacher interviews are also taking place on Monday from 3 to 6pm in the school library.

Our swimmers experienced great success at the regional swimming carnival last Thursday. Both our Under 12 & under 14 girl’s relay teams, Adelaide Markey and Jake Bartel have all made it through to the State CHS Swimming Championships, to be held at Homebush later this month. Adelaide has qualified in eight different events. Congratulations to all.

On Monday and Tuesday this week eight of our staff, led by Mr Dibben, has been working with the University of Newcastle on “Quality Teaching Rounds”. This will be ongoing over the whole year and is aim at improving the teaching your children are receiving. The program involves staff visiting other staff classrooms, looking at and discussing each other’s teaching practices against a quality teaching framework. If it is successful this year, as we believe it will be, the program will be expanded over 2016 and beyond.

I take this opportunity to announce my retirement from teaching on the 26th March 2015. Mr John Setz is also retiring on the 29th of March and Ms Jenny Shield is going on extended long service leave as of 24th March. Mr Christopher Dibben will be relieving in the role of Principal and Ms Sue Jones will be Relieving Head Teacher, Mathematics. The permanent position of Deputy Principal is presently been advertised and interviews will be occurring on the 25th March.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the students, staff and parents for the support they have given me during my time at Kotara. I have really enjoyed my teaching at Kotara and after eleven or so years, (five more years than any other school), I fully appreciate what it means to a member of the Kotara High School family.

Stephen Barnett
Principal
ATTENTION ALL STAFF, PARENTS AND STUDENTS

There is a drop off and pick up area, for our disabled students **ONLY** 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 a **20km** speed limit, for the safety of staff and students in that area.
Throughout 2015 Kotara High will strive to continue the improvement in Numeracy we have seen over the last two years. We will continue to implement the Numeracy booklets during roll call, exposing students to numeracy on a regular basis so they become familiar with the processes to solve the problems. Maths Online is available to every mathematics student within the school. Parents are encouraged to support students in accessing this program at home as it reinforces what is taught within the classroom.

Students in Year 7 and 8 are currently being assessed in Numeracy. This will give the Numeracy Team a guide to the standard of numeracy throughout each year group, areas which need to be addressed and identify students who may require additional support. Students’ results will be analysed and compared to a post-test which will be completed in Term 4.

A new initiative Kotara High has adopted this year is a Numeracy class in Year 8. This class will follow a modified version of the Stage 4 Maths syllabus with the intention to address the individual numeracy needs of each of the students. The size of the class is limited to 14 with the flexibility to allow students to be reintegrated into mainstream once their comprehension of the mathematical concepts has improved.

T Pulsford
Music News

Greetings, again from the Kotara High Music Department.

Things are starting to heat up here, with plenty of events coming up.

The senior classes recently attended the first ever Reprise Concert at the Newcastle Conservatorium. This concert is a local initiative and is a collection of the best local performers from the previous year HSC class. Usually the students need to attend the Encore concert at the Sydney Opera House to see this level of excellence so this was a great experience for the students, letting them see what they can achieve and expect from the HSC course. Many left the event inspired and confident in their musical future.

Coming up on the 8th of March students will attend the HSC Music Day, also at the Conservatorium. This day will focus on not just the performance, but the aural, musicology and composition elements of the course. This helps the kids pick and choose the areas of the course they want to focus on.

As we approach the end of the term we of course have the Quality awards coming up, featuring the school Stage band and other performers. Also coming up is an Elective concert, featuring the best of the junior and senior school. Keep your eyes open for a poster and come support your friends!

One more thing! Soon we will be announcing a dramatic visiting group that should blow everyone away, as well as propose an excursion to see a musical in Sydney. Remember to check in next month for more Music News!

C Danvers
Year 9 Drama students have been working on short scenes from the play ‘Fossils’ ready to perform at the end of the term. In small groups they have been developing characters and thinking about staging possibilities.

Year 10 Drama students have been working on the Shakespearean play Macbeth. They have been thinking about language and how to represent the key ideas on stage.

Year 11 Drama students have been introduced to the techniques of Stanislavski and completed several realism workshops. They are now moving into Absurdist theatre for something completely different!

Year 12 Drama students have been working on Australian Theatre in class workshops while continuing to work on their Individual Projects. Some of the students went to Sydney to see the top HSC Drama works in the state from 2014 at ‘OnStage’ and came back with plenty of ideas for their practical tasks.

ENGINEERING STUDIES - Visiting Engineer

Darren Burrows, a local engineer visited our school recently and spoke to a number of students including students studying Engineering Studies in year 11 and students studying Electronics Technology and Engineering Technology in year 10.

He described his career starting from high school where he studied Engineering Studies, Mathematics, Physics, Modern History, English and Chemistry. He was accepted into the Navy studying engineering at Jarvis Bay and the University of NSW before completing an illustrious career in the Navy firstly working on naval ship then designing and building ships.

He now is a partner in his own company designing and building an array of mainly marine based engineering projects including the ‘clever buoys’, a shark detection device that may replace shark nets around the Australian coast. Darren would like to thank the students at our school for their interest and excellent behaviour displayed during his visit.

Mr Burrows is the first of a number of engineers from the Newcastle division of Engineers Australia who will be visiting the school.

C Dibben
This year’s athletics carnival was a huge success over both days. We had fantastic attendance, behaviour and participation by the students which contributed largely to the enjoyment and smooth running of the carnival for both students and staff.

Day one saw students participating in the 100 meters, 800 meters and various field events. We finished day one this year with the introduction of the Kotara High Gift race in which the fastest 10 boys and fastest 10 girls over 100 meters competed against each other with handicaps added to make the race more thrilling and competitive. Congratulations to Ruby Saunders who won the girls race and Will Ferguson and Lachlan Haines who tied for first in the boy’s race. The race was a great addition to the carnival and will return again in the future.

Day two, students participated in the 200 meters, 400 meters and various fields events. The day was finished with the highly competitive house relays which were greatly contested and enjoyed.

Although it was a hot two days, it was lots of fun and enjoyed by all. Congratulations to all the staff and especially the students for their attendance, participation and behaviour over the two days.

Emma Russell
Sports Organiser
CANTEEN NEWS

A new Canteen Menu will be on the School WEB page. There will be small increases to our prices on the menu in T2.

Attention all Parents and Carers.

The Canteen is in urgent need of volunteers if you can spare a few hours a day that would be greatly appreciated.
Footwear requirements in TAS workshops

Students participating in Technology studies that are undertaken in specialised workshop environments such as food, textiles, electronics, timber and metal MUST wear the appropriate footwear. This is in line with Kotara High School and Department of Education and Communities policies.

This is limited to enclosed non slip leather footwear. Please refer to the Kotara High School website to clarify the required shoe styles. Examples of unacceptable footwear include canvas shoes and mesh topped sport shoes.

We seek your support in ensuring that students have the appropriate footwear for the workshop environments. Without the correct footwear, students will be unable to access the workshop and an alternate learning environment will be provided.

If you have any queries or require support to provide the required footwear for your child, do not hesitate to contact the TAS faculty.

We request that parents/caregivers follow these guidelines when making shoe purchases in the near future. All students enrolled in Technology subjects in 2015 received a letter during term 4 2014 to take home.

Rebecca Murphy  
Head Teacher TAS

Steve Barnett  
Principal

Year12 CAFs class have recently been studying the homeless. This very enthusiastic class has decided to raise money to help homeless people. 200 individuals in Australia are homeless every night, half of this group is under 24. It is great to see such a motivated group of girls willing to help others and appreciate how lucky they are. The sleepout is on Friday the 22nd of May in the MPC. We have registered and our page is up and running for those who wish to donate to this great cause. Please let me know if you are interested in joining this group for a fun night.

Julie Dalton PD/H/PE
Senior’s SRE Cafe

Wednesdays
period 5 in
D24A

Come & grab a free coffee
while we explore life’s BIG
questions....

Can the Bible shed some light?

@seniorssrecafe
Senior’s SRE Cafe
THE BEST HOLIDAYS HAPPEN AT CAMP

✅ Relaxing  🎉 Fun  🛡️ Great value  🛡️ Safe

Entertain the kids this school holidays with a Sport and Recreation camp. Our popular Kids’ and Family Camps offer a range of exciting activities to keep even the biggest kid entertained. Try your hand at over 40 different activities, including fishing, slip’n’slide, abseiling, crafts, kayaking, cooking and more. Led by qualified instructors, you can rest easy knowing your kids are in safe hands.

Kids’ Day Camps start from $47. Family Camp weekends start from $63 per day for kids and $96 per day for adults (kids under 5 attend free; cost includes accommodation, meals and activities).

Bonus! Residential Kids’ Camps include supervised transport from:

- Central Station, Sydney
- Penrith
- Lithgow
- Bathurst
- Orange
- Wellington
- Brooklyn
- Mooney Mooney.

dsr.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps
dsr.nsw.gov.au/familycamps
13 13 02
facebook.com/nswsportandrecreation
Register now

The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on 20 March 2015 and your school, is invited to register now to get involved.

The day is Australia's key anti-bullying event for schools and calls on staff, students and their communities, right across the country, to get involved and ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence. Since 2011, the National Day has become important in school communities right across the nation.

The 2014 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence was a huge success. Nearly 1 million students from over 2100 schools across Australia took part. That's more than 26 per cent of Australia's student population 'taking a stand together' against bullying and violence.

The day provides a focus for schools in Australia to come together to support a strong message in our school communities - that bullying and violence are not okay at any time, in or outside the classroom.

2015 National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence

New downloadable resources have been created which can be used to help you plan for school events, talk with students, promote your school's anti-bullying work to your community, as well as involve parents and the wider school community.

- **Take a Stand Together** wristbands at the time of registration. Wristbands can be worn by teachers, staff and students to be united on the day.
- The **Take a Stand** app for Apple iOS and Android devices keeps tips and advice about bullying close to hand.
- The **Allen Adventure** app Apple iOS and Android designed for children under 8 years. Allen is a visitor from another planet. He has just started at school and he is working out how to get on with kids on Earth.
- New “**Stand Together**” lesson plans are available for teachers to download and use in the classroom, suggested activities and school events.
- **Promotional material** for the National Day Against Bullying and Violence
- **National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence Facebook page**.

NDA School registrations are now open

Join school communities across Australia and **Take a Stand Together**.
The below Information Sessions will be held here at Defence Force Recruiting, 528 Hunter St Newcastle:

- Wednesday 11th March 6pm - ADFA
- Wednesday 18th March 6pm - Tri-Service Trades
- Tuesday 24th March 6pm – Engineering
- Wednesday 25th March 6pm – Indigenous
- Thursday 26th March 6pm – Royal Military College

The below Information Session will be held here at Bullecourt Barracks (Adamstown Army Reserve Depot) Military Road Adamstown:

- Tuesday 10th March 6:30pm – Army Reserve

Bookings: If you have a candidate ID number please call 13 19 02. If you do not have a candidate ID number, please email cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au or call 02 4974 5427

**Weekly advertised jobs**

You are reminded to check the school Careers website each week for the Careers Link Job link. This advertises: apprenticeships, traineeships, SBATS, full time, casual and part time work. There is a link on the home page of the website. [www.kotarahighcareers.com](http://www.kotarahighcareers.com)

**WHS White Card**

Essential for employment, work placement and work experience in the construction industry.
When: 24th March  
Cost: $90  
Where: held here at school

Place your name on the sheet in the careers foyer to register your interest. Collect a permission note from Careers.

**Big Day In Excursion**

To promote careers and occupations in the IT industry.
When: 30th April 2015  
Where: Newcastle Uni  
Cost: Tickets $10

This day has great reviews. Place your name on the sheet in the careers foyer to register your interest.

**TVET Students**

- Notify me when you are going to be out on work placement as I need to sign the form and correct your attendance at school.
- Please ensure you attend all classes- your attendance is checked and we get a print out of your attendance.
- If you are absent please bring a note to Miss Campbell so I can sign it and then email it onto the TAFE

**Miss Campbell (Careers Adviser)**

Prue.campbell@det.nsw.edu.au
UMAT
The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test

The Undergraduate Medicine and Health Sciences Admission Test (UMAT) is developed each year by ACER on behalf of the UMAT Consortium. The test is developed and used specifically to assist with the selection of students into medicine and health science degree programs at undergraduate level at the universities listed on this page.

UMAT is designed to assess general attributes and abilities gained through prior experience and learning; specifically, the acquisition of skills in critical thinking and problem solving, understanding people and abstract non-verbal reasoning. These abilities are considered important to the study and later practice of professions in the health sciences.

UMAT is an aptitude test. It is not curriculum-based and presupposes no particular subjects of study at secondary level. It does not require any knowledge or skills in mathematics or sciences, or in any other area of the curriculum. It is designed to complement your academic results, not to replicate them. It is not a personality or IQ test. UMAT is offered once a year only.

You will need a UMAT score to apply for admission to any of the following courses:

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<th>New South Wales</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
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<tr>
<td>UNSW - Medicine, Optometry</td>
<td>The University of Auckland Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Newcastle/ UNE Joint Medical Program</td>
<td>University of Otago Medicine, Medical Laboratory Science, Dental Surgery</td>
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<td>University of Western Sydney Medicine</td>
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<td>The University of Adelaide Medicine, Dental Surgery</td>
<td>La Trobe University Health Sciences (Dentistry), Oral Health Science</td>
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<td>Flinders University Clinical Sciences/Medicine, Vision Science</td>
<td>Monash University Medicine</td>
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<td>Bond University Medicine</td>
<td>The University of Western Australia Medicine</td>
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<tr>
<td>The University of Queensland Medicine (provisional entry), Dental Science</td>
<td>(assured entry), Dental Medicine (assured entry)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Charles Darwin University Clinical Sciences</td>
<td>University of Tasmania Medicine</td>
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**UMAT 2015 Timeline**

- Registrations open in early December 2014
- Registrations close at 5.00pm AEST on 5 June 2015
- Late registrations are accepted up to 5.00pm AEST on 19 June 2015 (late fee applies)
- Admission Tickets are available two weeks before the test
- Test date: 29 July 2015
- Results available in late September 2015

Please see me for more information.
TVET TAFE Students

Please ensure you attend all classes as your attendance is checked and the school gets a print out of your attendance. If you are absent from TAFE please bring a note to the Careers Office so it can be signed and then emailed onto the TAFE.

Defence Forces

The below Information Sessions will be held here at Defence Force Recruiting, 528 Hunter St Newcastle

- Thurs 12th Feb 6pm – Tri Service Trades
- Wed 18th Feb 6pm – Health

Bookings: Please email cptnewcastle@dfr.com.au or call 02 4974 542

Careers Link Job email

Students and parents are reminded to check the Kotara High School's Careers website each week (www.kotarahighcareers.com) for the Careers Link Job email. This advertises: apprenticeships, traineeships, SBATS, full time, casual and part time work. There is a link on the home page of the website.

Miss Campbell
Careers Adviser
I've put together a new website.

It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you need with Career Planning and help.

CHECK IT OUT NOW!

Miss Pru Campbell
Careers Adviser

THE BEST WAY TO PREDICT THE FUTURE IS TO CREATE IT
2014-2015 Family Energy Rebate

Apply before Midnight 16 June 2015

2 MINUTES TO FILL IN A FORM
* eligibility criteria apply

$150* TOWARDS ENERGY BILLS

WHAT IS THE FAMILY ENERGY REBATE?
The Family Energy Rebate helps to cover the cost of energy bills for NSW households with dependent children. In 2014-2015 the rebate gives:

- Up to $150 credit on electricity bills for eligible applicants who hold an account with an electricity retailer
- Up to $165 direct payment to nominated bank accounts for eligible applicants who live in a residential community (caravan or mobile home park) and receive electricity from the park operator.

WHAT DO I NEED TO DO BEFORE I APPLY?
Before you apply, here’s a quick checklist. Have you:

- Lodged your tax return for 2013-2014 with the Australian Taxation Office or informed the Department of Human Services (DHS) if you are not required to lodge a tax return?
- Received confirmation from DHS as to your eligibility for Family Tax Benefit A or B for 2013-2014?

AM I ELIGIBLE FOR THE REBATE?
To be eligible you MUST:

- Be a NSW resident; and
- Have been assessed by the Federal Department of Human Services (DHS) as being eligible for the Family Tax Benefit (FTB) A or B at any time during the 2013-2014 financial year, and have received an FTB payment in respect of that eligibility; and
- Be an account holder of an electricity retailer, or a long-term resident of a residential community (caravan or mobile home park), whose name appears on the electricity account for supply to her or his principal place of residence.

HOW TO APPLY

- ONLINE – it takes just two minutes to submit an application. Processing starts immediately.
- PAPER – download a form from the website, complete and submit by email, fax or post. Use this form if you receive your electricity from the operator of the residential community where you live.

FOR MORE INFORMATION & ASSISTANCE
PHONE Service NSW 13 77 88
EMAIL far.program@trade.nsw.gov.au
Hunter Animal Rescue Inc.

9TH ANNUAL PETS PICNIC

10AM TO 3PM SUNDAY 15 MARCH at Speers Point Park

FREE Family Event
FUN FOR ALL AGES
- BBQ
- Prizes
- Raffles
- Exhibitors
- Competitions
- Market Stalls
- Kids Entertainment
- Dogs Welcome (On Leads)

Proudly Sponsored by:
PETQuarters

For more information go to www.hunteranimalrescue.com.au
The Pets Picnic is one of our biggest events of the year and assists us to raise funds for our vital cause.

**HAR** (Hunter Animal Rescue) is a not-for-profit organisation run by volunteers who dedicate their time to finding new homes for abandoned pets facing euthanasia. All animals are kept in foster care homes where they experience a good quality of life and the carers get a good idea of a dog or cat’s personality and suitability for different homes.

**HAR** is run entirely by volunteers who spend many hours trying to save the lives of pound animals. We encourage responsible pet ownership and host community events which raise funds to assist us in rehoming over 500 animals a year.
Boomerangs Baseball Club
Register NOW for Junior Baseball
U/8 & U/10 T-Ball, U/12, U/14 & U/16-17 Baseball
Rego & Training Sunday
1st, 8th & 15th March
9.30am Boomerang Field Industrial Drive Mayfield West
Contact Wayne – 0420 928 557
Email – mayfieldboomerangs@gmail.com
For more information visit www.boomerangsbaseball.com.au
FAMILIES REQUIRED IN LATE MARCH

In March next year 15 students and 2 teachers from our sister school, Ube High School, will be visiting Newcastle for one week. The group arrive around lunchtime on Sunday 22nd and depart on the morning of Sunday 29th March.

The visitors will require a bed for 7 nights (can be a shared bedroom for students), meals and a way of getting to and from school, if not within walking distance. They will be attending school and workshops at Newcastle University.

On Saturday the 28th they will spend time with host families. They can join in your usual family activities or you can do some sightseeing if time permits.

Hosting is a wonderful opportunity to learn about the Japanese culture and to share Australian culture and lifestyle.

If your family can host one or more of the visitors, or if you have other relatives, friends or neighbours who can host, could you please email the following teachers and indicate whether you can take a student or teacher and if you have a preference for male or female or either.

We need to make the homestay arrangements before the holidays so that we can inform the organising teachers in Japan.

Thankyou for your support,

Mrs L. Fitzmaurice  liza.fitzmaurice@det.nsw.edu.au
Mrs J. Wagner  jill.wagner@det.nsw.edu.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 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!
We are the first and only student exchange organisation in Australia and New Zealand to be certified to ISO 9001 (Quality Management System).
Lend us your ears, and we’ll read you the world!

Do you or anyone you know have difficulty holding or reading newspapers, books or magazines?

2RPH is at your fingertips to read the daily newspapers, books and over 35 magazines per week!

We broadcast a dedicated children’s program weekly, Junior Journal! Junior Journal is a 30 minute program with stories, movie and game reviews, especially for kids!

The last 10 minutes of each Junior Journal program is dedicated to readings from the 10 Minutes a Day program, a partnership with Newcastle Region Library!

Be listening on Saturdays at 6:30pm to read along!

Tune in to the 2RPH radio reading service each day on 100.5FM, 2RPH Digital, or stream live at www.2rph.org.au!
Can Saver Plus assist you with high school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or studying yourself.

Contact Cynthia Culhane, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 4927 8385 / 0418 699 646
or cynthia.culhane@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Newcastle by The Smith Family. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.
DATES TO REMEMBER FOR 2015

Monday 9th March -
Tuesday 10th March
Quality Teaching
Conference in Library

Monday 16th March
6PM P&C New Parents
Welcome Bar-B-que and Tour
of the school.
7PM School Library D Block
(All Parents and carers
Welcome)

Monday 16th March
Year 12 Parent /Teacher
Interviews 3pm - 6pm

Monday March 23rd –
Thursday April 2nd
Year 12 Assessment Period

GOOD FRIDAY April 3rd –
Monday 20th April
(Pupil Free Day)
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
All students return on
Tuesday 21st April

Monday 18th May
P&C Meeting 7pm
School Library D Block
(All Parents and carers
Welcome)