FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents, Students and Staff

It has been a very busy start to the year with many activities on our calendar including the Year 12 Retreat, Ash Wednesday, the Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival and the Celebration of Chinese New Year.

Over the past two weeks I have enjoyed seeing parents at the Years 7-10, 11, 3-6 and ELC Parent Information Evenings. At these evenings I gave an outline of the KRB Strategic Priorities for 2016, an analysis of the HSC results for 2015, our Sacred Heart focus goal which is “Personal Growth in an Atmosphere of Wise Freedom” and advice for parents. The videos are now available on the Parent Portal pages.

We actively encourage all our students to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to them here at KRB and to challenge themselves to be the best they can. We hope all our parents will assist their children in their efforts to continually grow and achieve their personal goals. As I constantly say to parents, it is really important to allow your children to learn from challenges and setbacks and not to make life perfect for them. This helps our students to develop their confidence, persistence and resilience.

HSC High Achievers’ Ceremony

We will be celebrating the achievements of the Class of 2015 at the High Achievers’ Ceremony next Friday 26 February in the Edwina Taylor Clark Auditorium. This special ceremony is attended by students from Years 5-12. We want all our students to aspire to come back to KRB when they graduate and take their place on stage in the Edwina Taylor Clarke auditorium - it is a very large stage!

Special congratulations to Sophia Grady, a boarder from Tamworth in the Class of 2015, whose Individual Drama Project was nominated and selected for HSC OnStage. Sophia was presented with a Certificate at a Special Awards Ceremony held last Friday. Her family, including her sister Josie (Year 11) attended the Ceremony. Josie features on the promotional and program design folio that her sister created.

Ash Wednesday

Ash Wednesday was a time to come together to reflect on the beginning of Lent. Our students from K-12 received Ashes as part of our Liturgy in the Edwina Taylor Clark Auditorium. I have included a Lenten reflection written by Father Daniel O’Leary, entitled Contemplation.

Reflection

Contemplation is not about the acquisition of a consciousness emptied of everything except thoughts of God.

It is the opposite – not a movement towards a distant God but a sinking into a deeper awareness of one’s own life to find God already there.

Our hours and our days are divided not between time spent with God or with the world but between those occasions when we are more or less aware of God’s presence in our experiences.

Contemplation is a way of being really inside our own daily experiences. All we have to do is simply to be present to the music of what happens.

Year 12 Retreat

On February 8 and 9, I had the privilege of attending the Year 12 Retreat in Collaroy. I was particularly impressed by the Eucharist organised by the students and celebrated by
Father Philip Watkins. It was one of the most meaningful I have experienced on Year 12 Retreat. The students demonstrated a strong sense of support and community as well as the genuine concern they have for each other. We also acknowledged the Chinese New Year for our International students.

I talked to them about the different pathways which will be open to them and the roads they can take using some of my own life experiences and decisions.

Head Girl Megan Fitzgerald reflected on her Retreat Experience:

“The Year 12 retreat was a great opportunity for Year 12 to forge the bonds of our friendship, trust and sense of community. A real highlight was the mass where the Gospel focus was ‘burdens.’ Through reflection on our unity as a year we all understood the importance of sharing our problems and helping each other throughout the year. As each girl stood up, acknowledging the burdens they’ve felt in the past, we all looked across the room, and realised the support we have the opportunity to offer, and receive from the cohort. In this way, retreat showed the importance of our year group’s sense of solidarity and how we are able to utilise this to achieve our best, personally and collectively, over the course of our final year.”

Connections

The internationality of Kincooppal-Rose Bay is a very significant component of our mission as a Sacred Heart School. At last week’s Assembly I spoke to students about internationality. As part of a global network of schools in 44 countries, our students have many opportunities to expand their world view. Many of them participate in global exchange, host exchange visitors from other Sacred Heart Schools overseas, and go on to work or study overseas. We also offer social justice trips to many countries, including India and Peru as part of our involvement with the Antipodeans Abroad and World Challenge Programs.

We strongly encourage our students to participate in global exchange. Over 18 students went on exchange over the December and January break to various Sacred Heart Schools in Japan, France and the USA.

Our international students are a very significant part of KRB and contribute to the rich culture and diversity of the School. This week I welcomed our international students at an afternoon tea on the Harbour Terrace. Our boarding community celebrated Chinese New Year on Friday 5 February with a Chinese feast and a presentation by Roshni Chan and Jade Liang on the customs of Chinese New Year. I was delighted to attend a Chinese New Year dinner with the parents of many of our international students in Sydney last Friday. I will be welcoming many of these parents, as well as alumnae and future families, at our gatherings in Hong Kong and Singapore in March.

Junior School Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to our Junior School students who once again showcased their amazing talents in the pool. The cheers during the races and in the MTC after the carnival were a testament to their school spirit and the leadership of our Year 6 students. Congratulations to Murrumai on winning the overall point score and to Arakoola for winning the Spirit Cup.

The Swimming Carnival for the finalists in Years 3-6 and for students in Years 7-12 will be held at the Aquatic Centre at Homebush on Tuesday February 23. This year the School has been allocated a Day carnival.

Installation of the New Principal of Stuartholme School, Brisbane

Last Friday I attended the Installation of Ms Kristen Sharpe, the new Principal of Stuartholme. It was a beautiful, welcoming mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Brisbane in front of the whole school community. Also present were Sr Joan Pender rscj, Provincial, Board Members and the Principals of the other ANZNET Sacred Heart Schools.

School Funding Debate

Many of you would have seen the headline Incoherent and Unfair: report says funding system favours private schools in the SMH on Tuesday Feb 16.

This was based on a Report from the Save our Schools Public School Advocacy Group which stated that the percentage increases for schools like KRB, Ascham and Kings are greater than disadvantaged schools.

The article compared KRB and others with school like Granville Boys and Chester Hill High Schools. The article refers to KRB having had a 24% increase in fees from the Commonwealth and Granville and Chester Hill High only 12%. However, what matters is the actual dollars received, not the % increase.

It is important to note that in the last five years KRB’s cash increase was $789 per student, Granville Boys received $2,215 per student and Chester Hill received $1,373 per student.

The Australian Education Act and the NSW Education Act determines the fee increase and for KRB it is 3%. KRB only receives approximately 13% of its income from Commonwealth and State Grants.

I look forward to welcoming our new and current parents at the annual Parents and Friends Cocktail Party this Saturday evening.

With Regards

Hilary Johnston-Croke
Principal

FROM THE PRINCIPAL
KINDERGARTEN READING SESSION

On Friday the Kindergarten parents arrived bright and early for a parent workshop on home reading. The Kindergarten teachers led the parents through tips to help students foster a love of reading and achieve success in learning to read. Pre-reading skills are an important part of learning to read: selecting books, book orientation, text direction, predicting what the book will be about, predicting what will happen next and finding words that rhyme. In class the Kindergarten students are currently learning a new phonics sound every day. They are putting together the sounds to make consonant-vowel-consonant words, such as mat, tap, met. The students are also recognising high frequency sight words in the weekly shared reading program: words which can’t be sounded out, such as come, the, what. Tips for successful reading at home include: choose a quiet time, make reading enjoyable, talk about the topic of the text before reading, maintain the flow, be positive, regular practise and communicate with the teachers. The teachers love reading and they want the students to love reading too.

Some parent comments from the workshop:

‘Thank you for the workshop, it was so good to hear the tips on reading and how you teach them at school’

‘That was a great session this morning!’

YEAR 4 OPEN PLAN & PAPER FREE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Starting the new academic year with ambition and determination, Year 4 has begun to implement engaging and innovating measures to ensure students reach their full potential. The use of the open plan classrooms allows students to gain the assistance and guidance from two teachers at any given time where their skills can be further consolidated or extended. Workstations around the open classroom are designed to cater for needs of all students, by providing a wide variety of hands on skills, interactive apps and teacher guided activities. Students are taking full advantage of using the new furniture that not only brighten up the classroom but also offer a flexibility to work in different configurations and working spaces.

Being more environmentally aware, Year 4 has taken the steps to become a paper free classroom as best it can. Mrs Wilson and Mr Hanna have begun to email worksheets and resources to students’ iPads in a bid to reduce the amount of photocopying and paper waste being produced at KRB. Students are enjoying the growing use of technology being utilised in the classroom to aid their learning. We are looking forward to taking further initiatives throughout the year to promote learning in an engaging and sustainable manner.

By Araminta Courtney, Year 5

YEAR 5 EXCURSION TO THE NSW STATE LIBRARY AND ROYAL BOTANICAL GARDENS

On Monday 15 February we went to the Royal Botanical Gardens and State Library to learn more about significant people of Colonial Australia. At the Royal Botanical Gardens we learnt about how the Ingenious People carried their food and babies. In ceremonies, they would crush up something called ochre and add water to make it like a paint and put strips, animals or symbols on everyone. We also learnt that either from your grandpa, uncle or dad you would get a totem. It is usually an animal and that animal you have to care for and respect. We also became convicts of the First Fleet. At the State Library each group had an explorer to research. My group investigated primary sources to learn about the expedition of Bourke & Wills. An interesting fact I learnt is that Bourke & Wills brought 2500kg of supplies and only 8000g of it was food. We also played a little game show where we had to answer questions about our explorers. My highlight of the trip was the games show because it was a lot of fun and I learnt more about the other expeditions.

By Araminta Courtney, Year 5
YEAR 5 LEADERSHIP

What makes a good leader? How can we be inclusive? These are just some of the questions that were tackled by our year 5 students at our ‘Leadership Day’ last Tuesday. Students were given the opportunity to workshop their leadership skills with a number of different thought provoking activities. We were joined by special guest speaker Sr Mary Shanahan, who explored the concept of leadership as a service, and Mrs Chaplin helped us define the qualities of a good leader. It was pleasing to see how enthusiastically our future Junior School leaders approached the day!

“To me leadership means to be caring to your friends, being inclusive and being organised”. Jessica Nicholson.

“My favourite part of the leadership day was looking at Barack Obama’s speech and seeing what made him such a good speaker. This included hand movements and strong words.” Catherine Niland

SENIOR DRAMA EXCURSION- ‘THE SECRET RIVER’ SYDNEY THEATRE COMPANY

The buzz throughout the foyer of Sydney Theatre Company’s Roslyn Packer Theatre foreshadowed the remarkable performance to come. The drama classes of Year Eleven and Twelve were accompanied by Mrs James, Ms Bartley, Ms Mount and Ms Staniford to the theatre for the three hour performance of The Secret River; Andrew Bovell’s stage adaptation of Kate Grenville’s historical novel. In terms of the plot, the play explores the horrific reality of European Settlement upon Indigenous Australians and the resulting conflict and injustice that occurred in early 19th Century Australia. The actors, director, costume and set designers are to credit for such an astounding performance that I would recommend all to see. This exposure to such professional level theatre has opened our minds to prominent issues within society, and will without a doubt, in turn benefit us with our studies of Drama.

Gabrielle James Bennett, Year 12

ONSTAGE CEREMONY AND PRESENTATION

2015 Drama graduates, Francesca Daniel and Sophia Grady both received OnSTAGE nominations for their HSC Drama Individual Projects. Sophia’s Promotional and Program Design Folio for a production of Louis Nowra’s classic Australian play, Summer of the Aliens was just one of four Promotional Designs from across the state selected for exhibit. Last Friday evening she was presented with her certificate of excellence at the OnSTAGE ceremony.
ASH WEDNESDAY

The School community gathered together in the MTC for a ceremony celebrating Ash Wednesday. Given the focus on contemplation for the year, the ceremony began with a tribute to country composed by Mililma May (Year 12) in which she recognized the reflective side of indigenous spirituality. Before the distribution of ashes, an Imagination Prayer, based on that of Saint Ignatius Loyola, was offered to the congregation. This Imagination Prayer invited all to enter more vividly into the passage read from the Gospel. Finally, Mrs Johnston-Croke prayed over the ashes and led their distribution with students from both Barat Burn and the Senior School.

TERM 1 IN WEEKEND

The first boarders’ in-weekend of the year is always a very special occasion, as boarders within and between year groups reconnect after the whirlwind of the first days of first term and, of course, the new boarders are welcomed into the fold.

The weekend began with a Chinese New Year Dinner to herald the Year of the Monkey, for which we were joined by Our Principal, Mrs Johnston-Croke, Deputy Principal, Elizabeth Clark, rscj sisters Mary Shanahan and Cec Amiet, Mrs Yin Yang, Coordinator of International Students and boarding staff. Head of International Students, Roshni Chan and Cultural Diversity Committee member, Jade Liang, prepared an engaging and informative pre-dinner presentation that emphasised the values associated with Chinese New Year celebrations, such as family, home and good fortune, as well as the colourful and unique ways in which the Spring Festival are celebrated. The menu included noodles, dumplings, spring rolls, lychees and the ubiquitous fortune cookies. The girls also received red envelopes containing gold coins (of the chocolate kind), a symbol of the Chinese wishes for wealth and prosperity for the year ahead.

From Friday through to Saturday night, our Head Boarder, Georgina Harrison, and Head of Boarding SRC, Gabrielle James Bennett, kept spirits and enthusiasm high as they ably led inclusive, inter house and inter year group activities that included magic, mimes, dancing and a survival of the fittest competition. Kincoppal-Rose Bay boarders never shirk an opportunity to dress up, and many showed creativity and resourcefulness as they donned outrageous costumes for the Boarders’ Disco.

Year 10 boarders Lily McGregor, Katherine Harrison and Annabel Cusack led us in a liturgical celebration of sisterhood and enabled our community to focus on the value of leaning in to support one another.

As the photographs attest, the in-weekend was a wonderful way to build and to celebrate our unique boarding community.
YEARS 7-12 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Years 7-12 Inter-House Swimming Carnival will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2016 at the Sydney Olympic Aquatic Centre, Homebush. The Carnival will be held from 8.30pm-2.30pm.

Students will travel to and from the event on the buses provided by the School. Students will be required to be at school by 8.00am on this day as buses will be departing from this time. The expected return time from Homebush is 4.00pm.

YEARS 3-6 SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Friday February 12, the Years 3-6 Swimming Carnival was held at KRB. At this event we provide the opportunity for all children to participate in swimming events with their peers. The main goal of the carnival is participation and House Spirit. Murrumal was fortunate to win the overall point score and Arakoola the Spirit Cup. The Sports Captains and House Captains demonstrated excellent leadership on the day assisting with the running of the carnival and leading their house in the cheers.

Next Tuesday 23 February a select group of children have been invited to compete in the championship races at the Year 7-12 Carnival at Homebush. The Years 3-6 children will be competing between 8.30am-9.30am and will have the opportunity score age champion points and break school records.

Following this a KRB team will be selected to represent KRB at IPSHA.
Lauren Whiting, Year 6 recently participated in the IPSHA Tennis Trials held at MLC, Croydon.

Lauren lost her first match 4-2 to a very skilled Meriden player. She went on to win her next 3 games, 4-0, 4-2 and 4-0.

This took her to the semifinal which she won 4-0.

The final match proved to be a tougher challenge. From 0-3 down she fought back and took the match 6-4.

She proceeds to CIS trials held at Kings on the 22 February, congratulations Lauren on your outstanding achievement at the IPSHA Tennis Trials.
VAUCLOUSE ROAD WORKS

Woollahra Council has asked us to notify the Kincoppal-Rose Bay community that it will commence works on Vaucluse Road on the 29 February for a period of approximately 8 weeks. Most of the work will occur at the corner of Gulliver Road and there will be substantial traffic implications on Vaucluse Road outside the school. We ask parents to be patient and mindful of pedestrian safety when there are traffic disruptions.

We are very concerned about student safety and would like parents to desist from stopping and allowing students to alight from cars in Vaucluse Road near the Senior School Gate. A reminder that students may be dropped off in the MTC Carpark drop off area or on New South Head Road, north of Vaucluse Road. Driving on paths in a school zone is a traffic offence that attracts a fine of $425 and 4 demerit points.

I thank you for your assistance with this matter

Elizabeth Clark
Deputy Principal

FROM THE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

Upcoming Functions

We will be holding a morning tea for all current parents who are alumnæ in March this year. We have over 100 mothers/ fathers who are past students of the School so we hope it will be an opportunity for many parents from different peer year groups, whose daughters and sons are in both the Junior and Senior School, to meet together.

The KRB Rugby Lunch will be held on Friday 5 August 2016 at the Four Seasons Hotel. Sponsorship opportunities are available. If you own your own company or are a director of a company and would like to be involved in this, please contact me. All funds raised are directed to the Bursary Fund, set up to assist families in financial need. Currently we have over 50 senior school students on bursaries.

All families who are new to KRB this year will be invited to one of two Welcome Dinners, hosted by the Principal. These dinners provide new parents with the opportunity to meet the Principal, members of the School Board and the Leadership Team in an informal atmosphere and hear about the strategic direction of the School.

The dinners will be held on:
- Thursday 31 March
- Monday 25 July

Please contact me if you would like any details about upcoming functions.

Mary Cook
Director of Development
9388 6024
cookm@krb.nsw.edu.au
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