Killara High School Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Go Matildas! A mosaic of life lessons on display.

Our school has rallied behind the Matildas throughout their 2023 FIFA World Cup campaign and the vibe in the school is extraordinary, much like the feelings gripping the nation. It is important for our young people to enjoy this experience, not only for the sporting talent and entertainment on display, but more importantly, the lessons being taught by watching a committed team working together for the same goal. By watching the Matildas play, our young people are seeing a mosaic of life lessons being displayed on the field. Just like life, sometimes you get fouled and the whistle doesn't blow in your favour. Sometimes you take a kick, and it doesn't hit the target. Sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. These are important life lessons, and notably, the Matildas are displaying the importance of supporting your teammates, looking after each other, showing respect and honour in victory and loss - just as we would expect our young people to traverse through life's ups and downs. The Matildas have exemplified the ideal that you either win or learn, not win or lose. We thank the Matildas for providing our young people with important life lessons through their determination, care and

discipline. On Wednesday 16th of August our students dressed in green and gold to show our support.

School Visit - Henan Zhenzhou Hui Min Middle School 31st July 2023 - 4th Aug 2023

Killara High School hosted students and teachers from Henan Zhenzhou Hui Min Middle School. Mrs Newell and Mrs Charles managed this special experience by leading the students through a range of activities. Killara High School students supported their international peers during class visits throughout the week. The experiences included bushwalking, an on-country experience, a special welcome lunch, and farewell ceremony. We were honoured to be chosen by NSW DoE International to host students from Henan Zhenzhou Hui Min Middle School.

Killara Academy

Killara Academy is our university preparation program for students in Years 7-10. Recently, our students were introduced to the world of finance. Our students were taken on an engaging learning journey with Professor Vito Mollica. Professor Mollica is Head of the Department of Applied Finance at Macquarie University. Students learnt about Professor Mollica's research and explored important ideas and issues related to cryptocurrency, fintech and its applications in capital markets. Students learnt about the importance of maintaining a growth mindset when navigating their current studies and future careers. Thank you, Professor Mollica, for participating in Killara Academy.

On Sunday 20th of August over 100 students cooked for people in need at Our Big Kitchen in Bondi. Congratulations to all students for their commitment to this good cause.

School Aerobics

On Sunday 13th of August, the KHS aerobics team "Pizzazz" competed at the National Aerobics competition in Adelaide. This team has shown incredible dedication, responsibility, and care for each other. The team achieved an amazing result and placed 2nd in a division with 12 teams. Alyssa also performed a solo routine and placed first. A special thank you must go to Ms Lauren Muller for all her dedication to the team, Ms Anna Wall for coaching and supporting our students in Adelaide and previous competitions, and Ms Kirsten Hargreaves for accompanying the team to Adelaide. Congratulations students.

External validation

On Tuesday 15th of August our school undertook our External Validation with the Department of Education. Our school was praised for the initiatives and programs taking place to support student learning. Our school is noted as Sustaining and Growing across all domains.

Parking on Koola Avenue

When picking up students in the afternoon, please do not block the road when trying to park in the public carpark across the road from the school, on Koola Avenue. Blocking the entry to this carpark results in traffic backing-up and delaying buses from transporting students on time. I encourage all families to consider parking away from the school and encourage students to walk to a safe collection point away from Koola Avenue.

Basketball Courts

Our basketball courts have been re-opened for student use. We are waiting for the final coatings to be finalised in September.

Robin Chand Principal

TERM DATES

Tuesday 18 July First Day of Term 3
Friday 22 September Last Day of Term 3

Monday 9 October First Day of Term 4
Friday 15 December Last Day of Term 4

TERM 3 UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed 30 Aug - Wed 13 Sept
Wed 6 Sept - Fri 8 Sept
Thursday 14 September
Wednesday 20 September
Year 12 EKUBA
P&C Meeting

Faculty Focus – Science David Aubusson

The Science faculty sprawls across 12 different laboratories, some newly built, and all recently renovated. Our Year 7-10 classes have a focus on contextualising science in authentic, real-world activities, whilst extending students to achieve beyond our syllabi. Year 7 are studying the action of balanced and unbalanced forces, Year 8 will soon conduct dissections to learn about body systems, Year 9 are performing and manipulating chemical reactions, and Year 10 will start genetics before the end of this term.

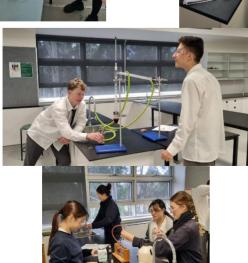
We have renewed our focus on exposing our students to universities and learning beyond the classroom. Year 11 Earth & Environmental Science and Biology students undertook field work at the Field of Mars and Gibberagong; Year 12 Biology students attended the University of Sydney to conduct genetic case studies in electrophoresis; Year 11 Physics students attended Luna Park to explain the motion of the rides; Year 12 Physics students will attend UNSW to investigate the photoelectric effect, microwave optics and experience O Week; and Year 12 Chemistry students attended the University of Technology Sydney for hands-on experience of research-grade analytical instruments. It speaks volumes of our students' enthusiasm that we have more than 564 enrolments across Year 11 and Year 12 Biology, Chemistry, Earth & Environmental Science, Physics and Investigating Science.

What's next? We have partnered with the University of Technology Sydney to offer Science Extension in 2024. Students will travel to UTS to use their laboratories and work with a researcher mentor to conduct their own novel research in this

unique course.



















Teacher Focus – Anna Richards CAPA

I remember the day I decided I was going to become a teacher. It was after my third Visual Arts class in Year 7 and I just knew I found my passion. I loved the idea of enabling others to see the world from multiple perspectives and discover that there are a variety of paths you can take to solve a problem. I have always believed everyone should have an opportunity to experience quality visual arts education in their life.

Arts is a unique subject that is prevalent in all cultures and is relevant and accessible to all members of society. The fine arts encouraged mistakes, experimentation and reflection and I actively encourage students to see the opportunities in moments when things go wrong. In my classroom I aim for students to feel safe to make mistakes which they rarely get in today's world.

Explicit teaching is an essential part of my work in the classroom. I find students benefit from seeing each step of their final goal. Creating alongside students through demonstrations, worked examples and individual feedback throughout the process is the most powerful method of teaching new techniques and mediums to students.

I love the look in a student's eye as they go from believing they could never draw that portrait realistically to suddenly seeing it come to fruition by using the tips and tricks I demonstrate to them in class. From Year 7 to Year 11 the art programs focus on providing students many opportunities to experiment with different mediums, materials, and subject matter, allowing them to find their form of art they truly understand and love. I believe everyone can create artworks, just some of us might still be looking for their niche and that's why I'm here to help.

Teacher Focus – David Browne HSIE/Deputy Principal

Explicit Teaching looks different for me depending on the class and subject, but the core elements are consistent across all. I use very different strategies for Year 8 Geography, compared to HSC Economics, or Accelerated Aboriginal Studies. For now, I will start with the consistent elements. The first step is always preparation – I have learnt the hard way that my best lessons have strong preparation (and the inverse is also true!). So, I start by focusing on what new knowledge and skills my students (hopefully) will leave my lesson with – communicating a clear picture from my mind of the end result and into the minds of students is the secret. The next step is sequencing. I try hard to start with a succinct, clear demonstration at the start of the lesson or unit, then move into a gradual release of responsibility. But the most important step is the last phase. This is where I monitor student progress then adapt. This monitoring is where the magic happens, because this involves working directly alongside students checking, explaining, confirming, or going back to the start and going over it all again.

With these consistent elements as my core, I try to adapt to different classes and subjects. In Year 8, I find it effective to break these steps into very small, accessible chunks, with very explicit direct instructions for each small steps, and lots of checking. With my Aboriginal Studies class, explicit teaching happens through my use of questions, discourse and dialogue in our shared exploration of complexity. On the surface, this couldn't be more different to my approach in Year 8 Geography, but the elements are the same. Show the students what it looks like, guide them through the practice, then step back as they build their independent skills. With Economics, it's more about practising the skills – do the equations, write the complex ideas, interpret the data.

Teaching is the best job in the world and I am enormously grateful to have the privilege to work with our amazing young people and my utterly dedicated colleagues every day. There are no easy days in teaching, but there are many good days. And the good days can be exceptional in ways that we least expect.

I came to teaching in my mid-twenties after trying and ruling out many other options. It was not a last resort, it was more like the obvious answer I'd been ignoring while it was right in front of me the whole time. I left my predictable office job, went back to Uni, and started my real career – my vocation. Every day, we work to transform lives by supporting complex individuals striving and struggling to find their way in the world, which brings enormous complexity and challenge.

What I enjoy most is the personal connection with students, the little-big moments of success, growth, achievement and celebration: A fist-bump for the student who came to school 5 days in a row for the first time in 6 months, a hand-shake for the student who worked really hard and achieved a much improved result in an assignment, seeing a student walk in one morning knowing that yesterday I was sitting on the floor side-by-side with them working through a moment of distress, standing in the Kerrabee foyer watching the back-stage crew sing their hearts out supporting the cast on stage, seeing the "ah-hah" moment of understanding when they 'get-it' in class, or when a student just says "thank you, sir" and means it. These are the moments that make teaching the best job in the world. Some of them are dramatic and explainable, but most of them are the little-wins that only teachers understand. These moments are why I teach, they last only briefly, but we carry them with us long after the students leave.



CAREERS DEPARTMENT NEWS

Last Friday 18 August we had 18 students dedicate their day to Work Health and Safety. These students attended a course on the White Card which is a work Health and Safety Certification from Safe Work NSW. These students can now use their white card to gain part time employment and apply for work or gain work experience in the construction industry. We had a group from Year 10 to Year 12 and it was wonderful to see a group from different years working together to gain this certification.

A huge congratulations to all students, we were very proud of each and every one of them.







If you have any questions or would like further information, please don't hesitate to reach out to our Careers Team.

We can be found in room D21 for students to access us or on email: careers@khs.nsw.edu.au **Helen Urquhart and Eve Kiernan KHS Careers Team**

Our School

Canteen

Click here for School Canteen Menu

Students are asked to exercise patience and show courtesy to the parents serving them, to refrain from making purchases for friends and to stand back in line while waiting to be served. Students must move out of the canteen as soon as they have completed their purchases. No games are to be played in the canteen during recess or lunch breaks.

Uniform Shop

Tuesday: 8:00am to 10:30am Friday: 11:30am to 2:00pm

If you have any queries, please contact: killara.uniform@gmail.com

Our Community







adminelindfieldsportscentre.com.au

Our Community









Bushfire Information for our Community

NSW Department of Education

Bushfire danger period information for parents and carers



Factsheet

This factsheet provides information for parents and carers about arrangements for the bush ire danger period.

The NSW Department of Education has engaged external experts to conduct assessments of all NSW government schools, to identify schools at greater risk of impact from

To support the health, safety and wellbeing of students and staff, the department, in consultation with NSW Rural Fire Service (NSW RFS), will direct the school to temporarily cease operations on days when a Catastrophic Fire Danger Rating has been declared for your school's NSW fire area. Alternative learning arrangements will be put in place for these days.

Schools may be directed by the department to become non-operational at any time based on a dvice from emergency services and the State Emergency Operations Centre.



education.nsw.gov.au

What is a Fire Danger Rating?

Fire Danger Ratings describe the potential level of danger should a fire start. The ratings are determined by a combination of factors including air temperature, relative humidity, wind speed and drought.

For further information on the Australian Fire Dange Rating System, visit rfs.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/fire-danger-ratings-are-changing-soon



NSW Department of Education



When will I know if my child's school has been made non-operational?

At approximately 4:00pm each day the Fire Danger Rating is issued for the following day. This means that schools, including onsite preschools, will be notified after school hours that it will be non-operational the following day. Your school will notify you as soon as possible by the preferred method of communication.

Parents and carers are requested to:

- provide up-to-date home and after-hours contact details to your school
- stay up-to-date with news and local media through the bushfire danger period.



NSW School Updates app

Get the free NSW School Updates app to receive operational status updates for NSW public schools education.nsw.gov.au/parents-and-caters/nsw-school-updates-app



What education arrangements will be in place if the school is nonoperational?

When non-operational, your school will advise of alternative learning arrangements, including any relocation or learning from home plans.



Learn more

Be prepared and ensure you have a bushfire survival plan in place. The NSW RFS has resources for all residents to plan and prepare for the bushfire season.

Consider whether your home is safe from bushfires and grassfires, and be prepared to relocate to a safer place well in advance. Find more information and resources from the NSW RFS rfs.nsw.gov.au/plan-and-prepare

We appreciate your cooperation during the bushfire season. For further information about Fire Danger Ratings and the bushfire danger period, please refer to NSW Rural Fire Service rts.nsw.gov.au

The department's School Safety website education.nsw. gov.au/public-school-safety provides up to date information during bushfires and grassfire emergencies.

Please contact your school with any additional questions.





Need help?

ak to your local WHS Advisor for support and advice, or contact the Incident Report and Support Hotline on 1800 811 523.

education.nsw.gov.au

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Wellbeing – Shannon Olivey

Maintaining wellbeing has been a priority for our senior students as Year 12 finish their Trial HSC Exams, and Year 11 prepare to start their Preliminary examinations. The majority of our Year 12 students have coped very well, and their dedicated teachers are currently busy marking those exams. Some students who found the Trials challenging have utilised the wellbeing team to support them through. This included the year 12 Year Advisers, Ms Bryant, Mr Beach, and Ms Whitby-Johnson preparing breakfast and a quiet space for students to access before their morning exams. I thank our hard-working Wellbeing team for their support.

In the last month, we have also seen Year 9 Year Advisers Ms Sainsbury, Ms Gollmer and Ms Zhang and Stage 5 Head Teacher Mr Manley organise a wonderful camp for their year group with the guidance of Deputy Principal Ms Schofield. All students enjoyed group activities, were extremely well behaved, and had a great time making fantastic memories.

Our school nurse Jason has as always been busy assisting Killara High School Students with their health needs. He also has been coordinating the vaccinations program with our year 7 and Year 10 students. Thank you, Jason, for all that you do, we appreciate your hard work and efforts.

Lucy, our Student Support Officer, has had some time away looking after her own health, something we all need to remember to do. She was missed but we are very grateful to have her back again. Lucy also has spent some time last term presenting overseas, with her wealth of knowledge on ways to support young people experiencing challenges with disordered eating. We hope to draw on these valuable skills in supporting our students into the future.

Last week our Wellbeing team and other staff members participated in a valuable professional development on Supporting Students with Lived Experience of Mental Distress on their HSC Journey. This was presented to us by Ms Jennifer Pledger, a Liaison officer with NESA, who answered our numerous questions and offered great advice on how we as a team can support students with significant wellbeing needs through the HSC. All teachers received 1.5 hours of accredited Professional Development, and we thank Jen for giving up her time to spend an afternoon with us. I have included some photos below.







Year 8 continued their second part of the Life Changers program focussing on setting goals and achieving them. This session was run in smaller groups and all students engaged positively with the program. Year 11 have started a Study Skills program where they are mentored through proven and successful study techniques in preparation for their preliminary exams and moving into Year 12. They also have two wellbeing programs coming up, Street Smart excursion on the 24th of August and a Year 11 Wellbeing Day incorporating the GPs in Schools program which will run early next term.



