



Korowal School

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www.korowal.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter

Feb 11th 2009

Vol 32 Issue 1

MESSAGE FROM MARK THOMAS, SCHOOL CO-ORDINATOR

Today, we welcomed our new Kindy students and their parents to their first day of school, so completing our full complement of students in attendance for the first time in our new school

The year has started extraordinarily well with a great sense of optimism and collective spirit.

I need to thank all the staff, both teaching and non teaching who helped pack up our old school at the end of last term and returned a few weeks ago to set up our new site.

Thank you also to those parents, families, friends and helpers who worked tirelessly over the past months to get the new school ready for the new year. The response to these efforts has been extremely positive and rewarding.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the remarkable work of our major contractors who not only completed their work with great competence and professionalism but supported us by working through the Christmas break, sometimes Saturdays and sometimes well into the dark to complete the project on time. Thank you to John Shaw our road and car park builder, Jurjen Teenstra our builder, Greg Power for electrical and data installation and Daniel Brown our plumber. Special thanks also to Byron Williams our painter.

We had a delightful open day two weekends ago, which provided an opportunity for the wider Hazelbrook community to visit and see what we had achieved, many of whom had a long relationship with the property and its previous activities. Many shared their memories and expressed delight that we had breathed new life into the buildings – especially in the service of children.

We feel that we are welcome in our new location and we intend to be a valuable contributor to the mid mountains in general.

Lastly, thank you to our senior students who returned to school two weeks ago to help with unpacking, furniture moving and introducing the new school to the year 6 students.



GENERAL NEWS

THANK YOU ONE AND ALL!

A huge and heartfelt thank you to everyone who committed so much time, energy and talent to the school's renovation and relocation. Together we have made the seemingly impossible possible. So many people contributed... parents, students, ex-students, teachers, teachers' families, grandparents, friends ... Some worked for hundreds of hours, others just a few. Some performed heroic physical feats in 40 degree heat, others tirelessly packed, unpacked, sorted and categorised. Some sewed or cooked or organised fundraising or remonstrated with the Ministry of Transport, others gardened, cleaned, painted, moved furniture, assembled play equipment, fixed rooves and gutters, and carted unbelievable amounts of rubbish to the tip. Our paid staff all cut their annual leave short to set up the school. Our executive staff worked through most of the holidays. Some parents devoted their annual leave to working at our school.

Most of the tradespeople employed on the project - road builders, electricians, builders, carpenters, painters - have donated voluntary time as well and all have been generous, flexible and professional. Everyone who has helped to bring this complex and ambitious plan to fruition should now feel a real pride in and connection with our beautiful new school. This is just the beginning. The future development and renovation of the school and its grounds can now build from the base of strong community support that has developed during this past year.

Annie Carment (relocation co-ordinator ... about to retire !!)

WORKING BEES and JOBS STILL TO DO

We will take a short break from working bees to give everyone a rest and to enable teachers to focus on teaching programs.

OUR NEXT WORKING BEE WILL BE ON SUNDAY MARCH 1ST 10AM - 3PM

We'll let you know in the next newsletter what work is required so that you can come prepared. In the meantime, we require help from skilled volunteers with some carpentry, fencing and fixing jobs. We URGENTLY require help to install aluminium and stainless steel screens on windows. This is a bushfire requirement with which we must comply. If you have the requisite skills and time, please contact Annie Carment on 0431352022 or acarment@bigpond.net.au.

TRANSPORT

It's great to see so many students using our supervised public transport.

We hope that we have sorted out most of the initial glitches.

If your primary school child is a sometimes user of public transport, it would greatly assist him/her and us if you could use either a tag, such as for a key ring, that says "Public Transport Home" or a small pocket diary that we can check. Young children often get confused about arrangements that vary from day to day. If you have transport problems or queries please contact Barb (high school) or Nancy (primary) preferably by email.

noosterhohh@korowal.nsw.edu.au

bfitzgerald@korowal.nsw.edu.au

If you are dropping students off by car, PLEASE do not drop them in Queens Rd, Lawson. All vehicular traffic must use Hall Parade.

WATER BOTTLES & BUBBLERS

We are still awaiting delivery and installation of bubblers in the primary playgrounds. Please ensure that your child brings a water bottle that s/he can refill from the tap.

ENROLMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are vacancies in this year's kindergarten class, and limited vacancies in some other classes. If you have friends who might be interested, please let them know. There will be an information morning at the school on Sat March 14th from 10 - 12 for anyone who would like to find out more about the school.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VANESSA AND CRAIG WHOSE BABY BOY WAS BORN THIS WEEK

GARDENING AND LANDSCAPING

We are beginning to plan for the major landscaping required around the new roadworks at the front of the school and around the science labs at the rear. Further information will be available soon about plans and working bees.

In the meantime, please contact Annie Carment on 0431352022 or acarment@bigpond.net.au if you can grow, or cheaply source, grasses and other landscaping plants, acacias, azaleas, grevilleas or casuarinas.

An ORGANIC GARDENING GROUP meets fortnightly on Saturday afternoons and is organised by Deb Hurley. It communicates by email. If you would like to be informed of its meetings, contact Deb at outthere@tpg.com.au.

Thank you to everyone who has weeded, mulched, pruned, mowed, cleared, fenced and created new gardens over the past year. Our aim is to bring all of this energy together soon to discuss and plan for the gardens courtyards and grounds. In the short term, the inclusive, eclectic approach has served us well.

If you are keen to help with gardening outside of working bee or gardening group times, contact Annie Carment. The front gate is now locked so we will need to arrange access.

CANTEEN

Trish and her team are road-testing the new kitchen with a simple menu of healthy food. Until further notice the canteen will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. All food must be ordered by 10am. Hot foods will be added to the menu when work has been completed on the stove and hot water. Extra days will be added as more volunteers sign on and are trained in food handling procedures. If you can volunteer, leave your details on the whiteboard in the kitchen or email Barb bfitzgerald@korowal.nsw.edu.au.



HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

The students are to be highly commended for their part in making our first week here a smooth and delightful week, especially under such extreme weather conditions. Feedback from the junior high school students at our assembly on Friday afternoon was most welcome and alerted us to a couple of issues which we are following up on. I can now report that the bubblers are functioning in the high school. At this early stage feedback is important and we welcome any concerns or queries.

Pathways Camp

Years 11 and 12 go on their annual camp at Kangaroo Valley from Wednesday 11th to Friday 13th February. As both years now combine for all their HSC subjects, the focus of this camp is to provide an informal venue for integration and fun. The students and teachers travel on the Kangaroo River in canoes and kayaks, camp on the river bank, and this year will also be introduced to some of the Aboriginal sites along the river.

Language Awareness

It is refreshing to see so many students catching public transport to school. We are encouraging the high school students to be aware of the primary students both on transport and in the school grounds and to assist them if they need help or guidance. We are also alerting them to be aware of their casual use of slang and swearing as they are often oblivious to the impact of this. It would help us if you could remind your children of the appropriate and inappropriate use of language.

Barb.

LOST: MP3 PLAYER, black, shaped like a toblerone ,,, return to office if found

Thank you

We have had a wonderful first week and I would like to thank all of the teachers, parents and students for making our Hazelbrook school not only a reality, but a beautiful reality! It is fantastic to see the children in this space - they have brought a great energy and joyfulness with them. They have also brought a wonderful openness and acceptance of the fact that there are differences and that we are still learning how to make the most of our spaces.

Clothing

We used to remind parents of Lower Mountains children to send warm layers for their children to wear because of the difference in temperature between Leura and the Lower Mountains. Now we have to reverse the message ... Last week we had some children from the Upper Mountains who were very warmly dressed, so please remember that it really is warmer here than in Leura – even when there isn't a heatwave! We need the children to have sun protective clothing when they are outside, but this should be light.

New Staff

Kim Poole has joined our teaching staff, working with the 3,4,5 class. We are delighted to have him with us. Kim is here on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

We also warmly welcome Pam Staples our new Teacher Librarian who is here from Tuesdays through to Thursdays.

Louise Dungate has joined us as a Learning Support Teacher, job sharing with Kirsty. Louise will be here each Thursday and will be working 2 days a week during Kirsty's maternity leave in term 2.

It is very exciting to have Margaret McGillion with us again for this year. She is working with K,1,2 on Wednesdays and Thursdays during Vanessa's year away.

We also welcome all our new students and their families to our Korowal community.

Class Meetings

By the end of this week we will have held all our class meetings. If you were unable to attend, please contact your child/ren's class teacher so that you can be informed of particular class arrangements.

Trish and her team are road-testing the new kitchen with a simple menu of healthy food. Until further notice the canteen will run on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays only. All food must be ordered by 10am. Hot foods will be added to the menu when work has been completed on the stove and hot water. Extra days will be added as more volunteers sign on and are trained in food handling procedures. If you can volunteer, leave your details on the whiteboard in the kitchen or email Barb bfitzgerald@korowal.nsw.edu.au.

We value your input and feedback. If you wish to speak to one of us, please call the school office – 4758 7466 – and ask for us to call you back. I am also available to meet with people on Wednesdays and Thursdays – just call the office and make an appointment.

Here's to a great year!

Nancy



From Jennifer ...

Pathways took the lead this year in helping to orientate and welcome the Class 6 students to our new school site. After providing them with a tour of the school, both inside and out, they served morning tea with a smile. Some of them joined in a friendly game of handball. It was wonderful to see primary and high school students interacting and building relationships right from the beginning of term. Thank you Pathways.

Oskar and Jade (Pathways) with Ruben (year 6)

Korowal does not specifically recommend or guarantee the quality of any of these connections.

BLUE MOUNTAINS BMX CLUB

The Blue Mountains BMX club is hosting a "Come and try day" on the 21st February at Blue Mountains BMX track, Lawson.

BMX is a fast paced exciting sport. Riders sprint around our 400m track with jumps and turns and enjoy the thrills and excitement involved in racing.

In 2008 BMX made its Olympic debut in Beijing.

There are clubs located in every state & territory, both rural and metropolitan regions with a huge diversity of members. Riders of ANY age and gender and riding ability can take part in BMX. The oldest rider in NSW is 64yrs old!

It is one of those rare sports that the entire family can enjoy together.

At our Blue Mountains Club, we take pride in the fact that we are family orientated, our members feel welcomed and we all pitch in together to help one another.

BMX Australia, in conjunction with the state associations and local clubs, will be holding a National Sign on Day on the 21st February 2009.

Families can head down to Blue Mountains BMX track, on Saturday, February 21st from 2pm to 4pm and join in the clinic and learn the basics of BMX. We are located at Ferris St - off Wilson St, Lawson. (Turn at Wilson St next to Lawson Public School and follow signs).

The day is free and the children will receive a show bag with a hat, tattoo, stickers, a CD and other goodies.

For more information about dates and times visit www.bmxaustralia.com.au or phone their office on 9738 2571 or alternatively contact our website <http://bluemountains.bmxnsw.com.au> or phone Gary on 4753 1171.

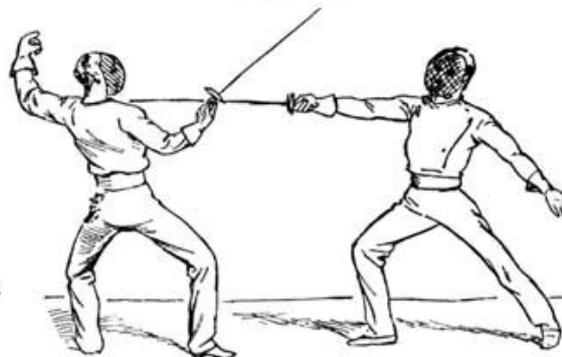
Mountains Fencing Club

Great, cheap, fun and healthy

10 week introductory course

\$100

All Equipment
Supplied



If you like it, the rest of the year will be at the discounted membership rate of \$80 for 2009.

General membership for previous fencers is \$110 for the year.

Monday nights 7pm - 9pm at Winmalee High School

Start date 2nd March.

For further information

www.mountainsfencing.com.au or ring Sarra 0406 924 238

Family Fun



at the Centre

Come along to a free afternoon and evening family event. Activities include:-

- ◆ Magic Pudding mask making
- ◆ sewing ◆ painting ◆ sausage sizzle
- ◆ screening of "The Magic Pudding" (7pm)
- ◆ local stalls and groups ◆ join in with Aikido & local dance group demos ◆ sing along with local choirs & lots more...

When: 4pm - 8.30pm Saturday 28th February, 2009. Screening of "The Magic Pudding" (rated G) begins at 7pm.

Where: Mid Mountains Community Centre, 9 New St, Lawson

Contact: 4759-2592 for more information

This free family event is a collaboration between Mid Mountains Neighbourhood Centre & Mid-Mountains Happenings (a project of MOCS)

Lower Mountains Family Support Service (An activity of Blaxland Uniting Church/Uniting Care) Family Links Project

PARENT GROUPS

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2009

Web Site: www.lmfss.org.au for information on current parent groups and other services

GROUP LOCATION DATES & TIMES

"Staying Sane With Kids"

A 4-week group exploring the ups and downs of parenting

Cost: \$30 (4 sessions)

Pinnaroo OOSH Winmalee Public School Whitecross Road Winmalee

Friday mornings 13/3, 20/3, 27/3 & 3/4/09 Time: 10am – 12.30pm

(childcare available)

"Children Are People Too"

A 4-week group based on Louise Porter's book of the same name

Cost: \$30 (4 sessions)

Blaxland Neighbourhood Centre 33 Hope Street Blaxland

Wednesday evenings 11/3, 18/3, 25/3 & 1/4/09 Time: 7pm – 9pm

"Multi-Cultural Playgroup"

A free playgroup meets fortnightly. Open to families with children 0-5 from diverse backgrounds

Blue Mountains Family Support Service

2 Station Street Katoomba Every second Wednesday morning

11/2, 25/2, 11/3, 25/3 & 8/4/09

Time: 10am – 12 noon

Contact: Yola 4782 155 Jill 4739 5963

"123 Magic (evening)"

A no-nonsense behaviour management program for 2-12 yr olds

Cost: \$20.00 (3 sessions)

Lizzards Pre School 846 Hawkesbury Road

Hawkesbury Heights

Tuesday evenings 3/3, 10/3 & 17/3/09 Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm

Kevin Rudd's Education Tax Refund

Parents – Hold on to your receipts!

Eligible parents can now claim a **50% tax refund*** on:

- Laptops
- Home Computers (and related costs)
- Home Internet connections
- Printers
- Education software
- Trade tools (for use at school)
- Text Books
- Stationery

*Maximum refund of \$375 per primary school child or \$750 per high school child.

For further information call the office of

Bob Debus MP

FEDERAL MEMBER FOR MACQUARIE



1300 550 605

Authorised by Bob Debus MP, 98 Bathurst Rd Katoomba NSW 2780

