



Principal's Message

A message from Mark

Hello parents and friends of Karonga.

Parents will be well aware of our vision – why we do what we do at Karonga. **We believe all children can learn.** To this end our school provides quality, individualised education in a positive and supportive environment through the implementation of meaningful learning experiences which encourage resilience and independence. We are committed to developing partnerships with families and community that support students to become life-long learners and valued members of society.

It has been lovely to see everyone return from a long Christmas break. We congratulate our new students on a successful transition. Welcome Phoebe, Gordon, Jonathon, Joel, Emaan and Gavin. We look forward to some fabulous achievements from you at Karonga School.

Staffing

As is always the case we start the new year with a number of staff changes.

We have retained and recruited a number of excellent temporary teachers with Sherie Anderson teaching in Room 14, Shani Kennedy in Room 8, Kamal Lamba in Room 3 and Debra Whittaker in Room 6.

Karonga Professional Experience Hub School

I am pleased to announce that Karonga has been nominated as a NSW Department of Education professional experience hub school. Karonga was nominated for the prestigious partnership by the Executive Director Public Schools NSW and endorsed by Director Educational Leadership. Karonga has become one of 22 schools in the state, and the only specialist education setting, to enter into the partnership. Karonga is excited to partner with the Australian Catholic University to share our expertise to help shape the next generation of educators. Karonga has an amazing group of very experienced teachers who are constantly seeking to improve learning outcomes for our students. Our teaching staff will provide a fabulous model of exemplary teaching and learning that we are only too happy to share.

Meet the teacher night

Parents are invited to meet with the teaching and some support staff on Wednesday 20th February. This is a fantastic opportunity to gain insight into the new class / new year and some of the things your child will experience in 2019.

The evening will start at 5.30pm in the school hall. Parents will be able to hear about therapy, creative arts, swimming, P&C,

transition, integration and the exciting things teachers are learning to help our students learn. Following the brief meeting, parents will be invited to classrooms to meet the class teacher and find out about how the class will work in 2019. For students with a new room or new staff it's the perfect time to see what your child does every day, take a look at their room, talk to their staff, hear from and share with other parents. For students with the same teacher and same room this is a great opportunity to see and hear about new things for this year – don't miss it.

Room Allocation

All classes have settled well with their new teachers and support officers. During the first week executive and teaching staff have been observing the function of different classes to ensure that we have allocated the right spaces to meet the complex needs of many of our students.

Health Care Plans

Teachers are working carefully through current student documentation to ensure continuity of support. As part of this process Health Care Plans are being reviewed. Parents and carers of students with an Individual Health Care Plan will have the opportunity to support this process by reviewing your child's plan during PLP meetings or at another agreed time.

Ambulance Forms

Thank you to those parents who have returned the ambulance forms for updating. These forms are generated from the Department of Education database and it is important we review and update any incorrect information. If you have not yet returned the forms I encourage you to do so as soon as possible.

Personalised Learning Plans

"Research demonstrates that effective schools have high levels of parental and community involvement. This involvement is strongly related to improved student learning, attendance and behaviour. Family involvement can have a major impact on student learning..."

Department of Education – "Family-School Partnerships Framework" pg. 2

We are looking forward to continuing the partnership in education we share through the development of Personalised Learning Plans for all students. These plans form the foundation of teaching and learning in the classroom. Teachers have begun the year's teaching program using information shared through our handover processes. The refinement of these programs will come after our parents have provided their valuable input.

Private and External Therapy 2019

As per NDIS documentation, school based therapy intervention is not a preferred option but there are times when a service may enhance access and participation at school. At all times we seek to ensure that students are not disadvantaged in any way by the introduction of an external service provider into the classroom context.

The school is conscious of providing therapy staff and parents with clear understanding of our processes so that we can ensure expectations are matched across all stakeholders. Each class program is very busy with class based learning, music therapy, aquatic activities, community participation etc. At Karonga we currently accept, where approved, therapy staff between the hours of 12.00pm and 3.00pm. There continues to be no therapy services during break times. If you would like to consider therapy at school in 2019 please speak to the class teacher.

There are 5 key steps for parents and carers who seek to have External and NDIS-funded services delivered at Karonga:

- 1. Speak to the class teacher**
- 2. Ask the school in writing**
- 3. Meet with school staff to discuss details**
- 4. Principal considers your request taking into account the needs of your child, other students and the operations of the school**
- 5. If agreed, the service needs to enter into an agreement with the school and meet important legal requirements.**

We have an exciting year ahead. I'm very much looking forward to the journey with our whole Karonga community.

Calendar**February**

Wednesday 20th Meet the Teacher night – 5:30pm

**Student Achievement Week 2
Assembly Award Recipients**

Room	Student	Room	Student
1	Louisa	11	Phoebe
2	Bavan	12	Oscar
3	Genevieve	13	Oras
4	Jayden	14	Joel
5	Gavin		
6	Sarah		
7	Om		
8	Julie		

**Student Achievement Week 3
Assembly Award Recipients**

Room	Student	Room	Student
1	Emaan	11	Sophia
2	Bavan	12	Jake
3	Yeting	13	Sylvie
4	Jayden	14	Kimberley
5	Gordon		
6	Sadev		
7	Harry		
8	Genesis		

Room 13

From Liza and Sandiya

Happy Chinese New Year: we are celebrating the Year of the Pig!

In Room 13, we have the following students: Leron, Aria, Geonwoo, Sylvia, Anaya, Oras and Timothy with staff members, Liza West and Sandiya Kodippili.

On the first day back of school, students already engaged themselves in Music Therapy session with Jann, with the children interacting with various instruments. The session culminated with the students playing their choice of instruments in unison as if they were a mini band.





In the classroom, the students have started practising their literacy and numeracy skills by doing a variety of pen and paper activities, teacher generated puzzles, board games and other fun activities to develop their academic skills. In the weeks to come, Room 13 will commence the other class activities as they get slotted in the weekly timetable.

Library

From Janelle Simpson-Goodwin, Assistant Principal/Teacher Librarian

Reading is a wonderful shared experience that develops positive relationships between parents and children, encourages leisure time routines and can stimulate language development.

Two important ways to foster a love of reading is by borrowing books from the school library or purchasing books through the Scholastic Book Club



Borrowing Books

Borrowing books from the school library provides a wonderful opportunity to read with your child.

I would encourage all students and families to take advantage of the depth and diversity of our library collection - from picture books and chapter books to sensory books and board books, making the reading experience exciting and accessible for all our students.

Please send in a library bag with your child's name on it so that they are able to borrow. Books should be returned each week in order to borrow new ones.

Below is a list of library days for each class.

Day	Class
Monday	Rm3, Rm7
Tuesday	Rm5, Rm6, Rm12, Rm14
Wednesday	Rm11, Rm13
Friday	Rm1, Rm2, Rm4, Rm8

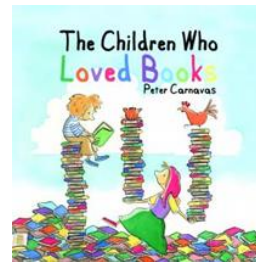


Scholastic Book Club

Twice a Term you will receive a Scholastic Book Club brochure.

Each brochure has a selection of books for different ages and abilities that may be suitable for your child, for other siblings or for relatives. This is a wonderful opportunity for parents to foster a love of books through students reading, or being read to.

If you have any questions regarding the library, please contact me at school.



*"You may have tangible wealth untold;
Caskets of jewels and coffers of gold.
Richer than I you can never be-
I had a parent who read to me."*

Karonga School is a nut aware school



Please **do not** send to school:

- any nuts
- any spread containing nuts eg. peanut butter, nutella
- any muesli bars
- packages of mixed dried fruit that contain nuts eg. trail mix
- or any other product that lists nuts as an ingredient.

Thank you for your assistance.

National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Community Connection Desk

Find out more about the NDIS and meet a Local Area Coordinator (LAC). These are drop in consultations but an appointment is needed if you require AUSLAN or language interpreting services.

The LAC can assist you with the following:

- One to one time to have your individual questions answered
- Information to access the NDIS
- Information to help you understand your NDIS plan
- Information to connect you to your local community and services
- Support to help you identify the next steps to take on your NDIS journey

If you would like to attend please RSVP on 9275 9441 OR <https://bit.ly/2DR02pb>

Details of times and locations are:

- Sunday 10th March – Warringah Mall Library – 10am-12pm
- Thursday 21st March – Hornsby Library – 2pm-4pm
- Tuesday 26th March – Lane Cove Library – 10am-12pm

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