



Korowal School

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www.korowal.nsw.edu.au

Newsletter

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CALENDAR	
April 9	Scholarship registrations close
April 7 - 9	Year 10 camp
April 9	Last day term one
April 26 (Sunday)	Working Bee 10am – 3pm
April 28 (Tuesday)	First day term 2 for students
May 5 (Tuesday) 7 pm	Year 7 2010 information evening
May 13	School Photos
May 23 (Saturday)	Community forum & AGM 3 pm

FROM THE SCHOOL EXECUTIVE (Mark, Nancy, Barb & Steve)

WE HAVE ESTABLISHED OURSELVES!

We have come to the end of our first term at our new home. Congratulations and thank you to all the teachers, students and families for accommodating the transition so smoothly. It is a beautiful location and the community effort that has brought us here continues to support us in our ongoing restorations and renovations.

BOARD OF STUDIES

On Tuesday 31st March, we submitted our Stage 1 requirements for Registration and Accreditation to the NSW Board of Studies. On 19th June the inspectors will visit the school to complete the process. All teaching staff have been revising and documenting programs and procedures this term. Extra effort has been required at this time. Adjusting to the demands of the new location is a great challenge, but layering it with the detailed submissions required for each subject has placed extreme demands on many staff members. In a small school there are fewer people to carry the load, and we wish to acknowledge and thank all of our teachers.

START DATE FOR TERM TWO

Our first day of Term 2 will be Monday 27th for teachers, and Tuesday 28th for students. There is some confusion about Anzac Day and whether or not there is a holiday on the Monday. We believe that State schools have the Monday as a holiday, but the official line on Anzac Day, and whether it is a public holiday the Monday after, is that *Anzac Day is a public holiday if it falls on a weekday, not on a weekend.*

SCHOLARSHIP REGISTRATIONS CLOSE THIS WEEK

Thursday 9th April is the final date for registration for the ACER scholarship exams. After the closing date, a significant late fee is incurred on all applications. Please apply online at www.korowal.nsw.edu.au. All families with students in the relevant years and on waiting lists for those years should have received information in the mail about scholarships. There are academic, music, art and drama scholarships for students entering years 7 and 10. The Whitton and Mandela scholarships are open to students entering year 11

CAN YOU HELP WITH PAINTING DURING THE HOLIDAYS?

During the holidays we would like to make some progress with the **unfinished painting**. We plan to begin painting the outside timberwork at the front of the buildings and to paint some of the window and door trims inside. The paint used will be enamel. We don't wish to deter any willing helpers, however we only require volunteers who are competent and tidy painters! We will send a separate email this week when we know which days volunteers are required.

WORKING BEE: APRIL 26th (Last Sunday of holidays) 10am – 3pm

Our email later this week will list jobs and equipment.

YEAR 6 INTO YEAR 7 INFORMATION EVENING TUESDAY MAY 5TH

The time to confirm your child's place for Year 7, 2010, is approaching. We will be holding an information evening for Year 6 students and parents to hear about the way Korowal High School operates, and to answer your questions. The invitation to attend will be extended to all current families, students on our current waiting list, and will be advertised in the local press.



How do our HSC students spend their weekends? James and William Fullerton spent the last one learning to fly a helicopter and took this picture while hovering over the school.

TRANSPORT ISSUES

A message from Keith: if your child uses public transport, PLEASE make sure they have adequate wet weather gear. Between train and bus and between bus stop and school there are opportunities to get thoroughly soaked if it is raining.

There will be time allocated at the community forum on Sat May 23rd to discuss transport issues. In the meantime, if you have concerns about any aspect of transport arrangements please contact Leanne Kent on lkent@netspace.net.au or 47512774. Leanne is in negotiations with the bus company and the Ministry of Transport to clarify and resolve our transport arrangements.

FUNDING APPLICATIONS

We have been allocated \$125,000 in the first round of the Federal Government's National Schools Pride funding program. (The amount is determined by the number of students a school has.) This will be spent on bushfire compliance requirements – fire trail, metal window screens, gutter guards, undergrowth clearing; connecting plumbing to the science labs; refurbishing our central heating system; purchasing block out blinds for high school classrooms and building a retaining wall. The last newsletter contained information about all of the other sources of funding for which we are applying. Three of those applications have now been submitted. Work on the others is underway. We are hoping that the federal government's primary schools funding will provide enough not only for a multi purpose hall but also a covered balcony around the north and east of the primary school (for shade and rain cover) and an extension to the two smallest K/1/2 classrooms. It will be a few months before we know exact amounts and time frames for the primary schools funding.

Don't forget our COMMUNITY FORUM and AGM from 3pm on Saturday May 23rd

INTRODUCING OUR NEW STAFF...

I interviewed Pam Staples, our new librarian, and Kim Poole, our new primary teacher for this newsletter. In the next newsletter I hope to introduce you to our other new staff members – Vaughan (transport supervisor) and Bev (bursar).
(Annie Carment.)

PAM STAPLES

Pam started this term as our teacher-librarian. She works at Korowal three days per week and also works one day per week in learning support at Springwood High School. She has two sons aged thirteen and sixteen.



Pam has twenty year's experience as a high school English/ History teacher and teacher-librarian in the central west, the outer west and the Blue Mountains. She has also taught in a Steiner primary school. In addition to teaching and library qualifications, Pam is a qualified herbal medicine practitioner.

She believes that libraries should be available and flexible and is passionate about promoting a love of reading. When asked how she finds teaching at Korowal, Pam doesn't hesitate. She is "deeply impressed" by the "nurturing, the genuine care that teachers show for their students, and the respect that students have for each other and for their teachers. At Korowal it feels like teachers and students are on the same side". She

believes that this is a result of the trust that we place in students. She loves the atmosphere... "At Korowal you hear people whistling".

KIM POOLE

Kim started this term as part of our class 3/4/5 primary teaching team. He is with us three days per week, and teaches music at the University of Western Sydney one day per week. He also teaches music performance to our high school students on Friday afternoons.

Kim qualified in music education at the Conservatorium of Music and planned to become a high school teacher, but was waylaid by completing an honours masters degree and then a Ph.D. in music. He plays a large variety of stringed instruments, including the violin, double bass and guitar, as well as the accordion, flute, saxophone, piano, and hurdy-gurdy. His particular passion is folk music. He was employed as a lecturer in music at the University of Western Sydney for several years until he resigned to focus on parenting his young son and twin baby girls (now aged nine and seven). Since then Kim has taught music to pre-school, high school and



tertiary students. Working as a primary teacher completes the teaching spectrum! He finds primary teaching rewarding and challenging and enjoys the support and co-operation that team teaching provides. If you have heard the music emanating from the class 3/4/5 morning circle you will know how enthusiastically the students are responding to Kim's input.



CAKE STALL FUNDRAISER

Our next fortnightly cake stall fundraiser is scheduled for **Thursday 9th April**. Cakes will be available for purchase at recess at the cost of \$1 to \$3. PATHWAYS students are requested to bring cakes to supply this stall. Please deliver cakes, biscuits or slices to the office before school on that day. We sincerely thank Year 10 students and parents and some of the primary families for the incredible success of our last cake day.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

K/1/2 NEWS

As we draw to the close of this busy and enjoyable first term at Hazelbrook it is a good time to say thank you to all of you for supporting our K,1,2 community with such enthusiasm and thoughtfulness!!!

The children have worked and played joyfully this term and have produced wonderful bookwork. Their self-portraits are now ready to go up over the holidays! We are looking forward to next term's main lesson, Aboriginal Dreaming, and its associated activities. We will also carry forward our public transport excursion, which we had to postpone due to bad weather.

Just a few quick reminders... Children need to bring **hats** to school throughout the year – even on beanie days. Holidays provide an ideal opportunity to check your child's hair for any nits that have survived the summer! They are also a good time to put your child's name into those warmer clothes that they will be wearing next term! It is so much easier for us to find owners of lost clothes if they are labelled!

Please remember to check for **clothing lost** during this term, both at the office and in the Lost Property box near the Primary School entrance.

We have a busy last four days, with a special highlight on Tuesday 7th April - a visit from members of Lawson Fire Brigade and the fire truck!

Although staff will be back for our Staff Development Day on the first Monday of Term 2, the children start back on Tuesday 28th April.

We all wish you and your families a safe and enjoyable holiday break!
(Mary-Ann)

3/4/5 NEWS

Classes 3 4 & 5 have completed two main lessons this term - "The Hobbit" and Air and Water. In the words of class 5 students....

"The Hobbit was a great story. Each chapter was a heart pumping thriller" (Belal)

"My favourite thing was when we made a map of Middle Earth and we put in the Shire, Bag End, Rivendell, Misty Mountains, Mirkwood, and the last homely house." (Charlotte)

"My favourite activity in The Hobbit was making Beon's house with natural materials and soft clay. It was hard to get my materials because it was heavily raining at my house. Anyway I got some fennel for trees and moss for the inside and big fig tree leafs for the roof and rose petals for decorations and rocks for the pathway..." (Isabella)

"This year so far has been great. The mains lessons have been extraordinary. The Hobbit was a heart warming book. We sadly finished the book in no time at all and sadly the main lesson ended and we started the new main lesson air and water. I would say this is the best science main lesson ever. We got to make an invention powered by air and water. It was so fun." (Adam)

“My favourite thing so far was doing my Air and Water title page. We got water color pencils and did some sky, a horizon and some water”. (Rachel)

“In the air & water main lesson we made something that runs on air and water with recycled materials. In the start we did activities like a breathing marshmallow and other really really fun things. I can't wait to see what we are doing next. (Caleb Darius Music Moldrich)

PEER SUPPORT

Last week saw the beginning of our Peer Support program for this year. Peer Support is a program aimed to develop positive attitudes, behaviours and skills related to relationships, leadership and values across the whole primary school. Students from Class 1 to Class 6 will be meeting each fortnight for the rest of the year, in small groups of six students, to engage in a variety of activities. This year the Class 6 students will be leading their group in playing games together. The games they



are beginning the year with include a memory game and a card game. Both games involve turn taking, following rules, cooperating and having fun! We are hoping that the students will enjoy and look forward to meeting in their groups during Peer Support time, getting to know each other and developing new relationships.

Class 6 students have participated in a training program and were well prepared to be leaders for the first session. The groups had a friendly time getting to know each other and then working together to write some group rules. The final part of the session was spent learning the new games. Congratulations to everyone,

especially the Class 6 leaders on a successful start to the program .(Jennifer)

STOP PRESS!!! After her extraordinary work in setting up our new school and smoothing countless relocation wrinkles, as well as teaching and coordinating the primary school, Nancy has taken a week of long overdue holidays. Enjoy the break Nancy.

CONNECTIONS

Community events and notices. Korowal does not specifically recommend or guarantee the quality of any of these connections

MOTHERS' MEDITATION AND DISCUSSION GROUP

Find out what other mothers truly think and feel, and experience the benefits of a compassionate perspective on the way in which we think of ourselves as mothers and the way in which we relate to our children. A ten week group aimed at understanding how much our culture contributes to a mother's self-criticism and anxiety and how to enjoy one's children more. You do not have to be a Buddhist or become a Buddhist to participate in this group as Tibetan Buddhism is a psychology that anyone can benefit from.

WHEN AND WHERE:

Tuesdays in Katoomba 10:00 am - 12:00 pm and Wednesdays in Wentworth Falls 12:30 - 2:30
Beginning Term 2 April 28th and 29th, 2009.

FACILITATOR:

Gabrielle Lane - Psychotherapist, Dream Analyst, Tibetan Buddhist
Psychotherapist, Child and Adolescent Counsellor and Director of the Blue Mountains Children's Theatre.

CONTACT:

Gabrielle Lane - Blue Mountains Counselling Centre

47824990 ~ 0425 807 660

Dr Sev Ozdowski OAM, Director of Equity and Diversity,
University of Western Sydney

invites you and your colleagues to the 2009 Open Forum Series

[The Personal and the Political. Women in Australian Politics.](#)

With guest speaker

[THE HON TANYA PLIBERSEK MP Minister for the Status of Women](#)

Date:	23rd April 2009
Time:	Arrive at 5.30pm for a 6.00pm start
Venue:	UWS Parramatta Campus, Building EA, room 19
RSVP:	Debbie Mey (d.mey@uws.edu.au) or 02 9678 7374.

[SELWOOD SCIENCE AND PUZZLES: HOLIDAY ACTIVITES](#)

[Over the bridge at Hazelbrook Railway Station at 41 Railway Pde Hazelbrook](#)

[Hands-on, fun science activities.](#)

WED 22 nd	SCIENCE MAGIC	9.30 – 12.30	5 – 11 yrs	\$24
	WATER SCIENCE	1.30 – 4.30	5 – 11 yrs	\$24
THURS 23 rd	FUN ELECTRICITY	9.30 – 12.30	5 – 8 yrs	\$24
	SLIME MAKING	1.30 – 4.30	5 – 11 yrs	\$24
FRI 24 th	EASY CHEMISTRY	9.30 – 12.30	8 – 13 yrs	\$24