



Kawana Waters State College eNewsletter

119 Sportsmans Parade
Bokarina QLD 4575

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24 April 2026

P-12 College News

Executive Principal's Report



Dear Parents, Carers and
Community,

Welcome to the April
edition of our college
newsletter.

We all want our children to
succeed in school, and this
success will come in many
varying forms. However, one form of success that is
foundational is academic learning and one of the
most important ways to support academic learning
is to understand the science of learning. We
continue to build teacher capability in this area to
apply in classrooms, with the aim of lifting the
cognitive load of our students in class

and at home. In *"Powerful Teaching: Unleash the
Science of Learning"*, Agarwal and Bain, present
strategies grounded in research that can make a
significant impact on how children learn, retain,
and apply knowledge.

As parents and carers, you are an essential part of
your child's educational journey. Here are some key
takeaways from this research that can help support
your child's learning at home:

- 1. Active Retrieval:** Encourage your child to
regularly test their own knowledge rather
than just passively reviewing material. This
strengthens their memory and helps them
better retain information.
- 2. Spaced Practice:** Remind your child that
learning isn't just about cramming for tests.
Break up their study time into shorter, spaced
sessions. This helps to build long-term
understanding.
- 3. Interleaving:** Mix up different subjects or
types of problems in study sessions, rather
than focusing on just one topic at a time. This
enhances problem-solving skills and helps
students see connections between concepts.

- 4. **Feedback and Reflection:** Constructive feedback and self-reflection are crucial for growth. Encourage your child to assess their progress and identify areas where they can improve. Comparing their work against the marking guide or criteria for the assessment piece.
 - 5. **Mindset Matters:** Cultivate a growth mindset, where effort is valued over inherent ability. Encourage your child to embrace challenges as opportunities to grow, rather than obstacles to success.
- Football excellence students Jemma, Darcy and Macy have been selected to represent Queensland at the emerging Matilda's Championships in Victoria.
 - Football excellence students Aiden Bowman and Aidan Gull have been selected in the under 16 Queensland side for the emerging Socceroo's Championships in Sydney and Brody Webster has been selected in the under 15 side.
 - Year 11 student Lacey Pohle, named a finalist in multiple prestigious art competitions including the Lester Youth Portrait prize – one of only two finalists.
 - Weightlifting champions Jesse Saliba and Lily Slaughter both took home gold at the All Schools Weightlifting Championships.

By incorporating these research-backed strategies into your child's learning routine, you can help them unlock their full potential and foster a lifelong love of learning.

Thank you for your continued partnership in supporting your child's educational journey.

Recent Student Achievements

- Congratulations to Year 9 student Jayla Gardiner on an incredible achievement at the QLD Age Championships for Diving. Jayla is now the Queensland State Champion in the 14/15 Girls 1m event, placing 1st with a personal best score of 221.56. She will now represent Queensland at the National Age Championships in Adelaide on 18 April - an outstanding accomplishment. We wish her the very best of luck!
- Ever Adams sang the National Anthem to Open the National Dragon Boat Regatta on April 18.
- Year 9 student, Pedro, won the Judo State Championships.

Finance

2026 [Student Resource scheme fees](#) were due for full payment by Tuesday 31 March. Each month the finance team sends invoices to ensure transparency. If for any reason at any time you have any financial difficulties or questions please contact Ms Natalie Cronin on 5436 9332 or email accounts@kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au. Items provided by the student resource scheme are listed by subject by year level and are available [on our website](#). Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Brett Burgess
Executive Principal

[Click here to view the Events Calendar](https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx)
<https://kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au/Calendarandnews/Eventscalendar/Pages/Eventscalendar.aspx>

Primary News

Primary Campus News from the Principal



Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to Term 2! I hope you are looking forward to the term ahead and all the exciting things planned for our students. In the last couple of weeks of term, we had several

events and celebrations to share.



Sporting Success

Students across Year 5 and 6 took part in the annual 3P TAG Competition held in Beenleigh – a big thank you to parents Carly and Ben for organising, supporting and coaching these students. Carly provided the following feedback: “The boys absolutely demonstrated the 3Ps that this competition is all about — Practice, Persistence, and Purpose. They won three out of their seven games and played with so much pride. They were excited, had an incredible time, and showed great sportsmanship throughout. For them, it was never just about winning or losing — it was about being with their mates, representing their school, and enjoying the experience, which is exactly what they did”. A big congratulations to Theo Hughes, Year 6, who was awarded MVP after one of the games, scoring 4 tries! Experiences like these really highlight the wonderful relationships within our school community and the great opportunities this affords our students.

Cross Country

Last term PE teacher Megs Murr organised the Year 3 - 6 and Prep – Year 2 cross countries. We were lucky enough with the unpredictable weather to be able to run both on their scheduled days with the participation of students at an all-time high.

Our Year 3 - 6 students took part in training during PE lessons and there were some exceptional runs completed on the day.

Student details ...

Our Prep - Year 2 students had a wonderful time running their course and took part in some games in between events. A big thank you to our Year 6 Student Leaders and classmates who assisted on the afternoon presenting ribbons and guiding students around the course.



Harmony Day

Our Prep to Year 6 students came together last term to celebrate Harmony Day. We began with a vibrant whole-school parade that showcased the rich cultural diversity of our school community. Students dressed in bright colours and traditional outfits, proudly walking together, demonstrating the values of inclusion, respect and belonging. A highlight of the parade was our primary choir performing two songs, one of them in the traditional language of the Kabi Kabi people. The celebrations continued at lunchtime with a range of fun, inclusive activities that encouraged students to connect, share and learn from one another. It was a wonderful day that highlighted our shared message: everyone belongs.



We have enjoyed a very positive start to the term already, with students returning ready to learn and engage enthusiastically in the classroom. In English this term, students from Prep through to Year 6 are focusing on the reading and writing of informative texts. They are developing skills to identify key information, understand text features and share knowledge clearly and confidently in their own writing. Our maths focus for this term looks at the skill of understanding 'number' and how to use these skills and understanding in real life situations. We encourage you to have conversations with your children about what they are learning in class and how they are going. Students understanding their learning leads to more success.

We look forward to another successful term, working together towards every

student succeeding.

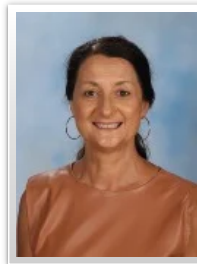
Warm regards,

Allison Bye

Head of Primary Campus

Secondary News

Head of Secondary Campus Report



Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome back to Term 2. I trust everyone had an opportunity to rest and recharge after a busy Term 1.

Interim Reporting

The secondary campus is proud to report strong interim achievement data, with 93% of students achieving A-C grades, 65% achieving A-B, and 26% attaining A grades. Behaviour outcomes remain excellent, with 98.5% of students rated A-C, while Effort stands at 97%.

Secondary students received their report cards in Week 10 of Term 1. Overall, student performance across the campus has been of a high standard, demonstrating that students are taking ownership of their learning.

This interim data is invaluable for our teaching teams, providing clear insight into student progress. It enables staff to implement

targeted strategies moving forward, ensuring every student is supported to achieve ongoing success and exceptional outcomes.

Recognition Events

We will use the first three weeks of this term to acknowledge the outstanding successes of our students regarding Term 1 reporting. This week, letters congratulating our straight A students will be sent home. Students achieving Very Good or Excellence for Effort and Behaviour across all their subjects will be honoured on their year level parade.

Student Performance Interviews

Information was sent at the end of last term regarding Student Performance Interviews, which will take place on Tuesday 28 April. I strongly encourage all parents and carers to attend this valuable opportunity to discuss their child's progress.

If you are unable to attend on Tuesday, please contact your child's teachers to arrange an alternative time to discuss their progress.

Programs of Excellence – Applications Opening Soon

Applications for the college's Programs of Excellence open on Monday 27 April. The college offers the following programs:

- **ACE – Academic Curriculum Extension**
- **Football Excellence**
- **Aquatics Excellence**
- **ARTS Excellence – Dance or Drama**

Prospectuses and application forms for each program will be available on the college website or can be collected from the Secondary Administration Office.

Application deadlines:

- ARTS, Football Excellence (FEX), and ACE: Friday 2 August
- Aquatics Excellence: Friday 16 August

Following the application period, parents and students will be notified of dates for testing, trials, or auditions.

Uniform

With the cooler weather now here, parents are encouraged to purchase items from our winter range. Please note that students are not permitted to wear jumpers, jackets, or pants that are not approved by the P&C.

Elly Gerbo

Head of Secondary Campus

Science News

Science in Practice Field Trip

Late last term, our Year 12 Science in Practice students swapped the classroom for the coast with a field trip to Kathleen McArthur Nature Reserve and Wurtulla Beach. It was the kind of science you can feel!

As part of their ecology studies, students investigated how the environment changes from the beach to the dunes using a transect (a measured line used in fieldwork). Moving inland, they collected real data on abiotic factors — the non-living conditions that shape ecosystems.

They compared things like:

- temperature
- humidity
- wind speed
- light levels
- soil/sand type

Along the way, they also explored the unique Wallum bushland and discovered why this area is a protected reserve. Students learned about local species such as native banksia varieties, the ground parrot, and other animals that rely on this habitat to survive.

A classic "I didn't know that" moments was learning how fire can actually help native ecosystems. In the right conditions, fire can be regenerative, reducing invasive weeds and even triggering some seeds to germinate, giving the next generation of plants a head start.

Students used the evidence they collected to write an assessment explaining what they learned and what their results suggest about this coastal ecosystem.



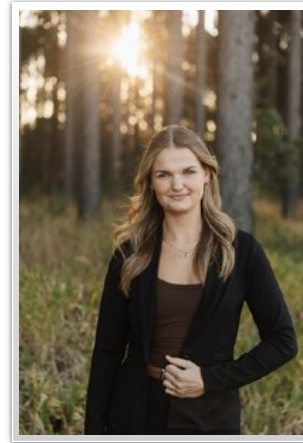
Ms Katie Corbett
Science Teacher

Arts News

Where are they now?

EX- KWSC Drama Student Mia Bradshaw

After finishing school, I didn't have a clear plan. While many friends moved straight into apprenticeships or university, I was still figuring out what direction suited me.



I had worked in hospitality since I was 13 and eventually became a Duty Manager. Although the pay was good, the long 4pm-3am shifts weren't sustainable, and I knew it wasn't what I wanted long term. In early 2025, I decided to explore new options by focusing on what I enjoyed, working with people, staying active, and being in a fast-paced environment. That led me to real estate.

Having moved houses multiple times growing up, I had always been interested in property. University didn't feel like the right path for me, so I chose a more hands-on approach. In 2025, I completed my real estate certificate and secured a role as a Sales Associate with Pine Property Partners on the Sunshine Coast.

One thing I didn't expect was how valuable drama would be in my career. Real estate is people-focused, requiring strong communication and confidence. Drama helped me develop both, along with the ability to think on my feet and adapt to different situations.

Changing careers wasn't easy, especially moving

from financial stability into a learning phase, but I saw it as a long-term investment in myself.

My advice to students is simple: you don't need everything figured out straight away. Focus on building transferable skills and follow what interests you. Be willing to try different paths, if something isn't right, you can always change direction.

You don't need a perfect plan. You just need to take the next step.



A Night to Remember: *Cabaret* Takes Centre Stage

At the end of last term, our school community was treated to an unforgettable theatrical experience as our talented Year 9 DRX and Year 10 Drama students brought the vibrant world of *Cabaret* to life.

What made this production truly special was the incredible collaboration between students and staff. Fifteen staff members stepped bravely outside their comfort zones to join the cast, placing themselves in the capable hands of our drama students, who took on the role of mentors throughout the rehearsal process. This unique partnership created a rehearsal room full of energy, trust, and mutual respect, where

everyone, regardless of experience, was united by a shared goal.

Over weeks of dedicated rehearsals, the cast worked tirelessly to refine their performances, culminating in two sold-out shows that captivated audiences across both nights. The performances were electric, filled with humour, heart, and a palpable sense of joy that radiated from the stage.

The production was not only a showcase of talent but also a celebration of courage, creativity, and community. Staff and students alike demonstrated what can be achieved when we are willing to take risks, support one another, and embrace new challenges.

A heartfelt congratulations and thank you to all students and staff involved. Your commitment, bravery, and passion made *Cabaret* an outstanding success and, without a doubt, a highlight of the term.

We look forward to many more moments like this in the future.



Certificate III in Live Production & Technical Services: Learning Beyond the Classroom

Our students undertaking the Certificate III in Live Production and Technical Services are gaining invaluable, real-world experience while still at school. This hands-on course allows students to apply their knowledge and skills across a wide range of events within the college and

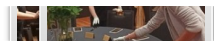
the broader community, including festivals, parties, and conferences.

Working alongside skilled industry professionals, students are immersed in authentic production environments where they learn what it truly takes to bring an event to life. From the initial planning stages through to execution, there is nothing quite like the thrill of seeing a production succeed after careful preparation and teamwork.

Throughout the course, students develop skills in event lighting and sound, costume design, event management, and risk assessment. They also explore specialised areas such as stage makeup for special effects and character work. Collaboration is at the heart of the program, with students working closely with producers, directors, performers, and local businesses to deliver high quality events.

As a result, students are building impressive professional portfolios that have already captured the attention of industry representatives. Gaining this level of experience while still at school is a remarkable achievement and provides a strong head start for future pathways in the creative industries.

If you are interested in studying the Certificate III in 2027, please see Mrs Bernhardt-Turpin for more information.



Our College Theatre Companies Take Centre Stage

Excitement is building as our Junior and Senior Theatre Companies begin work on their upcoming productions!

Our Senior Theatre Company meets every Wednesday during first break, while our Junior Theatre Company brings energy and enthusiasm to their after-school rehearsals each week. Both groups are now gearing up for what promises to be an incredible performance season.

This year, our student directors have taken creativity to the next level through collaboration and original storytelling. Student director Jesse has worked alongside Mrs Bernhardt-Turpin to develop an original script inspired by Murder on the Orient Express, a gripping mystery full of intrigue, tension, and dramatic twists.

Meanwhile, student director Aerin has teamed up with Mrs Bernhardt-Turpin to create a vibrant musical theatre piece inspired by Annie, Shrek the Musical, and Matilda the Musical. This exciting production promises humour, heart, and high-energy performance.

With roles about to be allocated, anticipation is high as students prepare to dive into rehearsals. The enthusiasm, creativity, and leadership shown by our student directors and performers highlight the strength of our theatre program and the incredible opportunities available to our students.

We can't wait to see these productions come to life, stay tuned for performance dates and prepare to be entertained!





Year 8 Drama Excellence Showcase: A Journey Through Imagination

Our Year 8 Drama Excellence students recently brought creativity and collaboration to the stage in a vibrant, student-devised performance inspired by the magical worlds of Harry Potter and The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe.

Year 7 Drama Excellence students bring *The Arrival* to Life

Our Year 7 DRX students recently delivered a moving and visually stunning live theatre performance inspired by *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. Performed for parents, families, peers, friends and staff, the production explored themes of belonging, courage, and finding a place to call home.

The Arrival is a wordless story about a man who leaves his family to start a new life in a strange land. Through powerful imagery, it captures the challenges of migration and the search for safety and connection.

Our students collaborated to create a sensitive and imaginative adaptation, using physical theatre and ensemble storytelling to bring the story to life. Their expressive performances communicated deep emotion and meaning, leaving a strong impression on the audience.

Congratulations to the Year 7 DRX students on a beautiful and heartfelt performance, an emotional and memorable highlight of the term.

Taking full ownership of the creative process, students worked together to write, direct, rehearse, and perform their own original scenes. These individual pieces were thoughtfully connected through a shared storyline, creating a cohesive performance that explored themes of imagination, adventure, and the power of storytelling.

Snapshots from our Class Production



The result was a dynamic and engaging showcase of talent, with students demonstrating confidence, creativity, and strong ensemble skills. It was a wonderful example of what can be achieved through collaboration and student led theatre making.

This term, the class is shifting focus to explore the bold and expressive style of K-pop, examining its energy, precision, and performance flair. We are excited to see how this inspires their next stage production, *Fault Lines*. Stay tuned for more details on what promises to be

another exciting performance!

Snapshots from our KPOP Rehearsals



Languages News

Japanese – Secondary

Student Immersion at our Sister-School in Japan

Three motivated and fortunate students independently travelled to Japan during recent holiday periods, where they had the opportunity to visit our sister school, Karyo Senior High School in Yamaguchi, Japan. Ever, Isaac and May were integrated into Japanese school life and experienced a traditional homestay.

We are incredibly proud of our students for their initiative and enthusiasm in embracing international experiences. We are equally grateful for the generosity, flexibility and genuine warmth shown by the staff and students at Karyo High School in making these opportunities possible.

Opportunities like these are rare in many schools—how fortunate our students are to benefit from such a special partnership.



Host Families Needed

Our Sister School, Karyo Senior High School from Yamaguchi prefecture, Japan, is once again due to visit on their annual trip to Kawana Waters

State College. We are seeking host families to welcome these students during their stay. Details are as follows:

Dates: Wednesday 22 July – Monday 3 August 2026

Financial reward: Host families will receive \$55 per night, per student to assist with the cost of hosting.

Commitments: Families are not required to alter their daily routine. The exchange student will adjust to your family to experience life on the Sunshine Coast. Your commitment is to offer a safe and nurturing environment for your host student, which provides them with security and care whilst away from their loved ones.

Cultural exchange benefits:

- Gaining an expanded worldview for you and your children.
- Learn about different cultures and traditions.
- Gaining an international network of friends and lifelong friendships.

It should also be noted that every household member over 18 years of age must have a valid Blue Card before student arrival. The school will assist applicants to obtain a Blue Card if needed.

Contact: Cassie Hanley - International Student Homestay Co-ordinator

Email:

internationalstudents@kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au

Phone: 07 5436 9388

Hosting an exchange student is a wonderful experience for families in our community that broadens our understanding of our global community and enriches our lives.

Information forms will be provided to interested students during class. Please contact Cassie if you require further information.

Japanese Tutoring

Japanese tutoring will continue this term for our students. Details are:

WHEN: Every Thursday, 2:50pm to 3:50pm
WHERE: BU3 – Languages Block on the Secondary Campus
WHO: Any student from Years 7 to Year 12
WHAT: Extension activities, catch-up, homework

In this class, students are able to receive one on one support from the teachers present or use the time as an opportunity for extension or to complete their homework if they are having difficulties completing at home. We look forward to seeing your child there. There is no need to book, just come along!

Japanese Festival Sunshine Coast 2026

SAVE THE DATE: Please come to celebrate all things Japanese in the annual Japanese Festival Sunshine Coast. KWSC is proud to partner with the Japanese Happy Community Inc. to host the annual festival on Saturday 8 August.



The Japanese Languages Team

International News

Become a Homestay Family!

Kawana Waters State College will be welcoming new international students (short-term stay and long-term stay) at the **start of Term 3 2026**, and we are seeking homestay families to host these students. Short-term stay students will visit for 2 weeks. Long-term stay students range from 3 – 12 months in duration. Hosting is a wonderful experience for families in our community that broadens our understanding of our global community and enriches our lives. Benefits include:

- Cultural exchange - Gaining an expanded worldview for you and your children. Learn about different cultures and traditions.

- Pride in our country - Seeing your surroundings with a fresh perspective.
- Home away from home - Creating a safe and nurturing environment for your student which provides them with security and care whilst away from their loved ones.
- Friendship & Connection - Gaining an international network of friends and lifelong friendships.
- Financial reward - Host families will receive \$382 per week per student to assist with the cost of hosting.

It should also be noted that every household member over 18 years of age must have a valid Blue Card before student arrival. The school will assist applicants to obtain a Blue Card if needed.

If you are interested in hosting, please email Cassie Hanley - International Student Homestay Coordinator
InternationalStudents@kawanawaterssc.eq.edu.au
 or call 5436 9388.



Kindness @ Kawana News

Kindness@Kawana: An Introduction

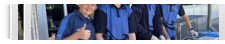
Welcome to any new families to our college. For your information, Kindness@Kawana is a volunteer organisation



consisting of students, staff and parents who quietly provide an extra layer of support for families and individuals in our extended KWSC community. We do this by:

- Running free breakfasts twice a week on both the Primary (Wednesday and Thursday) and Secondary (Wednesday and Friday) campuses.
- Cooking up and freezing meals to be distributed to school community members in need.
- Coordinating college events to build our community including R U Ok Day, School Cleaner's Day, School Officer's Day, and World Kindness Day.

Our funds come from teacher donations and from collecting containers for Containers for Change. You can help by placing your containers in the green bins near the Aquatics Shed or quoting "Kawana Kindness" at The Bottle Community, Unit 2, 28 Technology Drive, Warana.



Alternatively, if you can help by coming to our Cook Up in Term 2 Week 3 (Wednesday 6 May from 3.00pm to 5.30pm in the Secondary kitchens) please contact Judy Marsh in the high school (jmars341@eq.edu.au) or Rhondda Lynagh in the primary school (rlyna1@eq.edu.au).

Please use these contact details if you need any help in the areas mentioned above.

Judy Marsh

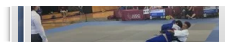
Kindness@Kawana

Student News

As touched on in our Executive Principals article, we love to celebrate student achievements. If your child succeeds in an activity outside of school, please feel free to share it with us. Information and photos can be emailed to Sally Kennedy, skenn310@eq.edu.au.

Pedro Carioni Baldi

Pedro competed in the Judo State Championship held last weekend in Brisbane and achieved first place in his category. In addition, since early February, he has also won the Judo Queensland 2026 South Queensland Regional 1 competition, as well as the Isshindokan Judo Club Judo Competition. We are very proud of his dedication and effort leading up to these achievements and share a few photos from his events.



Mackenzie Bulley

Over the holidays, I had the incredible opportunity to attend Launch Weekend as the representative for Kawana in the Queensland Youth Parliament. It was an amazing experience that allowed me to immerse myself in the parliamentary process and begin contributing to meaningful change in my community. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity to represent my community and to be involved in a program that empowers young people to have a real voice.

During the weekend, I visited Queensland Parliament House, where I participated in debating a mock bill and experienced firsthand how parliament operates. I also had the privilege of meeting Sam O'Connor, the Queensland Youth Parliament Minister, along with several Members of Parliament, gaining valuable insights into leadership and public service.

I am proud to be part of the Science, Energy, Manufacturing, and Innovation Committee (MESI), where I am working alongside a group of passionate and driven individuals who are all committed to making a difference. Throughout the weekend, we explored and challenged a range of bill ideas before deciding on a bill that we will develop and debate in Residential Sitting Week in Chamber later this year.

I was also honoured to be selected for the sponsoring sub-committee, where I will contribute to writing the bill, before it is reviewed and potentially amended by the refuting sub-committee.

“Young people deserve not only a voice, but agency and the opportunity to use it meaningfully” –

Madison Hilker (Youth Governor of Queensland), who is a part of the QYP Executive Team.

This experience has already been one of the most rewarding opportunities in my life and I am incredibly excited for what lies ahead.



Community News

Yarning Sessions

[Click here to download the Yarning Sessions Poster](#)

St Vincent De Formal

[Click here to download the St Vincent De Formal flyer](#)

Sports X Rugby

[Click here to download the Sports X Rugby flyer](#)