



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

It is hard to believe that we are now half way through Term 3 2019, it has been a very fast year. Kotara High School has had a great year so far, and I am looking forward to the celebrations of the Year Twelve Graduation at the end of this term and all of the events that take place during Term 4. I also sincerely hope that the academic year so far has been positive for our community.

Year 12 have now completed their Trial HSC Examinations and they are currently receiving feedback. The trial period went off without a hitch and I would like to congratulate Year 12, not only on their commitment, but their behaviour during this period. It is important now for Year 12 to reflect upon their results and put together their amended study plans ahead of the external examinations in Term 4. I would also like to acknowledge the work of all of the staff involved in the mentoring program, how they have supported senior students throughout the year, and will continue to do so over the next 3 months to the end of the HSC.

During Week 3 all of Year 10 were involved in the Work Experience Program. I would like to acknowledge the work of Mrs McPherson and Mrs Atkins for their coordination and commitment to the program. We are one of the only schools in the region who deliver work experience for students on this level. The feedback that we have had from various industries with regard to our students has been amazing. I am very proud of our school and commitment to students in this area.

During the same week, over one hundred students in Year 11 went to Jindabyne for the Sport and Recreation Ski Trip. Students, as well as staff, had an amazing time and were fortunate to have some quality snow during their time there. I would like to acknowledge all of the staff who are involved in this excursion, the staff that attend for the entire week, as well as Miss Lee Chin for all of her organisation.

Kotara High School have just completed the 2020 School Captain Process. All our nominees have been amazing and the manner in which they spoke in front of the whole school was outstanding. I am please to congratulate:

- Captains - Heath Goodman & Meg Donnan
- Vice Captains - Lachlan Pfeiffer & Ngan Huynh

In Week 2 of this term I was fortunate enough to spend a week at Kotara South Primary School (KSPS) as Principal. Mrs Maxworthy, the substantive Principal at KSPS, swapped with me for the week. This initiative has come about as we are sincerely, as a community of schools, striving to implement an authentic K-12 learning continuum, and we are very mindful of the fact that we need to spend more time in each setting in order to develop this continuum. The staff, students and community of KSPS, were extremely warm and welcoming and I had an amazing week. I was fortunate to work specifically in class rooms from Kindergarten to Year 6 and I was able to share with students their learning across the curriculum.

From the Principal's Desk - cont.

I was so impressed with the level of professionalism of the staff, their expertise, and above all, their commitment to education. From this point I will be sharing my experience with the staff of KHS and look at making further in-roads in to our primary schools with teachers working across campuses and building rich curriculum that caters for all students and their skills levels.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and congratulate Mr Norberry who has been successful in gaining a promotion as the head Teacher of English at Maitland High School. Mr Norberry has been an amazing teacher, leader, mentor and year advisor at Kotara high School. He will be sorely missed at KHS and deeply valued at his new school. All the best Mr Norberry.

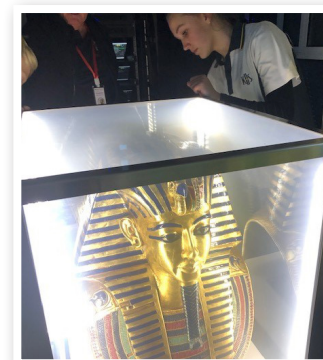
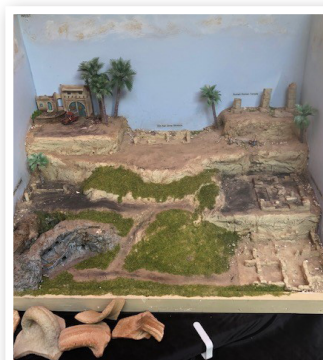
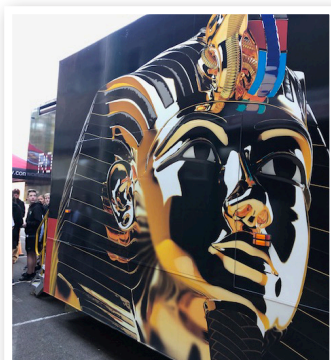
I hope that everyone has a great second half to the term and I look forward to celebrating with a lot of our community at our Year 12 Graduation Assembly on the last day of term.

Mark Snedden
Principal

HSIE - Tutankhamun Roadshow

Students of Year 7 and 8 were lucky enough to have the opportunity in Week 2 to see and experience the Tutankhamun Roadshow. The semi-trailer was parked in the carpark for 2 days, and it was like Tutankhamun's tomb had been transported from Egypt to Kotara High School.

Hands on experience with artefacts and amazing, immersive projections gave students what felt like an eye witness view of the tomb and its contents. All students and staff had an amazing time, and enjoyed the 2 days, learning about Ancient Egypt and other ancient societies, primary sources and artefacts.



Aboriginal Education

The last couple of months have been very busy in regards to Aboriginal Education. Students have immersed themselves in numerous cultural activities and developed meaningful relationships with students from our partner primary schools.

Cultural Workshop

ATSI students from our school and partner primary schools participated in various cultural workshops, including Indigenous games, didgeridoo, bush tucker, storytelling, mural and dot painting and weaving workshops.



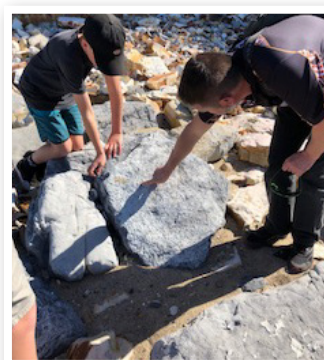
Tribal Cruise

ATSI student from our school and partner primary schools travelled to Sydney and went on a Tribal Warrior Cruise. The students learnt about Aboriginal family life, fishing, hunting and other food gathering techniques. The students listened to traditional music and actively participated in traditional dance.



Cultural Excursion

Our ATSI students, together with Year 11 Aboriginal Studies students, attended an Aboriginal Cultural excursion to Belmont Wetlands and Swansea Heads. Aboriginal community leaders David and Jarn were once again our guides for the day. Our students gained knowledge on the lifestyle of the traditional Awabakal people.



Upcoming events:

- 23 August - Phillip Green Aboriginal Technology Presentation
- 28 August - Naidoc Assembly

Shipping containers

KHS has 2 shipping containers that we need removed from the site as they are no longer required. If anyone would like them please contact the school office. They are free as long as you arrange your own transport and inspections can be arranged.

DramaWorks

In the last week of Term 2 Drama students from years 10 and 11 participated in DramaWorks, an annual festival which offers exceptional drama students the opportunity to expand their skills and knowledge of the theatre arts through high calibre workshops designed by professional theatre practitioners.

They really enjoyed the week and put on an amazing performance Friday night.

Year 10 Kira S, Katina M, Katerina R. Year 11 Caitlyn R, Isabella T, Egan H, Aurora R, Sam C, and Georgia R.



Artist: Students from Kotara Community of Schools
Title: Eagle Hawk Mural
Date: June 2019
medium/materials: Solarguard acrylic paint on marine ply
Dimensions: 2m x 1.2

Eagle Hawk Mural

This mural was produced by all students who participate in the Aboriginal Cultural Immersion Day at KHS, June 2019.

Each student stamped their handprint on this work. The Eagle Hawk in the middle of the work is the totem of the Awabakal people.

Thanks to Uncle Perry for his advice and support with this mural.

Kotara Community of Schools:
Kotara High School, Adamstown Primary School, Merewether Heights Primary School, Kotara Primary School, New Lambton South Primary School, Kotara South Primary School, Belair Primary School.

Yantiin Malang

During Term 2 Saretta Fielding worked with 29 students from Kotara High, Adamstown Primary and John Hunter Hospital to produce this 2.4 x 6m mural.

The backdrop depicts local significant sites and songlines which have been painted in a sandstone medium. It reflects the local and national sandstone Aboriginal artworks on country, and depicts traditional gathering circles. Each engraved circle creates a textured frame for student stories. The gathering circles represent our community connections, highlighting our unique stories.



'Yantiin Malang' meaning 'All Together' in the Awabakal language.

Careers

Term 3 saw the new Careers Office open in A Block alongside the Senior Learning Hub. It is a great space and students are reminded that they are welcome to call in to discuss any career options with Mrs McPherson and Mrs Atkins. Also there are many flyers available for students to collect on a range of topics.

Upcoming events:

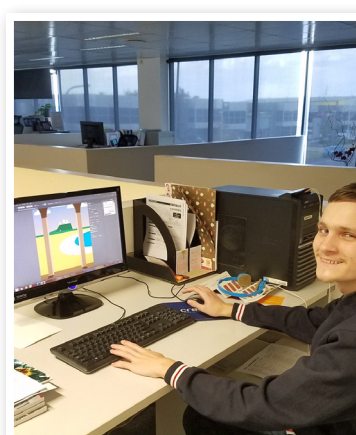
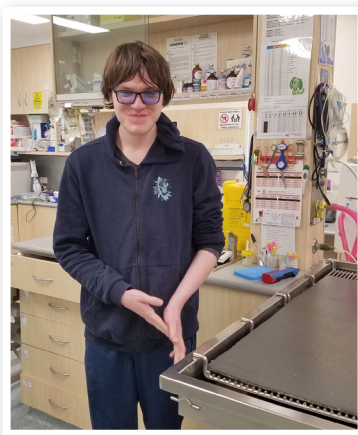
- Years 10 and 11 students considering studying a Tafe course next year are reminded to collect an Expression Of interest form from the Careers Office. The applications close on 30 August, and can not be accepted after this date.
- The Master Builders Association are offering ten \$5000 scholarships to students who are going to be studying Construction in Year 11 with the aim to completing the HSC in 2021. We are expecting a representative to address the students about this great opportunity. The application forms can be obtained from the Careers Office and are due by 27 September.
- The University of Newcastle Callaghan campus Open Day is coming up on Saturday 31 August.
- Mrs McPherson will be attending an Open Day at Tafe for Careers Advisers on Thursday 5 September and expects to gain plenty of information to pass onto students.

Work Experience:

Week 3 of this term saw 156 Year 10 students attend work experience. The feedback from students, employers and supervising teachers was very positive. Our students were great representatives of KHS. A big thank you to all the employers who donated their time to providing this wonderful opportunity for our students and to the teachers who visited the work places. The students should now have updated their resumes to reflect any new skills acquired. There are opportunities to do work experience at other times throughout the year and students just need to collect and complete the necessary paperwork. Congratulations to those students who picked up paid work as a result of their work experience.

Year 10 students from our Support Classes have undertaken a variety of Work Experiences this term. Some students have enjoyed placements at our school including working in the school canteen and working with our Technology Teacher to fix and replace equipment across the school. Other students have undertaken placements in our local and wider community including: Bunnings, Coles, Callaghan College, Thompsons Pies, Access Industries, WHO Printing, Lake Veterinary Hospital and Whitethorn Academy.

Feedback from all employers was very positive with comments such as, “always punctual”, “showed initiative” and “followed workplace procedures and safe work practices.” Students enjoyed themselves immensely and developed their independence and employability skills.



Support Faculty Community Access

Students from our 3 Support Classes participate in a fortnightly Community Access program. Students walk, catch buses or trams to various locations around our local area such as Westfield Kotara, Charlestown Square and Marketown.

Students complete a Challenge Activity before enjoying lunch together as a group. Community Access is a highlight of our fortnightly timetable!



Garden Project

Thanks to a kind donation from Kotara Bunnings, and some hard work by students and staff in the Support Faculty, our three Support Classes now have 6 garden beds filled with a variety of vegetables and herbs that they tend to regularly as part of their Life Skills program.



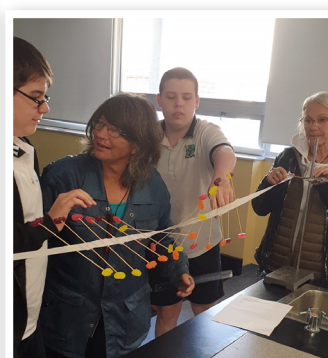
Sign of the week

“Sign of the Week” has become a regular feature at our school assemblies. Each week students from our Hearing Support Class teach our school community a new sign for the week. Some of the Auslan signs we have learnt include: friend, movie, name, lunch, Snapchat and Facebook. Kotara High students and staff now also know how to sign a ‘clap’ to acknowledge or congratulate a deaf person!

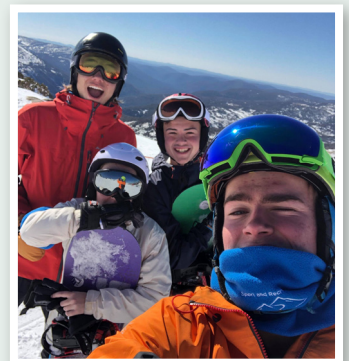


Science

The Support Faculty has been exploring the evolution of “Communication” this semester and we have conducted a range of experiments varying from the creation of a bullroarer used in the Aboriginal community as a form of communication, building a sound/light wave and investigating the impact of building structures on AM/FM radio frequencies. The students have been highly engaged and have enjoyed exploring the Electromagnetic spectrum!



Year 11 Snow Trip



More photos available on the Kotara High School website.



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50 YEARS

Celebrating

PUBLIC EDUCATION