

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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From our Principal Ms Merrilyn Rowley

Dear Parents/Guardians

We have had a great year at Northlakes High School! So many positive events led by a hardworking and professional staff, and outstanding results from many of our students. We are, as always, supported also by our hardworking and effective P&C, who this year ran a very healthy canteen and uniform shop, and supported many school programs and events. We all love the electronic sign.... and the bus wrap!

I am looking forward to hearing about our Year 12 students' HSC results and their plans for the future. This group has worked consistently, and they have been excellent role models in the school. It is our privilege to be a part of the maturing of so many young people.

I would like to make special mention of Mr Jon Glasson, who has been an excellent classroom teacher and relieving Head Teacher. He is taking up a Head Teacher position at Gorokan High School. He will be a real asset there, as he has been here in all that he has done.

In the past few weeks, students have had so many opportunities; work experience, mock interviews, university student visits, workshops, sport activities, excursions, plays, opportunities to paint (in D block), camp.... and so on. What a great staff, who enable all this.

Now... our focus is on next year. It will be another good one, I am sure. What are we planning?

- Introduction of a House System, with eight houses, led by staff and students. This is very exciting... and hopefully will be fun for all.
- Second stage of the implementation of Positive Behaviour for Learning. The Gotchas was just the beginning... there will be a lot more to come, including whole school lessons, on our core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best... led by our student leaders.
- Change to 4 x 75 minute periods, which will all have a break at the end. The staff has chosen to return to this model as they believe this structure best optimises learning.
- Continue to run special events, such as welfare leadership, anti-bullying and study skills programs.
- An increase in funding which will enable us to continue and expand successful programs, such as Quicksmart, 'counting on', extension Maths, HSC Mentoring, SRC, ETC and CAPP, intensive literacy and numeracy support and much more.
- An increase in training for staff in quality teaching strategies, in line with university research and advice.
- Improved facilities - a lot of maintenance will be done in the school holidays. We aim to have our school one of the most attractive and functional high schools anywhere!
- Regular checking of students' bookwork and attendance... and contact with you if either is unsatisfactory.
- Introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award (see Mr Hextell)
- Increase in our offers of parent information or workshop sessions

What is the parent's or guardian's role?

Actually.... your job is huge!

You can best help your student by:

- ensuring they have all equipment required for school, including a book for every subject, correct uniform, and any other required equipment;
- pay the fees for all the subjects studied;
- making sure they get here on time, every day;
- ensuring they eat properly and exercise;
- monitoring their use of technology – especially social media. Phones are not to be on in class time;
- providing a time and place for them to do homework and assignments;
- working positively with the school if you have a concern.

Uniform

All shorts and skirts must be no shorter than the top of students' fingertips when standing. Girls are not permitted to wear tights without a skirt or shorts. We have alternative uniform for students who are inappropriately dressed.

I hope everyone enjoys a happy Christmas and holiday... and we all look forward to 2014.

Yours in Public Education,

Ms M Rowley
Principal

English Report

The English Faculty has been very busy during Term 4 and we have been focused on keeping students engaged in meaningful work. The English team has now completed all reports for 7-10 in English and it is hoped that all students in our subject will have received positive feedback from staff and will have achieved their personal and academic goals for 2013.

Year 12 English Studies 2014 just completed an excursion to Sydney as a part of their upcoming assessment task. Mrs Martin and Mr Freebody had a busy and productive day and want to thank the students who attended and who did our school proud. Thank you as well to Mrs Martin for organising a wonderful excursion. The feedback received from students has been positive and we hope to run more

excursions similar to this as an integrated part of our English Studies Course in 2014.

Year 12 are completing their first critical response in English. Students will be asked to view and analyse a short film about Belonging for their HSC Viewing and Representing/ Listening test. We remind all Senior Students that attendance is crucial for Formal Assessment Tasks.

Congratulations to Miss Smith on her appointment next year as the Anti-Bullying Coordinator. We know that her positive outlook will be an invaluable asset to us all.

I would like to thank Ms Legge, Mr Burley, Mr Stewart, Ms Williams, Mr Freebody, Ms Gorham, Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Martin and Miss Smith for all their hard work and energy this semester. These teachers have worked tirelessly and without complaint to help their students produce excellent work that reflects the high quality of teaching that takes place in English at Northlakes High.

Finally, the English Department would like to thank Ms Byrnes and Maddie for all their support given to our Aboriginal students this year. They have worked to help students with homework, assessments and on excursions and without them we would not have achieved as much. Thanks to you all!

Focus on Reading 2014

Next year looks to be an exciting year in English and across the school. We are committed to developing, implementing and instilling a love of reading, books and writing in the English Department and our teachers have set their sights firmly on 2014 as the year to push our students to their next level of achievement.

Reading widely and often is an essential ingredient needed to grow and develop an individual's literacy and comprehension skills. All students in Year 7 and Year 8 in 2014 will be required to do mandatory, weekly reading that is monitored, recorded and rewarded. Students will be given a sheet to record their weekly reading and reading times on. This reading/time sheet will need to be signed off by parents or caregivers. At the end of each week teachers will ask to see the reading sheets and will sign off that it has been completed. The reading records will form one approach that English takes to setting ongoing meaningful home work for students. We would ask parents to support us in our effort to improve students' reading and love of reading by suggesting books, asking about what they are reading and how they are going with their ongoing home work.

Focus on Writing

In 2014 our whole school focus will include a 'big push' to improve and increase the quality of student writing in English at Northlakes High. Our NAPLAN results as well as our HSC results continue to show our students are maintaining their writing and language skills, however they must continue to work to develop the quality and complexity of their writing.

Next year there will be a strong focus on developing writing in English through the explicit teaching of writing skills, especially academic writing. Our school statistics show that our students currently use writing scaffolds to help shape their responses, but these responses often contain mostly superficial information. It is our goal to help students grow and improve the depth and the detail of their responses, especially in our senior years. We encourage students to continue to use TXXC to help support and shape the quality of their writing.

We will be offering students the opportunity to participate in after school writing workshops developed to extend and improve writing responses in Preliminary and HSC English. I look forward to seeing many of our students enrolling for these workshops and for our results to reflect their time and effort.

Of course our junior school will continue to focus on literacy, writing, spelling and punctuation. We encourage students to maintain their books to a high quality, seek assistance if they don't understand work being given in class and to attend school regularly to ensure that they are obtaining the highest quality education that is available to them at our school.

National Curriculum and a new HSC

2014 will be the first year of the new National Curriculum in Stage 4 and Stage 5 English. The English Staff have developed programs that incorporate the new outcomes and values of the syllabus. Assessments and class tasks will still be both informal and informal and grades will be determined through a mix of formal and formative and summative assessments. We are looking forward to using some new and innovative ways to assess students.

I would like to thank Mr Boake, Mrs Rowley and Mr Wellham for their support of me while I have been relieving as the Head Teacher of English throughout the term. I look forward to a new and exciting year in 2014 and can't wait to see what we can achieve.

From English we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year or as I used to say at Mele Kalikimaka and Hauoli Makahiki Hou!

Ms Norris Head Teacher English (Relieving)

Mathematics Report

It has been another eventful term in Mathematics and we would like to congratulate all of the students for working hard and successfully completing another great year.

There have been a few staff changes this year with the departure of Mrs Vivien Leek who has been working at Northlakes High School for 17 years! We also welcome the appointment of Ms Jovannah Knight who has brightened up both the staffroom and classroom with her love of colour.

Staff have continued to increase their knowledge and expertise in the use of technology in the classroom. The school has provided access to Manga High for some senior classes and MathsOnline for every student in the school (which normally costs \$197 per student). Students and parents have been utilising these websites to do homework, extra revision or just to do some catch up work on previously taught concepts.

With a strong numeracy focus from National Partnership funding, the whole Mathematics faculty has been training in QuickSmart, and is now using the strategies in the classroom. We also welcome back Mr Gary Negus who taught at Northlakes many years ago. He has been tutoring withdrawal groups two times a week. His experience and advice has been a welcome addition to the faculty. National Partnership funding has also given us the chance to work with other faculties in implementing explicit teaching strategies across the school. Seeing students picking up mental arithmetic strategies and new skills as well as the improvements in their results has been very pleasing.

Lastly, a huge thank you to the entire Mathematics staff for their energetic and professional efforts throughout 2013. I would like to recognise the input of our permanent staff members Mr Allanson, Mrs Houston, Mr Meza, Ms Knight and our temporary staff members Ms Evan, Ms Murray and Mr Mauro. We as a faculty wish you and your families the best for the holidays ahead and hoping to see you all in 2014- with your calculators!

Mr Jackson Lam
Relieving Head Teacher Mathematics

HSIE Report

Well another school year is drawing to an end. The Christmas season is almost upon us. H.S.C. results are due out on the 13th December 2013 and we hope that each child has achieved their own personal best and gets the results that they deserve.

Meanwhile school is still functioning as usual and will be until the last day of term. It is not some video "down time" for students and those in school attendance will be expected to complete set class work.

We have continued with school excursions this term. They have included a visit to the Jewish Holocaust museum in Darlinghurst and Maitland gaol. On the 6th December 2013 the H.I.S.E. department had a most successful "Ancient Egypt day" at school. It was wonderful to see the combined effort by both teachers and students. Ms Ewer in particular gave a most convincing portrayal as Queen Cleopatra. It really is rewarding on those occasions when students and teachers pull together as a team and show that...learning actually can be fun.

Thank you to all the HSIE staff for their outstanding efforts this year. Especially we would like to thank Ms Nadia Scott and Ms Sherilee Bartlett who worked as casuals for us this year. They really are excellent teachers and co workers. Also a huge thanks to Mrs Moore who organised all our excursions and days this year. They have been successful because of her efforts.

Have a happy holiday. Be safe and read some books!!

HSIE Faculty

TAS Report

It's coming close to the end of the year now and we are all looking forward to a break after what has been another hectic year.

Our condensed VET Hospitality class did a wonderful job of creating a three course meal for their parents and friends last week. We had approximately 30 people who all seemed to enjoy the evening. Here are just a few of the photos from the event. Take special note of our helpful Principal giving us a hand with the washing up!



Our year 9 and 10 Food Technology classes have been making gingerbread houses and decorating them with lollies and icing. Some of the results were outstanding. Students have gained experience in using royal icing and have realised how hard it is to apply effectively.



Year 9 Child Studies class is organising a children's Christmas party for Monday 9th December. This is excellent practical work as it completely relates to the topic they have been covering concerning child care issues.

Please note that enclosed leather shoes are required in order for your child to be able to participate in practical lessons. Canvas shoes are not acceptable as they do not offer the required protection in the event of an accident. Students in inappropriate shoes cannot participate.

If your child has selected a practical subject for next year, be aware that there are course costs involved. These courses include:

- Food Technology
- Industrial Technology – Timber, Metal and Graphics Technology
- Engineering Studies
- Hospitality

Students will be given fee notices in Term 1.

Wishing you a safe and happy festive season!

Mr G O'Mahoney

Science report

The year is winding up with many meat and vegetable sales from our Agriculture farm.

Year 11 has moved onto Year 12 and we are all anxiously awaiting HSC results.

We would like to welcome our new member of staff Mr Paul Mason. Paul has been with us for a little while now and we are really pleased to announce he will be a permanent member of our faculty now.

We all wish Ms Pidgeon well as she leaves us for a little while. She will be on maternity leave next year and we all wish her well and will sorely miss her. Mr Hoffman will also be missed as he is off to teach in London in 2014 we wish him all the best in his travels, career and adventures.

All the Science staff would like to wish everyone a safe and happy Christmas and New Year and we look forward to another successful year in Science in 2014

Science Faculty

Creative and Performing Arts Report

As this the last report for the year, on behalf of myself and the rest of the Creative, Performing and Language staff, we would like to wish everybody a wonderful festive season and a Happy New Year. Students in our faculty have performed outstandingly well, representing the school at all the regional shows and showcases. I am very proud of the accomplishments, of both students and staff in the pursuit of excellence. This faculty has developed talent and supported their initiatives, with commitment and enthusiasm and forging a strong relationship, determined to produce great results. Next year, our team will be added to, with a new Visual Arts teacher Miss Jessica Leffley, who will be

located in Artroom 3. She has already visited the school, as this is her first permanent appointment and she is very keen to start and work with this accomplished team.

Shortly, we should know the results from this year's HSC cohort and the staff involved are eager to find out how they have performed. In general, they expect good results with solid individual performances, across all courses. These courses include Dance, Drama, Visual Arts, Music and Beginner Japanese, as board approved courses and Photography, as a board endorsed course. Last year, Jake Fabre obtained full marks for his Musicology component of his HSC Music course and was acknowledged in the Encore program this year. This citation in the program is a symbol of the hard work and talent of both Jake and his Music teachers.

To finish the year, Mrs Hickson and Miss Koteczky, took a number of acts on the road to Blue Haven and Northlakes Primary and a concert at Northlakes High. Some acts such as Zeke Woof, Jacob Thomas, Jayden Stewart, Jackson Wood and the Dance Ensemble created spirited responses from crowds and are a sign of the growing maturity of acts from our school. In the Visual Arts, exhibitions at both the Maitland and Gosford Regional galleries have been provided work from our students and we look forward to the anticipated selections from our school.

Mr. Brimbecom
Head Teacher Creative Arts/Languages

Languages Report

Year 7 language classes have now completed their 100 hour mandatory Language courses. For students that enjoyed Japanese or Indonesian there is an opportunity to choose these subjects again as an elective in Year 9. For those interested in continuing with Japanese, the school's Moodle site has a number of activities and links to websites to keep you occupied.

Spanish lessons with Mr Meza became even more fun recently. Students watched and listened to Spanish cartoons and tried to identify the words they had already learnt this year. By all reports Spanish has been an enjoyable experience for 7GN.

Year 11 students are now Year 12 students and have already completed their first HSC assessment task – filming themselves speaking Japanese using their laptops. They had to develop a dialogue between a customer and a shop keeper – playing both roles. Students were very inventive with their

methods of establishing the differences between the dialogue participants.

Stage 5 and the Year 12 class have recently had a hands-on cooking experience in class, making Okonomiyaki (a type of Japanese savoury pancake). We know it was a successful task as a number of students took the recipe home and have cooked Okonomiyaki for their families.



In November Mrs Davis and Mr MacKinnon took 30 students from across all year groups to the Japanese Film Festival in Sydney. Students were entertained by a Teacher quiz just before the screening of a new Japanese film called *Tug of War*. After the movie, students ate at nearby Japanese fast food restaurants. For some it was a new experience and we congratulate them on trying something new. We were very proud of the behaviour and maturity of this group.

We encourage all students to seriously consider continuing with Language learning through their school life. The benefits are endless.

Mrs Davis, Mr MacKinnon and Mr Meza

Support Report

As the Support Unit's year comes to an end, it has become a very busy time for our students and staff. We have recently farewelled our Year 12 students at the Year 12 Dinner. This year Jarrod Chellew, Adam Shoobert, Terrance Te Hiwi, Joseph Godbold and Troy Bedford are all heading off to transition to work program in 2014 and it has been a delight to see them mature into fine young adult ready to take on the world. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

We also held our first performing arts concert in the hall. It was great to see our students show the skills they have developed over the past 12 months and congratulations to Meg Hickson for her wonderful organisational skills and the level of student

participation she has managed over this year. In another first for the Support Unit we held a sporting day against Brisbane Waters Secondary college support unit. This day saw our students participate in touch football and soccer. Unfortunately, we lost the touch game 4-3, but had finished the soccer with a 1-1 draw. Players to shine and represent Northlakes proudly included Hayden Munday, Aaron Jordan and Stephen Peirson. Hopefully this can become an annual match between the two support units.

Staff have also been busy organising excursions and review meeting with parents to conclude 2013 and prepare for 2014. In the final weeks of the year all parents in the support unit will be participating in review meetings of their child's achievement for 2013. These meetings provide an opportunity to give students and parents constructive feedback and to plan for 2014. On a lighter note, some students will also be participating in a V'8 day, Christmas shopping experiences and finally our end of year party at Luna Park/ Imax.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff, who have patiently supported me and worked extremely hard throughout 2013. This team effort and commitment to developing your child, is a credit to the individual staff members. Staff regularly go above and beyond, their duties, to ensure a smooth and successful program at Northlakes High. As this will be my final year at Northlakes High School, I would also like to thank the parents for their support over the past 2 years, and wish your child every success in the future.

Thanks

Mr Jon Glasson

PDHPE Report

The PDHPE Faculty would like to thank the majority of students for their efforts in PDHPE this year. As positive participation becomes the norm rather than the exception our school continues to.

We would also like to take the opportunity to thank families for their support this year. In issues including uniform, notes concerning illness and injury, permission notes and money for excursions, your help is much appreciated.

We have been fortunate to have Mr Feteneiai, Miss Sykes, Miss Thornton, Mr Cowling, Mr (Rowan) Thomas and Mr Hawkins who have worked both permanently and in day to day casual work with the

PDHPE Faculty. Thank you, your efforts are appreciated!

We know that we will see some of them next year as members of the permanent PDHPE staff will be working on split timetables as they try to balance workloads and young families!

A special mention to Mr Hextell who so willingly and ably filled in as Head Teacher PDHPE for a large part of 2013. Lastly, to all of the PDHPE staff for their energetic and professional efforts throughout the year, thank you!

The Northlakes PDHPE faculty would like to wish all families the best for the holidays ahead. Be safe and see you in 2014!

Mr Glachan
Head Teacher PDHPE

Sport Report

Term 4 in sport at Northlakes High has again of course been a busy time. The NSW Premier's Sporting Challenge is a program we are proud to have been a part of since its inception. The program allows students to participate in a wide range of sports to gain skills and experience, and as they progress through high school, students are given opportunities to both coach and officiate younger students. On Thursday 14th November, 18 of our Year 8 and Year 9 students went to Swansea High School as part of the 'Leading with Action' stage of the program. These students will now act as coaches at Blue Haven Primary School in Term 1 next year for part two of the "Leading with Action" stage of the program. I look forward to the continued success of this program, and especially now that a new group of young enthusiastic students are starting to emerge.

Since the last newsletter report, Northlakes High School has participated in a range of Netball and Rugby League gala days, have had students trial for regional representative cricket teams, and have made a long awaited return to the pool for the Eagles Cup Water Polo tournament. It has been at least six years since Northlakes have been involved in Water Polo, and thanks to a keen group of students with a willingness to learn we enjoyed a fantastic day at Wyong Pool. Both the boys' and girls' teams exceeded expectations, scoring goals throughout the day (conceding a few too!) and learning plenty about

a new game. MVPs for the day were Zac Kime for the boys and Koree Hungerford for the girls.



From L-R: *Amber Henderson, Kirralee Norford, Holly King, Casey Clegg, Koree Hungerford, Sharntae Welling, Simone Cravero, Ella Henderson, Lucy McCudden, Ashley Clark.*

Finally, a huge thank you to all parents who have helped with transportation throughout 2013. The vast majority of our excursions simply would not be able to happen without your support. Participating in inter school competition is a fantastic opportunity for students, and often leaves the students with long lasting memories. Your efforts are very much appreciated.

Mr M. Mansfield- Sport Co-ordinator

Careers' Report

It has been a very busy Year for Careers in 2013.

We started the year off welcoming our new Careers' Adviser, Ms Carol Dunne. Other staff members in careers and transition were Mrs Joy Foster, Mr James MacKinnon and Ms Lois Hewett with Mrs. Jan Curran as Head Teacher.

Mrs. Dunne with Mr. Williamson and Mr. MacKinnon, organised the Careers Expo at Avondale College for Year 10 and Year 12, a great success for the students of Northlakes High School. Students came away with great career ideas to inform their subject and University choices later in the year.

Mr. Ian West from the Board of Studies also had an afternoon with Year 10 outlining the expectations of the new ROSA (Record of Student Achievement), which has replaced the School Certificate and Year 12. Mrs. Kerry Bissker has been a great support for all of Year 12 students and we take this opportunity to thank her for her support also in Careers.

Newcastle University, in the AIM High Program, also visited the Year 12 students with programs. One was a Resilience program that guided the students through study methods, how to enroll in University of their choice, and the other was the on line tutoring activity. Mrs. Curran organised the Elevate program which targeted all Northlakes' school students and their study methods. The Elevate program has been a great success for whole school learning, especially for senior students who were able to see what is needed and how to achieve best results.

Once again in 2013, Year 10 students rotated in groups through their subject selection day, their History excursion and 'All My Own Work' days. Students gained greater insight to making informed subject and career choices. Parents were highly appreciative. Year 10 was also educated by Employment Plus and Centrelink about programs that may help them when they leave school.

In Term 4 mock interviews were conducted for Year 10 students to help prepare them, in work-style interviews, for placement in the workforce. Northlakes was very fortunate to have some great industries donate their time to interview our Year 10 students. This experience provided excellent results, with some of the students gaining part time work. Work experience for Year 10 students is highly encouraged at Northlakes as it provides opportunities for students to look at the next step in the lives. It gives them a taste of what life is like outside of the school boundaries.



Many Year 9 students have obtained their tax file number and are now looking for part time work. Congratulations to some of those Year 9 students who have already achieved this. Mrs. Foster has worked very hard with the Year 9 and 10 classes preparing them for work readiness.

We have had StartSmart from the Commonwealth Bank which is a Financial Literacy and Employment Skills Program come into the school and deliver their program to Year 9 and Year 10. This program explained Taxation, Superannuation, and Financial Savings. Students were very engaged with the presenter who looked at some of the positive and negative issues that face the youth of today.

Northlakes has been very involved with Newcastle University through the AIM HIGH project and Ms Sarah-Jane Judge. We have also been involved with the Science and Engineering project, where a group of students were invited to attend a challenge at the University. Our students competed against students from all over Newcastle and the Central Coast winning the Catapult building challenge. We also had a visit from the University's newest group called Robogals. These groups of students are targeting Year 8 girls who are interested in Engineering, Science and Building. Many activities were introduced over the day in a fun learning environment. These activities helped change the expectations of what some students thought about Engineering, Science and Building. Northlakes could have some wonderful Engineers of the future.



Wollotuka, in conjunction with Newcastle University, visited the school with the S2U iBelieve program for Aboriginal students aimed at Identity and their future. Students throughout the day participated in activities that connected them to country, family and their future. A great day was enjoyed by the students and certificates were presented on morning assembly by Mrs. Rowley.

Throughout the Year we have participated in PPTW and Outreach courses at Wyong TAFE. Northlakes was very fortunate to be selected by the HUNTER TAFE to participate in PPTW which is Partial Pathways to Work, where special courses were selected for our students to attend. Outreach Wyong TAFE, run by Ms Kerry Byrant, has also been a huge success story for Northlakes students, who have participated in courses specially selected for transitioning into their workplace. We are hoping that these courses are available again next year as they are a valuable asset to Northlakes High School.

Northlakes Mentoring program had a successful year with over 30 students attending the mentoring program and graduating each term. Northlakes would not be able to run this program without the



services of the Mentors who donate their Tuesdays and their knowledge for the benefit of our students. The Mentors and their students are also travelling to Newcastle University to look at the careers they have researched over the past 12 months.

We have also been very involved with Breakthru Australia, which is helping transition some of our students into the workforce. This service has been a valuable asset to the school and students who need assistance with making life changing decisions.

Twelve students from Northlakes have participated in the Salvation Oasis Driving Lessons. Once again this is a service that has been kindly donated to our School and we greatly appreciate their assistance, and we hope that this program can continue next year.

We would also like to thank all of the service providers who have helped and donated their valuable time.

Ms Lois Hewett, Transition/Mentoring Adviser

Mrs. Joy Foster (Rel) Careers Adviser

PBL: POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Positive Behaviour for Learning is a program supported by the Department of Education and is being implemented in many NSW schools.

Northlakes High School will begin to implement this program into our school environment to promote and maximize academic achievement and behavioral competence this year. It is school-wide strategies for helping all students achieve important social and learning goals. We know that when good behaviour and good teaching come together, our students will excel in their learning. Northlakes High School is proud to be a part of this exciting initiative.

The **PBL Award System** recognises a student's positive behaviour through our school values of:

- **RESPECT**
- **RESPONSIBILITY**
- **PERSONAL BEST**

In 2014 we will have two awards for Positive Behaviour for Learning:

1. **Gotchas:** Awards that the teachers give students for positive behaviour in class and in the playground. Students put their Gotchas into the Gotcha box in the library and every Friday two prizes are drawn. A \$5 canteen voucher and a \$20 Lakehaven voucher.
2. **Classroom Commendations:** Awards are given to students for excellence in the classroom, ongoing efforts and application across the whole school. Students who earn 5 Classroom Commendations will then be awarded a Year Advisors Commendation. When they earn 5 Year Adviser Commendations they will receive a Principal Commendation. These are valuable certificates for student portfolios.

The PBL Team wishes all Northlakes High School students good luck in their endeavour to receive Gotchas and Commendations.

ILNNP

Year 8 students were recently re-tested to assess their place on the Numeracy Continuum, following the implementation of strategies such as QuickSmart, Maths Extension and Numeracy Starters in Numeracy faculties.

Our first round of testing showed 15% of students were at or above expectation on the Numeracy Continuum.

In the November test, 40% were at, above or well above expectation.

These tests do not reflect students' mathematical ability, but the strategies students use to solve maths problems. Students who can demonstrate several different ways to reach an answer to a maths problem score more highly than students who can only show one method, even though they may all have a correct answer.

Students were also tested with PAT Maths. On re-testing, 78% of students increased their PAT score.

Data shows that students who took advantage of extra support offered, and attended regularly, had the most improvement.

Many Maths strategies are demonstrated on the DEC's parent website – *School A-Z*. This site has valuable resources to help parents and students from Kindergarten to Year 12. They include games and help sheets.

Parents are reminded that Northlakes High School has again purchased *Maths Online* for all of our students to use. Students can ask the HT Mathematics for their password if they have forgotten it.

Numeracy focus across faculties has seen the introduction of Maths starter activities in lessons such as Science, PDHPE and TAS, reinforcing the use of numeracy in many aspects of life. Students are realizing that Maths is not only used in the Maths classroom!

Programs implemented in Year 8 in July 2013 will continue in Semester One, 2014. The improvements demonstrated should ensure students continue to increase their knowledge of working mathematically,

leading to further success in related subjects as well as in Mathematics.

Mrs Jan Curran- Head Teacher Teaching and Learning

Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)

Part of the role of the Workplace Health and Safety Committee at Northlakes High School is to monitor conditions in the school to ensure every effort is made to make the school a safe working environment for staff and students.

The use of aerosol deodorants is banned in the school. The ingredients in these products have caused allergic reactions in several students and staff members. Asthmatics are particularly at risk, but symptoms have occurred in people with no previous history of adverse reactions to aerosol deodorants. Recent reactions have occurred following students using aerosol deodorants in classrooms and in the corridors. Please ensure that students only bring roll-on or stick deodorants to school. Any aerosol deodorants found in the school will be confiscated. Enclosed leather footwear is a requirement for students at Northlakes High School. Appropriate footwear minimises the risk of injury in Science and Technology classes, and in the playground.

As part of our bushfire management procedures, the school has successfully applied for a Hazard Reduction Burn around the perimeter of the school. Negotiations are underway with Wyong Shire Council and the Rural Fire Service to arrange the burn off. Please support our committee in making Northlakes High School a safe place for staff and students.

Mr Brad Glachan- Leader, Work, Health and Safety Committee

P&C News

I would like to thank all of the Parents/Caregivers that have come along to our P&C Meetings through the year. It has been a busy one, and it is always a fantastic way of finding out what is going on in the school. Please mark 4th March, 2014 on your calendar (or print off our Term Planner attached) and come along to our Annual General Meeting and General P&C Meeting at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. We have had some very dedicated volunteers throughout the year, and we held a special high tea to show our appreciation. A big thank you to our hospitality students for their exceptional culinary skills.

I would also like to thank everyone who worked together to make the Year 6-7 Orientation Day run smoothly.

CANTEEN

A big thank you to Leanne and all the ladies from the canteen who have worked so hard to ensure our students and staff have nutritional food every day. We are well stocked for the latest scientific calculator for \$30.00 (free engraving) and now available from the canteen. We will also have backpacks for \$20.00.

If you would like to volunteer your time next year please contact Leanne on her direct line on 43908 751. Any parent that volunteers their time for the day receive lunch and a \$5.00 voucher which they can use to pay for lunch for their children.

UNIFORM SHOP

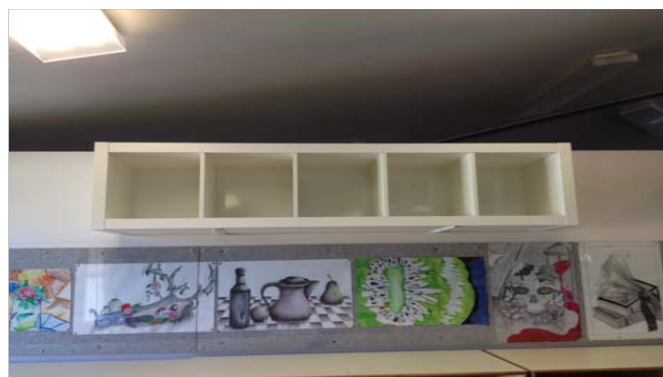
The uniform shop is well stocked. However our jumper order will not be available until the beginning of Term 1. We will be open every Friday including Friday 20 December from 9:30 – 11:00am and the first day back for next year 28 January from 9:30 – 11:00am.

TERM PLANNER

Attached to this newsletter is a Term Planner for next year, please display this in your house to help keep you and your children organised.

Mrs Angela Bambey - P&C President

Library News



Please return all overdue library books ASAP. The library now has several new exhibition spaces to showcase the work of talented Northlakes High art

students. Stage 5 drawings are currently being exhibited and we look forward to seeing sculptures fill the new display cases.

Year 7 Report

Year 7 has nearly reached the end of their first year of high school. It's funny how quickly the time has gone and also how much all these little year sevens have grown in one year. I would like to congratulate all my students on a really successful year. I am so proud of the achievements that students have made and also really proud to be able to be year adviser.

I remind all students to prepare for their school year in 2014. Ensure that books, pens and pencils are brought to school in order to start the year off in the best possible way!

We have organised for another camp for next year; it will be at Foster and details and payments schemes will be offered early in 2014.

I wish all my students and their families the best Christmas and the best holiday season, and I look forward to continuing my role as Year Advisor in 2014.

Best Wishes for the season

Ms Sue Fulwood- Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report

Term 4 is fast coming to a close and Year 8 students have survived another year of high school. Congratulations to students who have successfully completed their Stage 4 education.

2014 is a huge year for our students. Year 9 involves electives – and for many students this will be the first taste they get of their future career. Year 9 and Year 10 education is a very important time period in life. Students get the chance to excel in academic areas and experience new subjects for the first time. I remind all students to prepare for their school year in 2014. Ensure that books, pens and pencils are brought to school in order to start the year off in the best possible way!

In Week 7 this term, 90 Year 8 students embarked on a three day adventure to camp. The students enjoyed amazing activities – including quad biking, go karting and a huge waterslide. I cannot tell our

Northlakes High community enough how proud I was of these students. Not only did they represent Northlakes High beautifully, the teamwork and encouragement students gave each other was truly heart warming. I will definitely be planning another camp for 2014!

Another reminder for parents and students is to ensure that full school uniform is worn in 2014. Correct leather enclosed shoes are mandatory, along with complete school uniform.

As 2013 draws to a close, I wish all of you a wonderful holiday and a fantastic New Year. Once again, I have had a wonderful time being the Year 8 Year Advisor. These students truly are a great asset to the school and its community. Please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any queries on 0243900555.

Ms Erin Campbell- Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Report

The year is now at its end and we've been busily planning for 2014. Year 9 will enter Year 10 where school commitments and responsibilities increase. RoSA (Record of School Achievement) is the new record of student achievement leading up to the HSC. The RoSA will detail grades for courses a student completes right up until the time they leave school. If a student leaves school before receiving a grade in Year 11 or Year 12 courses, their RoSA will record the courses they commenced. This measure acknowledges the fact that some students begin senior secondary study but then leave school for employment or other training opportunities before receiving their HSC.

Students will continue for a second year with their X elective and begin a new Y elective for one year. This gives students another learning experience before choosing their courses for years 11 and 12.

Next year I hope that the cohort can act as excellent role models for the school. They are getting older and more mature and can be supportive of our younger students, especially the new Year 7 students. Leading by example and wearing our uniform with pride for the final junior year is very important and shows the younger students how we value our school. I would appreciate your assistance with buying uniforms as Year 9 have all grown up so

much! Anyone needing financial assistance for uniforms please contact me.

The Year 9 group has continued to impress me, I am constantly amazed at their talent and dedication. We've had many dancers and musicians playing at the school concert and at the local public schools. Wonderful news this week was that Alex Bowen in Year 9 is the National Physical Culture Champion! We are proud of all the students who have progressed and achieved great things this year.

Some students may feel that they could have done more work and handed in higher standards of assessment tasks this year, I hope that they take on 2014 with renewed invigoration. Making goals to achieve better grades than this year is a good start.

I wish all the students in Year 9 and their families a safe, yet present filled Christmas break. Enjoy your Summer holidays and remember the sunscreen!

Mrs Megan Lubinski- Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report

With the school year rapidly coming to a close, it is only timely that once again I congratulate the talented students of Year 10 who have shown their talents in the many different spheres of the arts, drama and music. Many Year 10 students performed at our performing arts concert and participated in the 'On the Road' program conducted by the CAPA faculty.

I would like to congratulate Jenny Perry, Jye Irvine, Tiah Hartas and Casey Allingham on their sailing abilities and their ability to work as a team under most trying and frightening conditions. These students were under-taking a sailing course at the CYC of Australia on Sydney Harbour when some of the strongest winds recorded on the harbour in recent times struck their small fleet! These students, under the guidance of their instructor, were able to return their vessel safely to the dock. Well done to all of you!

This is the last newsletter from me as a year advisor of a junior year. Next year we move into the final stage of the students' education which, I am sure, will offer both interesting and new challenges. As seniors, the student will be wearing a different uniform. These uniforms are available from the school uniform shop; please ring the school for opening times of the uniform shop.

I would like to wish all students, parents and carers a most joyous Christmas and a happy New Year and look forward to seeing all of you again next year.

Mr Ed Seaby- Year 10 Advisor

Year 12 Report

Five years ago a group of eager, wide eyed students were starting high school and today that same group of students are completing their final year of high school. Where has the time gone? They have excelled in all areas of school life and will no doubt continue to do this in 2014. I have enjoyed being their Year Advisor over the last 5 years and am really looking forward to helping them all succeed in the HSC year!

Our school leaders Ashlee Faber, Rhys Gosper, Taylah Gillmer, Brodie Whitbread, Caillin Wiles, Tyneill Dadd, Luke James, Beau Keywood and Jamiel Zakaria have had many roles so far as NHS school leaders. These have included Presentation Assemblies, meetings with the Principal, SRC meetings and running the morning assemblies. I am very proud of the school leaders and look forward to working more closely with them in 2014.

The school leaders were all invited to apply for the Lions Club Youth of the Year in our local area. Ashlee Faber, Rhys Gosper and Brodie Whitbread all made it to the judging night where they represented the school excellently. Ashlee Faber earned the Public Speaking Award at her judging night. Jamiel Zakaria won the Club Level judging stage and will move onto the Regional Level...Well Done! Beau Keywood will participate in his judging night in February...Good Luck Beau!

It is important that Year 12 continue to wear the correct senior uniform and be proud to be a senior at Northlakes High School. As senior students they are role models for our junior students. Showing respect, responsibility and personal best in all areas of their school life. And I would like to acknowledge the students who do exactly that!

All HSC students received a HSC Rules and Procedures Booklet with their reports and have signed for them. It is essential that any students who did not get one do so from my office; they must also

sign for it. This booklet has valuable information regarding all areas of the HSC year.

Please contact me if there are any concerns with Year 12 students by phone on 43 900555 or email jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu

Merry Christmas and have a safe holiday!

Mrs Jodene Garside- Year 12 Advisor

Community Christmas Carols:

Friday 13th
December, 6.30pm,
starting with a free
BBQ. A great time of
the year for the
community to come
together to enjoy
the excitement and
anticipation of
Christmas, singing
favourite Christmas



carols, and hearing items from students from local schools. Venue is Warnervale Uniting Church, 271-273 Warnervale Road, Hamlyn Terrace (held in the church if wet). Bring insect spray, hat, and chair/blanket. Enquiries: 0438 671 892 or 4392 4500 (please leave a message if unattended).

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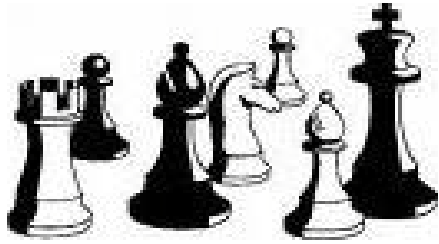
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\$15	\$15	\$15	2 Litre Milk or 1 Doz 600g Eggs or 2 Kgs Potatoes

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A Kind Donation

Thank you to The Orange Peel Fruit Market and McKenna's Family Bakery. These local businesses support our school on a regular basis. We appreciate their donations and would love our families to reciprocate by supporting them and our local community.

Annual junior holiday chess tournament



Monday, January 20

Looking for Central Coast holiday entertainment?

The 6th Annual Mingara Summer Holiday Tournament is open to beginners as well as experienced players. All that is needed is a basic knowledge of the rules and the ability to complete a game unassisted.

Hosted by Mingara Junior Chess Club, the event has each year attracted a growing number of players. In 2013 there were 70.

Regardless of ability or results, each junior will play seven games and will have the chance to win prizes for solving chess puzzles. Tournament prizes are given in several age divisions. About half of the players will win prizes.

The event is non-profit, with all entry fees (less minimal expenses) to be returned as prizes.

Parents must pre-enter players and should do so as soon as possible because the field will be limited according to equipment available and entries will be accepted on a first-come-first-served basis. To enter, parents should contact Gary Losh on 4390 8176 or at glosh51@dodo.com.au. The entry fee is \$10, payable on the day. Entries close Friday, January 17. Each year we use a puzzle solving competition to teach some new chess tricks. Every entrant will receive by e-mail some examples of the type of puzzles they will be asked to solve, with a lesson on how to solve them.

The tournament, open to all players under 18 on the day, will run from 11am to about 4.30pm on Monday, January 20, at Mingara Recreation Club, Tumbi Umbi.

It will be rated by the NSW Junior Chess League, which means that new players will receive a rating that will allow them to measure their ability against other players.



CENTRAL COAST Summer Tournament

- When:** Monday 20 January, from 11am to 4.30pm.
- Where:** Mingara Recreation Club, Mingara Drive, Tumbi Umbi (east of Wyong).
- Trophies:** 1st outright plus prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd in several age divisions with 7-8 players in each division. Prizes also for puzzle solving.
- Entries:** Must pre-enter by Friday 17 January. Fee \$10 (pay on the day).
- Enquiries:** Gary Losh, phone 4390 8176, email glosh51@dodo.com.au
- Lunch:** The club has a "no outside food" policy but has several suitable food outlets.

Mingara Junior Chess Group meets at Mingara Recreation Club each Wednesday during school term from 5:00 to 6:15pm.



NORTHLAKES HIGH SCHOOL PLANNER TERM 1, 2014

	Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
January/ February	1A	27 Australia Day Holiday	28 Staff Development Day Uniform shop open 9-11am	29 Year 7, 11 & 12 return	30 Year 8,9,10 return	31	1 /2
February	2B	3	4	5	6	7	8/9
February	3A	10 School Photos	11	12	13	14	15/16
February	4B	17 Back up School Photos	18	19	20	21	22/23
February/ March	5A	24	25	26	27	28	1 /2
March	6B	3	4 P&C Meeting 3:30pm in Language Centre	5	6	7	8/9
March	7A	10	11	12	13	14	15/16
March	8B	17	18	19	20	21	22/23
March	9A	24	25	26	27	28	29/30
March/ April	10B	31	1	2	3	4	5/6
April	11A	7	8	9	10	11	12/13
April		14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19/20

Uniform shop opens every Friday 9:30am – 11:00am