

NEWSLETTER

3/2/2010 Vol 33 Issue 1

| CALENDAR 2010 | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Thurs 4 Feb | Kindergarten starts term 1 |
| Tues 9 Feb 7pm | Year 1 and 2 class meeting |
| Wed 10 Feb 7pm | Year 6 class meeting |
| Thurs 11 Feb 7pm | Year 3, 4 and 5 class meeting |
| Wed – Fri 17,18, 18 Feb | Pathways camp |
| Thus 1 April | Last day term 1 |
| Mon 19th April | Term 2 starts – all students |
| Fri 25 June | Last day term 2 |
| Mon 19 th July | Staff development day |
| Tues 20th July | Term 3 starts – all students |
| Fri 24 September | Last day term 3 |
| Mon 11 Oct | Term 4 starts – all students |
| 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 |

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Welcome.

We warmly welcome all of our students and their families to the new school year. We welcome eight new students and their families who have begun in years one through to five this year – Harsh, Gabe, Maddie, and Luan in year 1, Daisy in year 3, Jess in year 4, Gez and Raph in year 5. We look forward to the arrival on Thursday of 14 kindergarten students and their families. We also welcome Talulah Vane, our new class 6 teacher, and Vanessa Avery, who returns from maternity leave to join our class 3/4/5 teaching team.

Class meetings.

It is important that at least one parent attends the class meeting for each child as so much necessary information is conveyed at these meetings. The dates for these meetings are set out on the calendar above.

Thank you.

A huge thank you to the volunteers who attended Saturday's working bee and helped to get the primary school buildings, playground and courtyard clean and organised.

Nancy's timetable.

I am available on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to meet with parents. Please phone the office to arrange a time.

(Nancy)

HIGH SCHOOL

Welcome back!

We have begun the new year with many new students and families entering our high School. In Year 7 we welcome Andrew Davidson, Jessamine Elsarky, Hamish Gill, Sam Hammond, Jera Harvison Ribeiro, Sam Parker-Davies, Aurore Redston, Galon Rowan, Caitlin Tyrrell

and Jada Wolffs; in Year 8- Isabella Joy, Orlando Lucas, Patrick Moncrieff, and Greta Sourthwick; in Year 10- Ingrid Rowan, and in Year 11 we welcome Katt Barreto. We trust that you will all settle into the school with relative ease and know that we are richer for having you.

(Barb)

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2009 HSC STUDENTS

Korowal School students achieved great results in last year's Higher School Certificate.

Students presented for the award in Chemistry, English (Standard and Advanced), English Extension (1 and 2), Information Processes and Technology, General Mathematics, Music 1, Society and Culture and Visual Arts.

Results were pleasing, and each student had reason to be proud of her / his achievement. In today's world, too much is made of League Tables which emphasise the achievements of academically select students – the HSC is much



Luciano Carment's music viva voce was selected for "Encore"



Axel Williams' work was chosen for Art Express

more than this, and Korowal applauds the results of all its students. Students who work to their abilities, and who are ready to become active and concerned citizens of this 21st century are the real heroes and heroines of the HSC.

For those who pursue the League Table concept, of particular note were the outstanding results obtained this year by our Music 1 students – one third achieved Band 6 (more than 90%), and three-quarters Band 5 or better (over 80%). In Visual Arts, too, outstanding results were achieved – one fifth achieved Band 6, and seventy percent gained results of Band 5 or better. Band 6 was also achieved in Society and Culture. In English Advanced one fifth achieved Band 5 or better, and English Extension 1 and Extension 2 students were very strong with 43% achieving the second top band. Congratulations to Axel Williams, whose art work was selected for "Art Express" and to Luciano Carment, whose viva voce in Music was selected for "Encore".

THE "MY SCHOOL" WEBSITE

All Korowal parents should receive a letter this week from Mark Thomas explaining our concerns about misleading and inaccurate information that has been published on the Federal Government's "My School" site and converted into simplistic and inaccurate rankings by the Sydney Morning Herald newspaper. You can also access the letter at <http://www.korowal.nsw.edu.au/Community/Newsletters/News/tabid/1957/Default.aspx> The letter will explain our concerns in detail. Our concerns are shared by the Association for Independent Schools and by other small schools in the Mountains.

In summary, we are concerned that:

- The My School site has used results obtained in good faith by our school for *individual* students who chose to sit the NAPLAN test and converted those into a comparison for the *whole school*.
- The statistical sample used for our school is so small as to be meaningless. It has an error rate of up to 35%. (The groups tested at Korowal contained as few as six students)
- Results for small groups of students vary greatly from year to year. Our 2009 results (as well as being inaccurate) appear below average, but our 2008 results appear to be substantially above average. Because the 2008 results do not come up on the first page, most visitors to the site will not see them.
- At Korowal we take the teaching and learning of skills (including literacy and numeracy) very seriously, but we teach in a holistic way and we give equal importance to a wide range of other skills and personal qualities. We provide meaningful and ongoing assessment but we do not encourage ranking.
- We have never prepared students for the NAPLAN test and hope that we are not forced to begin doing so.

We accept public comparison of our students' School Certificate and Higher School certificate results. We prepare our students for these examinations and are very proud of their efforts and achievements.

CAPITAL WORKS PROJECTS

Primary school verandah (a BER funded project)

All of the relevant permissions have been obtained (development approval, contracts, construction certificate etc) and the builders were ready to begin work two weeks ago. This meant, however, that builders would be carrying out noisy work for the first few weeks of term right outside the 3,4,5 and 6 classrooms and access to that area would be prohibited. Therefore we felt that it would be preferable to wait until the holidays between terms one and two, and if necessary the winter holidays, to get the work done.

Playing area (a BGA funded project)

Work has begun on the playing area in the bottom corner of the block, adjoining Hall Parade. The project is being slowed by rain but should be completed within a few weeks. After the earthworks and irrigation have been completed the area will be turfed and soccer goals will be installed.

Heating (a BGA funded project)

We have settled on a design for the refurbishment of our central heating and are obtaining quotations. We expect the work to be completed before the onset of winter.

Roofing (a BGA funded project)

The leaking roof over the locker area between the offices and G1 will be replaced in the school holidays.

Multi-purpose ball court (a BGA funded project)

We have engaged a specialist court installation company who will install the court, an all weather synthetic surface, a fence, and markings/ goal posts for tennis, volleyball, netball and basketball. They will begin work when we obtain Council approval – hopefully within 8 weeks. The work will take around 3 weeks.

Primary school classroom extensions (A BER funded project)

As explained in our newsletter last year, the extensions to the K 1 2 classrooms will take place during the summer holidays at the end of 2010. It is not possible to do this work while the children are at school.

Hall (a BER funded project)

Our new hall must be completed by July 2011. We are in the process of refining the design and quotations and expect work to begin late this year.

BGA = Block Grant Authority. This is Federal Government funding for capital projects in independent schools, administered by the Association for Independent Schools.

BER = “Building the Education Revolution”. This is the federal Government’s “stimulus” funding for all primary schools. The amount of the funding is determined by the number of students in our primary school. The funding has been divided into three rounds. Korowal is in the third round (to be completed by July 2011)

None of the school’s other funds will be spent on any of these projects.

If you have questions about any of these projects, feel free to contact Annie Carment on 0431352022 or acarment@bigpond.net.au

YEAR SIX INTAKE

Korowal’s structure allows for new students to join the school in year six, because it taught in a single age class as a time of consolidation and preparation for high school. We allow for a maximum of around 16 students in our multiple age groups (from kindergarten to year 5), but there is room for expansion in the year six class.

In year seven we take up to 25 students and it is normal for a group of up to ten new students to join us at the start of year seven. However, we have found that students joining the class in year six have a very easy transition to high school, have already formed close bonds with their peers, and benefit greatly from the nurturing and stimulating atmosphere in year six.

Talulah Vane, our class six teacher, is creative and enthusiastic and comes to us with a wealth of experience in primary teaching.

Please pass this information on to friends who might be interested, or who are considering joining Korowal in high school.

THANK YOU

To the parents who undertook work at school during the holidays....

- Tom Kortegast “liberated” the two toilets next to the primary school playground.
- Scott Turner and Tracy Barrett painted toilets and moved rubbish.
- Eva Jackson looked after the vegetable garden
- Byron Williams continued his epic painting job. The library wing is now scraped and patched and prepared for painting. Undercoating has begun. This is a job of Harbour Bridge proportions!
- Parents and students at Saturday’s working bee weeded, mulched, cleaned, swept, scraped, mowed, and whipper-snipped with dramatic results.

Thank you so much to all of you.

FREE FIREWOOD: rounds of hardwood in the primary playground. Please ask the office about a safe time to drive in and collect them.

NEW CHILD RESTRAINT LAWS

On 4 November 2009, former NSW Premier Nathan Rees and Minister for Transport David Campbell announced the introduction of new child restraint laws for children up to seven years of age.

From 1 March 2010:

- * Children younger than six months must be secured in a rearward facing restraint.
- * Children aged six months to under four years must be secured in either a rear or forward facing restraint.
- * Children aged four years to under seven years must be secured in forward facing child restraint or booster seat.
- * Children younger than four years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows.
- * Children aged four years to under seven years cannot travel in the front seat of a vehicle with two or more rows, unless all other back seats are occupied by children younger than seven years in a child restraint or booster seat.

NUT ALLERGY

We have a student in the school who is allergic to the protein in all nuts. We are asking all children and staff to be prudent with hygiene if they have touched or eaten nuts. Washing hands after eating nuts and wiping down surfaces would be greatly appreciated.

TEXT BOOK TRADING

- Year 7 Maths Quest 7 and Retro Active 1, second edition for sale Phone 4768 6635 Anne Welch

CAN ANYONE DONATE A LARGE GLASS VASE TO THE SCHOOL?

CONNECTIONS notices

community events and

Want to have fun and make new friends? Then why not register to play netball? Springwood (Blue Mountains) Netball Club is now accepting registrations for the 2010 Netball Season. New members are most welcome! Please contact either, Club Registrar David Belfanti on 47513287 or Club President Margaret Russel on 0410 087 396 for more information.

FREE Course for WOMEN



- Get out of the house and into your life!
- Expand your career options!
- Study in a friendly and lively environment!
- Learn about computers.....

Start a TAFE course in Skills for Work and Training. It's FREE and it's a fun learning experience. This course has been specifically designed for women who want to upgrade their skills and confidence before re-entering the workforce or pursuing further education. It also improves your study skills in a co-operative and supportive learning environment.

- A wide range of subjects for study:
- * Access to Career
 - * Job Seeking Skills
 - * Language and Study Skills
 - * Computing Skills
 - * Work Placement
 - * Women and Cultural Studies
 - * First Aid

This course runs within school hours for two terms.
Information Session will be held: 10am on Thursday 28 January 2010
Further Information Ring: 47552100





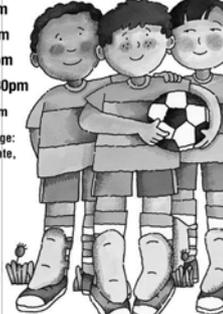
WENTWORTH FALLS FC

2010 SEASON REGISTRATION

Come and play for the Warriors this season and enjoy all the benefits of 'the beautiful game'

Sat 6th Feb 2pm to 4pm
Sat 13th Feb 2pm to 4pm
Sun 14th Feb 10am to 2pm
Tues 18th Feb 6pm to 7.30pm
Sat 27th Feb 2pm to 4pm

New players will need proof of Age:
(Children - Copy of Birth Certificate,
Adults - Photo ID)
Returning players turning 9, 12,
15 or 18 in 2010 must attend
registration for photos. Digital
photos taken on the day free of
charge. No weekly fees, but late
registration fee will apply. Venue:
Pitt Park Clubhouse (off Matcham
Avenue, Wentworth Falls)



For further Details see the club's website:
<http://wentworthfallsfc.com.au>

TERM 1 CANTEEN MENU 2010

DAILY SPECIALS

(GF = Gluten Free)

MONDAY: Lentil/vegetable Burger OR Beef Burger; both served with lettuce, tomato and beetroot on a wholemeal roll, choice of Tomato or Barbeque Sauce or Homemade Tomato Relish \$4.00

TUESDAY: Poached free range Chicken and Lettuce Wrap
With egg mayonnaise **or** Pesto & egg mayo mix \$4.00
Half wrap:\$2.50

Chicken Pesto/Mayo and Salad Box (GF)\$4.00
Pasta Salad Cup: grated carrot, Chives, Olives, Semi-dried Tomatoes and olive oil (Primary School Only)\$3.00
(available 2nd break for high School)

WEDNESDAY: Avocado, carrot and cucumber Sushi Roll (GF)\$3.00

Tuna, Mayo, carrot and cucumber Sushi Roll (GF)\$3.00

THURSDAY: Hommos, Tabouleh, Falafel, Tomato & lettuce Wrap.....\$4.00

Hommos, Tabouleh, Falafel and Salad Box (GF)\$4.00

FRIDAY: Spinach, Fetta and Ricotta Filo pastry Triangles..... \$3.00

Vegetarian Frittata (GF): Sweet potato and Fetta.....\$3.00

AVAILABLE EVERY DAY

Salad Wraps: With lettuce, Tomato, grated carrot, cucumber \$3.00

Half wrap:\$2.00

Salad Box: With lettuce, Tomato, grated carrot, Lebanese cucumber and Celery Sticks - Salad Dressing available upon request\$3.00

Wholemeal Rolls: Vegemite or Tomato or Cheese\$2.00

Fresh Fruit Salad: Seasonal fruit Cup: ...\$2.00

With low fat Natural or Strawberry Yoghurt\$2.50

Hommos Mini Cups: Served with Carrot Sticks and Crackers \$1.50

(gluten free crackers available upon request)

(Toasted Gluten free bread available for sandwiches)

EXTRAS for any of the above wraps, sandwiches or Salad Boxes

Hommos or Egg Mayonnaise or Cheese or Tomato50

Fresh Basil Pesto70

Tuna or Ham or free range Egg with egg mayonnaise \$1.00

DRINKS

600ml Water\$1.50

375 ml Apple or Orange or Pineapple juice \$2.00

Low fat flavoured Yoghurt (175g) \$2.20

Frozen Orange Quarters20 each