

Korowal School

77 Scott Avenue Leura NSW 2780
Phone: 4757 2253 Fax: 4757 2037 Email: info@korowal.nsw.edu.au



END-OF-YEAR CELEBRATION AT SCHOOL

Wednesday 12 December
Food from 5:30 pm
Singing at 7:00 pm

Fortnightly Newsletter

Term	1st day for students	Last day for students	Public holidays
1	Thursday 31 January, years 1-Pathways Wednesday 6 February, kindergarten	Wednesday 9 April	Friday 21 March <i>Good Friday</i> Monday 24 March <i>Easter Monday</i>
2	Monday 28 April	Friday 27 June	Monday 9 June <i>Queen's Birthday</i>
3	Tuesday 22 July	Friday 26 September	
4	Monday 13 October	Wednesday 10 December	

Fun Run

At the last count we had raised over \$1700!

Well done everyone and a huge thank you to Tracy and her helpers.



Are you missing anything?

There are bowls, plastic containers and pots in the school kitchen that have been left behind from various functions during the term.



Also, there are many items of children's clothing in lost property.



Please come in and check if anything belongs to your family by Wednesday 12 December 2007.

All unclaimed clothing and other articles will be taken to a charity bin in the school holidays.



Do your Christmas shopping at the end-of-year celebration!

Lyra pencils, Stockmar crayons and Korowal calendars for sale.

We're on the Web!
www.korowal.nsw.edu.au

Save paper and view the newsletter in full colour.
Email: info@korowal.nsw.edu.au to receive your newsletter by email.

School coordinator's Christmas message

As we end the year, I would like to thank the school community for your support and encouragement throughout what has been, at a personal level, the most difficult and challenging time in all my years at Korowal. I will say, however, that the positive and optimistic response of the whole community to our current circumstances has provided the inspiration to simply get on with the tasks at hand—in particular, the relocation of the school.

For those most closely connected with the process, in particular Annie Carment, it has involved engaging in the world in a manner never before attempted by the school. We have had to deal with politicians—both state and federal—lawyers, architects, surveyors, council planners, Blue Mountains City councillors, real estate agents, negotiators, vendors, our prospective new neighbours in Hazelbrook, government bodies and bureaucracies, accountants, financial advisors and financial institutions.



At the same time, the school has continued with the business of educating children in the manner and purpose for which it was created. To me, this has been rather miraculous, but as a parent pointed out to me recently, and I must agree, it is a function of the clear intention to achieve our goals that the energy and capacities of many individuals has drawn towards this achievement, (that, and a lot of careful planning by the school council and the tireless efforts of Annie Carment who deserves to have a wing of our new school dedicated to her).

Thankyou, also, to Wendy Monaghan who has produced our school newsletter and the Korowal on the Move newsletter, to Annie Swanton who is coordinating fund-raising,

and at various times to Wendy Monaghan and Cath Walker for clerical support in the OTM office.

In the everyday life of the school, I would like to farewell and acknowledge Robyn Mehl, our canteen manager, who has resigned. Robyn has been involved with the canteen since it was established and has worked beyond the call of duty to provide a wonderful facility to the whole community. We will miss her but, hopefully, as she is a resident of Hazelbrook we will be able to remain in contact.



Thank you to Annie Daley (we have lots of Annies in our school) for teaching Elize's class when Elize was unable to, and to Gary Baxter for taking over Barb Fitzgerald's classes while she was on long service leave. (Welcome back Barb and family from your travels). We also welcomed three new teachers to our staff this year: Kon Kalos teaches HSIE and studies of religion, Simon Clough teaches mathematics, and Denise Melocco teaches Italian in the primary school. In the office we farewellled Cindy Babbage, our bursar, and we welcomed Narelle Chambers as her replacement.

Kath Veel has resigned from her role as high school coordinator, although she will continue as a class teacher and art teacher in the high school. Her coordination role will be filled by Barbara Fitzgerald from next year. All the staff wish to acknowledge their appreciation of Kath's skill and energy in fulfilling this role over the past five years.

School coordinator's Christmas message

continued

Thank you to those parents who were able to assist the school throughout the year. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the sustainability committee members for organising the Envirofest, the parents who



coordinated the year 6 farewell ceremony, those who coordinated the fun run and parents who have volunteered in the canteen and the classrooms throughout the year—all of you have contributed to strengthening our community. I also feel compelled to acknowledge Tracy Barrett, parent of Violet and Ruby, who seems to have been involved in just about everything this year. Thank you also to those parents who assisted in the various school productions, both the high school cabaret and the primary school play.

I would like to express my appreciation for those parents who have supported fundraising efforts towards our move, both those who were able to offer a fundraising event and those who were

able to support events through their attendance. At this point, I would like to promote our next major fundraising event—the open air cinema to be held next year, Saturday 1 March.

The Korowal school council would like to thank Trish Fitzgerald and Robyn Mehl for providing supper for the many, many council meetings, and teachers would like to thank Margit Baltgailis for Friday lunches – for many, the culinary highlight of the week!! Finally, I would like to thank my colleagues, both in the office and in the classrooms, for continuing to provide their skills and dedication in the service of our school. My thanks go equally in this regard to our parents who choose Korowal for their children and to the students themselves who through their presence and response contribute to the wellbeing of the school and inspire their teachers to improve and develop their own practice.



I will include at this point my admiration and gratitude for Nancy Oosterhoff, our primary school coordinator and my thanks to the school's other executive teachers, Kath Veel and Joachim Herrmann, for their support. Thank you also to the members of the school council and the chair, Vittorio Cintio, for their dedication and energy.



Mark Thomas
School coordinator

Primary News

Well, I foreshadowed in my first newsletter article this year that we would have a busy and exciting time ahead of us—it is fair to say that I had no idea of just how significant, busy and exciting a year it would turn out to be!

It has been wonderful to have such a supportive response to our relocation and to know that the educational experiences Korowal offers your children are worth the upheaval of moving. It has been lovely to take the children to see Oaklands and to hear their enthusiastic responses—and those of parents who have been able to visit.

The children's performances in the musical, "The Emperor's New Clothes", were outstanding. It was also an excellent way to continue to build a sense of community.

Mary-Ann's resignation triggered a process that has led, we believe, to an even stronger, more resilient educational model for students and teachers alike, with the added bonus that we did not lose Mary-Ann.

We now have a structure that allows for teacher continuity for students in class 6, as well as those in 3,4,5. Class 6 was the weakest link in our current system, with only one year for a teacher to establish relationships at a traditionally tricky time in a child's development. We also no longer need to separate the year 2 children into two classes, which seemed such a peculiar thing to do having spent three years building a sense of group cohesion.

These last few weeks have provided opportunities for "across the courtyard" visits, thus helping children and teachers to prepare for next year. Our work on the musical has turned out to be particularly useful in the light of class teacher changes, as we all worked with various children and year groups as part of that process. Children are also familiar with all of the primary school teachers as a consequence of playground duties and assemblies.

We are delighted to be able to tell you that Vanessa Avery has been appointed to the part-time position in K,1,2. Vanessa taught 3,4,5 here from 2002 – 2004 before returning to the city, where she taught kindergarten and year 1. She is thrilled to be back at Korowal and to be living in the Blue Mountains again.

I would like to acknowledge all the primary school teachers and thank them for the enormous contribution that they make to the success of our school. These thanks extend to Annie Daley and Sanja Herrmann who so willingly and capably act as relief teachers for us.

Finally, my thanks to you for the love and support that you so generously give to us throughout the year.

Nancy

Special Request

The 3,4,5 class would appreciate assistance in making some palm-sized beanbags to enhance our teaching in morning circle next year.

If you are handy with machine sewing and are able to help by making some over the holidays, please speak to Elize, Amanda or Yvonne one day this week to look at a sample. Teachers are at school all week.

The school will provide the materials.

Many Thanks!

Elize

Chess Club

Connor Lillis, Alex du Moulin and James Hodge represented Korowal at the NSW finals of the Primary Schools One-Day Chess Tournament.



The team braved the heat of Lidcombe on Sunday 25 November to play six matches against the best chess players in the state.

Connor won four of his six games to lead the team. Congratulations to all, and special thanks to Paul for taking them all.

Kathi

Year 2 Sleepover

The Year 2 sleepover is a Korowal tradition, whereby the year 2 children and their teachers get to sleep at school! Apart from being a lot of fun, the sleepover serves two purposes. The children experience a night away from their parents and their home in readiness for the class 3 camp, and they share a special night with their teachers before leaving them for the 3,4,5 class.

Here are some comments following this year's sleepover:

I liked sleeping over at school. I liked dinner and dessert and breakfast. *Eilish*

I liked the hamburgers and dessert and breakfast. I liked the night walk and getting to sleep really quickly and playing in the pink room and the home room. *Brianagh*

I liked all of it very much, but I liked the meals best of all. *Suri*

I liked breakfast best! *Violet*

I liked the walk at night and being the first person to wake up, and how we got to play for hours and hours. *Talle*

I liked how we got lots and lots and lots of play and got to go for a walk, and dinner and dessert. *Jack*

I really liked dinner and dessert and the walk. I didn't like not being able to get to sleep. *Catherine*



It was really, really fun. My favourite part was being with all my friends. *Juno*

I liked how my tooth fell out in the middle of the night. Luckily I was wide awake! I liked the hamburgers very much, too. *Johnson*

I liked sleeping over at school, and I liked having extra play. *Holly*

It was really good fun and I loved that we played for hours and hours. The food was good and I had a good sleep. *Conal*

It was fun!!! *Rommenie*

It was the best sleepover I've ever had. *Jeremy*

I liked the bushwalk at night. *Callum*

I loved it. It was the best. *Blaise*

It was really fun but annoying that I woke up really early in the morning. *Robert*

Swimming

Another season of school swimming scheme has successfully passed! We were particularly pleased with the excellent attendance and participation from the students this year, rain or shine, regardless of ability level or age; and this led to some lovely compliments from their swimming instructors.

We are also proud of you for your positive involvement and efforts.

The intention behind this program is to give the children an intense boost to their swimming skills before the summer holidays, within their existing educational context.



We also hope the children enjoy the opportunity to socialise and splash about with their friends, in carefully selected small groups, in the heated outdoor pool at Katoomba Aquatic Centre.

The children's swimming certificates should arrive home with their end-of-year work, if they have not come already. We wish our students continued happy and safe water fun these holidays.

Elize

Oaklands Visit



Last week 345J had the pleasure of visiting the proposed new school site at Oaklands. There was much excitement and anticipation as we drove down the mountain.

The weather favoured us with a sunny break, which added to our enjoyment as we rambled through the gardens, peeked in the windows and imagined ourselves learning and playing in this new and enchanting environment.

One of the long-term workers at Oaklands remarked at how wonderful it was to see children wandering around the grounds again.

We look forward to our next visit!

Jennifer

Year 6 News



As you can see from the pics, class 6 2007 is winding up their last year of primary school in style. Our graduation party last Sunday was a terrific way to celebrate them and to recognise their achievements!

Many parents contributed to the success of the evening by decorating the drama room inside and out, preparing wonderful food and planning and running a great program. Although baby photos were prominent in the yearbook and on the walls, the kids themselves stole the show!



On Thursday, class 6 visited Oaklands and had a ball!

We let our imaginations run wild as we wandered around the grounds, and we had no trouble envisaging our not-too-distant future in that beautiful place.

We concluded our visit with a quiet moment looking down on the exquisite waterlilies (pictured).

Mary-Ann

Pathways

diary dates

19 December	NSW HSC results released
20 December	2007 UAI's released on UAC website
3 January 2008	Macquarie University Pathways Day: prospective students who do not have the UAI for their preferred course can gain valuable advice on alternative entry pro-grams. For more information, visit www.futurestudents.mq.edu.au/undergraduate/PathwaysDay
4 January 2008	Final closing date for change of preferences in the main round, Macquarie Uni
17 January 2008	Main round offers released, Macquarie University
31 January 2008	Late round offers released, Macquarie University

Thanks Paula

As everyone knows, Paula Martin has taken art making at Korowal to an exceptional level. For many years she has brought her same imagination, insight and excellence to the teaching of Design and Technology in Year 7 and 8 in such diverse projects as sewing and quilt making to kite making and ceramic design. Her students have appreciated her great knowledge and her eye for excellence in visual forms, and with her guidance they have made many beautiful things. Paula is now pursuing her own creative direction and needs to relinquish her work with high school students. We wish her well in this, and thank her for her years of dedication and inspiring work. Next year, Nick will join Kath and Andrew in the D & T team of teachers. The three areas of design inquiry for next year will be packaging design, wooden construction and sound design.

And thank you Gary

In Barb's absence in the last three months, Gary Baxter has been the drama teacher at Korowal. With a professional directing and performing background, Gary's gentle approach and knowledge of drama has gained the trust and confidence of the drama students. The new pathways students, I know, have particularly appreciated Gary's guidance through the first part of the preliminary course. He has been willing to help out wherever possible in many capacities and has been a great asset to the school. We'll miss you Gary!

Library News

EMILY RODDA VISIT

Members of both 3,4,5 classes accepted with pleasure an invitation to hear Emily Rodda at Leura Public School last Thursday.

Emily spoke interestingly about her life as a writer and her various books. She then took questions from the audience.

Adam and Duncan went on stage to thank Ms Rodda for her wonderful talk. Ms Rodda signed our copy of her latest book, *The Key to Rondo*, and we presented her with a replica of the magic music box featuring tiny pictures of scenes from the book done by all class members. I think everyone enjoyed it! *The Key to Rondo* is a great read too, by the way.

Carole



Sunblock

It is that time of the year again when we are all looking forward to a sunny, lovely holiday.

To follow up on my note from last year, I searched for further information regarding sunblock and side effects. (Source: www.oekotest.de)

Apparently, people have absorbed 80% of their life-dosage of UV radiation by the age of 18. The skin does not forget the damage done and will respond in years to come.

Many people are not using sunblock, because they are concerned about the chemicals in it and the effect they may have on their children's health. According to all research I have seen, the first preference is to use clothing for sun protection, and if that is not appropriate, to use sunblock to protect yourself from UV radiation and skin cancer.



There are CHEMICAL BARRIER sunblocks and PHYSICAL BARRIER sunblocks, the latter having far fewer side effects. Chemical UV filters, especially if used in early life, can lead to biochemical changes in the brain and reproductive organs, as shown in animal testing. They work as hormones, causing damage to the kidney, the liver, and the reproductive organs. Don't rely on sunblocks that are labelled as "for sensitive skin" or as "suitable for children" to not be damaging.

GOOD ingredients are zinc oxide and titanium dioxide. They are very finely ground to provide a physical barrier to the UV light.

BAD ingredients to be aware of are things like 4-methylbenzylidencamphor (4MBC), octyl-(or ethyl-) methoxycinnamate, oxybenzone+benzophenone 3 homosalate, octyl-dimethyl-para-amino-bezoic-acid (ODPABA), 3-Bezylidencamphor, Di-Ethylphtalate (DEP). (Better cut this out and take it the pharmacy... just in case you forget the names ;-)

Looking around the shops in the area, the only physical sunblock I found was SunSense for sensitive skin. I found it at Leura Pharmacy, but I'm sure others will have it, as well.

Joachim

Korowal Business Directory

Advertising your business in our newsletter

Parents who run a business may submit advertisements to our "Korowal business directory". There will be no charge, but adverts will be subjected to editorial review and must directly relate to a current Korowal parent. Please contact Wendy Monaghan, the newsletter editor, to discuss how to contribute your ad. You can email Wendy on wmonaghan@korowal.nsw.edu.au

FRESH & AFFORDABLE ORGANIC FRUIT & VEGETABLES

organic produce is better for you and the environment and does not have to cost the earth - culturelab organics is dedicated to providing the local community with fresh and affordable organic produce

Fruity Box \$46

Veggie Box \$46

Mixed f&v \$46

certified organic free range eggs
also available for \$6

Pick up your box of yummy fresh organic produce from the Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre on Monday mornings or have your box delivered Monday afternoon for \$5

Phone Rita
4751 5772



Culturelab Organics

culturelab organics is a registered non-profit co-operative



Culturelab Organics

Statement of Purpose

To promote the use of certified Australian grown organic and biodynamic food, with an emphasis on regional and local produce.

To provide our local community with access to fresh, affordable certified organic and biodynamic food.

To raise awareness of the negative impacts of global agribusiness and provide a local organic food economy alternative.

"If you want to create a more sustainable society, a good place to start is by helping to rebuild your local food economy; food is something everyone, everywhere, needs every day, which means that even relatively small changes in the way it is produced and marketed can have immense effects. And since eating is a natural part of daily life, we all have frequent opportunities to make a difference."

Helena Norberg-Hodge
Director
International Society for Ecology & Culture

Korowal Connections

Blue Mountains City Library Summer Holiday Madness Book at your library—*spaces limited!*

Perfect Pizza Chefs \$5 per child

Choose your topping and make yourself a yummy pizza right here in the library! While that's cooking for your tasty delight, you can kick back with a cool craft and delicious snow cone!

Springwood Library, Wednesday 16 January at 10:30 am

Katoomba Library, Thursday 17 January at 10:30 am

Picnic & Pictures \$4 per child

Cool down indoors these summer holidays! We are holding a picnic in the library with yummy lunch delights and cartoons on the big screen!

Springwood Library, Monday 14 January at 12noon

Katoomba Library, Tuesday 15 January at 12noon

Mini-Beasts Show \$5 per child

Travelbugs Mobile Mini-beasts will be visiting our libraries, and guess what they are bringing? Large and colourful stick insects, centipedes, millipedes, giant burrowing cockroaches, preying mantis, spiders, scorpions, beetles, caterpillars and more! This will be a fun, hands-on learning experience—if you dare!

Katoomba Library, Thursday 24 January at 10:30 am

Springwood Library, Thursday 24 January at 1:30 pm

Plaster Painting & Spider Making \$3 per child

It's a creepy crawly craft session! Create your own critters to take home!

Blackheath Library, Tuesday 22 January at 10:30 am

Katoomba Library, Wednesday 23 January at 10:30 am

Funky Headbands \$10 per person

Come along to this workshop and make your own funky headband using fabric, feathers and beads! A great accessory for anyone!

Springwood Library, Wednesday 23 January at 2:30 am

Horror Movie Night Topped in Chocolate! \$5 per person

It will be the brave chocolate lovers haven! Young adults beware...

With chocolate tasting and delicious delights coated in yummy melted chocolate!

Springwood Library, Wednesday 16 January at 6:30 pm

Please note: film classified M

Movie Night 4 All 5 per person

All ages! Come and see *Transformers* on the BIG screen! Pizza and drinks supplied.

Springwood Library, Tuesday 22 January at 6:30 pm

School Holiday Craft Sessions

Friends of the Blue Mountains Libraries (FOBML) will conduct craft sessions in Wentworth Falls and Lawson on the following dates in January. These sessions will have limited places, so bookings are essential.

Please book with library staff at the Wentworth Falls branch on 4757 2095, or with Lawson branch on 4759 1446.

Friday 11 January at Wentworth Falls School of Arts

9:30am—10:30 am

Easy puppets	ages 5-7
Rod puppets	ages 7-9
Kool cookery	ages 6-9 (\$1 for ingredients)



11:15am-12:15am



Paper crafts	ages 5-6
Macramé mouse & “Eye of God”	ages 7-9
Kool cookery	ages 6-9 (\$1 for ingredients)

Friday 18 January in the MCRN room next to Lawson Library

10:00am—11:30am

Crafts from other lands includes a “dream catcher” and miniature Chinese dragon ages 6-9

Selwood SCIENCE AND PUZZLES

JANUARY 2008

SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 16	Science Magic	9:30—12:30 (5-11 years)
	Water Science	1:30—4:30 (5-11 years)
Thursday 17	Fun Electricity	9:30—12:30 (5-8 years)
	Slime	1:30—4:30 (5-11 years)
Friday 18	Easy Chemistry	9:30—12:30 (8-13 years)

All workshops \$24 per child

Bookings Essential Phone 4758 6235 or info@selwoodscience.com.au

All classes held at Selwood Science and Puzzles—over the bridge at Hazelbrook Railway Station at 41 Railway Parade, Hazelbrook.

