

NEWS



Week 4
Term 1
20 February 2026

KARIONG MOUNTAINS HIGH SCHOOL

Unity ✓ Knowledge ✓ Respect

4340 0246

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KMHS newsletter is published fortnightly on a Friday and can be accessed on the school website. Newsletters feature rotating updates from the faculties to showcase student learning and achievement, regular articles from our principal and deputy, along with reminders and upcoming events.

Content: Kariong Mountains High School

Design and layout: Annette Abolins

Wear your **HOUSE COLOUR** on Tuesday:



Our **KMHS Inspiring Excellence** campaign video is now live on the school website!



CALENDAR

MONDAY

23 February

Premier's Reading Challenge opens

Year 12 Music Industry Grove Excursion

Music Industry Country to Coast

2 March

TUESDAY

24 February

2026 Swimming Carnival

Year 12 Music Industry Grove Excursion

3 March

Central Coast Football Trials
Yarn Up 4:30pm

Years 4/5/6 Parent Information Evening 5 pm

WEDNESDAY

25 February

Domestic Violence Survivor presentation

Whole School Assembly

4 March

School Photo Catchup Day

THURSDAY

26 February

5 March

World Book Day

Zone Swimming Carnival

FRIDAY

27 February

6 March

International Women's Day



FROM OUR PRINCIPAL

Week 4 Term 1

Hello, to our Kariong Mountains High School Community!

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN - INSPIRING EXCELLENCE

Inspiring Excellence is the new campaign for NSW public schools. It has been developed to confidently communicate what public education stands for:

- ★ high expectations
- ★ continuous improvement
- ★ every learner achieving their potential

The **Inspiring Excellence** campaign is about celebrating the relentless drive across public schools to help all students achieve their full potential. The KMHS campaign launched last week with social media messages and a new school video to promote the excellence of Kariong Mountains High School. *Below are two examples from our campaign:*



Please visit the school website to view our campaign video:



Launch of our New House System

This week, our school underwent an exciting transformation with the launch of our new house system. Please see the article in this week's newsletter for all of the exciting news!

Years 11 and 12

Term 1 has had a busy start, especially with **Year 11** beginning their Preliminary year for their HSC pathway and **Year 12** already halfway through their HSC year. The rigour of senior study is very different to the junior school, and, for some students, the senior course can be challenging.

Positive attendance is critical for students to achieve their full potential at the end of Year 12. Check-in at the beginning of the day is **compulsory for all students to attend**. Please note that flexible attendance (Year 12) only applies to periods 4 and 5.

The beginning of the school day is used by year advisors, Ms Richmond (Year 12) and Ms Sayal (Year 11) - and our Stage 6 coordinator, Mr Bath, to provide support for all students as they work through assessments. Check-In is also a time to build a culture of support and achievement. I thank parents and carers for your support of these initiatives.

Kariong Mountains High School has a detailed assessment policy in place to support senior students. A copy is available on our website. Year 12 were issued with copies at the beginning of Term 4 last year and Year 11 received theirs this week. This week, I presented information to parents / carers and Year 11 students on the NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) requirements for the Stage 6 pathway.

Below are key points for students and parents to remember in relation to the Assessment policy:

- ★ Students **sign for** their assessment booklet and are to keep a hard copy.
- ★ **Assessment Policy booklets** are accessible on the [school website](#).
- ★ **Misadventure:** in the event of a major illness or problem occurring, students must see the Deputy Principal, Mr White, as soon as possible. The student **MUST** see the deputy principal on their **FIRST** day back at school to apply for a misadventure and submit appropriate paperwork. A medical certificate or statutory declaration needs to be submitted with the paperwork for the task mark to be counted. Examples of the required documentation are included in the Assessment policy.
- ★ **Technology issues** are not a valid reason for misadventure. Students must be organised and have a plan of using a USB to back up their work and printing at school if the need arises.
- ★ It is also a good idea to map tasks on a calendar or organiser as a helpful visual reminder of what is needed for time planning. Both assessment schedules include this organisation tool.

Please head to the NESA website for more information: <https://www.educationstandards.nsw.edu.au/wps/portal/nesa/home>

Year 12 will complete their half-yearly examinations this term:
Exam Dates: Monday 26 March — Thursday 2 April.

NAPLAN Years 7 and 9 2026

NAPLAN will be conducted online from Wednesday 11 March to Monday 23 March. The writing test **MUST** be sat by all students on Wednesday 11 March.

Parents and carers can access supports and resources on the National Assessment Program website: <https://www.nap.edu.au/naplan>.

Please contact the school should you have further queries.



Kariong Mountains Learning Community

I have the privilege to work with five partner schools in our community: Kariong, Somersby, Central Mangrove, Kulnura and Peats Ridge Public schools. This term, the schools have met and formed a **Partnership Action Plan**. This plan will be used by all the schools in the coming year to track joint initiatives between KMHS and the Primary schools. Collectively, a large amount of work is occurring in improving student outcomes in the following areas:

- ★ Literacy and numeracy initiatives
- ★ Transition planning for Year 6
- ★ Student profiling
- ★ Combined NAIDOC day celebrations
- ★ Years 4 and 5 Taster Day
- ★ Parent Information Evening - Years 4, 5 and 6
- ★ STEM activities.

Additionally, KMHS will be holding a Years 4/5/6 information evening on Tuesday 3 March. Information will be forwarded to all partner schools - and advertised on the KMHS social media.

School Uniform

Thank you, to parents and carers, for your diligent support of our school uniform and footwear policy. Communications, last year, and at the beginning of this year, provided a detailed outline of requirements regarding student footwear. The school is asking that **all-black, leather/suede upper** shoes are purchased whenever students require new shoes, to be in line with DoE Health and Safety requirements.

Additionally, with the start of the school year, we have experienced some cooler weather. A reminder to all parents that hooded jumpers can be worn, however, they must be the school jumper or a plain blue jumper only. Jumpers of other colours and/or with large logos and branding are **not** considered school uniform. Thank you, for working with the school on this important expectation.

Mrs Donna James
Principal

CAPA News

We are thrilled to announce that five of our students' artworks have been selected for **A Central Vision**, the annual Central Coast Public Schools Secondary Visual Arts Exhibition. This is a fantastic achievement and a wonderful recognition of their creativity and dedication.

Please see the invitation below - and join us in celebrating these talented young artists by attending the opening night. Your support helps make this milestone even more special.

Student artwork details:

- ▶ Danyelle (Year 9) Distortion - Photography
- ▶ Niamh (Year 10) Minimalism - Photography
- ▶ Summer (Year 7) Hybrid - Ceramics
- ▶ Felicity (Year 9) Under The Sea - Painting
- ▶ Makedde (Year 12) Light Bulb - Photography

Ms Kim Skerritt
CAPA Teacher

Welcoming community and families to our school:



DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Week 4 - Term 1

Welcome back to all students. I hope all families had a safe and happy break. As always, the new scholastic year is shaping up to be as busy as ever with quality learning and many other extra-curricula opportunities. Let's make this a positive year by setting goals and focussing on achieving these high expectations.

Following are a few short organisational reminders:

We are a **uniform school** and this sits within our value of **Unity**. All students are expected to wear full school uniform every day. On rare occasions, *where this is not possible*, students need to see me before 8:50am to get a uniform pass. A note from home is also required. Detentions will be issued to students who do not comply.

School starts at 8:50am each day and students are expected to be on time. When **late arrival** is expected, a note or phone call to the front office is required.

Attendance is key to student achievement. When students are absent from school, a notification from parents / caregivers is required on or before the day of return. This can be done via a note, email, phone call or Compass entry.

If students are required to **leave early for a legitimate purpose**, please contact the office in the first instance. Arrangements can then be made to have your child ready to be collected and we can update our attendance records.

Please check your **Compass** information to ensure all **contact details are accurate**. This is essential if we need to make contact with families, including if there is an emergency or other unexpected situation.

The **mobile phone ban** in schools remains. I continue to be impressed with the compliance and expect this will continue. Teaching staff have commented on how much more engaged students have been in the classroom.

Due to the location of our new **Support Unit**, the bike racks are located at the front entry of the school. It is strongly recommended that they are **locked** as the school is not responsible if they are stolen.

I am looking forward to another positive year at our fine school. With students embracing our values of '*Unity, Knowledge, Respect*', great outcomes can be had by all.

Mr Scott White
Deputy Principal

PDHPE FACULTY UPDATE

Get ready, KMHS - History has been made!

We have officially launched our two brand-new house teams:

SPARK (Yellow)

and

IGNITE (Red)



The buzz around the school has been incredible. Students can check Compass portal, to see which team they are in.

Our Swimming Carnival is next Tuesday. We can't wait to see the school come alive. Students are reminded to wear their house colours — **RED** (Ignite) or **YELLOW** (Spark) — as we officially compete in our two new house teams for the very first time!

The energy across **PDHPE** classes has been fantastic. Teachers are thrilled to be back, and the feedback from lessons, has been overwhelmingly positive. Students have returned motivated, engaged and ready to learn.

Knockout sport is also in full swing, with teams training hard and representing our school with pride.

A reminder for students to sign up for your chosen sport outside the staffroom to ensure you don't miss out.

We are looking forward to a big term ahead filled with participation, teamwork and plenty of house spirit!

The PDHPE Faculty



2026 PBL Faculty Awards and Rewards

We are excited to share our new model for 2026 **Positive Behaviour for Learning** (PBL) Faculty awards and Term rewards.

At KMHS, we are committed to promoting the core values of *Unity, Knowledge, Respect*. To highlight and celebrate students, who consistently demonstrate these values, we have established a structured award system that will take place throughout the year. Each faculty will host one whole school assembly (*Wednesday*) per term, to present the week's PBL Faculty Awards.

These awards recognise students, who embody our core values, within their respective classes and subjects. One student per class will be chosen for each award. In addition to the term Faculty awards, there will be end-of-year PBL awards presented at our annual **Presentation Night** in December. Students will continue to receive **Positive Memos** from teaching staff, for demonstrating outstanding behaviour and effort in line with our PBL values. These memos will accumulate and go towards qualifying students for end-of-term rewards e.g. bowling, ice skating, movies etc.

This is a fantastic way to recognise and reinforce the positive behaviours that contribute to a thriving school environment. We appreciate your continued support in encouraging and celebrating these important values with your child.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out.

First Staff PBL Award for Term 1

Mr Riley Sutton - "Always being Kind, Helping, Being Fair"
- *Nominated by students.*

Thank you!

Ms Emma Johnstone



Community News

Supporting
International
Women's
Day


International Women's Day #GiveToGain #WWD2026

WORLD
BOOK
DAY
5 MARCH 2026

JOIN NOW

Australian Air League
NSW Group

NSW GROUP IS NOW ENROLLING



Since 1934 the Australian Air League has been teaching young boys and girls nationwide all about aviation, while helping them develop important life skills like leadership, discipline, self confidence and teamwork. When you join the league you will make new friends and take part in fun and exciting activities, on the ground and in the air.

Each week you will attend your local squadron where you will learn valuable skills and take part in fun and interesting activities and classes. Some of our classes include Meteorology, Navigation, Photography and Community Service. Squadrons also attend training camps, sport and recreational days, flying experiences and ceremonial drill.

We welcome boys and girls from the age of 8 years old from all different cultures and backgrounds. Parents and families are welcome to support or even join their local squadron as a volunteer. All adult members and volunteers are Working with Children Checked.

The Australian Air League is running both a fun and educational programme that is making fine citizens out of our young Australians.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE AUSTRALIAN AIR LEAGUE AND YOUR CLOSEST SQUADRON PLEASE CONTACT

Email: development.nsw@airleague.com.au
www.airleague.com.au

ACTIVE KIDS WE'RE COVID SAFE

We would like to invite you, as a special guest, to share in the celebration of A Central Vision by attending the official exhibition opening.

A CENTRAL VISION

21 FEBRUARY - 29 MARCH
GOSFORD REGIONAL GALLERY

OPENING:
Friday
20th FEBRUARY
2026 / 6p.m.

