

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue 4 Term 2 Week 11

Tuesday, June 29, 2010

From our Principal

It is with a real sense of excitement that I set about writing my first Principal's Report. I have been given the privilege of sitting in as Principal for the last five weeks of Term 2 and I can certainly say that I have not found it to be boring.

Apart from the normal school activities, including the preparation of Semester 1 reports, we have been working on our submission for the National Partnerships Program. We have been included in this program for the next two years and this will provide nearly one million dollars of funding for specific programs over this period. Mrs Guli Skamperle has been working tirelessly in collating the information necessary for the Situational Analysis that underpins this submission and has been an excellent project manager. It took the team two days to put all of the data into a form which would then allow recommendations to be made. I would like to extend many thanks to all of the parents and staff who have contributed to the process so far.

The school has recently appointed a Highly Accomplished Teacher (HAT) who will assist the initiatives that will start to take form from the start of Term 3 as part of our participation in the National Partnership Program. This position will also be supported by another new appointment, that of Educational Professional; this person will help with the delivery of content by teachers in the classroom. These two appointments will be for the period of the Partnership agreement and will result in significant changes to the delivery of lessons at Northlakes High School.

The National Partnerships work has already started and the Quicksmart Program to help improve Mathematics performance has started with our local Primary Schools. This is a 30 week program that aims to raise student performance in the 2011 NAPLAN tests.

It has also been announced that Northlakes High School is to receive a five hundred thousand dollar

upgrade to our sewage and drainage systems in the coming year. The local Member, David Harris, has lobbied hard for this improvement program and we thank him for his support.

We welcome Erin Campbell, newly appointed permanent member of staff to the HSIE Department, and also Tony Quadling who has been appointed permanently to the Support Unit. Both staff members have taught here previously and set very high standards of performance. We are fortunate in having these staff added to our school.

Our Starstruck students have again done us proud and I would like to thank Meg Hickson, Tenille Dowe, Aaron Sinclair and Francoise Dunlevie for all of the hard work they contributed to ensure the success of our singers and dancers. This good work then transferred to the Central Coast Dance Festival, where we were again well represented.

The Year 8 into 9 and Year 10 into 11 night was a great success and it was tremendous to see so many parents and students in attendance. Mr Williamson and all of the staff associated with this program can be proud of the obvious value that the parents and students attach to this event. The students were especially keen to have a chance to select their electives for the coming two years and there was standing room only around the various subject displays.

Other notable achievements in the past weeks include:

- Northlakes students, Blake Moroney and Brendon Quigg, have been named in the CHS Rugby Union teams. We congratulate them and wish them every success in their upcoming games.
- Gemma Ferrington has been selected into the NSWIS Netball program. This is indeed a great tribute to her abilities.
- Hayden Williams was featured on Sydney Weekender in May in a piece on screen-printing.

- Our Under 19 Boys Futsal team were featured in the Best Weekend supplement of the Daily Telegraph on 19th June. This was a full page article and produced a very positive view of Northlakes High School.

As you can see, it has been a very busy time and it is tremendous to report on the so many positive things happening in our school. I have enjoyed the opportunity to lead the school and hope that I have been able to keep up my part of the bargain.

Term 3 is not far away now and I am pleased to advise that Mrs Muir will be returning to Northlakes High School at the start of the term, as Principal. Her role at District Office has concluded and whilst they tried to keep her, I can say that Mrs Muir wants to be here and participate in the exciting times ahead. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented leader and will welcome her guidance.

Mr Glenn Yates
Principal (Relieving)

English

Term two has been a busy time with many assessment tasks, excursions, and competitions having occurred.

Recently, the multi-talented Aboriginal speaker, Monty Pryor, dazzled students with his didgeridoo playing and entertaining stories. The Junior Students who took the opportunity to see him speak were able to use their new understanding of Aboriginal culture to assist them with preparation on a relevant poetry assessment task.

The English Department wishes all students and faculty a safe and relaxing holiday and looks forward to a Term three that is as productive and engaging as this one has been.

The English Department

HSIE

It has been a very busy term in the HSIE department. We had a break in and the staffroom was covered in fire extinguisher foam that left a fine white gritty powder over and in everything. It was very distressing for the staff and we would like to say a big thankyou to the cleaning staff that did a big job in trying to clean it up. It is very sad that this occurred.

On a much happier note we welcome to the permanent staff Ms Erin Campbell who has been doing a wonderful job as the casual in this position.

Erin is an enthusiastic professional who is well liked and respected by the whole school community and we are delighted that she has accepted the position. She is a huge asset to the HSIE staff and brings with her a wealth of knowledge and hands on experience with technology.

Our Geography students have performed very well in the highly regarded National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition. Over 130 students participated from Northlakes and 85,000 nationwide! Congratulations to Ms Lucas who organised our students in this competition.

Our results included:

10 High Distinctions- Taylor Barrett Top 7% , Grace Brown 10%, Rachel Connochie 5%, Jason Day 11%, Micaela Downey 11%, Ebony Hutchinson 7%, Jade Ireland 7%, Chantae Kennedv, Tyler Knight 10% and Ashleigh Taylor 11%.

14 Distinctions- Lyam Anthonisz, Jordan Bertucci, Brittany Bishop, George Boyd, Rebecca Chapman, Bradley Dunn, Matthew Francis, Sean Glachan, Brittany Harris, Beau Keywood, Dean McKenzie, Amber Obrien, Chelsea Terkes and Zach Wagner.

16 Credits- Jacqui Crooks, Sharnie Davis, Sharnii Dawe, Jake Donaldson, Ethan Drennan, Taylah Evans, Kayla Gourlay, Jacob Griffin, Shaun Hunt, Cory Johnstone, Natasha Lebrun, Ashleigh Livingston, Nathan Pike, Stacie Quinnell, Tiarne Shutt and Tyler Wilson.

Also this term we have had three student teachers from Newcastle University do their practicum in History with us. Ms Brei Dwyer, Ms Kerri-Ann Gauci and Mr John Griffin have proved to be enthusiastic and very competent in the classroom. We have enjoyed their company in the staffroom though it's been a little crowded. Many thanks to Mrs Moore, who has taken them under her wing and done an exceptional job of mentoring them.

The HSIE staff have organised a number of excursions. Ancient History went to Sydney for lectures with Mrs Moore. Senior Geography visited the vineyards and the Wetlands with Ms Lucas. Year 10 Geography experienced a field trip to local beaches while Year 9 visited Maitland Gaol.

Reports have all been finalised and we would like to congratulate the students who have achieved their personal best. Our grades in HSIE are directly linked to assessment tasks. Failing to hand in a research task or not revising for a test can really lower a student's marks and not reflect their ability in these subjects. Year 10 History are reminded that their major research assessment task – A decade study is due Friday 30th of July!

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Ms Anna Bromley
Head Teacher

Science

There have been some exciting excursions happen in Science this term. Year 12 had a very successful excursion with Mrs Fulwood. Fifteen year 12 Senior Science students and some Physics students went to Sydney. They visited The Powerhouse Museum and experienced weightlessness at the Space Exhibit. The students were also shown how to make a rocket which was a handy thing to know as they next saw a 3D Production of the Hubble Space Telescope, which was really amazing. The next stop was a laser activity at Darling harbour and finally a night show at the Sydney Observatory, where the students were shown a night star show showing a map of the stars and also given a hands on experience with the telescopes. Mrs Fulwood would like to thank all the students as they behaved and this made the day so enjoyable. Well done Northlakes.

Year Seven was also taken on an excursion to the Australian Museum. They experienced surviving Australia and also had a tour of the skeletons and an experience in how their unit of Classification works in the real world. The students were generally well behaved but it was disappointing that a few students did not know how to behave and spoilt it for others. Students also must be in full school uniform on an excursion and they must realise they are representing the school and that the public is watching. Mrs Fulwood reported though this was only applicable to a few people and the majority of the students made our school proud.

The Science Faculty

Attendance Matters

Each issue our newsletter will be focussing on an issue related to attendance. In this issue we would like to focus on the role of the "Home School Liaison Officer". HSLO'S are regional personnel who supply additional support to students, parents and schools to encourage the full participation of students in schooling. This support can take many forms including periodic checking of schools attendance registers to ensure that students are attending on a regular basis. It may also involve parental contact through phone calls or home visits where a student's attendance is of concern. If a student's attendance does not improve, parent meetings may be organised at the school to initiate more formalised proceedings.

Northlakes High School would like to congratulate Mr Craig Houghton as the new HSLO for our area.

Mrs Fiona Kennedy
Head Teacher Welfare

Bill Turner Trophy 2010

The Bill Turner Trophy is an U/15 Knockout Girls Football tournament, jointly backed by Football Federation Australia, Northern NSW Football and the Northern NSW School Soccer Association. The Bill Turner Cup, the equivalent competition for boys, began in 1979, with the Girls competition starting in 1991. Both competitions have grown significantly, to include schools from Queensland, the ACT, and Victoria, as well as all of NSW.

This year our girls made it to the third round of the competition, before suffering a loss against Narara Valley High School. Skipped by Maddi Dunlop of year 10, we disposed of Mackillop College in round 1 and St Peters Tuggerah in round 2. I would like to extend a big thank you to the girls for their enthusiasm towards representing Northlakes High School in this competition. With the majority of the girls being young enough to play again for at least another year, I look forward to working with them again in 2011. A big thank you also needs to go to the parents and grandparents who came to all 3 games, not only for assisting with transport, but for your sideline support throughout the games.

The team consisted of: Rachel Muller, Alisha Spitteri, Laura Quigg, Michelle Bertucci, Ashleigh Donaldson, Holly King, Micaela Downey, Jessica Lee, Maddi Dunlop, Koree Hungerford, Kristin Mar, Shanay Fraser, Tahnee Blenham and Tiarne Shutt. Well done girls!

Mr Mark Mansfield

Creative Arts

The main events this term have been Starstruck, Central Coast Dance Festival and Central Coast Showcase. This year the school was represented by thirty-two dancers and twenty singers at Starstruck and from all reports it was a great show. Performances like this require extra effort from the Performing Art staff, Miss Dunlevie, Mrs Dowe and Mr Sinclair, who had to attend rehearsals and prepare students for their roles in the show. Miss Dunlevie and Mrs Dowe are at the moment preparing students for the Central Coast Dance Festival. More information can be obtained by contacting Miss Dunlevie at the School or for show details contact Laycock Street Theatre at Gosford. Howard

Shearman and Sieya Ozaki will be representing the school at Central Coast Showcase. For more information on show times contact Laycock Street Theatre, this show brings together the best musical and performing talent from Central Coast schools.

Also, a reminder to Creative Arts students next term your practical HSC examinations are coming up. The hand in date for HSC Visual Arts BOW is 9am Monday 30th August. Please check with your teachers for your examination dates. The Creative Arts staff wishes our students all the best for their Trial HSC happening in weeks three and four next term.

Mr Les Brimbecom
Head Teacher

Support Unit

It has been a busy term for the support unit students and teachers at Northlakes High School. A wide variety of excursions have taken place: the IOJ class catching the ferry from Ettalong to Palm Beach, the IOS class having several travel training excursions to 'Warnies' at Warnervale and to Fairhaven at Tuggerah Business Park. The IM class travelled to Fort Scratchley in Newcastle and had a tour of the gun turrets and the tunnels surrounding the main beach area of Newcastle. From all reports the IM class had a very informative day. The ED class went on a three day camp to Lake St Clair at Singleton and the CD class had a great day out horse riding at Mardi. Last Friday the IOT class visited the Sydney Aquarium where they visited some of the creatures they had studied in school.

Several of our TAFE and integration students have been involved in work experience. These experiences have included working with a concreter, working at a child care centre and working in a hospital. All experiences have been very beneficial.

Sport continued and bowling and yoga were very popular with students. The students of the IM and IO classes have finished up the term by participating in a Futsal tournament down at Lake Haven Recreation Centre. Next term the unit will be offering ice skating for the first time and the students are really looking forward to it.

The garden additions have been completed and Mr Shevels and the IOS class have been busy planting their winter crop with the help of the Bunnings team. The IOT class have been busy providing morning tea for the whole school staff and they are to be congratulated on the very professional job they do each week.

The ADHOC assessments have been completed. Our year twelve students will receive a transition to work program according to their needs for 2011 and this will be finalised later in the year.

Thanks to the parents and families selling chocolates for the unit. Proceeds will go towards completing our outdoor learning area.

Mrs Schneider and Mrs Hutchinson are recovering from serious medical complaints and will be back on board fully next term. We wish Katie Schneider all the best and thank her for her great contribution to the unit over the last six months. Next term we welcome back Mr Quodling to the unit as a fulltime teacher.

Mr Adrian Cotterell
Support Unit

Debating and Public Speaking

Well the competition is well and truly on. Debating has finished for our Senior team who unfortunately did not make it into the next round. However, congratulations are still in order to the team who debated well and only just missed out. The Zone Co-ordinator was very impressed with the team's results as this was the best that a team from the northern end of the Coast had done for a number of years. Our Year 10 team have won both of their debates to date and has only one debate left in this round. A win for the team in the final debate will ensure that they make it into the next round of the competition. The Year 8 team – Taylah Evans, Kirby Paterick, Caillin Wiles and Emily Xuereb – have just started their competition and lost a close debate to Terrigal High. Better Luck next time. Our Year 7 team – Bethany Francis, Grace Kessling, Alana King and Amber O'Brien - have just started their competition and we will keep you updated on their progress.

Emilee Thomas, of Year 11, who competed in the first round of *The Sydney Morning Herald* Public Speaking competition, unfortunately, did not make it into the next round despite an excellent attempt. Our junior public speakers – Grace Kessling and Alana King – are busily preparing for the Legacy Public Speaking competition which is being held early next term. We will advise you of the result of this competition in the next newsletter.

Congratulations once again to our Year 10 debating team on their success so far in the first round of their competition and good luck in their final debate.

Mr Ben Burley and Ms Kathy Legge

Anti Bullying Report

Due to technology, the concept of 'cyber' bullying is become a major concern. What is meant by cyber bullying includes:

- Harassing or abusive emails and phone messages
- Making silent or abusive phone calls
- Spreading rumours via email or phone messages
- Sending someone offensive SMS phone texts
- Posting insulting messages on the internet

A type of electronic stalking can also occur, where someone sends messages over and over – this is called 'cyber-stalking'. This type of harassment is particularly scary, as it follows the person everywhere on their phone or computer at home.

The best way to avoid this is to be careful to whom you give your personal information. You could also change your phone number and email address. If it continues, you could contact the police or your telephone provider to work out ways of protecting yourself.

If students are receiving this sort of bullying it should be reported as if we do not know it's happening we cannot help. If students are experiencing any form of bullying they must tell someone at school so we can help.

Mrs Sue Fulwood
Anti Bullying Coordinator

P & C

I understand the thought of a P&C Meeting might scare the majority of parents out there, but we **do not** fundraise and it's just a great way to find out what is happening at our School and have your say. The next meeting is Tuesday 27/7/10 at 3.30pm. If the problem is the time and you feel it would be more convenient for you at a later time, please let us know.

Canteen – Position Vacant – No experience necessary

Leanne, our Canteen Manager is always looking for volunteers to help **ANY** day of the week. Every helper receives a \$5.00 voucher to spend on the day and lunch is provided. So if you could spare one day a week or month to help please contact Leanne on 43908751.

Uniform Shop

It is wonderful to see so many students in full school uniform. With the cooler months upon us you can still purchase black hooded jackets for \$35.00. The

uniform shop is open Mondays from 10.30am till 11.30am or Friday 10.00am till 11.30am. Open any other day by appointment only. Orders can be placed at the canteen and we now have an eftpos machine for your convenience.

Ex-Student Profile Form

We now have an ex-student profile form, which we would like to compile in a folder to share with our students. If you know of any ex-student, could you please ask them to collect a form from our office or from our web page under 'our school' 'ex student profile form' and return it to our office.

Mrs Angela Bambeay
P & C President

Year 7 Report

We are at the end of Term two and all teachers have been working very hard to complete our student's reports. I have read and commented on all of the reports and have been most impressed by the level of commitment from the students of the Year 7 cohort. It is encouraging to see that most have made the transition to Secondary School a successful one.

As we enter Term three it is a timely reminder for all students to ensure they have the correct equipment for each class. A book, pens and a ruler are the bare minimum requirements for a successful lesson. I would also like to remind students that they must ensure they have a timetable every day. Parents please ask your child to put a copy of their timetable in a diary.

Term three is also a changeover term in the HSIE subjects. Year 7 will change from Geography to History. The students will still have the same timetabled period, but will now embark on topics such as: 'What is History?' and 'Ancient Societies' looking at Ancient Egypt and Ancient Rome.

Have a safe and enjoyable mid semester break.

Mr Michael Chandler
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report

Well another busy term has passed by with Year 8 completing tasks and exams hopefully to the best of their ability.

Remember fully covered leather shoes are required for all subjects particularly in Technology, Art and Science. They are a mandatory part of our uniform at Northlakes High School. Year 8, particularly the girls,

are not wearing the correct foot wear and this must improve for next term.

The Elective Information Night on the 21st June 2010 was well attended by Year 8 and their parents/carers. The night proved valuable to Year 8 students for making their elective subject choices for Year 9 and 10. A big thank you to all staff that displayed and answered a lot of questions about their subject area on the night.

Another semester starts after the July school holidays and it is important for Year 8 to come back fully prepared. That means all students require books (new if needed) and pencil cases full of pens, pencils, scissor, glue etc. As Year 8 students they should be well equipped for all lessons. It is not up to the teachers to provide pens and pencils to the students.

Don't forget to encourage all students to collect merits from their teachers and get involved in extra-curricular activities so you can achieve the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Remember if you do have any questions or concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact me at school on Ph: 43 900555.
Hope you all have a happy and safe holiday!

Mrs Jodene Garside
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Report

Two terms down, two to go! And what a term it has been.

Lots of Year 9 students have excelled this term and should be congratulated on their excellent representation of the school.

Several exciting events have occurred. Matthew Titterton was on TV, a group of year 9 girls performed at Starstruck, many represented the school at zone athletics and a careers day where the group received positive feedback just to name a few. As well as this, Tiffany Wells, Kristelle Lyons, Jessica Sanders and Caitlin Deegan organised a pamper day, with a select group of girls to show their appreciation of continual positive attitudes and behaviour. As well as learning lifelong skills, all girls participated in meditation, had their hair and makeup done and had professional photographs taken. I was lucky enough to participate in this day and it was very beneficial. Well done girls!
Camp has been tentatively booked for Term 3, Week 10 which is 22nd - 24th September. You should get

information and permission notes very shortly. It will be \$198 for the 3 days / 2 nights including all activities, food and transport. I have had lots of requests for camp this year, so hopefully we can get enough interest to get this one up and running.

As the weather is much colder now, it is very important that all students are wearing their correct school uniform when school returns in July, this includes a plain black jumper and correct footwear. Have a safe and enjoyable holiday.

Mrs Lara Jephson
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report

As this long term draws to a close several Year 10 students are busy completing missed assessment tasks to satisfy their 'N' award warning letters. It is becoming evident however that many more are failing to do so. Once again all parents and students are reminded that it is in every student's best interest to avoid an 'N' award in their School Certificate.

Once again parents and students are reminded of our uniform policy. Students are asked to wear **PLAIN BLACK JUMPERS**, which means not colourful, striped or emblazoned with logos! On the odd occasion when full school uniform is not available a simple note from home outlining a reason is sufficient. Many Year 10 students unfortunately continue to flaunt the uniform policy arriving at school more colourful than some of our native birdlife.

Half yearly reports should be arriving home shortly. Please ensure you read and discuss comments and grades with your child with the aim of encouraging improvement and developing goals for the future. Every student should be completing homework and revision each afternoon with the goal of achieving the best possible end of year and School Certificate result.

Mr Ben Bryant
Year 10 Advisor

Year 11 Report

The Preliminary Year is a very important time in our students' schooling. This is especially important when we realise we are two-thirds of the way through our year – not half-way like the rest of the school. Although half-yearly reports have only just been received, the Final Year 11 Preliminary Exams are towards the end of Term 3. The HSC year starts in Term 4.

It has been pleasing to read the many positive report comments made by all of the teachers of Year 11. Many students are excelling in one or many aspects of their schooling and should be very proud of their achievements. Positive study habits continue to be developed as students continue to build knowledge in each of their subject areas. Remember that the HSC is a two year commitment and the Preliminary Year is preparation for the real thing. Quality preparation now will lead to quality achievements in the HSC.

A number of Year 11 students have failed to complete assessment tasks for various reasons. In some cases this can become a reason for unsatisfactory completion of preliminary courses and consequent ineligibility for the HSC. All tasks should be completed, even after if they are overdue, for students to meet the requirement of each subject. Failure to do so may mean students do not receive a Preliminary Certificate and cannot complete their HSC.

Parents and students are reminded that even senior students are expected to adhere to the school uniform policy. Most senior students are proud to set a positive example of how the school uniform should be worn. The minority must be reminded that a white shirt, black pants or school skirt, plain black jacket or jumper and appropriate covered footwear are required to be worn every day.

Mr Dave Hextell
Year 11 Advisor

Year 12 Report

Well, it was a busy, long term for everyone. Assessment tasks are now occurring in every subject so please ensure that all students are referring to their Assessment Task booklet to ensure that tasks are completed by the due date. Remember that there can be absolutely no extension on Year Assessment tasks. If a student is away on the day the task is due then the student must, on their return to school, complete an appeal form and any other required documentation to avoid receiving an 'N' award.

All Year 12 students should now also be starting to study for their Trial exams which are being held in Weeks 3 and 4 of next term. Students are not required to attend classes during the Trial exams; however, they will be required to attend all their classes after the exams as there are still assessment tasks being held during this time. Remember the actual HSC starts Week 1, Term 4 so these last few weeks are important to

ensure that students are prepared for the Higher School Certificate.

Students are now also able to pay for their formal which is on Tuesday 21st September at Kooindah Waters on Pollock Avenue Wyong. The cost of the Formal is eighty dollars (\$80.00) per student. If students intend to bring a partner to the formal the cost is an additional eighty dollars (\$80.00) for the partner and they must arrange a time with me to meet their intended partner.

This is a very stressful year for both the students and for families. It is important that students remember to balance their school commitments with some relaxation time. Remember if you do have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to phone me and I will get back to you as soon as possible. Till next time.

Ms Kathy Legge
Year 12 Advisor

**Term 2 finishes on Friday 2 July. Students return on Tuesday 20 July for Term 3.
Hope you all have a safe and enjoyable break.**

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 	<p>Interlink Lounge Regional Youth Support Services Parkside Multi Service Centre 123 Donnison Street, Gosford For more information call Glenys on 02 4323 2374.</p>		<p>D.A.Y.S The Depression/Anxiety Youth Group</p>
<p>FIRST MEETING Friday 12 February 2010 Starting 4.00pm</p>			
<p>The DAY Group is a social network for young people aged 12-25 with a diagnosis of depression and/or anxiety. Members get together fortnightly to share their stories and connect with other young people facing similar issues. The group is run by volunteers, who encourage group participation and interactivity. It is free to join, so come along, make some new friends and have your voice heard.</p>			