



Korowal School

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NEWSLETTER

8/12/2009 VOL 32 ISSUE 14

CALENDAR 2009	
Wednesday 9 th December	Class 3/4/5 concert, "James & The Giant Peach"
Thursday 4.30 – 5.30pm	Pathways group devised drama pieces
Thursday 10 th December	12 o'clock Year 10 graduation End of term for high school students
Fri 11 December 1.15pm	End of term for primary school students
2010	
27 & 28 January 2010	Staff development days
Fri 29 January	Pathways students start term 1
Mon 1 st Feb	Years 1 – 10 start term 1
Thurs 4 Feb	Kindergarten starts term 1
Thus 1 April	Last day term 1
Mon 19 th April	Term 2 starts – all students
Fri 25 June	Last day term 2
Mon 19 th July	Staff development day
Tues 20 th July	Term 3 starts – all students
Fri 24 September	Last day term 3
Mon 11 Oct	Term 4 starts – all students
21 & 22 October	High school staff development days
Thu 9 December	Last day term 4 for high school
Fri 10 December 1.15pm	Last day term for primary school

MESSAGE FROM THE CO-ORDINATOR

As we complete this first year in our new home it is worth taking time to reflect on the past twelve months and the extent of the achievements that have been made. With full staff and community support, we have re-established Korowal. Twelve months ago we had a building site, teams of workers, and a lot of courage. We knew that the only way the doors could open for start of school was with relentless effort. We hoped that we would become as strong and vibrant in our new location as we had been at Leura. We trusted that together we could make this work.

Today we have a fully functioning school. There is routine and rhythm to the day. We have seen the first Year 12 graduates sit their HSC exams on site. Our enrolments have increased and we appear to be generating interest from further afield, with many new families joining us from the mid and lower mountains. We have been warmly welcomed by the Hazelbrook and Lawson communities.

Although much has already been written throughout the year, and thanks have been offered to a large number of individuals and families, the magnitude of our achievements are a tribute to all who work here and learn here and play here.

One day I might understand how we achieved our relocation but for the moment I would like to highlight the contribution of some individuals.

Our project has required the passion of an irresistible force and this has been Annie Carment. The relentless demands of this endeavour have been matched by Annie's relentless drive and focus. As a community we are indebted to her.

It was ambitious of us to think that we could have a sustainable and healthy canteen, but through her championing, Trish Fitzgerald and her helpers have both nurtured and educated us. Our canteen is a source of pride and demonstrates how individuals make a wonderful contribution to the wellbeing of the whole community.

I gratefully acknowledge the adaptability and professionalism of all our staff to new site requirements and the demands of changed structures and procedures.

Most significantly the teaching staff had to respond to the demands of the Board of Studies Registration and Accreditation process. At the best of times this can be highly distracting for any school, but somehow amidst all the other challenges we achieved our registration and accreditation for another five years.

Overwhelmingly the trust of our families has made this experience worthwhile. It is not something we take for granted as we believe the education of children is a profound thing. We know our parent community make deeply considered decisions when it comes to choosing Korowal for their children. Needless to say our current circumstance affirms our faith in the education that Korowal provides.

Formally I would like to acknowledge the role of the Korowal School Council, Vittorio Cintio our recently retired chair and Rosemary Dillon our incoming chair. The responsibility of Boards to ensure the financial viability of organisations is a very serious one, and our School Council members over the past three years have fulfilled their responsibilities with great courage and competence.

We farewellled Nick Palmer, our high school music teacher after nearly 10 years of service to the school. We welcomed Bev Milner as our Bursar. Margaret McGillion returned to cover for Vanessa Avery's maternity leave, and sadly once again we say farewell to Margaret. Next year Vanessa will return to teach 345.

We also welcomed Cairo Gawne who joined us the teach Drama and HSIE in the High School. Kim Poole who was teaching 345 will return next year to teach Music and HSIE in the High School. Jennifer Read will move to part time teaching from Class 6 to K12. Her replacement, as highlighted in Nancy's report, will be Talulah Vane.



January this year - science labs arrive



This time last year

Finally to Nancy Oosterhoff, Barbara Fitzgerald and Steve Garthwin who share executive responsibility for managing the school with me. I thank them for their competence, support and judgement over the most extraordinary time in the history of our school.

Mark Thomas
(a very tired) School Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM KOROWAL SCHOOL COUNCIL

12 months on and we are stronger than ever! A message of thanks to the Korowal School community

Reflecting on our move to Hazelbrook makes me think of a mother giving birth. A lot of attention is often focused on the “birth” itself, but as mothers and fathers we know the real adjustment and work comes after the birth. That’s when the challenges (and joys!) of parenthood have to be met - day in and day out. In the case of Korowal not only have we “rebirthed” our school in its new location, we have also successfully got through our first year. On behalf of the School Council I would like to express a heartfelt thankyou to every member of our school – teachers, office and support staff, children and parents – for all they have contributed to Korowal over the last 12 months. It has been a monumental year, not only in terms of being our first year at the new site, but also given the sheer size of the workload and challenges faced in re-establishing the school - all whilst continuing day to day operations.

Our school exists today, stronger than ever, because each of you made a commitment to continue supporting and being part of the Korowal community. Thankyou for doing this in 2009 and thankyou in advance for the commitment and contribution you each will make in 2010!

I would like to pay special tribute to one person who has played the pivotal role in leading and supporting Korowal over the last 12 months - our School Coordinator, Mark Thomas. Every ship needs a captain and Mark has been ours - leading the school into safe harbour. While many have contributed in different areas, Mark has held the whole school. His leadership has been steady and unwavering. His commitment to upholding and putting into practice the values and principles that make Korowal the school that it is, is inspiring. Over the last 12 months he has relentlessly worked long hours, day in and day out (and many weekends!) to ensure the ongoing viability and success of the school. So on behalf of the school community I would like to thank Mark profoundly for his leadership and ongoing contribution to Korowal.

Of course Mark has been ably assisted by many, including the teaching, office and support staff of Korowal and the many parents and children who have contributed in different ways. As we reflect on the year that has passed, special acknowledgement needs to be made of the contribution of Annie Carment, who project managed our transition into the new site, and to Vittorio Cintio, the retiring School Council Chair (after 10 years of service!) for his support and leadership.

On behalf of the School Council I would also like to acknowledge the special contribution made by Nancy, Barb and Steve – who together with Mark form our School Executive. Your passion, commitment and service to Korowal in your Executive Committee role is very much appreciated.

2009 has been a big year for the School Council with an ambitious program of work established following a major strategic planning session. The Council has met monthly and continues to work well together with the best interests of our school at heart. Particular focus has been given to our Finances and Human Resources, with working committees established to further support and strengthen these areas. I would like to thank my fellow Council members for their ongoing contribution, service and support to Korowal.

Finally on behalf of the School Council, I would like to wish each member of the Korowal School community a safe, happy and joy filled Christmas.

Rosemary Dillon
Chair,
Korowal School Council

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Thank you

As we come to the end of this, our first year at Hazelbrook, I would like to say thank you:

- *to the students.* Our teaching program in term 4 2008 supported the idea of change and continuity for the students; providing the reassurance that whilst some things would change, others would remain the same. The children have embraced our new location and shown resilience in the face of significant changes - one of the biggest single change being for those children who have become users of public transport. The children have had to adapt to a different time frame - lunch at 1.35 seemed awfully late! The loss of the oval especially impacted upon the 3,4,5,6 children and I commend them for their inventiveness regarding adapting their games and their patience - hopefully we'll have a flatter area for ball games soon. Thank you.
- *to our parent body.* Many people helped with one aspect or another regarding our relocation, be it supplying boxes, cleaning, painting, gardening or providing food and drinks. All of you provided support by continuing to believe in us and either maintaining your child's enrolment or enrolling for our new premises. Your ongoing support makes such an important contribution to our well-being. Thank you.
- *to the teaching staff.* This has been an enormous year for all of us, which began during last year's summer holidays. Having packed up the Leura site, classrooms had to be set up for the new school year and we had to adjust to the new environment. The times were different, the playground areas were different, our policies for emergency procedures were different. We were also busy preparing for the Board of Studies inspection, scheduled for the end of term 2. This involved us in making sure that our teaching programs and practices were of the standard required without us feeling that we were losing sight of the specialness of Korowal. It was with an enormous sense of pride that we listened to the compliments about our work. The programs were excellent and the children's work reflected a similarly high standard. By the beginning of term 3 our routines were beginning to feel smoother and we enjoyed our first Open Day here. This term we have class concerts, picnics and parties. We will return the children's work and present you with your child's school report. Throughout the year we have maintained our sense of purpose and our belief in what we do. I thank Amanda, David, Denise, Helen, Jennifer, Jill, Kathi, Kim, Kirsty, Louise, Margaret, Mary-Ann, Pam, Paula and Yvonne for their commitment, professionalism, support and friendship.
- *to other members of staff.* Our wonderful Office staff, this year joined by our new Bursar, Bev, continue to support us in so many ways - large and small. They are usually the first port of call for new enrolments and injured children alike - often at the same time! Keith & Vaughan have been wonderful with the children who travel on public transport and have provided much support to children, parents and teachers alike. As well as their travel duties they also work on our maintenance team with Greg. Trish has brought a whole new freshness to our canteen. Her contribution to the school extends beyond her fabulous food. Roberta has been our regular cleaner for many years now and I don't think we've ever acknowledged her. She had a very different routine to get used to and has done so with her usual equanimity. To all of these people, thank you.

Staffing changes for next year.

This year we have enjoyed the presence of Margaret McGillion. Margaret used to work with us full-time and rejoined us this year to replace Vanessa on K,1,2, whilst Vanessa took maternity leave. It has been lovely having Margaret with us and we shall miss her quiet, calm and efficient ways. We wish her success for the future and look forward to maintaining our relationship with her.

Kim Poole has spent this year working 3 days a week on 3,4,5 with Amanda and Yvonne. We have appreciated his quiet, friendly and thoughtful ways and will miss him as one of our classroom teachers, but look forward to seeing him in primary on a regular basis when he

comes to share his musical talents with us next year. Kim will be working substantially in the high school, teaching music and HSIE. Our current year 6 students are lucky enough to be having him as their class teacher next year.

Jennifer, who has been with us as a full time teacher for nearly six years, is returning to University herself next year BUT we are fortunate to be able to keep her with us two days per week as part of the K,1,2,teaching team. We are delighted that we will be able to continue to benefit from Jennifer's skills, wisdom and personal qualities.

Vanessa will return from maternity leave next year for 3 days a week to teach class 3,4,5. Vanessa was a full-time 3,4,5 teacher at Korowal for three years before she moved to Sydney. We are delighted to be welcoming her back.

New class six teacher. We are extremely pleased to be able to inform you that Talulah Vane will be joining us next year as our new Class 6 teacher. Talulah is a talented and experienced primary school teacher, having taught across many age ranges. Her most recent school was Taverner's Hill Public School, in Sydney. We look forward to having Talulah at our school. She has already met her students for next year and is very excited about joining us. Welcome, Talulah.

End of year festivities

K,1,2

On Saturday 21st November K,1,2 had a family picnic followed by a concert. It was a desperately hot day and our little ones were excellent, singing songs learned in Morning Circle and reciting some of their poems. They had a huge audience and rose to the occasion wonderfully.

Class 6

Saturday 28th November was a very special occasion for our Class 6 students, their teacher and parents, which marked the end of their primary schooling. The school hall was decorated and set up for a shared dinner. The Class 6 students performed musical items, using voice and a variety of recorders. The standard of their performance was remarkable. After a quick change they then performed a Greek play, displaying their qualities as actors, comics and musicians. It was an evening to remember. Well done Class 6, Jennifer and parents. I would like to wish all of the students a successful and rewarding time at high school.



K 1 2 concert

Year 5 Party

On Wednesday afternoon the class 5 students acknowledged the end of their 3 year cycle in 3,4 5 by partying with their teachers. This is indeed a time for celebration, prior to moving on to their special place in Class 6, where we are sure they will display all the desirable qualities of leadership that the final year of primary school provides.

Year 2 Sleepover



Last Friday night this year's year 2 children had the first Year 2 Sleepover at our new school. The sleepover has become a Korowal tradition over the years. It marks the end of the children's first cycle at school and provides a safe and secure environment in which to practise being away from home with school friends and teachers, in preparation for their first class camp next year. We had a marvellous time and especially enjoyed reminiscing and eating, not to mention walking along Hall Parade to look at the Christmas decorations. And yes, we did sleep!

3,4,5 performance

There will be a performance of James and the Giant Peach on Wednesday 9th December for the 3,4,5 community. The children have been working hard and we are hearing some great sounds and glimpsing some interesting sights as their rehearsals progress. Fortunately they will be performing for the rest of the primary school students at their dress rehearsal. We're really looking forward to it.

We are also looking forward to a performance by the High School Drama Elective students on Tuesday. They have devised 2 short pieces based on Fairy Tales especially for us. This is one of the many advantages of being a K - 12 school!

HOLIDAYS

School finishes for primary students at lunch time on Friday 11th December. *Please remember to collect your child's school work and school report for the year.*

We do have some smallish maintenance jobs that we'd love volunteers to help us with over the school holidays. Please email Annie Carment or me if you are available and state what sort of jobs you are able to assist with e.g. painting, carpentry, gardening (even if it's lawn mowing), cleaning.

NEXT YEAR

All students from years 1 - 10 return to school on Monday 1st February. The new Kindergarten students begin on Thursday 4th February.

New Public Transport Arrangements for afternoons

From the beginning of next year, all Primary School children will travel by school bus after school to Hazelbrook station and then either up or down the mountain by train. The train leaves Hazelbrook at 3.47 pm going down and 3.48 pm going up. Keith and Vaughan will be

supervising the children. If you wish your child to use one of the buses that leaves from Redgum Avenue, please send me a note, giving your permission and stating which days this will happen. Thanks. Early next term there will be a special meeting for all parents whose children use public transport to and/or from school. Morning transport arrangements will remain the same.

That's all from me. I wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season.

Nancy

HIGH SCHOOL

Year 7 Orientation Morning

It was refreshing to have the students from our Year 6 group as well as students from Year 6 at other mountains schools come together and visit the high school for a half-day. They will be Year 7, 2010. Their enthusiasm appeared to last the duration as they participated in sample lessons in a variety of subjects, and delighted in the morning tea provided by parents and students of the outgoing Year 7 class. We are looking forward to having them with us permanently. A special thank you goes to Annabelle, Dawn and Yvonne for setting up morning tea for the new families and showing them around the school

Year 8 Orientation Day

This was an unusual event for us. We have 6 new students starting in Year 8, so we invited them to spend the day with their future class, and hopefully exchange phone numbers to enable new friendships over the long Summer break. Again we thank Rosemary, Jenny and Dawn for their support on the day.

Opportunities to perform

In addition to performing at the Lawson Festival, next Tuesday the 8th December a group of students will be performing musical pieces for an Art Show at the Civic Centre. This exhibition is to acknowledge the works of young residents at The Ritz Nursing Home as part of the International Day of People with Disability. Ten of our High School students will provide ambient entertainment at the Opening Celebrations. We thank them for their participation.



Last December – big pile of rubble

Wicked- The Musical

A small group of 30 high school students and teachers will attend the stage musical 'Wicked' next Tuesday evening. This follows on from our immersion in the development of the musical genre and our own performances in the Cabaret last term.

Year 10 Celebrations

As Year 10 complete their time in Junior High School they have a series of celebratory events coming up. On Saturday they have their Year 10 dinner that they have chosen to have at school. There is a team of people currently working on this. Cindy is organising front of house, Trish, Robyn and Sandy are catering, and students will assist with waiting. This will be our first student dining event in our beautiful venue!

Year 10/11 also go to Jamberoo for the day next Wednesday, 9th. They were the class with the most points accumulated at the swimming carnival earlier this year, and their reward is to have a day out.

On Thursday 10th December at 12.00 their official graduation ceremony will be held in the hall. Parents and family are invited to this. The new Year 10 group will provide a b-b-q lunch.

Last day of term

For high school students is Thursday this week (10th December). Any students who wish to come to school on Friday morning to help with organisation, cleaning up etc would be very welcome. We will get them to the bus after 1pm.

Thank you.

The last newsletter of such an auspicious year deserves to be filled with expressions of thanks. I would therefore like to shine a light on the staff and students in the high school.

While it is more comfortable for us when things stay the same, the development of resilience comes from both exposure to adversity and the positive outcomes of one's adaptability to adversity. Throughout this year the students have shown great resilience. From their first day in January much had changed, yet they adapted to their new circumstances with little disruption. They are to be congratulated on their good humour and task focus. Their contributions of ideas and suggestions for the smooth day to day running of our school continue to be implemented and reviewed. Thank you to each of you.

The staff carried this transition. They supported the students through their fears and uncertainties while quietly dealing with their own grief at the move. They packed and unpacked teaching resources, re-established classrooms and routines, and reassured the students and themselves that all would be well. They have shown patience around the un-renovated staff facilities, accepting the prioritising of ongoing jobs as part of a work in progress. Their professionalism in teaching and documentation of curricula has been exemplary. I would like to thank the teachers for their dedication and commitment to the ongoing life of the school. I would also like to acknowledge their families and thank them for their understanding and support.

Finally I wish to thank Steve Garthwin for his share in the co-ordination of the High School at a time when so much was and still is unknown. It has been challenging time but Steve has met the demands with great integrity and leadership.

Happy holidays!
Barb

CHANGES TO BER BUILDING WORK TIMETABLE

There are three parts to the building work that will be funded under the federal Government's "Building the Education Revolution" Program. – a verandah on the northerly end of the primary school, an extension to the K12 classrooms, and a new hall.

- During these summer holidays we will build the verandah around the 3,4,5 and 6 classrooms as planned. This will provide shade from the sun, shelter from the rain and a place for parents to gather before and after school. It will also relieve the pressure inside the hallway at beginning and end of school.
- Unfortunately, we have been forced to defer the extension of the K12 classrooms until the summer holidays next year. Because of bureaucratic processes over which we had no control, we were not able to organize for the work to be completed during these holidays. Therefore, it must wait until the next long break i.e. next summer, because we need those rooms during term times.
- The completion date for the hall project has been deferred until July 2011. This allows us more time to consult with architects and builders and get the best possible price for the job. We expect the project to begin late in 2010.

CAN YOU HELP DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

If you can help in the gardens, including lawn mowing or whipper snipping, please contact Jacqueline on 0416543511 or agardenwoman@gmail.com.

If you can help with other jobs, please contact Annie acarment@bigpond.net.au or Nancy or Mark or Barb.

CONGRATULATIONS SHARIF

One of our Pathways students has flown to Canberra this week to attend a special training program at the Australian National University for ten days. **Sharif Olorin** has been invited by the Australian Informatics Olympiad Committee (AIOC) to participate in their "school of excellence" as a training camp to help identify and develop the skills of students who may become members of the Australian team to compete at the International Olympiad in Informatics to be held in Canada in 2010.

Informatics? What's that? Sharif and a few of his fellow students have been competing in **computer programming** competitions at Korowal this year, under Simon O'Brien's supervision, and have made notable progress in this their first year of competing. As a result of these competitions, Sharif has been invited to be a contender to represent his country on the international stage. Korowal school is very proud of the programming team's great progress and Sharif's particular honour. Whether he makes the four person team to go forward to Canada is being decided as you read this, so we wish him good luck. Getting to the national training school in year 11 is a remarkable achievement in its own right, and suggests that Sharif has a great potential future in programming.

The cost of his attendance at the AIOC Informatics School of Excellence is supported by the federal government, through the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science and Research. However, there has been a significant contribution required towards the cost, and we are delighted to acknowledge that **Katoomba Rotary Club** has been able to support Sharif with half of this. We thank them for their generosity towards this worthy cause, and invite any other contributions from interested parties, since the school still needs to assist Sharif to fund-raise nearly \$500 towards his expenses. If he makes the team for Canada, we understand that this will be paid for by the NSW State Government!

Steve

OUR WHOLE SCHOOL COMMUNITY END OF YEAR SINGALONG/ CELEBRATION/ PARTY...

...will return next year, will bells on! It goes without saying that this year has been unusual and momentous and just a little exhausting. But we haven't forgotten the end of year event – just deferred it.

(Annie)

KOROWAL KITCHEN WISH LIST

As we are nearing the end of our first year at our new school it has become apparent what equipment we need in the kitchen to continue providing a nutritional menu to our students. As the food is being prepared on the premises, it is essential that we have reliable equipment. Please check your cupboards for unused equipment, presents etc that may be of great use in the Korowal Kitchen, or feel free to purchase and donate any of the following items.....

- ❖ Heavy based stainless steel saucepans; all sizes, particularly 10Litre plus.
- ❖ Food processor (Robot Coupe for a life long guarantee) or any brand would be fabulous for our pesto, hommos etc
- ❖ Slushy machine for frozen juice treats on these very hot summer days
- ❖ Electric Hand wand for blending soups
- ❖ Plastic containers for food storage (all sizes)
- ❖ Rice cookers (preferably 10 cup or larger)
- ❖ Mix Master
- ❖ White dinner plates, side plates, stainless steel cutlery; for functions
- ❖ Large stainless steel cooking spoons
- ❖ Glass door fridge for drink sales
- ❖ Bench top deep fryer

Any of the above would be greatly appreciated and can be brought directly into the school or contact Trish Fitzgerald on 0431393877 if you have any enquiries.

GARAGE SALE

The garage sale organised by Tracy and Hayley to raise money for learning support resources was a great success. Thank you Tracy and Halley and everyone who donated goods for sale.

TEXTBOOK TRADING

Year 8 second hand books available
Contact Rebecca Hamilton 0432 278 996

PLEASE PICK UP CLOTHING FROM LOST PROPERTY BEFORE THE END OF TERM

CONNECTIONS notices

community events and

SELWOOD SCIENCE AND PUZZLES HAZELBROOK JANUARY 2010 SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

WED	20	<i>Science Magic</i> 9:30 -12:30 Water Science 1:30 - 4:30
THU	21	Fun Electricity 9:30 -12:30 Slime Making 1:30 - 4:30
FRI	22	Easy Chemisty 9:30 -12:30

Selwood is OPEN everyday
during the January school holidays except Christmas,
Boxing & New Years Day

Bookings essential

Phone 4758-6235 or info@selwoodscience.com.au

- FUN ELECTRICITY (3 hours) 5 - 8yrs **\$24**
Make circuits that operate lights and buzzers. Lots of hands-on educational fun. Look at blowing fuses and other surprising activities.
- WATER SCIENCE (3 hours) 5 - 11yrs **\$24**
Look at science activities involving water. Make a plaster cast of your hand, launch a water rocket and lots more. Fun, educational playing.
- SLIME MAKING (3 hours) 5 -11yrs **\$24**
A fun time making and playing with different types of slime and take home what you make to show your family and friends.
- EASY CHEMISTRY (3 Hours) 8 - 13 yrs **\$24**
Demonstrations and hands-on experiments with real chemicals using real test tubes. Make smells, rubber, burn steel, invisible ink & more.
- SCIENCE MAGIC (3 Hours) 5 - 11yrs **\$24**
Make your own tricks and look at demonstrations of magic using science principles with everyday materials. Everything is explained so you can surprise your family & friends.

Opening Hours

9am-5pm Mon-Fri (closed Tues & Wed outside school holidays)

10am-4.30pm Weekends & Public Holidays

(closed Christmas, Boxing & New Year's Day & Good Friday)

All classes held at Selwood Science & Puzzles - over the bridge at Hazelbrook railway station at 41 Railway Pde Hazelbrook

Christmas Shopping

Thursdays to 8pm



LATE NIGHT
Shop Locally - it makes cents

IN KATOOMBA

Carol singing & festivities at The Carrington Dec 17

Dec 3 Dec 10 Dec 17

Prizes
Giveaways
Bustlers

Look for this poster at participating retailers



Illustration by Jane Canfield

This event is proudly supported by the Katoomba Chamber of Commerce & Community, Cittaslow Blue Mountains, and Slow Food Blue Mountains.