



KOROWAL SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

Vol 34 Issue 5 April 4th 2011



Year 7 science

CALENDAR 2011

When	Where	What
Mon 4th to Thurs 7th April	Canberra	Year 6 camp
Fri 8th April		Last day term 1
Fri 15th April	Website	High school scholarship applications close
Wed 27th April		Term 2 begins, staff and students.
Sat 14th May 8.30am - 12 midday		Scholarship examination.
Thu 16 - Sun 19 June	Hall	High School Cabaret
Fri 24th June		Last day term 2
Tues 19th July		Term 3 begins
Fri 12th August		No classes for primary.
Sat 13th August		Open Day
Fri 23rd Sep		Last day term 3
Mon 10th October		Term 4 begins
Thurs 20th and Fri 21st October		No high school classes High school staff development
Thurs 8th Dec		Last day term 4
Fri 9th Dec		Staff development day

The Korowal Newsletter

is assembled and edited by Annie Carment, who can be contacted at acarment@bigpond.net.au or on 0431352022. It is published every fortnight during term time.

WHOLE SCHOOL NEWS

Welcome

- Vivienne Annie Vane, born to proud parents Talulah (year 6 teacher) and Paul, on Friday 25th March.
- Lucia, born to Heather and Carlos on 8th March. (Heather worked in our office last year.)
- to Hilary who has returned from long service leave

Found in the Library

- # A Pandora bracelet
- # A Watchminder watch
- # Bee's multi subject folder in a black case
- # H Potter and Philosopher's Stone
- # Numerous unnamed USB / memory sticks
- # Various Tupperware containers

We're going to be in the movies!

We are planning a 15 second cinema ad about Korowal that will show at Penrith and The Edge in Katoomba during school holidays from July. In order to highlight our message about educating for life we plan to end the ad with a collage of images of our graduates. We would like the collage to display a range of graduate occupations and concerns - community involvement, creative arts, sciences, computers, trades, being parents, etc. If you have an image that might suit we would love to see it. The minimum file size that we can use is 300dpi 25cm x 14cm. Please email to Annie Carment at acarment@bigpond.net.au.
Annie Carment (marketing)

Donations to our Building Fund

are tax deductible and very much needed. Half of all monies donated are paid towards our mortgage (according to the terms of our mortgage agreement.) The other half goes towards the cost of the many and varies projects that are necessary in maintaining and developing our buildings and grounds.

The Korowal Playgroup will no longer be held at the hall in Lawson. Plans are underway for an informal home-based playgroup next term. More information will be available in the next newsletter.

Our New Hall

is almost finished!
All that remains to be completed is surfacing of the floor and landscaping. We hope and expect that it will be available as the venue for this year's high school Cabaret in June. Later in the year we plan to host an official opening for the hall and a belated opening for our new school site in Hazelbrook.



Thank You!

Just a quick note to thank everyone who got involved in our "Crazy Hair Day" a few weeks back! Because of your generosity and support we managed to raise approximately \$1200, and Steve, Rick, Joachim and Cairo shaved their heads and/or beards! Also, a big shout out to Bryden, in year 8, who bravely stepped up and spontaneously decided to shave his head on the day! Once again, a big thank you to all!
Grace Harvie, (Pathways Student)

NAPLAN Tests 2011

Here is a letter to parents about the NAPLAN tests from the NSW Department of Education and Training.

National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2011

Letter to Parents

In May 2011 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 10-12 May 2011.

TUESDAY 10 MAY WEDNESDAY 11 MAY THURSDAY 12 MAY

Language Conventions

(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)

Writing

Reading Numeracy

(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 13 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or if they have significant intellectual and/or functional disability.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom will be provided for students by the school.

Large print, Braille and Black and White versions of the test are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school's learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent or carer consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like further information about your child's participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:

<http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html>

<http://www.naplanforparentsnsw.com.au>

At Korowal, we are concerned:

- that the results of a limited skills test (NAPLAN) are used by the "My School" website to rank schools rather than assess individual students.
- that these rankings are then translated by the Sydney Morning Herald into simplistic, competitive league tables.
- that results from small schools and small groups are statistically much less representative, and less accurate, than those from larger groups and schools.

As explained in the NSW DET letter above,

- **Individual students can be withdrawn from the test by parents or carers.**
- **Notice of withdrawals must be received by the school by 29th April.**

The form that you must fill out to withdraw your child can be downloaded by typing "literacy and numeracy 2011 parent/carers consent for exemption" into your search engine. Copies are also available at the school office and on the table inside the primary school door.

PRIMARY NEWS

Fire doors

We have noticed an increase in the use of the fire doors to access the primary school. Our preference is for students and parents to use the front doors into North Hall i.e. up the steps next to the sculptures and flowers. The doors are very heavy, have begun to stick and are tricky to fix. Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Bus/train

Keith has raised **concerns about students from primary and high school carrying balls with them** when travelling on the train. Yesterday afternoon there was a rush to stop the ball going off the edge of the platform. Obviously this presents a serious safety concern. We have asked the students on several occasions to ensure that balls are kept in back packs, but as this does not seem possible, we require that balls are not brought to school. We have balls here which are able to be used during recess and lunch. Thank you again for your support.

Talking of safety....

We politely request that you **do not drive around to the back of the school** to collect your child of an afternoon. We understand that the turning circle becomes congested, but some staff cars are leaving at this time and there is limited passing space. Also there are many students milling around at the back of the school from 3.15 onwards.

Suggestions for reducing congestion:

car pool

arrive a bit later than 3.25

use public transport

arrange to collect child from drop off/pick up zone and stay in your car

Holidays

This will be the last newsletter for this term. Thank you for being so supportive. Enjoy some extra time with your children. We look forward to seeing everyone again at the beginning of term 2.

First day back for everyone is Wednesday 27th April.

Enjoy!

Nancy

Premiers Reading Challenge

The 2011 Premiers Reading Challenge has begun! The K,1,2 symbol on the spine of the book is a gold star, the 3,4 symbol is a red heart and the 5,6 is an orange circle.

If you want to do the challenge ask Pam in the library and she will give you a sheet and a password so you can enter your password online!

If you don't have a computer at home you can give your record sheet to Pam and she will enter it online for you.

After you have completed the challenge of twenty books and five of your choice you will receive a certificate of completion with a picture of the Premier on it.

Hope you have a great time reading lots of books before the premier challenge finishes on the first of September. So get reading!!!!

Sarah Hermann, (year 5.)

Basketball

As you know from previous newsletters there are two basketball teams. One of the teams is Claw, 3/4 boys and the Cats which is the 3/4 girls team.

Finally this fantastic basketball season has come to a close. We congratulate the boys on a great season. They played very well and we're sad they didn't make it into the semi finals.

The 3,4 girls however made it into the semi's but lost against the best team.

Next season is starting at the beginning of term 2.

There will be a new 5,6 girls and 5/6 boys team starting up, so if you're interested in joining the team please contact Amanda on 0433 257 441 or just talk to her at school.

By Sarah and Angelina (year 5)

Human Body Main Lesson

This term we are doing the human body main lesson.

Year's 3,4,5, did a Leonardo Da Vinci title page and we played with toy body parts and "it was fun"

We also got a visit from Polly's Pop who retired from being a neurosurgeon.

Sarah Keenahan (year 5)

Puppy Care

It's important to stroke your dog's body, legs and head several times daily to make it feel loved, to bond with it, and to make vet visits (when the puppy will need to be handled) more comfortable.

As a rule a dog needs a bath when its coat gets soiled. A dog does need regular grooming, but actual bathing should be less often.

Handle your puppy with care. Puppies, like human babies are fragile. Gently pick up your puppy. When you're getting bitten, scoop it up, keeping one hand under its chest.

Feed your puppy properly. Make sure your puppy always has the right amount of fresh water available. Feed your puppy small amounts of specially-formulated puppy food at least three times a day. The number of time feedings depend on the puppy's age.

By Sage. (year 5)

Safety Talks

At our assembly on Thursday 17th March we had a visit from Melissa, a community liaison officer from the Reed Group, who are responsible for the upgrade of the Great Western Highway. She spoke about the importance of keeping off building sites. The following day, K,1,2 had a visit from officers from the NRMA road safety unit and Springwood police. Safety issues were again the focus.

Reflections from year 2

Emilia: In the story, the girl went up the stairs of the bus and down again carefully so she was safe.

Avalon: Never go through the gates in road works.

Cale: If you go to big places like the shopping centre or the zoo, your parents can write your telephone number on a sticker or on your arm in case you get lost.

Darcy: If you are scared of crossing a road and a construction worker has stopped the cars, you can ask them to help you cross.

Tejovan: Take 2 steps back from the road when a bus is coming.

James: When you are walking somewhere if someone asks you to get in the car and show them where the parking lot or the park is, say "NO! I don't know you!"

Luan: If you are lost in the shops tell the cash register person and they will announce it over the



Maddie: While you are waiting for a bus or a train or in a car park you hold a person's hand who you know.

Gabe: Don't climb the fences when there are roadworks – it's unsafe and you could get run over.

Paris: Mel brought an orange shirt and a white helmet to show what a construction worker wears to keep safe.

Sebastian: I was taught that there are safe places to go to if I get lost like an information bureau or a chemist shop.

Menindee: If you go by a construction site and there's no-one there and the person you're with dares you to climb over the fence and go in, you say, "No, we're not allowed to!"

Harsh: Mel told us that the wheels of some of the machines are bigger than us!

HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

As the term draws to an end we would like to wish you all a happy and safe holiday. This term has been long and we are starting to feel the wind-down at present. Pathways students have now completed their Preliminary Courses and move into the HSC content for their subjects in this cycle, Year 7 students appear to be very settled and happy, and Year 8 have been on camp for the past few days. There is whooping cough about and the usual change of season sniffles, so we hope that everybody can rest and recharge over this period. We want to remind all families that we return to school on Wednesday 27th April as the Anzac Day holiday is Tuesday, the 26th.

Lost property

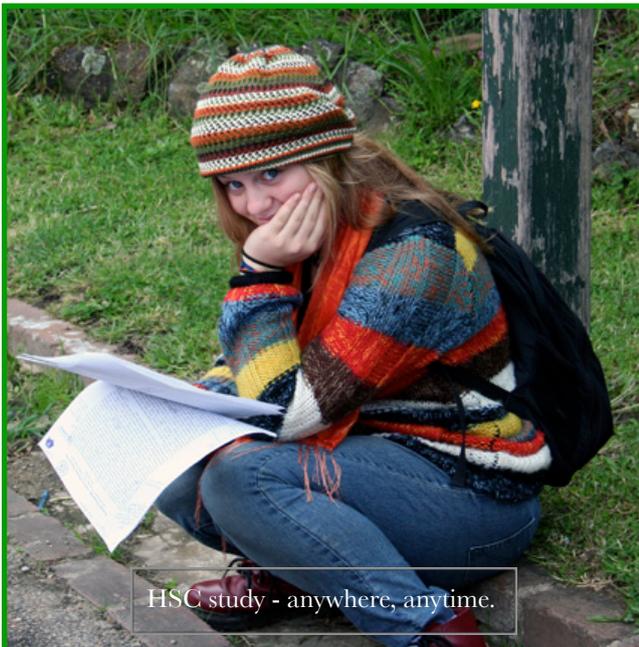
is building up in the high school and as usual, we send any unclaimed clothing items to a charity during the holidays. So, if there is anything missing from the teenage wardrobe, we suggest that your child checks in with the front office over the last week.

Transport arrangements

Students are required to alight the morning train at Lawson Station and catch the allocated bus from Lawson each morning. We are still needing to remind some high school students of this and would appreciate it if all parents of students who catch the train discussed travel arrangements with their child/ren.

Group sessions for anxiety

As explained in our last newsletter, Rachel Benmayor will be starting group sessions for students in the high school who may be experiencing anxiety, or exam stress? Parents who want more information can phone her in the holidays on 0418160927.



HSC study - anywhere, anytime.

Grand Canyon Walk (outdoor education)

On Thursday, year 9 went on a bushwalk in Blackheath near the Grand Canyon. Although it was dreary weather we still managed to have a fun time! At first we just walked down, down, down until we came to the bottom of the Canyon. The nature and the scenery was just amazing! We walked for a while until we found a nice big cave to eat recess in. The weather had gotten better by then so we started walking again. This time we went over many slippery streams with only a couple of falls. When it was time for lunch we sat under another big cave where we were entertained by Yeshi with his cool flute. After that we made our way to the start of the actual canyon. We had a break there and a small group of us ventured into the canyon until we heard the whistle saying we had to go back. From then on the journey was completely uphill. Even though we were practically on the verge of fainting when we got back it was still an amazing, beautiful bushwalk.
Aloka Welch-Hammial (year 9)

CONNECTIONS

Community events and notices

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition is launching a Blue Mountains Branch

The Australian Youth Climate Coalition's mission is to build a generation wide movement to solve climate change before it is too late. We do this through uniting all major youth organisations, and over 50,000 young Australians, to achieve short-term influence and long-term cultural change. Our members and partners coordinate, communicate and network with each other to run shared projects and campaigns to facilitate young Australians taking action to solve the climate crisis in our schools, TAFEs, Universities and communities. AYCC focuses on both youth empowerment - enabling young people to create opportunities and take on active roles in our communities – and youth development - equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and attitudes required to allow youth to take on more responsibility."

A Blue Mountains branch has just started up and we are looking for young people to get involved. If you are interested, go to our facebook page and search for 'AYCC Blue Mountains' and join the group to receive updates about what's going on.