

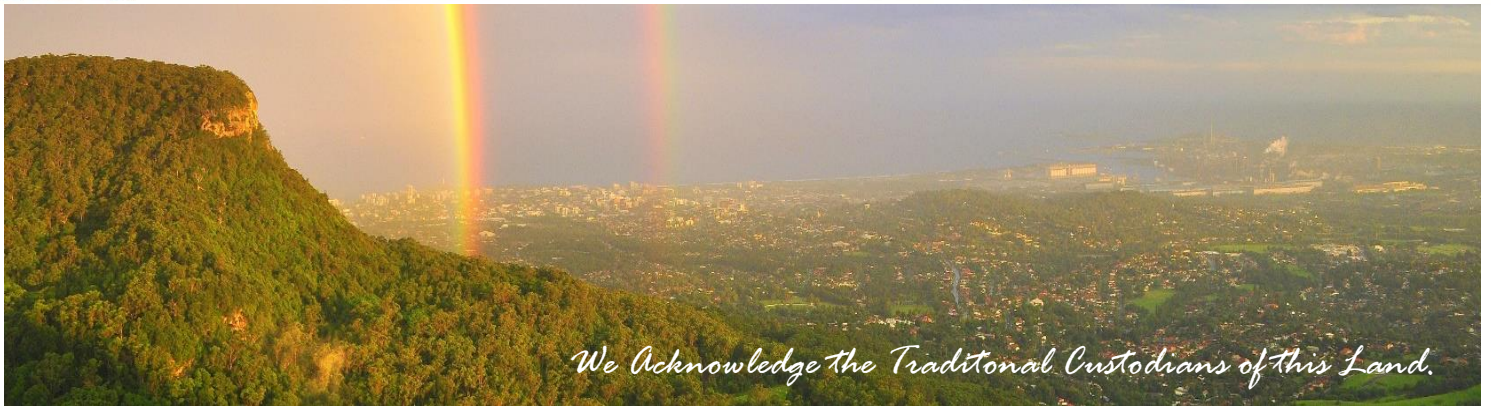
KEIRA

February 2019

News



Great traditions, a confident future.



We Acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of this Land.



From the Principal

Welcome to 2019

Welcome to the 2019 school year. In particular, I extend this greeting to our many new members of the Keira community. We are a highly successful, dynamic, comprehensive highschool. Every year we see our school strengthened by the arrival of wonderful Year 7 students from our partner primary settings and students of all ages who have relocated to our local area.

We have had a fabulous beginning to Term 1. I look forward with great confidence to yet another successful year and one where we will consolidate upon achievements and chart new directions that will ensure outstanding results for all our students.



Outstanding Academic Success



Congratulations to Vice Captain Jarrad Pritchard, School Dux for 2018. Amongst many outstanding HSC results secured by our Year 12 students, Jarrad's fabulous ATAR of 95.45 earned him a place in Keira High's history as 2018 DUX.

EXPO Evening 2019

*We look forward to meeting you on
Wednesday 13 March 5:00 – 8:30pm*

Find out why Keira is your outstanding local school



Event Program

- Official welcome by the Principal and student leaders at 6:00 pm in school auditorium
- Guided faculty tours, student demonstrations and performances, interactive experiences and interviews
- Presentation of Special Programs and interest clubs in central courtyard from 5:00 to 5:50 pm



Upcoming Events

Date	Event
Term 1	
Week 7	
13 March 2019	<i>Expo Evening</i>
Week 8	
18 March 2019	<i>Year Assembly Week</i>
Week 9	
25 March 2019	<i>Parent Teacher Interviews Years 9 & 10 3.30-6.30pm</i>
Week 10	
4 April 2019	<i>School Cross Country</i>
Week 11	
8 April 2019	<i>Parent Teacher Interviews Years 7 & 8 3.30-6.30pm</i>
9 April 2019	<i>Year 7 Immunisations</i>
12 April 2019	<i>Last Day Term 1</i>





From the Deputy Principal

School Uniform

Keira High School community has a strong commitment to a school uniform policy and students have been provided with a variety of uniform options to cater for varying tastes and climatic conditions.

The tone and prestige of a school is important for the future of students as they leave and join the wider community. The correct school uniform helps in creating a sense of belonging and assists in developing the correct mind set in the student about the purpose of school for the day.

Students have a responsibility to be in full school uniform every day, including the wearing of sports uniform on a Wednesday. Only those Year 11 students participating in Wednesday sport are permitted to wear their sport uniform.

Note on shoes:

- Due to Health and Safety requirements, black shoes with a firm leather/leatherette or suede upper must be worn to school
- Black joggers with a mesh or canvas upper are NOT permitted
- Shoes must be all black

Note on socks:

- Socks must be plain white without any logo on the sock
- Socks must be at least 3cm above the shoe

Our school uniform is available at Lowes - Crown Street Mall, Wollongong. The school will no longer stock new uniform items for sale. We will continue to have on offer second-hand items. If you need to discuss any uniform needs please contact your child's Year Adviser or the Deputy Principal responsible for their cohort.



Mrs S Gray
Deputy Principal



From the Acting Deputy Principal

Welcome back to the 2019 School year to all of our school community. This year I will be the Deputy Principal responsible for Year 7 and Year 10.

I particularly welcome our Year 7 Students and their families to the Keira High School community, we are very pleased that you have chosen to join us in our great school in 2019.

Year 7 have had a lot to learn in these first weeks. They spent time being led to class by their teachers in the first week of term and are now independently finding their way to classes across the school. They have learnt to find their correct position on assembly and to know conduct themselves during these important weekly events.

Peer support groups have begun for all of our Year 7 students led by a large group of enthusiastic and capable Year 11 students who completed their peer support training in term 4 last year.

On Tuesday 26 February from 4:30 – 6:00pm we hosted our annual *Year 7 Meet the Teachers Afternoon*, this forms a part our **Strong Start** strategy for all our Year 7 students. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for Parents/Carers, Students and Teachers to exchange information and begin to build that strong partnership that will ensure educational success. It was wonderful to see so many high quality conversations taking place between families and teachers from the start to the finish of the afternoon. Thank you again to the members of the Student representative Council who provided food and drink for all in attendance. We look forward to these strong partnerships with our Year 7 families developing throughout this year.

Year 10 are entering an important year of their schooling as they complete Stage 5. They will complete their Record of School Achievement (ROSA) this year which will allow them to access the HSC in Stage 6 and also other courses and pathways in Years 11 and 12. A strong start and successful completion of all aspects of their Year 10 courses will provide the spring board for their journey towards further and higher education and into work opportunities.

They will follow an explicit program of Careers education this year to support them in the key choices they will be making during the year. We will have information evenings for Students and Parents/Carers at key points in the year to ensure that everyone is led through processes to make the best decisions for themselves.

I look forward to working with you all this year.



**Parent Student Teacher
Partnerships for Success**

**Trystan Loades
Acting Deputy Principal**



From the Relieving Deputy Principal

What a Strong Start to 2019

Parent Student Teacher
Partnerships for Success

I would like congratulate all staff and students for strongly engaging into what has been a very successful start to 2019.

- Keira High School welcomes the **Strong Start** made by Years 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and in particular, to our diverse cohort of Year 7 students. We applaud every student for their smooth transition to 2019 and in their involvement within our Keira Community. A big thank you, to all of our year advisers, wellbeing, teaching and learning teams respectively for supporting our students to strive for greatness.
- This month, we will continue *Strong Traditions* as our staff and the Year 12 cohort will be celebrating our annual Captains Induction Ceremony, followed by a formal dinner. During this event, our 2019 school captains will be accompanied by families and guests to celebrate their leadership impact within our school and wider community. A special thank you to our valued Director, Dr. Margaret Turner and to our outstanding 2010 school captain; Andrew Bourgeois for his ongoing contribution to the legacy he and his fellow captains established in his time at Keira High School.
- The Year 11 students also began 2019 on a very positive note. Students, parents and staff were led by our diligent Year 11 adviser, Mrs O'Keefe and by our amazing deputy principal, Skye Gray to plan for a *Confident Future*. All parties participated in the Year 11 *Information Evening* where they explored each subject, patterns of study and planned to successfully accomplish assessments requirements.

Once again, congratulations to a positive start to 2019 and I look forward to many future successes within our school community.



Celebrating Student Leadership

G Guevara
Relieving Deputy Principal



Keira's Alumni

Where are they now?

Frank Tomasi



Having arrived in Wollongong from near Venice, Italy in December 1953 at age of 11, I started the new school year at Wollongong Secondary Technical School, Gladstone Avenue Wollongong.

In 1954 Wollongong Secondary Technical School opened on Lysaght Street. The last students from Gladstone Avenue were transferred to Lysaght Street in 1955.

From 1954 to 1956 Lysaght Street (from the Princes Highway to the School) was a dirt muddy road, It was common for some teachers and students on rainy days to remove their shoes and socks and roll up their trousers to prevent getting wet and muddy – on arrival at school, they would wash their feet and put their shoes back on.. This school is now known as Keira High School.

In 1958 I completed my fourth year pre-apprenticeship in electrical trades. This ended my secondary education. In 1961, I completed the electrical trade course at Wollongong Technical College while serving my apprenticeship at Australian Iron and Steel in Port Kembla.

In the First and Second Stage electrical trades course I barely scraped through with a pass. At this stage I decided to change direction and start achieving as a front runner – at the end of Stage Four I had topped all classes.

I then commenced the electrical engineering certificate course which I completed in 1966. In 1968 I commenced work with Transfield in Port Hedland, Western Australia on the Mount Newman Iron Ore project, and within 18 months progressed to resident engineer and project manager.



Mr Robson recently met Mr Tomasi when he visited our school to reminisce about the 'old days'.

In 1970 I was transferred to Transfield Head Office in North Sydney as National Manager, Electrical Department.

I remained at Transfield until 1978, gaining technical and commercial experience in some of the biggest industrial construction projects in Australia.

In 1978 I started my own company Southern Cross Electrical Engineering which listed on the ASX in 2007.

S.C.E.E. spread around the nation and specialised in electrical and instrumental installation on gold processing plants which then spread around the world including New Zealand, New Guinea, Ghana, Tanzania, South Africa, Mauritania, Mongolia, Saudi Arabia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Bolivia, Peru, Chile, Uruguay and Guatemala. During this time we established an office in Denver, Colorado to service South America.

S.C.E.E. has to date completed over 176 gold plants in Australia and overseas – this is more than any other electrical construction company in the world.

In 2013, I received the Order of Australia for contribution to the electrical construction industry assisting various sporting bodies and philanthropy.

Now, at the age of 72, I spend some time at my vineyard and winery in Margaret River, Western Australia and beef cattle breeding operations near Augusta, the most south western point of Australia.

Keira Events

Science and Engineering National Finals in Darwin

In the early hours of a Thursday morning our team of 31 met outside the school gates and embarked on the final stage in our journey towards being named national champions of Science and Engineering. We said goodbye to parents as the excitement mounted for our 3 day trip to Darwin and the national competition in Humpty Doo, an actual town, just outside of Darwin.

On day 1 we flew from Sydney to Darwin, created a base in Cullen Bay, just outside of the CBD and were given the opportunity to go to Crocosaurus Cove, a reptile park in the CBD. The crocs were huge and the handling opportunities aplenty. As night fell the humidity subsided slightly, we ventured as a team to the waterfront, where, whilst being acutely aware of the issue of crocodiles in the splendid waterbody before us, we were able to admire the wonderful view of the Indian ocean as we sat on the grass and had our final meal together before the big day.



Day 2 was Challenge Day and it was a nerve-racking one. We were up against teams from all other states and territories of Australia after earning our place through the regional and state finals. After travelling by bus with the enemy to the Taminmin College at Humpty Doo we sat down for a final nomination of teams.



At 9 o'clock we were randomly allocated our particular activities for the day and immediately we realized that a vast majority of the activities were either new or modified. We were going to have a tough time up against teams who had been to the national final and done it all before. We collaborated, we trialled, we engineered, we failed, we succeeded, we did it all over the next few hours. As we sat down to watch the bridge testing and discussed our results with our teammates we knew we hadn't won. We clapped our competitors and celebrated the success of the winning school from Tasmania, all the while thinking about possibilities for the future.

The end of day 2 commiserations occur at the Wave pool and waterfront at Darwin. A picturesque place to diffuse and to see the centre of Darwin.

We returned home by plane on day 3, closer as a group and full of delicious lindt chocolate donated to us by the friendly air hostess. The talk was all about how despite it being unfortunate not to come away with a win, we could all be pleased with each other's efforts and our top 8 in the nation title. Talk also revolved around how valuable this year's team would be as mentors to the up and coming Science and Engineering team with what we now know about national finals.



Ms J Van De Voorde
Science Teacher

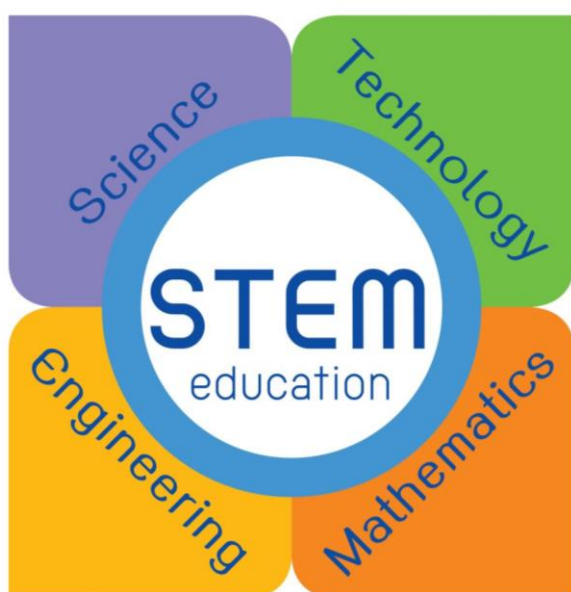
STEM – Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics



Students at Keira High School are provided with many opportunities in STEM through hands-on activities embedded as part of course work. The Science and Technology Education Leveraging Relevance (STELR) pilot program has continued at Keira. This hands-on, inquiry based curriculum program has been accessed by Year 9 and Year 10 students on the themes of global warming, sustainable housing and renewable energy.

Keira Science staff have been actively involved in engaging our community of schools (CoS) in STEM activities, with Year 4 STEM visits to our CoS schools and a Year 5 STEM CoS Challenge Day as part of National Science Week. The activities involved critical thinking and creativity. During all of these sessions the CoS students were mentored by senior Keira students who had been specifically trained to provide the CoS students the best opportunity to experience challenge and a supportive environment to facilitate success.

Keira achieved a high level of success in the Science and Engineering Challenge in 2018. A group of highly committed Year 10 students worked as active members of a team, attending regular training sessions run by Keira Science staff, and were able to achieve first place in the Regional Final. The team then underwent further training and displayed supreme initiative and critical thinking skills, enabling them to do what no Keira team has ever done before - win the State Final of the Science and Engineering challenge. The Keira team then went on to represent New South Wales in the National Final of held in Darwin. Through the depth of their learning and their capacity to implement their understanding, to collaborate and to think as a creative team, they were able to secure eighth place in the National Finals.



Year Adviser's Address



Year 7 – Ms A Pike

It has been a pleasure having Year 7 commence a strong start at Keira high school in 2019. As year advisor of Year 7, I have witnessed some unforgettable memories, friendships, connections, and positive contributions to our school already. This started last year with the initial introduction to the school community on Orientation day. Students began this process through meeting their future senior leaders, experiencing subject specific sessions and getting a feel for what school life would be like.

Opportunities that have already been offered to Year 7 have included making strong connections with senior students through the peer support program.

Our peer support program provides students with a supportive environment that allows them to learn more about Keira High School. The program covers issues including building friends, resiliency, managing homework and assessment tasks, locating areas within the school and identifying support personnel. The students are taught skills and strategies to help the cope in the high school environment. Peer Support empowers young people to support each other in the transition process into a large environment.

This has also provided Year 11 students a chance to recognise and develop their leadership skills as they assist in navigating and facilitating through the program once every fortnight.

Additionally, students have been able to demonstrate their extra curricular capabilities so far through platforms such as the school band, rotary club and express their competitiveness through the swimming carnival. These experiences will broaden and enhance their high school life, allowing further interest to emerge for future endeavours.

This has already been an exciting and rewarding journey and I look forward to leading this group of young people as they begin their early stages of transition of high school through to the final moments of graduation.



Miss A Pike
Year 7 Adviser

Let's Check in with Year 7



Daniel Cohen

The best thing about high school so far would be having more of a variety of subjects to learn. I am really looking forward to learning more about science, as my first few weeks of science here have been great. Having different teachers in different rooms is very different to primary school, also the size of the school is much bigger but I am able to adjust well because I have supportive teachers.



Serena Taylor

I have some great teachers that make it so enjoyable and everyday I am excited to learn from them so I love being in the classroom. I look forward to being challenged and learn more at school about certain things that I am interested in. I have learnt so much more about certain subjects as the teachers are so accommodating and push you to succeed.



Jessica Burgess

I think the best thing about high school is studying all of the subjects that we get the opportunity to do. The thing I am looking forward to is cooking in food technology. The amount of students is much larger than primary school. I love that we get the opportunity to participate in different sports.



Remi Carter

I am enjoying being more independent, making new friends and having more choices to support my learning. I am looking forward to the opportunities in being able to represent my school in sport. High school is different, as we have to move around more and manage different subjects. Also, I like Cooking, Excelsior and Aboriginal studies.



Sam Rolfe

I think the best thing about high school is that you have so much more freedom and the fact that the classes are more interesting and a lot more fun. I am looking forward to competing in different types of sports and participating in experiments in Science. I like having different teachers for each subject as it gives the day variety.



Ali Alhussainy

The best thing about high school is learning about teamwork and how to overcome challenges through PDHPE, Mathematics, English and Science. I have really enjoyed sport every Wednesday as it has helped me make some new friends. I look forward to being emerged in the culture of Keira and the opportunities in education such as being part of the STEM team. High school is a little different to primary school as you do not have just one class, you move around from classroom to classroom, I love that variety and being able to establish independence. The thing find interesting about high school is the variety of cultures in the school, it is very diverse.



Lidya Dogan The best thing about high school so far are the challenges I have faced such as finding my classrooms, adapting to a foreign environment and overcoming fears such as not feeling intimidated. I am particularly looking forward to the Athletics carnival because I enjoy competing against my fellow peers. If I do win a race, I am also looking forward to accomplishing a sense of achievement and success. One aspect of high school that is vastly different from primary school is the amount of homework I receive each week. It is challenging but more importantly it helps me learn which benefits me.

STARTING STRONG AT KEIRA
Building Connections, Planning for Success

SUCCESSFUL TRANSITIONS TARGETED STUDENTS WOLLONGONG TO KEIRA

19 NOVEMBER
SMALL GROUP TOUR

4 DECEMBER
WHOLE SCHOOL TRANSITION

14 DECEMBER
SMALL GROUP TASTER LESSON



Year 8 – Ms C Ramos

Welcome back Year 8, and a special welcome to our new students, who have come as far away as Cobar. Ms Hrnčić and I are looking forward to some engaging and informative initiatives this year.

We will begin the year by exploring some useful study skills strategies at the end of this term. In term 2 we are pleased that the Brainstorm Production team will come back to the school to present Sticks and Stones, which explores conflict resolutions skills. This initiative will cost \$6 and we will collect this money as soon as possible. In term 3 we will continue to explore Mindfulness as a tool to develop concentration, focus and calmness.

Finally we hope to explore Cyber safety again, building on the learning that took place at the end of last year. I encourage students to seek leadership opportunities this year, through the SRC, the Year Group Assembly leadership team and days such as R U Ok and Harmony Day. Please contact me if you would like to be part of the Year Group Assembly leadership team for our week 8 assembly.

Ms C Ramos
Year 8 Adviser



Year 9 – Ms M Cara

Welcome to all Year 9 students, new and returning! 2019 is a big year as it is the first of your Stage 5 studies. You have the opportunity to engage with a wider variety of curriculum options as you begin your elective studies.

Also, I'd like to welcome Ms. Van de Voorde to the Year 9 team. She is joining us this year as the Assistant Year 9 Advisor, and is very much looking forward to working with each and every one of you.

Our first initiative of the year will be the YAM program. Further information about this will be sent home in the coming weeks. The first Year Assembly will be held in Week 8 this term. If you are interested in performing or assisting at the assembly, please do not hesitate to come and see me in the English staffroom.

I am looking forward to the excitement and challenges of 2019!

Ms M Cara
Year 9 Adviser



Year 10 – Mr A Kellaway

Welcome back to the start of the 2019 school year. Throughout semester 1, Year 10 will be involved in wellbeing initiatives that will focus on the whole child and provide them with the tools that should enable them to make informed mature, decisions.

With senior studies in their sights, it is also exciting to think that we are in the final year of junior school. Throughout this transition period, we have several support networks available at school including counselling services. Another wellbeing focus will be on study skills and time management. Both of these key areas are not just important for senior studies but life in general.

We look forward to a year filled with engaging learning experiences and cognitive growth.

Mr A Kellaway
Year 10 Adviser



Year 11 – Mrs D O'Keefe

My name is Danielle O'Keefe and I am the Year Adviser for Year 11. With the transition to the senior school the students are looking great in their white shirts and are hopefully ready for a challenging and rewarding year. It is with great pride that I have observed the year 11 mentor students working hard to support year 7 students as they settle in. These students have been trained in peer support and have been actively involved in running peer support sessions with year 7. A big congratulations to all the wonderful role models that are involved in this important program.

In our first learning session as a group this year, students were introduced to a variety of study skills. They participated in discussions around the importance of time management in keeping on top of their senior workload, as well as the need to take a pro-active approach from the very beginning in each of their courses. Equally as importantly, students were introduced to various relaxation and mindfulness techniques, including apps that can be accessed at home in order to keep themselves balanced. These skills will be built upon regularly this year.

Parents are reminded of the Year 11 Information Evening on Tuesday February 19, 5:30 to 6:30 in the School Hall. This is an important session for students and parents to gain an understanding of assessment procedures, an insight into senior schooling years and students will begin developing their Personalised Learning Plan. I look forward to seeing parents of year 11 students at this session.

Ms D O'Keefe
Year 11 Adviser



Year 12 – Ms T Power

Year 12 have had a strong start to their final year of high school. Refreshed after a summer break, and with one assessment task for each subject completed, they are looking forward to the next three terms with mixed emotions.

Teachers have spoken to me about their positive work ethic. Many students spent some of their holidays completing summary and study notes. These skills were recently revised and practised during a series of workshops titled 'Building Towards a Successful HSC'. Students and parents are reminded that assistance and feedback regarding assessment tasks or study notes is available at the learning centre during study periods and at the homework centre on Tuesday afternoons.



Whilst the HSC will dominate the thoughts of many students, there are many other experiences and events to look forward to. Year 12 will be practising mindfulness techniques to remain calm during the year as well as ensuring they are aware of effective strategies to promote optimum wellbeing. Year 12 have been introduced to our new and very experienced careers adviser, Mrs Ellem. They have kept her busy with questions and have been proactive in seeking advice to ensure they are well prepared for a future beyond the HSC.

Well done Year 12. Your hard work will be well worth the effort!

Ms T Power
Year 12 Adviser

News from English

Look Back. Look Forward. Look In. Look Out.

This is the process of reflection and also happens to be Outcome 9 in the English syllabus. Students are formally assessed in the HSC Examination on their ability to compose a written reflection.

The English faculty has asked students to supply a reflection journal this year that will remain in the classroom and be utilised at least once a week. Every student in English (therefore every student in the school) will be actively and purposefully reflecting as part of their formal learning process. This is the first year that every student has been asked to use the reflective journal as a tool to improve their academic writing skills and to actively engage regularly in their own learning processes weekly and to utilise feedback. We hope to share some examples at parent/teacher meetings.

“We do not learn from experience. We learn from reflecting on experience.” – John Dewey

The English Stage 3-4 Programming and Assessment Project

The English Stage 3-4 Programming and Assessment Project supports Keira’s community of schools to work together to develop sound programming and assessment practices based on the English continuum of learning outcomes in the NSW English K-10 syllabus in Stages 3 and 4, incorporating the Literacy progressions and the English Textual Concepts resource.

As Year 7 begin their high school career they also begin a journey into textual concepts in English – a common language being developed between Keira High and our local community of schools.

Upcoming Learning with Kirli Saunders

As Year 7 begin their high school career they also continue their poetry journeys. We are very excited to welcome Kirli Saunders, a local Indigenous poet to Keira High on Friday, March 15. Kirli will explore the creative writing process with Year 7 specific to her own context. She will share some of her beautiful poetry. Students will be invited to pay \$1.50 to the front office as an investment in this opportunity.



About Kirli Saunders

A proud Gunai woman, with ties to the Yuin, Gundungurra, Gadigal and Biripi people. Kirli is the Manager of Poetic Learning and Aboriginal Cultural Liaison at Red Room Poetry. She was awarded ‘Worker of the Year 2017’ at the NAIDOC awards in the Illawarra/ Shoalhaven region and has been nominated for a National NAIDOC award in 2018. Kirli founded the *Poetry in First Languages project*. Her first children’s picture book *The Incredible Freedom Machines*, illustrated by Matt Ottley was selected for Bologna Book Fair and is published internationally. Her second picture book *Our Dreaming* will be released by Scholastic in July 2019, *Happy Ever After* will follow in February 2020. Kirli’s First Poetry Collection, *Kindred* is to be released by Magabala in 2019, it was Highly Commended in the 2018 Black&Write! prize. Kirli’s poem ‘A Dance of Hands’

was Runner-up in the Nakata Brophy Prize. Kirli’s poetry has been published by Cordite and Overland and has embedded in infrastructure at Darling Harbour and the Royal Botanical Gardens, Melbourne. In 2018, Kirli will be Writer in Residence at Bundanon Trust, Q Station and The Literature Centre, Fremantle for ‘The Sound of Picture Books’.

**Ms Carruthers
English Teacher**

News from Mathematics

The First of its Kind!



The Mathematics Faculty has commenced the new year with a strong focus on high expectations and utilising feedback opportunities to enhance and deepen understanding. All students from Years 7 to 11 established learning intentions and goals to achieve by the end of the school year, and have begun quality lessons where engagement and perseverance are at the forefront of learning.

Our Year 12 students have started the year with a united focus of quality Higher School Certificate results. Some of the Year 12 courses are studying a brand new syllabus and will be undertaking the first HSC Examination for these courses at the end of this year. The Mathematics Standard course provides students with the opportunity to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills in working mathematically, improve their skills to solve problems relating to their present and future needs and improve their understanding of how to communicate in a concise and systematic manner.

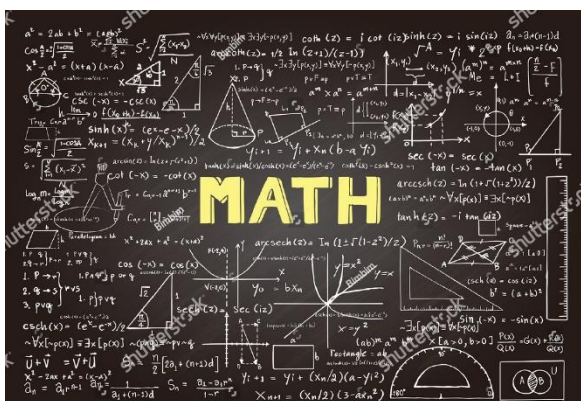
This new course has two pathways, and an exciting opportunity allows students studying the Mathematics Standard 1 course to elect to undertake an optional HSC examination. This prospect is one that is appreciated by some of the students in the Keira High School Mathematics Standard 1 Course.

"This is an exciting opportunity for us. We can study the course that suits us, and still sit an HSC exam and obtain an ATAR if our other subjects allow us. This opportunity was not available to us under the old course. It has really given us a chance to show what we can do."

With such a strong start to 2019, the students and teachers look forward to a successful year within the Mathematics Faculty.



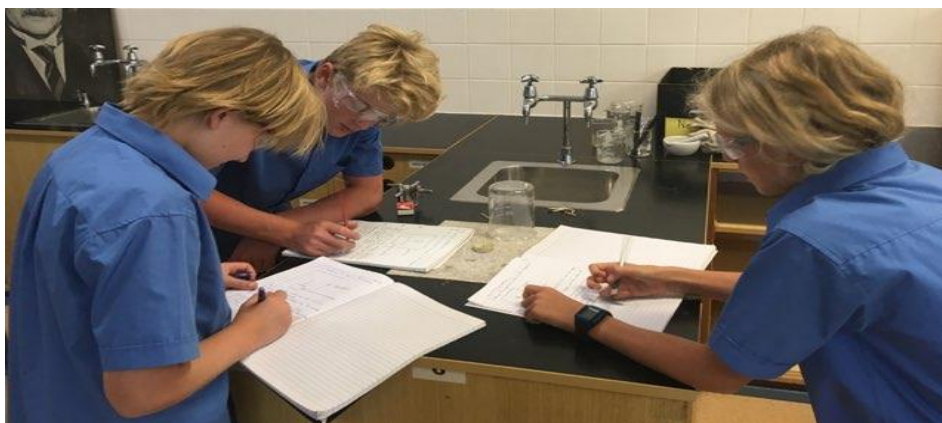
Leshaye Brandwood, Ella Dorahy, Noah Newlyn and Aaliyah Sigabalavu work collaboratively as they begin preparations for the first HSC examination of its kind.



Ms C Ward
Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics

News from Science

The year in Science has gotten off to a tremendous start, with critical thinking and creative questioning in evidence throughout all classrooms. The enthusiasm with which students have begun their year in Science has been impressive, and as a new member of the Keira community, I have appreciated the wonderful welcome that I have been given from students and staff. It is a privilege to have the opportunity to become part of such a vibrant and inclusive culture as Head Teacher of Science at Keira High School. I would like to acknowledge the amazing work of Mr Michael Robson and thank him for his incredible Keira Science legacy.



Our budding scientists in Year 7 were asked to reflect on their first few weeks in the Science labs:

Remi Carter: *I have found Science very fun so far in Year 7. I especially like the experiments at the back of the room. I liked when we lit the bunsen burner, hovered a metal ball over the fire and watched it heat and expand. We then ran water over the ball to see it contract.*

Tyler King: *I am liking high school because we have discussions that are more detailed and in depth, which means that we can understand and learn more about a subject.*

Shyla Davies: *Science is one of my favourite subjects, I love learning about all the topics...we have so many more things to do. I love Science.*

Manusiu Tongotongo: *What I like about Science is how we learn about new things and new experiments.*

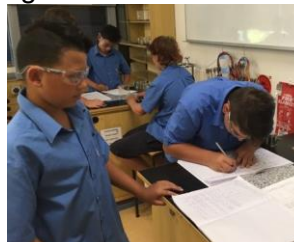
Gracie Neal: *We get to work in groups and work together to work out difficult questions and activities.*

Amina Abdullah: *In Science I am enjoying everything we are doing.*

Heidi Kukulovski and Katerina Nikoloska: *My favourite activity in Science was when we had to light up the candle and observe what will happen to it when we put the beaker over it. I was challenged by knowing what particles were. This year I hope to learn more about experiments in Science.*

Samuel Stevenson: *This year I hope to learn how the world works with science and research interesting things.*

Congratulations to all students on a very positive start to the year. We look forward to providing more opportunities for your Science interests and understanding to grow.



Ms S McKenzie
Head Teacher Science

News from Human Society and it's Environment

Welcome to all of our Keira families to the 2019 school year. It is amazing to believe that we are already nearly halfway through Term One. As Head Teacher of the Human Society and its Environment (HSIE) faculty, I wanted to inform you about some of the changes to faculty design and the special events we have planned. It is always exciting to see so many Keira High School students engaging in HSIE learning opportunities – both inside and outside the classroom – and we aim to build on this partnership in 2019.

Some of these are outlined below:

Staff

Last year we bid farewell to a long serving staff member, Ms Douglas, who retired from teaching. She has been teaching at Keira High for a number of decades, and has guided literally thousands of students during her employment here. We would all like to thank her for her leadership in our faculty and wish her all the very best for her years ahead. Our current teaching staff for HSIE in 2019 includes:

Mr Weber (Head Teacher HSIE)	Ms Andrievski
Ms Vlahakis (HT Wellbeing)	Mr Bridger
Ms Havilah (HT Teaching and Learning)	Ms Hrcic
Ms Brassington (HT Personalised Learning and Engagement)	Mr Kahabka (HSIE & Japanese)
Mr Langford	Mr Mihail
Ms Ramos	Ms Saunders

HSC Lectures

Course specific lectures will occur throughout the year and we will notify our classes accordingly. We want all of our HSC students to attend these events, as their being present will enrich and deepen their engagement with learning. The lectures always offer alternative insights and handy tips for when students are preparing for their upcoming examinations. Recently there have been some changes to specific HSIE course documents, so our teachers are also able to use these learning events as a way of enhancing their understanding of course requirements, and engage in valuable professional development.

HSC Study classes

Several teachers of HSC subjects in HSIE are providing extra classes for our Year 12 students. These classes occur on a weekly basis, are scheduled before school and take place in the Keira High School Learning Centre. Year 12 Teachers have designed the extra lessons with a strong focus on skill development, and aim to support students with the regular revision of content through writing workshops. Please encourage your child to attend in order for them to take full advantage of these HSIE learning opportunities.



National Geography and History competition

Both of these annual competitions have a significant number of Stage 4 and 5 students enter and represent Keira High school at a national level. Students are tested on general knowledge and have to apply their skills to a range of questions. Feedback from participants is always positive and this type of activity offers a challenging learning experience for students at our school. Over the years we have seen students achieve outstanding results at a national level, and we hope to see this repeated in 2019.

Excursions

We aim to provide a range of outdoor learning activities for our students in HSIE in 2019, so stay tuned for upcoming events. Many of these excursions require payment through our front office, and we will continue to endeavour to keep costs as low as possible. We regard these events as compulsory in terms of student engagement. Please let us know at the school if you would like your child to attend, but you need assistance with the financial costs to cover their involvement. All shared information will be respected and treated in a confidential manner.

Obviously events do not 'just happen' and I would like to pass on my thanks to the dedicated teachers in the HSIE Faculty who continue to provide these opportunities for our students. If you have any questions or enquiries about our faculty, please feel free to contact us here at Keira High School.



Mr K Weber
Head Teacher HSIE

Languages

The Languages Faculty has made a strong start with Stage 4 Japanese. This year there is real focus on communicative competence and speaking confidence with the introduction of a new syllabus in Stage 4. Stage 5 will be expanding their language skills by expanding their ability to read and write using Japanese script: hiragana, katakana and kanji.

Keira High School traditionally hosts three visits from Japanese school. The first visit will be from Ryukoku Junior High School, on Thursday March 7. This will provide our language students the opportunity to use their speaking skills. The visits highlight the importance of foreign language learning to communicate with Australia's international neighbours, to learn more about the world and enrich one's broader education.

The faculty hopes to arrange a Japan Study Tour for the September/October school holidays in 2020. We aim to spend two weeks, immersing students in Japanese language and culture. The study tour will be designed to maximise opportunities for students to use their Japanese language skills, meeting a variety of student interests.

Term 2 will be a busy term for both stages as we aim to broaden student engagement with Japanese culture through an excursion to Sydney. Students will have the opportunity to study the Japanese collection at the NSW Art gallery, taste a range of Japanese foods and visit Japanese department stores Kinokuniya and Daiso.



Ms P Havilah
Head Teacher of
Teach&Learn/Language



Great traditions, a confident future.



News from Personal Development Health and Physical Education

Active and informed citizens

At Keira we aim to promote our students' commitment to national values of democracy, equity and justice. We encourage students to be informed citizens who appreciate Australia's diversity and explore ways in which they can actively participate with their community to make a positive contribution to society.

Keira students will experience explicit learning around upcoming events that provide opportunities to actively engage in our community. Students who are involved in any community event are encouraged to see Mrs Matts in the PDHPE staffroom with contact details of a community member who can confirm their involvement. Student hours of engagement in our community will be recorded and recognised throughout the year.

Upcoming opportunities to engage in our community:

Clean up Australia Day

Date: Saturday 2 March 2019

Time: 9.00am

Location: Belmore Basin, Wollongong Harbour to Win Stadium

Description: Collecting waste

Please visit the Keira website for further details <https://keira-h.schools.nsw.gov.au>



Great Illawarra Walk - Join the Keira team

Date: Saturday 2 March 2019

Time: 7.00am from Shellharbour

Location: Shellharbour village or Wollongong depending on your chosen distance

Description: Walk from Shellharbour (or Wollongong) to Austinmer

Please visit the following website for further details and registration <https://greatillawarrawalk.com/>



Mrs E Matts
Head Teacher PDHPE

Sport News

Term one has commenced and so has begun the start of a very busy term with sporting opportunities for Keira High School students. This term there are a range of opportunities for students including:

Weekly Wednesday recreational sport

NSW knockout competitions against other local schools

South Coast individual and team trials

Swimming program for year seven students

School Swimming Carnival (15 February Week 3)

Cross Country Carnival (4 April Week 10)

Trials for Grade sport teams (10 April Week 11 and 1 May Week 1)



It is vital that all students keep up to date with sports notices on a daily basis on our sports noticeboard and daily announcements in roll call. A great website for students and parents to stay up to date with events coming Any queries in relation to any upcoming sporting opportunities please do not hesitate to contact our school sports organiser Mr Oliver Walker. Or visit: <https://app.education.nsw.gov.au/sport/Event>

Swimming Carnival 2019

The annual Keira High School Swimming Carnival was held on Friday 15 February at Corrimal Swimming pool. The sun was shining and both staff and students enjoyed an exciting day both in and out of water. There was many competitive races where students earned points for the overall house championship. There was also a range of novelty races on the day that allowed all students to earn valuable house points. Our four houses challenged each other throughout the day and Waratah red house ended up winning the Swimming Carnival House trophy. There was one record broken and equaled on the day. With Emma Lowe in year 9 equaling a thirty year old backstroke record and Dustin Moffit who broke the 200m Individual medley record. We had many students who qualified for the Illawarra Zone swimming carnival which will be held on the 26 of February at Corrimal Swimming pool. I would like to congratulate all students for their behavior and sportsmanship shown on the day. Congratulations to the following Age Champions who scored the most points on the day in their own age group throughout the competition. And best of luck to all competitors who made it through to the Zone Carnival.

Name	Age	Name
Dustin Moffit	12	Shyla Davies and Madison Sullivan-Bateup
Callum Burge	13	Helena Halios-Lewis
Jack Balkwill	14	Lauren Sheppard
Dane Burge	15	Emma Lowe
Fletcher Atkins	16	Libby Churchill
Clancy Lowe	17 +	Scarlet Curley

House Captains



On Tuesday the 12 of February, the 2019 Sport House Captains were announced and presented to the school community. These students were nominated by their peers, then taken through an application process where the eight candidates were selected. The captains play an important leadership role within the school community. Their role involves leading their houses at the three school carnivals, organising and leading lunch time sporting events, and promoting physical activity within the school community. Their

first substantial role will be to lead their house at the school swimming carnival, where all captains will be fighting to start the year off strong with their house.

Congratulations to the Sport House Captains for 2019 and we wish them all the best for their year ahead.

 **Acacia** – Charli Corbyn, Dylan Boyd  **Boronia** – Tatiana Luzaic, Sherlyn Robinson

 **Banksia** – Scarlett Curley, Newton Luu  **Waratah** – Marie Petreski, Holly Jones

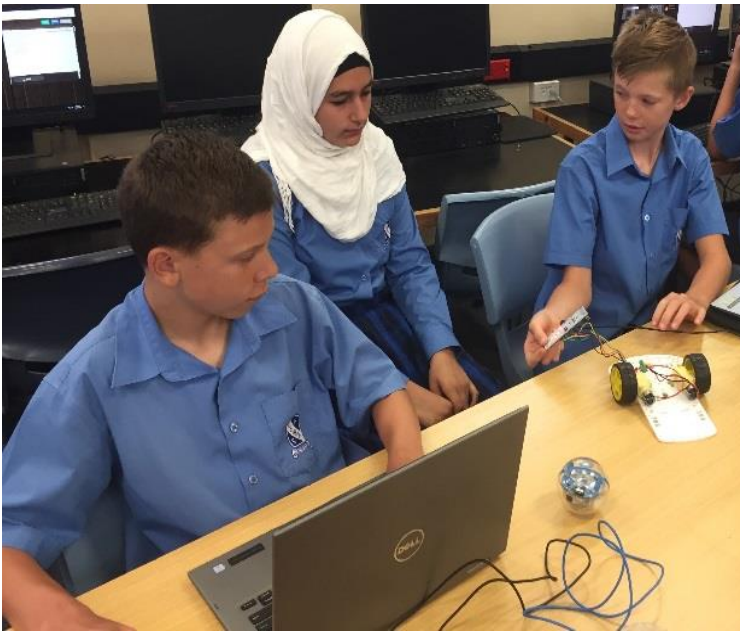


Mr S Sartori
PDHPE Teacher

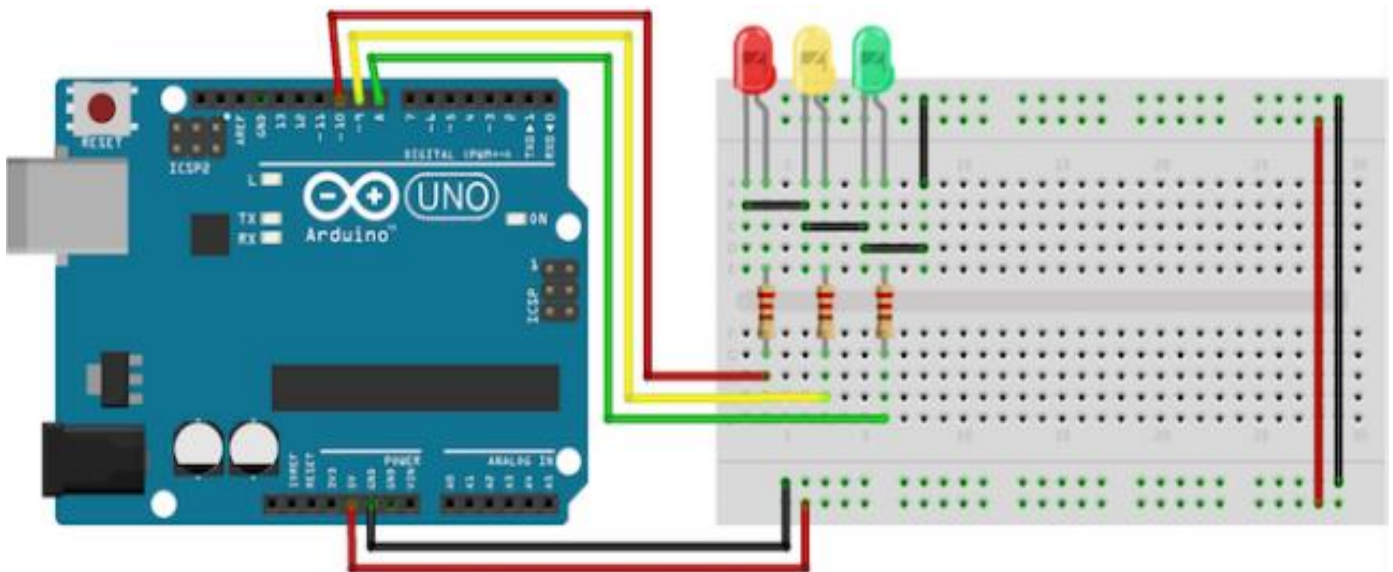
News from Technological and Applied Studies

CODING EXPERTS OF THE FUTURE

This year has seen the introduction of the new Technology Mandatory Syllabus for Year 7 students. Students in Stage 4 began a new unit of work this term titled 'Crack the Code' as part of the Digital Technologies module. Helping students understand the technology used to run a range of systems from traffic lights to smart phones and how they are programmed, gives them the ability to appreciate how programming can assist us in our day to day lives. Students have begun learning different languages used by computers and are currently learning 'python'. From this understanding students will learn how to use a microcontroller and write programs that coordinate the operation of a range of technologies.



Programming the Sphero ball and driverless car



Arduino circuit

Mr Wong
TAS Teacher

News from Special Education

Flexible Learning for SA

We've been grabbing iPads and logging in to Classdojo where our teachers put our assigned tasks. We've been taking on more responsibility by directing our own learning and completing tasks in the order we choose.

We upload video and photo evidence of our learning to Classdojo then review this evidence to assess our work.

In PDHPE this has meant that one person coaches another person and vice versa on how to improve their fundamental movement skills.

We are setting a goal to increase our flexible learning by a hundred fold.

By Angus Paddon, Xavier Jerimenko, Daniel Thelan-Finlay and Josh McGregor



Superman Challenge for SB

The senior students in SB have used initiative to set goals related to building our physical strength and fitness.

Kyle and Matthew have taken on leadership roles by modelling goal setting and planning. We've researched exercises and set a superman workout that links to our learning.

Each day more students join the team and set their own fitness goals.

We're tracking our progress on devices when we can and the next step is to sort out how we will assess our progress at the end of the term.



By Ravi Muliana, Luke Ljubek, Jamai Zylstra, Jaydon Donnelly and Kyle Watson.

Ms Crockford
Relieving Head Teacher Special Education

News from Creative and Performing Arts

The Art of Print

This outstanding exhibition showcased a range of printmaking techniques from students in years 7 to 10.

Taking up the whole foyer, lino prints, monoprints, collagraphs and etchings were exhibited.

We were honoured to have our Director, Dr Margaret Turner, open the exhibition for us and present certificates to students.

Printmaking is an ancient and accessible art form that allows the artist to create multiple copies of the same design, thus enabling many people to own their very own artwork.

Many of our talented artists sold copies of their prints to admiring family, friends and teachers.



*Annabella McKinnon
Receiving her award from
Dr Turner*



*Berk Dogan
Receiving his award from
Dr Turner*



*Cameron Knight
Receiving his award from
Dr Turner*

Music

The Keira High Band Program has commenced and it's not too late to join. The Keira High School Concert Band provides a tailored playing opportunity for players of concert band instruments for both beginners and experienced musicians. We have weekly rehearsals running at 1:15pm - 2:35pm sport time on Wednesday afternoons. The Keira High Band performs and participates in a variety of school events, seasonal recitals and many local band festivals. Gaining confidence in performance is an essential part of musical learning.

In 2019, the Keira High Performing Arts Faculty would like to congratulate the success of two of our Keira High Band members; Kye Storey and Tess Halling on being successful in the selection of the Illawarra South East Touring Ensemble. The Illawarra South East Performing Ensemble is a touring group of performers including a stage band, dancers and vocalists, presenting a musical variety shows to schools and community groups. Kalani Francis was also successful student through the audition process in the field of dance, well done to everyone student who auditioned.



Performance at the Winter Recital



Participation in the Illawarra Band Festival



Performance at the Engadine Band Festival

**Miss A Smith
Music Teacher
& Band
Program
Coordinator**

News from Learning and Support Personalised Learning and Engagement

Starting Strong at Keira High School

Starting high school is a time of significant change. For many children it will be a time of excitement and anticipation, while for others it can be a source of anxiety. In order to facilitate a smooth transition into Year 7 at Keira High School, targeted students engaged in the **Starting Strong Program**.

Starting Strong is an additional transition program designed to support Year 6 students and their transition to high school by providing structured opportunities for Year 6 students to become familiar with their new school environment through additional school tours, taster lessons and opportunities to meet teaching staff.

Keira High School is committed to ensuring that every student receives the best possible start to their high school education.

Best Start Year 7 Assessment

During Week 4, our school will participate in Best Start Year 7, an online literacy and numeracy assessment.

Best Start Year 7 assesses key literacy and numeracy skills of Year 7 students. It is designed to assist teachers to identify students who may require additional support in developing their literacy and numeracy skills and to plan lessons to support those students.

Please remind your child to bring headphones or earbuds to school during week 4 so that they can hear the audio during the assessment.

If you have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact **Ms. Davies**, *Personalised Learning and Engagement*.



Lexia Literacy Intervention Program

Lexia is a targeted program designed to support student learning in literacy. Its engaging and interactive interface targets aspects of literacy such as spelling, comprehension, grammar and punctuation. This program is individualised for each student.

Keira High School adopted this program in 2018 and will continue to offer this intervention strategy to students in Year 7 and Year 8 who require additional instruction to build their literacy capabilities.

If you have any questions about Lexia please contact **Mr Thompson**, *Personalised Learning and Engagement*.

Mrs L Brassington
Head Teacher Personalised Learning and Engagement

News from English as an Additional Language or Dialect

On Thursday 14 February Year 7 and Year 8 EAL/D students attended the inaugural Taking Control seminar at Wollongong Youth Centre.

Students learnt a range of valuable skills to do with self-control, maintaining positive relationships and learning how to handle stressful situations. The final session saw them learning African drumming skills, and students explored how playing the drum can demonstrate many of the skills needed to be healthy, happy citizens.



"The Wollongong Youth Centre was so good and I enjoyed it so much. My friends enjoyed it too and we hope that something like that happens again"

Moayad Al Arnoos, Year 7

"The Taking Control conference at the Wollongong Youth Centre has been an amazing experience as we learnt about cyber bullying, healthy relationships, and the law in Australia. We had cupcakes for recess and chicken sandwiches for lunch. I loved the African Drumming Workshop the best as we learnt to drum".

Ali Alhussainy, Year 7



Mr R Steffen
English and EAL/D Teacher

News from Wellbeing



Welcome to all new and returning staff and students. In 2018, the Welfare Team lead the delivery of wellbeing programs that targeted the Cognitive, Social, Spiritual, Physical and Emotional wellbeing of our students.

Students were engaged in programs such as, Peer Support, Travel Safety, Kindness Program, Resilience Program, Train Safety, YAM (Youth Awareness Mental Health Program), RUOK DAY?, Immunisation Program, Study Skills Program, Mindfulness and E-Safety online. These programs are a holistic approach that focus on enhancing the wellbeing of all students at Keira High School.

The role of Head Teacher Welfare is to raise awareness about support networks within our school and within the wider community. At school, students are encouraged to seek support from myself, Year Advisers, Supervisor of Female Students, School Counsellors, Deputy Principal and classroom teachers. As a result students are monitored and supported in a sensitive and timely manner.

2019 will see the continuation of improved wellbeing programs that focus on ensuring students are happy and engaged in their learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns about your child and their wellbeing.

Mrs V Kalatzis- Vlahakis
Head Teacher Welfare

School Counsellor



I am Asima Ahmed, a School Counsellor with many rewarding years of working with young people at Keira High School and other primary schools. I have a background in Psychology and Teaching. I use an eclectic approach in my counselling but have a special interest in Acceptance and Commitment Therapy approach. Parents can contact me at Keira High School on my days there. Students can self-refer and learn coping strategies which may help them deal with difficult thoughts and emotions. They can learn how to get help in school and from outside agencies. I would like to offer interested students the opportunity to learn a helpful coping strategy known as Progressive Relaxation in the School Counsellor room, during lunch on Friday.

Mrs A Ahmed
School Counsellor

My name is Melissa Kostrin and I have recently joined the team at Kiera High School as one of the school counsellors. I have a background in psychological support and education. I believe in a holistic and person-centred approach when working with young people and empowering them to be the best version of themselves, both at school and within the community. I aim to work with the strengths of the students and adapt my counselling style to meet the needs and goals of those who I support. I will be available at the school on Thursdays and alternate Wednesdays if you would like to contact me or to make a referral. I look forward to getting to know the students, staff and greater school community here at Kiera High School.

Ms M Kostrin
School Counsellor

Supervisor of Female Students



Welcome to all of our new and returning students in 2019! As the Supervisor of Female Students my role is to work within the Welfare Team and with wider staff to offer additional support to students. This can take the form of support during times of acute stress related to physical, social or emotional concerns. It also involves the delivery of programs that optimise wellbeing and learning around social and emotional health in particular. Below are details of programs being launched this week.

Immunisation Program

Our Immunisation Program starts this term with Year 7 receiving their first round of immunisations. Notes and Parent Information Kits were sent home with students in week 3 and need to be returned by 22 February. The first Immunisation Clinic will be run on Tuesday 9 April and will involve 6-8 nurses from NSW Health visiting the school to administer the immunisations. These events run as a calm and supportive process and students are closely monitored during recovery. If you are seeking further information feel free to contact me to discuss the process in more detail.



Young Women's Forum

The Young Women's Forum starts up again in week 4 this term. Our senior group will complete their program with an International Women's Day event held at Wollongong Town Hall on Wednesday 6 March. Following this the senior Young Women's Forum will hand over to our Year 10 group. The Young Women's Forum offers students an opportunity to discuss social issues relevant to their gender and culture and to make contact with elders in the community who can offer new perspectives and share experiences.



Shari Swan and Amarah Lee learn to make pasta at the Intergeneration Women's Forum with a group of multi-cultural female elders from our Illawarra community.

Mrs L Crockford
Supervisor of Female Students

News from Careers

The beginning of 2019 has been exciting with Ms Ellem joining the Keira High School Teaching Staff in Careers. Ms Ellem offers students a program with a myriad of opportunities to reach their career goals and support will be given to students in the transition from study to the workforce with the creation of Individual Career Action Plans.

Year 10 students have begun participating in Careers classes. In these classes have begun to build a career profile, have participated in a Holland Interest Test and will start to explore and train for the world of work through a variety of activities, classes and events. All students in NSW are required by NSW Education

HSC: All My Own Work



Standards Authority (NESA) to have satisfactorily completed 'HSC: All My Own Work' before entering the Preliminary HSC year (Year 11). Congratulations to the many Year 11 students that have already completed this mandatory task. **Year 11 students that have not already completed the NESA: All My Own Work Program will have the opportunity to complete the modules periods 1 -4, on Tuesday 26 February 2019 or can do so in their own time.** *(Please note: Students entered for Year 11 and Year 12 Life Skills courses are exempt from the completion of this program).*

Year 12 ATAR students had the opportunity to attend the Discovery Day at the University of Wollongong which gave students the opportunity to experience firsthand what a day at university was like. Students signed up for subjects of interest and received a personal timetable so they could attend lectures hopefully cementing student's aspirations for future courses.

Ms Ellem would like to introduce our Keira High School Careers Website which has all the career information and links for parents and students. It is suggested that senior students and parents sign up to the website for regular Newsletters, Career Information, Calendar alerts and much more.

Please visit:

www.keirahighschoolcareers.com

**Mrs J Ellem
Careers Adviser**

I've put together a new website.

It's a "One Stop Shop" for everything you need with Career Planning and help.

UAC/VTAC/QTAC

VET

LATEST NEWS AND EVENTS

WORK EXPERIENCE

DO AN INTERESTS TEST

FIND A JOB

CHOOSE A UNIVERSITY

GAP YEAR

CREATE A RESUME

DEFENCE CAREERS

YOUTH ALLOWANCE

CHECK IT OUT NOW!

Jennifer Ellem

Careers Adviser



The Keira Homework Centre

Enhancing Learning Beyond the Classroom

The Keira High School Homework Centre is up and running for 2019, providing support and structure for our students to enhance their learning.

A large number of students, across all years, took advantage of this wonderful program last year as way to develop effective study habits and importantly, increase their skills, knowledge and understanding in targeted areas. Regular attendance is encouraged; however, a *drop in when needed* attendance is also supported.



No more excuses!

The Keira Homework Centre is actively supervised by at least three teachers each week from different Key Learning Areas. Students can find out which Key Learning Areas the supervising teachers come from each week by looking at the poster on the Learning Centre door and outside the English Staffroom.

What is available at the Home Work Centre?

- a space for *all students* to learn and complete tasks, assignments and study
- the chance to collaborate with others
- resources, computers and the internet
- one on one teacher guidance
- focused learning
- literacy support and extension
- healthy afternoon tea to sustain focus

Where and When and Who?

- Our Library/Learning Centre
- Every Tuesday, 3:15 - 4:30pm
- All students from all years



We look forward to helping and supporting you as you realise your true potential.

Time, Support, Resources and Space
Everything you need from a Learning Plac