

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue 4 Term 2 Week 10

Thursday, June 28, 2012

From our Principal Mr Warren Welham (Relieving)

The last half of this term has seen many staff in relieving positions. I would like to thank all these staff for their efforts in the relieving roles. This has included:

Mr Glachan as Deputy Principal (8,12), Mrs Byrnes as Deputy Principal (7,9,11), Mr Boake as Deputy Principal (Curriculum), Mr Brimbecom as HT Mentor, Mrs Lubinski as HT CAPA, Mrs Reay as HT English, Mr Hextall as HT PDHPE and Mrs Davis as Year 8 Advisor.

I would like to make special mention of Mrs Beth Bath as relieving HT TAS and Mrs Helen Mayo as relieving HT VET. Both these teachers have been relieving in these positions for a long period of time and have done a fantastic job supporting staff and students in these roles. Both these HT positions were recently filled by staffing and at the start of Term 3, Mrs Dale DeWaal will return to the school as our new HT TAS, while Mr Phil Williamson will take on the position of HT VET. I would like to welcome and congratulate these two teachers into their new roles.

In other staffing news Mr Travis Megale has moved to Swansea High School. Mr Megale taught at Northlakes High for many years in our English faculty and was very much appreciated for his efforts in working with students and in his extended role as relieving HT English. I wish him well at Swansea High School.

Also leaving us for Swansea High School is Mrs Guli Skamperle. Mrs Skamperle has been the National Partnership Deputy Principal at Northlakes High now for 2 years. In that time she has managed all initiatives involved with the Federal Government National Partnership, manage technology reforms on the school and also monitored and supported the current Year 10 cohort of students as Deputy

Principal. Mrs Skamperle has a long history with Northlakes High and she has a strong commitment to ensuring that students always had the opportunity to excel. She has been successful in securing the permanent Deputy Principal position at Swansea High School from the start of Term 3. We will all miss her skills and experience at our school, but wish her all the best at her new school.

Congratulations to Mrs Lynelle Maude who has been appointed through a merit selection process as our new School Administration Manager. Lynelle has worked at the school for over 20 years in the school office so it is pleasing to see her secure the manager's role. Lynelle is very experienced in school finance and office administration and will be a real asset in managing the SASS staff within the school.

Term 3 also sees the start of the implementation of a new way of funding and supporting students with a learning difficulty or disability in mainstream classes. From term 3 there will be a reduction in the number of School Learning Support Officers and an increase in the number of teaching positions allocated to specifically support the students. In this regard a number of our learning support officers are finishing up their roles or reducing their time at the school. I would like to thank them all for their efforts, many over a number of years. I know that teachers and students have been very appreciative of the support they have received in classrooms from many of these learning support officers.

Within the school we have had many achievements in the latter half of this term. Congratulations must go to the students and staff who participated in StarStruck and also Central Coast Dance Festival. Also there have been many sporting teams competing in Regional competitions and many students representing the school in Athletics. All of the staff and students who participate in these extra-curricular activities bring a great amount of credit to the school and enhance the school's reputation within the community as a school that is always striving to participate and compete to our personal

best. Northlakes High School is a school of many opportunities if you are willing to engage in them. Education Week is on in Week 3 of Term 3. Northlakes High will be holding a 'showcase' event on Wednesday afternoon the 1st August. We would love to see as many parents and community members come to the school and see what we have to offer here at Northlakes High. You will find an invitation included within this newsletter for this exciting event. A committee of staff and students are working hard to make this an enjoyable event, so please mark it in your diary.

Finally, you will be aware that the Federal Government has announced in this year's budget that families will receive a cash payment of \$820.00 per high school student. This payment will be made directly into parents' and caregivers' accounts shortly and is for school related expenses. I am taking this opportunity to request that some of this money be put towards outstanding school contributions. School contributions are used to buy resources and equipment for our students to give them the best possible education. The greater the amount we receive in school contributions, the better the resources and facilities that we can offer. Research shows that education remains the best way to secure bright futures for our young people in our community. For us to provide that bright future, we rely on the school contributions paid by parents. I hope you are able to use some of the education grant to support us in delivering that bright future to your child. Payments can be made at the school Administration office.

It has been a pleasure to relieve as Principal for the past 5 weeks and I am proud of our students and their achievements during this time. Mrs Rowley will be returning as Principal from the start of next term.

Mr Warren Welham
Relieving Principal

Mathematics Report

As Term 2 draws to a close, it is sensible to review some of the issues for both staff and students from this semester. Firstly, and most importantly, it is insisted upon that all students have workbooks for Mathematics, regardless of whether they are also using a laptop in class or not. Much of the working out in Mathematics takes a very long time to format using the computer, and for that reason working out is generally done in students' books. If necessary, some accommodation can be made to store books by the classroom teacher.



Year 10 Students wishing Mr Quinn a happy birthday

The other thing is that Mathematics faculty policy says that 20% (Year 9 and Year 10) or 30% (Year 7 and Year 8) of a student's final mark for Yearly or Half Yearly report comes from a combination of classwork tasks and homework tasks. This means that any student choosing not to complete moodle homework, assignments, or regular homework, as given, is deliberately choosing to forgo these marks. Class time is available for completion of Year 7 and Year 8 moodle work (1 period per fortnight is in a computer lab) and it is expected that it will be completed. If there are any real issues over access please see either Mrs Woodley or Mr Quinn.

Due to a lack of interest amongst the students, we have had to pull out of the Australian Mathematics Competition this year. A certain number of entries are required from a school before they are accepted, and we did not make the closing date. Hopefully there will be more interest in 2013.

Mathematics staff are still sending home one 'Student of the Week' award. Each teacher takes a turn to nominate a recipient; some recent nominees have included **Gemma Johnstone, Chloe Payne, Cameron Quinnell, Shauna Young and Tom Richardson**. These students have been recognised for their effort in always doing their best.

Mathematics Faculty

Languages Report

The 7WQ class have been chosen to work with a partner school on the "Get Connected" program. This means they will be conversing with students at Chifley College, Mt Druitt in Japanese via the internet through Edmodo. The class has created amazing avatars on Voki which they have given their voice in a self-introduction. Next term 7WQ will be meeting their partner classmates via Connected Classrooms technology and participating in games on the Interactive Whiteboard.



Most Junior Japanese classes have been using technology very successfully to create a calendar of their birth month in Japanese. Some of these will be printed and displayed in the Language Centre. The two Indonesian classes in Year 7 have also been using technology to produce their own school timetables in Indonesian.

Mr Mackinnon is now the teacher for 7GT and 7GO. 7WL have some lessons with Mrs Davis and some with Mr Mackinnon.

Year 11 students have completed their second assessment task. This was a listening comprehension reading test which focused on time and daily routine. Results were very pleasing.

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Year 12 students recently completed a reading task related to part-time work. This was quickly followed in the same week by a speaking task where students had to give directions from school to their home in Japanese. It has been a very busy term and Year 12 students deserve some rest but not a total holiday from language learning. Term 3 will be even more intense, so revising all past topics during the two weeks off will be extremely beneficial. Please check that your student can access Moodle. All work undertaken in class since last year is on Moodle now.



Mrs Davis and Mr Mackinnon

Sport Report

It's a busy time once again in the world of sport, as we are right in the middle of zone and regional carnivals for both Cross Country and Athletics. At the recent zone Cross Country Carnival, Northlakes High School had a high number of competitors on the day, and finished 3rd on the overall points tally. Highlights for the day were **James Starkey** winning the 16s age group, and the performance of the 13s girls, where we had four girls progress to the regional carnival. At the Regional Carnival, **James Starkey** once again won his age group, and we wish him all the best for the State Carnival, where he'd be looking to go one place better than 2011.

At the time of printing, official results for the Zone Athletics Carnival had not come through, however, Northlakes High had some great performances on the day. The 17s boys had an outstanding run in the 4x100m relay, finishing first in a near record time. **James Starkey** won the 16s 1500m, **Tahnee Blenman** won the 14s 100m and **Myles Donnelly** won the 13s High Jump with a height of 1.50m. Congratulations to all involved on the day, and all the best for the Regional Carnival on the 23rd/24th July.

You may have already noticed, but the Coles Sports for Schools Vouchers are back again. This has been a fantastic initiative from Coles over the past two years, and has been extremely well supported from the Northlakes High School community. Last year we collected over 100,000 vouchers and were able to obtain equipment including new High Jump stands and bars, updated athletics equipment, updated supplies of Touch Footballs, Basketballs, Netballs, along with essential items such as new First Aid kits for school representative teams. Voucher collecting has started and will be finishing on the 14th of August. Please continue to support this program as it allows us to keep up to date with all of our equipment supplies, and essentially provide more opportunities for success in school sport and PDHPE classes.

Special mention must also go to our U/15 boys Football team, competing in the Bill Turner Cup. These boys played some great Football to reach the 3rd round, something that has not happened here for a long time. The boys went down to a very good Gosford High School team, after defeating Berkley

Vale and Wadalba in earlier rounds. It was a pleasure to be involved with this team, and a big thank you to all parents who assisted with transport and gave the boys some great support!

M. Mansfield- Sport Coordinator

Dance Report

What a huge 2 weeks we have just had in dance. A group of dance students from Year 9, Year 10 and Year 11 have been busy performing at Star Struck and the Central Coast Dance Festival.

Week 8 was full of rehearsals and performances at Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Mrs Lubinski and Miss Koteczky watched on as the students were involved in a 1940s number full of energy and excitement. **Holly King** and **Ashleigh Donaldson** also performed in the Michael Jackson Smooth Criminal number. They did an amazing job at representing our school in the regional group. I would like to commend the students on their behaviour and commitment throughout the week. They looked very professional in their costumes and we were very proud of their hard work.



In Week 9 Year 11 dance and a group from Year 10 dance performed at the Regional Dance Festival at Laycock Street Theatre with all shows selling out. Year 11 dance were the talk of the night on Tuesday with their performance "Lego House". Year 10 did an amazing job on Thursday with their performance "Who You Are". **Kate Mills**, **Diane Chaloner**, and **Claudia Compton** performed in the regional ensemble group which is an outstanding effort. They will be auditioning for State Dance Festival and performing in Central Coast Showcase early next term.

I am very proud of all the dancers this term. They have truly shown amazing talent and dedication to their subject. Looking forward to doing it all again next year.

Miss Koteczky

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Support Team Report

This term we have had to say good bye to Talara Freeman who has been an Aboriginal Education officer for the last year at Northlakes High School. Her time here has been filled with teaching Aboriginal dance, giving information talks and assisting students in the classroom. We thank her very much and wish her well in her future endeavours.

The next Muru Bulbi Aboriginal Education Consultative Group (AECG) meeting will be held on the 4th of August 2012. 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 completed. It looks 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. Kathy has also left our staff to further her career as a tutor and to set up her own business. We thank Kathy for all that she has done for our school.

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 boys (primary and high school) the Didgeridoo. Marilyn Fraser assists students with Aboriginal Art.

Our Year 7 and Year 8 students went on an excursion to the University of Sydney with parents, Mrs Fraser and Ms Gail Byrnes. An enjoyable and educational day was had by all. Well done on the students' behaviour as well.

Sorry Day 2012 was acknowledged at Northlakes High School with Talara Freeman talking to Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 at an assembly. Talara explained the importance of Sorry Day to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and to the Australian people.

NAIDOC Week: During Week 10 Term 3 our Indigenous students are appreciating the culture through their Cultural Day and a visit from the AECG committee members.

I have enjoyed my short time as Aboriginal Coordinator and have gained a lot of knowledge of the cultural commitment of your Aboriginal community.

Mrs Jodene Garside

Welfare Report

The welfare team at Northlakes High School have had a busy and productive Term 2 2012. A Big thank you to Mr Jon Glasson in the Welfare Office for relieving HT Welfare this term while Ms Byrnes has been relieving Deputy Principal. Mrs Jodene Garside has been relieving as HT Welfare for the last 6 terms for Mrs Fiona Kennedy. Mrs Kennedy will be back 4

days a week and Mrs Garside will be in the position 1 day a week.

There have 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 Fulwood, 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 Fulwood in the Science faculty.

At NHS we 'SAY NO TO BULLYING!'

Most Year 7 students have been given their vaccinations over this last term. We will have catch up days and the next round of vaccinations in Term 3 this year.

The weather is now 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 3 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 WH&S concern. Families are to try and

purchase leather covered black shoes. There are many different types available in the stores. Students out of uniform will be called out of assembly, their name taken down and reason for and then a note will be sent home to parents. If you are having any problems with this bring in a note explaining the situation or call HT Welfare.

If students are out of uniform their names will be recorded in Roll Call on a Uniform Referral Slip and a letter will be sent home to notify parents.

Missing school means your child misses out on vital information and maintaining learning routines. This can result in a loss of confidence and missing out on forming vital friendships.

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

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

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

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

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

REMEMBER: IT IS NOT OK TO BE AWAY!

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

Jodene Garside, Jon Glasson and Fiona Kennedy

Library Reminder

Could all parents and caregivers please remind students to return any overdue library books before

the end of Term. There is no fee for overdue books.
Regards Mr R Zappia – Teacher Librarian

P&C News

The next P&C Meeting for next term is Tuesday, 21st August at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. We would love as many parents and caregivers to come along and find out what is happening in the School.
Education Week

Education Week is Week 3 – 30th of July to 3rd of August. Northlakes High will be organising an expo and we look forward to you coming along and sharing your children's achievements. Stay tuned for more information and a date next Term.

Uniform Shop

We will set up an order form on the webpage that you can print off, and return to the canteen with the correct money on any day of the week, or alternatively we will give you our BSB, and account number, so you can direct debit our account, you then only need to hand in the form and the reference number, and your child can collect their clothing at a later time. The uniform shop will still be open on Fridays from 10:00am till 11:15am if you need to try anything on. Thank you to our wonderful volunteers for making this possible. Order forms can be picked up any day from the canteen, or the student window.

Canteen News

Welcome to our new Canteen Assistant Lyndell Heath. We can always do with more volunteers, so if you feel you can spare a day in the week, or month, please contact Leanne on 43 907 251.

Term Planner

Included with this newsletter is a Term planner for Term 3 for you to keep up to date with what is happening, please display it in a convenient location. Staff Development Day 16th July, students return Tuesday 17th July

Tasty Treats Café

Every Thursday Year 11 Hospitality students have been running a café in our new hospitality centre. The students have been serving mouth-watering treats such as slices, cakes and a range of hot and cold beverages.



The English Faculty enjoying a coffee from Year 11 students



Some of the tasty treats made by Year 11

Year 7 Report

As Term 2 nears an end, Year 7 must be congratulated. Their behaviour has improved this last half of term, and all classes are working nicely. It is important that students are coming to school well prepared for their lessons. Pens, books and materials needed for each subject are necessary each day. Students are reminded to always follow the school motto: respect, responsibility and personal best.

Year 7 have had their 3rd immunisation day which was a success. The next school immunisation visit will be on October 31st. Students who have not submitted their immunisation forms are reminded to hand them into myself or the front office in time for the next visit.

The Year 7 MEGS trip will be run early next term. This is an exciting day where students get the chance to experience life at university, and get to take along their caregivers also! Most permission notes have been handed in.

Congratulations Year 7 – you have survived your first 6 months of high school!! I have thoroughly enjoyed the chance to get to know you and cannot wait for a productive Semester 2 at Northlakes High School.

Parents are reminded that I am available for contact or meetings if required. Please ring the school and I will aim to get back to you as soon as I can.

Have a lovely Holiday everyone ☺

Ms Erin Campbell- Year 7 Adviser

Year 8 Report

Year 8 Students had a terrific session with the Anti-Graffiti presenter on the 29th of May. He spoke on many issues that revolve around graffiti in public spaces. There can be peer pressure associated with graffiti and students can come to me if they're experiencing this.

The majority of Students have now handed in their subject selection forms. Please ensure your child has returned their form. Students will receive feedback about their chosen classes later in the year. Fees will be due next year once they are enrolled in their courses. Thank you so much for your attendance at the subject selection evening. It was wonderful to see the huge turn out!

I have been impressed this winter with the student's uniform. So many students are showing pride in our school by wearing the correct uniform. They look fantastic and ready to learn. We are still working hard with our students to ensure they have safe footwear for practical classes. Some students will not be able to complete practical tasks if they do not have fully enclosed leather shoes.

I hope you are pleased with your child's progress this semester. If, after you received your child's report you have any concerns, please contact me. There are a number of different strategies we can employ if you want to see improvement in your child's success in school.

I am contactable via email:
megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au

Mrs M Lubinski- Year 8 Adviser

Year 9 Report

Congratulations to all of our Year 9 students who performed so admirably at Starstruck and at the Zone Athletic carnival.

Unfortunately bullying, intimidation and the use of mobile phones to video other students is on the rise and is being monitored by the school.

I-Pod and mobile phone use in classrooms is also on the increase and monitoring of classrooms on a random basis has commenced with offending students being given a warning on their first offence with detentions following for repeat offenders.

Mr Ed Seaby- Year 9 Adviser

Year 10 Report

We had a fantastic turn out at the Subject Selection Evening and would like to thank everyone who attended. We hope this night was beneficial to both yourself and the students.

The Careers Expo was a very successful day, which provided Year 10 students with the opportunity to explore future career options. They interacted with exhibitors, participated in activities and attended presentations related to their career choice. Unfortunately, not every student in Year 10 embraced this opportunity but hope these students seek further information in the future from our Careers Advisor regarding their career path.

Uniform, especially jumpers remain an issue at Northlakes High School. Plain black jumpers without logos is the appropriate winter uniform. Coloured jumpers are not acceptable. I understand there may be problems washing uniforms during the wet weather however, notes from home is required to explain these difficulties when your child attends school in the incorrect uniform.

If you have any concerns regarding your child's report, please feel free to call me on 43900555 or contact me via email
Kerry.bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you and have a very happy and safe holiday.

Mrs Kerry Bissaker- Year 10 Adviser

Year 11 Report

The end of Year 11 is drawing near with only one term to go before they commence the Higher School Certificate Course in Term 4. With that in mind, student data has been entered with the Board of Studies so there will be no more subject changes in Year 11. Students need to ensure that they have completed all assessment tasks so that they have met preliminary requirements.

Year 11 Jackets for 2012/2013 are being made as we speak. A deposit of \$20 is required at the office if you wish to have a senior jacket. These will not be ordered again next year, so this is the one and only chance. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding these jackets.

Four Year 11 students were lucky to attend "Celebrating Youth Safely forum" in Gosford last week. The key speaker Paul Dillon gave the students strategies to use to keep themselves safe as well as their friends when celebrating. The students who attended will be giving a presentation to the rest of Year 11 in the coming weeks to share what they have learnt.

Students should be settling into a study routine that they can use throughout their fast approaching HSC year. Everyday after school, students should be revising or summarising and completing homework from that day.

Have a safe and enjoyable holiday,

Mrs Lara Jephson- Year 11 Adviser



NORTHLAKES HIGH SCHOOL PLANNER TERM 3, 2012

	Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
		9	10	11	12	13	14/15
July	1	16 Staff Development Day	17 Students Return	18	19	20 Yr 7 Megs Excursion	21/22
July	2	23	24	25	26	27	28/29
July August	3	30	31	1	2	3	4/5
		HSC trials – all week					
		Education Week - Northlakes Showcase Wednesday 3:30pm –					
August	4	6	7	8	9	10	11/12
		HSC trials – all week					
August	5	13	14	15	16	17	18/19
		Yr 10 Mock Interview Days, or HSIE excursion					
August	6	20	21 P&C Meeting 3:30pm	22	23	24	25/26
August September	7	27	28	29	30	31	½
September	8	3	4	5	6	7	8/9
September	9	10 Yr 11 Preliminary exams	11	12	13	14	15/16
September	10	17	18	19	20 Yr 12 Presentation Day	21	22/23
September		24	25	26	27	28	29/30

Uniform shop opens every Friday 10:00am – 11:15am