



Korowal School

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Newsletter

25/3/2009 Vol 32 Issue 3

CALENDAR	
March 25	HSC preliminary exams begin
April 1	Pathways art excursion
April 7 - 9	Year 10 camp
April 9	Last day term one
April 28 (Tuesday)	First day term 2 for students
May 23 (Saturday)	Community forum & AGM 3 pm

GENERAL NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2008 HSC STUDENTS

Korowal congratulates all of our 2008 HSC students on their achievement last year. Our students gained Band 5 or above in seven out of the eight subjects undertaken last year. Excellent results were achieved in Studies of Religion, Mathematics and Modern History, and in Visual Arts four students achieved Band 6 marks.

There were a number of fine individual achievements: Ebony Daley-Carey and Rebekah Harrison are to be congratulated for their outstanding overall achievement. The art works of Daniel Knott, Kit Rigby and Ebony Daley-Carey were short-listed for ArtExpress, and Daniel's pastel drawings were chosen for exhibition. Many other students obtained results that exceeded their own expectations.

We are thrilled at the success of our students who have achieved academic distinction, but we are equally proud of our students who during their school years have developed the self-knowledge that enables them to discover their talents and achieve their goals. They approach life after school with creativity, optimism and a sense of who they are, and their curiosity for learning is not dulled.

COMMUNITY FORUM AND AGM

This year's AGM will be held on Saturday 23rd May. We are planning to begin with a tree planting ceremony, followed by a Community Update/Feedback Forum and concluding with the AGM. The forum will provide a constructive opportunity to reflect on our relocation and the challenges ahead. What is working well in our new location? What are the problems? We plan to begin at 3pm and finish by 5.30pm. Please make a note of this date in your diary – we'd love to have a big turn-out. Children are, of course, welcome. Child-care and light refreshments will be available.



KOROWAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

With our AGM coming up in May, all parents will soon receive minutes, audited accounts and nomination forms for the School Council. The Korowal School Council is a democratically elected body (half parents and half teachers) that is in effect the board of directors that

controls and operates Korowal School. All school rules, all policies and all financial decisions are subject to final approval by the School Council. If you have an interest or talent in governance please consider standing for Council.

By governance I mean the method by which the School is run, over and above its basic legal obligations. It has four critical elements 1) **transparency**, which entails a true dialogue with a range of stakeholder groups and a serious effort by leaders to listen and learn 2) **accountability** — this means asking the questions: Who is responsible and to whom? What are they responsible for? What are the consequences if the rules are violated? 3) **stewardship**, which involves a clarity in all school decision-making so that those controlling the destiny of Korowal do so not for their own benefit, but rather for the benefit of the school community 4) **integrity** — developing a culture committed to ethical behaviour. The School Council meetings are open to interested observers by prior arrangement. If you would like to discuss this further with me, please phone me on 0414881077 or 47573239.

(Vittorio Cintio, chair, School Council)

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

We are in the process of submitting several applications for government funding. Some of these will automatically give us capital funds for particular projects, but most of them are competitive (i.e. we might be allocated funds, we might not!). With the exception of heritage department grants, funds can only be used for future capital projects, so we cannot use the funding to repay ourselves for any of the building work we undertook last year.



Last year we applied to the NSW government for heritage funding. Results of this application will be announced in April.

We are about to complete our Solar Schools funding application. This provides grants for solar power generation and for other energy saving improvements (insulation, double glazing etc.)

We have submitted our application under the National Schools Pride component of the Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution funding package. (BER). We have applied for funds to complete our bushfire compliance work (fire trail, metal window screens, gutter guards), to finish plumbing work in our science labs, to purchase block out blinds for high school classrooms, and to begin work on the retaining wall that is necessary to stop that mini-landslide that you may have noticed in the front car park.

This week we will submit our application for Block Grant Funding for 2009/10 from the Block Grant Authority. We will request funds to renovate our central heating system, repair our roof and build an oval and a ball court.

Soon we will submit our application for primary school funding under the BER package. There is a prioritised list of projects for which this grant must be used. From this list we have decided that a multi-purpose hall will provide the most uses for the greatest number of students. It could be used for PE, indoor sport, lunch in wet weather, large teaching groups and as a performance and assembly space.

There is also BER funding available for high school science and language laboratories. It is competitive and awarded on the basis of disadvantage, so we are unlikely to receive a grant but we are investigating our options.

We are preparing an application to the NSW department of environment and climate change for a water harvesting program, which we hope would provide funds for renovation of our concrete tank and pump and connection to the pond and gardens via new irrigation pipes.

We have also applied to the NRMA for speed humps and to Woolworths for a vending machine (which we would fill with healthy food and drinks).

We will keep you informed of the progress of all of these applications.

Our next fortnightly cake stall fundraiser is scheduled for this Thursday 26th March. Cakes will be available for purchase at recess at the cost of \$1 to \$3. Year 10 students are requested to bring cakes to supply this stall. Please deliver cakes, biscuits or slices to the office before school on that day.

We sincerely thank year 8 students and parents for the incredible success of our last cake day.

DONATIONS TO OUR BUILDING FUND

are tax deductible and always needed. Capital funds from the federal government must be spent on particular projects. Our building fund can be used for general upkeep and improvements to our buildings and grounds.

INFORMATION MORNING

We were delighted that we had many visitors at our recent Information Morning. We are receiving many enquiries and future enrolments. Our enrolments have increased already since the beginning of term. We wish to thank you for your support during this transitional period and appreciate the marketing that you do for us when you speak about us in the community.

VOLUNTEER REQUEST FOR TERM 2 CANTEEN ROSTER

As term 1 is coming to an end and our volunteers are moving on, we are looking for new volunteers to commit to one day a week for the next term. The Canteen would like to extend its days from Monday to Wednesday to Monday to Thursday next term, so we are looking for several volunteers to make this possible. Please phone Patricia Fitzgerald on 47593519 if you are able to offer your time once a week from 9am to 1pm.

END OF TERM VOLUNTEERS' DINNER

At the end of each term we will share a 'Volunteers Meal' as thanks to the wonderful help that has been given and the fun that has been shared whilst preparing the healthy food for our children during the Semester. We would like to extend a special thankyou to our volunteers this term: Bronwen Jones, Chris Wheeler, Linda Brisbane, Sue Orr, Ema Jimmins, Lindsay Haymon, and Hayley Druker and invite them all to join us at the school for a meal on Thursday 9th April at 7pm.

BOS REGISTRATION

Teachers have been extremely busy preparing documents regarding our teaching practice for the Board of Studies registration process. This has included a Scope & Sequence for each Key Learning Area, for each year group, showing outcomes and the number of hours spent on that particular KLA. With our Morning Circle and Main Lesson approach to teaching in an integrated manner across the KLAs, it has been somewhat time consuming allocating times!!! We have also had to submit a unit of work for each KLA for each year, complete with evaluation and assessment methods. If you notice our shoulders looking more relaxed, it is because we have just about completed everything required for this first stage of the process. Stage 2 is a visit in June, when our programs are inspected and children's work samples displayed. Stage 2 is not so onerous, as we are always proud of the children's work – and our own!

I'd like to say a huge thank you to the teachers for the fantastic work that they have done, whilst continuing to perform at a very high level with their students. Well done!

Nancy



BOB DEBUS' VISIT

Bob Debus, our representative in federal parliament, visited us last week and spent and spent over an hour looking around the school. He was amazed and impressed by the work we have done and is very supportive of our school. The year 6 students who had just

returned from Canberra and were keen to talk with him.

FOUND: Green XL zipper vest with prescription sunglasses in zip pocket. This was left behind at "On the Groove" at Wentworth Falls School of Arts last year.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

CLASS 6 TRIP TO CANBERRA

Class 6 students recently undertook an educational tour of the national capital. While on this tour they participated in a variety of educational activities focused on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their national capital as part of their 'Civics and Citizenship' education. To assist us in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate programme towards the travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program. The excursion was a wonderful educational experience and the students should be congratulated on their excellent behaviour and attitude during the four days. Many thanks to Martina Larsen, Daniel's mum, who accompanied us and helped in so many ways to make the excursion a happy time for us all. Thank you also to all the parents who cooked snacks for us to take on our trip.



Jennifer

PEER SUPPORT

This week was the first week for our new Class 6 students to be Peer Support leaders. We have 13 groups altogether, comprising students from years 1 – 5, being lead by the Class 6 students, who have been trained by Jennifer. The groups will be learning how to play games in a co-operative way – we are optimistic that the activities from these sessions will flow into the children's play times at recess, lunch and after school.

K,1,2 EXCURSION

Mary-Ann & Nancy are planning to take their class on an excursion to the Charles Darwin Park at Wentworth Falls. Travel will be via public transport – a combination of bus and train. We shall also need to cross the Great Western Highway at traffic lights. This excursion is planned as part of our personal development program regarding safety and consideration of others.

Nancy

DEWDROP WALL HANGING

This is a section from the "Dewdrop" wall hanging that has recently found its place in the primary hallway. If you haven't seen it, it's worth a visit – as is the "Our Community" mosaic. Photos cannot do justice to their texture and complexity.

"Dewdrop" was made by children currently in years 4,3,2 & 1. It was begun in 2006 during the Dewdrop & Story of the Water Cycle main lesson. The children worked with Paula & Amanda to design



the lay out. They drew their own creatures etc which Paula then prepared for stitching.
Teachers involved: Paula, Amanda, Yvonne, Nancy & Mary-Ann. Parents : Tracy, Juliet (Eilish's auntie). Putter together and master quilter: Greg!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

WE WISH PATHWAYS WELL

This week you may see 'quiet exams' signs around the school as Pathways students sit their exams for the end of their preliminary courses. This marks the end of their Year 11 course work. They then begin the HSC course work, which continues until the end of Term 3. All Year 11 and Year 12 students will sit the HSC exams for this cycle of subjects from October until mid-November. Year 12 students finish their schooling with us in October, and Year 11 students then begin their second cycle of subjects, with the current Year 10 students stepping up to join them and become Year 11.

HATS ARE ESSENTIAL FOR ALL STUDENTS

We are in need of your support here. In the high school we are constantly reminding students to wear hats when in the school grounds, and at sport. At present we have about a 50% success rate, and we are concerned about the impact of ultra violet rays. . At sport we are enjoying clear sunny afternoons at Gloria Park, or in the bush. In addition to this many teachers prefer to take classes outdoors in our fabulous grounds when the opportunity arises, but we are becoming restricted by the absence of hats.

We ask that the students, with your support, take responsibility for bringing their basic equipment to school each day.

CONNECTIONS

Community events and notices. Korowal does not specifically recommend or guarantee the quality of any of these connections

Opening of Winmalee Skate Park

Winmalee Skate Park will be officially opened on Sunday, March 29 commencing at 10.30am. The skate park will be opened by Blue Mountains City Council Ward 3 Councillors Brendan Luchetti and Alison McLaren. There will be a pro-skating demo by Dustin Dollan and the PD Distribution Crew, as well as a tree planting ceremony and free sausage sizzle. Following lunch there will be a mini skating competition, with prizes given out for the best trick.

Everyone welcome.

For more information contact Council's Youth Services Development Officer on 4780 – 5000.

WINTER MAGIC FESTIVAL: A Call for Student Volunteers

Unique opportunities have arisen for students and schools of the Upper Blue Mountains to partake in the coordination of the Blue Mountains premier winter event, the Katoomba Winter Magic Festival 2009. The Katoomba Winter Magic Inc is calling on all local schools and its students to volunteer their time to assist in ensuring the success of this years festival, which sees over 35,000 people visit Katoomba street and its local surrounds on the day. The Winter Magic Festival is a not-for-profit community based festival. All official events are free and it heavily relies upon the cooperation of its organisers, business community and its many volunteers to make the day truly magical.

Community volunteering provides students with sound experience in representing both

themselves and their school within their local community. The Katoomba Winter Magic Festival is an ideal forum as it allows students to contribute their skills and knowledge to the event by participating in it's coordination and management. This years festival will be held on Saturday June 20, 2009 and there are a range of positions available for which your school and its students can participate both, in the months lead up to the event or with assisting with logistics on the day. Positions available on the day include ushers, marquee information assistant, roving information and volunteer support crews. Volunteering in this years event comes with exclusive benefits. All student volunteers will receive an entry pass to our inaugural ice skating rink that will magically appear on Sunday Morning as well as receiving a certificate in recognition of their participation in Australia's largest community event. To apply, complete the application form (photocopies accepted) or visit www.wintermagic.com.au or contact myself on 0420 366 342 to discuss the many ways your school can be involved in this years event.

Claudia Clarke

Volunteers Coordinator

2009 Winter Magic Festival committee

E: Claudia@wintermagic.com.au

Steve Biddulph Live

Raising Boys

Friday 3rd April

7:30pm @ Springwood Civic Centre

Everyone who has boys today is concerned for them. We all want our boys to grow up to be happy, positive, caring and motivated. Come and hear about how this can be done in simple, practical ways that will make immediate sense.

Secrets of Happy Children

Sunday 5th April

2:00pm @ Springwood Civic Centre

This talk is for parents of boys and girls aged from birth to adulthood! It gives you a roadmap for understanding the kind of love your child needs at which age and how to adapt yourself to be able to help them grow up with good hearts and strong backbones.

[Book online now](#)

www.springwoodtalks.com

Adults \$20 / Concession \$12 per talk

25% discount for both talks: Adults \$30 / Concession \$18

Tickets are also available from The Turning Page Bookshop, Springwood.

Email enquiries: info@springwoodtalks.com

Phone enquiries: 4751 8735 (9:00am - 5:00pm)

NB We regret that babies and children under 14 yrs cannot be admitted.

Supported by Mountains Outreach Community Service



This and other images are sections from the work of year 9 and 10 art students : a visual essay on our new school