

# Northlakes High School Newsletter

*"Opportunities for future success"*



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Issue 1 Term 1 Week 5

Tuesday, March 06, 2012

## DO NOT DROP OFF IN SCHOOL BUS ZONE, OR YOU WILL GET FINED!

We are in the process of communicating with the Wyong Shire Council, and Busways to have our drop off zone extended, but until then you should be aware of the signs so you **don't get fined**.

A survey was conducted on 9<sup>th</sup> February between 7:00am and 8:30am at the front of the School.

55 cars illegally dropped off their children in the bus zone, at the front of the School, and 5 cars illegally dropped off their children off in the no stopping zone in Goorاما Avenue. **It was also noted that a number of motorists double parked, which is also illegal.**

The fines for **illegal parking around schools** are **\$265.00** and loss of **2 points**. 60 x \$265.00 is \$15,900.00. I am sure you will agree that this money can be spent for better use. (not bad for 1 ½ hours work)

25 cars dropped their children off in the correct area. Well done!

You can drop off between 7 and 8:30am in the morning and 2-3.30 in the afternoon.



Do not stop on this side of the sign



**Please drop your children off between these signs.  
It is illegal to stop in No Stopping or Bus Zones**

**From our Principal**  
**Ms Merrilyn Rowley**

We have had a very successful start to 2012. All of our new facilities are operational, with our outstanding kitchen upgrades being our final component. Northlakes High school has benefitted greatly from the financial support of both State and Federal Governments in recent years. We have also increased our specialised learning spaces, added smartboards to classrooms, and enjoyed an increase in funds for maintenance of the school site. This is evident to anyone who visits.

I wish to congratulate Mr Warren Welham on his promotion to Deputy Principal at Northlakes High School. He is a long standing member of our local and our school community and brings many valuable skills to the role in which he has so regularly relieved while other senior executive are absent.

As we are also receiving extra Federal Government funding to support teaching and learning, in the form of the Priority Schools Program and National Partnerships funding, we have gained the resources to provide even more specialised assistance to all students. Our programs are extensive, and range from mentoring, study skills and support for our senior students, Aboriginal cultural programs, gifted and talented students' programs, and strong shared structures with our local primary schools. Our reputation continues to grow as our achievements and efforts are recognised.

This is a time of significant educational change, both at State and Federal level. We will be affected, hopefully positively, by the outcomes of the review of Gonski funding in the review, changes in the ways schools are staffed and managed by the State Government, and the impact of the change from the School Certificate to the Record of Student Achievement. The National Curriculum is also in the long process of drafting and evaluation, and will impact on all schools by 2014.

School Contributions: I thank all parents/guardians who have already paid school course fees and the voluntary contribution. Many subjects have significant costs, due to the materials used by students. This especially applies to electives. Students and parents are always made aware of the need to cover these costs when courses are entered. The funds gained by the school through this structure are used totally to meet the costs incurred by students.

The school's Parents and Citizens' Association does a fantastic job of raising money for other requirements to enhance student learning, such as extra technological equipment. They are a very much appreciated group in our school.

Attendances: Research makes it clear that one of the best ways students can do their best at school is to be here regularly and on time. Unfortunately, many students arrive late regularly, missing important notices on assembly, or the first part of their first lesson of the day AND creating unnecessary extra work for office staff.

PLEASE ensure your children/ward is here by 8.10 a.m. so that they get full value from their school day.  
Yours in Public Education,

**Ms Merrilyn Rowley**  
**Principal**

**From our Deputy Principal**  
**Mr Warren Welham- Year 8 and Year 12**

It has been a busy start to the year with Year 8 students learning their new timetable and getting to know their new teachers. The vast majority of Year 8 students have returned to school prepared for their class work and have been displaying outstanding behaviour in their classes.

Year 12 are into their second term of HSC studies and again the vast majority are demonstrating that they are focused and completing assessment tasks to a high standard.

I recently had the pleasure of accompanying 56 Year 8 students to Luna Park. This was a reward excursion for those students who did not receive behaviour referrals in Term 4 of last year. The students caught the train and I had three separate comments from passengers saying how well behaved the students were travelling in the train. This is a great credit to these students and very important for the reputation of our school, when students are seen in such a positive light. A big thankyou to Mrs Lubinski, who as Year Advisor to Year 8, organised the excursion for these students.

This year has seen the completion of all our building and renovation works. This means that the student bike rack has been returned and is being locked up each day. It is an expectation that if students ride a bike, scooter or skateboard to school that they will

lock them in the bike rack area using a chain and padlock. Students will not be allowed to carry these large items around the school as they pose a safety risk to other students. Space will also not be made available for them to be secured in storerooms or offices in the school. If your child does come to school with one of these items, please have a conversation with them about security and assist them in having an appropriate lock and chain for the item. Also while on the topic of bikes, scooters and skateboards, a reminder that students should be wearing helmets when riding these to and from school. We have had a couple of students in the past two weeks questioned and cautioned by local police for not wearing helmets while riding their bikes.

Lastly, we have been trialling an SMS text service that notifies parents when their child has been marked absent for the day. We have implemented this with Year 8 initially and have been receiving feedback from parents that allows us to quickly identify if students are truanting or legitimately absent. It is intended that this system will be rolled out to the rest of the school in the next week. Could you please ensure that you keep your contact mobile phone and e-mail address current with the school so that we can get these messages to you without delay.

I look forward to continuing to work positively with students in Year 8 and Year 12 and am available for any parent questions.

**Mr Warren Welham**  
**Rel. Deputy Principal**

## **English Report**

2012 has begun well this year and here in the English Department we are moving quickly towards completing our first round of assessments in Years 7-12.

### **English Studies: FYI for parents and students.**

This year at Northlakes we are excited to see more Year 11 students enrolling in the new Stage 6 English Studies course. This is a Board Developed course but it does not generate an ATAR for those students enrolled. If students would like to receive and be eligible for an ATAR we strongly recommend that they see Mr Megale, or their Deputy immediately to re-enrol in Standard English.

This course is a rigorous and challenging course and although it does not generate an ATAR for HSC students, I would like to remind all parents, caregivers and Year 12 students that it is a

mandatory subject and students are required to pass in order to receive an HSC from the Board of Studies. If students enrolled in English Studies do not complete assessment tasks on time, or they are ill, they must follow the appeals process in order to avoid receiving an N Award for their respective module. Students who fail to follow the process of assessment task submission or appeals in Preliminary or HSC English jeopardise and risk failing their Higher School Certificate. The first assessment for English Studies can be found below in the Term 1 assessment schedule.

### **Why choose Northlakes in 2013?**

At this moment in time, schools across the Central Coast are calling for enrolments for 2013 Year 7 students. If you are undecided as to why our school is the one you should choose, we here in the English Faculty would like to give you some information about ourselves to help support your informed decision.

1. Our English faculty is currently staffed by both seasoned and early career teachers. Together they worked tirelessly in 2011 to rewrite and rework all of our teaching programs to better serve and challenge our varied learners at Northlakes High School.
2. All new English programs now have embedded extension tasks for all students 7-11. This allows students to earn extra credit on tasks and to extend and build their skills in all aspects of literacy. These tasks are built to develop students at the top of our cohorts and are open to all students in their respective years. It is hoped that by embedding more challenging tasks into our curriculum we will see students improve and develop more effective communication.
3. In 2011 our Year 7 debating team, led by Miss Smith, made it to the regional finals. Our team was only narrowly defeated by Tuggerah Lakes Community High, Berkeley Vale Campus in a difficult and exciting debate.
4. In 2011 Mrs Reay led our GATS students to success in the Newcastle Herald School Newspaper competition, where they wrote, edited and published a broadsheet to be published in a 2011 Newcastle Herald.
5. In 2011 3 early career teachers in the English faculty successfully supported students through weekly tuition for the HSC. The aim of this was to improve educational outcomes

for senior students who were willing to enrol and participate.

6. In 2012 Ms Norris will be leading students in a "Poetry Slam" contest to challenge kids on the spot and in a public way. It is hoped that by looking at poetry in a more contemporary context, students at Northlakes High School can continue to prove to our community that we are fierce and can excel at whatever we set our minds to.

The English Faculty would like to thank parents and the community for its ongoing support and hope that if you have any issues arising you will not hesitate to contact our staff.

### Term 1 Assessment Schedule

<b>Year 7</b>	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>
<b>Task 1:</b> Written Persuasive argument (in class test) <b>Due: 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Task 1:</b> Visual Representation Book Cover/blurb <b>Due: March 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Task 1:</b> Persuasive discussion (in class test)  <b>Due: 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Task 1:</b> Writing: Magazine Feature Article  <b>Due: 10G = 2<sup>nd</sup> March</b>  <b>10W= 5<sup>th</sup> March</b>
<b>Extension task 1:</b> Visual Representation: Poster	<b>Extension task 1:</b> Writing: Book Review		
<b>Task 2:</b> 2 minute formal speech Persuasive argument  <b>Due: 20<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Public speaking unit. 3-4 minute speech  <b>Due: Week 11</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Public speaking unit. 4-5 minute speech  <b>Due: Week 11</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Fiction unit: in class listening test  <b>Due: Week 11</b>

<b>Year 11 English Studies</b>	<b>Year 11 Standard</b>	<b>Year 11 Advanced</b>
<b>Task 1:</b> On the Road: Travel Brochure.	<b>Task 1:</b> Area of study Journeys : 5-6 minute speech	<b>Task 1:</b> Area of study Journeys: 5-6 minute speech

<b>Due: 24<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Listening task in class  <b>Due: Week 11</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Listening task in class  <b>Due: Week 11</b>
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<b>Year 12 English Studies</b>	<b>Year 12 Standard</b>	<b>Year 12 Advanced</b>
<b>Task 2:</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Experience through language: Distinctively Visual. Part A: Response to images Part B: Listening in class  <b>Due: Parts A&amp;B = Week 10</b>	<b>Task 2:</b> Module A: Comparative study: Texts in time Part A: Responding to images Part B: Listening test in class  <b>Due: A = 9<sup>th</sup> March</b> <b>B = 12<sup>th</sup> March</b>

### Mathematics Report

We have started this year at Northlakes with quite a few changes in the Mathematics Staffroom, with Mr Allanson, Mr Lam and Miss Rudd all joining Northlakes, as well as Mr Quinn who is teaching in both TAS and Mathematics for the moment. Welcome to all of these new staff.

Mathematics also has a bit of a celebrity in the staffroom, with Mr Martin participating in the recent Nutrigrain Ironman Series, coming 16<sup>th</sup> in the last round – Well done Mr Martin!

Some of our other superstars at school have received 'merit postcards' this year. Each week I have asked for exactly one nominated student who has been working extremely well. So far, staff have selected Aaron Groves, Isaac Brewer, Tiarnah Peachey and Sarah Plain to receive these. If your child receives one of these, they have achieved something very special.

Moodle homework is up and running for all of Year 7 and Year 8 courses. The quizzes should be done on a weekly basis, and can be attempted both at school and at home as many times as desired. The mark from these quizzes will go towards each student's assessment mark at the end of the semester, so please encourage all students to complete them. Special recognition should be made of the efforts of Renee Hill and Ella Bryant in Year 7, and Ryan Jones and Daniel Heath in Year 8 who have already

shown great efforts in completing Moodle work this semester. These quizzes reinforce work covered in class as well as preparing students for the language and conventions of NAPLAN assessments. I can reset Moodle passwords and find usernames if you have forgotten them!

An advance notice that the Australian Mathematics' Competition is on in August. We would like to have an increased number of students entering the competition this year, so please encourage your student to have a go. Mr Quinn will be looking after this competition this year.

Students in three classes are also using Mangahigh.com as a resource; our Q classes in Year 9 and Year 10 as well as Mrs Houston's Year 10 class. Again, not only does this game-style resource reinforce skills, it also forms part of our assessment. Students in classes which are using Mangahigh should complete all challenges set each time.

Most junior classes have already completed an assessment task this semester, and will be having another one soon. Mrs Curran has organised for Northlakes students to have access to MathOnline for the remainder of this year through National Partnership funds – an individual subscription to this site costs \$197, so having it available free of charge for students is wonderful. Please encourage your student to make use of this resource, particularly as the next assessment is coming up! Each Mathematics teacher will have a copy of all logins for their classes.

Mr Meza has taken over the job of engraving calculators at the school. Students pay their \$24 at the front office and then take the receipt to Mr Meza in the Mathematics staffroom. He will provide the calculator, and engrave the student's name on it as well. All students should have their own calculator with them at all times, as well as a workbook, pens, a ruler, and their laptop if appropriate. If necessary, staff members will keep students' books with them. Please ensure that each student has a dedicated 'maths' book. An 'everything' book is not acceptable.

**Ms Jacqueline Woodley**

### *Languages Report*

This year Northlakes High School students are learning either Japanese or Indonesian. Two classes – 7GQ and 7GN - have been selected to



learn Indonesian in Stage 4 with Mrs Davis. All other classes are learning Japanese with either Mrs Davis or Mr Nolan. All students in Year 7 have now completed an Introduction to Language and are moving on to learn how to talk about themselves. This will include introducing themselves to others and telling their age.



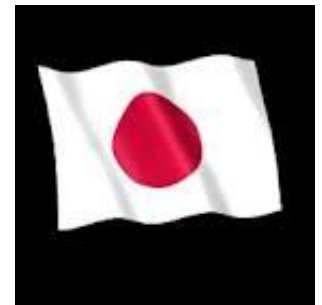
On Valentine's Day the Japanese language students had fun making origami hearts. Students of Indonesian

have learnt the importance of the country's coat of arms – The Pancasila.



The new Year 11 Beginners' course has begun at a cracking pace. Students in this class have applied themselves diligently to learning the first of the Japanese language scripts called hiragana ひらがな.

We welcome back the Year 12 class who ended last year on a high note by visiting the Australian National University for a Secondary Japanese workshop. This class has their first



assessment task for the year due shortly. It will be a listening and writing task to be completed in class time during Week 6 of this term. We encourage all students to make revision a priority in their homework schedules.

**Mrs Fiona Davis and Mr Paul Nolan**

### **TAS Report**

The Tas faculty now have two brand new kitchens which have replaced the rather tired originals. The kitchens have tiled walls, resurfaced floors, stainless steel bench tops, stainless steel gas ovens, microwaves and exhaust ducting. They are also fully air conditioned.

Year 7 and Year 8 Technology have started the year either woodworking, metalworking, cooking, theme park modelling, textiles or our new program electronics. This program is called 'short circuits' and we have two Year 8 classes who have so far built a LED flasher, LED buzzer, electronic buzz board and continuity tester.



Metals and Engineering Trade Training Centre students are using the new equipment and are machining a steel hammer and car stands. Year 11 are doing their Construction Induction Certificate (white card) using the new design and planning room in the Industrial Arts Building.

Three Year 12 boys will be doing work placement in Construction starting 20-2-12 and Year 11 Metals and Engineering students are now using the new Workshop and power tools.

Hospitality – Trade Training Centre, 15 students from Wadalba, Gorokan, Lakes Grammar and Northlakes have begun practical lessons in the new commercial kitchen in the after school timeslot of 2.30 to 5.30.

Year 12 Food and Beverage Hospitality students are currently on their mandatory work placement utilising their skills and may be offered employment of some type.

**Mr. Neil Kerr**

## **Support Report**

The Support Unit has five classes this year, two classes for moderately impaired students, one class for mildly impaired students, a behaviour class and a class for emotionally troubled students. We begin the year "full and full of enthusiasm". Mr Shevel's is again striving for the best garden in NSW status, Mrs Thomlinson is doing terrific things in the junior IO class and Mrs Strong has embraced coming back to teach the IM class this year. Mr Quodling is taking a behaviour class and Mrs Rossetti and Ms Anderson are sharing the other behaviour class and they are in danger of renaming the unit, the "good behaviour unit" the students are doing so well.

Meetings called IEP or ITP's involving planning for individual students have been taking place with teachers and parents as we endeavour to cater for each student in the unit. Congratulations must go to our senior students who have set a great example of hard work and good behaviour for our incoming students.

Lastly, as a unit we lost several long serving and much valued staff members due to transfers over the holidays and we wish them well in their new environment.

**Mr. Adrian Cotterell**

## **Welfare Report**

The Welfare Team at Northlakes High School have had a busy, but productive start to 2011!

We are excited to welcome back Mrs Fiona Kennedy who has returned from maternity leave. Mrs Jodene Garside and Mrs Fiona Kennedy will be job sharing the HT Welfare role. Mrs Jodene Garside working as HT Welfare Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and Mrs Fiona Kenney working Thursday and Friday.

Again in 2012, we will be implementing many programs to support the needs of our students such as GLOW, Plan It Youth, Reality Check, Anger Management, Living with Teens, Seasons for Growth, Drum Beat, Men Shed, E Mentoring/I Track. A big thank you to the staff and community who help run and support these valuable programs.

Our Anti Bullying Team is also up and running in 2012. They work really hard to provide support for students who are both victims and bullies. To support our anti- bullying coordinator, Mrs Sue Fulwood (Science Staffroom), we have for Year 7 Miss Paige Watts, Year 8 Miss Mel Sykes and for Year 9 & 10 Miss A Singh. If you have any concerns about bullying at NHS please contact your child's Year Advisor who will pass this on to Mrs Sue Fulwood. This term will be the first of our Anti Bullying Days being held for Year 7.

Our supportive Year Advisors for 2012 are:

Year 7 Advisor:	Miss Erin Campbell
Year 8 Advisor:	Mrs Megan Lubinski
Year 9 Advisor:	Mr Ed Seaby
Year 10 Advisor:	Mrs Kerry Bissaker
Year 11 Advisor:	Mrs Lara Jepson
Year 12 Advisor:	Mr Ben Bryant

## **UNIFORM: ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO WEAR UNIFORM AT ALL TIMES**

Students have started school on a positive note. Remember for Term 1 we come in our Summer Uniform which is detailed below.

Junior Boys: Black shorts, green polo shirt or green button up shirt & black leather covered shoes

Junior Girls: Junior school skirt or black shorts, green polo shirt or green button up shirt & black leather covered shoes

Senior Boys: Black shorts, white polo shirt or green button up shirt & black leather covered shoes

Senior Girls: Senior school skirt or black shorts, white polo shirt or green button up shirt & black leather covered shoes

We are very impressed with the appearance of our students this year, as almost everyone is regularly in uniform.

We are again focusing on our footwear for 2012 as it is a huge OH&S concern. Families are to try and purchase leather covered black shoes. There are many different types available in the stores. Students out of uniform will be called out of assembly, their name taken down and reason for and then a note will be sent home to parents. If you are having any problems with this bring in a note explaining the situation or call HT Welfare. (Included in this newsletter is a full page brochure on correct footwear for Northlakes High School). Missing school means your child misses out on vital information and maintaining learning routines. This can result in a loss of confidence and missing out on forming vital friendships.

Attendance is recorded each day. As a parent or caregiver you are responsible for ensuring your child attends school every day, including sports days unless your child:

- has an unavoidable medical or dental appointment (preferably these should be made after school or during holidays)
- is required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- is required to attend an exceptional or urgent family circumstance (such as attending a funeral)
- is sick, or has an infectious illness.

Students need to attend school regularly to meet the course requirements of the School Certificate and Higher School Certificate.

If you are having difficulty getting your child to attend school regularly, you should contact Mrs Garside or Mrs Kennedy HT Welfare / Attendance to discuss the issue.

If your child has to be absent from school for any reason, including arriving late or leaving early, please either tell your child's teacher or the administration assistant at our school, or explain the reason by phone, email, or written note as soon as possible, or within seven days.

**REMEMBER: IT IS NOT OK TO BE AWAY!**

The Bush Tucker Garden is well underway: the planning has started for a frog pond, a yarnning/dancing/learning circle, a separate dance circle and a BBQ area. The official opening day will hopefully be the 12<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Any volunteers from our community to plant trees please contact the school. Our students along with others from Budgewoi Primary and Blue Haven Primary are enjoying the Indigenous Cultural Programs. They offer experiences in Aboriginal dance, didgeridoo and Aboriginal Art. Will keep you posted on their progress.

Remember the Welfare Team is always here for you to contact on 43 90055 with any welfare concerns about your child.

**Mrs Jodene Garside, Mrs Simone Byrnes and Mrs Fiona Kennedy**

## **P & C News**

### **PSP SURVEYS - Attention: All Year 7 and 8 students and Families**

A **PSP survey** will be coming home shortly, and must be returned **ASAP**. Once your child has returned the survey they will receive a **\$5 voucher** to use at the canteen, and they will go into the draw for a **\$300 voucher from JB HiFi**. This survey will determine money being allocated to our school for the benefit of your students, so please help us to help your children! We will hold a special survey support morning on **Tuesday 6 March from 7:30am till 9:30am**, if you would like any information, or if you would like help filling out your form, please come along on this morning.

### **Parent & Teacher Interviews**

This year we will be holding our Parent and Teacher Interviews on **27 March from 3:00 till 6:00**. A letter will inform you how to book on-line, or if you do not have a computer, you can book via the School phone. Stay tuned for more information!

### **Athletics Carnival – 12-13 March**

### **Canteen**

It has been a very busy start to the year, and we have re-ordered book packs for any student that may still need them. It is not too late to put your name down to volunteer your time in the canteen. The only price rise is for this year is finger buns, now \$1.20

### **P&C**

It is unfortunate that the newsletter did not come out before our P&C Meeting, although we did have a good turnout, and look forward to many parents coming to our next meeting in **Term 2, week 6, 30 May at 3.30pm in the Hospitality Kitchen (K**

**Block) where you are catered to by our TVET hospitality students.** We would love to see you there, if you missed this Terms meeting, make a note of the next one.

### **Uniform Shop**

The uniform shop has been running extremely well, and you can see the results at assemblies. If you would like to try on uniforms, you can come between 10:00am and 11:15am on any Friday, but if you know sizes, and have the correct money, you can put your order in at the canteen to be made up at their convenience.

### **Year 7 Report**

Year 7 has had a successful transition to high school so far this term. All students have settled in and are seemingly enjoying their high school experience. Students have encountered many new faces and activities, and are experiencing their various classes and experiences at Northlake's High School.

Year 7 students have a big year ahead of them!! The Year 7 Camp will be taking place in Week 2, Term 2 (2-4<sup>th</sup> May). Deposits have been paid, and regular payments until the closing date are expected. Camp information will be handed out when available – and in plenty of time! If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on the school phone number.

There have been a few bullying issues. I remind every student that bullying is not tolerated at NHS, and any reports made to teachers are taken seriously. This also includes bullying via internet sites (facebook etc).

Students are required to have books and appropriate materials for their class work. It is important that students come to school each day with the correct equipment for participation in every lesson. Enclosed leather shoes are compulsory. If you have any questions regarding appropriate equipment, please don't hesitate to call me.

Here's to a busy and successful first year of high school!

**Ms Erin Campbell**  
**Year 7 Year Adviser**

### **Year 8 Report**

Welcome back to students and parents! Year 8 students have had a good start to the year and have been looking fantastic in school uniform.

I took 53 students to Luna Park recently and they were so well behaved. They had a fantastic time with many having experienced all rides and sometimes twice! Passengers on the train on the way home remarked to the teachers how wonderful the students were and I was very proud of them. It encourages me to continue to plan rewarding excursions in the future. Thank you for supporting this excursion.

I am at times worried by the use of facebook in the community. I ask that parents advise their children that if they write something on facebook that the reality is that often times it will be viewed by others. The old adage is still true; "If you don't have anything nice to say don't say anything at all". Words can be typed up and forgotten but often not by the intended recipient.

This year students will have a second year of experiencing a range of different practical classes. By term 3 students need to have a clear idea of what subjects they would like to choose for electives. They could start thinking about classes they've enjoyed and where they would like to see themselves when their schooling is over. We have a huge range of choices and it can be difficult narrowing down!

Another idea for students as the assessment tasks start flowing in is an assessment task planner. This is available on our Moodle website under: Resources: Yr 8. If any student is having trouble accessing their moodle account, please ask them to see me.

**Ms M. Lubinski**  
**Year 8 Adviser**

### **Year 9 Report**

A big welcome back to all of our Year 9 students. It is very pleasing to see that the vast majority of our students are in the correct school uniform and footwear.

Most of our students in Year 9 appear to happy in their chosen electives. If a student in your care is not happy with their chosen elective please encourage them to see me and changes can be made. This opportunity will not last forever and changes must be

On a sour note, bullying, unfortunately, is still a problem throughout Year 9. It is perhaps timely that carers and parents remind the students in their care



that Northlakes High School, like the rest of Australia, is a multicultural society and that differences between members of that society should be embraced and not ridiculed or made fun of. The school actively deals with all bullying.

**Mr Ed Seaby**  
**Year 9 Adviser**

### **Year 10 Report**

Welcome back Year 10. We have another busy year ahead of us. Remember it is extremely important to attend school with the correct equipment including books, pens and laptops. Failing to bring the correct equipment to class interrupts the learning of others.

It is vital you all work very hard this year completing Assessment Tasks. Refer to your Assessment Booklets in order to manage your time and plan your study regimes. There are many teachers at this school willing to support you in the completion of tasks. Ask your class teacher if you require further assistance. I am also available to provide assistance in breaking down the tasks. Once again, Mrs Skamperle and I will be interviewing any students who fail to submit Assessment Tasks on time. Students will then be placed on Personal Learning Plans and will be provided with time during Recess and Lunches to catch up on the missed work in order to achieve course outcomes.

There are many exciting opportunities available to all Year 10 students to get them thinking and planning about their future. Students will have Mock Interviews, HSC subject choices and the Careers Expo, just to name a few, over the course of this year. Enjoy another year and remember to achieve your personal best! Any questions or queries please feel free to contact me on 43900555 or email [Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Mrs K.Bissaker**  
**Year 10 Adviser**

### **Year 11 Report**

A new school year is upon us and time is flying already! This is a short year for year 11 as at the beginning of term four they will start their HSC work. I have spoken to students on a couple of occasions already this year about how important it is to complete work to the best of their ability. All the content that is taught across subjects in the preliminary course provides a basis on which to build knowledge in the HSC course. Without a thorough understanding, you cannot possibly complete your HSC to the best of your ability.

I have answered lots of calls this year regarding the Year 11 timetable. Lots of students are completing subjects offline (after school) and through TAFE which allows Year 11 to have timetable free days every second Tuesday. This gives them time to catch up and review each subject – this time should be used wisely!!

In saying this, here are couple of tips to help students study:

- \*Put away distractions (ipods, phones, magazines, TV, games)

- \*Make a list of things you have to do – tick them off as they are completed.

- \*Use time in the library effectively (don't play computer games)

- \*Use your syllabus!! It is your best friend in study so you can make sure you have covered all content.

- \*Create a study book for each subject and update it each night after you have the subject. This makes it easier to study before an exam and you have already seen/read/written about that idea at least twice, which will help you to remember it!

- \*Use colour to highlight important information, headings etc.

- \*ASK YOUR TEACHERS FOR HELP – That's why we are here!! ☺

Year 11 will be attending the RYDA Road Safety program on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March at Wyong Race Course. Permission notes and information has been given to students. This is a fantastic program, which is run by Rotary Clubs, and supported by Busways, Delta electricity and the school's P&C. We greatly appreciate their involvement. For more information please go to [info@ryda.org.au](mailto:info@ryda.org.au)

Finally, I am currently in the process of organising a senior Jacket/Jersey for year 11, so they can wear it for both of their senior years, not just year 12. More information will go home about this soon.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

**Mrs Lara Jephson**  
**Year 11 Adviser**

#### **ATTENTION PARENTS/CARERS**

Northlakes High School is commencing an SMS system for students absent from school. Parents are asked to update mobile numbers with the school.

For students absent an SMS will be sent on the day, and parents/carers are asked to reply directly.

Alternatively, on your child's subsequent return to school, provide a note explaining absences.

For extended absences please advise school.

If you do not wish to receive SMS please advise the school on  
43 90 05 55.

# Parent Information Sessions

## **Mainstream Learning Supported Classes Parent Information Evening**

**Date:** February 23      **Venue:** School Library      **Time:** 5pm – 6pm

If your child is in a 'Learning Supported' mainstream class in Years 7 or 8, you are invited to come and meet the teachers from the 'Teaching and Learning' faculty. Find out about programs and classroom organisation as well as additional support in literacy and numeracy your child will be receiving. You are welcome to attend the 'Learning to Learn' seminar directly after.

## **Learning to Learn - Parent Information Night**

**Date:** February 23      **Venue:** School Library      **Time:** 6pm – 7.15

The 'Learning to Learn' program is a Year 7 program designed to help students adjust to the demands of high school work. Parents play an important role in helping their child to adjust to the changes transition from the Primary school setting brings. Topics covered include how to support students to organise bookwork, improving comprehension and note making skills, studying, text types and basic writing skills and using text books.

## **Transition to High School – Meeting the Demands and Looking to the Future**

### **Date to be advised**

Angie Wilcox from 'High Hopes Educational Services' will be visiting the school to run a seminar with parents on helping the family cope with high school demands. She has lots of helpful tips on time management, organisation, breaking down assignments and setting achievable goals. She will also discuss the MEGS (Making Educational Goals Sustainable) program and how families can help students to be positively involved in decisions affecting their futures.

## **Parent Workshops**

### **Dates to be advised**

A number of parent workshops will be offered throughout the term. These may include; breaking down assessment tasks into manageable parts, understanding calculator use and algebra, literacy skills in comprehension and assisting your child with reading at home.

## **Stage 6 Seminars (Years 11 & 12)**

### **Technology Seminars**

Mr Grant Ward (Regional Project Officer – DER Hunter Central Coast Region) will lead students through practical sessions on getting the most from their DER laptops. He will demonstrate how laptop software can assist them with their study and work requirements. These sessions will take place during school time and students are required to bring their laptops with them.

Year 11 Seminar: March 1      Year 12 Seminar: March 15

## **Elevate Education Study Skills and the HSC Seminar**

**Date:** March 22      **Venue:** School Library      **Time:** School hours      **Free of Charge \$0**

Elevate Education will visit the school and present their HSC Orientation Program. The program is delivered by young university students who have recently 'faced and aced' the HSC. They will give information and advice about study and breaking down the study process of top students, providing a 'road map' for what work students need to be doing across the year and how to do it. Elevate Education will also address the common student issue of finding the time to get HSC work done. All students who attend receive a FREE downloadable copy of Elevate's guide to meeting the challenge of the HSC (retails in bookstores for \$20). Furthermore, they receive access to the website where they can download a range of study resources, practise papers and interviews with past top students, to continue to guide them through the year.

Although an alternate program is being offered on this day, it is considered to be a normal school day and all students are expected to attend.

## **Personal Best (Year 12)**

This is an excellent program and all students in Year 12 are encouraged to be involved. The program assists students who are aiming to continually improve in essay writing and examinations. Year 12 students are given the opportunity to attempt additional practise HSC examination questions (found on the 'Personal Best' Moodle site), receive formative feedback, then resubmit their essays until they achieve their best response – aiming at a Band 6. It is well researched that students who practice exam type questions in an allocated time, perform better in examinations and achieve better results. At Northlakes High School we are encouraging Yr 12 students to use the Personal Best Program to gain extra essay and test experience and to learn to improve through receiving effective feedback. Please note that this is a voluntary program and that marks for Personal Best Program essay responses are not counted toward a student's marks submitted to the Board of Studies. Personal attainment will be recognised through the award of certificates.

Students who took part in this program last year produced some excellent results in their HSC.

## **BOOST**

Northlakes High School is looking forward to participating in the BOOST program again this year. It is a joint initiative between the Department of Education and the University of Newcastle and aims to raise the attainment levels of Yr 12 students in Mathematics and boost the number of students enrolling at the University. Support in this program includes mentoring, visits to the University, study skills workshops and tutoring of our students by University students.



## **Facebook Rules for Young People**

Recently a lot of time in the Deputies and Welfare offices has been spent with students who have had issues with other students on Facebook. In some cases the students involved were simply too young and immature to appreciate the consequences of their actions on Facebook. The following has been modified from an article by Mr Bill Lovegrove, an expert in young people using technology and the internet.

### **1. General Comments**

Facebook has a wide range of privacy settings available, and in general you want all the privacy you can get. Most of the horror stories about social networking involve young people making information public and/or making contact with strangers. The rules below are generally designed to avoid all contact with strangers. The key concept is to use Facebook only to interact with real personal friends.

No part of the internet can be made safe enough to allow teens, particularly young teens, to browse around unsupervised. The rules below assume you are a parent who will take an active interest in monitoring your teen's online behaviour. It is strongly suggested that teens (and adults!) should always use some type of internet filtering, and that the computer they use to access the internet should be in a public place, not in their bedroom.

Consider the following statements from the official Facebook terms:

**"No information from children under age 13.** If you are under age 13, please do not attempt to register for Facebook or provide any personal information about yourself to us. If we learn that we have collected personal information from a child under age 13, we will delete that information as quickly as possible. If you believe that we might have any information from a child under age 13, please contact us."

**"Parental participation.** We strongly recommend that minors **13 years of age or older** ask their parents for permission before sending any information about themselves to anyone over the Internet and we encourage parents to teach their children about safe internet use practices."

## **Note that children under 13 are forbidden from using Facebook entirely.**

Facebook has been making rapid and radical changes over the past year, some of them involving privacy controls and some of them quite controversial. It can be difficult to know exactly how public your information is, so you want to assume the worst and limit the amount of personal information posted.

Facebook has been in the news recently because they in some cases don't guarantee that you can delete information you post. Apparently you can't ever delete your account, only "disable" it. And they admit they share a limited amount of information with third parties (particularly advertisers) regardless of your privacy settings. And some of your information gets automatically emailed, after which deleting it is no help. So be careful what you post!

### **2. Privacy settings**

All your privacy settings in general should be set to "only my friends" or "no one". Check these pages occasionally to make sure nothing has changed. Note there are several privacy pages, and you need to check them all. Dangers from predators or other types of harassment go up significantly when your profile is public.

- Who can find me in search: Only my friends or people in my network. Consider leaving this on "only my friends" except when you are trying to link up with a new friend who needs to search for you.
- What people can do with search results: Disable viewing your friend list. Following friends of friends is in general discouraged.
- News feed: If your other privacy settings are set to friends only, the settings here are not extremely important. But be nice to your friends and don't send them news feeds about everything. You especially don't need automatic news about changes to settings, etc.
- Applications: Remove the events and marketplace applications. Don't add other applications without permission and don't browse the applications menu.
- Block list and limited profile list. These are primarily for people with a public profile, so you can block a few select people and keep the information public to everyone. This is Facebook's answer to stalkers. However, you want your profile private to begin with. There is no point in blocking one of your friends - just remove them as a friend instead.

### **3. Profile**

If your profile privacy settings are correct, these settings are not so crucial since only your friends can see the information. However, since privacy settings can be accidentally set wrong, it is safest not to put unnecessary personal information here.

- Basic: Leave "interested in" and "looking for" unchecked (they will not show in your profile). Facebook is for interacting with your friends, not meeting strangers and building new relationships. Select "don't show my birthday" (this is a possible security risk).
- Contact: Enter only email and screen name. Any of your friends can get any other information from you directly if needed. Don't risk making it public by accident.
- Personal: These are empty boxes that can be filled with anything, so be careful that you don't accidentally put something here that you shouldn't make public. Remember that anything you say here can and might be used against you. Don't think you can just delete it later and no one will ever know, either. On the internet information has a way of getting passed around and becoming permanent.

#### 4. Friends

- One of your parents has a Facebook page and is your friend. This allows your parents to monitor what you do on Facebook.
- Only people who are true friends in real life can be your friends in Facebook (friends of friends don't count unless they are already a personal friend to you too).
- Beware of spoof Facebook pages, claiming to be someone they are not. Someone might do this to one of your friends as a "joke" and cause lots of confusion and trouble. This is one reason to interact only with true friends after you know it is their real Facebook page.
- Parents approve all of your friends, or at least reserve the right to disapprove friends just as they presumably will in real life.
- Friends who use Facebook in a dangerous manner cannot be your online friends.
- Assuming you will have to say no to some friend requests, think ahead about how you can kindly turn down these requests. Also, think about the possible awkwardness of removing someone from your friend list, and don't add lots of friends casually.
- Recognize that there are many different kinds of friendship, but Facebook only recognizes friends or not friends (this is part of the risk of using Facebook). Don't put too much importance on whether someone agrees to be your Facebook friend or not.

#### 5. Networks and Groups

- Only join networks and groups that are real organizations or groups in real life. This includes generally only your school, home town, church, and other similar organizations. Do not join other online Facebook networks. Recognize that geographic groups like towns and states can contain some people you really don't want to be associated with. Recognize that any network, including your school, may contain imposters.
- Get your parents' permission for any new networks or groups you join.

#### 6. Places you go

- Don't visit profiles of anyone except your friends. Facebook is for keeping up with your friends, not for browsing profiles of people who are not your friends. This includes friends of friends.
- Don't browse new applications. Think of Facebook as a place to exchange info with your friends, not a playground to goof off with strange apps like food fight. Any new app may have privacy risks you don't know about.
- Don't search except for the purpose of finding your true friends to establish friend links with.

#### 7. Features you don't use

- Events - public announcements of events online is risky, unless they are really public events. You don't want strangers dropping in on your birthday party, do you?
- Marketplace - this is probably not the best way for you to buy and sell stuff either. Selling stuff and maintaining privacy don't go together. Nobody should know about you on Facebook except your friends, and if you want to sell to them there are better ways.

#### 8. Other

- **Your parents need to know your Facebook password.** They need to log in as you occasionally to understand how Facebook looks from your point of view.
- Your parents agree not to change or make posts on your Facebook page. This can be very embarrassing and defeats the purpose of Facebook. They access it for monitoring only, unless of course you post something really inappropriate.
- You agree that if you misuse Facebook, your parents can disable your Facebook account.

## JAPANESE WORKSHOP - YEAR 11 8-9<sup>th</sup> December 2011

Australian National University Canberra

**Day 1.** We left school just after 6am on a 12 seater bus driven by Mr Welham. It was a quite a good run down the F3 and into Pennant Hills Road, then onto the M7. We stopped at McDonald's in Sutton Forest for breakfast.

After a quick visit to the Information Centre for a map, we arrived a little late at ANU. Our first session was to begin learning the Algorithm dance, which we practiced a few times throughout the two days, ending in a final performance for the local media on the lawn of the university. Our workshop was written up in *The Canberra Times*.

After a Lecture about the changing face of Japan we had a traditional Japanese lunch of sushi. Not everyone was convinced raw fish was their favourite part of the trip. Mr Welham taught Sharlai how to use chopsticks left-handed.



After some group work the teams competed in a Treasure Hunt (a university version of the Amazing Race) using Japanese language skills to find each clue.

Afternoon tea was some more traditional Japanese dishes including red bean paste pancakes, fried octopus balls and custard puffs.

After another lecture on Japan as an expanding nation, we were escorted to Ursula Hall for dinner. Ursula Hall is the college where we stayed overnight. Everyone had their own small room and this gave our students a small taste of life living on campus.

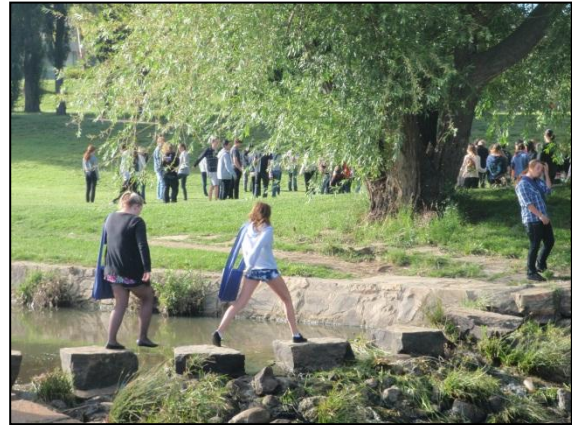
After dinner at in the dining hall everyone was given a t-shirt that said "Monolingualism is curable". We were asked to wear these the next day.

After dinner we watched the Japanese comedy *Sumou Do Sumou Don't*. Tamara and Rachelle gave us a demonstration of the Sumou stomp in the courtyard afterwards.



## DAY 2

First thing in the morning we participated in 'rajio taisho' (radio exercises) which many Japanese students perform every day before school. Kia received a prize for her efforts in this activity.



The second day continued with more tutorials and lectures on Japanese sport, popular culture, the importance of Asian studies and Japan's relationship with Korea. Even though these lectures were of university standard, our students gained a lot of information and found the topics very interesting.

Lunch (we all agreed much better today) included a bottle of lemonade which required popping the top to release a glass marble which allowed gases to move into the drink to make it fizzy.



On the way home we stopped at Big Merino for petrol and to wash the bus, stopped for dinner at Suttons Forest again and made it back to school by 10pm. A huge arigatoo gozaimasu to Mr Welham for doing all the driving!



## THE GLOBAL EXPERIENCE – LIVE IT AT HOME HOST FAMILY OPPORTUNITIES IN 2012

In June-July 2012 we will be receiving exchange students from Europe, the USA and Latin America. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2-10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.

Host families come in all shapes and sizes, backgrounds and ages. To this end, we would again be grateful if you would place a notice in your newsletter/bulletin or mention it on your website. You can download the newsletter notice here in [Word](#) format, as a [JPG-PAGE 1](#) / [JPG-PAGE 2](#) or in [PDF](#) format.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also download some student profiles in [PDF Format](#). This is just a small sample of all the students who will be arriving. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

*"Being the youngest and the only one left at home I was looking forward to having another teenager in the house. While Charlotte helps me with my French I help her with her English lessons and I have taught her many Aussie words and sayings. We both love to shop and shop and shop..." **Grace, Host Sister***

*"Hosting Kirstine has brought our family closer together. We're doing things we used to do when our kids were little, like boiling the billy, having a BBQ and baking apples up the paddock. She's helped us remember how to have fun when we're working and take time out for adventures." **Sharon, Host Mum***

*"It's been a fantastic experience so far...It's been great having an older brother for our young kids. Simon has been a fantastic role model...Simon helps around the house a lot. One of the first things he said to us during the first couple of days he was here was what should my chores be? I was delighted to hear him say that." **Victoria, Host Mum***

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au).

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331. No obligation. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Yours sincerely,  
Nick Lorentzen  
National Director  
Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd

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ABN: 49 101 489 356



## What's On At Your Centre

**GOATS Family Festival - Going Off At The Swamp Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April, 9am to 5pm, at Koala Park (Delta Electricity), Scenic Drive, San Remo.** Proudly presented by the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, GOATS Family Festival is a unique event and one of the largest free entry festivals on the Central Coast. The event opens Youth Week on the Central Coast and this year will be its fourteenth anniversary. The event is drug and alcohol free and features local and interstate performers. GOATS prides itself in giving young people the opportunity to perform in front of a packed audience and be inspired by fellow musicians plus the opportunity to get involved in the planning and coordination of the event through stage managing, emceeing and involvement with the Organising Committee. The day features over 40 performances over three stages, roaming entertainment and rides as well as community, food and market stalls. GOATS has grown to receive regional and statewide attention and was recognised in the 2011 Wyong Shire Council Australia Day Awards as the Community Event of the Year. To get involved or find out more please contact the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre either by email at [goats@sanremo.org.au](mailto:goats@sanremo.org.au) or by phone on 4390 7888.

**Do you have old mobile phones that you don't want any more?** The San Remo Neighbourhood Centre is collecting mobile phones as a fundraiser for GOATS Family Festival. Phones don't have to work and they don't need to still have their charger or other accessories, just make sure that they still have their battery and that you have removed the SIM card. To find out how to erase data from your old phone please visit [www.foneraiser.com.au](http://www.foneraiser.com.au) Through donating a phone you don't just benefit your community and those who receive them but you also help the environment by keeping the phones out of landfill. The Centre will be collecting phones from February 14<sup>th</sup> until March 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Australian Government Mobile Office Visit to San Remo Thursday 1st March, 10am-4:30pm.** Australian Government Mobile Offices are travelling around rural and remote Australia to provide information and assistance with Australian Government payments and services (including Centrelink and Medicare enquiries). Specialised Centrelink staff such as Social Workers and Customer Service Advisers travel with the Mobile Office and they can provide information on a broad range of Australian Government assistance. Medicare Australia staff are also available to assist rural families with non-cash transactions, such as paying Medicare claims by cheque or EFTPOS, enrolling people for Medicare, or updating their contact details.

**Meditation** A gentle process of breath awareness and guided visualisation, taking us to the point of stillness within. Fridays until March 30<sup>th</sup>, 11:30am - 1pm, gold coin donation.

**LINKS Youth Support Services** Programs include: - LIFTT Life Is For The Taking, Mannering Park –Dunvegan St Community Hall (Transport available) Wednesdays 4pm – 6pm. - Next Step: San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, Mondays and Wednesdays 2.30pm – 5pm. - Girl talk: Career pathways, health and wellbeing for females. Blue Haven Community Centre, Fridays 3.30pm – 5.30pm. - Gen Q: Support for same sex attracted or questioning young people, San Remo Neighbourhood Centre. - Young Parents Preparation for Work. San Remo Neighbourhood Centre, beginning soon Contact LINKS Team Leader Corrina on 4390 7888 further information and bookings.

**28 Brava Avenue San Remo**

**Ph 02 4390 7888**