



NEWSLETTER

8/9/2010 Vol 33 Issue 11

CALENDAR 2010	
Wed – Fri 8 – 10 September	HSC Trial examinations
Fri 10 th September 6pm	Exhibition of HSC art work
Wed 15 th – Fri 17 th September	Year 10 camp
Thursday 23 rd September	School Council meeting 7pm
Fri 24 September	Last day term 3
Fri 24 September 12 midday	Year 12 farewell
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
Fri 12 November 6pm	Year 12 formal, Carrington Hotel.
Wed 8 December	End of year celebration
Thu 9 December	Last day term 4 for high school
Fri 10 December 1.15pm	Last day term for primary school

FROM THE EXECUTIVE

At this time of the year we experience the joys of our students achievements as they complete their HSC projects. When we state that we do not require our students to be compared or ranked externally, and that we allow our students to develop at their own pace, it is all within a context. We take pleasure in the good grades and marks achieved by our students as their efforts are compared and ranked by the external HSC assessment process, but we take greater pleasure in witnessing the achievement of individual goals and personal challenges. Our Year 11 students are accelerated and complete their first round of HSC subjects alongside their Year 12 cohort. Unfortunately due to the nature of the learning, we are not able to witness their work in all subjects. Art, Drama and Music however are accessible to us through performance and display. This year we have both Art and Drama in the current HSC cycle, and the students' practical projects have just been submitted.

Last week we had the privilege and pleasure of seeing our HSC Drama students perform their 'Group Devised' theatre pieces and present their 'Individual Projects'. These projects included short film, costume design, poster program design, scriptwriting and performance of a substantial monologue, some of which were also written and adapted by the students. It was a remarkable thing to see these young adults create entertaining theatre of a very high standard, around themes and issues that are poignant and current. It was also evident that the individual was present in each project, and that the unique nature of the piece reflected aspects of each student. From an audience perspective, the students enjoyed their work and delighted in their achievements.

In order to reach this standard the students were confronted on many levels, and were guided to continue to explore the potential within while trusting their peers.

There were trials and as always, drama, but what the students gained through this was a greater understanding of themselves. They realised the importance of their own voice and intuition in the creative processes. They also experienced the need for self-discipline and commitment to themselves and others in a way that no other subject demands. They are rightly very proud of themselves this week, and will take that confidence into their lives beyond school. We are also very proud of them. The HSC examiners were in attendance last Friday, so the Drama students have now completed 60% of their HSC external exam.

This Friday, September 10th at 6 pm the HSC Art students will show their artworks. We invite you to come along and see this exhibit of the body of works that the students have created for their Art Major Works before they are sent away to the marking centre next week. The Art students have now completed 50% of their HSC external exam.

We wish to acknowledge the time, support and fine teaching that our staff provides to all of our HSC students in every subject. We also acknowledge the vital foundation established by our Primary and Junior High school teachers. We are most grateful to our colleagues and honoured to have such dedicated individuals.

Mark, Nancy, Barb and Steve

PRIMARY SCHOOL NEWS

Moving On

Mary-Ann will be leaving us at the end of this year. She has taught at Korowal since 2003, on year 6 and as part of the K,1,2 team. Mary-Ann is a highly valued member of our staff who has contributed to the richness of our school during her time here. We will miss her enormously but are also excited for her as she embarks upon the next phase in her life.

Vanessa and Talulah are both expecting babies next March and we are delighted for them. Vanessa is resigning at the end of this year but will be keeping in close contact with us. We fully expect to see her back on staff some time in the future .

Talulah will be taking leave next year and will return to us in 2012.

Staffing changes for next year.

Next year Amanda will remain on 3,4,5 and Jennifer and Nancy will continue to work together in K,1,2. We will have new full-time teachers in K,1,2 and 3,4,5.

Yvonne will share Class 6 with a temporary teacher during Talulah's maternity leave. This provides continuity for our current year 5 students and support for the relief teacher.

We shall be advertising for our new teachers shortly and will keep you informed of our progress.

We have spoken today to the children, so that they will be prepared for the changes ahead.

This is an excellent time of the year to be looking for new staff and we know from past experience that there are many outstanding teachers who are eager to work at our school.

Camping and Conference

I have had a few changes to my usual routine over the last two weeks.

First of all I was lucky enough to be able to go to Hill End for an overnight camp with 3,4,5, Amanda and David. It was fantastic for me to spend time with the children and their teachers in a relaxed, informal setting. The activities relating to gold panning and mining were interesting and enjoyable - yes, the children really did have huge smiles on their faces as they waded through icy cold water in their search for gold! The underground mine was a much warmer experience - and marginally drier! The children behaved wonderfully and it was a privilege to be a part of their camp.



Panning for gold in the cold at Hill End

Last week I spent two days at Abbotsleigh Junior School attending a conference for primary school teachers. The focus was the National Curriculum, which is due to be implemented in 2012. Professionals with a genuine commitment to an inspiring and engaging learning experience for students shared their insights into the National Curriculum. Presentations were made by some of the writers of the documents.

As the National Curriculum for English, Maths, History and Science will not be available until October, it is hard to know how and if there will be any significant impact on our teaching programs. We will be looking at the curriculum next year to see how it will work within the context of our school and will keep you informed. At this point we do not foresee any major challenges for primary.

Turning Circle/Collection of Children

There is a teacher on duty at the turning circle from 3.20pm till 3.35pm. Staggering collection of children from the pick up zone may help reduce the traffic congestion.

Arriving late to Collect Children

At 3.35pm, when the duty teacher leaves the turning circle area, any uncollected children will be directed to the school office to wait – either on the verandah or inside the reception area.

I am very happy to talk to you if you have any questions or concerns about these or any other matters. You may either email me - noosterhoff@korowal.nsw.edu.au or phone the office to make an appointment.

Nancy

HSC DRAMA PERFORMANCES

Last week our HSC students presented their group devised pieces, monologues, scripts, films and costume designs. They were exhilarating, poignant, funny, astonishing and even frightening. The standard was exceptional. The audience was captivated.

Much praise and acknowledgment are due to our inspiring drama teachers, Cairo and Barb, and to their talented and hard working students.

More photos from the performances have been posted on our facebook page:

www.facebook.com/korowalschool.



Elly Barrett's monologue

HSC ART SHOW

HSC art students will exhibit their work this Friday at 6 pm in G1 (the dining room). Everyone is welcome.

PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK

There is a limit to the number and quality of images that can be included in the school newsletter because it is downloaded by email and therefore it must be contained within a moderate file size so that it will not create a logjam in your inbox.

Albums of photos can more easily be posted on the school's facebook page

www.facebook.com/korowalschool. For those who are facebook users, we will use this page to upload photographs from school events, excursions, and performances.

Recently uploaded:

Photos from class 3/4/5 camp to Hill End

Photos from HSC drama performance

CONNECTIONS: Community activities and links.

In September, Transition Towns Springwood is screening an inspiring film from Aoteroa/New Zealand "Earth Whisperers- Papatuanuku", by Kathleen Gallagher.

The film is shot in spectacular locations and focuses on ten visionary New Zealanders, whose lives and work embody the shift in consciousness that can heal our environment.

Friday September 10th, 7.30pm

Springwood Neighbourhood centre

Gold Coin Donation

Film followed by cuppas+discussion

Transition Towns are based on the idea that communities can create their own positive futures in response to the challenges of climate change and peak oil by drawing on local skills, knowledge and creativity.

Fancy something a bit different after the Monday morning drop off? The Blue Mountains branch of **The Association of Australian Decorative and Fine Arts Societies** meets one Monday a month at the Wentworth Falls School of Arts Theatre, Great Western Highway, Wentworth Falls, and offers high quality lectures on diverse topics within the arts, presented by overseas and Australian lecturers who are experts in their fields.

Coming up:

Monday September 27th

Opera: The Melting Pot of Culture

Ms Sarah Lenton NADFAS

Monday October 25th

Samuel Pepys: Life and Times and Diary

Mr Andrew Davies MA Hons Oxon NADFAS

You can attend up to three lectures for \$20 per lecture; cost drops to \$15 if you subscribe.

10.30am for 11am start

Morning tea is provided after the lecture.

Arrange to meet some other mums – it's a great way to have a get-together!

www.adfas.org.au

Children of Western Sydney Need YOU!!!

My name is Annie and I am one of many children with Barnardos who is looking for someone to care for us...

With the help of Barnardos we are looking for people who could provide

- Monthly Weekend Care
- Temporary Care
- Permanent Care or
- Adoption

If you would like to provide love and care for a child like me; Please attend Barnardos FREE information evening, and Barnardos staff will be happy to answer all your questions.

INFORMATION SESSION
When : 20th of October 2010
Where: Glenbrook School of Arts Hall
2 Ross Street Glenbrook
(next to Glenbrook Cinema)
Time: 6:30pm - 8:30pm
Bookings Essential:
RSVP by the 11th October 2010
Phone: 9833 8877



Barnardos
Caring for Australia's Children
We believe in CHILDREN.

Singing lessons All Styles Rock to Opera

Katoomba

Dr Lesley Kinney is conservatorium trained and has professional experience across classical and rock vocal styles. She has performed with the Australian Opera and Victorian State Opera and toured Australia with a number of musicals. Currently she sings rock covers and originals in local venues.

Phone Lesley on 4782 2421

(The “art and soul” series (below) is produced by Korowal parent Jo McGowan)

OPEN WEEKEND

Art Gallery of New South Wales

celebrating aboriginal art & culture

To celebrate *art + soul*, the ground-breaking three-part documentary series written and presented by Hetti Perkins and directed by Warwick Thornton for ABC Television, as well as the *art + soul* exhibition and the *art + soul* book, the Art Gallery of New South Wales will hold an Open Weekend over the October long weekend (2, 3, 4 October) focusing on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art.

More than 60 free events will be held over the 3-day long weekend with highlights including an opportunity to meet director Warwick Thornton and artists featured in the documentary.

A special performance, called the Gurrir Gurrir, will take place for the first time in Sydney. It is a renowned Joonba (public ceremonial performance) depicting events associated with Cyclone Tracy. Fourteen performers from the Warmun community in the East Kimberley will reveal the ‘dream visions’ received by artist Rover Thomas which inspired this ceremony.

Other highlights include a performance by Bangarra Dance Theatre, a bush spices cooking demonstration by celebrity chef, Mark Olive aka the ‘Black Olive’, music by Emma Donovan and singer songwriter duo Microwave Jenny, a weaving workshop with Ngarrindjeri artist Yvonne Koolmatrie, a shelling demonstration with La Perouse artist Esme Timbery, a desert culture workshop with women from Papunya Tula Artists, a stencil workshop with artist Reko Rennie and watercolour painting with Lenie Namatjira and Ivy Pareroultja.

Warwick Thornton’s 2009 award-winning film *Samson & Delilah* will be screened during the weekend. Hetti Perkins, writer and presenter of the *art + soul* television series, will be ‘in conversation’ with Warwick Thornton on the Saturday and with Gallery director Edmund Capon over the weekend.

Many events, including workshops and performances, will be fun for the whole family, and special events for children include a character tour with Ngununy the cheeky fruit bat and learning to sing in local Gadigal language.

- *art + soul* will screen on ABC TV at 8.30pm Thursdays 7, 14 and 21 October
- *art + soul* book (The Miegunyah Press) is available from October 1
- *art + soul* exhibition Art Gallery of New South Wales opens October 2

For further information:

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