Principal’s Report

As relieving Principal, I would just like to congratulate the amazing teachers and leaders of Kingswood High School, who with their team work have made the transition as seamless as possible. It has certainly been a busy month since Mr Nesbitt went sailing off, he will return at the end of term 3, as always he wishes our students the best and is looking forward to seeing them progress in his absence.

It seems timely that we are approaching the end of term 2 and the mid-point of the school year. Half Yearly examinations, assessment tasks and reports are now being finalised and will be distributed very soon. I have been reading senior reports and I am pleased the majority of our students are achieving sound results, however others need encouragement as they are working well below their potential.

School reports whether they are excellent across all the subjects, or report achievement below potential always provide students’ with valuable feedback on how to improve and achieve more from their studies at Kingswood High School. I would like to acknowledge and thank the teaching and administration staff for their efforts in getting reports completed professionally. Our staff work under enormous pressure to adhere to schedules and they do an outstanding job.

This is a really important time for our Year 12 students. They continue to impress us in so many ways. As we approach the end of term 2, they begin a period of time of intense study and pressure in the lead-up to their Trial HSC. A clear study plan, keeping up to date with class-work and assignments, and a balanced lifestyle are all key ingredients in a successful outcome. With the combined support of families and our school, we can all ensure these students achieve their Personal Best.

Our careers adviser, Mr Rance is available with a wealth of knowledge about university, TAFE courses and alternative pathways. Year 12 students who have outstanding assessment tasks and coursework or are concerned with their progress should make it a priority to visit him and check in with Mr Gillard or Mr Szymkow during the next few weeks.

We have high expectations of our students, and encourage them to show pride in all aspects of school life. Staff support students to achieve their personal best by:

- insisting students are prepared for lessons by bringing pens, books, school diary and correct uniform as required by each subject.
- monitoring participation to ensure classwork and homework are being completed to the best of each student’s ability.
- encouraging everyone to participate in school life in a positive way by contributing during lessons, trying out for teams and joining in extra-curricular activities.
- ensuring that students are appropriately dressed when being out in the community on a school excursion or activity including sport.

Unfortunately a very small number of students have some difficulty maintaining a safe learning and working environment. These student are supported via internal and external support programs such as;

- the school levels system,
- student mentoring,
- referral to the welfare team for engagement programs,
- referral to the learning support team for assistance with learning
- referral for support with our school counsellors and chaplain.

Staff at Kingswood High School would like to see every student in our school reach their potential. At the end of the day if appropriate behaviours cannot be achieved then consequences need to be implemented as per Department of Education policy and process.

The Department of Education has reviewed the core rules with a focus on safety and wellbeing in the school-learning environment and developed the Behaviour Code for Students, which aligns with Workplace, Health and Safety legislation and obligations. The revised rules below outline the expected behaviour for students in all public education settings.

The department believes that the school principal and school staff, using their professional judgment, are best placed to maintain discipline and provide safe, supportive and responsive learning environments. The department provides a policy framework and resources such as Legal Issues Bulletins, access to specialist advice, and professional learning to guide principals and their staff in exercising their professional judgment. In this context the NSW Government and the Department of Education and Communities will back the authority and judgment of principals and school staff at the local level.
Behaviour Code for Students

NSW public schools are committed to providing safe, supportive and responsive learning environments for everyone. We teach and model the behaviours we value in our students.

In NSW public schools students are expected to:

Respect other students, their teachers and school staff and community members
Follow school and class rules and follow the directions of their teachers
Strive for the highest standards in learning
Respect all members of the school community and show courtesy to all students, teachers and community members
Resolve conflict respectfully, calmly and fairly
Comply with the school's uniform policy or dress code
Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
Respect all property
Not be violent or bring weapons, illegal drugs, alcohol or tobacco into our schools
Not bully, harass, intimidate or discriminate against anyone in our schools

Schools take strong action in response to behaviour that is detrimental to self or others or to the achievement of high quality teaching and learning.

Behaviour Code for Students: Actions

Promoting the learning, wellbeing and safety of all students in NSW Public Schools is a high priority for the Department of Education and Communities.

We implement teaching and learning approaches to support the development of skills needed by students to meet our high standards for respectful, safe and engaged behaviour.

Respect

Treat one another with dignity
Speak and behave courteously
Cooperate with others
Develop positive and respectful relationships and think about the effect on relationships before acting
Value the interests, ability and culture of others
Dress appropriately by complying with the school uniform or dress code
Take care with property

Safety

Model and follow departmental, school and/or class codes of behaviour and conduct
Negotiate and resolve conflict with empathy
Take personal responsibility for behaviour and actions
Care for self and others
Avoid dangerous behaviour and encourage others to avoid dangerous behaviour

Engagement

Attend school every day (unless legally excused)
Arrive at school and class on time
Be prepared for every lesson
Actively participate in learning
Aspire and strive to achieve the highest standards of learning
Deputy Principal’s Report 8,10 & 12

Recently we have been concerned with a few issues in our junior years.

Misbehaviour in a classroom not only affects the learning of the student causing the disruption it also impacts on the learning of the rest of the class. Initially staff try to re-engage the student in the learning process, however on occasions where the student fails to comply further consequences must be administered. Generally a recess or lunch detention is issued. While many of our students do the correct thing a small group refuse to attend the detention and will argue with the staff member. On other occasions students will simply leave the room and move into the playground where they are unsupervised and also missing out on classroom instruction. Again the usual consequence is for staff to issue a detention. If students refuse to attend the detentions this could result in after school detentions which finish at 3:30pm or if this is not attended the Deputy Principal could temporarily withdraw students from all classes for a period of time. Please encourage your children to apply themselves in the classroom and follow teacher instructions without arguing or complaining.

For a minority of our students a culture exists, where they believe aggressive, intimidating behaviour is the way that you deal with someone who has upset you. In some cases this behaviour begins online through social media or perhaps in social contacts outside school on the weekend. This aggression is then brought into the school. Our Welfare team led by Mrs Mora are trying to engage these students in programs that will assist in the development of additional coping strategies and so prevent some of the more unpleasant issues that have occurred in recent months, where students have physically or emotionally harassed another student. If you are concerned about your child displaying these aggressive tendencies at school or at home, please contact Mrs Mora or our school counselor to see what options are out there to support you.

Like most of my colleagues I became a teacher to make a difference. It is about seeing that moment in a child’s face when they finally understand a concept you have been teaching. When you talk students through those difficult periods of their life when they feel they have nobody else they can turn to. It is about those times when some years later in a shopping centre or a club or even on public transport an ex-student comes up and thanks you for making a difference to their lives.

As I said at year assemblies last week; education is not just about academic excellence, it is also about inspiring a true love of learning over your lifetime. W B Yeats, a famous poet, said “Education is not about filling buckets, but about lighting fires”. Our staff are passionate about instilling in your children not only the knowledge that will assist them in securing a great career where they will be financially secure, it is also about teaching them social skills that reflect society expectations. Expectations like respect for authority, empathy towards others, a tolerance of differences, being kind to others and pride in their achievements. In short we want your children to leave Kingswood High School, go out into the world and make a positive difference in what we as adults know can be at times very cold and unforgiving place.

Consequently I’m asking parents to support the school by reinforcing these expectations when talking about what has been happening at school over the dinner table. Education is a partnership between the school and the home, it is a partnership we believe is extremely important and are looking forward to building positive relationships between school and home for all our students for them to get the most benefit from their education.

Mr G. Skeoch

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**Staff Car Park**

Parents are reminded that the school car park is for staff only. Please drop off and pick up your children in Smith Street or in front of the school on Bringelly Road. Parents are not to drive into or drop off students in the school bus bay. The police have booked parents who have illegally parked. Thankyou for your cooperation.
In the March issue of the Parent Bulletin we published an article outlining the many benefits of using Google Apps for Education (GAFE) along with Chromebooks. The trials of this program have been very successful and after consultation with the school community through the Kingswood High School P&C Committee we have opted to proceed with the next phase of the program. The name for this program at Kingswood High School is **Connect. APPly. Inspire**

Phase two of the program involves every Stage 4 (Year 7 and 8) student bringing a Chromebook to school in 2016. Other students are welcome to opt in to the program, but may not necessarily have scheduled learning experiences that maximise the use of the device. Stage 4 students will be using the devices to research, access and manipulate information in order to generate solutions to set tasks. As with a range of products on the market, Chromebooks operate utilising the power of cloud-based applications with many educational apps available to select from. Even simply used as a research tool, computers in the hands of students at a one-to-one ratio add a great deal of significance, organisation and productivity to lessons.

The selected Chromebooks are expected to cost less than $400. The price fluctuates with the market but as a guide the current devices purchased by the school were $330, plus the Chrome Management License at $41. The license is necessary to connect to the school domain and maintain teacher control over device use in the classroom, including sharing and monitoring work, installing and blocking apps and ensuring devices have the most recent updates. Purchase of the devices will be organised through the school in order to utilise bulk purchasing power and to ensure their effective and efficient rollout. We already have several suppliers who are able to offer parents a variety of payment options as well as access to insurance and accessories if so desired. Those families concerned about affordability are asked to keep in mind that many parents will receive the Schoolkids Bonus in 2016, with payments of $421 being paid directly into bank accounts in January and July. Further information on this can be obtained at [http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids](http://www.humanservices.gov.au/customer/services/schoolkids-bonus).

Devices will be available for purchase through a dedicated *parent portal* linked to our website. This will be open in Term 4 this year to allow for effective implementation in Term 1 2016. This is an exciting opportunity for families to be involved in and we are confident that it will see enhanced student engagement, better student organisation and deeper student learning. For further information or questions about the program, please contact Mr Simon Szymkow, Deputy Principal Special Programs.
Year 10 Commerce

Miss Sahyouni’s Year 10 Commerce Class has been working on an exciting project for their unit “Promoting and Selling”. Instead of the conventional assessment, students were introduced to Project Based Learning, or PBL, to help students learn better. At the end of Term 1, students were given a driving question “If you have an idea, concept, or new product, how do you make it a reality?” and were expected to design a product and advertising campaign for 18-29 year old young athletes who were social, active, motivated and energetic. The successful product and accompanying advertising campaign would be sponsored by a large advertising firm, PROXIMITY.

Students worked tirelessly throughout the term to think critically, solve problems, work in teams, and develop products and advertising campaigns. They used their multimedia skills and creative minds to design a variety of products and advertising material.

Manelle Merhi, National Advertising Manager of Kennards Hire, also assisted with the project by running a marketing seminar with the class. She gave them advice on how to launch a product successfully into the market and tips on how to make their product unique.

After 10 long weeks, the groups finally presented their product and advertising campaign to Nicole Tomasella, who is the Marketing Communications Coordinator at UWS. Each group demonstrated their knowledge of their product and target market, articulated their information in a professional manner and produced fantastic products and advertising material. Well done Year 10!
Year 9 History

Towards the end of Term 2, Miss Sahyouni’s History class worked on an exciting Project Based Learning activity that would require around the clock dedication. The class was given a driving question: “What is the significance of WW1 AND WWII to understanding the 21st century?” For 3 weeks, students worked in groups to create exciting and engaging material to explore the significance of WWI and WWII to the lives of students at Kingwood High School. They discovered information on nature of warfare of the Gallipoli campaign and Kokoda trail, the outcome, and how and why Australians have commemorated the wars, plus the different perspectives on the ANZAC legend.

The class worked around the clock to produce engaging material that would capture the hearts of students. They were able to utilise their multimedia skills to produce websites on the ANZAC legend, blogs on the origins of ANZAC cookies, PowerPoints, posters, digital stories, radio scripts, picture books on the Kokoda campaign, Instagram and Facebook pages.

During Week 10, students presented their material to Vincent Cosgrove and his wife, Nancy, who have both run the Vietnamese Veterans Outpost Education program since 2004. Mr Cosgrove has also been awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his service to education and to veterans and their families.

Well done Year 9 History!
During week 4 of this term, 12 students from year 10 participated in a Mathematics excursion “Mathematics in Surveying”. During this excursion, students enjoyed a variety of activities connecting mathematics in Astronomy, Geography, Engineering, Defence and Architecture. Below are some of the pictures from our Mathematics in Surveying Excursion:

During the last two weeks, some of the senior students from year 12 have given up their free study period to peer tutor students in year 7 to motivate them in Mathematics lessons. These students have acted as role models for them and also provide a one to one support to achieve their learning goals for the day. I would like to acknowledge my appreciation and my feeling of proudness in teaching this wonderful bunch of students. Thanks to Emily, Curtis, Russell, Long, Matthew, Bridgette and Melissa for your help so far and year 7 students appreciate your help. They look forward to your continual support during mathematics lessons.

I would also like to acknowledge Declan (10), Mihajlo (8), Holly (7) and Robyn (9) for their commitment to 3 weeks Enrichment Program and participating with challenge problems. Keep up with your problem solving skills.

Could I also reiterate the necessity of ensuring students have appropriate equipment, such as a calculator and workbook during every mathematics lessons. I look forward to students bringing all necessary equipment in class.

Mrs V. Srinath (Head of Mathematics)
SPORT UPDATE

TAP Bowls

The sport of Bowls was a new introduction to the Talented Athlete Program (TAP) this year and all the training has paid off with some significantly impressive state-wide results.

Every Wednesday, the three boys (Kane Shorter (Yr 7), Ryan Keen (Yr 10) & John Dunn (Yr 9)) have been travelling to Penrith Bowling Club for training. The majority of that training has centred around tactical and mental strategies with specific events in mind, rather than technical aspects (which will come later).

The first event of the year was the Sydney West Singles Championships, which occurred only a couple of weeks after the program started. The boys performed well, but they still had a long way to go. Kane was selected as a reserve for the CHS Singles & Pairs from this event.

The boys then played in the Sydney West Knockout Triples, where they performed well enough to be Regional Runners-up and qualify for the state Final 16.

With a couple of months extra training, the boys were prepared for the most important events of the year. At the Sydney West selection trials, all three boys were named in the Sydney West side to represent at the State Carnival at Armidale in August. Thanks to generous sponsorship, the boys were kitted out in all items of Sydney West gear for no cost, and their levy has been paid for.

At the CHS Singles & Pairs Championships at Warilla in early June, Kane was called up after a student withdrew and finished 32nd in Singles. He paired up with a player from Port Macquarie and performed remarkably to win a CHS Silver medal at his first attempt against players up to 6 years older than himself! This also included current CHS open representative players.

The following week, the boys travelled to Temora to represent Kingswood High at the Finals 16 of the State Knockout Triples. Pooled in a tough section and playing against a highly ranked team, Orange High, in tough conditions (it was minus 3 degrees with a heavy frost at scheduled start time!) the boys fell behind in the middle of the game. But they fought back with some excellent shot selection and were even going into the last end. With one bowl to come, Orange were holding game. Kane, however, played his best bowl of the game to sneak a one shot victory.

The team went on to defeat the local side, Temora High, convincingly, before succumbing to a NSW u18 player from Engadine High and finishing second in their section. Eventually, the boys finished 8th in the state - far exceeding their goals set earlier in the year.

Their last two competitive events for the year will be trying to help Sydney West win the CHS State Carnival in Armidale, before playing in an annual Challenge Trophy against Hunter Sports High School's strong TAP team.

Mr Holburn
On Friday 29th of May a group of students from the Kingswood High School Support Unit went to Penrith Basketball Stadium for a Gala Day run by Basketball NSW. This gala day included teams from other schools and also had members of the NSW ID team there in a coaching role and scouting teams for possible future players. Our students were amazing on the day winning nearly all their matches.

Prior to the carnival the students were also lucky enough to have the opportunity to be coached by a player from the NSW Ladies ID team, Vanessa. Each week Vanessa spent an hour with 2 groups of students, she helped them develop their skills and their understanding of the game.

The students nearly all loved the day with over 90% rating the day as excellent when surveyed afterwards. Some feedback included ‘I loved the training and competing against the teachers’ (Lachlan Year 11); ‘I loved the games against other schools’ (Ben Year 11); and ‘It was a bit hard at first but always lots of fun’ (Brooke Year 8).

Some students that were nominated for praise by their peers include: Joseph Filikitonga, Jayden Eyre, Dejan Raketic, Brooke Machut, Lachlan Montgomery and Gary Donoghue. These students were recognised for their outstanding sportsmanship as well as excellence and effort on the court.

It was a great day and many thanks must go to Vanessa Ainger of Basketball NSW for the time and effort that was put into organising and running the event.

Karl Erickson
Support Sport Coordinator
BANDICOOTS IN THE BUSH
ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

Nine Year 10 students participated in a Science enrichment program held at UWS Hawkesbury. During this program students carried out a range of field work activities related to finding out about the long-nosed bandicoot’s habitat. They participated in team building activities with students from Riverstone High School who also attended. This was a two day excursion, which allowed the students to set up wildlife cameras overnight to view animal activity and to set pit fall traps to collect bugs to see if there was food available for bandicoots to survive. They were then able to use the University microscopes to examine and identify the insects. Students had to prepare a presentation at the end in groups to determine whether the area was a suitable habitat for the Bandicoot.
Year 12 Society and Culture
Nan Tien Temple Excursion

The Yr 12 Society and Culture class visited the Nan Tien Temple overnight in Wollongong as an introduction to their studies for the topic ‘Belief Systems’. Here they experienced the daily life of a monk as they learnt more about Buddhism. They experienced meditation, tai chi and origami. They also witnessed the drum and bell ringing ceremony and participated in a morning chanting (prayer) ritual. The monks also held a special blessing service for the students where they were blessed and prayers were said to wish them luck in the HSC.

Students and teachers were required to be ready by 6am for the morning chant which was difficult for some. They went without wifi and T.V (on the night of State of Origin) during their stay at the retreat and experienced a vegetarian diet. Unfortunately their teacher Mrs Rigney couldn’t attend due to illness, thanks to Mrs Frost who stepped in for her at late notice.
On Monday, the 1st of June, 2015, 7-8N went on an excursion to the Museum of Contemporary Art. The students got an opportunity to experience the overlapping exhibitions Luminous and Light Show which coincided with Vivid Sydney 2015. Light Show was organised by the Hayward Gallery, London.

The exhibition explored the versatility of light as a sculptural medium and its role in shaping the spaces around us.

The Bella education program offered Gallery exploration and Studio workshop session in a unique creative learning environment. The students were invited to wonder at, investigate and interact with illuminated environments and sculptures and also reconsider their relationship to their surroundings and how they see the world.

The students were very excited on entering a universe of light, shadow and colour. They also got an opportunity to sharpen their art-making skills when the educators helped them create their own 3-D sculptures.

The students also got a chance to get a glimpse of the city life while making their way to the park for lunch.

I would like to thank Mr. Long for his continuous support on the day.

Mrs. Nagpal
What’s happening in Science?!?

Term 2 has started off busy for all our students in Science, Agriculture and Marine Studies.

**Year 7** now proficient using the Bunsen Burner, are using it to learn about our world of matter. Classes had fun making density columns with liquid solutions of sugar. We will soon move on to the topic of **Geology** and learn about the Earth’s landforms.

**Year 8** are currently looking into the fascinating world of chemicals. The periodic table of elements is a highlight. Check out the Periodic Table of Videos online and for a laugh, check out this Periodic Table of Elements song!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUDDiWtFtEM

Year 9 are also studying Chemistry in more depth looking at the **ATOM**. We look at the history of the atom, its structure and what makes chemicals react because of it.

Year 10 are learning about genetics and getting a taste of Senior Biology. They have been able to extract DNA from living cells and made models of DNA using lollies! They will soon be moving onto the topic of Motion, a taste of Senior Physics and may even be required to make a vehicle/contraption that stops an egg from smashing when dropped. Got any ideas???

Agriculture. The students of Agriculture have been preparing the Ag farm for the introduction of new animals. They have learnt to manage the properties of the Ag farm to cater for the animal’s needs. The students had a great day at the Easter show and are inspired to show our animals in the future.

A reminder that your child has FORTNIGHTLY homework in Science. This should be presented to the teacher in a SEPARATE homework book.

With half-yearly examinations soon, we encourage the students to read over their notes and homework for study purposes.

Talk to your children about what they have been doing in Science and share the wonderful world we live in.

Elaine Sadler
Head Teacher Science

12Biology A – Model of Polypeptide Synthesis
NAIDOC DAY 2015

NAIDOC DAY is fast approaching. Kingswood High School is celebrating the day next Thursday 25th and we would like to invite the ATSI parents/carers and community to join us in celebrating this significant event.

The celebrations begin at 8.35am, with a whole school assembly, where we will have Lex Dadd, Darug Elder, performing the “Welcome to Country” ceremony, followed by Shayna Logan, ATSI 2014 KHS graduate, addressing the significance of NAIDOC Day and Jo Clancy’s Wagana Dance Company performing a dance display.

Our Community guests, along with the Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students & Year 7 students will then go to the hall and be entertained with more activities, including a Smoking Ceremony, Dance display, followed by an opportunity to participate in a Dance workshop for all of us, so be ready to boogie Aboriginal style!

Community guests are invited to stay for Morning Tea, concluding at 10.50am.

Year 7 will be participating in Aboriginal Games, Art, Boomerang making & throwing, and Story Telling & Bracelet Making throughout the remainder of the day.

We have planned a great day for our school community and are looking forward to having you here to share this significant day with us.

Targeted Science Program & Science Week Open Night

A Targeted Science Program will be running at Kingswood High School this year. The committee will be meeting once a week in order to plan for the Science Week Open night to be held on the 19th August 2015. The theme for this year is “Light” and students will engage in making models, displays and develop interactive activities to be used on the Science Week Open night. The Targeted Science Program is open to any student that has an interest in Science, however, numbers are limited so please contact Mr Thompson in the Science Faculty to register your interest. We are also seeking interest from any parents or carers that would like to be involved in the program. The Kingswood High School Week Open night will be a fun night for students, parents, carers, teachers and people from the community.

We hope to see you there!

Regards

Mr Thompson
Learning Support Team

Does your child require additional support to cater for their needs?

Students in regular classes who experience difficulties in learning, regardless of the cause, are supported through Learning and Support resources available at school.

Students do not need a formal disability diagnosis to access support through these resources. It includes support for students with significant learning difficulties, mild intellectual disability, language disorder or delay and behaviour needs. Students with autism spectrum disorders or mental health disorders who have lower level needs are also supported through these school based resources.

The Learning Support Team at Kingswood High School is led by the Head Teacher Welfare. Other members include Deputy Principals, Learning and Support Teachers (LaSTs), Transition/Careers Adviser and Counsellors. The Learning Support Team can assist with the identification of additional learning needs to ensure that the educational needs of your child are being met.

The team:

- meets fortnightly to evaluate referrals made by teaching staff, parents and students regarding cognitive, social/emotional, physical and sensory needs and to identify any concerns;
- determines what type of support your child may need;
- plan, implement, model, monitor and evaluate teaching programs for students with additional learning and support needs in conjunction with regular classroom teachers;
- model exemplary classroom practice when tailoring adjusted learning programs for students with additional learning needs;
- plans, implement, model, monitor and evaluate personalised adjustments for learning where required, with the classroom teacher, student and/or parent or carer; and
- reviews students' progress and adjust types of support.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's needs please contact the school on 47361201 and speak to Sue Clarke (LaST), Stacey Carroll (LaST) or Caterina Meduri (EALD) English as an Additional Language/Dialect.
No excuse for missed homework or assignments because "It was too hard," or "I didn't know where to start"

Come to the Homework Club!

Homework is regularly set by classroom teachers in order to develop students’ ability and extend on their skills. The Learning Support and English as an Additional Language/Dialect Teachers provide support to our students’ who may be having difficulty completing their homework or assignments. This is a service that all students can use. The Homework Club is located in classroom C4 where there is at least one teacher every Recess and Lunch to help with Homework and assignments.
During Terms 3 and 4 we will be updating our medical records systems to ensure we have the most up-to-date information on your child’s health.

If you have a child with a medical condition you will receive a copy of the new forms in the mail and will need to fill them out and return them to us as soon as you can.

The good news is we have already started collecting some of this information, which means less for you to do.

The new forms will help us collect your child’s important medical information and the introduction of new systems will mean we’ll be able to better manage the daily and emergency health needs of your child.

We appreciate your support as we start collecting the information, and if you have any questions please call.