

Principal:
Dr Mark Carter

Deputy Principals:
Ms Elizabeth Diprose
Mr Ken Hopley
Ms Glenda Robinson

School Captains:
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**Congratulations
to Year 12 2009
on their
outstanding
results in the
Higher School
Certificate**

**P&C Annual
General Meeting**

**Wednesday
17th February 2010**

8pm

C Block Conference Room
(See Page 3 for more details)

Non Selective Comprehensive Public Education Shines Again

Killara High School students have again attained outstanding results in the HSC with 223 students achieving 258 band six results or equivalent.

Nine students achieved band six in at least 10 units of study.

33 of the 41 courses offered by the school had mean course scores above the state mean.

Seventeen of these courses were above the state mean by more than 5% with two courses, Legal Studies and Earth and Environmental Studies exceeding the state mean by more than 10%.



Emma Bowers

Society and Culture student **Emma Bowers** gained first in the state with a score of 100 and a high distinction for her Personal Interest Project.

Alex Read was placed 10th in the state in 2 Unit Earth and Environmental Science.

Jacob Norwood was placed 2nd and **Jaiden Ashmore** 5th in the state in Industrial Technology.

Jodie Gabay was placed 15th in the state in 2 Unit Ancient History.

Mike Lin sitting for 1 Unit Studies of Religion as a Year 11 student was placed 15th in the state in this course.

Sofia Mason with an Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank (ATAR) of 99.55 was dux of Year

12 2009 and will be so honoured at the Annual Awards Ceremony later this year.

Approximately 76% of our students obtained a university place in the 1st round offers in a wide range of courses with some choosing courses that did not 'use up' their ATAR but were in their area of preferred study. As a comprehensive high school it is not surprising that a number of students elect to not receive a ATAR but have gained entry to a range of high demand TAFE courses.

Nine students qualified to receive the Premier's Award by scoring over 90 in 10 units of their HSC courses. They were **Emma Bowers, Jodie Gabay, Rupert Holden, Alexander Hwang, Angela Leung, Sofia Mason, Sandy Simon, Shu-Mei Teoh and Yu-Yao Teoh.**



Sofia Mason

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Calendar

February 2010

- 2 - Yr 7 Camp (2 days)
- 8 - KHS Swimming Carnival (Lane Cove Swimming Pool)
 - Yr 12 Drama Excursion (Seymour Centre)
- 9 - Yr 7 Parents Information and Welcome Night
- 16 - DEAS Silver Award Training Session (Conference Room)
 - 16 Yr 12 Physics Excursion (Sydney Observatory) 5-9pm
- 17 - School Photos
- 24 - Korean Parents Information Evening – 6.30pm (TBC)
- 26 - DEAS Silver Award Practice Expedition – Somerset OEG (3 days)

March 2010

- 2 - Yr 12 Standard English Excursion
- 3 - Chinese Parents Information Evening (TBC)
- 8 - Yr 12 Mid Course Assessment commences
- 9 - Immunisation Program
- 14 - Yr 11 Jindabyne Camp (5 days)
- 17 - Sydney North Swimming Carnival – Woy Woy
- 19 - Yr 12 Mid Course Assessment finishes
- 23 - KHS Cross Country Carnival
 - Immunisation Program
- 24 - Yr 11 Mock Interviews
- 28 - NSW CHS Swimming Carnival – Sydney Aquatic Centre (3 days)

April 2010

- 1 - Last day Term 1
- 2 - Good Friday
- 4 - Easter Sunday
- 19 - School Development Day

**School Photo
Day
Tuesday
17th February 2010**



Jaiden Ashmore was offered a University of NSW Co-op Scholarship.

Two of our students were offered a place in the prestigious UNSW medical school.

Principal of Killara High School, Dr Carter, said the results affirm the quality of public education provision at Killara and reinforce the confidence the community shows in this school.

"It's little wonder that the school's local enrolment component in Year 7 2010 is close to 90% and this in one of the most competitive educational markets in the state. The community is expressing its trust in the school's capacity to deliver quality education. The HSC results for 2009 challenge the assumption that paying tens of thousands of dollars in school fees is the way to ensure outstanding educational outcomes," said Dr Carter.

Ann Dixon, Promotions Coordinator

Did You Know?

Tania Linnertson (Year 12 2005) achieved **First Class Honours** in her Bachelor of Education (Secondary - Social Sciences and Humanity) degree at Sydney University.

Callista Potts (Year 12 2005) came second in her fourth year of Fashion at University of Technology Sydney last year and received monetary prize to start up her own fashion label. She is currently in discussion with Abercrombie and Finch in New York.

Duke of Edinburgh's Award Expeditions 2010

Silver Award Expedition Training Session

Tuesday 16th February 2010 – 7pm – 8.30pm – C Block Conference Room

Gold Award Expedition Briefing Session

Monday 29th March 2010 – 3.00pm-4.30pm – C Block Conference Room

Bronze Training / Practice Expedition -

Friday 14th – Sunday 16th May 2010 – Biloela \$200

Bronze Qualifying Expedition -

Saturday 4th – Sunday 5th September 2010 – Great North Walk \$180

Silver Practice Expedition -

Friday 26th – Sunday 28th February 2010 – Pack and Paddle \$180

Silver Qualifying Expedition –

Friday 30th July – Sunday 1st August 2010 – Pack and Paddle \$180

Gold Practice Expedition* -

Friday 23rd – Monday 26th April 2010 – Wild Dog Mountains

Gold Qualifying Expedition -

Wednesday 8th – Sunday 12th December 2010 – Jagungal Wilderness, Snowy Mountains

* Gold participants please note that the Gold practice expedition finishes on the Anzac Day Public Holiday, ie **Monday 26th April**.

Meeting deadlines and accepting responsibilities

One of the purposes of the DEAS program at Killara High School is to develop participants' independence, reliability and organisational skills. Completing and submitting the registration card, participant award plan and meeting deadlines without having to be 'chased' by either teachers or parents is one such skill.

Mark Carter, Principal

Staff Appointments and Changes 2010

In the last days of term 4 2009 two Head Teachers at Killara were appointed to more senior positions. Ms Stephanie McConnell has taken up a position as Deputy Principal at Turrumurra High School and Ms Joanne McFarland has commenced as a senior assessment and reporting officer at the NSW Board of Studies. Both have made very significant contributions to students' education during their time at the school and have been at the forefront of innovative practice and development initiatives across the school.

Ms Helen Atkinson will be relieving Head Teacher English and Ms Sally Fletcher will be relieving Head Teacher HSIE (green) until the recruitment processes for the executive vacancies are completed. I thank both members of staff for their willingness to take on the roles at short notice and at a particularly busy time of the year.

The school welcomes a number of permanent and temporary members of staff including, Roanna Dempsey in English and Drama, Rebecca Cook, Samantha Lee, and Kristen Sweeney in English, Rada Middleton in English ESL, Fionna Massey and Michaela Roburg in CAPA, Allison Taylor in Science,

Janaya Moss in HSIE (green), Pat O'Mara and Natalie Hall in TAS and Sagit Oren in LOTE.

Mark Carter, Principal



Pictured from left to right:

Lynne Dwyer HT Mentor, Samantha Lee, Rebecca Cook, Janaya Moss, Roanna Dempsey, Rada Middleton, Allison Taylor, Fionna Massey and Natalie Hall

The P&C Needs You!

P&C Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, 17th February 2010 at 8pm

in the C Block Conference Room

All executive positions and sub-committee chairs will be up for election and the 2010 Budget will be put forward for discussion and approval.

Last year we funded over \$450,000 of school assistance and improvements, and we need your contribution to our strong and dynamic P&C to make our great school even greater!

Year 7 parents are particularly encouraged to get involved in the P&C – get involved in your new school early!

Do not fear that attendance at the meeting means you will be roped into a position. We want parents to come to meetings so that we ensure that we represent the wishes of the parent community.

Roles for election are:

P&C Executive:

President	Vice Presidents (2)	Treasurer
Secretary	School Liaison	

Sub-committees:

Building	Canteen
Uniform Shop	Grounds
Performing Arts	Publicity and Public Relations
Social	Sports
Technology	

Year Parents:

3 -4 parents per year group

If you wish to get involved in any of these roles, please contact the President, David Jordan, on 9499 4090 or email david@dacono.com.au, or Vice President, Steve McKenzie on 9880 7323 or email mckenzieall@aol.com, to find out more. To be a member of the P&C you need to pay a \$2 registration fee which can be paid at the meeting.

See you there!

David Jordan, P&C President

The Welfare Team 2010

A team of qualified, experienced and caring staff are available to assist students and parents with any matters affecting students' well being at school. They can be reached on the voicemail extensions below. Please do not hesitate to contact them. The team for 2010 is:

Head Teacher Welfare - Mrs Jane Rountree (English/History) – Voicemail Ext. 109

Year Advisers		Assistant Year Advisers
Year 7	Ms Melissa Foster (CAPA) – Ext 229	Mr Duncan Smith (PDHPE) – Ext 217
Year 8	Mrs Clair-Louise Schofield (HSIE) – Ext 417	Mrs Kerrie Hanich (HSIE) – Ext 267
Year 9	Ms Anne Carroll (English) – Ext 404	Mrs Kerrie Bayne (History) – Ext 293
Year 10	Ms Natalie Gartner (PDHPE) – Ext 218	Mr Goran Petkovski (PDHPE) – Ext 410
Year 11	Mr Dale Jones (Science) – Ext 221	Ms Melissa Gardner (Science) – Ext 220 Ms Anne Smith (Science) – Ext 224
Year 12	Mrs Liz Allcott (Home Economics) – Ext 272	Mr Chris Hendriks (Science) – Ext 225 Mr Jeff Ray (HSIE) – Ext 270
Counsellors – Ext 136 Ms Vashti Casey (Mondays), Ms Julia Griffiths (Tuesdays) and Mr Serge Boyakovsky (Wednesdays and Thursdays)		

Controversy in Education - myschool your school our school

In light of the recent media frenzy regarding national testing data and it's availability on the myschool website, the attached Principal's Remarks distributed at the Annual Awards Ceremony in lieu of a traditional Principal's Address, may be of interest to those who were unable to attend or who did not receive a copy.

"Having spend six months in another country working in the field of education I've returned to Killara and been struck by the strong sense of openness, optimism and trust that pervades this school community. The enduring and growing strength in Killara's enrolment applications indicates a strong trust in this school's capacity to deliver quality outcomes and services to young people and families. Where once the local enrolment component of Year 7 stood at 58% it now approaches 90%. Few secondary schools can emulate these figures let alone the trend. Academic results are one thing. But we know quality when we encounter it in education and it has more to do with the nature of the relationships and interactions that take place within the school that reading a table of HSC results. All schools are imperfect organisations but some foster an ethos of care, understanding, acceptance of different and service above self interest. The evidence of such quality at Killara abounds.

Next year will mark the 40th Anniversary of Killara High School's establishment on this site in 1970. Killara was established by the former principal and many of his staff from North Sydney Technical HS (NSTHS) which closed in 1969. Killara's Lion Library was founded on the inherited resources from NSTHS. Its name recognises the NSTHS emblem.

I was privileged to be a Year 7 student entering the school in 1970. Since then the school has established a tradition of success that is sustained and enhanced each succeeding year. The approaching anniversary has caused some of us to reflect on the heritage of public education in northern Sydney. Despite being

only 40 years young, Killara's origins are intertwined with the history of education in this part of Sydney and cataclysmic events that have shaped this nation.

Francie Campbell, one of our teacher librarians, with members of the NSTHS Old Lions Association, have been working closely for most of this year on a project that connects Killara with a historic and tragic past that is a fundamental part of 20th century Australian culture. Early next year we will dedicate specially prepared memorial boards commemorating the lives of too many young men who participated or perished in the Great War of 1914-18 - at Gallipoli and on the Western Front. These young men all came from streets and homes in the suburbs of the North Shore. They were former students of St Leonards Superior School which eventually became North Sydney Technical High School.

School leavers of the early 21st century are often familiar with the name 'The Greenwood' in North Sydney as a place of social gathering and entertainment. It takes its name from the colloquial name for the school that was once on that site – Greenwood's. In fact it was St Leonards Superior School and one of its first principals was a highly regarded teacher by the name of Nimrod Greenwood. He is buried in the cemetery at Gore Hill. Many of his pupils joined the first AIF, among them a soldier awarded the Victoria Cross.

The memorial boards to be erected at Killara will record the names of those former students who never returned to the place of their education. Their graves lie in distant lands. Perhaps future study tours by students from Killara High School may seek out these former students' final resting places and a 'connection' re-established with the communities of the North Shore.

Regardless, it is fitting that we recognise and acknowledge a public education heritage of which Killara High School is now part custodian, and that

we also 'connect' with a part of our social and military history that has shaped an Australian identity. I thank Ms Campbell and the members of the Old Lions who have brought this project to fruition. It deepens this school's connection with the past and will serve as an enduring reminder of the values of selflessness and sacrifice. Our students' study of history will become more personal and local. There is rich vein of research here for generations of students to come, but in saying that I can't help but reflect on the richness of talent that was lost to the Australian society and the communities and families of northern Sydney more than 90 years ago with the untimely deaths of so many young people. Like the mourning mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers of decades past, one can only wonder at what might have been.

Returning to the present it's worth noting that the Annual Awards Ceremony is prelude to the release of HSC results that inevitably bring dazzling credit to individuals and the school. However, let's remember that associated with this will be the annual HSC media frenzy. I have little doubt there will be some wonderful results and that the school will bask in reflected glory from some very clever and hardworking high achievers in the HSC and in reflected glory from outstanding talented and committed teachers.

But there is another aspect of the HSC that warrants our attention and that ought to give us pause to consider the future. Comparing schools on the basis of exam and test results is simplistic and misleading. It is being fuelled by a political agenda focusing on accountability. The assumption appears to be that frequent testing, publishing exam and test results and affording comparison of schools on this basis will produce greater accountability and serve as an instrument for school development and reform. If it is such an instrument it is at best indirect, indiscriminate and blunt.

The US Government initiative of 2002 called *No Child Left Behind* mandated annual testing from Years 3-8 in all schools. It has been acknowledged widely that the results have been mixed. What is overlooked, however, is that the testing itself doesn't improve achievement levels. The testing can indicate that improvement is needed and perhaps where improvement efforts are best focused, but how improvement is brought about (the strategies employed) is less clear. There are better ways than applying mandatory testing to enhance outcomes for students and school and they are different depending upon the nature and location of each school and the needs of each student.

Dr Boston, former Director General NSW DET, made the following wry observation about to the political agenda of testing and comparison of schools in the UK : 'You fatten a steer by providing a full and nutritious diet, not by weighing it repeatedly.' Most

principals and teachers, indeed many parents and students, know what learning outcomes require attention and where the vulnerabilities of the organisation lie. It is a mark of their resilience, patience and sense of realism that they manage the plethora of constraints on action and come up with 'work-arounds', much as we do in every other aspect of our lives. Schools can be very effective 'training grounds' for problem solving and developing the art of compromise, skills that are essential to a successful and fulfilling life.

Nevertheless, the ultimate goal is to improve, but most of us can already answer the questions, "Is improvement needed?" and, "Where are our energies and valuable resources best focused?" without the need for relentless testing. Perhaps the enormous resource applied to national mandatory testing might be more effectively applied to the interventions needed in specific locations and circumstances.

Overall this school has provided opportunities for students to experience a rich and nutritious curriculum if not ideal facilities. But we can do better and we will. There is a standout lesson in school leadership and management focused on school improvement that emerges from our recent experience at Killara. It is that there is a powerful collective capacity of a school staff to identify issues and then develop and implement solutions in consultation with the community. Sometimes the employing agency, the relevant industrial organisations (and the principal) just need to get out of their way and people need to be given the autonomy to work collaboratively and apply resources as best meet the needs locally. Trust is a commodity to be 'employed' more liberally.

Not all solutions work, but the latitude to try new approaches, to experiment, to take risks and combine the different strengths and skills of people is immensely powerful. 'One size fits all' approaches to public policy and service provision have a tendency to constrain rather than liberate.

This school community is fortunate to have a staff with the capacity and commitment to look to a future where the innate potential of young people is realised; and it is also fortunate to have parent resources and support that facilitate development and innovation. 2009 has seen the continuation of lobbying efforts by the P&C Executive and school to get better facilities for students, staff and families. Optimism has been mixed with persistence.

While a strategic approach to the development of the school's infrastructure has yet to be adopted by the Department, the P&C has underwritten significant classroom enhancements in E Block as a precursor to further learning space renovation in other blocks. In anticipating the future the school community may well be shaping it by taking the initiative. The Federal Government's Building the Education Revolution (BER)

and State Government Science Laboratory Upgrade programs have enhanced or are about to enhance the facility at Killara.

Progress has been made but one of the most significant challenges we all face is the risk averse culture that appears to dominate contemporary society and public policy. It must not be our intention

to let this 'condition' generate complacency and stasis. We owe it to those who will follow and to those who long ago, looked to a brighter future, and among them some who paid a heavy price for the world of relative optimism and opportunity that we enjoy today."

Mark Carter, Principal

FLORENCE MELTON ADULT MINI-SCHOOL (A Project of The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

ENROL NOW FOR 2010

**Stimulating community adult education program on
Jewish Culture and History
Bondi, Woollahra and Chatswood
Adult learning program of Jewish Culture and History**

- To gain an understanding of Jewish culture and history and the basis of Jewish ethics and values and to enhance your knowledge or teaching of related areas,
- To have a deeper understanding of the Jewish High Holidays and other special days in regard to their historic connotation, or
- Simply to ask the unanswered questions.

Contact: Jillian at jill@fine.com.au or 0414 938 807 for queries or for assistance in enrolling or, enrol directly through the University of Sydney's Centre of Continuing Education website www.cce.usyd.edu.au under Short Courses, Languages and Culture, Jewish Studies or directly [http://www.cce.usyd.edu.au/courses/centre+of+continuing+education+\(cce\)/arts+and+humanities/languages+and+culture/jewish+studies](http://www.cce.usyd.edu.au/courses/centre+of+continuing+education+(cce)/arts+and+humanities/languages+and+culture/jewish+studies)

Why Not Play AFL in 2010?

If you are aged between 5 and 16, then why don't you try AFL this year? The St Ives Junior AFL Club plays on a Sunday. The Club is now inviting registrations for the 2010 season (**All Day, St Ives Shopping Village, Sat 6th & Sun 7th February**) and it is also running a series of free "Come and Try Footy" twilight clinics during February.

Come and Try Footy - Try 1 Week or All Weeks

Auskick U5 – U8	Junior U9 – U12	Youth U13 – U15/16
Acron Oval, St Ives Tues: 16 or 23 Feb 5:00 – 6:00pm	Acron Oval, St Ives Weds: 3, 10, 17 or 24 Feb 6:30 - 7:30pm	Acron Oval, St Ives Thurs: 4, 11, 18 or 25 Feb 6:30 - 7:30pm

For more information, please visit the Club's website at www.stivesafl.com or contact the Club's Recruitment Officer: Paul Towers on recruitment@stivesafl.com.

Killara High Tennis

For those students interested in after school tennis programs and Saturday competition, a number of programs exist here at the school:

Squads:

Thursday development class	-	3pm-4pm
Thursday tournament squad	-	pm-5.30pm
Friday Intermediate squad	-	3pm-4pm
Friday Elite squad	-	4pm-5.30pm

Competitions:

Saturday morning Junior	-	8am-12pm
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To Register: Contact Stuart Carruthers, Head Coach, 0402 929 919

LINDEM NETBALL CLUB

A reminder that:

Lindem Registration will be on

Saturday 6th February 2010

at Lindfield Public School

10am to 1pm.

Grading is planned for the following weekend, Friday 12th, Saturday 13th **or** Sunday 14th February.

Social teams welcome.

Please check Lindem web site (via kna.com.au) for exact times for each age group.



Kids gone back to school?

Why not volunteer with your friends, so you can catch up and help the community at the same time.

Volunteer with Easy Care Gardening

Easy Care Gardening Inc
www.easycaregardening.org.au
9983 1644 Hornsby / Ku-ring-gai
9144 1699 Ryde / Hunters Hill

Easy Care Gardening is a community based not for profit group that assists elderly and disabled pensioners in the Hornsby, Ku-ring-gai, Ryde and Hunters Hill areas, to stay in their homes for longer. This is done through teams of volunteers who weed, mulch and prune their gardens, making them easier for the client to maintain. To become a volunteer and contribute to your local community, call Easy Care Gardening on 02 9983 1644.