

KOROWAL SCHOOL Newsletter



CALENDAR 2011

When	Where	What
Fri 23rd September	Hall	Final year students' farewell assembly
Fri 23rd Sep		Last day term 3 No BBQ today
Mon 10th October		Term 4 begins
Mon 10th October		Enrolments close for Pathways 2012
Mon 17th - Thurs 20th October	Springwood Aquatic Centre	K12 swimming
Thurs 20th and Fri 21st October		No high school classes High school staff development
Mon 24th - Thurs 27th October	Springwood Aquatic Centre	K12 swimming
Mon 31st Oct - Thurs 3rd Nov	Springwood Aquatic Centre	K12 swimming
Mon 7th - Thurs 10th Nov	Springwood Aquatic Centre	K12 swimming
11th November	Carrington Hotel Katoomba	Formal for final year students.
Mon 14th - Thurs 17th Nov	Springwood Aquatic Centre	345 swimming
Mon 21st - Thurs 24th Nov	Springwood Aquatic Centre	345 swimming
Thurs 8th Dec		Last day term 4
Fri 9th Dec		Staff development day

Please note that the first day of term 4 is Monday October 10th. There is no staff development day at the beginning of term 4. The last day of term 4 is Thursday, 8th December. Friday 9th December is a staff development day.

Food matters

During the holidays Barb and Nancy will be meeting with Amber and Paula to discuss the canteen menu for term 4. In the light of our current situation, we shall be looking at a menu that will be sustainable so that we can offer a regular, reliable and still healthy and wholesome food service 4 days a week. We will also be reviewing the Friday barbecue "community event" As Paula has now accepted increased duties to cover Trish's absence, she is no longer able to co-ordinate the sausage sizzle. We wish to thank Ken, who has taken over the co-ordination for the last 3 weeks.

We wonder if there is anybody else who could take over as Friday BBQ co-ordinator next term.

Ideally, if there were 2 or 3 co-ordinators, each co-ordinator would only have to manage 2 – 3 weeks. We also wish to thank all of the volunteers who have helped either in the canteen or at the sausage sizzle this term.

Please note that there will be no sausage sizzle on the last day of term, Friday, 23rd September.

Health matters

These are links to fact sheets about:

1) whooping cough

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/pertussis.html>

2) chicken pox and shingles

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/factsheets/infectious/chickenpox.html>

3) head lice

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/PublicHealth/environment/headlice/index.asp>

Gas main emergency response

On Thursday, 8th and Friday 9th September workers dug up the gas main at the bottom of the school driveway.

This necessitated the activation of an emergency response from police, fire brigade and AGL gas contractors.

As part of this response road access to the school was blocked.

On Thursday this occurred around 11 am so the impact was minimal. The issue was resolved in about 45 minutes.

On Friday the main was broken around 9 am resulting in a large number of students who had caught the bus and a number of families who were driving to school being prevented from accessing the school premises.

We considered many emergency plans upon relocation to this site, but had not anticipated an event such as this one.

As it was, we met with the students on the corner of Red Gum Ave, and arranged for our school bus to transport them to a safe access point at the northern end of the school property.

Parents in cars were directed to access the school from the western side of the school property via Queen's Rd, Lawson. **This access point is for emergency access only and its use is tightly governed by the original Blue Mountains City Council school relocation development consent.**

Access to the school along Queens Rd is at the point where the tarred road ends. A road to the right, at this point, is blocked by a gate with the name of the school on it. Access to the School can be gained by walking around the gate then down the road.

Access to the School can be gained by walking around the gate then down the road.

It can be viewed on Google maps where it is marked as Sulman Rd, Lawson.

On the day some of our families were unable to locate Sulman Rd and unfortunately used Roberts Rd, and accessed the school through private property. We have reassured our neighbours that this was an emergency situation and have reconfirmed our commitment to notify the community as soon as possible should such a circumstance reoccur.

I must emphasise that accessing the school via Queens Rd is only for emergencies.

Mark Thomas

School Coordinator

WE'LL SEE YOU AT THE MOVIES!

Our new cinema ad will screen during the upcoming holidays at Penrith and The Edge cinemas. It will screen again during the summer and autumn holidays.

Because it only runs for 15 seconds (if you drop your popcorn you'll miss it) there is no room for on-screen credits to thank all of our talented friends who have contributed.

So here they are:

Photographs by Niobe Syme (www.niobesyme.com), Toni Hutchison (www.tonihutchisonphotography.com), Annabel Cliff (<http://solitaryphotographic.blogspot.com>) and Annie Carment.

Original music written and performed by Luciano Carment, recorded by Andy Busuttlil at Blue Mountains Sound (www.bluemountainsound.com.au)

Logo and font from a style guide prepared for Korowal by Emelia Simcox at Forgery Graphics (www.forgerygraphicdesign.com).

The ad was **created by** Annie Carment, the marketing committee, and Cinevation.

Korowal Foundation

-seeking expressions of interest.

Until now the activities of our school have been essentially focused on the education of our students which is of course our primary function. However, the time is right to consider what actually sustains the school, and what role Korowal has in the promotion of its educational practices to the wider educational community.

Korowal School exists as a stand alone institution. It does not belong to, nor is it supported by, or affiliated with, any other organisation or group. Our only affiliation is that we are a member of AAPAE (Australian Association of Progressive and Alternative Education)

Our school is, in a sense, very independent, which is quite unusual in educational circles. It draws on no particular tradition although it has adopted and adapted some Steiner practices. As such it is uniquely placed to find its own inspirations and to determine its own path without attachment or obligation, excepting those obligations it has to various legislative bodies.

Korowal has, for most of its existence been rather inward looking, seeking only to serve the educational needs of its students and families. In recent years of course, the School has experienced major changes, and this has been the catalyst to reconsider the relationships the school has to other organisations, the local community, the wider community, across the nation and globally. (Barbara Fitzgerald one of our High School Coordinators recently visited a democratic education conference in Britain and was very positively received by attendees who were fascinated by our approach – and our existence!)

There is a pressing need to draw together greater resources to sustain the school, both with its financial objectives and its educational objectives.

At the recent Korowal School AGM a proposal was put to the meeting, by one of our parents, Leanne Kent, (parent of Jordan year 7 and Callum Year 6) to establish a Foundation to meet this need, to support the school to and increase its sustainability, and to take the idea of expanding its message beyond the immediate school community. Leanne's particular interest was in the establishment of a Scholarship Fund to support increased student access to the school.

School or educational foundations have a long established history in Australia with many independent schools having Foundations operated by ex-students (alumni). The School Council endorses this proposal. Mark Thomas, our School Coordinator, is in the process of seeking legal advice on the establishment of a Foundation, and also a Scholarship Fund.

At this stage we are seeking expressions of interest from any existing or past parents, any past student or employee who may be willing to join a steering committee. The first task would be to assist with the development of the proposal, including the development of a charter or constitution as well as assisting in the establishment of a Scholarship Fund.

The School would also be very interested in **any proposal for ideas and projects** that you feel the Foundation might like to consider as part of its brief or charter.

If you are interested in being part of the steering committee, or could recommend this proposal to an ex-member of the community who might also be interested, please contact Mark at mark.thomas@korowal.nsw.edu.au

Fun Run

We have collected lots of money. Thank you! If your child has not yet returned his/her collected money, it's not too late! As agreed with High School students, a portion of the money collected by them has been donated to the relief fund for Somalia.

The following "thank you" was performed by K,1,2 at our assembly. The children adapted A.A. Milne's "Anxious Pooh Song" as follows:

ANXIOUS KIZZ SONG

3 Cheers for Kizz!

(For who?)

For Kizz!

(Why what did she do?)

I thought you knew;

She organised the fun run!

3 Cheers for Kizz!

(For where?)

For her!

She couldn't run,

But she had some fun!

(She had some what?)

Oh, listen, do!

I am talking of Kizz!

(Of who?)

Of Kizz!

(I'm sorry I keep forgetting)

Well, Kizz was a teacher of enormous brain -

(Just say it again!)

Of enormous brain -

(Of enormous what?)

Well, she planned a lot,

And I don't know if she could run or not,

But she managed it all,

And we had a ball.

So now let's give her three hearty cheers!

(So now let's give her three hearty whiches!)

And hope she'll be with us for years and years,

And grow in health and wisdom and riches!

3 Cheers for Kizz!

(For Who?)

For Kizz -

3 Cheers for Kizz!

(For where?)

For her!

3 Cheers for the wonderful Kizz the Wizz!

(Just tell me somebody – WHAT DID SHE DO?)

Hats - the hard sell!

Years 4 and 5 have just completed an English unit on print advertising where they learned about some techniques that are used to persuade us to buy products.

We discussed the use of hype, endorsement, product placement, emotive images/language and humor. We also talked about how advertisements are used to sell ideas as well as products. We looked at various examples of ads found in magazines and online and identified how they work.

The children were then given a brief which asked them to sell the idea of wearing a hat, to other children within the school. They had to choose their target audience and design a questionnaire to find out what appealed to particular groups. These posters are the result.

Amanda



High School News

Farewell Year 12

We farewell Year 12 next Friday, and we wish them well for their future endeavours. The graduating students include Oliver, Livvey, Owen, Caitlin, Dylan, Asher, Alicia, Sophie, Amelia, Calum, Elly, Kina, Gus, Alex B, Josh, Dylan, and Alex V. In addition, there are three students who have chosen to complete a 13th year so, while they are significant members of this group, we will farewell Sam, Grace, and Miriam next year.

This Year 12 group is a particularly interesting cluster. There have been people coming and going from the class since primary school, and while many joined Korowal for high school, we have also had four of the cohort leave to explore bigger schools, then return with renewed commitment. Their experiences saw them return with clear insights as to what they want from their schooling. They speak about the things they took for granted at Korowal and which were absent in their new environments. In summary, the things they missed most include- their relationships with teachers, knowing that their questions will be answered, their fellow classmates' engagement with the work and the fluid social groupings in classes at Korowal. We benefited from their return!

Next week Year 12 will attend an overnight camp where they will prepare a meal together and reminisce. They will also take time to share the things they appreciate about each other. We will miss them all dearly, but are delighted to launch them into the world.

We also farewell several families, as their child's education at Korowal is complete. We farewell the Aikins, Aldrich McKenzie, Allen, Barley, Brinsbee-McGee, Conroy, Reis, and Summerfield- Ryan families. Thank you for your support and participation in the life of the school, and especially for the part you played in our relocation. We hope that we see you at future functions.

We need your help - Sunshine, UV rays and hats.

Spring is beautiful here in the school grounds and we are all being drawn outdoors. We are having difficulty in getting some students to understand the impact of their sun exposure. As mentioned in previous newsletter, we publish the UV reading in several locations for the students to refer to each day. Yesterday it was 6, which is a high reading, yet teachers were constantly reminding students to don a hat. For some teachers who may not teach high school, the only contact that they have with high school students is when they are on playground duty. We are policing hats rather than enjoying each others company. This is tedious and wears down the relationship between us.

So, **we ask that you speak with your child/ren and encourage them to take the responsibility for bringing a hat to school, then wearing it whenever they are outdoors.** We have been in contact with the Cancer Council for updated education resources and Barb has been following these closely with Year 9. She is looking at the reasons the students don't want to wear hats, and at different designs and styles for different hairstyles. She has also invited 'The Hattery' to come along and demonstrate how to fit a hat for big hair! We are awaiting their reply.



If you have ideas that we could incorporate, please contact Barb. The focus for us is on educating on skin/sun awareness, not policing.

Term 4 in the High School

In week 3 of Term 4, the whole of the high school begins the new academic year. All classes go up a year, so Yr 7 becomes Year 8, Year 8 becomes Year 9 etc. To accommodate this, we have 2 staff development days at the end of week 2. Thursday 20th and Friday 21st are pupil free days for the high school only. We will be distributing booklists soon and are about to welcome our current Year 10 students into their first cycle of Pathways HSC courses. This year appears to be galloping along!

Barb

Primary School News

Murder Under the Microscope

This term, for four nail-biting weeks, Class 6 participated in the national environmental science project 'Murder Under The Microscope'.

This research project is live online and organised by the Department of Education. Whilst it was originally designed for NSW schools, now, in its 7th year schools from all over Australia as well as Singapore and other Asian neighbours take part.

Each year has a different location for the environmental crime we need to solve and this year the title was 'Horror on the Harvest'. The students needed to follow the daily video clips, SMS messages, twitters and emails sent out from 'HQ' and research a diverse range of environmental issues such as salinity, poor crop management, overuse of pesticides, catchment problems as well as getting to know a variety of Victims- ranging from Quokkas to Green Tree frogs, Villains included Red Belly Black Snakes, Mouse Eating Spiders and Cane Toads as well as poor farming practices. To attain a higher Investigative status they were required to submit a report on the Upper Blue Mountains Water Catchment situation and their report earned them 'Senior Investigator' status.

The culmination is the day the accusation must be made at a specific time- midday. The students gathered excitedly around the computer in the LRC and cheered on as Gez entered the Villain, Victim and Crime Site details. More than 800 schools participated. Only 450 made the correct accusation. Class 6 was one of the first 110 to lodge a correct response. Their research was rigorous and impeccable with much discussion over clues and reasons for choices.

This annual project is geared for Yrs 5/6/7/8 and Class 6 (soon to be Class 7!) are looking forward to being the veteran 'Korowal Sleuth' team in 2013.

Louise



Pinwheels For Peace

We will be making our pinwheels on Wednesday (year 2 will make theirs at a different time as they are off on an excursion on Wednesday). Hopefully you will be able to see them if you come to collect your children that afternoon.

Farewell Laura and Karin

Laura's internship has come to an end. We really appreciated having her with us and wish her all the best for her very first paid teaching position, which will be in Guatamala starting in November. Thank you Laura and well done!

Thanks also go to Karin, who undertook a 2 week practicum on 3,4,5. It was a shame that her time here was so short. We wish her well with her continuing studies.

Nancy

Class 6 had an excursion to the Bushrangers Cave as part of our **Australian Explorers Main Lesson**. We intrepidly trail blazed our way down little Zig Zag, did some exploring in the cave with nothing but flashlights and mettle, and then made our way back to the base depot. The whole expedition was completed on the most meagre rations of morning tea and water. Most survived.

Quote of the day

Teacher: Mr Bourke (Blaise), where are the camels?

Blaise Bourke: I fried them Mr Wills.

Teacher Wills: How did they taste?

Bourke: Like victory!...and eggs.

(Yvonne)

Italian

During term 3 Primary Italian classes have been cooking. Year 6 children made Tiramisu, which means "Pick me up". The children worked in groups, following the recipe and sharing tasks to produce their dessert, which was enjoyed at recess the following day.

Comments from the children:

"It was fun and yummy." Holly

"It was very enjoyable learning how to make Tiramisu, the groups worked well and it was fun and educational." Violet

"Delicious" Rommenie

Year 3 had their 1st Italian cooking experience making bruschetta, a common Italian snack. It was delightful to see the children so engrossed in activity. Year 3 commented:

"It was fun to make."

"It was toasted bread, garlic, tomato, basil and mozzarella cheese. We cut up the ingredients."

"The food was nice."

Several children have asked for copies of recipes, so maybe they will cook you up a little something at home.

(Denise)

AFL workshops

The AFL skills workshops held in the Primary School recently, were a huge success. The coaches brought an abundance of both energy and equipment with them and our students relished the opportunity to try out some new skills.

Ask one of our new AFL experts (any K-6 student) for an explanation of how to "scoop the ice cream" and send a powerful handball to a teammate! Or, recite "stop, drop, kick" as you learn how to kick a drop-punt through the goals.

Thanks to AFL ACT/NSW and the two great coaches we had on the day. In weeks 1-2 of next term we will be borrowing some of their fantastic equipment for follow up use and skill building in our PE classes.

(Kizz)

Intensive Swimming Scheme

Hopefully you will have received a letter from your child's class teacher concerning the intensive swimming program that will take place in term 4. The cost of this program has been covered by your school fees. Parents who attend as helpers will not be charged pool entry, but those attending to spectate only will need to pay.

Dates and times are as follows:

Kindergarten, Year 1, Year 2

17th - 20th October

24th - 27th October

31st Oct - 3rd November

7th - 10th November

Years 3,4,5,6

14th - 17th November

21st - 24th November

All classes begin, at Springwood Pool, at 12.30pm and last approximately 40 minutes.

K,1,2 children will travel on the school bus, 3 – 6 students use a hired bus.

(Nancy)



Paramedics of the future: Ambulance visit as part of class 3/4/5 "Our Community" main lesson

CONNECTIONS

**Moksha Children**
child centred play therapy
www.mokshachildren.com.au

Psychology specializing in a positive play therapy approach for children between age 3 to 10 years. Learn the effective tools of play therapy for your child.

Workshop for Motivated Parents starting soon

Vinity Gill (Psychologist)
Masters in Health Sciences
(Child and Adolescent Mental Health)
Certified Play Therapist Certified CBT Practitioner
P.: 0420 973 363

Kids Yoga Groove

(ages 8-11 yrs)

Term 4 classes at **Hazelbrook**

Also school holiday workshops at **Springwood & Wentworth Falls**

Contact **Kate** on **0403 114393** or for details go to -

www.awakenedheartyyoga.com.au

HOME DELIVERED CERTIFIED ORGANIC FRUIT AND VEGIES

Be better nourished, reduce your exposure to chemicals, eat in season, support farmers with sustainable practices and make clean, green food a priority for your family!

Organic fruit and vegetable boxes are packed straight from the markets every Monday. Choose from:-

- Large \$58 (Mixed, all fruit or all vege)
- Small \$30 (Mixed, all fruit or all vege)
- Organic eggs \$6 a dozen
- Delivery \$6 (Glenbrook to Blackheath) or you can pick-up from Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre on Mondays between 11 -11.30am.

Let us know of any produce you don't need, like or want and we will try to accommodate your needs.

We can be contacted on Ph: 4751 5772 (Rita) M-F 9am-8pm or email organicswin@gmail.com .

Organics Win is a volunteer project of Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre.

APOLOGIES

to those people who sent 2 and 3 page PDF files for inclusion on the "connections" page. They are too large and I can't take sections from PDF files.

Word files are better.

Thanks

Annie

The Korowal Newsletter

is assembled and edited by Annie Carment, who can be contacted at acarment@bigpond.net.au or on 0431352022.

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