

Pupils prepare for big step

■ Courtney Fowler

The Year 6 and 7 transition program started at Karratha Senior High School last week, with more than 450 students from around the Pilbara preparing for the move to the high school campus next year.

Students from Karratha, Dampier and Wickham will spend 12 full days at KSHS over the next 12 weeks in preparation for their first year in high school.

Deputy principal John Foeken said the intention was to create familiarity and routine in an environment where many of the students will spend their next six years of schooling.

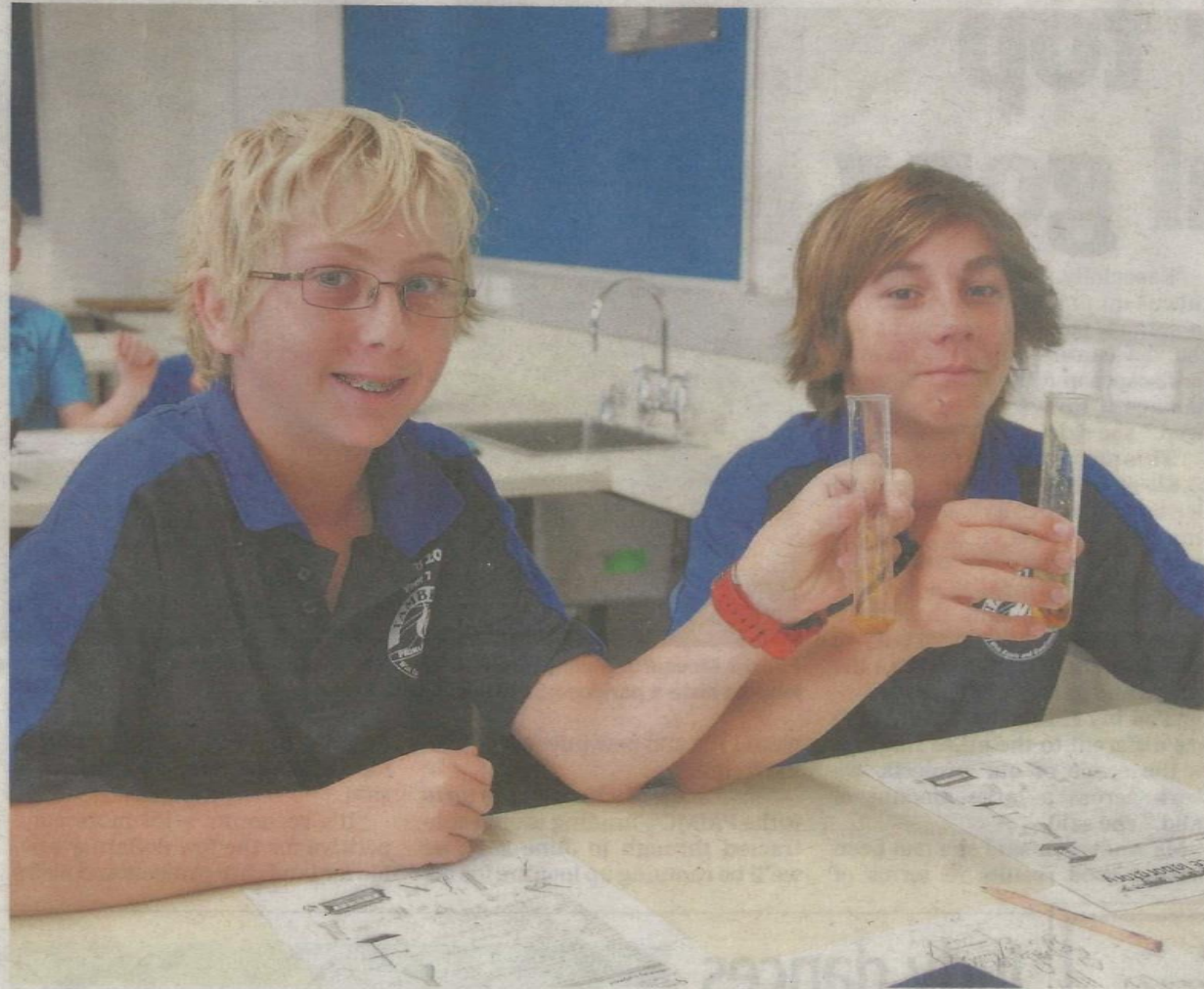
"Previous transition practice has involved primary students spending a few days in the high school in preparation for the following year," he said.

"Our program this year is much more ongoing this ... the absolute intention is to create familiarity and routine in an environment where many of the students will spend their next 6 years of schooling.

"We have prioritised the thing that we all do best and the thing that we do instinctively; engaging with the kids at every opportunity, making them feel valued at every opportunity, and giving them a sense of belonging."

Mr Foeken said the students would predominately attend normal primary school classes with their regular teachers, but the high school setting would give them the opportunity to use the library, sporting facilities and some other high school resources.

"In addition, we will provide a



Tambrey Primary students Will Kiehne and Ryley Hinchcliffe at Karratha Senior High School. Picture: Courtney Fowler

science program of one lesson per class per day with science teacher, Catherine Samarco, who has done a brilliant job in preparing this," he said.

"By initiating this transition program, we can demonstrate to

students how we go about things, what we value, what we expect of them.

"This will allow for fewer surprises and greater capacity for us to meet challenges moving forward."

Current Year 6 and 7 primary students from Karratha and surrounding towns will be on campus full-time from February 2015.

As a result the KSHS school population will reach 1000 students next year.