

Korowal School

77 Scott Avenue Leura NSW 2780

Phone: 4757 2253 Fax: 4757 2037 E mail: info@korowal.nsw.edu.au

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

FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

7 April, 2008 - Volume 31 Issue 3

2009 Scholarships - CLOSING

DATE Online scholarship applications are closing on Friday 11th April.

Korowal's new user friendly

website is now up and running at www.korowal.nsw.edu.au News, text and photos can now be updated often and easily. Film and audio will be added to the site soon.

Visit the website for newsletter, latest news, and all the information about our relocation. A huge thank you to Mark Carey for his work in designing and hosting the site.



Dates to remember

- 8 Apr Yrs 7,8,9 excursion to La Perouse
- 9 Apr Year 9 excursion
Students' last day of term 1
- 10 & 11 Staff development days
- 11 Apr Final date for online Scholarship registration
- 12 Apr Oaklands Garage Sale
- 28 Apr First day of term 2
- 1 May Korowal AGM 6.30pm**
- 10 May ACER Scholarship examinations
- 13,14,
15 May Basic Skills Tests
- 14 May School Photos

KNITTING WORKSHOPS

We will be running beginners/intermediate knitting workshops in term 2. They will be held at Korowal on three consecutive Saturdays 2-3.30pm, dates to be confirmed.

The workshops are predominantly for adults but older children who wish to participate are also welcome. Childcare will not be available. You will need to bring needles, wool, patterns, unfinished projects etc., there will be at least 2 facilitators to assist and teach. The cost of each lesson will be \$10 per person with all proceeds going to the Korowal Building Fund. We hope that this will be a lovely social event as well as an opportunity to learn or refine knitting skills. If you are interested please call or email Tracey so we can see if we have the numbers to run the workshop. fwacy@yahoo.com.au or phone 47829946.

Archibald Prize

We wish to congratulate Del Barton, this year's winner of the Archibald prize for her recent success. She was in our first HSC class and left in 1990. Some of you may remember her mother, Karen, who taught here for many years.

Our New Network

Early term 4 last year, Robert, our network technician, and myself decided to declare defeat with our Novell/Linux network. Too many issues had not been resolved, stress levels were still high and support was non-existent.

We went to the other extreme and looked into an Apple network. Visiting other schools to see it in operation, we were impressed. The prospect of having all our hardware and software in one big package made a lot of sense. The finances around this also looked very promising, - so we planned the conversion. Putting the plan into practice took holidays, many weekends, plus the Easter break, but now we are proud to have our 26 new Macbooks available.

The 40 desktops are also running very smoothly, but on Suse Linux.

Having visited a number of independent schools recently, I have to say that we are doing extremely well in comparison. Not just that they charge considerably higher fees, they don't actually offer more computer access to their students. Our students are having as much, - if not more- access than other independent schools are offering.

Considering our minimal resources, this is largely due to the efforts of Robert, who spends much of his weekend time at Korowal, - not to mention the emergency phone calls during the week. Many thanks!!! I would also like to thank the students and teachers for their patience and good will. As we all know, - there is no such thing as a perfect system, but we are working on getting closer and closer to it!

Joachim

Infectious Diseases

Please note that children who are not immunised against infectious diseases are excluded from school for 2 weeks following notification from Public Health that there is a reported case of such a disease. Please make sure that, if your child is not immunised, you have an arrangement in place for his/her care at short notice.

Head Lice

Unfortunately, head lice are frequent and regular visitors to all schools. Autumn is a particularly busy time for them. We have received several reports of infestations.

Please take the time to check your child's hair on a regular basis. Often, even when a child complains of itchiness and is seen to be scratching his/her head, the little critters are hard to find. In this instance, it's best to err on the side of caution and proceed with treatment anyway.

There are a variety of treatments available. Some treatments work for some children but not for others. Advice is available from pharmacists, health care practitioners and the internet.

If your child has head lice, s/he must be treated for it before returning to school.

With the school holidays nearly upon us, we have a great opportunity to try to break the cycle.

Thank you
Nancy

Road Safety

We are very concerned about the safety of students in the turning circle, particularly before and after school. There have been several reports of near misses – two involving primary age children not being seen by drivers of cars leaving their parking spots and one involving a high school student riding a bicycle who was not seen by the driver of a departing car.

We acknowledge and thank all those parents who do act with great care and who do follow our safety in the turning circle/ collection of students policy. This is reproduced below to raise everyone's awareness.

Collecting students from turning circle

- All traffic signs must be obeyed. These include speed restrictions, reverse parking and parking restrictions.
- Children must be collected by an adult from the play area.
- Children must be held by the hand to cross the road (recommended by the Road Safety Council for all children under the age of 10)
- Zebra crossing and bus parking zone to be kept clear.
- Disabled parking space only for authorised use.

It is the responsibility of parents/caregivers whose child/ren are being collected by another person, to inform that person of the school's procedures.

Of particular importance:

- drive slowly
- hold the hand of anyone under the age of 10
- reverse park
- park your vehicle and come to collect your child/ren .

Students shouldn't be dropped off or collected at the Scott Avenue end of our school drive. We have been informed by the police that people doing this will be booked. Bookings aside, it is not safe to do this as it obstructs vision for other drivers.

The only students who have permission to walk up or down the driveway are Pathways students, before 8am, after 4pm or between 9.30 and 2pm. The bush track must be used at all other times and by all other students.

Thank you for supporting us in our endeavour to provide a safe environment for our students.

Road safety issues around schools

Safe school travel - Tips to improve children's safety around your school

1. School-aged children should always travel in the back seat of your vehicle. Each child must be firmly buckled into an appropriate seatbelt or child restraint. NEVER share a seatbelt.
2. Children should always get in and out of the car through the rear kerb side or 'safety door'.
3. Always drop your children on the school side of the road.
4. Meet your children on the school side of the road, preferably at the school gate. This is particularly important in wet weather.
5. NEVER call to your children from across the road. Teach them to wait until you come to them. Talk with them about what they should do if you are not there on time.
6. Children up to at least eight years old should hold an adult's hand in the car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Children between eight and at least ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult in the traffic environment and should hold an adult's hand when crossing the road.

7. Talk your child through the “STOP! LOOK! LISTEN! THINK!” routine every time you cross the road together:
 - STOP! One step back from the kerb.
 - LOOK! For traffic to your right, left and right again.
 - LISTEN! For the sounds of approaching traffic.
 - THINK! Whether it is safe to cross.
 - Always look and listen for traffic as you cross the road.
8. Always slow to 40km/h when travelling in an operating school zone.
9. Always obey parking signs around your child's school. these signs help save children's lives.
10. NEVER leave a child of any age in a vehicle without adult supervision. A small child may rapidly suffer dehydration, heat exhaustion and consequent organ failure. Older children could play games that may lead to tragedy.

Offence and penalty when committed in an operating school zone

Offence	Minimum Fine	Minimum loss of demerit points
If you park on or near: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● a pedestrian crossing ● A children's crossing ● Any marked foot crossing 	\$308 \$308 \$308	2 2 2
If you double park	\$231	2
If you park on a footpath	\$128	2
If you park illegally in a: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● NO STANDING zone ● NO STOPPING zone ● NO PARKING zone ● BUS ZONE 	\$77 \$231 \$128 \$231	0 2 2 2
If you make an illegal U-turn	\$231	3
If you exceed 40km/h in a school zone in a light vehicle <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● by 0-15 km/h ● by 15-30 km/h ● by 30-45 km/h ● by 45+ km/h 	\$128 \$308 \$743 \$1,750	4* 4* 5* 7*
If you use a mobile phone	\$308	4
If you fail to give way to a pedestrian	\$308	4
If you reverse unsafely	\$179	3

* These values are doubled during designated holiday/long weekend periods

Newsletters

We wish to acknowledge and thank Cathy Walker, one of our dedicated office workers, who is now putting together the fortnightly Korowal School Newsletter and the Korowal On The Move Newsletter.

We again, thank Wendy Monaghan for working on these publications last year.

Plastics leaching

Some of you might have watched the documentary on SBS last Sunday, about the enormous increase in birth defects, male infertility and breast cancer during the past 20 or 30 years.

They showed increasing evidence, that plastics are implicated in this phenomenon. - I had intended to write a note in this newsletter, when different research came out early this year, showing the sheer amount of chemicals leaching from plastic bottles and containers, but also from cosmetics. The problem with these chemicals, mostly phthalates and bisphenols, is that they mimic oestrogens. This can cause all kinds of unwanted interferences with our hormonal functions. As it was demonstrated on SBS, even smallest amounts taken during pregnancy can change the sexual development of children and have an impact on their adult life and fertility.

I would like to encourage everyone to keep themselves informed in this area, but in the meantime, a few simple tips -

Recycling codes 1,2,4,5 are (hopefully) okay

Recycling codes 3,6,7 are not okay, at all (watch Lexan bottles!)

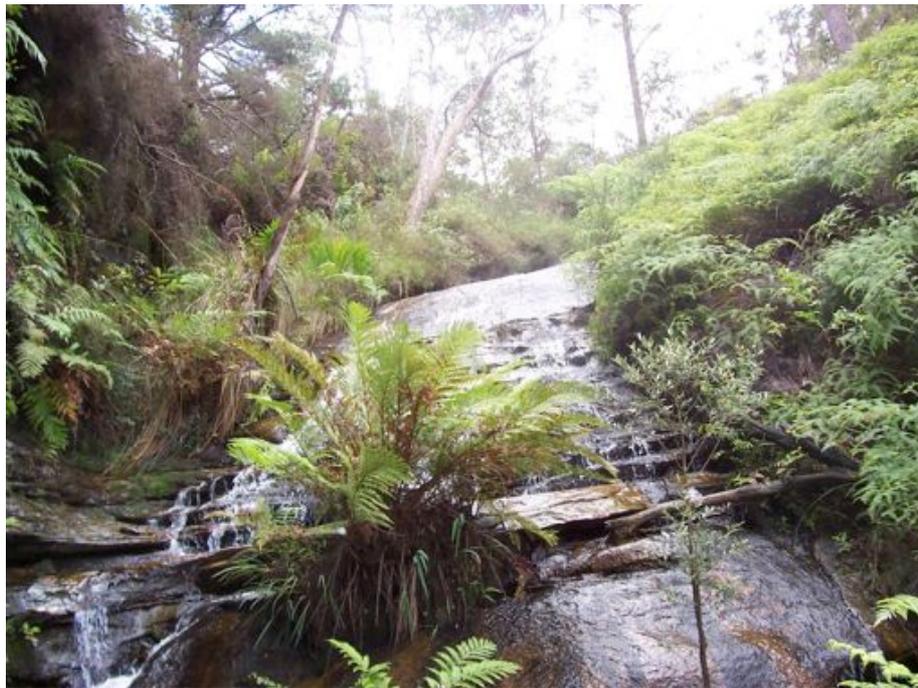
Buy products in glass containers, if possible, otherwise use 1,2,4 plastics

Cans are often coated inside and should be avoided

Moisturisers go through your skin, leaching phthalates into your body. Use oils or really natural products, instead. (Jurlique, Weleda, Miessence)

For more information, search the Net for 'plastics leaching' or 'recycling codes' or 'phthalates, bisphenols health problems'. *Joachim*

Sustainability



We have submitted a grant application for the establishment of a kitchen garden. The plan is to start this project here and then move the garden with us to Oaklands. We hope to be able to produce vegetables that can be used by the canteen. If we are successful with the application, the project will involve all elements of the school community from students, teachers and parents. We'll keep you posted!

Special thanks to Leanne Kent for her support with this.

Do you car pool? If you do, we'd love to hear from you so that we can pass on any hints, benefits etc to other parents. Apart from being energy and cost efficient, car pooling would also greatly improve the safety in the turning circle as there would be fewer vehicles.

Nancy

Primary News

Structure

We have now nearly completed our first term working in our modified structure. We are aware that there are some parents who remain a little uncertain of exactly how this works; which teacher to contact and how best to make contact.

Mary-Ann, Vanessa and Nancy are the class teachers for K,1,2. They all work with all 3 year groups. They meet once a week for a team meeting together with the teachers' aides and once a week for a *"cluster" meeting. These are the formal meetings, which are supported by lots of informal discussions that happen throughout the course of a week. Consequently, there is a high level of communication and shared knowledge/understanding of the children.

Amanda, Elise and Yvonne are the class teachers for 3,4,5. They all work with all 3 year groups. They also meet once a week for a team meeting and once a week for a "cluster" meeting. These are the formal meetings, which are supported by lots of informal discussions that happen throughout the course of a week. As with K,1,2 there is a high level of communication and shared knowledge/understanding of the children.

If you wish to talk about your child or ask any questions about his/her schooling, you may approach any of his/her class teachers. Depending upon the nature of the enquiry/ discussion, one teacher may be able to assist or it may be better to meet with a combination of teachers. We do not wish to overwhelm you, just reassure you that we are all equally involved in your child's care. Alternatively, you may wish to set up an interview with Nancy.

To contact a teacher, leave a message at the school office and the teacher will call you as soon as possible.

*When we talk about a cluster meeting we refer to a meeting of all teachers who work with the primary school classes. High school teachers have their own cluster meetings. We usually meet termly as a whole staff.

Benefits of the modified model

We chose to modify our structure to bring the 3,4,5 classes more into alignment with the K,1,2 model. Key benefits are:

- year 2 students do not have to be separated into 2 class groups at the end of K,1,2
- all students belong to a larger class community, providing opportunities for extending friendships
- teachers share responsibility for the whole group
- teachers working closely together provide positive role modelling for students
- the dependence upon one single teacher is diminished, a more resilient attitude to different teachers is promoted
- the students in year 5 flow as a more bonded group into year 6
- it is possible for the class 6 teacher to be rotated on a 2 or 3 year cycle.

There are many advantages to our multi-age approach to teaching. We retain those factors that were inherent in our previous structure, including:

- small classes of approximately 16 children for skill building lessons
- teachers are able to teach to their strengths and share their wisdom about the children
- extending children in a lateral way rather than accelerating them through the curriculum and giving time for consolidation to those who need it
- artificial barriers are broken down, both in learning and in human relationships.

We encourage you to ask any questions you may have and to give us feedback from your perspective.

The parent teacher interviews could provide a good opportunity for this to happen.

Interviews

We shall be holding our parent-teacher interviews next term.

Interviews with parents of students in years 2 and 5 will be held on Monday, 5th May.

Interviews with parents of students in Kindergarten and years 1,3,4,5 and 6 will take place in the week beginning Monday, 9th June. You will receive notes from your child's teachers about these.

We really look forward to meeting you and exchanging information. We value your input and appreciate being able to support each child as fully as possible.

Professional development

As well as the professional development which occurs at school in our whole school staff meetings and at cluster, we also participate in courses offered by external organisations.

Recently Kirsty attended a discussion about ADHD presented by Mark Brandtman. Kirsty will talk to us about this at Cluster. Elize and Nancy attended a course at the AIS (Association of Independent Schools) presented by Toni Noble called "Different Children, Same Classroom" which looked at ways to incorporate a differentiated curriculum. Again, a summary of this course will be presented to Cluster.

We appreciate opportunities to develop our professional skills and to maintain best practice within the context of Korowal's educational philosophy.

Nancy



3,4,5 Excursion to Sydney Aquarium

Class 3,4,5 visited the Sydney Aquarium for our Animal Family main lesson. We had a fantastic day.

Caragh "It was interesting, I learned alot."

Tali "I liked it because it was very interesting and I particularly liked the sharks, the touch pod and the seals."

Juno "I liked the gigantic crab."

Talia "I liked the seals."

Belal "The aquarium was wonderful. All the different animals were beautiful with their different shapes and sizes."

Jack B "I was a very good experience and I really liked the long-nosed fish."

Callum "I really loved the starfish and the sea cucumber."

Suri "I think the giant fish were really amazing and in the underwater tunnel the sharks were really scary."

Tim "I liked the tank with all the fish from 'Finding Nemo'."



Class 6 students outside Parliament House

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 programmes 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 toward 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 five days. Many thanks to Andrea Obersmoser, Jessica'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 dinners and treats for us to take with us.

Here are some journal entries the students made while they were in Canberra.

Day 1

We left school at about 8.30a.m. singing "Wish Me Luck" at the top of our voices and waving enthusiastically to our parents. A few hours later we got off the bus at Canberra Motor Village. We found out we were staying in the Rosella Ridge cabins. It was hardly a few minutes and we were off to our first place, the National Capital Exhibition. It was about Canberra and its history. Then we went to the Telstra Tower. From there we could see for ages! (by Jessica S.)

Day 2

Today was a great day. We went to Old Parliament House and watched a video and played out a real vote with real ballot papers! We then went to the Royal Australian Mint and made a collector's coin. The most exciting part of the day was new Parliament House. We watched over the politicians in the Senate and the House of Representatives. We also saw the massive flag from underneath. (by Tomas)

Day 3

Today we went to the National Museum of Australia and there we played in Kspace where we invented a house or a space craft on a computer. Then we watched them flying around in a 3D place. Then we had recess and after recess we visited the Indonesian Embassy where we got to play percussion instruments and puppet shows. After that we had lunch while we listened to the bells. After that we finally got to go to Questacon. I went on the free fall. It was terrifying but kind of fun! We watched a short slide show of the Solar System. Then we went back to our cabins and some people went swimming. (by Grace)

Day 4

Today we went to the Institute of Sport and the Australian War Memorial. My favourite was the War Memorial. We got to dress up in things from the First World War. (by James)

High School News

It has been an extremely productive term

Last week Kath and High school students – Luciano, Gabby, Georgie and Bill presented their 'Youth Environment Summit' presentation to the High School as part of our Earth Hour awareness. On Thursday Christian and Luciano attended a visit to Bob Debus as part of a follow-up delegation of students. Also recently, Year 10 presented a wonderful assembly of their work to the High School. This was an engaging and insightful time for the students in Years 7, 8 and 9.

Futsal - Indoor football

Many High School students have accepted the challenge to attend an inter-school competition at the Aquatic Centre. Boys Monday 7th April and girls Wednesday 9th April. We hope they have a great time and wish them well.

Reminder

ACER Scholarship online applications close Friday, 11th April 2008.

Excursions this term

Year 8 are on camp at Deep Pass with Kath, Nick, Yeshi, Pathways art have attended Art Express, Years 9 and 10 attended 'Living Library,' a fabulous new initiative and opportunity to meet and talk with people from all walks of life, and Year 7 attended a Horse riding “ Horse play” day earlier this month as a class bonding exercise, Still to come, Years 7 and 8 and French Elective students are away at La Perouse French Museum with Catherine, Nick and Monica next Tuesday and Year 9, Shoba and Simon, are away at Jamberoo next Wednesday.

Staff development days

We are having 2 staff development days at the end of term. Thursday is a whole staff day and includes reviewing our “Maintenance' (as begun on the first day of the term), as well as looking at what next term may bring and strategies to deal with this. The second day is put aside for programming. where we are working towards the Registration and Accreditation requirements for next year.

Barbara & Joachim



Korowal kids volunteering

Josh, Karl & Ciaran from year 8, are Woodford Rural Fire Services' most recent junior brigade members. They participate twice per week in training sessions alongside their adult peers. During the April school holiday, they commence the RFS's Basic Firefighting training course.

The boys recently attended the "Six Foot Track Race" as junior members of the brigade. The captain of the brigade, was delighted to have received so much positive feedback from the public and RFS members on the day who were impressed by the boys' enthusiasm, willingness to work happily as part of the team and professionalism.

Well done boys! Good luck with your upcoming course and subsequent assessment and examination.

Lost French books

If someone has discovered they have a 2nd set of text books, please contact Bella Lemming in Year 7 as she has lost hers.



Katoomba Work Wear

Discounts for Korowal families
clothing, camping gear

Christine & Glen Davidson 4782 6611
174 Katoomba St, Katoomba



Harmonising your Natural State of
Wellbeing.

Rest the Body

Relax the Mind

Replenish the Spirit

Reiki Master

Bodywork - Pruss Technique

Body Alignment

Life Coach/ Guide /Mentor

Tel: (61) 2 4784 1323

Email: monica.morris@bigpond.com

Wanting to Rent a house for mother and daughter. Acres would be a bonus. Excellent references. Please call Satneeta 47841918 or 0403983628.

LOST

Bella Lemming in Year 7 has lost her French texts. Please if you've picked up an extra set of books by mistake, contact Bella or Angie Lemming.

Energetic person wanted for casual gardening & odd household jobs in Hazelbrook for these coming holidays (& possibly ongoing). Will be paid \$15 per hour and must be at least 15 years old.