Hey, the P&C!

Welcome to our first column of P&C news and comment.

2012 has been a year of transition for KHS with the retirement of both principal and deputy. At a school less sure of its identity and purpose such change might have been seismic. At KHS a number of staff stepped into unfamiliar roles and performed those new roles superbly, and the P&C thanks them. We thank also Mr Rob O’Brien who, since August, has brought calm intelligent leadership to the role of relieving principal.

The wait for results has now begun for this year’s HSC students. Many of those departing students have been a colourful and musical presence at the school and the P&C wishes them the results they themselves are hoping for.

Few meetings go by without a request for money. This year the P&C has bought two high-definition digital video cameras for Drama/Music, paid half the cost of a telescope for the Science faculty, and contributed a substantial amount towards the cost of silk banners to be designed and produced by Aboriginal students at KHS and hung in the hall. Also pending in the hall is a new sound system, to be paid for by the P&C using in part funds from last year’s Big Day In. The P&C has also fully funded two music scholarships to pay for outside tuition for students in vocal and instrument and these scholarships will be ongoing and hopefully expanded.

Exciting news is that the P&C has held discussions with the P&C at Katoomba Public School and both associations have agreed to work together on next year’s Blue Mountains Music Festival. Details are still being finalised, but the P&C will be seeking parents and carers, staff and senior students to work as volunteers over the Festival weekend. Three shifts will entitle the volunteer to a wristband giving free entry to events. Our involvement has the potential to raise serious money for KHS. We’ll keep you posted.

The school gardens planted and tended by the P&C are flourishing now that the warmer weather has arrived, although the fern garden near the admin block took hits from both frost and snow. We extend our thanks to students for the respect they are now showing the plantings, some of which are now tall enough to give the shade intended.

As most parents and carers will be aware, the NSW Government has announced cuts to the education budget of $1.7 billion. Clearly this is a government which places a higher value on roads than on the education of our children. The P&C approached our local member Ms Roza Sage for detail on the impact of the proposed cuts on KHS and were given a vague assurance that there was nothing to be worried about. When reminded that we had asked for detail not assurances she went very quiet and the P&C has not heard from her since, despite further requests for real information. That campaign will continue.
Any parent or carer who would like to join us for a short working bee in the gardens is very welcome. A good chance to see what is growing.

Saturday morning November 24, 8.30-10.30. Please contact me for details, or just arrive.

P&C meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month during term. Our November meeting is on the 21st at 7.30 pm in the staff common room. We're a friendly bunch, come along and find out what's happening at KHS.

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