



Principal's Message

A message from Mark

Hello parents and friends of Karonga. Welcome to our Term 2 Week 5 newsletter.

Student Achievement

Kind – thank you to Chris S and Jaeyhun for kindly offering to collect soup money from the staff.

Safe – well done Christopher of Room 12 for using the Maxi's roundabout safely.

Learn – congratulations Georgia for excellent work in communication in the class. Great to hear that you are making choices with PECS.

P&C

Thank you to a number of parents whom have nominated for very occasional school daytime meetings to act as representatives for all parents. These occasions happen once or twice a year and it's great to have a list of parents we can call and see who is free. These are usually for meet-and-greets or presentations. If you are potentially available during the day can you please let the school office know so we can add you to the list.

Swim School and Pool Closures

I'd like to thank the P&C for raising an excellent point about pool use, swim programs, pool closure and general pool use by external bodies. The question was asked about why the pool was closed for special swim scheme with a general sentiment that our students must be missing out

The Karonga pool is never hired out or used by private operators during school hours. The only organisation that can use the pool during school hours is the Department of Education. There are 2 occasions through the year that the Department of Education sends its swim scheme instructors to run programs in the Karonga Pool. In **Term 1** the pool is used by these instructors to provide special lessons to a local special education support unit and to another small primary school. We have negotiated that this take place early in term 1. This time presents minimal disruption to new classes seeking to engage in swimming as teachers and supervisors carefully plan each year for pool use – assessing risk, required support and establishing requirements for specialist help from SO instructors and hydrotherapy teams. This is part of the reason why in term 1 swimming usually starts midway through the term.

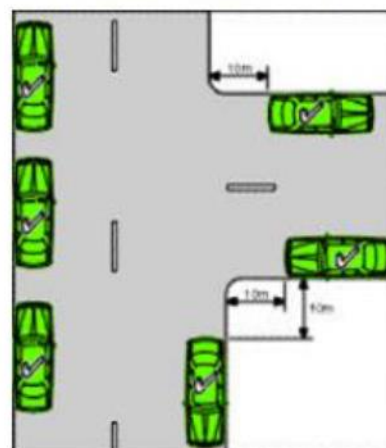
The second period is early in **Term 2**. Special swim scheme operates for our students in Kindergarten to Year 6. This does interrupt our regular aquatic programs but the benefit for a number of students in the primary years is 2 full weeks of intense specialist instruction that comes at no charge.

We have a number of organisations that hire the pool after school hours and the income generated is used to fund pool maintenance, pool upgrades, swimming and aquatic programs for the students such as the engagement of specialist instructors through Special Olympics and also hydro therapists.

Car Parking

We've received a letter from Parramatta council re: parking and the intersection of Karonga Close and Dent Street. Please adhere to the road rules – avoid a ticket

"A driver must not stop on a road within 10 metres from the nearest point of an intersecting road at an intersection without traffic lights..."



Calendar

June

Monday 11 th	Public Holiday – Queen's B'day
Wednesday 13 th	Post School Bus Trip

July

Wednesday 4 th	End of Term Assembly
Friday 6 th	Last Day of Term 2

Room 3

From Mel and Kerrie

There have been a lot of changes in Room 3 this term and it is only halfway through! We have sadly farewelled our friends Elijah, Genevieve, and Yeting as they move to another class, and welcomed our new friends Jake and Jayden. Lucky for us, we still get to see our “old” friends at play time and are maintaining those strong friendships.

This term our class has been focusing on independence where possible. The students in Room 3 can sometimes find it quite difficult to move their bodies, particularly for quick responses, so we are concentrating on and celebrating the movements we can do. Some of our great independent skills include:

Brendan is an eager user of his tablet through eye gaze technology. Brendan will greet us in morning circle with “hello” by using his eyes to choose the “hello” symbol.



Above: Brendan vocalised loudly when he saw Thomas toys while on Community Access.

Jake and Lachlan are both learning to manipulate their wheelchairs and move independently around the classroom. They are also both encouraging each other to move around sneakily when they think Mel and Kerrie are not looking! It is lovely to see such a fun friendship forming.

Jayden adores listening to the “Hairy Maclary” audiobook and will turn his head towards the sound and smile at the lively sections of the book.

Matilda has been away a lot with some health concerns and we are missing her. When she is at school, Matilda holds the fort as the only Room 3 girl! It’s a tough role but Matilda can definitely handle it.



Above: Matilda grins while independently painting.

We have also been able to start visiting Carlingford Court for community access. Our program is ever evolving, but we are currently checking out the toys section at Target (a big hit with Brendan!) and ordering McDonalds for treats (a big hit with Jake!). We hope to expand what we do at the shops as the year progresses and even start purchasing grocery items for the school’s food technology programs.

Room 5

From Anita and Emma

Room 5 have been enjoying our Community Access sessions on Friday mornings. So far this year we have been to Brickpit Park in Thornleigh and to Cumberland State Forest in West Pennant Hills.

At Brickpit Park we played on some of the equipment. Joseph particularly enjoyed the flying fox and the climbing frame. Sharon and Winfred enjoyed the swings.

At Cumberland State Forest, everyone enjoys going for a walk on the sensory trail. As we walk we touch some of the bark on the trees to see how it feels. Sometimes it is smooth and sometimes it is rough.



At each location we enjoy having a snack to eat. While we are out we follow our school rules – kind, safe, learn. We also look at all the signs we see in the community through the windows of the bus and follow community rules and expectations.



New Student – Jake

From Mel Currey

At the very end of Term 1, we welcomed the happy and smiley Jake to Karonga School. Jake knows a lot of his friends from Allowah and is pleased to see so many familiar faces in Room 3.

Jake enjoys singing and humming to music and has impressed us all with his incredible pitch; if you play a song to Jake, he will listen carefully and then sing along to it perfectly. What a skill! Ed Sheeran and Tom Jones are among his current favourites.

Jake also has a great sense of humour and enjoys having a laugh with both his peers and the staff. He particularly enjoys it when something is accidentally dropped in the classroom!

We look forward to Jake sharing his musical talents and humour with Karonga over the years.

Room 8

From Robyn, Sherie and Mandy



Elijah, Genevieve, Yeting and Genesis have settled into a new classroom and we have all warmly welcomed Talia, who has just started school.

Left: Yeting, Genevieve and Genesis getting ready for morning circle.

Last week 10 eggs arrived in an incubator and within a few days they had all hatched. We have been reading stories and singing songs about chickens as well as listening to the Chicken Dance. We have done some chicken craft with feathers and crushed egg shells. We are using a toy chicken to practise gentle patting for when we are able to pat the real chickens.

During swimming lessons the students work with Dianne our swimming teacher/ physio. Yeting is practising her walking by moving along the bottom step and by walking in the shallow water. Yeting, Elijah and Genesis are working on finding the bottom of the pool with their feet so they can safely return to an upright position. Talia is calm and confident in the pool.



Above: Elijah is swimming with Dianne

Supported by floatation devices she is exploring what her body can do in the water and has discovered that she can spin. Two weeks of swim school start this week so everyone should make great progress.

Genevieve and Yeting are working towards developing their mealtime independence. Elijah continues to use BigMak communicators to request mealtime items. Genevieve, Yeting and Genesis are using visuals to make choices during mealtimes.

We love to visit the Sensory Room once a week. The bubble tube which changes colours and the mirrors are very popular with all the students especially Talia and Genesis. Genevieve produces lots of interesting noises on the sound board and Yeting is fascinated by the neon tubes which continually change colour. Genevieve and Elijah have worked out how to turn on the lights in the star tunnel.

During Sensory play in our room Talia, Yeting and Genesis love to explore in the ball pit while Genevieve and Elijah enjoy running their hands through the coloured rice. Everyone enjoys using shaving cream and bubble play. The Liberty Swing is just outside our room now so we are able to use it regularly. Yeting especially enjoys the swing and will laugh and give a big smile. We are all working on our school rule of being kind as well as learning to take turns. We are continuing to study colours this term starting with brown and now onto yellow.

Yeting, Genesis, Elijah and Talia are practising their walking skills and now we are close to Maxi's playground, they are able to walk to and from there for each break instead of using their wheelchairs. Well done everyone.



In our room we have a keyboard for students to explore. Elijah and Yeting are working towards hitting one key at a time. Genevieve loves to run her finger along the keys and Genesis and Talia enjoy making beautiful music. We are all learning to hold onto shakers and bells during singing time and Elijah loves to strum the ukulele.

Left: Talia making music on the keyboard.

KWS for all

From Ruth Rogers, Deputy Principal

Having successfully run Key Word Signing (KWS) courses for families and professionals over the past 2 years we decided to up-skill all our school staff over 2 twilight sessions. The first of the 3 hour sessions was warmly received with staff joining in a variety of games and activities. Staff learnt to fingerspell to each other, they learnt about the important use of gesture with Karonga students as well as a core vocabulary of words. Great fun was had putting these words together to make silly sentences and lyrics to songs. In the second session we will cover further Auslan vocabulary, Sign-names and how we embed signing for the Karonga Signing Choir.

Senior Parent Evening

From Janelle Simpson-Goodwin, Assistant Principal

Last weeks Senior Parent Evening was a wonderful opportunity for our parents to prepare for the journey that they are on towards the transition of their child from school to their adult life post-school.

All students in the Senior School are on a transition pathway when they commence in Year 7 and it becomes increasingly a focus and priority in their PLPs and learning programs as they progress to Year 12.

The night was an excellent forum for parents to hear from a range of speakers and become informed about the transition process and the increasingly diverse post-school venues and programs.

It was also an important opportunity for parents to ask questions, and to network with one another - to share information and give each other support.

We were very grateful to our presenters who were able to speak from a range of perspectives about the transition process – Suzanne Lawrence (Relieving Transition Teacher); Elaine Martin (parent of a former student); and Wayne Newell and David Peachey (representatives from Minimbah, a post-school service provider).



Let's Look in the Lunchbox

(Myths about the lunchbox)

It may not be perfect but we guarantee if your kids help make the food in their lunchboxes they are more likely to eat it.

Myth: overpacking

Often parents tend to pack lots of food in kids lunchboxes so they have plenty to choose from when it comes to lunchtime. The reality is that most children want to eat their lunch quickly and go and play with their friends.

Keep it easy for them by trying to stick to this simple guide. Pack a sandwich (or sandwich alternative like leftovers), 2-3 healthy snacks (ensuring one is veggies and one is fruit) and a water bottle.

Leave out the pre-packaged snacks full of fat, sugar or salt and get back to the basics and lunchboxes are sure to come home empty!



ALL ABOARD !

Wednesday 13th June 2018

Karonga School's Annual bus trip for parents to Post School Centres is on again!

All Senior School (Yrs 7-12) parents welcome

**Depart Karonga at 9.15am
Return to Karonga at 2.15pm**

Lunch provided

Join Suzanne Lawrence, Transition Teacher to visit 3 service providers - Dulkara, Flintwood (Pennant Hills) and Warrah.

This is a wonderful opportunity to see a range of post-school programs in action.

Be quick as seats are filling up!

Please RSVP by calling the Office staff on 98681920.

Any questions please contact:
Janelle Simpson-Goodwin
Assistant Principal