



# KHS Newsletter

Martin St, Katoomba, 2780 | Ph: (02) 4782-2622  
katoomba-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

2020  
Term 4  
Week 9

## December

- 14th Dec Presentation Assembly Years 7-9 (just students) and reports will be issued.
- 15th Dec Year 11 Presentation Assembly.
- 15th Dec Year 7, 8, 9 excursion to Raging Waters
- 16th Dec Last day for students.
- 18th Dec HSC results released.



## A message from the Principal

As the year comes to a close I wish to thank everyone for their ongoing support during what has been a very difficult year for us all. As is often said, the true test of a community's strength is how it manages adversity, and this school community has risen to the challenges of this year with compassion, integrity and understanding. One of the highlights of this year has been embedding Student Voice into the everyday life of the school. It has been delightful hearing young people's creative solutions and sense of agency in creating change. Wishing everyone a safe and joyous time over the holiday season. I look forward to continuing the KHS journey with you in 2021.

## 2021 information

- **Wednesday 28th January** Pupil Free Day
- **Thursday 29th January** Pupil Free Day.
- **Friday 29th January**  
**First day for Years 7, 11 and 12 only.**  
Year 7 students will meet in the Hall.  
Peer Support Leaders are invited to be at the school on this Friday as well.  
Year 11 students meet in the carpeted basement.  
Year 12 students meet in the Staff Commonroom.  
Any new students to the school are to go to the front office.
- **Monday 1st February**  
All students will be back at school. Years 8, 9, 10 will be directed to their year meetings.

## Special note for Year 7 2021 Parents/carers

If your child will be catching the bus please allow them to catch

it in the afternoon of Friday 29th February 2021 so staff can help travel train the students. Support will be available for students catching buses in the afternoon for the first few days of school.

Opal cards can take a little while to be issued so please start this process now if you haven't done so already.



## 2021

There will be approximately 980 students at the school in 2021. We have 2 new classes for our Support Unit including a new class specifically for young people with anxiety and an additional class for young people on the autism spectrum. We have just over 200 Year 7 students enrolled. With that large number the school has employed Mr McLeod as Acting Deputy Principal specifically for Year 7 to further support their transition to High School.

## Thank you to Mr Mendham

During 2020 Mr Rob Mendham has been Acting Deputy Principal. His support during this challenging year has been greatly appreciated. Mr Mendham will return to his Head Teacher TAS position for 2021.



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Week 9

## Meet the Maths faculty.

*Back Row- Left to right: Michael Jones, Sue Stevenson, Head Teacher Carolyn Jeffrey, Al Reynoldson, Justin Zeltzer*  
*Front row- Left to right- Alicia Hopkins, Taara Wilson, Purnima Sharma.*  
*Not pictured- Michael Dear, Merryn Bird.*



We are looking forward to working together next year. In 2021 we will be a faculty of 10 with an average teaching experience of 16.8 years. Students need to ensure they bring to each lesson a calculator, an exercise book to write in and pens to write with. Completing homework is essential to increasing a student's knowledge and skills. We teach all the Mathematics courses up to Extension 2 and Computing. We help students understand the world around them and build the skills they need to be successful in your life. To help everyone achieve their potential we offer free tutoring through Maths Club on a Tuesday afternoon and a Thursday morning. All students are welcome and no bookings are required.

## Lockers

There are lockers available in both the junior area in front of the canteen and senior area near the library. Locker hire is \$60 for the year. If you intend to renew your locker we would appreciate it if you can make that payment before the end of the year. That way we know how many are available for the new year 7 students. Pay via the office or online <https://katoomba-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/> select "Make a Payment". Please indicate it is either Locker Renewal or New Locker Hire.



## Peer Support Leaders

In Term 4, 60 year 9 students took up the opportunity to be Peer Support Leaders for the 2021 Year 7s. The Peer Support Leaders were taken through 2 days of training in the lead up to the year 6 transition day. The training drew on the different ways a person can be a leader. On the Transition day the Peer Support Leaders took groups of year 6 students around the





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Term 4  
Week 9

school with various activities and adventures.

In 2021 these Peer Support Leaders will be in year 10 and they will meet with the Year 7's once a week throughout Term 1. Each group will have 4 Peer Support Leaders to approximately 15 Year 7 students.



## Annabel Dignam

Annabel Dignam in year 7 represented KHS at the Interschools NSW 'Jenquine Schoolies Champs'.

Annabel competed in the Intermediate (years 7-9) Dressage tests, Preliminary 1B and 1C, placing 10th and 18th.

Whilst she doesn't bring home any ribbons this time she was proud to represent KHS for the first time and looks forward to representing again in the future!



## Zoe Rivas

Zoe represented KHS at the Equestrian Australia Interschools NSW 'Jenquine Schoolies Champs' at Sydney International Equestrian Centre on 26th November 2020.

Zoe competed in the Secondary School's Show Horse events placing 1st in Handler Class (years 10 to 12) and 1st in the Hunter Class over 15 hands high. Zoe achieved a number of other placings throughout the day with some tough competition from many schools around NSW. Despite a really hot day it was great to see so many kids out doing their schools proud.

Zoe looks forward to representing KHS again in the future.



## Careers Advisor Update

All public schools in NSW are allocated a Careers Adviser to work with students to assist them in making a smooth transition from high school to either further training or work.

Mrs Tully is the Careers Adviser at Katoomba High School. She has been here for numerous years and has had the privilege of working with thousands of students. For the past few years the school has also been allocated a Transition Adviser. Mr Daniels has been working with Year 9 and 10 students who are looking to leave school at the end of Year 10.

Mrs Tully said, "The nature of work is changing. No longer are students looking at entering a career that they will work in for their working life. Rather, a young person is likely to work in at least 5 to 6 different careers in their lifetime. To accommodate this change, students are now being encouraged to develop soft



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2020  
Term 4  
Week 9

skills now known as transferable skills that they can use in multiple different careers."

As part of the Careers Program at Katoomba High School all Year 10 students participate in one Careers lesson per week. Applying for jobs, workplace awareness and skill building is a focus for these lessons.

COVID-19 has had an impact on some of the usual Careers activities. However some activities were made possible by the use of Zoom. Our students spoke at the breakfast meetings for the Upper Blue Mountains Sunrise Rotary via Zoom.



## Year 10 News

Work Experience Program was postponed although some students took advantage of this program in Term 4.

Year 10 students have just completed an end of year program coordinated by Mrs Tully. Students had the opportunity to participate in the Duke of Edinburgh hikes, a First Aid Course, Work Experience, work and lessons at school. Our Year 10 students enjoyed the program very much.



## TAFE

TAFE held several information sessions which were also live streamed. The TAFE YES Program for disengaged youth was held in Term 4 for Hospitality, Sport and Recreation and Beauty Therapy. Well done to the students who completed their courses.

The TVET Program (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) offers students in Years 11 and 12 the opportunity to study a TAFE course as part of their HSC. This year some of our students studied Automotive, Animal Studies, Beauty Therapy, Pilot Studies, Information Technology, Outdoor Recreation, Horse Performance, Sport and Recreation, Real Estate and Nursing.



## Year 12

Mrs Tully held Zoom Information Sessions for Year 12 students and their parents. She completed interviews with our students to help with their planning for transition to life outside school- including TAFE, University, work and apprenticeships. We have two students who will be completing a Gap Year with the Navy.

Western Sydney University responded to the COVID-19 situation by introducing an opportunity for our Year 12 students to apply through their **True Reward Program** for offers to be made based on their Year 11 results. As a result, we had over 23 Year 12 students receive guaranteed entry into university for 2021.

We also had 12 students who received early offers to university from the Sydney Conservatorium of Music, Wollongong University, Australian Catholic University, Charles Sturt University and Macquarie University.

- Tay Meehan-Attrill has just been accepted into Charles Sturt University for nursing





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Week 9

using her Certificate III gained in her TVET course.

- Henry Corlett is on his way to a career as a Real Estate Agent and will be fully qualified next year whilst employed in a career that he loves.
- Aiden Soewjaro has been employed by a large technology company helped by his Information Technology course.

Congratulations to all of our Year 12 students. We wish you all the best in your future careers.

Please continue to check out our Facebook page for our Careers updates.

## Year 8 Photography

Selected examples of studies in Leading Lines, Rule of Thirds, Depth of Field, Portraiture and Photo Essay.



## Youth Shoebox Project

Well done to the KHS Prefects for their super packing and wrapping skills for this year's Youth Shoebox Project. The Youth Shoebox Project is a Blue Mountains initiative aiming to deliver a shoebox of gifts to asylum seeker children in Australia. The project is a joint effort with Able2 (youth disability support) and Blue Mountains Refugee Support Group (BMRSG) - working

together to spread love and support.



## Year 7 Geography

This semester students in Ms Jose's 7L class have been studying Liveability as part of their Geography course. Students were asked to create a game that would demonstrate the key factors that affect a person's liveability. Students worked in groups to design their games. Once the students have finished building their games the students will be able to play their game in week 10. The Liveability Game is a project-based learning opportunity for students to develop their skills in collaboration and teamwork, communication, creativity and innovation, critical thinking, and complex problem solving.







## The Narrow Neck Star

This term Katoomba High School has been lucky enough to be gifted 12 Zieria Covernyi (The Narrow Neck Star) to be planted in Birriban. These are extremely rare plants with only 270 recorded. Cathy and Paddy Cavanagh kindly dropped the plants off behalf of the Blue Mountains Conservation Society so that the students of Birriban Landcare could plant the Zieria Covernyi during Wednesday Sport time. The plants have been divided between the men's and women's areas of Birriban and students were keen to plant and care for the rare Zieria Covernyi. Katoomba High School would like to extend their thanks to the Blue Mountains Conservation Society for supporting the shared caring for country and helping us to improve the native plant variety in Birriban.



## Chord 5 performs for the school.

Thank you to 'Chord 5', our amazing Year 9 musicians and the talented Mr Campbell.



*Ruby Morris*



*Holly De Garcia*



Photos from the year that was like no other.

## Term 1



Gryffyn Long



Magnus Blomquist







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Week 9

## Term 2







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2020  
Term 4  
Week 9

## Term 3



## Term 4

