

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue 1 Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

From our Principal Ms Lisa Muir

This year has started really off well with new programs, new staff, property upgrades and some excellent individual HSC results of which we can be proud. A warm welcome to students, parents and staff who are joining the Northlakes High School community.

Strong Enrolments – Northlakes High School **"School of Choice"**

As I welcome our Northlakes Community back for 2011, it is with great pride that I announce that our enrolments for 2011 have peaked at 1,228. This is a 15% increase since 2009 and indicative of the great reputation we now enjoy as students enrol to take advantage of our quality teaching programs and broad range of extracurricular opportunities, state of the art resources and industry training opportunities. On behalf of the school community, I would like to say welcome to all of our new families.

HSC Results – Outstanding Achievements

Congratulations to all our Year 12 students and their teachers for their success in the HSC. A number of students achieved excellent results across all subjects with three students making it into the NSW Distinguished Achievers list. Congratulations to Amy Bromley, Adam Whiting and Kayla Gourley.

A number of students received results in the top 10%-20% of the State. Our students have earned places in Universities, TAFE and others have entered the workforce, traineeships or alternative training.

Year 7 – **"Off to a** **great start"**

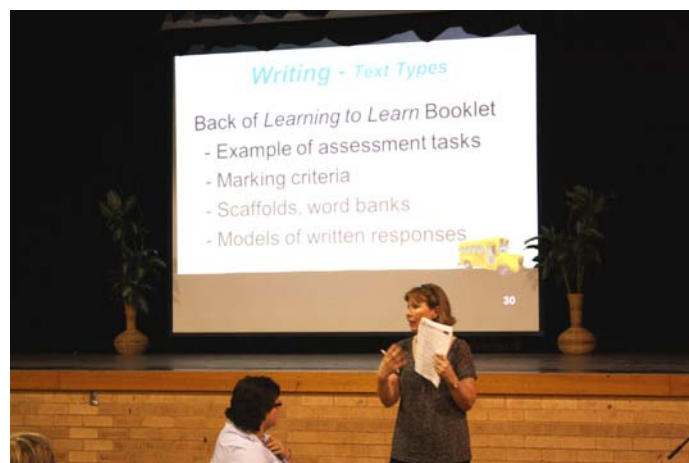
We are very proud of our Year 7 students who have embarked



on their high school lives in a most settled and mature manner. Many thanks to Mrs Lubinski for her efforts as Year 7 Adviser.

Year 7 – Learning to Learn

This exciting program has begun in all year 7 classes. Students are being taught topics including how to organise bookwork, skills in learning such as note taking, text type writing, using textbooks and improving comprehension. A parent evening to compliment this program took place on Wednesday 16th February at 6.30pm.



Qualified Experienced and Professional Staff

We farewelled a number of staff at the end of 2010 who have either retired, transferred or were promoted. In addition, as our enrolments grow we have a greater staffing allocation. As a result, this term we have a number of newly appointed staff and also very competent staff in relieving positions. We welcome these staff members and the expertise they contribute to our school:

Head Teacher Mentor:
Head Teacher Female:
Science:

Mr Hensen
Ms Byrnes
Mr Fleming (Head
Teacher Science), Ms
Pidgeon & Mr Wallace
Ms Singh & Mr Pinczuk

HSIE:

CAPA:	Ms Koteczky & Ms Williams
PD/H/PE:	Ms Stephenson, Ms Sykes & Mr Hoffman
Maths:	Mr Blinman & Ms Wilson
Support Unit:	Ms Anderson & Ms Schneider
English:	Mr Stewart, Ms Smith & Mr King

We look forward to the contributions from staff as they join us as permanent and/or temporary teachers.

Year 7 – 2012 Information Evening – Hear about our great school!

We will be holding a Year 7 2012 parent information evening on February 22nd at 6.00pm in the school Hall. There will also be a BBQ for families from 5.30pm to meet our staff. We encourage all parents of Year 6 to attend. Come along and find out why we are the local school of choice and how we provide "Opportunities for Future Success". Students are also welcome.

Year 7-12 Parents Do Make a Difference

We had a great turn out of parents and students to hear our special guest speaker Angie Wilcox from High Hopes Educational Services. Angie explained how parents can help their children organise their time more efficiently, and on how to break down assessment tasks, effective study tips and more. The night turned out very entertaining and I'm sure everyone got some useful tips from the evening. Next week we will be holding a similar evening for all parents from year 7.



This is a photo of a mother and daughter learning some great study tips.

Parent Teacher Online Booking

This year our first Parent Teacher Evening is on March 30th. All parents will receive by mail prior to this date a PIN number. This will enable parents to use their PIN to book staff appointments online or via the telephone. Your child's list of subjects and teachers will be linked to your PIN number.

Year 11 on Track

All year 11 students will be undertaking fortnightly study skills periods. This will involve learning styles,

text types, goal setting, time management and organisation, Board of Studies sites, how the ATAR is calculated etc. This compliments our Mathematics BOOST program in Year 11 and our student mentor program.

Gemma Ferrington – Sport Blue

We congratulate our Year 12 student, Gemma Ferrington. Gemma was recently awarded the prestigious NSW Sport Blue for her outstanding achievements in Netball. We wish Gemma luck in her future sporting endeavours.



Chaplaincy funding

Northlakes High continues the Federal Government Chaplaincy funding and our Chaplain will continue to support all students of all beliefs and to run youth programs in our school.

Property Upgrades – Our school facilities are excellent

We have also seen a positive start to the year in the area of property upgrades. Works have included major drainage installation and upgrades, retention basins, new guttering to all buildings and retaining landscaping. The commercial kitchen construction (Centre for Industry Training Excellence) has commenced in addition to our upcoming upgrades for our existing kitchens. Our upgrades to our Construction and Metals and Engineering Facilities should commence by the end of Term 1. We are very excited about the industry qualifications opportunities this will provide for our students.

Student Absences

Phone Intervention Program: To enhance school/student/family communication and to support attendance, selected students in Years 7 – 12 will continue to be phoned on days that they are absent. The marked improvement in student attendance rates is testimony to the positive outcomes of this initiative.

Partial Absences: We are currently implementing a streamlined system for monitoring and following up on student truancy/partial absences throughout the day and look forward to improved outcomes in this

area now that we have purchased the software and technology to undertake period by period marking.

Queensland Flood Appeal – Our Generous Community

As Queensland faces the aftermath of Australia's worst Natural Disaster in history, the Northlakes High School Community held a gold coin donation day on February 17th to support Queensland Schools which have lost resources and facilities, as a result of recent floods and now, also the aftermath of cyclone Yasi. Thank you to the many students' families and staff for their generosity.

Staff List

In addition to Head Teacher Welfare and the Head Teacher of Faculty; please refer to the following staff list and do not hesitate to contact staff at any mutually convenient time.

YEAR	YEAR ADVISER	HEAD TEACHER'S DISCIPLINE, UNIFORM & TRUANCY	DEPUTY PRINCIPAL
7	Mrs Lubinski	Ms Byrnes & Ms Woodley	Mrs Rowley
8	Mr Chandler	Ms Curran & Mr Welham	Mr Yates
9	Mrs Garside/Mrs Bissaker	Mr Flemming & Ms Brine	Mrs Skamperle
10	Mrs Jephson	Ms Smith & Mr Brimbecom	Mr Yates
11	Mr Bryant	Mrs Rowley	Mrs Rowley
12	Mr Hextell	Mr Yates	Mr Yates

ALL STUDENTS – OTHER SUPPORT STAFF

CAREERS ADVISER	Mr Williamson
HEAD TEACHER ENGLISH	Ms Smith
HEAD TEACHER MATHS	Ms Woodley
HEAD TEACHER SCIENCE	Mr Flemming
HEAD TEACHER HSIE	Ms Bromley
HEAD TEACHER TAS (TECHNOLOGY/INDUSTRIAL ARTS)	Mrs Brine
HEAD TEACHER TEACHING & LEARNING	Mrs Curran
HEAD TEACHER PD/HEALTH/PE	Mr Glachan
HEAD TEACHER SUPPORT UNIT	Mr Cotterell
HEAD TEACHER CREATIVE ARTS	Mr Brimbecom
HEAD TEACHER VOCATIONAL EDUCATION	Mr Welham
HEAD TEACHERS WELFARE	Ms Byrnes, Mrs Kennedy &

	Mrs Garside
LIBRARIAN	Mr Zappia
COUNSELLORS	Mrs McCarthy, Mr Carrasco & Mrs Warwick

I look forward to a productive parent and community partnership at Northlakes High School as we work together to provide the best possible outcomes for our students, embracing our motto "Together We Achieve".

Lisa Muir
Principal

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDER

February

21st Swimming Carnival
22nd Yr 6 to 7 Information Night

March

3rd Zone Swimming Carnival
16th Regional Swimming Carnival
21st Year 10 Career Day
30th Years 7-12 Parent Information Night

From our Deputy Principals

Uniform

We have been very impressed with our school's uniform this term. Most students have already complied with our Occupational Health & Safety and Uniform requirements and are wearing enclosed black leather shoes. We are supporting students in this process by providing shoe coverings for those who have not yet been able to replace shoes that do not comply. This means that students can continue to participate in all practical classes.

All students may now purchase black shorts from the uniform shop. These are for boys and girls, and are made from the same material as the sports uniform shorts. They have been introduced as the result of student suggestions and can be worn daily.

Year 7

Year 7 has started high school very well. Behaviour and effort in class has been at a high level. We are running a "Learning to Learn" program with all classes and have had two parent evenings to assist parents with strategies to assist their students.

Year 11

We have had 170 Year 11 students return this year! All subject changes have been made and students should all be settled into their courses. They have been issued with assessment booklets which clearly explain student's responsibilities.

If a Year 11 student is finding school hard or needs to discuss any issues related to their subjects or their future, please contact Mr Bryant (Year Adviser), Mr Williamson (Career's Teacher) or myself.

M. Rowley
Deputy Principal

Deputy Principal - Year Nine

Year 9 have got off to a good start this year and as I walk around the school students are actively engaged in their studies. This is an important year for Year 9 as it sets them up for their School certificate in 2012. They will also be participating in events that will assist them in planning for their future. I encourage parents to promote the school's values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best, which the staff actively promote at Northlakes High School. I would also like you to discuss with your children about their aspirations for the future and develop daily, weekly, monthly and/or yearly goals they may set for themselves to achieve these aspirations.

Assessment Schedule Booklets Year Nine

Year 9 have received their Assessment Schedule Booklet that lists all of their subjects and tasks for the year. If you don't have one at your house please contact the school and I will ensure that you get one. The information in this book is important, particularly in relation to the rules and regulations that apply to assessment tasks. Students may not get as much homework this year as they did previously because they have major tasks to complete for each subject. There are strict rules regarding the submission and marking of these tasks that students should know so I encourage you to read these with your child and ensure they understand them. The Department of Education has counted the Staff Development Day as Week One this year. As the Assessment Schedule Booklet was developed prior to this development tasks will now be due one week after the date advertised. So if a task is due in week four it is now due in week five. Please note, this is only the case for Term 1 and all students have been notified in writing.

Year Nine Laptops

Year 9 information and contract meeting will be on the 23rd February. Contracts will be handed out at this meeting and information regarding the use and care of laptops will be presented. No contracts will be given out prior to this date. All parents and students should attend. Laptops will be issued in the weeks after this meeting when contracts have been processed. Students in Year 9 are still required to have books and laptops may be confiscated from

students who breach contract or who consistently breach the conditions and rules relating to the use of technology in this school.

G. Skamperle
Deputy Principal

Mathematics Report

Welcome to a new year at Northlakes High School. Mathematics has had a few staff changes for 2011; Mr Blinman has joined the school as a permanent appointment, Miss Wilson is continuing in a relieving capacity, and Miss Sykes has been assisting during first term, while we undergo the merit selection process to appoint another additional staff member.

Most classes have started the year enthusiastically; the Mathematics staff is particularly impressed with the new intake of year 7, who are working well in class. We have been focusing on incorporating more problem based learning into programming this year, particularly with year 7 classes. Some of our year 10 students have also enjoyed lessons with a problem based structure – most notably using popcorn to compare volumes of solids!

Our BOOST students in year 12 had an excursion to Newcastle University on Friday 11th February, where they looked at developing study routines and effective methods of study, particularly in Mathematics. The students involved will also be partnered with a university student in a mentoring capacity very soon.

All year 7 and 8 classes have a period each fortnight timetabled into a computer lab. Completing online homework in preparation for NAPLAN (through the school's moodle server) is compulsory in 2011, and satisfactory completion of this homework will form part of our grading each semester. Students will be able to complete the majority of this homework in class, the rest at home or in D33, where Mrs Woodley will be every recess. Some people have started this extremely well, including all of the year 7 and 8 students named below who gained perfect scores in the first set. There were several other people who have also gained perfect scores, however, they have not put their names on their accounts so we are unable to tell who they are! Students are encouraged to update their profile if this applies to them.

Year 7 students scoring 10/10	Year 8 students scoring 10/10
Nikita Gray Alexandra Bowen Braydon Keegan Aeydon Cook	Kayla Sales Grace Kessling Andy Ismail Scott Hobson

Taylah Brunell	Zach Abel Blake Seaburn Peter Thode Jamian Marsh Brittany Fraser Matthew Sharpe
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Anna Bromley
Head Teacher

A reminder to parents that students require a book solely for Maths. An exercise book can be left with the Maths teacher if necessary, as all students are required to have a subject specific book each day.

Calculators are required for all courses, and are available from the front office for \$24. If students then bring their receipt to the Mathematics staffroom Ms Jory will engrave it free of charge.

The first assessment task for most students will be in Week 9 of this term. Revising the content covered this term will be helpful in ensuring students are achieving well in their assessment.

HSIE Report

The HSIE department has had a wonderful start to 2011, with the exception of our colleague Mr Gumley. Mr Gumley has had an ongoing problem with his knee and he is unable to join us. We miss him terribly and send all our best wishes to him.

We have 17 staff involved in teaching HSIE subjects. We welcome Mr Kerr, Mr Martin, Ms Munden, Mr Pinzcuk, Ms Singh and Mr Wallace who are new to HSIE this year. They have been well prepared and have been demonstrating that their classes are in good hands. My many thanks to the HSIE staff that helped with resources and programming. I appreciate your professionalism and compassion.

All Year 7 – 9 classes in History and Geography classes have been given homework books, from which they will be regularly completing activities. All HSIE assignments and assessment tasks will now be available on the School's website. Permission notes for excursions will also be able to be accessed from the website.

On Friday 4th March, Year 10 will be going on a field study trip to Norah Head and Cabbage Tree Bay to complete the mandatory Field Study for Geography. It is a great day with lots of skills learnt and at only \$6.00 it is a great price.

In HSIE classes for 2011 students will be required to write their work in a work book rather than their laptops. Please supply your students with pens and a work book.

Best wishes to all our students for a successful start to the year.

Science

Northlakes High School Science faculty would like to welcome students and staff back for another exciting year. We look forward to helping all of our students achieve their personal best. We would like to welcome our new Head Teacher, Mr Fleming, who has come from The Tuggerah Lakes Campus. We look forward to his leadership; however, we would like to thank Mr Bryant who did a fantastic job as relieving Head Teacher in 2010. We would also like to welcome Mrs Pidgeon who has been permanently appointed at Northlakes and also Mr Wallace, who is joining the faculty in a temporary position.

We would like to congratulate and acknowledge our senior students from 2010 who have been accepted into University courses; we wish them all the best. Our new senior students are settling in and need to be reminded that now is the time to set their schedules and goals to get prepared for the year ahead. We trust that they have already plans in place to achieve their personal best.

Tutoring will be available for senior students in some subjects of Science. It will be run as a free ten week program that will be offered to year 12 students and year 11 students if positions are available. More information on these programs will come.

A number of year 7 students were selected to attend a MEGS (Making Education Goals Sustainable) excursion on the 17th February to Newcastle University. They were presented with a Science show and also participated in many other valuable activities. The students will make a presentation at our next assembly documenting their experience.

PDHPE Report

We begin 2011 with a number of changes in PDHPE. We welcome Mrs Stephenson as a new temporary teacher to PDHPE at Northlakes High School; Mrs Kennedy has commenced maternity leave and her position will be filled by Ms Sykes; Mr Mansfield is taking over all of the sport organiser's duties for school, carnival and representative sport.

Year 7-10 students should have received a copy of the expectations in PDHPE in their theory classes. These expectations are outlined below. Year 11 and 12 students will be working with the Milestones program to improve results for senior students. There will be more information on this program in upcoming newsletters.

As PDHPE is a mandatory subject in Years 7-10, students must participate to a satisfactory level in both theory and practical classes to meet Board of Studies requirements. Students will be assessed in both theoretical and practical components throughout the year and marks are awarded for set tasks, whether written, oral or practical. Students are required to attend theory classes prepared with their PDHPE exercise book and appropriate writing equipment.

Practical units of work are usually assessed over the length of the unit of work (e.g. 4 weeks). It is therefore important that alternative theory work is completed as requested when a student is unable to participate due to injury, illness or inappropriate clothing. All tasks and activities need to be attempted to the best of a student's ability.

Students are required to attend practical classes prepared with their PDHPE uniform of:

- White collared polo shirt with school emblem
- Bottle green sport shorts
- Socks and joggers

If a student is unable to bring the correct uniform a suitable change of clothes and a note from their parent/caregiver is needed. Students who are injured/ill or fail to bring the correct uniform are required to complete alternate theory work. The class teacher will assign this at the start of each lesson. Work not completed will be completed during either recess or lunch.

Practical PDHPE classes have begun the year with Cross Country and Athletics units of activity as we work toward our school carnivals in these sports later this term. All students are expected to complete these activities to the best of their ability. Please be assured that PDHPE staff are very aware of the extremes of temperature we have experienced early this term and modify activities to suit the conditions when necessary.

Mr Hextell
Relieving Head Teacher

Sport Report

Welcome to another jam packed year of sport in 2011. The first big item on the agenda is the Swimming Carnival, to be held at Wyong Pool on Monday 21st February. Fingers crossed for a fine day of weather, as the Swimming Carnival is always an enjoyable event when the sun is shining. All students are encouraged to attend and compete to the best of

their ability, or come and cheer on their friends if you happen to be a non-swimmer. Before the end of term 1 we will also have held our Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals, so stay tuned for more information on both of those days.

CHS knockout competitions will be starting soon with Football, Softball and Touch Football happening very shortly. These competitions are a fantastic way for students to show some school spirit, and experience success outside of the classroom.

Plenty of sporting announcements are often given on morning assemblies, so students are encouraged to listen out for all of this information.

Mr Mansfield

Teaching and Learning Report

Learning Support – Support for our students

The Teaching and Learning faculty focuses strongly on learning support for students from Year 7 to 12. We have two Learning Support classes in Year 7 and one in each year from 8 to 10. Each of these classes is part of mainstream schooling but has the additional support of a Support Teacher Learning Officer (SLSO), STLA (Support Teacher Learning Assistance) as well as integrated programs supporting reading, comprehension and numeracy skills.

The faculty is very pleased to welcome two new teachers to the staff. Ms Munden is teaching 8L for their core subjects and she is supported by Mrs Anderson (SLSO). Mrs Anderson is a very experienced support person and an invaluable aide in the classroom. Ms Watts is teaching 7A this year. She is supported by Ms Onslow who has an excellent rapport with her students. Ms Byrnes continues to teach 7L. She is supported this year by Mrs Hanson who is a highly experienced SLSO. We congratulate Ms Byrnes on her promotion this year to a Head Teacher Welfare position.

We would also like to welcome back Mrs Viles, Mrs Honeyands and Mrs Rowett who work as additional SLSOs within the Teaching and Learning faculty. They work tirelessly to support their classes as well as contributing to the running of STLA programs across the school e.g. Quicksmart (Basic Maths Skills), Corrective Reading and Withdrawal Reading Groups. Ms Williams will replace Mrs Woodley on the Quicksmart team and we welcome Mr Lawson who will be running workshops in 'problem solving' for students in this numeracy program.

The STLAs, Mrs Curran and MS Hsu, are currently testing new enrolments and Year 7 students to determine any students requiring extra assistance. STLAs offer many excellent programs to support students in their learning. The Peer Tutor Program will again run this year with Year 7 & 10 students and Year 8 & 11 students. This is a program aimed at supporting reading, where older students act as 'mentors' to younger students whilst studying to receive a TAFE Tutoring Certificate. Withdrawal Reading Programs offer help with decoding, fluency and comprehension skills and Assignment Workshops, for Years 9 & 10, offers support to students finding assignment work difficult. Applications for Special Provisions for the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate will begin soon. Provisions include reading and writing assistance plus special considerations for any health issues. If you feel your son or daughter would qualify for Special Provisions please contact Ms Hsu or Mrs Curran on 43900555. Applications are quite lengthy and take time to process so we ask that you contact us as soon as possible.

Literacy and Numeracy Classes – Student Opportunities

All students in Years 7 & 8 will receive Literacy and Numeracy training as part of their regular curriculum. Literacy lessons will be held as part of the English curriculum this year and Mr Zappia will teach numeracy. These programs focus on basic literacy and numeracy skills and aim to improve student performance in all basic skills areas. The NAPLAN test focus for this year is 'Persuasive' writing. Students have been practicing this text type in all Key Learning areas and this will continue to be a focus this term. Students are encouraged to review and practice persuasive writing techniques at home. Scaffolds and text information for the NAPLAN writing task are available from Mrs Curran for any parents who wish to access this information.

All My Own Work

Last Year every Year 10 student participated in the *All My Own Work* Program. This program is designed to help Higher School Certificate students to follow the principles and practices of good scholarship. This includes understanding and valuing ethical practices when locating and using information as part of their HSC studies. The program is a compulsory part of the Preliminary Year and all students must complete all 5 components of the course. Students who still have outstanding components have been notified and need to submit this work to Mrs Curran by the due date. New students also need to see Mrs Curran to ensure they complete the course.

Free HSC Tutorials and Tutoring – Coming Soon!

Free tutoring after school, across a range of subject areas will be made available to HSC students in Term 2 this year. Tutorials will be run by Northlakes High School teachers and will most likely extend across a 10 week period. Positions will be made available first to Year 12 students and later to Year 11 students depending on numbers. This program was highly successful last year with many students taking advantage of the extra assistance being provided. Students will be asked to nominate themselves for enrolment in the coming weeks. Any enquiries can be directed to Mrs Curran on 43900555.

Languages Report

2011 shapes up to be an exciting year for languages at Northlakes High School.

Firstly, we welcome Mrs Fiona Davis, who has been appointed as our new permanent Japanese teacher. Mrs Davis comes with plenty of experience from her previous school, Brisbane Water Secondary College, and a real enthusiasm for teaching Japanese.

Year 7 have all commenced their mandatory 100 hours study of Japanese. All classes have been working hard learning about 'What language is' and also learning their Japanese sounds. Parents should be hearing their son/daughter practicing their sounds at home as part of their homework. In the lead up to Valentine's Day all year 7 students attempted their first piece of origami in the course, a love heart!

In 2011 we have a Year 11 Japanese Beginner's class of 22 students commencing their studies; they also are working hard at learning their Japanese sounds.

All the students and teachers are enjoying the new Language Centre; students are showing that they are much more engaged in the lessons being able to use the Interactive Whiteboards, laptops and wireless system in the room.

Mr Welham

LEARNING WITH LAPTOPS – The Digital Education Revolution (Year 9 - 2011)

The Year 9 student laptops have now arrived in the school, they are in the process of being setup, in preparation for being issued to the students. We will be holding a Parent Evening on **Wednesday 23rd February 2010 at 6.00pm**. During the evening we will discuss the features of the laptops, our expectations in regards to student use and care of

the laptops and answer any questions that you may have. The 'Laptop User Charter' will be issued on this night and students and parents/carers will be required to sign the charter before a laptop can be issued. Details regarding the Parent Evening will be distributed to students in the coming weeks.



Mr Welham & Miss Bryant

Careers

Facebook Careers Page – Careers@NHS

As mentioned last year, a lot of career information was sent out to students via their school email account. This posed two problems. Firstly, a large number of students despite all requests would not check their emails regularly. Secondly, parents do not have access to the student's emails to see the information being sent. In response to this, I have established a Careers Facebook Page. This page does not have an "add friend function", so all privacy remains in tact. All students and parents have to do is log on to Facebook and search for "Careers@NHS". Once the page has come up, press the "like button" and career information updates will appear on your home wall (or so I have been told), easily accessible via the internet on your home computer or mobile phones. This is a tremendous opportunity for parents to see what is going on, key dates as well as providing them with links and ideas in helping them assist their child's ongoing career development. Once again I urge students to continue to check their emails as I will continue to send information to those accounts as well.

CATE Award Program

All students who have started the CATE Award Program in 2008-2010 must have all requirements fulfilled by the end of Term 3 this year to be eligible their award.

The Career and Transition Excellence Award Program is now open for students in Years 9-11. Applications can be picked up from the Careers

Office. An information evening will be organised for parents & students shortly. If you have any questions please call me.

Careers Focus Days

As you receive this newsletter, Year 9 would have completed their term one Careers Focus Day on Wednesday 16th February. On this day students undertook sessions on Career Education, Goal setting, Career surveys, Tax File Numbers and the myfuture.edu.au website. I would like to thank Mr.Hextell, Ms.Pisani & Mr.Bayada for taking time out of their busy schedules to run sessions on this day.

Year 10 will be having their day on Monday March 10, where they will be undertaking sessions on University, TAFE, Career Survey, Private Providers & Apprenticeships.

2011 Mock Interviews

The dates for this year's Mock Interviews have been set for the 27th, 28th & 29th July. This is a compulsory program for *all students in Year 10*. CATE Award Students may also participate as part of their requirements. Students need to start preparing by choosing a job (i.e. mechanic, hairdresser), writing their resumes & cover letters, creating an employment portfolio and organising interview attire.

Careers Passport

Students in Years 9 & 10 will be receiving a Careers Passport on their Careers Focus Day. The passport enables students to record their participation in career related activities. The passport gives students ideas as to what sort of activities they should be participating in. As they complete each section of the passport, they can get it stamped by me. Those students who have completed all sections will receive a Careers Certificate to put in their portfolios at the end of the year. Please note it is the student's responsibility to complete and look after their passports. Many of the activities in the passport count towards the CATE Award Program.

Work Experience

Students are encouraged to undertake work experience as a means of learning about the vocations they are interested in. Students must be at least 14 years of age. Students can go to work experience at any time other than weekends, holidays or the last week of Term 4. It is the student's responsibility to find an employer. Once they have done so, and arranged a placement date, they can collect the insurance paper work from me. All paper work must be completed before the student's commences the placement, preferably I would like it

one week prior. Please note students must also refer to their assessment booklets when arranging a time, as they are not permitted to be out when they have an assessment task.

Mr Williamson
Careers Adviser

Vocational Education and Training (VET)

Building Works – ‘Opportunities for future success’

During the summer vacation, construction work commenced on our new Hospitality Centre. This building should take approximately 30 weeks to complete. When completed the school will have a state of the art Commercial Kitchen facility with attached dining room and change rooms for student use. This will raise the facilities to a standard capable of delivering Certificate III in Hospitality. In addition to this project, the existing school kitchen facilities in E Block are to be demolished and rebuilt, one to a commercial standard to deliver Hospitality Food and Beverage competencies, the other as a top quality domestic kitchen environment.

Commencing early Term 2 will be another building project that will see large parts of our existing Industrial Arts building stripped out and demolished to be replaced with facilities that meet industry standards for courses in Construction and Metals and Engineering. Obviously there will be some disruption to staff and students whilst these major projects are undertaken. However, staff are enthusiastically looking forward to the new facilities and are currently adjusting their teaching programs and courses to take into account the disruptions that are expected to occur whilst building works take place.

New Courses – Exciting Curriculum Choices

This year sees the introduction into the Year 11 curriculum of two new Vocational Education and Training courses. Furniture Making is being taught by Mr Winter and will see students gain industry qualifications relevant for students that want to enter the workforce in furniture making and small timber construction. Sports Coaching is being taught by Mr Thomas, this course allows students to gain industry qualifications relevant for students that want to enter the workforce in sports coaching/personal training/fitness. Mr Hextall has also undertaken training to deliver the Sports Coaching course so we are looking forward to it expanding in future years as there are a growing number of employment opportunities in the local area in these industries. We welcome all three teachers to the VET faculty.



Trade Training: Industry Qualifications

The Lakes Community Trade Training has commenced operations this year. This organisation has been formed by Northlakes High, Lake Munmorah High, Gorokan High, Wyong High, Wadalba Community School and Lakes Grammar School. The purpose is to provide accelerated training in Trade areas in the local area. Year 11 students from Northlakes High School are participating in Construction courses at Lake Munmorah and Wadalba, while students from Gorokan High School, Lakes Grammar High School and Northlakes High School are participating in Hospitality based within Northlakes High School. Students participating in these courses are doing six hours of course delivery each week after normal school hours and have the opportunity to complete their Preliminary and HSC course components as well as a Certificate II in 12 months.

Fast Track - Careers Accelerated Pathways Program (CAPP)

Due to the school leaving age changing to 17, there are a number of students in year 11 who are looking for an education that builds their skills to make them highly employable when they turn 17. We have introduced the CAPP class. Students in this class attend school 2 and a half days per week studying the following courses in integrated lessons: English Studies, Applied Maths, Work Studies, Computer Applications and Sport Life and Recreation. We welcome Mr James MacKinnon who has been appointed as a permanent general staff member, after a number of years here as a temporary teacher, to teach this class. It is expected that students combine this course with other options such as Trade Training, TAFE studies (TVET), or work experience/employment.

Mr Welham

Support Unit Report

2011 is proving to be very busy for students from in the Support Unit, with participation in a wide variety of programs. The year 7 students are settling in to high school and senior students are adjusting to their programs of study.

We have a number of senior students participating in TVET courses at TAFE. These courses include Hospitality, Animal Care, Horticulture and Woodwork. They involve students attending a TAFE campus one day a week. These courses are industry based and are assessed as part of a student's HSC. A number of students travel independently by public transport which is a great step towards independence in the community.

Students in the IM class are participating in a Surfing Program each week, and we have our swimming program running at Toukley Pool each Wednesday.

We continue to foster community links and have students attending the San Remo Community Garden each week. We are working closely with the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre. Many of our community programs could not run without the use of the community bus, for which we are grateful.

Creative Arts Report

I would like to welcome new parents and students to the Creative Arts faculty at Northlakes High School.

Already, senior drama, dance and music students have all participated in excursions to Onstage, Callback and Encore. These performances showcase the best students in the HSC for 2010. I believe that these excursions are invaluable for year 12 students, as it sets the standard they have to achieve for outstanding results. The HSC Visual Arts students will be going to the Art Gallery of New South Wales to see ArtExpress and the permanent collection on the 2nd March.

Later this month year 10 art students will be attending an excursion to Gosford Regional Gallery in preparation for this year's Sculpture by the Bay on the 24th February, with a school visit on the 24th March.

Year 7 visual arts students will be studying Self-Portraiture and year 8 will be studying mythological creatures; both courses involve the use of clay, painting and drawing as a way of expressing their creative vision. In music, year 7 will be studying the sounds of music and year 8 will be looking at rock music from the 1950's and onwards. We are all looking forward to a very successful year.

Mr. Brimbecom
Head Teacher

Debating and Public Speaking

Welcome back to all students we hope you had a restful break and are ready for another year of debating. If you like to argue a point, express your opinion on a variety of issues, for example the environment, would like to improve your public speaking skills and meet students from other schools while having fun then debating is for you. We need at least five students from every Year to form that Year's debating team. We are also seeking students interested in participating in public speaking

competitions Could any student interested in representing our school in debating and or public speaking please see either Mr Burley, Mrs Reay or Ms Legge (English Faculty) as soon as possible.

B. Burley, A.Reay and K. Legge

LANGUAGE CENTRE HAS SPECIAL VISIT

Towards the end of last year, the new Language Centre had a special visit from 35 members of the Gorokan Seniors Computer Club. The 35 members spent a couple of hours being 'taught' by Mr Welham using the new technology in the language centre, including using the Interactive White Board, Video-Conferencing system, student Lenovo laptops and the DER wireless system. The members were amazed at the technology and really enjoyed their day.



They wrote to the school saying;
"On behalf of our members, we would like to thank you for your time and effort in demonstrating current teaching methods. There were a number of retired teachers present, probably saying to themselves, that they are glad they retired before the methods demonstrated came into force. Nevertheless, they found it very interesting. It was a real eye opener for all of us and we now have a better understanding as to how our grandchildren are being taught."



Futsal

School based futsal competitions begin in February in Newcastle, Central Coast and Sydney. Boys and Girls U14-19 years; students to see Mr Winter for more information.

P & C Report

Welcome back to a great start for 2011. This year we will be holding our meetings *only once a term*, and we have decided to make it Week 6 of every Term. Our next P & C will also be our AGM, and will be held on Tuesday 1st March in the Language Centre at 3.30pm. All positions will be made available, and we would love to see more Parents/Caregivers come along and find out some of the wonderful opportunities that Northlakes High Schools holds for our children. Remember there is no fundraising!

If anyone is interested we will be hosting the Central Coast P&C meeting at our school on Monday 28th February at 7pm. Feel free to come along and find out what is happening on a wider scale.

Wednesday 2 March is P&C day

'Try a little Kindness' is a day for our school community to officially recognise and celebrate the contribution made by our local P&C association.

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS – Wednesday evening 30 MARCH 2011 3-6pm

The P&C have introduced a new way of making bookings for Parent/Teacher Interviews. PTO is a new internet-based booking system called Parent Teacher On-Line, and it will save time for parents, staff and students! Look out for a letter coming home in Week 8 with your login details and pin. We will make arrangements for parents without internet access.

UNIFORM SHOP

The children look great in their school uniform, and the uniform shop has been running very smoothly. Thank you to a very special band of volunteers: Julie Hutchins, Joy Foster, Angelina Kroenhert and Nicole McKewan for working in the uniform shop and being so helpful to all of our parents. A big thank you also to all of the parents that waited so patiently in the heat to ensure their children turned up to school in full school uniform.

CANTEEN

The canteen is well stocked and the drinks and iceblocks have been very popular in the hot weather, however, we are desperately seeking volunteer helpers to assist **any day**. If you feel you could help please call Leanne in the canteen and leave your name and preferred day on 43 908 751.

Angela Bambey
P & C President

Year 7 Report

A warm welcome to all Year 7 parents and students to Northlakes High School. On the whole, I'm very pleased to report that students have begun the year with an excellent attitude. I am pleased to see that many students have transferred their timetable into their student diaries. Timetables must be taken to school every day. Student diaries are also a useful tool for recording homework and assessment tasks. Student book packs are still available at the Canteen.

Thank you for sending in camp deposits, we have had a large cohort of students register interest in the camp and we have now made our first camp deposit. A formal permission note will be sent home shortly. If you would like your child to attend camp you can still make the deposit payment of \$25.00 at the front office.

Your child has been sent home this week with an immunisation package. Please return these to me at your earliest convenience. The immunisation schedule will begin in late April.

Our students have presented themselves so well in uniform and they look fabulous! Most students now have the correct footwear too. Due to Occupational, Health and Safety and Uniform policy reasons students must now wear fully enclosed black leather shoes. Daily checks began in week 2. For PDHPE lessons, students bring their sports clothes and change at school for that period only. We also have the option of black shorts for students at the Uniform shop. Please be aware that black tights are not a part of the school uniform, they are permitted under a skirt during winter only.

Please feel free to contact me at school if you have any concerns about your child at High School. I am in the Creative Arts Department on 4390 0555.

Mrs Lubinski
Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Report

Welcome back! I am most impressed with Year 8 and their start to 2011. The great majority of students are working well in class and trying their personal best. A substantial amount of preparation has been put in to ensure our classes are balanced and produce excellent learning outcomes. I am pleased to say that many teachers have commented on the settled manner of our Year 8.

We are monitoring footwear closely at Northlakes High School and I would like to remind all parents

that due to Occupational Health and Safety and Uniform policy requirements enclosed black leather shoes must now be worn to school. Please send a note to school with your child if there is a reason that this is not possible and the welfare team can issue a pass to your child.

Please feel free to contact me on 43 900 555 for any assistance or issues you may have.

Mr Michael Chandler
Year Adviser

Year 9 Report

Welcome back to our Year 9 students and their families! I hope you all had a safe and relaxing holiday break. 2011 promises to be a productive and busy year for Year 9 students and their families.

All Year 9 have settled back into High School life quite well. We need to remind students to be prepared for all our classes, especially the practical subjects like PHPP, Technology and Music. Student's uniform is looking great; remember black leather shoes are a mandatory part of the Uniform policy at Northlakes High School.

All of Year 9 are now participating in their Elective subjects. Remember a few of these Elective subjects have fees attached which should be paid ASAP to allow students to participate fully. Please contact the school if you have any problems about these fees. Remind students to collect merits from their teachers and get involved in extra-curricular activities so they can achieve the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

This will be my last newsletter as Year 9 Adviser as I am currently now the relieving Head Teacher Welfare along with Ms Byrnes at Northlakes High School. The new Year 9 Adviser is Mrs Kerry Bissaker who will do a fantastic job as my replacement. Mrs Bissaker is a competent and compassionate teacher who has your child's welfare as a priority in her role as Year Adviser.

Remember if you do have any questions or concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Bissaker at school on Ph: 43 900555 or kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you all for your support over the last two years.

Jodene Garside
Year 9 Adviser

Year 10 Report

Welcome back to 2011, an exciting and jam packed year awaits us.

This year presents many opportunities for students. The school certificate qualification, starting the crossroads program for senior school, subject choices for their Higher School Certificate, the opportunity to undertake the 'plan-it youth program', mock interviews, sport representation and the list goes on.

There are a couple of changes in 2011 for students as well. Firstly, for occupational health and safety and uniform policy reasons, students must wear black enclosed leather shoes to school. This is a very important change and it will be monitored daily. Secondly, all students must have a book for every subject. Previously, students have used laptops in some subjects as the primary tool for note taking. This year the laptops are for supplementary use in the classroom, e.g. for research. Please ensure your child brings a book for each subject as well as the necessary items, pens, glue, ruler etc, for completing class work.

Your child should have brought home their Assessment Schedule Booklet as they received them at school on 8th February. It has a red cover and it contains information on **ALL** assessment tasks for Year 10 students for **2011 in every subject**. It outlines when each assessment task is due and the percentage weight of that task. Please go through this booklet with your child as it contains some very valuable information.

Already this year we are up to 10 new enrolments in Year 10 and I would like to welcome the parents and families that are reading our newsletter and year adviser's report for the first time.

As in previous years, please do not hesitate to contact me here at school on 43 900 555 if there are any issues you need to discuss.

Mrs Lara Jephson
Year 10 Adviser

Year 11 Report

Welcome back to all Year 11 students and parents. Hopefully a safe and relaxing holiday was had by all. Congratulations to all students on the completion of their junior schooling and on the commencement of their senior studies. Being a senior student has many privileges but with that too are many more responsibilities and high expectations. Already, as they become semi-adult learners, many students may have noticed a change in the structure of the

day and their interactions with staff. With a little forethought and maturity I am sure students will all be able to not only accept and cope with the added responsibilities but thrive under the conditions which they find themselves.

The year appears to be off to a great start. All Year 11 students appear to be enjoying their new curriculum and I'm sure are developing new and positive relationships with new teachers and colleagues. Everybody looks terrific in their new white senior uniform and students are also embracing the new push for black enclosed leather shoes for obvious safety reasons.

Throughout the year students will be provided with many opportunities to involve themselves in the life of the school. Such opportunities may be as simple as attending and participating in carnivals and sporting teams or joining an academic group such as debating. Either way I am encouraging all Year 11 students to get involved and make the most of their short time left at school. One such opportunity is a programme known as "Rotary Youth Driving Assistance" or RYDA. RYDA is a not-for-profit company that has developed a road safety programme with the aim of educating young drivers about safe road use and reducing the rate of death and injury to young road users. With the generous sponsorship of Delta Electricity and free transport by Busways, the cost of the programme has been kept to a very affordable \$10. The programme will take place at Wyong Racecourse on Thursday 17th March. Students will be given more information and permission slips closer to the day. All year 11 students are invited to attend.

Lastly, a special welcome to our many new Year 11 enrolments. Northlakes High School is an enjoyable place to be and I look forward to working with each and every student to help them succeed in their Senior years.

Mr Ben Bryant
Year 11 Adviser

Year 12 Report

Year 12 is a busy time for students as they study for the Higher School Certificate and make plans for life after school. Students need to be reminded that while they are at school and studying they are gaining life experience as well as building and making a positive contribution to their future lives.

This year it's more important than ever for students to balance commitments between their school, social and family life. Being able to balance your school

commitments with social, recreational and family life is important for a happy and healthy lifestyle.

Key ways for students to achieve this balance include:

- having a set of priorities and goals
- being as positive as you can
- having support networks of people you can talk things over with
- being prepared to tackle problems early and work out ways to manage them.

Some things to remember to help with the extra workload expected from Year 12 students include:

- Prioritising – Work out what needs to be completed when and set work priorities for yourself
- Time management - Planning your time will allow you to study as well as take time off to to meet your other commitments
- Planning and discipline - Select a time for study when you concentrate the best and develop a habit of studying at this time. Try to make this study time when there are fewer distractions around you.
- Keeping fit - A fit and healthy lifestyle helps you feel more positive and have more energy. It also helps concentration. Even 10 minutes of fitness activity each day has benefits.
- Manage your stress - It's the rule rather than the exception for student to feel nervous before assessments or exams. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Stick to your revision plan and give yourself the best opportunity to do well in the task.
- Learn to say no – A small amount of sacrifice now will pay off in the future. If you commit to your study and assessment tasks, to completing your homework and revision, you will improve your HSC results.

There is no perfect way of 'doing the HSC'. Each student needs to be supported to find their own way of managing their lives at this stage. If things are not going well at school or there are other pressures it is useful to know that the school can provide and negotiate numerous pathways to the HSC.

Year 12 is a challenging time for students. There are many avenues of support available to students and I urge any students who feel they are having difficulties to seek help as early as possible.

Mr Dave Hextell
Year 12 Adviser

FOUND: A gold chain was found on school grounds. Please come to the Front Office if you think this belongs to you.

Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Roles and Responsibilities
Mrs Muir	Principal
Mrs Rowley	Deputy Principal Years 7&11
Mr Yates	Deputy Principal Years 8,10 & 12
Mrs Skamperle	Deputy Principal Year 9
Mrs Russell	Deputy Principal Curriculum
Mr Winter	Head Teacher Administration
Mrs Curran	Head Teacher Teaching and Learning, Year Eight Truancy & Red Card
Mr Welham	Head Teacher VET, Year Eight Truancy & Red Card
Mrs Garside	Head Teacher Welfare
Mrs Byrnes	Head Teacher Welfare, Year Seven Truancy
Mrs Woodley	Head Teacher Mathematics, Year 7 Red Card supervisor
Mrs Smith	Head Teacher English, Year 10 Truancy, GATS
Mr Brimbecom	Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts, Year 10 Red card supervisor
Mr Fleming	Head Teacher Science, Year 9 Red Card supervisor
Mrs Brine	Head Teacher TAS, Year 9 Truancy
Mr Glachan	Head Teacher PD/Health/PE, Year 11 Truancy & Red Card
Mrs Bromley	Head Teacher HSIE, Year 12 Truancy & Red Card
Mr Hensen	Head Teacher Mentor
Mr Williamson	Careers Adviser
Mrs Lubinski	Year 7 Adviser
Mr Chandler	Year 8 Adviser
Mrs Bissaker	Year 9 Adviser
Mrs Jephson	Year 10 Adviser
Mr Bryant	Year 11 Adviser
Mr Hextell	Year 12 Adviser, Major Sporting Carnivals
Mr Mansfield	School Sport
Mrs Jory	Year 7 Green Card Supervisor
Mr Lindsay	Year 8 Green Card Supervisor
Mr Seaby	Year 9 Green Card Supervisor
Mr Pankurst	Year 10 Green Card Supervisor
Miss Hsu	Peer Tutor Supervision
Mrs Hickson	SRC