



KCEA NEWSLETTER

Issue 88 | July 2020

...and we're up and running!

After many months of waiting (and one false start!), I am very excited to say that I have finally commenced face-to-face teaching at KHS! Whilst I am grateful for the time I have had to prayerfully and carefully fine-tune the curriculum, I have also very much been looking forward to finally being in the classroom and doing what I am most passionate about - seeing students wrestle with faith and spirituality. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued encouragement and support, and particularly to those of you who went out of your way to contact me directly to let me know that you were covering me in prayer.



As I write this report, I'm now a couple of days into the role and have seen at least one class from every year group (7-10). One of the first observations I have made is that no two classes are the same! Each group has its own personality, and with that its own unique opportunities and challenges. Some are calm and docile, while some are animated and - shall we say - "lively"! Some, as I've already been able to gauge, are filled with students who would identify as religious/Christian, whereas some virtually have none. One of the first activities that I did across all age groups was to ask each student to finish the following two sentences on a post-it note - "Religion is..." and "God is..." One by one, they came up to the front to stick their answers on the board. It was absolutely fascinating and eye-opening to read all the different responses that the students came up with. There is certainly an appetite and a curiosity in each of the classes that I am eager to stir up and cultivate. A big part of my role will be to identify potential "on ramps" to be able to engage and connect with the students - and given that I now only have less than half a year to do this rather than the

full year - I'm sure it's not going to be a walk in the park. Nonetheless, it's a challenge that I look forward to embracing, and certainly not something that I can do without the Holy Spirit's guidance and power.

The reception from the staff - both teaching and administrative staff alike - has been warm and inviting. No doubt I am directly benefiting from the goodwill that has been established at KHS over many years, and this is certainly something that I hope to strengthen and extend over time. Special mention to Mark Robinson (Deputy Principal - Years 7, 9 & 11) and Yvonne Garcia (Acting Deputy Principal - Years 8, 10 & 12) for the extra care and attention they have given to me, especially when finding my feet over the first few days.

It's a shame that the lunchtime group JAK has not been allowed to restart due to COVID-19 restrictions, as I was really looking forward to connecting with the leaders in particular. I know from first-hand experience that Christian lunchtime groups are incredibly fertile and potent breeding grounds both for students to encounter Jesus for the first time, as well as for up and coming kingdom influencers to be nurtured, developed and deployed. Please keep praying for restrictions to lift so that this vital ministry can continue in the school.

Looking ahead, I would greatly appreciate your prayers - that I would be able to find my feet quickly, that the students - despite whatever challenges and disruptions they may be facing in their personal lives - would see their SRE class as an oasis in which they can share their views without fear of judgment and condemnation, and that there would be continued favour with the school authorities and local community so that this vital ministry can grow and expand in size and influence.

I literally could not do this without your partnership in the gospel. Thank you for entrusting me with this role!

by **Adrian Tam**, SRE Teacher

Report From The Chairperson

Greetings all KCEA members!

After a pause of almost five months, Special Religious Education has resumed at Ku-ring-gai High School! Adrian commenced face to face teaching last week. As you will read in Adrian's report, this has been an exciting and challenging time. Unfortunately, the guidelines from the Department of Education do not yet allow the resumption of the JAK lunchtime group.

Ku-ring-gai High School itself has undergone somewhat of a rebirth during this time as well. The new multi-purpose hall and 15 refurbished classrooms were officially opened on Monday, 20th July. The opening ceremony was attended by Gladys Berejiklian (Premier of New South Wales); Sarah Mitchell (the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Learning), and Alister Henskens (Member for Ku-ring-gai). To hear from Principal Terri-Anne Kamasz,

please follow the link below:

<https://www.facebook.com/kuringgaihsocial/videos/377776239850910/>

Concurrent with taking on his role at Ku-ring-gai High, Adrian is undertaking the Teaching Christian Faith in the Classroom course, run by Morling College. This online course includes a practical component to be supervised by former SRE teacher at KHS, Lisa Andrawes. We thank Lisa for her willingness to support Adrian as he completes this training.

Prior to the commencement of term, each of our member churches was required to authorise our current curriculum, with adaptations for the shortened time frame demanded by restrictions this year. Sincere thanks to each of the ministers for their endorsement and encouragement.

The faithful and prayerful support of all KCEA members is the backbone which holds and strengthens KCEA. Without you, we would not exist. The words of the American Evangelist, D. L. Moody come to mind: "He does the most for God's great world who does the best in his own [corner of the] world". Each one of you does so much for KCEA in your presence and in your prayer.

I also wish to acknowledge Peter Napper and Michelle Lee for the extra work they have put in over the last months during this challenging time. Peter has guided us through the necessary technological changes, while Michelle has updated reporting on finances. Thank you as well to Rob Tannahill for advice and to Jon Fowler who has ongoingly provided support to me as I have learned this role.

As we move forward, grateful for the opportunity to once again have a presence at Ku-ring-gai High, and to bear witness to Christ among us, we look forward to updating you at the Prayer Breakfast on Saturday 22nd August at 7.30am via Zoom. Details appear later in this newsletter.

by **Jennifer Gregory**, Chairperson

For Our Financial Supporters

Overflowing with gratefulness and thanks to our faithful prayerful and financial supporters for their generosity as always. Donations have increased in the period since Adrian has commenced. In particular, there were several large donations during the month of June, prior to the end of the financial year. We are so blessed by God for your kindness, and we are so blessed by God with the wonderful work Adrian is doing in Ku-ring-gai High, communicating the truths of God and the depths of the grace of God to our dear young people.

May I encourage you to continue to show your support and encouragement for Adrian through prayer and giving towards this most vital work for the gospel. Also, a friendly

reminder that when giving by internet bank transfer, do include your surname and initials, in order to identify your donation and provide you with a donation receipt.

Your partnership in this essential work is invaluable and very much appreciated!

by **Michelle Lee**, Treasurer

Prayer Points For Term Three

There are plenty of things to pray for at Ku-ring-gai High School. Feel free to pray for any or all of the following areas:

The students

- That they would quickly feel settled into their SRE classes and start warming to their new SRE teacher
- For students who may be facing challenging circumstances at home, that God would comfort them and grant them a sense of His peace in the midst of uncertainty
- That God would spark in the students a curiosity and appetite to consider the deeper things in life, ultimately leading them to Jesus

JAK

- For members and leaders of JAK who may be feeling discouraged or disappointed that JAK was not able to recommence this term. Pray that God would give them vision for what JAK could look like when it does eventually resume, whether that be next term or next year
- That restrictions would soon lift and so that this vital ministry can continue
- For Adam Smyth and all the team at Scripture Union NSW

Teachers

- Thank God for the staff at KHS, who work so hard day in and day out to educate and nurture the students
- That the wider staff community would continue to be supportive of the work of the KCEA
- For discernment to be able to identify students who may be particularly struggling whether academically or personally, and that they would have the insight to know how to best help them move forward

The school

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- Year 12 students who are currently sitting their internal exams - for clarity of mind, diligence in their preparation and endurance to finish strong despite a turbulent year
 - For the Principal (Ms Terri-Anne Kamasz) and Deputy Principals (Mr Mark Robinson and Ms Yvonne Garcia) as they lead the school community through a challenging and uncertain time
 - Praise God for the successful completion of construction works

Direct credits or cash deposits can be made to:

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Please email or telephone the Treasurer to advise of your donation.

CONTACT US

Postal Address

Ku-ring-gai Christian Education Association Inc.
PO Box 355 Wahroonga NSW 2076

Email Addresses

chairperson.kcea@gmail.com
secretary.kcea@gmail.com
treasurerkcea.@gmail.com
sreteacher.kcea@gmail.com

KCEA OFFICE BEARERS

Chairperson: Jennifer Gregory (0403 114 938)
Secretary: Peter Napper (0412 298 547)
Treasurer: Michelle Lee (0439 595 528)
Newsletter Editor: Adrian Tam (0416 366 168)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Prayer Breakfast:

Sat 22 Aug | 7:30-9:00 AM

Conducted online via Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5122624113?pwd=bGxVVE82YysyeUZFYWppQ1pXWlJUT09>

See you soon!



Are you receiving your newsletter and other communications via email from KCEA?

If not, please email us and ask the Secretary to put you on the mailing list.

secretary.kcea@gmail.com

DONATION FORM

Ku-ring-gai Christian Education Association Inc.

Teaching a generation for God at Ku-ring-gai High School

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All donations made to KCEA are tax-deductible.