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Kalamunda Senior High School
An Independent Public School

News Review

April 2014 Issue 2

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TRANSITION NEWS

Term One has been a very busy time for the Transition Steering Committee. We have distributed our first two Transition Newsletters to all Year 6 and Year 7 families at our Feeder Primary Schools. Principal Kathy Ritchie, Associate Principal Helen Deacon, Head of Middle School Mark Pettit and Transition Coordinator Susan Archdall have visited parents at these Feeder Schools through assemblies, morning and afternoon teas and information evenings.

Over 100 people joined us for our Year 4-7 Parent Night. It was terrific to see so many families come to learn about the history, values, programs and priorities of the school. There was an opportunity to meet the Principal, Kathy Ritchie and the Year 7 and 8 Transition Team and to hear about the work that has gone in to preparing for the Year 7s and 8s moving to KSHS in 2015.

Our next visits to schools will take place in Weeks 9 and 10 of this term. These visits are aimed at informing the students of the great programs we run at KSHS and to get them excited about next year. Whilst enrolments are being taken until the end of Term 2, the deadline for special programs is the end of Term 1 (11 April). Mark Pettit, Susan Archdall, and some former students of the primary schools will talk to the Year 6/7s. Students will have a chance to hear about life at high school and have an opportunity to ask questions. During these visits the students will receive their enrolment folders – green for Year 7 and blue for Year 8.

Ms Susan Archdall  
Transition Coordinator

Sayer-Henderson for her faultless coordination and the Ball Committee who worked hard to ensure its success. A special thank you to the 19 staff who attended to celebrate with the Class of 2014.

**Term 1 Interim Reports and Semester 1 Exams**

With the end of Term 1 upon us it is timely to review student achievement over the term. Interim reports will be posted home to all families and these will provide you with information on how your child is progressing relative to the class/year group.

To follow up the Interim Reports a parent evening is planned for 7 May from 4-7pm. As usual bookings for teacher meetings are made online via the school website. You will receive a PIN and details of how to book for appointments with the Interim Reports.

With the distribution of the first term reports it is timely to begin preparation for the first semester exams. All year groups sit exams and this will be a new experience for Year 8 Students. Please take time to discuss the need for exam preparation with your children, especially if they have not sat exams previously. The date for the exams are shown on the enclosed Term 2 calendar.

**School Cadet Unit**

Over the past 10 years Kalamunda has had a school cadet unit. The unit had around 30 students and its focus was emergency services. Unfortunately the unit has not been able to operate since 2012 as we have not been able to find a unit leader. We are keen to see the unit recommence and we will lose our status as a cadet school if this does not happen in 2014. If there are any parents or volunteers that you know who are willing to coordinate the school cadet unit please contact me at school.

**Year 10 Online Literacy and Numeracy Assessment (OLNA)**

The new Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE) requires students to reach a benchmark in literacy and numeracy before being able to graduate. Students are exempt from sitting OLNA testing if they have a NAPLAN BAND 8 in Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Over two weeks in March a number of our Year 10 students were the first to sit the new OLNA tests, either in one, two or three areas. We will receive their results early in Term 2 and if they have reached the required benchmark they have taken the first step towards graduation. If students have not passed they will need to sit the test/s again in September. This new testing regime required a significant amount of organization and I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Mrs Sayer-Henderson.

**2014-2016 Business Plan and 2013 Annual Reports**

These two important documents are now complete and we will be posting home, early in Term 2, the Business Plan. The 2013 Annual Report will be available on our school website early next term. If you would like a hard copy of the Report please contact the office.

**Quiz Night**

We are gearing up for the 14th Annual Quiz Night to be held on 27 June. This is our only fund raiser at Kalamunda and has been run by the staff since 2001. We use the money, generally around $9000 each year to improve the gardens, landscaping, seating and other grounds improvements. As you walk through the school it is easy to see where the money raised has been used.

We depend on the support of our school community and broader community to make the night a success. Please put June 27 into your diary and make up a table of 8 to join in the evening. We also need your donation of prizes to help with the fundraising. If you can provide a prize, a bottle or 2 of wine or anything which could be used for the raffle, silent auction, or other prizes please drop these off at school.

**Staffing Matters**

We would like to thank Mr David Eassie who has been with us in Term 1, replacing Mrs Anita Schubert. Mrs Schubert will be taking her English classes for the rest of the year. We would like to thank her for the excellent work she has done over the past year as Manager of Student Services. Mrs Amanda Morton will return to Kalamunda as Manager of Student Services for 2014-2015, replacing Mrs Anne Hudson-Brown who is currently Acting Deputy Principal at Safety Bay SHS.

We extend a welcome to the following students and their families who have recently joined our school community: Amberley Dewar, Indy Hughes, Caitlyn Krasser and Courtney Krasser

Mrs Kathy Ritchie  
Principal

I am always proud of our wonderful school and of our students. This was no more evident for me than at the School Ball. For the first time it was a Year 12, rather than a Year 11 and 12 occasion. The more intimate evening was exceptional. The students looking amazing and this was matched by their behaviour and by the organization of the evening. A huge thank you to the Head of Senior School, Mrs Jane and I would like to acknowledge the excellent work done by Mrs Sayer-Henderson and the School Ball Committee who worked hard to ensure its success. A special thank you to the 19 staff who attended to celebrate with the Class of 2014.

**Transition News**

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Ms Susan Archdall  
Transition Coordinator
The end of term is fast approaching. Every member of the Student Services team has been busy with their programs. Ms Archdall has visited all of our feeder primary schools, and is working very hard to prepare for the arrival of our year 7s in 2015. Mr Pettit and the Year 8 team have commenced the Bibbulmen Challenge with Year 6 Mentor groups. Mr Stott is preparing for Year 10 to 11 counselling in term two. Mrs Sayer Henderson has been particularly busy with the arrival of leaver’s jackets, the Year 12 School Ball and the OLNA testing for Year 10s. Mrs Stewart is very busy with the AE program. A highlight of which was the Years 8-10 Wild Goose Chase Challenge. The Triple Challenge has commenced for students in Year 9 and Senior School students have been working through the Engagement and Motivation program. Senior School Student Councillors recently attended the GRIP Leadership Conference. It was an inspiring and helpful day providing students with lots of ideas about their roles in the school.

Our students have made a very good start to the year. Regular attendance has continued to improve. It is an indication that students see how important it is to be at school and working hard. I would like to thank all families in supporting the school in this. Our recent Good Standing Report demonstrates the improvements we have made as a school. Generally uniform compliance has been sound, but there are still some students wearing non school items, particularly non school shorts. I would like to remind our families that as an Independent Public School, we have a set uniform which students are expected to wear every day. As we head towards cooler weather please make sure that your child has the correct winter uniform items which are on sale at the uniform shop every Thursday morning.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our families for your support for our students and our programs. With such a good start, I expect that it should be a very successful and productive year.

Mrs Anita Schubert
Manager Student Services

Sculpture by the Sea

Year 8 and 9 GATE Art students went to see Sculpture by the Sea at Cottesloe Beach. Two artists who had both exhibited before were our guides. Walking amongst huge sculptures and 3D creations was inspiring for everyone. Our guides were a wealth of knowledge and inspiration regarding all sculptures and artists.

We couldn’t go to the beach without fish and chips for lunch, under the large pine trees. We ended the day with sketching and activities that focused on their favourite artworks. It is an exhibition that was enjoyed by the students and a great source of inspiration.

Mrs Jo Portman
GATE Art Coordinator
Next term is an important one in consolidating student learning and preparing for a range of assessments. All year groups will participate in student examinations. In addition, Year 9 students will participate in the NAPLAN testing in Week 3.

**NAPLAN**

Parents of Year 9 students are reminded of the upcoming NAPLAN testing which will occur on 13 May (Tuesday), 14 May (Wednesday) and 15 May (Thursday). 16 May (Friday) will be reserved as a catch-up day for any students who have missed the testing.

It is important that all students do the best they can and the school is working hard to ensure all students are well prepared. In particular we set the challenge for each student to improve their scores from their Year 7 testing.

**How can I help my child prepare?**

- Ensure they are well rested in the lead up to the testing.
- Help them maintain a steady routine, healthy eating and sleep patterns.
- Provide positive encouragement and support.
- Help them work through any issues that are worrying them – to avoid unnecessary stress.
- Provide opportunities for your children to read different types of texts (newspapers, magazines, articles, fiction, non-fiction, pamphlets).
- Talk to your children about what they read:
  - Asking them about their opinions of the material.
  - Encourage them to substantiate their opinions.
  - Ask them inferential questions (questions implied by the text but not written in the text).
- Encourage them to use their Mathletics, Manga High and Spellodrome accounts to practice basic skills.

**Maximising results**

- When answering multiple choice questions:
  - Never leave a question out (you will definitely get no marks)
  - Never put two answers (you will definitely get no marks)
  - If you are unsure – eliminate those answers which you are sure are wrong and then make an educated guess at the ones left (you are likely to have a reasonable chance of guessing correctly)
- Write as clearly as possible.
- Put an answer down for every question.
- Use the prompts given to help you answer the questions (titles, pictures, diagrams, headings, key words).
- Use the guides when writing a persuasive argument.

**What are the benefits of NAPLAN testing?**

- Standardised testing such as NAPLAN help schools set priorities and focus their attention on improving student outcomes in relation to other students.
- Schools can evaluate the effectiveness of intervention and support programs implemented and adjust accordingly.
- Detailed analysis of the results help teachers determine individual students’ areas of weakness and can help plan to address these.
- Helps in selecting students to target for low literacy and also for academic extension consideration.
- Results can help students make decisions about subject selections and career pathways.
- Students can transfer interstate more easily.
- Research into general patterns and trends can take place.
- Results can be used to determine areas of need for National and State funding.

**EXAMINATION DATES**

3 June – 13 June
Year 10, 11 and 12 – Examinations

9 June – 13 June
Year 8 and 9 Examinations

I wish students all the best as they enjoy their holidays and prepare for a successful Term 2.

Mrs Helen Deacon
Associate Principal

**Senior School Report**

A true ‘night of nights’ was had by all at the first Year 12 only School Ball. All the Year 12 students and their partners looked absolutely stunning dressed in their finest for a baroque inspired Ball. The Year 12 School Ball 2014 at the Novotel Perth Langley Hotel was truly a night to remember. I would like to thank the hard work of the Ball committee: Denzel Holt, Adele Kelley, Jessica Cottam, Jessica Arkosi, Elska Johansen, Jaz Lindley, Alex Meier, Amanda Shaw and Ben Watters.

This year there was a change in the usual order of the evening and it was the students who voted for the Belle and Beau of the Ball. Every student looked so wonderful it was a very difficult task for staff to decide who to vote for to allocate the various awards.

Congratulations to the award winners:

- Princess – Jess Cottam
- Prince – Alex Meier
- Best Dressed Girl – Tegan Allum and Elska Johansen
- Best Dressed Boy – Sam Whisson
- Social Butterfly – Peta Lewis
- Best Dancer (male) – Frazer Holt
- Best Dancer (female) – Emily Chairman
- Best Dancer (Ed Support) – Caleb Rigby
- Belle of the Ball – Taryn Russell
- Beau of the Ball – Jonathon Lewis
- Beau of the Ball (Ed Support) – Brent Stanley

A big thank you to staff who gave up their Friday night to help supervise (and enjoy) this special night with our Year 12 students.

Now that the excitement of the Ball is over Year 12s can get on with concentrating on their everyday work towards Graduation or getting their best ATAR.

Interim reports are out at the end of Term 1. I have been interviewing students who have made a slow start to the year and whose teachers have concerns. It is hoped that everyone will now begin to focus on class work with the exams beginning on 3 June and Workplace Learning placements being organised.

There are revision courses for Stage 2 and Stage 3 courses available each holidays to boost your achievement and confidence. Come and see me if you want information.

Mrs Jane Sayer-Henderson
Head of Senior School
Hi everyone, my name is Adele Kelley and I’m the Head Girl for 2014. I hope that everyone has had an enjoyable first term. I expect everyone has settled in to their classes and are not finding things too stressful. If you are, don’t worry, there are many people at school who are there to support you and help you through high school.

Many events have already taken place this term, like the swimming carnival. I would like to congratulate everyone who was involved, including the students who participated in the events, or those that helped support their house. I would also like to congratulate the swimmers who competed in the Division B interschool swimming carnival. While on the sporting topic, I would also like to wish the students who will be running in the school's cross-country good luck and have fun on the day.

I would like to thank the Ball Committee for running a magical and memorable School Ball. The night will remain in my memory and all Year 12 for the rest of our lives.

Finally I just want to say how privileged I feel to be one of your student representatives on the School Board. It is an honour to have the trust of the student body to help make decisions for our school. I wish everyone a great and safe two week break from school and I’ll see you all in Term 2.

Adele Kelley
Head Girl 2014

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Greetings teachers, students and valued families.

My name is Denzel Holt, your Head Boy for 2014. I’m extremely grateful to be working with the teachers and community representatives on the School Board.

I hope the warm welcome from the school has ensured a comfortable return to a new year. A lot has happened in the past term. What I should be saying is when does something not happen in our school’s busy schedule? Following the return of the students at the beginning of February, it was into the second week that the Inter-house Swimming Carnival was held. Congratulations to the students for their attendance, congratulations to the student leaders and teachers for their organisation in making such a large event so successful. Congratulations also to the champion swimmers and Pegasus for their well-deserved victories on the day. Indeed the Year 8s have now had a taste of the school’s community events.

The Middle school has perhaps had the busiest term with the Year 8s beginning their Bibbulmun Challenge walks (and I know the fulfilment and feeling of surviving through persistence is truly rewarding), as well as visiting Sculpture by the Sea with the Year 9s. For the Middle School students, now is a recommended point to start thinking about the future as there is still plenty of time to consider a pathway. Senior School students are currently facing the life of the average Year 11 and Year 12 student. A life of independence, growth, success, and a life that requires never-ending resilience. An escape to this was made recently, when the Year 12s had their School Ball. An event I had heard a lot about and which gave the students an opportunity to relax, enjoy themselves, and party, a memorable night indeed. Recently, the students have also had school photos, a stereotypically scary day, I for one agree and wish the best for all the students with their photos.

The five school values are an important aspect of Kalamunda Senior High School. I feel as though the environment of the school has improved due to the consistent maintenance of these values. I hope students can aspire to continue their great standards as a school, and as a community.

Denzel Holt
Head Boy 2014

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To link with our school value of COMMUNITY, Mentor Group 8.8, along with their teachers Miss Connor and Ms Archdall, are planning some fundraising events beginning Term 2. A brainstorming session saw lots of fundraising ideas presented, as well as different community organisations that we could support (see photo below). There is the opportunity that this may become a joint venture with Ms Stuart’s Mentor Group, which would provide more opportunities to fundraise. Further decisions will be made in due time, so keep your ears and eyes open for any community fundraising adverts that might pop up!

Miss Claire Connor
English Teacher

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Students are reminded that when travelling on the Student SmartRider 50 cent fare, you must stand for adults, particularly adults with special needs (eg seniors, people with disabilities and pregnant women).

There are many people in our community who struggle to stand for long periods when on buses or trains. By offering them your seat you are not only adhering to the conditions of your subsidised 50 cent fare but helping someone in greater need.

Further details of conditions for the Student SmartRider 50 cent fare are on the Transperth website.
Japanese Workshop
As part of our Asian Language Hub, the Hyogo Cultural Centre Deputy Director Melissa Luyke and the Japanese Language Advisor to the Education Department Yuko Fujimitsu ran an entertaining, varied and fun-filled learning experience in the form of a Japanese Immersion Workshop for our students and students in our feeder schools. Primary and High school students of Indonesian came together to learn about the very important Japanese lunch box (obento) in the morning session, and Year 8 and Year 10 students of Japanese worked together in the afternoon session on the same theme.

Here is what some year 8 students wrote: “We learnt all about the food put into an obento (lunch box) such as rice (gohan) fried chicken (karaage) and rolled egg omelettes (tamagoyaki). We were split into groups and played “find the hiragana characters”, then we were shown a power point related to different contents….. and we created actions to remember the meaning and order of the words. We were shown an advertisement about preparing an obento in Japan. Surprisingly it was an advertisement for Tokyo gas. The mother prepared an obento for her son every morning. Afterwards we ate rice balls (specially prepared onigiri) and drank juice after asking for it in Japanese. This workshop was really fun and we would definitely love to do it again.” (Charlotte, Sian and Gabby).

Farewell to our Japanese Assistant Teacher Koume Ikushima. Koume endeared herself to all students and staff who met her. We will never forget her playing the sanshin, the traditional musical instrument from her area of Japan, Kikai Island, near Okinawa and singing special songs from her homeland. We will also never forget her instigation of “Koume Time” where she taught students about pop idols or movie stars or just things that interested her and other young people in Japan. We will remember her just being here in her quiet, gentle, caring and helpful way. We wish her every success in her studies and hope to see her again, maybe in Japan.

Japanese Exchange Students of Japanese were able to share activities with 8 students from Saitama through a Rotary Exchange Program. And a week later, with 28 students from our sister school in Kobe. Some activities were making sushi together, playing soccer, doing origami and just chatting. The exchange students also enjoyed a lesson on Aboriginal art from Mr Heslop and decorated boomerangs. This exchange is a wonderful opportunity for the students to make friends with young Japanese people. Some of our students were able to meet up again with young people they stayed with in Japan so that the friendships were renewed.

Mrs Lee Sharp
Teacher in Charge of Languages
UP, UP, AND AWAY

At least it was for some in Ms. Hafekost’s Integrated Science class.
Tiesha O’Brien, Courney O’Connor, and Jesse Smith were the most successful team in balloon building during work on Flight.

After perfecting their design on ultra-light paper they assembled and tested it, filling the balloon with hot air by firstly Bunsen Burner then a final top-up from an electric hair dryer. This produced enough buoyancy to make it rise to the ceiling.

Mr Lindesay Pound
Science Teacher

Entertainment Books

Once again Kalamunda SHS is selling the entertainment books to raise money for students going on the ski trip.

The book is $65.00 with 20% going to the school. It contains over $20 000 worth of discounts. It can be purchased for the first time as the usual book or a digital copy to access via smart phone.

Both versions can be purchased by following the link https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/842130

Only hard copies can be purchased directly from the school by calling Dale Watson on 9293 6459.

Reserve your copy now before they sell out.

Find a Cure

In conjunction with and support of the Children’s Leukaemia & Cancer Research Foundation and ‘Keep The Flame Alive 2014’, Steph Sexton, a former Shenton College student working in Los Angeles, has written and produced ‘Find a Cure’, a music video in which Hollywood celebrities from film, T.V., dance and music performed.

This video was created to be an uplifting experience for people and their loved ones, especially children, who are facing pain and suffering through some serious illness. It is to honour their struggle and to give them hope in finding a cure. All the backdrop visuals were sent in from around the world in this celebration of hope.

‘Find a Cure’ can be found on: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KJcA_nnt9AU

Science Update
Literacy Corner

I have alot of friends.

I have a lot of friends.

The teacher allotted twenty minutes to complete this activity.

Alot does not exist!

a = indefinite article
lot = pronoun (great number)

to allot = verb; to give time, tasks, money, etc. to somebody/something as a share of what is available

ABSENTEE HOTLINE

For your convenience please call direct if your child is absent
SMS: 0407 384 039
PHONE: 9293 6409
Please add these numbers to your contacts