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P&C Meeting

Main Topic:

**Killara High School
overcrowding/
demountables**

Please come to the P&C
Meeting to hear the status
and provide your views.

**Wednesday
18th November 2009**

8pm

C Block Conference Room
All welcome

Remembrance Day 11th November 2009

One of the ceremonies conducted by most schools in Australia each year is held on Remembrance Day 11th November. On this day in 1918 the most hideous of wars then known, came to an end. As in many other nations, the tragedy of this war touched nearly every household in Australia, directly or indirectly. That is why it became known as The Great War. Only after the conclusion of World War 2 (WW2) did it become the trend to refer to The Great War as WW1.

There are still a few people alive today who were personally affected by The Great War – a very small number of men and women whose father never came home after 1918. They were only infants when their fathers said farewells their young families. These infants of the second decade of the 20th century will be well into their 90s now, but they have carried the personal consequences of that war with them for more than nine decades. Soon they will be gone and another part of our 'cultural memory' fades. Which is why we commemorate Remembrance Day each year and remind ourselves of others' sacrifice and reflect on our good fortune in being spared such a trauma as The Great War.



Late last month my work took me to the island of Ambon in Maluku Province Indonesia, which is 3.5 hours flying time east of Jakarta. Indeed it lies closer to Australia than to the capital of Indonesia. Ambon has been a strategic port for more than 500 years, which is why it was garrisoned with Australian troops in early 1942 as an advanced line of defence for Australia. The garrison was overwhelmed in February 1942 by the Japanese Army and those Australians who were not killed in the fighting were captured.

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Calendar

November 2009

- | | |
|----|---|
| 12 | Yr 10 Elective Course Assessment |
| - | Spring Sport Semi-Finals |
| 13 | School Certificate Examination – Computing Skills |
| - | Yr 11 Society & Culture PIP day – Wesley Centre |
| | Prefect Red Ribbon Mufti Day |
| 16 | Yr 9 PASS - Primary School Gala Day |
| - | Yr 10 <i>It's Your Life</i> (all week) |
| 17 | Yr 8 Science Excursion (8A & 8O) – Gibberagong Education Centre |
| 18 | Yr 7 Science Excursion – Taronga Zoo |
| - | P&C Meeting – 8pm – C Block Conference Room |
| 19 | Spring Sports Finals |
| - | Yr 8 Science Excursion (8P & 8R) – Gibberagong Education Centre |
| 20 | Yr 11 SRE Seminar (P2) – Conference Room |
| - | Yr 8 Science Excursion (8M & 8T) – Gibberagong Education Centre |
| 22 | P&C Grounds Working Bee – from 8.15am |
| 23 | Yr 10 Work Experience/ Service Learning (all week) |
| - | Yr 9 Water Safety & Survival Skills (Mon, Wed, Thur, Fri) |
| 25 | Lindfield East PS Presentation Day |
| 27 | Yr 8 Science Excursion (8E & 8H) – Gibberagong Education Centre |
| 30 | Yr 10 Work Experience/ Service Learning (all week) |

December 2009

- | | |
|----|---|
| 1 | Yr 7 Water Safety & Survival Skills (Tues - Fri) |
| 2 | Yr 11 Geography Excursion - Pyrmont |
| - | Volunteers Morning Tea – A Block Common Room – 10.30am |
| 4 | Yr 7 2010 Enrolment Day |
| 7 | Introduction to DEAS 2010 Meeting – 6pm – Conference Room |
| 8 | Yr 10 Service Learning Reflection Day |
| 9 | DEAS Gold Qualifying Expedition – Mr Jagungal, Snowy Mountains (5 days) |
| - | P&C Christmas Meeting – 8pm |
| 11 | Yr 10 Final Assembly – 9am |
| 14 | Annual Awards Ceremony - Kerrabee Hall – 10.30am |

While in Ambon I visited one of Australia's more remote memorials to those who died while serving overseas. It lies in the grounds of a peaceful, beautifully maintained Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery just outside the city of Ambon. It covers more than a hectare with views across a tranquil tropical bay to cloud enshrouded mountains and contains more than 1000 graves of Australian servicemen.

The cemetery is on the site of the Tan Tui prisoner of the war (POW) camp where many Australians perished. More than 75% of the prisoners died in captivity. Approximately 300 hundred Australian soldiers who were captured at the airfield on the opposite side of the bay where wide bodied passenger jets land today, were killed in four separate massacres in February 1942. Together with another 150 Australian servicemen who died elsewhere in the region, these soldiers' names are recorded on a memorial in the cemetery. None of these 450 Australians have a known grave.

Walking around in the park like grounds beneath the cooling, shady canopies of ancient and towering tropical trees you are drawn to the burial plaques, some bearing poignant inscriptions from the soldiers' families. The plaque of Flying Officer Brooks' RAAF who died on 22nd May 1942 aged 24 reads, "Dearly loved husband of Marjorie and father of Anthony and Julie", marking not only his death, but the subsequent life times of loss endured by a young mother and two infant children. Another plaque, that of Private Warren aged 25 who died a month before the end of the war, in July 1945, reads "Loved eldest son of Sapper H.J. (P.O.W. deceased) and of Minnie Warren." Here was an intensity of tragedy recorded, with Minnie Warren's husband and son both perishing in different POW camps.

I read the register of visitors to Ambon Cemetery and it recorded the reflections of people from all over the world who had visited. Without exception they were deeply respectful. The register reveals that more than a few Australians have journeyed to Ambon. Earlier this year a female visitor wrote simply "65 years of repatriation". What did she mean? Was she one of the children whose fathers' were buried or whose names were on the memorial at Ambon? Today Ambon is accessible however for many fathers, mothers and wives it was not possible to visit after the war had ended. Speedy inexpensive travel to distant locations is a luxury we take for granted in the 21st century. For the grief stricken families of most Australians who died overseas in the Great War and World War 2, opportunities to visit their sons' or husbands' graves or memorial did not exist. For them, Remembrance Day and ANZAC Day had very personal meanings.

The following website contains information, photographs and copies of documents related to Australians captured at Ambon.

<http://www.wv2australia.gov.au/japadvance/remembered.html>

Mark Carter, Principal

Did You Know . . . ?

Elyse Powell (Year 7) has been selected in the NSW State Gymnastics Team to compete in the National Competition to be held at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra in early December.

Remember Who . . . ?

Natalie War (Year 12 2005) has just achieved 1st Class Honours in Arts (Sociology) at Sydney University. Whilst in Year 12 at Killara High School, Natalie had her major art work exhibited in ArtExpress at the NSW Art Gallery.

Prefect Red Ribbon Mufti Day

On **Friday 13th November** the Prefects will be holding a mufti day to raise funds for the Red Ribbon Appeal. The Red Ribbon is the international symbol of HIV/AIDS and the money raised from the mufti day will be going towards the 2009 Red Ribbon Appeal. The Red Ribbon Appeal helps provide crucial funds, which help support people who are living with HIV/AIDS as well as raise awareness of this global issue.

All students from Years 7, 8, 9 and 11 are encouraged to dress in RED and bring \$2.00 to Home Group on Friday 13th November. As well as the mufti day, the Prefects and other student leadership groups will be co-ordinating activities in the quad and basketball

courts during lunch time. These activities include a Sausage Sizzle in the quad with sausages for \$2.00 and cans of soft drink for \$1.50, World AIDS Day merchandise as well as a 'Human Red Ribbon' on the basketball courts.

The Social Justice Committee and other student leaders will once again be selling World AIDS Day merchandise on Tuesday 1st December at local and city train stations. We hope that all students will be able to participate and help support us on this day.

Drew McIntosh, Prefect

From the Principal's Mailbag

I write this letter as special acknowledgement of one of your students, **Rael Cohen (Year 12)**. As part of his community service commitment for the Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, for the past year Rael has been volunteering his time and service to the Achilles Running Club.

Like our other volunteers, all adults, Rael has been piloting the physically disabled members of the club while they exercise. This exercise may take the form of running, walking or bushwalking, and Rael has showed his willingness to adapt his exercise style to the needs of his disabled partner. He has also demonstrated skill at modifying his pace and exercise style.

From the outset, Rael has been totally committed to helping the disabled members and has shown a terrific amount of ability as a volunteer guide. He has also demonstrated his considerable empathy and

excellent social skills when interacting with both disabled and volunteer members at Achilles. At all times he has been punctual and highly responsible.

Rael has volunteered to guide blind members at Club training sessions at 8.15am on most Sunday mornings this year, a time when the vast majority of his peers would certainly be asleep. He has also assisted on a 5 hour bush walk on a Sunday, and in various race events. The time and effort that he has put in to Achilles has far exceeded that which would be expected as the basic requirement for his Duke of Edinburgh's award.

Rael is an exceptional young man and his efforts at Achilles are very much appreciated. I have no doubt that he has a bright future given his skills and commitment.

Ellis Janks, President, Achilles Running Club, Sydney



Working together to improve the School grounds

Final Working Bee for 2009

Sunday 22nd November 2009 - 8.15am



Our previous efforts have led to great improvements in the quality of the grounds and landscaping at Killara High School. The results of our labour are literally growing before our eyes. Jobs range from mulching to weeding, pruning to general clean up.

We particularly need your help preparing the grounds for our end of year visitors and functions.

It is a great occasion to assist KHS and to meet other parents, form and extend friendships and keep fit. We enjoy morning tea refreshments and for those able to stay we finish around midday with a BBQ.



All parents (and families too) are most welcome.

If you can only spare an hour or so we would appreciate your help too.

Please come along.

For further information, contact Richard Frith on 0419 223 127



PDHPE Footwear



This is a reminder that for practical PDHPE lessons students are required to wear sports shoes that are supportive and can be laced up.

Can you match the PE Teacher with their shoes?

Place the corresponding letter of the teacher under the correct PE/Sport shoes. There will be a prize for the first student in each year who can answer correctly.



PLEASE SUPPORT THE PE STAFF AND THE WELL BEING OF YOUR CHILDREN'S FEET AND LEGS BY MAKING SURE THEY WEAR THE CORRECT SHOES FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY AND SCHOOL SHOES TO SCHOOL.

A

B

C

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Year 7 and Year 9 Survival Skills & Water Safety Program

Year 9

Date: Monday 23rd November – Friday 27th November 2009,
(excluding Tuesday 24th) Week 6

Venue: Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre, Lane Cove.

Year 7

Date: Tuesday 1st December – Friday 4th December 2009, Week 7

Venue: Lane Cove Aquatic Leisure Centre, Lane Cove.



Full details including costs and permission notes were distributed to students last week.

Congratulations!

★ The following students have passed the rigorous audition schedule to be selected for the School Spectacular Orchestra and Stage Band this year. Congratulations to:

Melissa Mony (Year 11) - saxophone - alto
Efrem Beniacar (Year 10) - violin
Haskell Beniacar (Year 10) - violin
Daniele Sabatini (Year 9) - violin
Ashley Agar (Year 9) - viola

They will be involved in a week of rehearsals and performances from 21st to Saturday 28th November 2009.

★ **Sam Mackay (Year 8), Isobel Brigden, Emma Robinson, Amir Zandi (Year 9), Stephen Mackay (Year 10) and Campbell Ball (Year 11)**, performed as part of the DET Performing Arts unit – Stage Band, Schools Wind Orchestra or String Sinfonia – at the Primary Choral Concerts held at the Concert Hall Sydney Opera House in October 2009.



Get to Know Your Prefect ...

What is your name? Campbell Bayne Ball **When is your birthday?** 26/02/1992

Do you have a message? Don't do drugs and I lost the game

If you had to be a sidekick to a superhero who would it be? Duff Man

What is your favourite/least favourite Movie? Least is *Indiana Jones & The Kingdom of the Crystal Skulls*; most favourite, without a doubt, is *Mary Poppins*.

What will be on the back of your year 12 jersey? Big Blind

If you could have one wish what would it be? To have magic boots like Wish Wellington.

Describe yourself in two words: Liking anarchy

What do you want to do after high school? Go to the Conservatorium of Music

Do you have any hobbies? Break dancing

What is your favourite/least favourite colour? Least favourite colour would be seaweed brown and most favourite, definitely, a mixture of blue and white but not together creating Little Boy Blue.

What is your favourite/least favourite TV show? Most favourite TV show would be *Sponge Bob Square Pants*, least favourite would be *Elmo's World*.

If you could be an insect what would you be? A Bee

What is your biggest fear? Being flung out of my bed

Do you have any nicknames? C Dog

The Digital Education Revolution Has Arrived At Killara High School!

During the 1st week of November, all Year 9 students received a laptop computer!

Each laptop was 'commissioned' to an individual student, so that each student has their own personalised and secure working computer. Teachers are ready to use laptops with students in class.

All Year 9 students will participate in an "orientation to laptop software and use" over three periods next week.



Student Representative Council News Update

On behalf of SRC and other leadership groups, a big thank you to all the students who supported the Halloween Mufti Day. Over \$2500 dollars was raised for the 'UNICEF Trick or Treat Campaign! With these funds, UNICEF can provide school supplies for 1000 children for a year or protect 2000 children in Africa from polio for life.

Special thanks to members of the Arts Council for their exceptional performance and to all those who helped with the decorations. We greatly appreciate

the support of all the student leadership groups, without whom, the event would not have been as successful.

Halloween Costume Contest Winners:

- 1st Prize – Dracula
- 2nd Prize – Youtube
- 3rd Prize – The Mummy

Upcoming Events: Multicultural Day – German Day
Student Representative Council Members

Stage Head Teachers Report

Did we have holidays??!!

Back to the busy life at Killara High School!!

Years 7, 8 and 9 are, no doubt, busy doing assessment tasks, projects, assignments, tests etc. as we get closer to the end of the school year. Hopefully good

planning, preparation and time management have helped to reduce stress levels for everyone (including parents!) as students endeavour to 'do their best'.

A recent junior assembly demonstrated the continuing outstanding achievements of students 'doing their best' when many students from Years 7, 8 and 9 were

presented with certificates for their performances in Science and English competitions. (A previous assembly saw many students receiving their certificates for Mathematics and Drama.) Certificates were also presented to the students who give much of their time to the school as part of the school's 'Light and Sound' team. Congratulations to all of these students!

Recently **Year 7 students** have been given information about their language choices for next year. Students are required to study one language from Chinese, French, German and Japanese (and Hebrew) in Year 8. Hopefully, wise choices have been made. Changing your choice, once submitted, is not always possible!

To recognise the important achievement of completing Stage 4, a '**Stage 4 Completion and Recognition Assembly**' for **Year 8 students** will be held during the day on **Wednesday 16th December**. Students will receive their reports and other certificates of achievement, including excellent attendance records, high 'merit' earners etc.

Parents are invited, and more information will be provided closer to the day. This is a new initiative and is separate from the school's **Annual Award Ceremony on Monday 14th December**.

We have all recently seen the wonderful efforts of the newly formed **leadership groups**. A great day was had by all at the recent 'Halloween Day'. There was lots of food to be bought at recess and lunchtime; there was great entertainment in the quadrangle at lunchtime and there were great costumes worn by both students and teachers! What was the best of all was the huge effort made by lots of people to make the day a big success. This includes the organisers, but also all of the students that participated in both big and small ways!! It not only created a wonderful atmosphere at KHS but also supported UNICEF, a most worthy cause! It certainly showed that together we can 'make a difference'!!

Uniform Shop

Additional Opening Times Term 4

The Uniform Shop will be open on:

Thursday, 3rd December 2009 - 8.00am - 12noon
(business as usual)

Friday, 4th December 2009 - 10.00am – 1.00pm
(Enrolment Day - Sales for Year 7 2010 only)

Saturday, 5th December 2009 - 9.00am - 12noon
(business as usual)

We are sure that the next student led initiative, '**Red Ribbon Day**', on **Friday 13th November** will be a big success too!

Harassment and bullying issues have reduced in Years 7 and 8, but we are still seeing a few cases of students being unkind to each other, or not thinking about how their behaviour, including their words, can impact or affect others! We remind everyone that we all have the right at KHS to feel safe, and it is all or our responsibility to recognise this, and to respect each other! This includes realising that we are all different in our own unique and special ways, and that we should value this! Put simply, "let's be nice to each other"!

Year 10 students are completing their very important School Certificate exams this week. We all wish them well!!

After their exams **Year 10** will be experiencing working life as they do their 'Work Experience' week, followed by their week of 'Service Learning', where they will be supporting the community. We know that they will gain a lot from these activities, and much thanks should go to our Careers Adviser, Mrs Colleen Clarke, and her team, for organising these opportunities for KHS students.

Year 10's achievements and efforts will be recognised at the **Year 10 Final Assembly on Friday 11th December**.

Year 11 students have now begun their HSC courses. With this comes the added responsibility of following the school's rules with regard to free/study periods and arrival and departure times from school. **Until formally notified these students may not arrive late or leave early**. Students will be informed when, and if, these privileges are to occur.

Take care of yourselves and each other!

Julie Phelan (Head Teacher Stage 4)

Jill Longhurst (Head Teacher Stage 5)

Christine Black (Head Teacher stage 6)

Our price list and order form can be downloaded from our new School website: <http://www.killara-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/sws/view/home.node>, under "Latest News", select 'Killara High School Uniform Shop'.

Conny Valeontis and Heather Jordan
Uniform Shop Coordinators

What are KHS Students up to when they're not at School??

Amid the Higher School Certificate, Year 10 exams and the dust storm apocalypse, I have fled to Japan under the near-constant cover of wi-fi and neon lights.

Currently, I'm living in a city called Magome in Tokyo with my host mum, Toshiko, and host dad, Hayashi. I'm attending Shinagawa Joshi Gakuin (Shinagawa All Girls College) and 'I'm lovin' it'. Not that I don't miss the portables. They have something called 'buildings' here, as opposed to a portable village.

I arrived in Japan on 17th August and will be staying here for the next five months, hopefully. Unlike the animes, I haven't seen one deathgod or pokemon yet, though I have seen little kids playing

with YU-GI-OH cards. It's time to D-D-D-D-Duel (I'm not sure whether it has that many 'D's in it, but if you say it out loud, it sounds about right). [Bet you just said it out loud.]



This is my class, 4B

I also had high hopes with the 'I'm big in Japan' stereotype; I was hoping everyone would be Mario size (although I do believe he's Italian), so I can relieve the strain on my neck from having to look up all the time when talking to people. I'm actually short here, too. It doesn't help when you have a 180cm friend towering over you at school only to come back to an 186cm host dad.

My typical day consists of waking up at 6:00am, catching the train to school (40 minutes) and attending school from 8:20am to 3:40pm. Except on Saturdays I have cooking club which means I stay at school until 5:30pm. I no longer have a weekend, I have a {insert singular form of weekend here}. On Sundays I normally go out with my friends to Shibuya, Harajuku or Ikebukuro. Otherwise, I stay at home and catch up on some seriously needed sleep. That or I watch Bleach. At the moment I'm in class explaining what Facebook is and my vocabulary only goes as far to explain the weather, so I drew a picture for them.

I find it weird though, no one here knows Facebook or Myspace, yet it's still a blocked site. Which makes it harder for the other exchange students from

America, Thailand, Korea, Germany, Denmark, and myself. We end up just watching anime in computer class instead. Youtube isn't blocked here; you would think Youtube is a worse influence on students than Facebook.



And this is a square watermelon

Did you know 'Happy Tree Friends' is really popular amongst the Japanese girls? So is 'Gossip Girls', 'Hannah Montana', Zac Efron and 'Twilight'.

After living in the land down under for 15 years, I find myself still adapting to this lifestyle; it must be the altitude from being on top. Speaking of Australia, the other day I realized the world map the school has hanging in the classroom cuts off right before Tasmania. Smart people. In fact, the Japanese People are so smart, they invented an 8-day school week. I went to school on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. After that I had a 4-day holiday before going to school on Saturday.

What I learnt:

- The zebra crossings we have in Australia are actually the traffic light crossings here. I learnt that the hard way.
- At the dinner table, your miso soup has to be placed on your right-hand side, rice has to be placed on the left-hand side, the plate with food (sashimi/sushi/tofu/beef etc.) has to be placed in front of your rice and miso soup bowls and your chopsticks are placed closest to you, with the tip pointing to your left-hand side.
- The chopsticks are placed like that to make it easier for the right-hand to pick up. Too bad I'm left-handed.
- At the beginning of each meal you have to say 'itadakimasu' which is a way of thanking the lives that were sacrificed for the meal.
- When eating this noodle called 'soba' you have to make a slurping sound, otherwise it's rude. Well, not rude, but strange.

- Eating sushi with your hands is considered really cool
- Japanese girls squeal when you say "Sodium Hydroxide". Try it out sometime.
- In Japan, they're very eco friendly. So, instead of destroying thousands of trees using paper price labels, they use electronic ones
- I have come to realize that, although the language setting is 'Australian', it still underlines the word 'colour' and automatically changes 'realise' to 'realize'.
- When you want to say 'I'll ask someone' in Japanese, it's actually 'I'll listen to someone'.
- You have to take off your shoes before you go into the fitting room. I didn't anyways.

- When you're on a train, you can't see outside the window, let alone turn your head that direction. It's absolutely packed.
- Students are allowed to sleep in classes
- Everyone in Japan has a mobile, except me. 'This one time' I really needed a phone but there weren't any payphones in sight and a toddler walks past watching youtube on her mobile.
- Chuck Norris can touch MC Hammer.

Overall, everyone here is really nice (especially Ayako, she's reading this as I write it) and I'm having great fun. I also want to add that I miss you guys and good luck with your exams. I would say I can't wait to come back, but the warm toilet seats are pretty convincing.

P.S. There really are square watermelons here

Ada Chen, Year 10

From the Library

The Sydney Morning Herald Brain Food: all your HSC essentials

From just \$35 a year, or roughly 10c day, you can get a head start on your HSC studies. Get your own copy of *The Sydney Morning Herald* conveniently delivered to Killara High School, Monday to Friday through the school year. You will also receive great study resources. For an extra \$10 you can have Saturday's *Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Sun-Herald* delivered to your school each Monday.

For more information, visit heraldeducation.com.au/hsc.

You can pick up the order form from the library.

Don't forget about Encyclopaedia Britannica online!!

All staff and students can access ***Britannica online***, either at school or at home! Here is the website address: www.eb.school.eb.com.au

User name: killara Password: school

New Non-Fiction Titles in Detail:

***Get that Job: CVs – How to Stand Out From the Crowd.* (Rev. ed.)**

Topics include: a quiz to assess your strengths & weaknesses; step-by-step guidance and action points; ideas to bear in mind for the future; common mistakes and advice on how to avoid them; summaries of key points to remember; and related web links and further sources of information.

Harvey, Heather. ***Grammar for Everyone: Book One.*** Exercises provided on: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, apostrophes, and adverbs.

Mayer, Robert H. ***When the Children Marched: The Birmingham Civil Rights Movement.***

Referred to as the "most segregated city in America", Birmingham, Alabama, became a hotbed for civil rights activity in the early 1960s. Great African leaders, including Dr Martin Luther King Jr., and the Reverend Fred Shuttlesworth, helped lead the civil rights movement in the city. In Birmingham, African-American youth marched, sang, and spoke out against segregation. Although they faced police dogs and fire hoses, they offered non-violent resistance and did not back down.

Overy, Richard. ***The Battle of Britain.***

Tells the story of one of the pivotal events of the Second World War. The struggle between British and German air forces in the late summer and autumn of 1940. How close did Britain really come to invasion? What were Hitler and Churchill's motives? And what was the battle's real effect on the outcome of the war?

Sanna, Ellyn. ***Those Who Remain: What it Means to be a Survivor***

What does it mean to be a survivor? To be the one who lives when someone else has died? Going on after the death of a friend or family member is something everyone will likely have to face at some point in life. This book includes the stories of a few survivors. Whether they lost friends and family through a tragic accident or from natural causes, these survivors experienced similar emotions and learned to look at life in new ways. Their experience can speak to you in your own life, whether or not you are dealing with losses like theirs.

Karen Jones and Francie Campbell
Teacher-Librarians