

KOTARA HIGH SCHOOL We Aim High

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this land, the Awabakal people, and pay our respects to Elders past, present and future.

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From The Principal's Desk

Welcome to our second last newsletter for 2018. Term four, for all schools, is an extremely busy one, and it is one that moves at a fast pace. As I write this article we are currently at the end of week four, and we are staring down the barrel of week five, our half way point. Our assessment and reporting period for semester two is in full swing and staff are finalising assessments, marking and beginning to set up reports for the end of the year. This is a huge process and I appreciate the work of our reporting team as well as the professionalism of all staff in completing the assessment/reporting process.

Year twelve have now completed the Higher School Certificate Examinations and the formal celebration is next week. All of year twelve have conducted themselves with maturity and dedication throughout this stressful time and we are looking forward to celebrating their results in December.

Our transition program for students moving in to year seven in 2019 is nearing its completion. The dedication and work that our staff have committed to this new cohort, is a tribute to our school. I would like to formally acknowledge Mr Leyshon, Miss Hallams, Mr Jenkinson, Miss Harding, Mrs Devetak and Mrs Spicer-Worth for their tireless efforts in support our incoming students. Our year seven cohort for 2019 will also be our largest year seven group for over ten years.

During the last school holidays we were fortunate to have the support of the Cityserve Program. A number of community members from local church groups came in to our school and painted our canteen. They did an amazing job and the canteen is looking much better. I would like to thank all of the team involved in this job and thank them for their time and dedication to our school.

On the 28th of November, Kotara High School will be hosting members from all of our partner primary schools P&Cs. This initiative is now in its third year and it is great to have people from across all of these communities come together and discuss our schools and collective directions. If anyone within our communities would like to attend the evening please contact me at the school asap.

At the end of the term we will be once again implementing our end of year activities program. This is a fantastic way to end the year and an opportunity for students to spend time with their peers and staff in a different setting. This program has been extremely well endorsed by students and our community over a number of years and I am looking forward to this week. I would like to acknowledge the work and dedication of Mrs Jackson and Mrs Hughes in making sure that this program runs year to year.

Over the remainder of the term the executive will be finalising our professional learning priorities for the coming year and amending our school plan where applicable. We have benefited from our three modules this year of Evidence Based Practice, Extended Writing and Problem Solving and it is time for us now to short our focus and resources to meet the needs of our students. Any amendments to our school plan will be published on our website by the end of the term and I will inform the community if this is the case.

Finally, all the best for the second half of term four. I look forward to celebrating with our whole school at our end of year academic assembly in week nine.

Mr Snedden

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Cultural Excursion

On September 21, 2018 a group of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students and their friends took part in a local cultural excursion. David Newham a proud Aboriginal man, led the excursion with Mr Snedden and Ms Campbell.

Our first stop was Mt Sugarloaf. Mount Sugarloaf is a significant site for the Awabakal people in particular and for all Aboriginal peoples in the area. It provides a vantage point to view all Awabakal lands and is an important teaching place. We listened to some stories here and took part in a smoking ceremony.

Next was Nobby's for lunch.

Our day finished with a walk through Glenrock State Conservation Area. The Awabakal people favoured the area for the abundance of food, including marine life and bush tucker. The park today contains a number of ancient Aboriginal sites, including campsites, middens and axe grinding grooves.











Water Polo

The 15 years boy's water polo team have progressed to the regional finals that will be played at Lambton Pool on Thursday 15 November. The team acquitted themselves well defeating all opponents at the regional gala day. Led by Spencer Burdack, the team improved with every game. They displayed sportsmanship, comaraderie and superb teamwork, with every player scoring a goal (including the goalkeeper). A huge thanks to Toby Harbison and Spencer's dad who assisted with coaching on the day. The team consists of Joe Dunne yr 7, Declan Fitzgerald and Jack Noble yr 8, Spencer Burdack, Tom Clancy, Will Cromarty, Will Harbison, Max Henshaw, Nick Newland and Campbell Russell.

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Homework Program

We are in our third week of the Homework Program and have had a few students attend. Here are 3 year 8 students studying for their upcoming Maths assessment task. Miss Hallams is impressed with the students' taking initiative and looks forward to watching the program grow over the term.



Sporting Schools

Year 8 have been participating in a cricket program run by Cricket Australia. This program is aimed at delivering a range of activities to develop the fundamental movement skills of cricket. The program ran for 4 weeks and was made available free of charge through a Sporting Schools Grant.



National Youth Leaders



Our captains and vice captains travelled to Sydney to attend the National Young Leaders presented by the Halogen Foundation. They were given the opportunity to listen to keynote speakers and network with other captains from around the state. They're now looking forward to sharing what they've learned with SRC and the KHS community.

Remembrance Day



This week we commemorated the centenary of Armistice Day with an assembly in the MPC. The HSIE, Support and ALPACA faculties joined forces to create a thought provoking service. Congratulations to Tao, Paris, Mya, Zac, Kirra, Erin, Jacob, Samantha, Jye, Sophie, Tonuia and Emily [our special guest bugler from Belmont HS]

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News from Maths

2018 Australian Mathematics Competition

Back in August, our budding KHS mathematicians participated in the Australian Mathematics Competition. Students were given 75 minutes to solve 30 problems which had been designed to test mathematical thinking. From 95 entrants, KHS attained 2 Distinctions, 35 credits and 58 Proficiencies. This is an outstanding achievement. Congratulations to all award recipients.

KHS Extreme Adventure Co presents Barbie Bungee Investigative Task

Throughout Term 3 our Year 9 students completed their PBL Investigative Task. Students focused on the driving question "How can we design the A-Block Mega Drop so that it is a bungee experience that is both safe and thrilling for Barbie and realistically simulates bungee experiences?". Students then designed and conducted an experiment that allowed Barbie to bungee from the A-Block balcony on Jump Day. Most students were successful in ensuring Barbie was not injured and had a fun bungee experience.







SRC

Term 4 marks the start of a new SRC year for the 2019 School Captains and newly elected student representatives. During Week 4 students spent 3 days collaborating to create a plan for their 2018-2019 representative term while also participating in leadership workshops for both themselves and Year 6 leaders from our community primary schools.

Monday was a day for team building and designing a path for the next 12 months where students seek to improve the KHS spirit and involvement in the community. On Wednesday, Ms Harding conducted a training day to prepare students for the leadership workshops they were to present on Friday which was the second annual Kotara Community of Schools leadership day. The SRC delivered a series of workshops to current Year 6 leaders on leadership and student voice in schools. The aim of these workshops was to empower Year 6 students to actively prepare incoming leaders at their school for the 2019 school year.



Fresh Youth

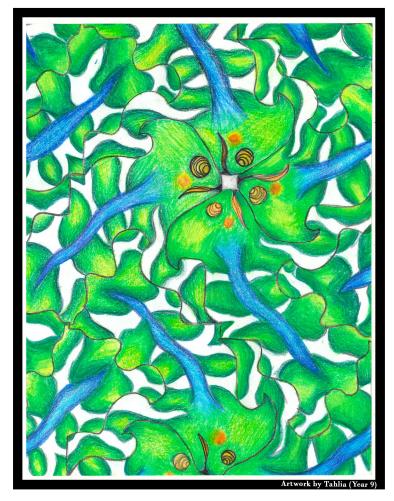
Fresh Youth is an enthusiastic community of teens and families who seek to partner together in the journey of life. We have a lot of fun and we look to create opportunities for young people to explore faith, discover & grow their potential, grow in character, and to serve others. We meet at the Grove (home of Belair Baptist Church) on Friday nights during school terms from 7-9:30pm.





ART SHOW '18

Showcasing incredible artworks by Year 7-12 students



Kotara High School NOV 19 - NOV 22



Opening Night Wednesday 3:30-7pm Open at Lunch

Located in the KHS MPC Access via Lexington Parade



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50 YEARS Celebrating PUBLIC EDUCATION