CONGRATULATIONS to our students who were nominated and those that received awards at the Australia Day Ceremony during the holidays. Rueben Flower was awarded Junior Student of the year; Marne Petherbridge awarded Senior Student of the year; Miles Brown received the Junior Sportsperson of the year and James McPaul was awarded Senior Sportsperson of the year. Our Captains spoken exceptionally well and represented our school with pride.
Welcome back to the 2016 school year.
My first official function of the year was attending the Australia Day Awards at the Kyogle Memorial Hall. Our School Captain speeches were wonderful and delivered with poise and confidence. Congratulations to Kirra and Matthew. Congratulations as well to all the students nominated for the various awards – at times it is disappointing there can only be one winner. To James McPaul and Miles Brown – congratulations on Sportsperson of the Year in both the Junior and Senior categories. Congratulations as well to Rueben Flower and Marne Petherbridge for Student of the Year in the Junior and Senior categories respectively. Thank you to Mia McDonough for posting photos on our FaceBook page.

On the first Wednesday of term, staff participated in the first School Development Day. The initial session was run by Mr Peter Campbell, the School Director, discussing staff Professional Learning Plans and goal setting. The second session was facilitated by Mr Graeme Ross, Principal, School Leadership, who focused on the decision making process around the school plan. Staff had the opportunity to explore the schools strategic goals and the activities planned to ensure those goals are met. Both of these sessions will certainly reinforce our culture of quality teaching and quality learning.

We have many new staff at Kyogle High School in 2016. Over the next couple of newsletters we will introduce each new staff member with a photo so you can get to know the new faces. As a school community I know you will all join me in making our new staff welcome.

Year 7 have made a smooth start to the school year. There is a lot to take in with timetables, bell times, sport and school policy induction such as the Evacuation and Lockdown Policy. Please take the time to discuss with your student about their experience at high school and if there are any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact Scott Taylor, the Year Adviser, Dave Hanley, the DP or myself. We are always more than happy to assist in any way we can.

Kind regards

Gae Masters

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Welcome to this issue of the KHS newsletter, the first for 2016. Already our school has returned active and engaged commencing with our swimming carnival last Friday. By all reports the carnival attracted more student attendance and participation than in previous carnivals and this is a positive and impressive sign of student engagement and enjoyment.

I extend a warm welcome to Year 7 students, new students and new staff joining KHS in 2016. To all students, I look forward to witnessing your positive engagement and success (academic, sporting and cultural) in 2016. To our new staff I look forward to your enthusiasm and professionalism as we all promote what is great about education at KHS in 2016.

I also look forward to the challenges and opportunities that are offered to all at KHS this year. Both students and staff should be positive in their attitude to what great things we can achieve within our school should we want to! There are obvious challenges and rewarding opportunities and whether as individuals or as a whole school, we can meet these challenges and enjoy these opportunities if we are positive and engaged in our endeavours.

Lastly, my office remains open to all students, staff and community members and I look forward to your company in 2016.

Regards

David Hanley

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SWIMMING CARNIVAL FUN!

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Year 11 & 12 Students
Mrs Rachael Rasborsek is available every Wednesday in the Library during periods 5 & 6 for senior and HSC mentoring and assistance. All students are encouraged to take advantage of this exclusive HSC preparation and assistance time.
Next Wednesday the CAPA faculty will be taking a group of students to Sydney on an excursion. These Drama, Music and Art students will be involved in some exciting activities throughout their five day get away! The Seymour Centre, ‘The Shape of Things’ matinee, Australian Theatre for Young people, The Brett Whitley Gallery, A City walking tour to view the Chinese New Year lanterns, ‘Secret River’ by the Sydney Theatre Company, Museum of Contemporary Art for ‘artist run workshop’, Australian Muesum, Hyde Park War Memorial, local street art viewing, Art Gallery of NSW are just some of the many experiences the CAPA students will be involved with. A big thankyou to the dedicated teachers involved. We look forward to lots of photos and stories on their return!

Disability Provisions for 2016 HSC

What are disability provisions?

Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn’t otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room. Disability provisions provide students who have special needs with practical support in the Higher School Certificate examinations. Students’ special examination needs may be related to any number of disability categories such as; learning difficulties/ disabilities, medical needs such as diabetes, mental health needs such as depression, anxiety, vision or hearing difficulties.

The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student's exam performance is affected by their disability. Provisions may include braille papers, large-print papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time, separate/small group supervision, diabetic provisions or rest breaks.

How do I apply for disability provisions?

Typically when applying for disability provisions students are required to have a disability that affects their performance in exams and other assessments. Many students are already known to us at school and have been provided with these adjustments throughout their schooling. However, not all students receive the support they are entitled to.

To apply for provisions there is a strict procedure outlined by the board of studies;

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Below is a quick guide to the process;

1. Students are identified by the school or their family.
2. Students complete a series of timed literacy and writing tests with the Learning and Support Teacher.
3. Students may be required to provide documentary evidence from a psychologist or other relevant health care professional. There is a specific form required for this evidence and this can be obtained from the Learning and Support Teacher (Sonya Soulsby).
4. Classroom teachers make comments about the students’ performance and how provisions would be of assistance.

The Learning and Support Teacher collates all of the information and makes an application to the Board of Studies on behalf of the student BEFORE the end of Term 1. Early Term 2, students and the school are notified about the provisions they have been granted.

If you are unsatisfied with the decision you have 14 days to appeal the outcome of your application. Students seeking to apply for disability provisions in the 2016 HSC need to see Miss Soulsby ASAP.

Kyogle Writers Group are calling for entries into the Helen and Harry Flower memorial Writers Competition. This is a Kyogle Council sponsored competition and entries need to be submitted to The Kyogle Library no later than Saturday 5th of March.

There are two topics you may wish to write about ‘My Favourite Place’ or ‘My Home Town’. Entries must be 2000 words or less in length and the prize money for each age group is fantastic!

Age groups:

- 8 - 11 Years ($200 prize money)
- 16 years & over ($300 prize money)

HAPPY WRITING!