

# Northlakes High School Newsletter

*"Opportunities for future success"*



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Issue 3 Term 2 Week 5

Monday, May 28, 2012

## From our Principal Ms Merrilyn Rowley

NSW Government schools are undergoing significant changes, which we are gradually implementing. Northlakes High School staff have been involved in earlier consultation, and we are now making changes as each new initiative is released. These include:

- **Every student, Every school**

This initiative is introducing a new learning and support framework for students with learning difficulties and with diagnoses which impact on their learning. Part of this strategy, for our school, includes the appointment of extra specialised teaching staff to assist our current Support Teachers for Learning, Mrs Curran and Ms Hsu. We will be working closely with our local primary schools, to ensure all four schools have agreed common strategies and structures.

- **Schoolkids bonus**

The families of about 14,950 students in Hunter/Central Coast Schools will receive the Schoolkids Bonus payment soon. This will replace the Education Tax Refund (ETR) from 2013. Families will not then need to keep tax receipts for a refund for education expenses (as you do now).

- **Record of Student Achievement**

The ROSA will be the Record of Student Achievement for any student leaving in Years 10, 11 or 12, before completion of the Higher School Certificate. Students will be assessed in all subjects on a regular basis, in accordance with the school's assessment policy. A student who leaves school before the end of Year 12 will also have the option to sit a Board of Studies test – although this will not be in place for 2012.

- **Compulsory School Attendance**

Parents or carers are responsible for making sure their students comply with the legal requirement to be in school or have negotiated for home schooling until the age of 17. They may also be in fulltime further education (e.g. TAFE, traineeship, apprenticeship), full time employment of an average of 25 hours a week, or a combination of both.

## Other Important Information:

- **Staff Development Day Term 2**

Our staff development day at the commencement of Term 2 was held at Gorokan High School, and the staff from four high schools, Northlakes, Gorokan, Wadalba and Lake Munmorah, gathered to listen to Dr Christine Richmond, and to have professional discussions about best teaching practice. It was an excellent day and a valued opportunity to hear an expert in educational pedagogy.

- **Attendance Issues**

Attendance is a major factor in students' success at school. Of course, it is vital in any workplace too! A focus this term has been on getting students to move quickly to class, to maximise teaching and learning time – it's what we are all here for! It has been an absolute success, with all classes fully occupied within three minutes of the beginning of a period. It has meant a very settled and productive learning environment, as disruptions (from late arriving students) have been minimised. Punctuality and reliability are significant employability skills – in fact, among the most valued by employers!

- **Are you allowing your student to arrive late to school? PLEASE DON'T!**

Students who do not arrive by 8.10am are:

- missing class time
- missing whole school announcements, and thus the opportunity to participate in a whole range of activities
- missing information about the achievements of some of our students and staff
- creating significant extra work for the office staff
- disrupting Period one classes as they arrive.
- Students from Budgewoi should be catching the early school bus which arrives well on time and not the public route bus which arrives late.
- Many persistent late arrivals actually live quite close to school.

We will be contacting parents of students who are persistently late, or have no note of explanation. Sanctions such as detentions will apply.

- **Parent Teacher Night**

Our survey of parents at the Term 1 parent Teacher evening was very positive. The majority of parents:

- saw all the staff they needed to
- liked the faculty seating arrangements
- felt the time sessions were long enough.

Most parents and carers wished to discuss two key areas:

- behaviour, attitude and effort
- academic results and how to help their student.

It was very pleasing to see so many parents able to make contact with the school!

- **Education Week**

We will be holding an Open day in Week 3 of Term 3 to show our community what a great school we have! More details will be sent home and placed on our website early in Term 3.

- **Work, Health and Safety**

New laws have been implemented this year, and this school, like all others, is actively ensuring we comply. Our shoe policy is part of this. It is VERY important that students are wearing appropriate shoes. It has been disappointing to see a number of young people still coming to school in flimsy canvas shoes. These offer no protection if a sharp object or chemicals fall on a student's foot. Our

shoe policy is on our website and **all** Central coast shoe shops and Department stores stock appropriate foot wear.

- **School Contributions**

Schools receive a finite budget, with which all aspects of school functioning, other than staffing are funded. Voluntary contributions are carefully calculated to reflect the resources actually used by students. Some subjects, particularly practical ones, obviously use more.... but even maintaining computers, printers, library resources, etc, and supplying paper costs a lot in a school this size. Specialised areas, such as Agriculture, Science, Creative Arts and TAS obviously have to have extra resources.

We are very grateful to all those families who understand this and endeavour to pay the school contributions, often in instalments, as this means the student has full access to all parts of the curriculum.

- **Aboriginal Programs**

Our school continues to excel in the opportunities provided for our Aboriginal students. The Aboriginal garden is nearly finished, and will be opened later this term. It has been an outstanding project, involving school and community workers.

- **Aboriginal Attendance**

We were informed recently that our Aboriginal student attendance is third best in the state! Fantastic!

- **New Staff**

We have recently appointed two new Head Teachers, and welcome them to our great school.

- Ms Dale De Waal will be Head Teacher TAS, replacing Mrs Brine, who has retired. We welcome Ms De Waal back. She was a fantastic teacher in Design and Technology, who became a Head Teacher Mentor, and has now accepted this position.
- Mr Phillip Williamson will be Head Teacher VET and replace Mr Welham who is now a Deputy Principal. We welcome Mr Williamson to this very important role. Our school is already very strong in Vocational Education, and it is an area we plan to continue to develop.

- Mrs Jan Curran will replace Mr Peter Henson as Head Teacher Mentor in Semester 3, as Mr Henson has accepted a position at Glendale High School as Head Teacher PE.
- I will be on Long Service Leave for the remainder of Term 2, and leave the management of the school in the very capable hands of Mr Welham. Mr Glachan will be relieving as Deputy Principal.

**Ms M Rowley**  
**Principal**

## English Report

The English Faculty have been very busy planning and preparing many exciting things this term including excursions, debates and creative writing workshops. Mr Matthew Boake has also settled in well as the new Head Teacher English and is enjoying his time at Northlakes High School.

Earlier in the term Miss Smith, Mrs Reay and Mr Stewart worked with the Teaching and Learning faculty to run a two day writing workshop for both Year 7 and Year 9. This included everything from basic grammar to extended response writing activities. All students enjoyed the activities involved and produced some excellent work in their post workshop examinations.



**Year 9 Students in the writing workshop**

Last week the Junior Debating season was kicked off with Miss Smith and Mrs Reay hosting the Year 7 Northlakes Team (Sandra Mazzetti, Lachlan Lees, Paige Steele and Nicholas McAuley) against the Year 8 Northlakes Team (Rhianna Howlett, Susie Taylor-Monzer, Dylan Matwijow and Tara Wallace) in Round 1 of the Premier's Debating Challenge. The Year 8 team were the champions this time, however, the Year 7 team have already shown some excellent potential to make it a long way in this competition.

Both teams will participate in a mentoring and training day within the next few weeks in which Year 8 students will be paired up with students from the Year 7 team in order to help improve their Debating and Public Speaking skills. The next round the students will debate against Morrisset High School and we wish them the best of luck.



**The Year 7 and Year 8 Debating Teams**

The creative writing workshop "Wordslingers" is up and running again with Mr Stewart running the workshops once a fortnight. This is a program for students interested in any form of creative writing such as script writing, narratives and poetry.

**Miss Miranda Smith**

## Mathematics Report

Sadly we said goodbye to Miss Rudd at the end of Term 1 as she has gained a full time position at a nearby school. In her place we welcome Ms Murray, who has done quite a lot of work in Mathematics in the past. Mrs Houston and Ms Murray will continue to work together to ensure continuity and quality education for their classes.

The Mathematics staff have assisted numeracy consultant Mr Bob Wellham recently in running two sessions aimed at helping parents gain better skills for assisting their children with numeracy and mathematical concepts. The sessions have been well attended and lots of fun, and there are plans to run more sessions in the future. If you are interested in participating in future sessions, please contact either myself (Mrs Woodley) or Mrs Angela Bambey in the front office.





The Mathematics faculty is also running a numeracy/problem solving in Mathematics program with our partner primary schools this term. Over 120 students from Northlakes Primary School, Blue Haven Primary School and Budgewoi Primary School are participating via Edmodo, an online server, with the assistance of the Year 6 teachers. Hopefully this will help make the transition to high school easier, as well as being a fun way to participate in some challenging Mathematics work. If you have students in Year 6 at home please encourage them to participate!



In our Gifted and Talented Students program Round 2 of the da Vinci Enigma will be on the 19<sup>th</sup> of June. Northlakes students should be proud of their results in the first round (4<sup>th</sup> out of 8, a big improvement on last year) and will hopefully have fun and do as well in Round 2. Mr Wellham has decided to run the video conferences from within schools this year, and for the next round he will be running it from our school.



A reminder that all Year 7 and Year 8 students are expected to be completing online homework via moodle as part of their assessment. Any issues with passwords or access can be directed either to Mrs Woodley or Mr Quinn, and can generally be resolved immediately.

If you have a student going into Year 11 next year, please ensure that you read the subject selection booklet and discuss the selection of Mathematics subjects with them. The Board of Studies has made significant changes to the Stage 6 course of General Mathematics and students need to be aware of their choices for next year. Students who are unsure of which subject to choose can also discuss it with their classroom teacher or come and see me for some advice.

### Science Report

Another busy term for the Science faculty, we would like to welcome Mr Paul Mason who has joined the faculty for a while, he has come from Berkeley Vale High and has settled in well.

**Year 12 tutoring** has opened up again Students are strongly encouraged to get involved .The students receive a tutoring session once a week by trained staff and it is all free of charge .The students are very fortunate to receive this free tutoring and it may help them to improve their results.

The GATS program will start in Week 5 This is a program run by the school and involves students from our feeder primary schools coming to Northlakes for a few weeks and investigating our local area This is the second year it has run and the students in Year 8 who have been chosen to mentor the students from the primary schools have been trained and are all looking forward to the event. It will go for one day for four weeks.

Year 10 is asked to choose their subjects for next year and they can see their teachers for further details.

The farm has welcomed the new arrival of **8 new ducklings** as well as some more fish and all the winter crops have been sown. They also have purchased **a new trailer** which will be useful for transporting the steers to the different shows.

A **Science club** has started with Mrs Fulwood .We meet once a week on Tuesdays at Recess in Lab 1. Lots of fun science activities and everyone is welcome to join .

2012 **Science and Engineering** challenge is going to be run this year. Any student interested please see Mrs Fulwood in the Science faculty

## **Creative and Performing Arts Report**

What an exciting term we have had so far!

Year 9, 10 & 11 dance students and Miss Koteczky have been working hard this term in preparation for upcoming regional performances. 32 dance students auditioned for Star Struck and will be performing on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> of June. This year two Year 10 girls, Ashleigh Donaldson, and Holly King were selected for the regional ensemble group. All students have been dedicated to their rehearsals and are very excited for the performance. You can buy your tickets online now. For more information about the show and how to buy tickets check out the website.

[www.starstruck.nsw.edu.au](http://www.starstruck.nsw.edu.au)

Year 11 dance have been working hard in preparation for their HSC next year. Last term they attended an excursion to Seymour Centre Sydney to see CallBack11. This term they auditioned for Youth in Performing Arts. Over 400 students auditioned for this and they were very selective with their dance items. It was fantastic that our Year 11 students got through the audition process and will be performing at Laycock Street Theatre on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May.

The same Year 11 group and a group of Year 10 students auditioned for Central Coast Dance Festival. After a lot of hard work at getting our piece completed in time we were again successful through audition process. Diane Chaloner (Year 9), Claudia Compton (Year 9), Kate Mills (Year 11), Caitlin Deegan (Year 11), and Kristelle Lyons (Year 11) were also selected for the regional ensemble group for CCDF. All students will be performing at Laycock Street Theatre on the 19-21<sup>st</sup> of June.

It is a very exciting time for all dance students involved and we look forward to sharing the experience once all these spectacular events are over.

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, Mr Brimbecom and Mrs Lee took Year 11 Photography down to Sydney to photograph the Circular Quay area. Students captured a wide range of interesting images stretching from the MCA to the Opera House. It was a perfect day for photographing at the harbour. The students now have a great body of images to develop further using their digital imaging skills back in the classroom. On Monday the 14<sup>th</sup> of May, Year 12 Photography went

to Gosford to take photos of the waterfront and railway station, to record Gosford the way it is.

Mrs Hickson and her music students have finished off their recording session and the CD's were of a very high standard. They auditioned for YIPA and Jacob Thomas and the Year 10 students were successful. Year 12 students are on track and are currently in preparation for their HSC. We are looking forward to hearing their final works.

Mrs Lubinski's Year 10 Visual Arts were involved in the Sculpture by the Bay exhibition held at Gosford Art Gallery in May. The gallery presented students with the theme of "Supersize Me". They produced 7 sculptures in groups and were exceptional this year. We were very proud of our students and we have been lucky enough to have some of the students' work published in the Express Advocate.

## **Miss Koteczky**

### **Drama News**

Drama Classes have been running well this term. Mr Stewart was excited to have an enthusiastic and talented group of Year 11 students who have dedicated themselves to the course. Our Preliminary HSC class has been to see shows in Sydney including Babyteeth at Belvoir St. Theatre and On Stage at the Seymour Centre.

Students have been perfecting their acting skills throughout Term 1, performing monologues and participating in improvisation games. In Term 2 we have moved into a detailed study of two plays and students will be creating their own costume and set design projects.

**Mr J. Stewart**



### **Languages Report**



Students in Year 7 are currently working hard to learn their numbers. Everyone can now count to ten and should be practising them out loud at home. Mrs Davis was very pleased with the effort many students put into their culture assignments. Topics covered included food, traditional and modern sports, fashion, and technology.

satu, dua, tiga, empat, lima, enam, tujuh, delapan, sembilan, sepuluh

一 二 三 四 五 六 七 八  
九 十

Year 11 students of Japanese have completed their first assessment task. This was a comprehension reading test where students had to find the necessary information by reading all three scripts - Hiragana, Katakana and Kanji. This class is now working towards their next assessment task which will focus on time and daily routine.



今 時 半

Year 12 have a reading and speaking assessment task which will be conducted in class during Week 7 of this term. Yet again, these students have been ploughing through some difficult grammatical concepts as well as learning new Kanji symbols. Our focus over the rest of this term is to consolidate the



language already studied so that students can be confident of past topics going into the HSC exams. We also had a fun lesson cooking chicken teriyaki in the Language Centre.

**Mrs Davis and Mr Mackinnon**

## PDHPE Report

We are now moving into the winter months of the year and would like to send a friendly reminder for parents and students to wear appropriate clothing both to school and during PDHPE practical lessons. It is essential for students to continue to bring their PDHPE uniform for all practical lessons but more importantly to ensure correct footwear and school jumpers or tracksuits to stay warm during this time of the year. All items should have the students' names clearly marked!

I would also ask that parents remind all students that their involvement in both theory and practical lessons is paramount to successful achievement of course outcomes. This involvement will be closely linked to

individual results and report comments in June/July and at the end of the year.

I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate all students who have been involved in the recess indoor soccer competition organised by Mr Thomas. Participation was excellent, students who watched the games were well behaved and Mr Thomas did a terrific job of organising the competition and keeping it running whilst lots of things were happening in and around the hall. Mr Thomas will be commencing a new recess competition later in the year!



**Mr Glachan  
Head Teacher PDHPE**

## TAS Report

Year 12 Hospitality did a magnificent job of catering for a light supper for seventy parents and students from the high school and partner primary schools who attended an informal evening in preparation for the science activity days being offered for Gifted and Talented Students. These students are working towards a Certificate II in Hospitality and displayed a high level of skill and initiative in the presentation and service of food and beverage.

Year 12 Community and Family Studies students have successfully completed their Independent Research Project (IRP) congratulations for all their hard work.

In Week 6 or 7 this term, the Year 11 Hospitality students will be preparing a function for their parents and siblings and the invitations will be going out shortly. This will be their first formal function and we are all very excited about it. Shortly after the function, in Week 10, they will be going out into industry to complete their first work experience. We're sure this



will be an anxious time for them but we are also very confident that they will be successful.

Year 11 Information Technology students are ploughing ahead in their course work and having a lot of fun along the way. We have been learning about automating documents in many main stream computer software programs so that the computer does the work for us rather than us working for the computer! We will build upon this between now and the students first work placement which is scheduled for the middle of Term 3 this year. These students are doing so well in Information Technology which is very encouraging to us all at Northlakes High.

Year 11 Construction completed their work placement in Week 3 this term.

Year 9 Textiles girls are completing their quilts and will soon be starting pyjamas.

**Mr Neil Kerr**

## **Support Report**

We have been having a really busy time in the Support Unit this term. It began with us welcoming back all of the staff and students and introducing our new teachers Mrs Dowe in the IM class and Ms Parkes in the ED class. Both teachers come with a great deal of experience and they have introduced some fantastic Creative Arts programs with their students.

The ED class has also had Mr Fetinia working 3 days a week for the first 6 weeks of the term and the Behaviour Unit students are really going to miss the PDHPE lessons and the games at sport that he has introduced them to. We also welcome back from a sabbatical in the Teaching and Learning Faculty Mr Glasson who is already introducing some great social skills lessons with IOS class.

All of our students are participation in a wide variety of fulfilling and challenging activities. Many of our older CD/ED students have begun the process of working towards life after school. Mr Quodling has done a great deal of work organising White Card and Food Handling Certificate courses for students so that they can begin work experience and gain work in the future. The IM class has painted an amazing mural across the whole back wall of their room that looks incredible. The IOS class has been busy harvesting a huge crop of sweet potato and have been looking up recipes to enjoy such amazing fresh produce.



And finally but not least the IOJ class (headed by our own resident chicken raising expert Mrs Thomlinson) have been excitedly preparing to start raising baby chickens for the Agriculture farm.

Lastly I would like to thank all staff, parents, volunteers and our Principal Mrs Rowley who helped out at our Bunnings Day barbeque. We raised over \$1000 and a great day was had by all who came. We would also like to thank everyone who has been supporting the Woolworths 'Earn n Learn' program where for the every \$10 spent in store you receive a sticker that can accrue to us gaining much needed resources. If you have any stickers or would like more cards to put your stickers on please give us a call in the Support Unit.



## **Support Faculty**

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Team Report**

We welcome Mrs Jodene Garside as relieving Aboriginal Coordinator at Northlakes High School while Ms Byrnes is relieving Deputy Principal. She is slowly learning the ropes!

Three significant events in Aboriginal history that are approaching are the National Reconciliation week which falls between the 27th and 3rd June, National Sorry Day 26th May and NAIDOC Week from the 1st – 8th July.

National Reconciliation week is time for all Australians to actively support reconciliation. This is the time for understanding and respect for the local Indigenous culture. On the 27th May 1967, 90.77% of Australian voters recorded the largest ever 'Yes' vote in a referendum to alter the Australian constitution. This referendum finally enabled Aboriginal people to be counted in the national census and to be subject to Commonwealth laws, rather than just state laws.

Jaelan Chan, Lauren Ingram and Taylah Donnelly all auditioned in the Sydney Workshops on the 26th and 27<sup>th</sup> of April with Sidney Saltner from Bangarra Dance Theatre. The NSW Public Schools Aboriginal Dance Company aims to foster the development of talented students in dance and provide performance opportunities in order to encourage the pursuit of excellence in this art form. In 2011, the Aboriginal Dance Company performed to great acclaim at numerous events including the NSW Public Schools State Dance Festival and the School Spectacular.

The next Muru Bulbi Aboriginal Education Consultative Group AECG meeting will be held on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> June at Blue Haven Community Centre at 5pm. 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 Bush tucker Garden is just about complete and is looking fantastic. The official Opening Day will hopefully be in June 2012. A big thank you to Kathy Freeman who has been coordinating the efforts of the staff in the planting and watering of the plants and construction work.

Students from Northlakes High, Blue Haven Primary and Budgewoi Primary Schools have been enjoying our Indigenous Cultural Programs that are taking place every Tuesday and Wednesday 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, though we have Hayley teaching dance to the girls while Talara has been on her Teaching Practicum. Ross Smith teaches the boy's primary and high school boys the Didgeridoo. Marilyn Fraser assists students with Aboriginal Art.

The Pace Program will be offered to Indigenous students in Year 11 and Year 12. The Pace program is run by the University Of Newcastle from the Gibalee Centre at Ourimbah. The role of the Pace Officer Robyn Sutherland is to develop a working relationship with both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and students. This will provide information on the different pathways that are available for their children once they have finished High school.

Indigenous Student Experience Day for Year 7 and Year 8 is held on the 30th May 2012 at the Sydney University. The opportunity gives our students a taste of life at university. Throughout the day the students will be accessing workshops, performances and tutorials.

**Mrs Jodene Garside and Ms Marilyn Fraser**

## **Sport Report**

The recent focus here at Northlakes High School has been on our Cross Country Carnival, which this year doubled as a fundraising Fun-Run. Congratulations to everyone involved on the day, as we had over 300 participants, a fantastic number. We also managed to raise over \$800 in funds for the PDHPE Faculty, thank you to everyone who contributed to the fundraising, your prizes have been ordered and are on the way!

Our winners for each age group on the day were:

**12 years Boy – Matthew Peebles**  
**12 years Girl – Tara Lee Cook**  
**13 years Boy – Blake Foss**  
**13 years Girl – Julia Ashburner**  
**14 years Boy – Mark Babasoro**  
**14 years Girl – Rebecca Brown**  
**15 years Boy – Chris Ambrose**  
**15 years Girl – Chloe Payne**  
**16 years Boy – James Starkey**  
**16 years Girl – Tabitha Rodrick**  
**17 years Boy – Waide Malligan**  
**17 years Girl – Madison Valentine**  
**18 years Boys – Tristen Mar**  
**18 years Girl – Paris Knight**

The next date to mark in the Calendar is the Zone Athletics Carnival, to be held at the Mingara Athletics Centre on 20<sup>th</sup> June. Students are to check the Sport noticeboard in J block for eligibility for this carnival.





**Students competing at the Athletics Carnival**

Congratulations are also in order for the Glachan boys, Joshua in Year 10, and Sean in Year 11. Both boys have recently been selected in the Sydney North Open Touch Football teams. This follows on from their earlier selection in the Sydney North Open Football team for Joshua, and the Sydney North Open Rugby League team. Well done to both boys on an outstanding year so far in Sport!

**Mr. M. Mansfield**  
**Sport Co-ordinator**

### **Welfare Report**

The welfare team at Northlakes High School have had a busy, but productive start to Term 2 2012. This term we have Mr Jon Glasson in the Welfare Office. He will be relieving Head Teacher Welfare this term while Ms Byrnes is relieving Deputy Principal.

There has been many programs we have implemented in Term 2 to support the needs of our students such as GLOW, Plan It Youth, Reality Check, Anger Management and Drum Beat. A huge thank you to the staff and community who help run and support these valuable programs.

At Northlakes High School we say NO to bullying. Please contact the school if you have any concerns about your student and bullying. As we have a large school it is difficult for us to see who is being bullied, let us know if your child says anything or if their behaviours change at home. Our Anti Bullying team Mrs Fullwood, Miss Watts, Miss Sykes and Miss Singh try their best to contact the students from the year group and will work with any student who is feeling bullied or anxious. Contact your students Year Advisor or Mrs Sue Fullwood in the Science Faculty.

### **At NHS we 'SAY NO TO BULLYING!'**

There are more immunisation days in June for all Year 7 students. Please make sure all forms are signed and returned to your student's relevant Year Advisers. Any concerns please contact Miss Campbell or Mrs Garside.

The weather has started 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:

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

Junior Girls: Junior school skirt /black shorts/black pants, green polo shirt or green button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.

Senior Boys: Black shorts/black pants, white polo shirt or white button up shirt, black jumper/jacket & black leather covered shoes.

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 Work Health and Safety concern. Families are to purchase leather covered black shoes. There are many different types available in the stores. Students out of uniform will be called out of assembly, have their name taken down and reason for being out of uniform 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 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 Stage Four and Five Outcomes and the 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. It is important that a note explaining the absence be provided to the school within 7 working days. During this period, a student's attendance record can be updated, however, after 7 days, their record cannot be altered and the note is marked "provided after due date". An absent note is required for:

- any whole day absences
- A late arrival absence
- An early leaver's pass

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

The Welfare Team at Northlakes High School are always here for you to contact on 43 900555 with any welfare concerns you may have about your child.

**Mrs Jodene Garside, Mr Jon Glasson and  
Mrs Fiona Kennedy**

#### **GATS Report**

Northlakes High School has been abuzz with activities to extend students in a wide variety of areas. Writing Workshops were held for a selected group of Year 7 and 9 students to assist them in their preparation for NAPLAN. Students learnt a lot during these days and were extremely grateful for the chance to improve and perfect their writing skills. Also in English, the debating season is well underway with our Year 7, 8 and 9 teams already having competed in their first debate.

Once again, Northlakes High School is competing in the annual Newcastle Herald Competition. This year 7GQ will be our budding journalists and will compose the articles and snap the photographs that will be published in the Newcastle Herald later during the year.

Year 10 students that are currently studying Business have been presented with an excellent opportunity to complete a Certificate I from TAFE, to complement their school studies. This is a program that will run for five weeks and at the completion all students will have a TAFE qualification for their future endeavours.

The science faculty has lots of interesting activities happening this term. They have already held a Parent Information Evening, to great success, in preparation for their Science Day that will be happening very shortly with students from local Primary Schools. Additionally, the Science Faculty are holding two exciting challenges; Murder Under the Microscope and the Science and Engineering Challenge will be coming up and students should be encouraged to listen out for more information.

Year 8 students from Northlakes High are working with six students from each of our feeder primary schools on a GATS program examining our ecological footprint. We would like to thank DELTA Electricity for their generous support in providing funding to transport students participating in the program. The donation is greatly appreciated. The program will run on Wednesdays for six weeks up until the end of Term 2.

In addition, the Chess Club run by Ms Dean and Mrs Brimbecom is operating every Thursday during recess in D21. Students are having a great time socialising with likeminded peers and working on their chess skills at the same time. The group is looking to expand and students should be encouraged to pay them a visit and check it out if they think they might be interested.

**GATS Committee**

## Anti-bullying report

### What is Bullying?

A person is **bullied** when he or she is **exposed, repeatedly and over time**, to **negative actions** on the part of one or more persons, and he or she has **difficulty defending** themselves. If you are being bullied you need to tell someone, also try:

- to stay calm if someone is calling you a name and try to ignore them
- Don't fight back – You could make the situation worse
- Keep your secrets a secret (especially the girls)
- The biggest problem we have at NHS is people spreading rumours about each other
- Bystanders who say something are one of the most effective people to reduce bullying
- Remember.....“Do unto others as you do on to yourself”

That is.....

- Treat people the way you want to be treated

If you need to see someone, see Mrs Fulwood in the Science faculty.

## Learning Time Management and Study Skills

Earlier this year, senior students took advantage of the knowledge brought to them by the presenters from Elevate Education and learned how to organise their study, work and leisure time. They also learned study techniques. The Elevate presenters are recently graduated university students who have excelled in the HSC and who relate well to high school students.

We are happy to have been able to provide a similar experience for some of our Year 8, Year 9 and Year 10 students. The junior seminars examined the key fundamentals for school motivation and introduced students to a range of skills to allow them to continue to motivate themselves throughout the year. These included:

- analysing the role of belief as a means to propel students to do their personal best

- goal setting, including career path, university and vocational study paths
- short term planning – breaking goals into a series of achievable short term benchmarks.

We hope our students will be able to apply what they have learned to improve their study and work techniques. Students and parents can access the Elevate website for more information on career pathways, short term goal planning, time management, study techniques as well as study booklets such as ‘Secret to Student Success’ by going to [www.elevateeducation.com](http://www.elevateeducation.com) – username: angular, password: pacco.

Students from Year 7 and Year 9 sat for the 2012 NAPLAN exam on May 15th, 16th and 17th. They completed tests in Language, Reading, Writing and Numeracy. Students were extremely well behaved and staff were particularly impressed with student efforts in the Writing paper. Student planning reflected classroom practise with students demonstrating knowledge of the Persuasive Writing Scaffold and the ‘TXXXC’ paragraph writing model that all students have been practising in class. Parents can expect the results for the NAPLAN test later in Term 3.



**Students sitting the Naplan Examinations, 2012**

### MEGS – Year 7

As part of the MEGS (Making Educational Goals Sustainable Program) all Year 7 students have the opportunity to attend Newcastle University (Callaghan Campus) on Friday July 20th to see what Tertiary Education is all about. While the day is informative, there are many fun ‘hands on’ activities for parents and students to be involved in. An adult family member is expected to attend the visit with each child. If parents/carers cannot attend the day themselves, they are invited to organise a relative to attend in their place. Unfortunately we are unable to take unaccompanied students to the venue. A visit to the university is a valuable experience for all students, opening their minds to all kinds of



opportunities that may be available to them when they complete high school. This visit may also help students to see the relevance of their school education and assist them in making choices linked to school and careers. Students should have returned their permission notes to the school by now.

### **P&C News**

Please note there is a new date for our next P&C Meeting. This term's meeting will be on Tuesday 29th May at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. We would love to see as many Parents/Carers as possible come along and find out what is happening in this school.

### **Canteen News**

Goodbye and good luck to one of our long term Canteen Assistants, Vicky Rogers, who has been a valuable worker in our Canteen for the past 9 years. We wish Vicky every success in the future.

### **Uniform Shop**

A reminder that we have plenty of black jackets available for \$40.00, and we are open on Friday from 10:00 am till 11:15 am.

**Mrs Angela Bambey**  
**P&C President**

### **Year 7 Report**

Year 7 have had a wonderful start to the term. Classes have been modified and students are beginning to settle into their new roles and new teachers. I am pleased to report that behaviour in Year 7 has improved significantly this term. Lots of new friendships have been made and students are happily completing all classroom activities. Year 7 have been working hard this term, and have completed their Half Yearly Examinations. Reports are in the process of being written and will be handed out later on this term.

Year 7 Camp was held at Morisset in Week 2. What a success!!! Over 3 days, 93 students challenged themselves to complete various activities....and even beat the teachers at Commando Night!! I am so pleased that the students enjoyed themselves and their behaviour was impeccable. I am looking forward to organising another camp for Year 8.

Term 2 is a busy, productive term and I look forward to seeing pleasing results from all students. Continue to work hard Year 7!

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

### **Year 8 Report**

Thank you for the support and understanding in regards to the movement of children into new classes this term. It was an unexpected change to our timetable and left a few students feeling like it was Term 1 of Year 7 all over again! However, students have adapted to the changes and are making every endeavour to get to know their new teachers and other students in their classes.

Year 8 will be enjoying an anti-graffiti presentation on the 29<sup>th</sup> of May. This will be a fantastic opportunity for our students to have a deeper understanding of the impact that graffiti has on our community. There will be a focus on self respect, responsible action and positive decision making.

A number of staff members have approached me on the matter of makeup in class. A number of girls find themselves off task because they need to reapply makeup. Please help us by advising your child that makeup is an unnecessary addition to the school bag!

Again, teaching staff are putting in positive referrals for Year 8 students. This is terrific as I will have so many students receiving awards on Presentation day. Students receive positive referrals by handing in quality assessment tasks, improving in effort, and working well together with others.

Should you need to contact me in regards to your child, please contact me at school in the Creative Arts Faculty or via email at: [megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Mrs M. Lubinski**  
**Year 8 Adviser**

### **Year 9 Report**

Congratulations to Mr Shevels and the Environment Committee and to all the Year 9 students that participated in the Green Day Concert. Also, congratulations to all the Year 9 students who travelled to Sydney with Ms Hickson to record their music. It never ceases to surprise me at the amount of talent that our students have, not only in the academic fields but also in the arts and on the sporting fields.





### **Students go “green” on Greenday**

Once again uniform is looking good, but with the cooler weather beginning, it should be noted that Northlakes students are to wear black jumpers or jackets, only plain black. The only acceptable logo is that of the school.

Regards,

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

### **Year 10 Report**

Good luck to all Year 10 students who have completed, or are sitting for their half yearly examinations. It is important to create a program of home revision in preparation for these exams.

I would like to thank Mrs Jan Curran and Mrs Ruth Schofield as they organised a presenter from Elevate Education who provided a number of Year 10 students with effective study and goal setting skills. Hopefully many students will benefit from this session and start setting both short and long term goals to reach their dreams. We received excellent feedback from the presenter regarding Year 10 students' behaviour and participation. Well done!

Another fantastic opportunity, a number of our Year 10 students had was the opportunity to participate in a writing workshop to improve their writing skills. So many fantastic programs are being run at Northlakes High to improve the academic outcomes of our students.

With the weather getting much colder it is important that all students remain in uniform. A plain black jacket and black pants is the required uniform. Coloured jackets or jumpers with logos are not acceptable. If you are having difficulty buying uniforms, please see myself or the Welfare Team for assistance.

Also, a reminder to all students with outstanding Assessment Tasks, it is important you complete them and submit the task in order to have your outcomes assessed, as it is that time of year again,

when teachers are busy writing your reports in each subject.

Enjoy the remainder of the term and continue being busy doing all the right things.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact me on 43900555 or email at [Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Mrs Kerry Bissaker**  
**Year 10 Adviser**

### **Year 11 Report**

We are already halfway through the preliminary year and the majority of Year 11 seems to be enjoying the subjects they have chosen to study for their Higher School Certificate.

As the HSC year is fast approaching it is imperative that all students are:

#### **1. Meeting outcomes in Preliminary subjects.**

This includes attending all classes, completing all classwork and completing and submitting all Assessment Tasks. If an N-Warning has been issued for a subject, the task still needs to be completed so that the N-warning can be resolved.

**2. Making the most of study time.** Tuesday of Week A (unless you are in the CAPP class or completing a subject offline) is a time for study. This is a day where students can come to school and work in the library, see any teachers about missed work or catch up on missed work, complete assessment tasks or start that summary book for each subject!

**3. Attending school and classes.** It is important that students are at school every day and attending all classes. If a class or day is missed, there will be somewhere between 1 and 5 hours of work that needs to be caught up on.

It has been brought to my attention that many students are travelling on public transport paying full adult fare. While your child is enrolled at school they are able to pay a concession fare, they just need to go to the student window of the office to get one. Think of the money they could save (or save you) – and use it for tutoring, for driving lessons, for a car... every little bit counts.

I mentioned in a previous newsletter about a senior jacket for Year 11 to wear for both Year 11 and Year 12. I spoke to some students about this, but didn't get much of a response. Now that the colder weather is upon us, I will send home some more information about this as I think it would be great to get it this year so they can get the most out of it.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

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

### **Year 12 Report**

Students have recently completed Half Yearly Examinations in those subjects which undertake them and should have used these exams as a guide to their performance to date, using their results as a tool to implement a study plan focusing on areas which need developing. These may include a specific topic or perhaps even a certain style of answer, such as extended response.

Despite the Half Yearly Examinations being over, students are reminded that now is not the time to take a break or relax from their study routines. A quick calculation on my part comes up with the alarming figure that Year 12 students have only approximately fifty lessons in each subject remaining before their schooling concludes at the end of Term 3! It is imperative that everybody makes a conscientious effort to attend as many of them as possible, to ensure every last morsel of knowledge is devoured before it is too late! Also, if students wish to enter the school on their designated Tuesday study day, they must receive permission from myself prior to the day.

Hopefully every student has developed a study timetable to assist them to make full use of valuable spare time. Students serious about achieving a respectable result in their HSC should be knocking back approximately two hours of self guided study every night of the week. To some this may seem like a daunting task, however, it is honestly necessary if a student is to achieve to their potential. If not already doing so, it is never too late to begin. The earlier students get serious about their HSC results the better these results will be.

**Mr Ben Bryant**  
**Year 12 Adviser**

## **Attention Parents of current Year 10, 11 and 12 Students**

Do you feel your son or daughter would benefit from additional support in the senior years? The HSC Success Day is a 1 day workshop for Year 10, 11 and 12 students, consisting of 2 sessions from experts in the areas of peak performance and study skills, equipping students with tools and strategies to help them perform to their peak potential in the HSC. Students will find out how to get themselves motivated, how to break through procrastination and deal with stress, how to improve the way they manage their time, what great study notes look like, and which study techniques are most effective. The next workshop is on Saturday 11th August 2012 in Sydney's CBD. Availability is limited so visit [www.humanconnections.com.au](http://www.humanconnections.com.au) to book and secure your place for this powerful workshop. Student tickets are priced at \$79 (Early Bird Special ends 13th July). Parents can accompany their child for \$47. The HSC Success Day is a joint venture between Human Connections ([www.humanconnections.com.au](http://www.humanconnections.com.au)) and Enhanced Learning Educational Services ([www.enhanced-learning.net](http://www.enhanced-learning.net)).

### **RIO, PARIS, N.Y AND MILAN ALL IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD**

#### ***HOST AN EXCHANGE STUDENT!***

Each year there are hundreds of students from around the world who choose to visit Australia. You can be a part of the experience by welcoming an exchange student into your home. By opening your door, and hearts, to an international exchange student, your family can:

- Make a life long link to a family in another country
- Learn about another culture
- Share the beauty of Australia and our culture
- Gain a new family member
- Contribute to International goodwill
- Develop a friendship that will last for many years

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia  
Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331  
or visit [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au)



