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NEWSLETTER

21/6/2010

Vol 33 Issue 7

CALENDAR 2010	
Wed 23 June	Dress up/ uniform day (year 12 fundraiser)
Fri 25 June	Last day term 2
Mon 19 th July	Staff development day
Tues 20 th July	Term 3 starts – all students
Sat 31 st July 10am – 2 pm	Term 3 working bee
Sat 14 th August 10am – 3 pm	Annual Open Day
Fri 24 September	Last day term 3
Mon 11 Oct	Term 4 starts – all students
Sat 16 th October 10am – 2pm	Term 4 working bee
21 & 22 October	High school staff development days
Thu 9 December	Last day term 4 for high school
Fri 10 December 1.15pm	Last day term for primary school

OUR FABULOUS SCHOOL FAIR

Our first fair in Hazelbrook was a great success – sunny weather; beautiful, friendly school; relaxed, happy crowds; fabulous food and coffee; wonderful music; fresh flowers; extraordinary face painting; inspired art and crafts to make and buy; bargains for the hunters; and lots of creative fun for children and adults.

It was a great opportunity for our Korowal community to get together. Most families attended; many ex-students visited and helped. There were also many visitors from the local area and from Sydney.

We raised more money than at any fair in the school's recent history.



There are so many people to thank that we will not mention any individual names. A huge thank you to all of the parents on the organising "team"; to all of the parents, students, teachers, ex-students and

friends who contributed their musical, art and craft talents; who cooked hot food and

cakes; who helped set up before the fair, worked on the day and cleaned up afterwards; who donated goods, bought flowers and walked the streets asking for tombola donations; and to everyone we have forgotten to mention!

The fair has generated energy for future fund raising events. We have seen the potential of our new school site for events and gatherings and many ideas are emerging. We will organize a meeting early next term for anyone who wants to discuss ideas for future events and fund raising.

(Tracy & Annie)

There is an album of great pictures from the fair on our Facebook page (see below)

www.facebook.com/korowalschool

Thank you to these businesses who generously donated to our tombola:

- Trumps Boutique, Leura
- Hits & Myths, Leura
- iKou, Leura
- Josophan's Chocolate, Leura
- iKou Day Spa, Leura
- Circus Boutique, Leura
- Mrs Peel, Leura
- Celena, Springwood
- Inner Space, Leura
- Moontree, Leura
- Body & Being, Leura
- Leura Hair Studio
- Blue Mountain Doggie Wear
- Ochre Aboriginal Art, Leura
- Foodworks, Hazelbrook
- Megalong Books, Leura
- Selwood Science & Puzzles
- Flawless Skin & Beauty, Hazelbrook
- Kropt Hair, Hazelbrook
- Hazelbrook Fruit & Veg
- Hazelbrook Pharmacy
- Colourart Australia Springwood
- Hazelbrook Post Office
- Floral Abundance Hazelbrook
- Hazelbrook Health Foods
- Elizabeth Rosa Leura
- Ophelia's Emporium, Leura
- Leura Gifts & Homewares

Korowal is on Facebook!

Korowal now has an official Facebook page that will be used for sharing photos and news, as a point of contact for ex-students, and to tell the world about our school. If you are a Facebook user, go to www.facebook.com/korowalschool and become our friend. If you have photos from school events that could be uploaded to Facebook contact Annie on acarment@bigpond.net.au

Dress up/ uniform day this Wednesday

Year 12 students are planning to hold a Uniform/Dress up day as fundraiser for their formal this Wednesday 23.06.10. It is always good fun. We ask that the children and

staff give a gold coin donation and arrive in dress ups. If any parents want to participate you are most welcome. A percentage of the funds raised goes toward a nominated charity.

Photos postponed

Our scheduled photo day has been cancelled. We are in the process of engaging another photographer and will inform you about the new date when it is decided.

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome

We warmly welcome Damon, who has joined his brother in Kindergarten.

Fair

What a fabulous day! Thank you to everyone who came, and/or helped either before, on or after the event. Thank you for all those donations and all those purchases! Thank you for being such a warm and appreciative audience for our choir. Thank you for the music and the scrumptious food. Thank you to Tracy and Annie for co-ordinating so much and thank YOU for being a part of our community.

Interviews

We have enjoyed meeting with so many of you to talk about your children and share their work with you. We will be displaying this work at our Open Day on Saturday, 14th August, so please save this date in your diary. It's another opportunity to build our sense of community.

Heating

We are delighted and relieved to have our new heaters fully operational in our classrooms. They are flued gas heaters, energy efficient and able to be operated independently of one another. We still want children to wear warm clothing, though, as we will not be setting the thermostat to temperatures that suit wearing summer clothes. We take seriously our role as educators and are endeavouring to train the children to close doors, dress warmly and reduce energy use/wastage.

Lost Property

We will be displaying this before the end of term and then taking all unnamed, unclaimed items to a charity bin. Our basket overflows, so do drop in and check through it. The basket is located just inside the front entrance doors to the North Hall (which is where the primary classrooms are located.)

Term 3

We are having a staff development day on Monday 19th July; students return on Tuesday 20th July.

Change in Finishing Time

We have made a slight variation to our school day, in that we shall be finishing classes at 3.20pm on Mondays through to Thursdays and at 1.20pm on Fridays. This will not impact on children using public transport. The change facilitates a smoother finish to the day as there is not a 5 minute lag between high school finishing and primary school finishing, which has caused complications with our duty timetable.

Thank You Cate

It has been wonderful having Cate with us this term, whilst Jill has been on long service leave. She has been fabulous to work with and has been an excellent addition to our team. We look forward to seeing her again next term, when she covers for

Yvonne, who is on leave, and on other occasions when we need a relief teacher.

Holidays

Enjoy them!

Nancy

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS



How quickly the term is drawing to a close! The senior students sat their half course exams this week, and within two months they submit their practical works in Drama and Art. There are specialist days planned for them in the holidays, and we thank their teachers for their dedication and support. We wish to express our thanks to the students for all their support in preparing for the school fair, and assisting on the day. The whole of the junior high school pushed through the rain to clean the grounds on the Friday afternoon. There was a lot of excitement that the terror tunnel was back, and Year 9, along with their class teachers and parents, contributed enormously to its success. Many Yr 10 students assisted with the decorating and set up of the canteen and the signage for the school. Students from Years 7 and 8 moved furniture about to clear spaces and dressed as fairies at the fair. Years 11 and 12 students and parents made cakes and ran the cake stall. It really was a whole school event. We

wish to thank the staff for filling in the gaps and simply being here to support the community.

(Barb.)

D & T excursion to Blaxland Pizza

CAPITAL WORKS

•NEW HEATING.

Installation of our new flued gas heaters is almost complete. It has been very complex job involving plumbers, electricians and builders. We are extremely grateful to Pieter Oosterhoff for donating his time and expertise in designing the system, sourcing the components, supervising the work, and doing a reasonable chunk of the work himself.

•BALL COURT.

The court will be built in the coming holidays.

•PRIMARY SCHOOL VERANDAH.

The roof will be built during these holidays.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Chair Report from AGM (Rosemary Dillon)

This is my first AGM report as Chair of Korowal School Council. Let me begin by saying it is a privilege to be in this role and to be part of such an inspirational human centred school. We have an amazing school community comprised of our beautiful children, dedicated, highly skilled and hard working teachers and support staff, and

our committed parents, many of whom have made sacrifices and choices to ensure their children have the opportunity to be educated at Korowal.

Korowal is a small school with a big heart. Its small size and integrated structure means that it can function as a community in which children, teachers and parents are able to develop strong and meaningful relationships and get to know and care about each other. This does not mean that we will always get on, but it does mean we are in a community that values and understands that relationships are at the heart of a successful educational process. As one of our principles states: Committed, mutually respectful relationships between students, teachers and parents are crucial to educational success.

In this regard I can report that your School Council is working cooperatively, respectfully and productively with the best interest of the school at heart. The Korowal School Council is a democratically elected body comprised of equal numbers of parents and teachers that essentially takes on the role of being the Board of Directors that controls Korowal School. All school policies and school financial decisions are subject to the approval of the Council.

2010 marks the second year of our school in our new location in Hazelbrook. I would like to congratulate the Korowal School community on this journey we have successfully made and on the journey we are continuing to make, as we settle in to our new location. This transition has created new challenges and new opportunities. We have moved from being a financially subsidised school to being a more truly independent school. This independence comes with a price - in the form of a large mortgage and new responsibilities to develop, maintain and renew our school buildings, facilities and grounds.

Korowal has new financial responsibilities and challenges that need to be addressed in a planned and strategic manner. The School council is committed to doing this. In 2009 the Council established a Finance Committee which is working very hard with the School Council to address the financial and budgetary challenges and issues facing the school, now and into the future. I would like to take the opportunity to thank Richard Elkan (Chair), Bev Milner and Mark Thomas for their work with me on this committee.

In addition, Mark our School Coordinator is working with the Council on the development of a Business Plan for the future of the school. Amongst other things, this plan will address our future strategy and options for addressing our financial challenges. Having a significant mortgage, means that we do need to be thinking and acting in a more business like manner. A key challenge is how can we do this without compromising the principles and values which are at the heart of our school. No doubt there will be many policy issues to be resolved by the School Council such as the extent to which we can afford to offer bursaries and scholarships – something that the school has and probably will continue to be committed to. Provision of bursaries can ensure we have a diversity of families and children from all socio-economic backgrounds within the school.

The transition to a new site has also been the opportunity to take stock, reassess the things that are important and ensure we are doing our utmost to make Korowal the best school it can be. A major focus of the School Council over the last 12 months has been reviewing our policies and procedures, administrative processes and business systems. In 2009 the School Council established a Human Resources Policy Committee to review all Korowal Policies and Procedures pertaining to Human Resources. This Committee is comprised of Council and Korowal School community members. It has worked extremely hard with key achievements to date being:

- Development of a revised Staff Induction and Orientation Policy and Procedure; and

- Development of a revised Staff Selection Policy and Procedure

Work currently in progress includes:

- A review of Korowal's Complaints Policy and Procedure
- A comprehensive review of the schools Administration Systems and Practices with a report with recommendations to be submitted to the School Council in late 2010.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Deborah Keenahan (Chair), Leanne Kent, Vittorio Cintio, Peter Sprolc and Mick Barrett, for their immense contribution and work on this committee.

Our new location has required significant work on buildings, grounds and facilities and many long hours especially from Mark Thomas and Annie Carment on planning approvals and Development Applications and on grant and funding applications. In moving to a new site we have also had to work hard to let people know we are here. I would like to thank Annie Carment for her tremendous work and contribution to the school on marketing and other jobs like updating the school's website.

In 2010 Korowal took a stand against the Federal Government's NAPLAN School league comparative tables and benchmarks. Along with other small schools around Australia, Korowal has lobbied to have NAPLAN test results from small schools excluded from the Federal Government's My School Website. This is not only because they are statistically inaccurate given the very small class sizes, but also because Korowal does not support ranking students against each other in this way. Korowal supports a far more holistic and integrated approach of providing children with continuous opportunities for meaningful and constructive assessment. Korowal measures its success through its graduates and as a recent newspaper article highlighted, and as shown in our new page on the school website listing graduate achievements, Korowal HSC students consistently gain excellent results. Our graduates are painters, actors, engineers, scientists, plumbers, builders, architects, doctors and dancers to name some.

No doubt there will be many more issues that Korowal will choose to take a stand on and be heard. That is part of who we are.

In conclusion, I would like to thank my fellow Council members – Mark Thomas, Nancy Oosterhoff, Barb Fitzgerald, Steve Garthwin, Kath Veel, Annie Carment, Mick Barret, Richard Elken and Deb Keenahan for their hard work and contribution at the policy level to the effective running of Korowal over the past 12 months. I would especially like to acknowledge the tremendous contribution from Kath Veel who has recently resigned from the Council after a period of service totalling just over 10 years. I would like to finish by thanking Mark our School Coordinator and the other members of the School Executive who work closely with him – Nancy our Primary School Coordinator and Barb and Steve our High School Coordinators for their role in managing the day to day operations of the school. Your contributions, often beyond the call of duty, are most appreciated.

Rosemary Dillon

Coordinators Report from AGM (Mark Thomas)

Firstly I would like to express my sheer amazement that we have got to this point. As I stated last year there have been any number of circumstances over the preceding few years when it appeared that plans would not succeed, but they did! This was despite the fact that we arrived on day 1 at our new site with 20 odd children less than we needed to be viable. At that point, yet again, we faced another abyss, would we enrol these extra students? How were we going to find the funds to continue? All this in the middle of the Global Financial Crisis!

Remarkably, and I do not take it for granted, we ended up resolving both these questions. We eventually increased our enrolments, (to around 230 today), and through a **compelling** application to the Commonwealth Government received some extra 'emergency' financial assistance.

It is apparent that our story, or the way we tell, it is compelling. I have often heard it stated “who cares about a small private school” or “why would anyone want to help a privileged middle class school?” These questions have been rhetorical (I hope). A lot of people care very deeply that the school not only exists, but flourishes.

There are parents who are enrolling their children who know little or nothing of our history. There are no battle scars to suggest any past challenges or difficulties.

Instead people observe a functioning school, with things as they would expect to find, in place. This didn't happen by chance. It happened because a lot of people fought really hard to make it happen. In turn their actions drew support to the cause. We have had people from all parts of our larger community act in favour of the school, from ex-parents, students and teachers to all levels of politicians, our Association of Independent Schools, State and Federal public servants, local trades and business people, the people of Hazelbrook, as well as current parents, staff and students.

We have only just begun to lay the foundations for our future. Our survival has in fact reinforced the idea the school serves a greater need than just meeting the educational requirements of its students and families. Korowal represents an ideal in education, a place where imagination can be realised, a school that has a voice that is not otherwise heard within the education community.

In the changing and dynamic landscape that passes for educational reform and evolution in this country there is hardly a school that stands up for an ethical consideration of what constitutes a 'school education'. How do our political leaders really understand the purpose of education and the role of schooling beyond the needs of the economy? We are becoming more vocal.

Next phase of our growth and development

The school is responding to this realisation through a complete review of its business operations and educational program, including a review of job positions and responsibilities, governance policies and financial management processes.

As owners of the property we must also have a developed and coherent plan to manage our financial obligations and maintenance responsibilities.

This is no less a demanding process than our relocation. For those of us intimately involved with the daily operations of the school there is the acceptance that all these extra tasks must be accomplished concurrently with the business of meeting our obligations to our families and students.

The Korowal Council has asked for a comprehensive business plan that looks to chart the next 3 to 5 year period. I will work with Bev Milner, our Bursar, who possesses a wealth of business experience.

Irrespective of any grander considerations, our school would not exist if it did not do what it promises to do, that is provide an education that is valued by both its students and parents.

My colleagues, in both teaching and general staff do a remarkable job. The goodwill expressed through their conduct and dedication is the sustaining force of the school. I find their endeavours sustaining and encouraging.

There are some people who need specific acknowledgement.

Firstly, Annie Carment. Annie continues as a full-time volunteer. She maintains a central role in all our capital works programs, dealing with the myriad people, professions and organisations involved in building and financing new facilities. She is our sole marketing and promotions coordinator. This is now the third year we have

worked together on this ongoing project and her energy and determination have never flagged. She is a remarkable driving force of our achievements to date.

Secondly the Executive team of Nancy Oosterhoff, Barbara Fitzgerald and Steve Garthwin who have taken on an increasing range of tasks and responsibilities to enable me to take on new roles. Particularly their role in supporting and sustaining the teachers through not only the ongoing relocation process, but providing guidance and hand holding through the successful NSW Board of Studies registration process.

I particularly acknowledge the contribution of Trish Fitzgerald, our canteen manager. It is delightful how often visitors and parents new to the school compliment Trish's food and role in providing not only a nutritious menu, but in preparing and presenting food in such a way as to reinforce their positive perceptions of the school.

I would also like to acknowledge Leanne Kent who continues in the role of transport liaison officer with the local bus company. She has also represented the school in our application to the Solar Schools Program, and I hope to see some reward for her endeavours in the near future.

We are planning a Fair for next weekend and I express my gratitude to Tracy Barrett for her role in managing this important event.

Thank you also to Pieter Oosterhoff for his role in designing and coordinating a replacement heating and cooling system for our main school building. The installation will commence this week!!

Next to last my thanks to Hilary Wale, Susan Pearce, Cath Walker who have held fort in the office.

Finally as is also customary I welcome new members of staff this year; Kim Poole, who moved from the Primary School to teaching Music across the whole school, Vanessa Avery who returned from Maternity leave to teach 345, Cairo Gawne teaching Drama and HSIE in the High School, and Talulah Vane teaching Year 6. Both Cairo and Talulah are ex-students of the school and embody the personal (and professional) qualities that affirm the worth of our endeavours.

To all our parents, students, ex-parents and ex-students, thankyou for your support and contribution either of labour, donations or goodwill. The success of this project and the ongoing story of Korowal belongs to all of us.

TEXT BOOK TRADING

Core Science books 3 & 4 Retroactive 2: Stage 5 Australian History 2nd edition Please contact Mary Ann Marshall directly on mmarshall@korowal.nsw.edu.au if you have any of these available.

CONNECTIONS: Community activities and links.

AFRICAN DANCE WORKSHOPS FOR KIDS

JOIN JOHNNY and CHANDU for SCHOOL HOLIDAY FUN

CHEZA AFRICAN DANCE and FITNESS CLASSES in TWO GREAT LOCATIONS

TUESDAY 13TH JULY @ EMU PLAINS -

MELROSE HALL 2-3PM FOR 10-17 Year olds \$10

FRIDAY 16TH JULY @ HAZELBROOK -

UNITING CHURCH 1:30-2:15pm for 8-12 year olds \$7.

and 2:30- 3:30pm 12-17 year olds \$10.

Call: 0428 30 620 or email: Chandu@ccecosytems.com.au for bookings and more details

Join the fitness safari