



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 final newsletter for 2019. I know we seem to say this every year, but it is unbelievable just how fast the year has gone! We have had a fantastic year at Kotara High School in 2019, and I am so proud to be the Principal of our school. At this point in the year we are all very busy with reporting and finishing up planning for the 2020 academic year and very much looking forward to a holiday.

I am sure most of our community has noticed our new school oval. We were very fortunate to have been given an upgrade of the oval with complete drainage installed and new turf. This has made a huge difference to our school during break times, and more importantly, as a class room for PD/Health/PE lessons. This upgrade should ensure a quality learning space for many years to come.

Our year seven transition program for 2020 has now completely finished. I would like to acknowledge the work of a number of key staff in this process, being Mr Shephard, Mrs Spicer-Worth, Mrs Shields, Mrs Goldstein and Mrs Devetak. We have an amazing program and are very lucky to have such a close relationship with our partner primary schools, enabling this program to be seamless and so positive. I am looking forward to working with all of our year seven families in 2020, but in particular, the new families to our school.

Last month we held our Year 12 graduation formal at Merewether Surfhouse and we had a great evening. The students and families who attended had a great time and it was fantastic to share this moment with our community. The Surfhouse commented on the behaviour of the students and said that they are always happy to have our school at their venue. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Germon and Mrs Goldsmith in the organisation of the evening. We are now looking forward to the end of December and the release of the HSC results. Good luck Year 12 2019!

By the time you read this newsletter we would have had our Annual Presentation Assembly. This is an event that the school and wider community look forward to and sharing, as a vehicle for individual and group success throughout the year. We have a lot to celebrate in 2019, so I am sure that this will be a great assembly. Our interest electives for 2019 will begin in week nine. The program has been revamped this year with some new options and a new way of selecting. This program is very unique in the Newcastle area and is an initiative that is very well received each year by students and staff.

We are currently working through plans for some major infrastructure work in the coming months. The department has decided to put in a new retaining wall all around our main quadrangle area and we are looking at putting in some classes above the canteen. Both of these works will ensure a reasonable amount of disruption and so I will inform the school and community when more information comes to hand.

From the Principal's Desk - cont.

Before I close I would like to acknowledge two of my partner primary colleagues, in Mrs Kym Ross and Mr Warwick Beard. Both Kym and Warwick are retiring from teaching this year. Both have been amazing contributors to the lives and education of students across our community of schools and they will be a big loss to our area and education at large. I would like to wish them both the best for their respective retirements.

Finally, as the last newsletter for the year I would like to wish our entire community a very happy Christmas and restful break. See you all in 2020.

Mark Snedden
Principal
Kotara High School

Ube Sister City Exchange Trip

In the October school holiday, I had the privilege of accompanying the 4 winning students of the Ube-Newcastle Speaking Competition to Japan.

Kotara High School was represented by Siobhan Snedden (Year 11) and Pia Shearman (Year 10). We travelled to Ube as guests of Ube City Council. Pia and Siobhan were awarded medals for winning the Japanese speaking competition and we spent a week in and out of Japanese primary, middle and senior schools experiencing Japanese school life. Pia's reflection on the 10 days away follows below.

Linda White
Japanese Teacher



My Ube Experience

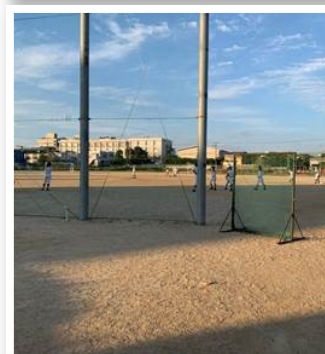
During the Term 3 holidays, myself and 3 other students from the Newcastle region were selected to spend 10 days in Japan to experience Japanese culture through a homestay. Throughout this time, I stayed with a beautiful Japanese family who cared for me and welcomed me into their home. I was offered the opportunity to experience different shrines and temples, try a wide range of delicious Japanese food, present a self-introduction in Japanese to multiple audiences, partake in a traditional tea ceremony, try on traditional Japanese clothing and overall form long lasting relationships.

I spent 3 days in a middle school with my host sister. The school days lasted almost 10 hours which was a very different experience for me. Despite this, I thoroughly enjoyed these few days at the school as I was able to connect with many students and share

knowledge about my own culture and school. It was very interesting to participate in the preparation of school lunch, classroom cleaning and after school clubs as it is very different to Kotara High School.

Overall the main highlight of my trip was the way I connected with my host family, and the way they shared their culture with me. This once in a lifetime trip has definitely helped me to grow as a person and has developed my confidence greatly. I had the most amazing time and would definitely recommend this experience to anyone if they have the opportunity, it's a time in my life that I will never forget.

Pia Shearman (Year 10)



Student Representative Council

R U OK Day - 12 Sept

Kotara High School, led by the SRC, supported R U OK Day. Students were encouraged to buy a donut, share it with a friend and have a conversation about how they are going. Students also received positive affirmations to remind them that it's okay to not be okay and that there are always people available for support.



Big Day Out - 13 Sept

SRC coordinated another successful student musical festival. This annual event is a key fundraising event for the SRC and this year raised almost \$4000 with funds to be used for future SRC projects. This fantastic afternoon showcases the SRC organisation skills, the talent of KHS students who perform as well as the talents of the teachers band – who this year were accompanied by a guest performer from the Screaming Jets: Grant Warmesley.



More photos from the Big Day Out can be found on the website.

Leadership Afternoon Tea - 20 Sept

Our 2019 School Leaders met with the new 2020 School Leaders to share words of wisdom and advice on their upcoming leadership. The official induction

then occurred at the Year 12 Graduation assembly.



SRC Leadership Workshops - 30 & 31 Oct and 5 Nov

Over three days, the newly elected members of SRC participated in their Induction and Leadership day, Primary Leadership Training Day and the Kotara Community of Schools Primary Leadership Day. They built their team expectations and goals for the next four terms and began look forwards to upcoming fundraising events, school spirit activities and other school projects.



National Young Leaders Conference - 4 Nov

New school leaders Meg, Heath, Ngan and Lachlan, attended the Halogen Foundation's National Young Leaders Day at the International Convention Centre in Sydney. They participated in leadership workshops and listened to motivational talks from guest speakers including: John Coutis, Erin Molan, Jade Slater, Bianca Chatfield and Lachie Smart. Our leaders are now looking forward to sharing their new leadership skills with the SRC and the rest of the student body.

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SRC - cont.

GRIP Leadership Conference - 5 Nov

Bailey and Ashton, Year 7, attended the GRIP Secondary Leadership Conference at Newcastle City Hall. They participated in workshops that aimed to build leadership skills, new perspectives and new ideas for making a positive contribution as a leader.



Remembrance Day 2019 - 11 Nov

Our student leaders attended the Remembrance Day Service in Hamilton, coordinated by the Merewether-Hamilton-Adamstown RSL Sub-Branch. Captains, Meg and Heath, were invited to be the Masters of Ceremony and Vice Captains, Lachlan and Ngan layed a wreath tribute on behalf of the students of Kotara High School. After the service Meg and Heath were also interviewed by NBN for evenings news.



Annual Charity Basketball Game - 26 Nov

Last Tuesday the KHS SRC coordinated it's annual Teachers vs Students Charity Basketball Game. This year just over \$1000 was raised for BlazeAid, a volunteer-based organisation that works with families and individuals in rural Australia after natural disasters such as the recent catastrophic fires. Having recently finished their HSC, Year 12 students Callum, Sam and Tao returned to commentate the game and

had the pleasure of announcing the student team as the winners. Mr Blackmore, who initiated the inaugural game presented the Golden Basketball Trophy at the assembly after the game.



Maths

On 1 August this year Kotara entered 24 students into the Newcastle Mathematics Association 2019 Stage 5.1 Mathematics Competition. Overall we had excellent results especially for quite a challenging exam which had an average mark of less than 50%. Our group of 24 students achieved 5 distinctions, 10 credits and 7 passes which is fantastic. Special mention to Bailey Morgan who was our top performer who came fourth in the whole competition of 161 students.

On the same day, 115 students were involved with the Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC), an initiative coordinated by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The AMC is an engaging 30-problem competition that demonstrates the important and relevance of Mathematics in students' everyday lives. Our students earned 6 Distinctions, 20 Credits and 89 Proficients and Participations, an excellent result. AMC awards will be presented at year group assemblies and the final presentation assembly.

Careers

This term has been a busy one for Careers. A number of our students have been offered a school - based apprenticeship or traineeship (SBAT).

- Olivia Inja will undertake a Cert III Business Administration through the NAB branch at Kotara.
- Oliver Zienius - Cert II in Warehousing at Reece Plumbing Kotara and
- Liam Hoskins - Cert II in Warehousing at Reece Plumbing Wallsend.

KFC is also looking to put on some of our students through their SBAT program. This is a wonderful opportunity as not only do the students gain a nationally recognised qualification but the work skills and experience obtained could lead to a permanent full time and part time positions.

I was fortunate to recently attend a morning tea at Newcastle TAFE to celebrate the graduation of the students completing the SBAT in Nursing through Hunter New England Health. Year 12 student, Emily Keogh, was one of these students. She enjoyed the SBAT program which has armed her with skills for a future career in Health should she choose to pursue

that area. Congratulations to these students.



On 18 November a group of students went to City Hall to participate in a 'Skills and Thrills Showcase', which gave them a valuable insight into the industries that are expanding and seeking skilled workers for the future. These included Hospitality, Aged Care, Child Care, Construction, Retail and Transport and Logistics. Various pathways and opportunities were presented to the students and representatives from VET industries addressed the students.

Mitch Maguire from Novaskill visited the school to speak with students interested in apprenticeships and traineeships. He explained the role of Novaskill in the apprenticeship and traineeship process. Students were able to ask questions and those who attended found it very worthwhile.

Congratulations must go to Cyrus Park Brisbin who has been successful in obtaining a \$5000 scholarship from MBA for students who undertake the Construction course in years 11 and 12. He will be assisted through work experience programs, uniforms and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) as well as assistance to meet travel and general expenses.

KHS has students attending the Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) program through TAFE. This program offers the students a taste of some of the courses that TAFE offer. They usually run twice a year - one in term 2 and again in Term 4. The students attending have enjoyed the program.

Many students have undertaken work experience throughout the term. Some have done block work while others have done one per week. Please see Mrs McPherson or Mrs Atkins for information on pursuing work experience options.

Support Faculty

Woolworths Fresh Food Discovery Tour

This term, KHS Support students attended a Fresh Food Discovery Tour at our local Woolworths at Westfield Kotara. What an amazing experience! We were shown through the Produce, Bakery, Deli and Meat departments as well as getting a behind-the-scenes tour of Woolworths. We saw where the fresh food comes in from the truck, and its journey to the shelves and then to us. We learnt about waste management and Woolworths' connections with Oz Harvest and our local farmers in preparation for our school café - we even got to take some fresh fruit and vegetables home to try! Thank you Woolworths Kotara for having us!



Support Class Transition

In 2020, the Support Faculty will have six new year 7 students join our classes. To ensure effective student transition from primary to secondary school we have undertaken several transition sessions where students have had the opportunity to meet their future classmates and Teachers, Deputy Principal and Year Adviser. Students also visited important places around the school such as the library and school canteen and had the opportunity to participate in some fun and engaging lessons.



Auslan Awareness

Every week during the Wednesday Assembly, KHS Students are taught a new Auslan sign by two of our deaf and hard of hearing students from the Support Faculty. Auslan is the official sign language of the Australian Deaf Community.



Mrs Dani Norton (Hearing Support Class SLSSO) has been raising awareness of Auslan with our SLSSO and SASS staff by having regular signing sessions. Our SLSSO's and SASS staff are feeling more confident in their ability to communicate with our deaf and hard of hearing students.



LaST

This year the Learning and Support Teachers (LaSTs) have been:

- working with the year 7 students in targeting literacy and numeracy groups which have shown success in helping to build on the foundations of their learning.
- Every Tuesday and Thursday morning running a Homework Program for students to access additional support for class content and homework tasks
- Organised in school and external Disability Provisions for students who require additional support for assessment tasks
- Facilitate the Minimum Standards testing for Year 10 & Year 11 students
- Run a SWAN transition group to enable Year 6 students to transition to High School with ease.

We have had a busy and successful year and look forward to working with all students next year. We would love to see more students attend the Homework Program on a Tuesday & Thursday morning between 8am and 9am in the library.

Happy Holidays

Mrs Yolandi Shields & Miss Nicole Hallams

Aboriginal education

- Awabakal Strong Youth Launch. Many of our students attended the Awabakal Strong Youth Launch at Broadmeadow PCYC. They enjoyed a great day of dancing, weaving, bubble soccer, various Aboriginal performers and lots of food and drink.
- Secondary Aboriginal Dance Workshop. Our senior students Kristiana Brown and Kirra Bundy attended the 2019 Secondary Aboriginal Dance Workshop at Newcastle High school. The one day workshop was run by the Department of Education in collaboration with the internationally renowned Bangarra Dance Theatre.

Upcoming events for Term 1 2020

- Aboriginal performer Sean Choolburra
- Local cultural excursion with David Newman



Yantiin Malang

The Yantiin Malang Mural that was created in Term 2 has been placed in its permanent position and looks wonderful!

Many thanks to My Cook and the Year 10 Construction class for all their hard work in the installation.

Yantiin Malang is 'All together' in the Awabakal language.





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50 YEARS

Celebrating

PUBLIC

EDUCATION