



Korowal School

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FORTNIGHTLY NEWSLETTER

11 February 2008 Volume 31 Issue 1

Welcome to the new school year.

Welcome to all our new students and their families and welcome back to everyone else.

This year we are facing one of the biggest challenges in our schools history – that is our relocation.

I am confident that the project is being well managed by everyone concerned with the events to date. As you will read in Annie Carment's report, the Development Application for the project was submitted to the Blue Mountains City Council just before Christmas. Once the application is approved we are committed to proceeding with the purchase of the Oaklands site.

From that point onwards we will need to prepare the site and buildings for use as our new school. This part of the project will involve skilled contractors, but we will need the participation of as many individuals as possible in order to meet strict budgets and what I anticipate will be a fairly tight time frame.

The Korowal School Council met on Saturday 2nd February to begin the planning for events this year and you are invited to meet with the Council on Thursday March 13th to get the latest information, and find out how you can assist the move.

In the meantime it is my intention that the education of our students will not be distracted by the event of our moving.

Teachers met together at the start of term to reaffirm their commitment to their work and our students. I have great faith in their dedication to our school and their ability to provide a wonderful education for the children.

I would also like to congratulate all our graduating students from last year whose academic results in the 2007 HSC were delightful, and thank all those teachers (and their families) who supported them in their endeavours.

I am looking forward to the year with some trepidation but at the same time I am confident that within the community we have the necessary resources to achieve our intentions.

It is also the 30th Anniversary of our school this year and we will announce celebration plans during this term.

Mark Thomas
School Coordinator

Announcing the Community Events and Projects Committee

This year we will be making special efforts to tap into the collective enthusiasm, goodwill and generosity of the school community to ensure we have everything we need for a successful move.

The community events and projects committee is being formed to

- Organise fundraising events - both within the school and the broader community
- Keep in touch with past students
- Co-ordinate donation initiatives
- Co-ordinate offers of volunteer help in preparing our new site

You can be involved by joining this Committee.

The first meeting is on Monday evening from 6pm on February 25th at the School. The convenor is Vittorio Cintio. For more information ring him on 47 573239.

Upcoming Council Vacancy

After many years of devoted service, Nick Mansfield has indicated that he will not be standing for Council at the next AGM in May.

I would like to encourage any parent who is interested in serving on Council to sit in on Council meetings between now and the AGM. The next 3 meetings are:

Thursday, 21st February

Thursday, 6th March

Thursday, 3rd April

If you are interested and would like more information please give me a ring on 47 573239.

Vittorio

KOROWAL ON THE MOVE

COMMUNITY UPDATE MEETING

Everyone is invited to a meeting at school on
THURS 13th March at 6.30 pm

to hear the latest updates on every aspect of our
relocation and to find out how you
can help Korowal move
into its **NEW HOME**

CHILD CARE
AVAILABLE

BRING A PLATE
(with food on it)

New canteen manager



We warmly welcome Martina Larsen as our new canteen manager. Please phone the office to leave your phone number if you are able to assist in the canteen especially on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

Dates to remember

- | | |
|--------------|---|
| 12 Feb | Primary Swimming Carnival 10am to 1pm
Year 2 Class Meeting |
| 13 to 15 Feb | Year 8 & Pathways Camps |
| 20 Feb | Class 3/4/5 excursion to Aquarium
Year 7 Class Meeting |
| 21 Feb | Korowal School Council Meeting 7pm |
| 28 Feb | High School Swimming Carnival |
| 29 Feb | Police Visit - Graeme Canty -
Youth Liaison
Clean Up Australia |
| 1 Mar | K-6 Picnic Day - Wentworth Falls Lake |
| 4 Mar | Yr 7 Hep vaccinations - 1st dose
HS Girls HPV vaccination - 1st dose |
| 21 Feb | Korowal School Council Meeting 7pm |
| 13 Mar | Community update meeting 6.30pm |

Staff Development Day - Tues 31st Jan

Taking the time to be together and consider on the year ahead, we spent the day reflecting on our values, on us as individuals within our school environment, and on the students. The focus for our first Staff Development Day this term was *We are Worth Maintaining*. It was a great opportunity to hear from everybody and begin to collect suggestions for activities that will help foster awareness of each other, to have fun together, and to extend our professional practice. We then reflected on similar areas for the students. This was a consolidating start to the year, enabling staff to bring added focus to the significant challenges of the year ahead.

Barb Fitzgerald

Executive Planning Day - Tues 5th Feb



On Tuesday Mark, Nancy, Joachim and Barb met to begin the process of responding to the feedback which the staff provided at the staff development day. We envisage that this process will lead to further activities and events which will create opportunities, and support the whole community. Our preliminary consideration of people's responses reveals a great degree of integrity and humanity.

Years 6 - 12 Values workshop - Fri 8th Feb

On Friday we will be inviting students from years 6 to 12 to participate in a workshop where they can discuss the meaning and significance of having values. This is the third component in the creation of a Korowal Values Statement which will reflect the values evident in our school. Over the past couple of years two previous forums have been held, one with the staff and one with the parents. This is an exciting opportunity to hear what our students value.

High school



Welcome back to the school year. We are excited about the year ahead and trust you had a relaxing Summer break. Last week we welcomed Year 7 students into the High School. There are so many, we have known as little people who now seem very grown up!

We welcome Rick Morris to our teaching staff for this term, and are grateful to him for making himself available to us. Unfortunately life events changed for Simon Clough during the holidays and he has returned to Melbourne. The position of a Maths teacher will be advertised shortly.

Primary school

Happy New Year!

On behalf of all our teachers, I warmly welcome you back to our new school year. It really is a very uplifting experience to return to school and be greeted with so many smiles and hugs!

We extend a special welcome back to Vanessa Avery, who has joined the K,1,2 teaching team. Vanessa taught here for 3 years from 2002 - 2004 and played an important role in helping us to implement our then new multiple age structures. It is wonderful to have her back!

We also wish to make special mention of all our brand new students and their families. We have 17 new kindergarten children, 2 new year 1 students and one new student in each of years 2, 4 and 5. Welcome to our community.

We are planning a K - 6 picnic day at Wentworth Falls Lake on Saturday 1st March from 2pm onwards. We would love to see as many families there as possible. This will be a lovely opportunity to socialise with other parents and meet with staff on an informal basis. It's bring your own everything ... and your children are your responsibility!!!

Last term at least 3 children twisted their ankles quite severely whilst playing outside wearing cros. We are concerned that these shoes, which we know are very popular, do not provide adequate support and protection for you children whilst playing outside and politely request that alternative footwear be provided.

Here's to a really great year!

Nancy

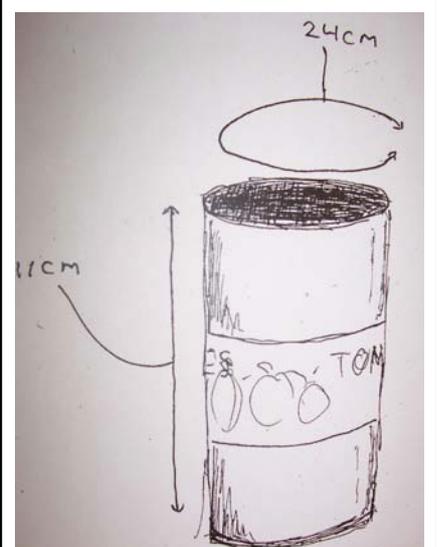
Primary Coordinator

This year for Peer Support primary are planning a project to make blankets for Mulo School in Hato Bulico in East Timor.

The blankets will be made from french knitting and through the next few weeks Class 6 will be making knitting Nancies. If you would like to help with the success of this project please contribute by sending in empty cans. The size is 11cm high with a circumference of 24cm (your average tomato can). There will be a box outside the year 6 classroom every morning for the tin collection.

Thank you for helping the children in East Timor!

Class 6 Peer Support Leaders



Korowal Konnections

This section promotes activities and events involving members of the community and the broader Blue Mountains community.

Korowal School does not specifically recommend any of these activities, nor does it guarantee their quality or the qualifications of their sponsors.

Advertising your business in our newsletter

Parents who run a business may submit advertisements in our "Korowal Business Directory". There will be no charge, but adverts will be subject to editorial review and must directly relate to a current Korowal parent. Please contact Cath in the office to discuss how to contribute your ad. You may email also on cwalker@korowal.nsw.edu.au

Monica Morris
Therapist/Facilitator

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

Genetically Modified (GM) food. Do you want your children eating it?

If you are concerned about the arrival of GM foods on your family's plate you may be interested to know that **the date for planting GM crops in NSW is only a month away.**

On 27th November, 2007, just days after the Federal election, both the NSW and Victorian state Labor governments announced that they would end their current moratoria on the commercial growing of genetically modified (GM) canola. Unless renewed, the NSW moratorium will end on 3rd March 2008. After this date farmers will only have to fill in a form to grow GM canola.

Once planted, GM canola will contaminate natural plantings of canola.

GM canola, like most GM crops, is inadequately tested before entering our food supply.

If this information worries you, please contact me to help arrange **an evening screening of the film "The Future of Food"**. This is an excellent, professionally made documentary, winning the best documentary award at a number of film festivals, as well as the Human Rights award at the Taos Film Festival. The San Francisco Chronicle called it one of "the must-see documentaries". In just 85 Minutes it explains what GM is and the full implications of this technology, there are real revelations in almost every scene. Craig Linn, academic and author of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society's Sustainability Booklet, will show the film and spend 10 minutes giving the Australian perspective. The whole session would last about 1 hour and 45 minutes including some time for questions and information on how to take action.

Please contact Rosemary Lathouris, teacher at Wentworth Falls Public School, member of Blue Mountains Conservation Society, for more information. Telephone 47 572511 or email lathouris@bigpond.com