

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue 2 Term 1 Week 10

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From our Principal Ms Merrilyn Rowley

Local Schools, Local Decisions

As all of you who follow Educational news in the media will be aware, NSW schools are in a period of significant change.

The State Government's education reform, Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) resulted from the consultation of thousands of people interested and involved in education. Detailed planning is still occurring, so we are not fully aware of how this reform will affect our schools. Certainly the focus of the Secondary Principals has been to ensure that any change will further help Principals to ensure that students are at the centre of decision making, and quality teaching is enhanced, and that resources are utilised in the best possible way to ensure these two core goals are achieved.

Extra Curricular Activities

At Northlakes High School, we have had an outstanding Term 1. Students generally are fulfilling their responsibilities, embracing technology, responding to their teachers, and thus achieving. We have had many excursions and educational activities, including study skills, driver awareness, Kool Skools, sporting activities, link programs with our primary schools and curriculum based extra activities. The effort and enthusiasm of staff in organising these programs reflects their commitment. I have been regularly contacted by people external to our school to commend our students and staff while they are out on these activities, and of course I share this with the school body on assemblies. It is very pleasing!

P&C

Our parents provide very solid and highly appreciated support for the programs in the school. Ms Bambey, P&C President, has contributed enormously in this role. She is the driving force behind the Parent Teacher Online program, which has significantly improved our contact with parents

for parent teacher night. She maintains our school website www.northlake-h.schools.nsw.edu.au which will always have updated information on activities in the school. Recently the P&C supported Year 11 in enabling all of Year 11 to attend the Rotary Youth Drivers Awareness (RYDA) course, which was also sponsored by Rotary.

Parent Learning

A core focus in the school is helping parents help their students in all areas of learning. There will be courses offered throughout the year. The most recent was a Maths workshop on 23/3 – 29/3. You will be notified of a further program on reading drills by flyer and on our website. We will also have parent information evenings, as the year progresses, on supporting senior students with study skills and course selections.

New Head Teacher English – Mr Boake

I have recently appointed Mr Matthew Boake as Head Teacher English. He is a merit selection appointment. Mr Boake has already attended an Extended Executive Meeting and will be taking up his position in Term 2. I thank Ms Legge and Mr Megale for their support of the faculty in their roles of relieving Head Teacher.

Deputy Principal – Mr Welham

Mr Warren Welham was recently appointed permanently as Deputy Principal, as the result of a merit selection process. He has worked for some years at Northlakes High School, and brings significant skills to this role.

Timetable

We will start Term 2 with a new timetable, as we have needed to make adjustments. Many things will remain the same, such as Year 11 and 12 having a 9 day fortnight, and classes which run off line continuing to do so in these times. I would like to thank some of our long term temporary staff who have given the school a great deal of support. Casuals are very valuable people! These are Mr Paul

Nolan, Ms Louky Parkes, Mr Mike Kable and Mr Robert Graham.

PSP

As all Year 7 and 8 parents are aware the school has recently participated in the Primary Schools Funding Program, which necessitates all parents of these year groups filling in a survey. Thank you to all for your prompt assistance in this process. The school has had PSP funding for some years. It is extra to our global budget, and allows us to support students in many ways; we have been able to ensure class structures and extra teacher training and resources are targeted to improve students' outcomes. The flexibility extra funding gives us makes an enormous difference to what we can do!

SRC Environment Day

We will be holding an Environment Day on 4th April. The focus in all areas of the school will be environmental awareness, and activities will have both a serious and a fun focus. Our great SRC students, SRC co-ordinator Mr Van Drempt, Environment Co-ordinator, Mr Shevels, and Ms Hickson, who will ran a concert to showcase our talented musicians, are to be commended for their energy and effort! I hope it is a great day!

Ms Merrilyn Rowley
Principal

From our Deputy Principal **Mr Warren Welham**

I would firstly like to take this opportunity to say thankyou to all members of the school community who have been supportive whilst I have been relieving Deputy Principal over the last twelve months. I would also like to thank everybody for their encouragement and congratulations now that I have been made permanent in the DP role. I look forward to continuing to work with the whole school community in this leadership role, especially the students and parents of students in Year 8 and Year 12.

A couple of issues I would like to draw to the attention of all;

- 1) We have a significant number of students with asthma in the school, as such the use of spray deodorant is banned at school. This is because the spray can trigger a re-action in many of these students with asthma. Please have a discussion with your child about this serious issue and when shopping with them

please encourage the use of roll-on deodorant for use at school.

- 2) We have been using our new SMS notification system for absences from school for a few weeks and the response has been very encouraging. It is important that contact mobile phone numbers are accurate and maintained when numbers change for this system to be effective.
- 3) Emergency Contact details for students are very important, if we are unable to contact parents in an emergency we rely on contacting those listed on school records as emergency contacts. In some cases we have found that we have been unable to do this as neighbours have moved or family members are no longer nearby. Could all families please ensure that up-to-date emergency contacts are available to the school. Students can pick up a form from the student window of the office to take home to update these important details.

Lastly I would like to praise the majority of Year 12 students who are working hard to completing assessment tasks in their studies towards the HSC. If students are struggling with these tasks it is important that they seek help from either their teacher or Mr Bryant their Year Advisor. It is much easier to help in the early stages of a problem then later when it is compounded by stress and frustration. It is also important that Year 12 students spend some time over the Easter holiday break, revising their work from Term 1 and summarising it into their own study notes. It would also be beneficial that they look at their commitments in Term 2 and plan on a calendar when assessment events will occur so as to make Term 2 a little less stressful as it can be very busy.

I would also like to congratulate Mr Bryant and the Year 12 and Year 10 students who recently attended 'Tree Tops' adventure park on excursion. I am told that the National Parks' staff running the activities were very impressed with our students and their excellent behaviour whilst enjoying the day.

Mr Warren Welham
Deputy Principal

Mathematics Report

Students in Mathematics have been extremely busy this term. Year 9 students have started using their

laptops in Mathematics, and as you can see from the photos of some of the students, this initiative has been received with a big 'thumbs up'!

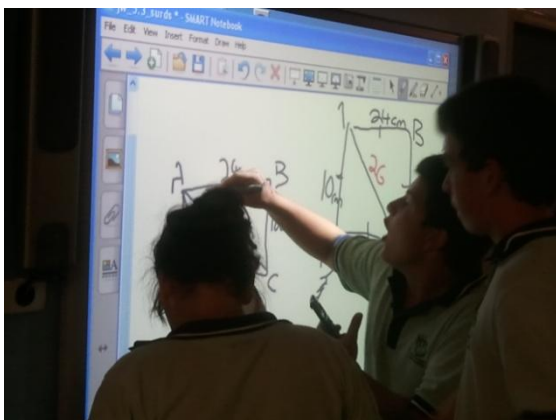


Some of our most talented Year 9 and Year 10 students have also taken part in the first round of the 'da Vinci Enigma'; a Mathematics problem solving competition where creativity, teamwork and Mathematical prowess are fuelled by chocolate milk



and large amounts of sugar. It was inspiring to hear the level of Mathematical discussion going on during the round, which was conducted

via video conference by our regional numeracy consultant Mr Bob Wellham. Students reached far beyond their normal classroom level to solve the extremely challenging and often very involved problems.



Students taking part in the "Da Vinci Enigma"

Mr Wellham has been visiting Northlakes High School on a regular basis, working with staff and students on improving numeracy, focusing on exam techniques for NAPLAN and the Higher School Certificate, as well as running the first in a series of parent workshops aimed at helping your child understand Mathematics. A large number of parents attended the first session, which was well received and looked at strategies in subtraction and addition, as well as using different resources to improve the understanding of Mathematical concepts.

Americans write the date with the month first followed by the day. For this reason

'International Pi Day' is celebrated on the 14th of March (the date in America is written 3/14). This year,



some classes in Mathematics made 'pi necklaces' to celebrate pi day, where the colours of the beads corresponded to different digits. Jack Morgan, one of our clever Year 8 students, already knew the value of pi to more than 10 decimal places, but for the majority it was a clear visual picture of how pi never repeats itself.



Student making 'Pi' necklaces to celebrate International Pi Day

Mathematics students seem to have been doing lots of different things this term – have a look at the photos of Year 10 students using popcorn to compare the volumes of different cylinders made from the same sized sheets of paper. As the students were able to eat the popcorn in the cylinder they chose to fill, most of them became very adept at determining which would have the greater volume!



Year 10 students comparing the volume of cylinders using popcorn

We have sent a few more special postcards home; remember if you get one of these in the mail it is in recognition of extraordinary effort – only ONE of these is being sent home by the Mathematics faculty each week. Over the last few weeks, recipients have been Jake Donaldson, Jeremy Tunks, Jack Morgan and Cameron Bullman. Well done to all of these students!

All of our students now have access to **Mathsonline.com.au** which has been funded by National Partnerships. This online program caters for all stages of Mathematics up to Year 12. Some classes have been set activities from this to complete as homework, but it is also available to ALL students who wish to improve their understanding of Mathematics at their own pace. Each unit generally contains video tutorials, worksheets, summaries and topic tests, and it follows the NSW Mathematics syllabus. Please encourage your child to make use of this resource. Mr Lam's Year 9 class, Mrs Houston's Year 10 class and Mrs Woodley's Year 10 class also have full access to **mangahigh.com** and these teachers have been setting consolidation tasks from this resource as well. If your student is in one of these classes, please remind them to complete their homework tasks from here. Generally there will be new tasks set on a weekly or fortnightly basis.

There is also an expectation that all Year 7 and Year 8 students complete the moodle NAPLAN homework (one period of class time is also allocated per fortnight to assist with this). Many students are completing their sets very well – well done to Matthew Delmont and Tristram Fenech in Year 7, Nathan Bridge, Samuel Byrnes, Jeremy Craig, Luke Rondan and Michael Wills in Year 8 who have all put in terrific efforts in Term 1 sets; and Chris Ilett and Anerleise Fulton who are busily working their way through sets for Terms 2-4!

A reminder also that all students are required to have a dedicated maths book, even if they also have a laptop, it is just too time consuming to write exercises out on a laptop. If required, students can arrange to

leave their Mathematics workbook with their teacher rather than come to class without it. Any type of book is satisfactory, provided that it is being used **SOLELY** for Mathematics.

All Year 7 and Year 8 students have assessment tasks due on the first Friday back after the holidays.

Mathematics faculty

Science Report

Term 1 has been a very busy time in the Science Department. We welcome a new permanent member of staff, Mr Webb, who has come from the Blue Mountains and has relocated to teach at Northlakes High.

The farm has been very productive. The sheep and our meat chickens were recently slaughtered and sold to fund the new stock of fish for the students to look after.

Senior students have assessment items, and half yearly exams are in progress for most students. Year 8 and Year 10 both have student research projects that are due and all should be submitted before the end of Term 1.

The Science faculty has excursions planned for the senior students and next term they will be off to the Experiment Fest at Newcastle University. Also, Year 12 Biology and Senior Science will be going to the Museum of Disease early next term.

Science Faculty

Languages Report

Students in Year 7 have now completed an Introduction to Japanese unit or Indonesian unit and are moving on to learn how to talk about themselves. This will include introducing themselves to others and telling their age. Japanese students are showing a lot of interest in learning the first of the Japanese scripts – HIRAGANA. All students should be practicing their kana (Japanese symbols) at home on a regular basis. We are very pleased with the level of student input during lessons, especially when we are using pictures to assist with memorising the hiragana symbols.



Indonesian students are showing that they have been paying close attention to the pronunciation of the vocabulary covered so far. The expression students are producing in dialogues is of a very high standard and the students are having fun in role play.

All Year 7 students taught by Mrs Davis have an information report to produce as an assessment task. They have had two computer room lessons to research their topic of choice and begin writing the report. It can be presented in a Word document or as a PowerPoint Presentation. It is due in to Mrs Davis in Week 1 of Term 2.

Year 11 have been learning the language skills to enable them to introduce themselves in Japanese and most students have performed a scripted conversation. They have also been focusing on



KATAKANA, the Japanese script used for words borrowed from other languages. Both Year 11 and Year 12 classes have been offered the opportunity to visit the Tanken Centre at Kirrawee High School next term. This is a full day emersion excursion where students will visit an authentically Japanese designed house. While there, students will converse in Japanese and participate in enjoyable, educational language activities. Payment for this learning opportunity is due into the office before the end of Term 1.

Mrs Davis is very pleased with the progress of the Year 12 class. They have completed the second major assessment – a listening and writing task. The class has been tackling some very difficult grammatical concepts. Despite this, students have displayed perseverance to grasp the new work and if they continue this level of determination it will show in their final results.

Mrs Davis and Mr Nolan

Music Report

Wow!! what a busy term! Year 11 and Year 12 have settled into their respective music courses and are producing some quality work. We have just finished the recording project in Sydney at Megaphon Studio.

This was a marathon effort of recording 18 tracks and a video clip for the next album which made the trip very tiring for students and staff. I think we all agreed that commuting every day is not the most pleasant way of spending your time . The staff at the studio went out of their way to help us achieve what I am sure will be a quality CD.

Next week one of the producers of YIPA will be here to audition some of the students for a spot in one of their concerts. Youth in Performing Arts concerts are well-known on the coast for the very high quality and diversity of their concerts . To be selected for this is a huge achievement.

Ms Hickson

PDHPE Report

The weeks seem to be flying by this term! The PDHPE staff has welcomed back Mrs Kennedy this year and we also welcome Mr Edwards as a new member of the Faculty.

We have been and are currently involved in athletics and cross country units in our practical lessons. This is essentially to support our athletics (March 28th and 29th), and Cross Country (April 2nd) carnivals that Mr Mansfield is organising. Many students are also organising for the start of their winter sport and these runs can be part of their pre season cardio respiratory work.

We are still waiting for our Coles - Sports for Schools equipment to arrive. Earlier in the term we received our table tennis table and this has already been used in our PASS/SLR classes. Thanks again to all who helped by sending in vouchers.

Looking forward to the year ahead and hoping that your child/ward has a terrific year in PDHPE.

Mr Glachan
Head Teacher PDHPE

Teaching and Learning Report

We already have so much going on and it's only Term 1!

We've started the year successfully by continuing our Peer Tutoring program from last year. This is where a year 11 student reads with a year 8 partner each morning to help develop reading skills. We have been running this reading program for a few years and have recently developed a similar morning

tutoring program with mathematics. This is our new "QuickSmart" initiative for a few selected students who have potential in achieving greater results in maths. These morning sessions will continue throughout the year, with 10-12 different students being selected to participate each term.

Our faculty has also been able to successfully continue teaching our classes this year with Ms Byrnes, Ms Gorham and Ms Watts. We would like to take the opportunity to thank the supportive parents/care takers of 7WL, 7WA and 8WL students who gave up their time to attend an information night in week 5. We appreciate your cooperation and hope to continue this strong communication.

At the start of term 2 we will be starting a new group of peer tutors to join in the morning sessions. These students will be volunteers from year 10 to read with selected year 7 students to help enhance their fluency in all reading. The year 10 volunteers will attend TAFE to learn how to correctly tutor the junior students and will obtain a literacy certificate upon completion of the program.

To ensure students are assisted in reading even if they are not selected for our peer tutoring, we will be offering withdrawal reading sessions once a week to help develop literacy skills.

We are also looking forward to starting a new 30-week QuickSmart course for selected year 7 students. This is separate to the morning QuickSmart sessions, which is open to students of various year groups. The 30 week course will involve year 7 students being withdrawn from for 4 half hour sessions each week to work on problem solving activities and to improve their basic mathematical skills. This program has been successful in the past and we are looking forward to beginning it again this year.

Just in case we didn't already have our hands full, we are currently applying for special provisions for year 12 students who will be sitting their HSC later this year. This means we are able to provide readers and writers to those who need extra assistance during their exams. Hopefully these applications will be completed during term 2.

We definitely have enough to keep us busy so far, but we are sure there will be lots more work to come!

Ms Eunice Hsu
Head Teacher – Teaching and Learning

Welfare Report

The Welfare Team at Northlakes High School have had a busy, but productive Term 1 2012.

There have been many programs that we have implemented into Term 1 to support the needs of our students such as GLOW, Plan It Youth, Reality Check, Anger Management, Living with Teens and Drum Beat. A huge thank you to the staff and community who help run and support these valuable programs.

Our anti bullying team has had a productive Term 1. They have been providing support for students who are both victims and bullies. Our fantastic and hardworking anti bullying coordinator Mrs Fulwood has been running mediation sessions and organising contracts for our students. Miss Watts, Miss Sykes and Miss Singh are in constant contact with students from the year group they are supporting. If you have any concerns about bullying at Northlakes, please contact your child's Year Adviser who will pass this on to Mrs Fulwood. This term Year 7 have had their anti bullying lessons with Mrs Fulwood, where they received valuable information and signed an anti bullying contract. We hope that they took something worthwhile away from these lessons.

At Northlakes High School we 'SAY NO TO BULLYING!'

Year 7 have received their first lot of vaccines on our immunisation days for 2012 and Year 10 have also received their boostrix vaccines. There will be more immunisation days coming up throughout the year. Please make sure all forms are signed and returned to your students relevant Year Advisors. Students have been well behaved and very brave for this!

In Term 2 the weather will start to get cooler, so it is important that all students wear the correct jumpers or jackets. That is black jumpers or jackets with no emblems etc. We have good quality school jumpers available from the uniform shop.

Uniform for NHS Term 2 2012:

<u>Junior Boys:</u>	Black shorts/ black pants, green polo shirt or green button up shirt, black jumper /jacket & black leather covered shoes
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<u>Junior Girls:</u>	Junior school skirt /black shorts/black pants, green polo shirt or green button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.
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<u>Senior Boys:</u>	Black shorts/black pants, white polo shirt or white button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.
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Senior Girls: Senior school skirt/black shorts/black pants, white polo shirt or white button up shirt, black jumper /jacket & black leather covered shoes.

No tights or coloured jumpers are to be worn to school!!!

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 being out of uniform. A note will then be sent home to parents. If you are having any problems with this bring in a note explaining the situation or call the Head Teacher Welfare.

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 Head Teacher 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 welfare team at NHS are always here for you to contact on 43 90055 with any welfare concerns about your child.

Mrs Jodene Garside, Ms Simone Byrnes and Mrs Fiona Kennedy

GATS Report

The GATS committee have been busy organising and developing a variety of activities for students. Staff at Northlakes High School are working on implementing a range of differentiated activities that will allow all interested students to extend themselves and their learning.

Chess sets were ordered early this term and have now arrived, which means that the Chess Competition will be starting up very soon.

For students that enjoy writing, there are several opportunities to extend themselves this year. Word Slingers, a creative writing workshop, has already commenced regular meetings. If students are interested in this they should see Mr Stewart in the English Faculty. A poetry workshop is also being organised at the moment and will be commencing shortly.

All upcoming activities will be posted on the STARS@NHS Facebook page. Please check the Facebook page regularly and encourage all students to do the same.

GATS Committee

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Report

The next Muru Bulbi Aboriginal Education Consultative Group AECG meeting will be held on Monday 2nd April 2012 at Blue Haven Community Centre. The AECG meetings allows our Indigenous people to be provided with the correct advice and to be actively involved in all the decision making that is relevant to education.

Our Bushtucker Garden is well underway; the frog pond has been installed, the yarning/dancing/learning circle has been completed, plans for a BBQ area are in the workings and pathways are in progress. The official Opening Day will hopefully be in early May 2012. To make this possible we are calling on volunteers to help with planting on the Wednesday 28th March 2012. If you would like to contribute please contact Kath Freeman on 0408601311.

Finally, students from Northlakes High, Blue Haven Primary and Budgewoi Primary Schools have been enjoying our Indigenous Cultural Programs that will be taking place every Tuesday and Wednesday up until Term 4. The programs we have on offer are Aboriginal dance, didgeridoo and Aboriginal art. Anthony Freeman teaches the boys dance and Talara Freeman teaches the girls dance, Ross Smith teaches both the primary and high school boys the didgeridoo and Marilyn Fraser assists students with Aboriginal art.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Team

Sport Report

Term 1 is an extremely busy time for sport at Northlakes High School, and 2012 is no different. By the end of this term, we will have completed our Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country carnivals, and the swimmers will have gone right through to State level. Congratulations to Zac Kime, Tabitha Rodrick, Joel Ivankovic and Nathan Ivankovic for qualifying to compete at the recently held Sydney North Regional Swimming Carnival! Age Champions from the School Swimming Carnival held way back in Week 1 were:

12 years Boy – Zac Kime
13 years Boy – Jack Justin
13 years Girl – Ella Henderson
14 years Boy – Mark Babasoro
14 years Girl – Emily Clemson
15 years Boy – Luke Fuller
15 years Girl – Amber Henderson
16 years Boy – Joel Ivankovic
16 years Girl – Tabitha Rodrick
17 years Boy – Nathan Ivankovic
17 years Girl – Maddison Dunlop

In the CHS State Knockout competitions, our Open and U/15 Boys and Girls Football competitions have commenced, along with Basketball, Cricket and Touch Football. Other competitions later in the year include AFL, Rugby League, Rugby Union, Softball and Netball. There are also opportunities for students to trial for Sydney North regional teams in the above mentioned sports and more.

The Premier's Sporting Challenge held a "Learning to Lead" day at Blue Haven Primary School on Thursday 15th March. Northlakes High School provided 18 coaches from Years 9-12 for this day, along with 18 participants from Years 7 and 8. Students in Year 5 and Year 6 from Blue Haven PS, Budgewoi PS and Toukley PS participated on the

day, with all students enjoying a full day of sporting activities. The following is an extract of an email from Blue Haven PS Assistant Principal Mr Duane Hutchinson: *"I think it was a great day and is a format for promoting physical activity and leadership that has proven to be successful method for promoting these skills in children."*

The Northlakes High School leaders were absolutely fantastic and they are a credit to their school, themselves and the work put into them by their teachers over the years. They showed true leadership, care and concern for the younger students and it was a pleasure to watch them work together throughout the day."

The Premier's Sporting Challenge - Learning to Lead is a great vehicle for promoting healthy and positive life choices on our students. It is great to be part of it and hope we can arrange more experiences for our students as the year goes on. Congratulations to all students involved.

Mr. M. Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator

Anti- Bullying Report

Term 1 has been a hectic time in regards to the bullying. As a part of their education all students have been informed of what to do if they are being bullied. The students have also been taught what to do when they witness someone being bullied. Most importantly, to report this to a teacher immediately. Any teacher at Northlakes High School will take action and report the incidents to the appropriate people on the Welfare Team who deal with the incidents. If students don't report this then teachers are not aware of it happening. Some students have taken matters into their own hands, which is not the policy of this school and will not be tolerated.

Students who witness bullying have been taught to report these incidents. If we all work together then we can make Northlakes High a bully free zone and nice place to come to. Year 7 students are asked to think before they act, report any incidents and never take matters into their own hands.

Mrs Fulwood- Anti-Bullying Coordinator

Student Workshops

Yr 11 & 12 students were involved in two workshops this term designed to help them get the most from their HSC years. The first seminar was presented by

Mr Grant Ward (Regional Project Officer—DER Hunter Central Coast Region) and Mrs Justine Abel (DER HCC) who led students through a practical session on how laptops and software could be used to help students plan, time manage and organise study and note taking. Students were given valuable advice and tips and will hopefully apply what they learned in this session to help them in their work and study this year.



Senior students at the laptop seminar

Year 12 attended a seminar presented by Rob from *Elevate Education*. This was an inspirational workshop designed to address many of the hurdles faced by students in their final year at school.



Rob from *Elevate Education* with Year 12 students

Having only recently completed the HSC himself and now attending university, Rob was able to give first hand knowledge about HSC experiences and the best way to organise study, work requirements, part time jobs and social time. Students who were present indicated this was one of the best workshops they had ever attended.

Parent Workshops

Learning to Learn

Northlakes High School has run a number of parent workshops this year and all have been very well attended. The 'Learning to Learn' seminar was for parents of Year 7 students and outlined the learning skills Year 7 would need to develop in their first year at high school. Parents learned about strategies for assisting students with time management, including diary and planner use. Book expectations for all classes and critical skills in reading, comprehension and writing were also covered. Parents learned about study expectations including structured topic overviews and 'kick start' questions (designed to help students learn how to study effectively) available on the Moodle site for each Key Learning Area.

Supported Learning Mainstream

The Teaching and Learning faculty organised a night to meet parents of students placed in 7A, 7L and 8L. Ms Hsu outlined faculty programs and parents had the chance to discuss student results and learning opportunities.

Angie Wilcox—Transitioning from Primary to High School

Angie Wilcox from 'High Hopes Educational Services' addressed parents on the workings of the adolescent middle school brain and making the successful leap from primary school to high school. Angie entertained us with humorous anecdotes as well providing real life parenting strategies to support families during this critical middle school phase of education and personal development. She also took parents through the process of breaking down an assessment task into manageable 'chunks'.

Numeracy Strategies with Bob Welham

HCC PSP Numeracy Consultant, Bob Welham ran a very informative mathematics session for parents and students. Bob discussed developing/consolidating basic numeracy skills and gave



valuable information on devising strategies for answering NAPLAN questions. More Numeracy workshops with Bob coming—keep an eye out!



Students at the Numeracy Workshop

Reading and Comprehension—helping your child improve their skills at home.

Mrs Curran and Ms Hsu ran a session outlining reading intervention strategies used at school, that parents could continue with at home. Topics covered included phonics and phonemic awareness, fluency and comprehension strategies (based on the Gail Brown Comprehension program).

Future Workshops

NAPLAN

Maryka Gibson (PSP Partnership Officer Hunter Central Coast Region) will run a seminar with parents on understanding the NAPLAN exam and analysing the results for your student. The NAPLAN exam happens again for Yr 7 & 9 students in May from the 15th to 17th. Students will undertake exams in Reading, Writing (Persuasive Text), Grammar & Punctuation and Numeracy (Calculator and Non Calculator). Maryka will be at our school on Tuesday May 1 from 4—5pm. Please come along and ask questions.

Writing Skills and Moodle

At previous parent workshops, parents indicated they would like training in writing scaffolds and paragraph expansion using the TXXC model. Parents also said they would like to understand how to access the Moodle website. Workshops for these topics will occur in Term 2.

Maths Online

Northlakes High students can now access **Maths Online free of charge**. Your child should have received a log in password by now (see your maths teacher if unsure of your password). This website is a fantastic tool for aiding understanding in maths. Careful step by step explanations are given along with questions so that students can examine their understanding.

Personal Best - Year 12 Students

The school has introduced a new voluntary program to assist students who are aiming to continually

improve in essay writing and examinations. The **Personal Best Program** gives Yr 12 students the opportunity to attempt additional practice HSC examination questions, receive formative feedback, then resubmit their essays until they achieve their best response – aiming at a Band 6.

Practice questions for each subject have been placed on our school **Moodle** site, which can be accessed from school or home through our school website.

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 should be accessing this program now.

Step Up Mentoring

Twenty students from Year 12 have joined the Step Up mentoring program.

The aims of the program are to:

- increase student performance in the HSC through positive intervention and mentoring.
- cater for the needs of Gifted and Talented senior students in a motivated and supportive school environment.

Students in the **Step Up** program have selected a mentor from the members of staff at the school. They meet with their mentor on a regular basis, once a fortnight. Mentors may have more than one student to mentor so your child might be in a group or meet on an individual basis with their mentor. During the meetings mentors are looking at ways to assist students with goal setting, study needs and timetable, organisational skills, managing pressure in the HSC year and ways to study effectively. Each student received a Mentoring Booklet. We encourage you to look at this booklet with your child. Mentoring is not subject specific and is not subject tutoring. It is an optional program and meetings take place within school periods when students do not have timetabled classes. Students should not be missing out on timetabled lessons to meet with their mentor. At times, however, students may be offered extra-curricular excursions but these will be optional. The program will continue until October 2012.

P&C News

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

It was wonderful to see so many parents and teachers communicating at the Parent/Teacher Interviews. Thank you to all the staff that stayed back to participate. We hope the PTO on-line system worked well for you.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

The School has held a lot of Parent Information sessions, which we hope the participants have enjoyed. Make sure to check the webpage calendar regularly for any future sessions.

BUS ZONE - ILLEGAL PARKING

There are still a lot of parents stopping in the bus zone, which involves a fine, and loss of points. To avoid this please be aware of our drop off zone. We are still waiting an approval and council funding for an extended area.

ANZAC DAY

This year ANZAC day falls on the Wednesday of the first week back, 25th April, and we would love any student that would like to participate in the Doyalson March to meet Mrs Whitehead outside the church at Doyalson between 8:00 - 8:15 with the March commencing at 8:30am.

P&C Meeting

The next P&C Meeting will be next term on Wednesday 30th May at 3:30pm in the new kitchen, where we will be catered to by the Hospitality students. We look forward to seeing as many parents as possible, as there is only 1 this term.

TERM PLANNER

I have attached a Term Planner for Term 2 for your convenience.

Angela Bambey - P&C President

Year 7 Report

Year 7 have had a huge first term of high school. The majority of students have settled into high school well and are enjoying their new classes, friends and activities. I am proud of the way Year 7 have handled this big change, and look forward to helping them adjust and grow over the coming years.

We have had our first immunisation day and will be holding our second immunisation day in Week 11. This program is running well and we have had a positive response from students.

Year 7 students have attended both the swimming and athletics carnivals and I was so pleased to see

the high participation rate and level of enjoyment from them.

Camp is coming up in Week 2, Term 2. The camp will be three fun filled days of activities and most importantly, it will be a chance to form strong bonds and new friendships with other students. Please note that the last day to pay for this camp will be on the 24th April, 2012 which is the first day back for students.

I have been so proud to be Year Adviser this term and look forward to sharing many more experiences with Year 7 throughout the year. Please feel free to contact me at the school at any time.

Ms Erin Campbell
Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Report

Year 8 have been busy involved in many different activities this term. Teachers have been putting in positive referrals about them in relation to behaviour, attendance, helping out and excellent assessments. This is fantastic to see. I hope that they always strive for their "Personal Best".

Two other key PBL areas are "Respect" and "Responsibility". Please ask your child to visit me in the CAPA staffroom if they are experiencing difficulties with others that they cannot solve themselves peacefully. We are all responsible for the smooth running of our school. Thankfully the majority of students in year 8 are wonderful examples of how to get along with others. They are now role models for the students in year 7 and hopefully earning their respect.

The following website is a practical guide for parents of students using technology. I'm still finding a lot of students who are unsure what is appropriate when using social media and the internet.
<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/>

Please ensure your child has a black jumper ready for the cooler months ahead. Anything with text or colours on it will not be acceptable. Thank you for your help with uniforms. If you are in need of student assistance please contact me or ask your child to visit me and let me know.

Please contact me via email if you're having trouble reaching me via phone calls:
megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au I check this address daily.

Mrs Megan Lubinski
Year 8 Adviser

Year 9 Report

Year 9 has begun the school year with a bang, in the most positive of ways. School uniforms, in the main, are of an excellent standard, behaviour both in the classroom and the playground is improving. However, iPods and phones continue to be a problem in the classroom. It would be timely for parents and carers to remind their students of the correct time and place to use these wondrous pieces of technology.

On a more positive note, after consultation with the Year 9 Deputy Principal, Mr Yates and our Principal Ms Rowley, approval has been given to organise an excursion for the 2013 Year 10 students', 2012's Year 9 to Tasmania. This excursion will take place in Term 4 in 2013, and will take in many of the major geographical and historical features of Tasmania. I will be issuing an Expression of Interest note early in Term 2 with a full breakdown of costing and features to be visited, in an attempt to gauge the response to this proposed excursion.

Mr Ed Seaby
Year 9 Adviser

Year 10 Report

Another busy term has passed us by. Please remember to have the correct uniform for Term 2 as the cooler months approach. A school jumper and black long pants are the expected uniform at Northlakes High School. If you do not have a school jumper; a plain black jumper or jacket without writing or logos is acceptable. Black tights are not appropriate uniform.

There have been many Assessment Tasks due this term across all subjects. Unfortunately, a number of N Award Warnings were sent home regarding incomplete tasks. Mrs Skamperle will be interviewing these students shortly. Students will still be expected to complete these tasks in order to have the outcomes assessed. Please refer to your Assessment Schedules in order to plan and organise your time at home to complete the tasks. However, I have seen some fantastic Assignments from our students in Year 10. Well done to these students.

Please have a very happy and safe holiday. Enjoy your Easter break and utilise this time to be organised for next term.

Mrs Kerry Bissaker
Year 10 Adviser

Year 11 Report

One third of the preliminary year is over already and students should have settled into a regular study pattern. It has been a busy term so far with a swimming carnival, 2 days of athletics carnivals, cross country, a laptop techniques study session and a road safety day just to name a few, so it is important that students make the most of the valuable time spent in class.

Year 11 have reached the exciting time of their lives when they are able to drive a car, or get in a car with a young person driving. Statistics surrounding young people and injury or death are horrific and every little bit of extra education young people can get in this area the better. 133 Year 11's were able to take part in the RYDA road safety course at Wyong Race Course on Thursday 22nd March, and most showed exceptional behaviour and were able to take a great deal away from the day. This day was made possible by Northlakes High school P&C who paid \$5 a student, as well as Busways who provided the buses for free, Delta Electricity and Rotary who subsidised the cost as well. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to those groups and businesses for their support.

Lots of assessment tasks have already taken place this year and there are some students who seem to be unaware of the process regarding submission and marks. If a student is absent the day a task takes place or the task is due, they need to provide a **Doctors Certificate** or a **Statutory Declaration** along with an **appeal form on the day of return to the school**.

If a student **misses an assessment task**, or submits an assessment task late without a serious genuine reason, they will receive a mark of **zero (0)** for the task and the teacher will issue an **N-warning**. The task then needs to be completed to resolve this N-Warning, but the zero mark still stands. This procedure is outlined in the front of the assessment schedule booklet for further reference.

Over the two week break, students should be encouraged to spend some of their free time catching up on any missed work and completing summaries of each subject's content from term 1. Although not much fun, in the long run, it will be worth the extra effort.

Mrs Lara Jephson
Year 11 Adviser

Year 12 Report

Year 12 students have recently had several excellent educational and personal opportunities offered to them. These opportunities involved experts in their fields from outside of the school community being invited into Northlakes High School to present to our senior students. The first presentation involved a 2 hour seminar based on developing student's skills to fully utilise their school laptops in preparation for their HSC. As this is the first group of students to have access to school laptops to sit their HSC, it was felt many students are currently underutilising this resource. Hopefully this experience will give students a few new ideas and skills to maximise the effective use of their laptops.

The following week the school invited "Elevate", to present a motivating and entertaining study skills seminar to all of Year 12. This seminar was fully paid for by the school and Mrs Rowley and Mrs Curren should be thanked for providing the funding for this invaluable experience. The feedback expressed from all students who attended was that it was a valuable experience and gave everybody some new ideas to assist them with their studies. Rob, the presenter was a young, vibrant, enthusiastic presenter and very successful recent HSC student. He equipped students with some excellent ideas about mind-mapping, summarising, goal setting and time management. Skills which are essential for a successful HSC.

The morning's presentation was followed by another terrific opportunity. Year 12 (and a select group of Year 10) were invited to attend Treetops Adventure Park at Wyong Creek for a fun-filled afternoon of adrenalin pumping challenges. Those students who attended gained the unique experience of pushing themselves through the "fear barrier" to accomplish results many thought unachievable. An excellent afternoon was had by all. Students, Mr Conquest and myself thoroughly enjoyed the (somewhat daunting) experience. Everybody found the courses extremely challenging yet persevered through to the end. Hopefully this mind-set can be carried through by students into other real world situations (especially into HSC preparations).

This leads me to the fact that the HSC courses are approaching their halfway point. Many subjects have half-yearly examinations which students should be studiously preparing for. Hopefully students will be implementing many of the strategies introduced by Rob and remaining positive throughout the experience.

Mr Ben Bryant
Year 12 Adviser.

Cross Country / Fun Run 2012



We will be holding an Adidas School Fun-Run as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on Monday April 2nd as the annual Cross Country Carnival.

The Adidas School Fun-Run is a healthy, fun and active fundraiser that ensures we send the right message to our students about getting active, having fun and maintaining a healthy lifestyle. The main focus of this event is on participation. Family support is most appreciated as we encourage all students to get involved.

All interested students have received a Sponsorship Form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. The funds raised will be used to purchase new uniforms for school sport representative teams.

We ask all parents to read the Sponsorship Form and sign the front page to grant permission for their child to fundraise and participate in this event. Students who raise just \$10 or more will receive a reward for effort. In the Sponsorship Form you will also find many other benefits like the chance to win a family holiday in Disneyland!

Students wanting to train for our event and to receive advice from sporting heroes like Scott Prince, Dale Thomas, Sally Pearson and other elite Adidas athletes can do so by logging onto **schoolfunrun.com.au/students** and clicking [create a profile](#). Students who register will be in the running to WIN a Nintendo Wii and bonus Wii Fit Plus!

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

M. Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator