

# Northlakes High School Newsletter

*"Opportunities for future success"*



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## From our Principal Ms Merrilyn Rowley

We at Northlakes High School are expecting a great year.... it is certainly what we are planning for!

We have started well, with a great day at our swimming carnival, enlivened by the 'Hawaiian Day' theme, the efficiency on school photo day (thank you PE staff), a well organised timetable process, led by Mr Fleming and Mr Welham, and huge support from our office staff and Year Advisers, who have enrolled over 40 new students this year!

## New Staff

We welcome to the school:

- Mr Anthony Reilly – TAS faculty
- Ms Chantelle Drummond – Hospitality
- Ms Carol Dunne – Careers
- Mr Marshall Wilkinson – Music

Mr Glachan is relieving as Deputy Principal while Mr Yates takes leave, and Mr Hextell is relieving Head Teacher PDHPE.

## What will we do in 2013?

Northlakes High School was in 2011, and half of 2012, supported by National Partnerships funding. This gave us extra money to develop programs, train staff and buy resources to improve our students' outcomes.

While in 2013 this funding has not continued, the school has made plans to include some of our successful programs. These included:

- Quicksmart – intensive mathematics skills training for Year 7 and 8 students
- Mentoring for Year 11 and Year 12 students
- Weekly HSC tutorial support time (2.30 – 4pm, every Wednesday)
- Expansion of the 'Elevate' program, which aims to motivate and engage all students.

- Expansion of our support for ATSI students, we now have an enrolment of 11% ATSI students. In 2012 we were 3<sup>rd</sup> in the state for Aboriginal student attendance, and recorded significant improvement in Aboriginal students' literacy and numeracy
- Maintaining our Community Liaison Officer position. Ms Angela Bambey, also our school Parents and Citizens' President, continues to do an outstanding job in this role.

## Year 12, 2012

I have been advised that Jake Faber, Year 12, 2012, was identified by external HSC markers for Music as exemplary in Viva Voce for his musicology elective.

This means he gained full marks for the composition! He has been invited to display this at a local selective school, and has been honoured for his achievement by the Board of Studies. Jake was a school leader and an outstanding role model in 2012. We are very proud of him.

## Positive Behaviour for Learning

GOTCHA!! Hopefully, you know what this is.... because your Northlakes High School student has brought one home! As part of our Positive Behaviour for Learning program, we have introduced "Gotchas" to recognise all the many commendable things students do. This is a very good school, with many excellent young people who deserve to be noticed for doing all the things we expect... wearing uniform, being ready for lessons, being on time, doing their homework and putting in a good effort... they are the majority and we love them! There is also a slip attached to back page of this newsletter for students to receive a gotchya from one of their teachers.

Positive Behaviour for Learning is an extensive program, with a focus on bringing about positive change. We are already seeing the effect in the school.

## **Enrolments**

This year I have had a significant number of requests for out of zone enrolments. We have also had a lot of new students who are local to our school, and consequently our enrolment is now over 1100. This means that we are a true large comprehensive school; it gives us the capacity to offer a wide range of courses and structures, and hopefully meet the needs of all students. Our staff is very professional and highly experienced, and consequently we achieve a lot! You will see much of our achievements in 2013.

## **Sydney North Schools Sports Association Blue:**

In Week 2 I went to Sydney with Mr Glachan (Relieving Deputy Principal) and Mr Mansfield (Sports Co-ordinator) to see Joshua Glachan of Year 11, awarded a Sydney Metropolitan Award for his achievements in Touch Football. Joshua has represented his school, state and country! Recently he went to New Zealand! His exceptional sporting ability was recognised in a ceremony where Natalie Flood, Olympian, was the key note speaker. It was very impressive! He was one of 29 students out of a 'field' of about 45,000 secondary students in this region.

## **Cricket**

Jonathon Boyd and Zac Abel played cricket for Sydney North School's Sports Association on 14/2/13, for selection at State level. Congratulations for both boys for reaching this high level!

## **How can I support my child at school?**

1. Get involved. Come to the P&C meetings, volunteer in the canteen, come to parent/teacher nights, information sessions, morning teas etc
2. Pay fees..... ALL money from fees goes directly into the program your child is doing... food technology, agriculture, science etc. The more students pay, the bigger variety of materials a faculty can afford to use in their projects.
3. Buy uniform from the school's uniform shop, as it is run by the P&C, so every cent of profit goes back into the school.

## **Community Access**

We will have many occasions during the year where parents will be invited to come and be involved. Whether it is a session on how to help your child/ward improve their mathematics or literacy skills, how to do assignments, deal with bullying, choose subjects, or an opportunity to meet staff, we want you here!

However, in order to comply with Work, Health and Safety requirements, we can no longer allow any parents to drive onto school grounds, as there are

too many risks associated with pedestrians and the car park.

## **Homeless children**

Unfortunately, sometimes family relationships break down, and young people become 'homeless'. If you know one of our students is out of their family home.... maybe even staying with you, please let the school know. Our Student Support Officer, Angela Ware, will ensure the young person is supported. Our prime aim is to help them maintain attendance and progress at school.

## **Uniform Policy**

If your child/ward has outgrown their uniform, please consider donating them to the school's uniform pool. Some family will be very grateful to you!

## **Facebook**

Unfortunately, we are under pressure from some of our modern society's structures. Facebook, and other social media sites, cause a lot of grief, as young people can use these thoughtlessly and cause grief. Please take the time to read the article in this newsletter, especially related to your responsibilities as parent or guardian.

On a positive side, the school's Facebook page is rapidly expanding. We encourage you to 'like' it to receive daily information.

## **On a negative note**

I have recently had to have discussions with a couple of adults related to their behaviour.

- Department of Education and Community Policy completely disallows cigarettes or alcohol on any sites. This obviously means everybody, adult or child.
- Anyone using aggressive language or behaviour will not be tolerated in the school. We are governed by at Work, Health and Safety Charter called Dignity and Respect in the workplace. The Work, Health and Safety Policy is our guidance in our management of difficult or dangerous situations. Your student's safety and well being is always the prime concern.

## **Late Arrivals**

Most students who arrive late to school have left home with plenty of time... but have gone to Coles, visited others, walked slowly etc. Students who regularly arrive late for no sound reason will be attending an after school detention on Tuesdays, in D1, from 2.30 – 3.30pm. Students will be issued with

a letter about this when they arrive late. Any student who is unavoidably late, should have a note from a parent or guardian. Students are expected to catch the school bus, which will deliver them on time.

Students have been informed of this policy, which commenced in Week 4. Failure to comply with this detention will lead to further disciplinary consequences.

### **Deputy Principal's Report**

It has been a busy start to the year with Year 7 students learning their new timetable and getting to know their new teachers. The vast majority of Year 7 students have started school prepared for their class work and have been displaying outstanding behaviour in their classes. I have visited every Year 7 class and have been impressed with the students I met.

Year 9 have returned to school with a very noticeable increase in maturity. Again I have been impressed with the good start most Year 9 students have had and have been pleased that there have been far fewer behaviour referrals to me this year than towards the end of Year 8 last year. Year 9 appear to be enjoying their elective subjects and the opportunities that arise from studying courses that they have chosen.

Year 11 are settling into their Senior studies and very soon will be having course assessment tasks to complete. All students have been given a copy of an 'Assessment Schedule' booklet that tells them what assessment tasks to expect in each course and when to expect them. We have also provided a calendar for every student that lists the assessment events that are occurring each week. It is very important that students keep on top of these assessment tasks and hand them in when due. The largest contributor to poor marks in the senior school is not completing and handing in assessment tasks when due. If students are stressed or struggling with assessment tasks, then they should first discuss this with their course teacher and if further assistance is required with their Year Advisor Mrs Garside.

All Senior students will soon receive consent forms required to be signed for 'flexible' time provisions. Flexible time is a privilege that senior students have due to the nature of their courses and their timetables. It is important for the school for Work, Health and Safety reasons to know where students are at all times and for this reason important for students and their families to understand the

information in the package that will be coming home soon.

For all families, could I urge you also to ensure that you keep your contact mobile phone and e-mail address current with the school at all times so that we can get messages to you without delay. This is especially important for our daily SMS system for students absent from school and in cases of emergency.

I look forward to continuing to work positively with students in Year 7, 9 and Year 11 and am available for any parent questions.

**Mr Warren Welham**  
**Deputy Principal**

### **English Report**

Welcome to English 2013. It is certainly a year that has started at a rapid pace. Firstly, I would like to welcome back a highly valued faculty member in Mrs Martin, who has resumed duties following maternity leave.

Already several opportunities have presented themselves for those students with an interest in writing. There are three competitions external to school currently underway and all are offering some fantastic prizes. Please encourage your child to see their English teacher for an entry form.

The vast majority of students have made a positive start to 2013, however, I would like to remind parents that students need a separate work book for English. This is a record of their learning and will be used as the basis for reporting student progress. We are also asking students in Years 7 and 8 to bring a reading book to lessons, as the development of a healthy reading habit is crucial in succeeding in English.

Over the next 10 weeks all English staff will be revising and teaching explicit skills required to be successful in NAPLAN. The target areas have been identified via patterns in previous data. To support this preparation I encourage you to look at the following web sites as these contain information and sample tests:

<http://www.nap.edu.au/naplan/the-tests/the-tests.html>

<http://www.naplanforparentsnsu.com.au/>

Homework for Year 7 and 9 should currently consist of NAPLAN preparation, reading a range of texts,

and work set by the teacher to be marked and feedback given. This supports our pattern of assessment. For Year 8 and 10 it should be the same, minus the NAPLAN preparation.

Year 12 are firmly underway in their HSC courses, while in Year 11 there has been some movement. Should students or parents have any concerns regarding the best course for them or their child, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the English Faculty.

I look forward to a successful year.

Regards,

**Mr M Boake**  
**Head Teacher English**

### **Mathematics Report**

Welcome to the new academic year 2013!  
The Mathematics Staff look forward to working with you to support your student to achieve their personal best.

Year 7, Year 8 and Year 9 have an Assessment Task mid-term based on Naplan style questions and Literacy in Mathematics. All other years will have Assessment Tasks based on their course work. You can check Assessment Schedules and Timelines on the Moodle website.

Year 7 and Year 8 have timetabled lessons in computer laboratories to complete Moodle homework. This also gives them valuable practice for the Naplan Test in Numeracy; and their results count towards their Half Yearly Mark.

Our Principal, Mrs Rowley, has organised payment so that all students in the School have access to the excellent online resource "[mathsonline](#)" and we are very excited to be able to offer this to all students. They have a login and password and teachers will set tasks, based on course work to be done. Also, students can search for topics and skills they wish to revise or learn themselves. Each skill has a video demonstration, worked examples and worksheets. This resource supports students to be responsible learners.

Also, this year, Year 9 and Year 10 will have access to another online resource called "[mangahigh](#)", and teachers will issue logins for its access and set Tasks for students.

Please, take some time to have a look at these online resources and encourage your student to use

them as they are a significant expense for the school.

The Mathematics Staff is very enthusiastic about our new School focus of Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). We support students to be responsible learners by attending class on time; having book, pen, calculator, laptop; being willing to engage in the learning by writing notes and examples, and reading over them each night (research shows this transfers memory from short term to long term by nearly 90%). A responsible learner understands that a mistake is just a mistake and re doing work means that they will know how to answer that question next time!!

We require that students have a separate exercise book for each subject. A plain ruled A4 book of 96 pages is not a heavy burden and will be enough for the term's work. A mark for their bookwork forms part of their Half Yearly and Yearly results.

If you have any Mathematics textbooks at home would you please send them in with your student to the Maths Staffroom, we would love to have them back.

Thank you,

**Mathematics Faculty**

### **HSIE Report**

Well another school year is already underway. It is important that all students attend every school day and obviously every individual class. Education is about total individual commitment to learning by each and every member of our school. We must work collectively and as a team so as to enable students to achieve their optimum educational performance. These are your children, these are our students. Therefore it is not only the need for teachers to create a stable learning environment for learning, but for each and every student to not only attempt to do their individual best, but to allow a climate to exist for other students to do so as well. In society we consistently hear about individual rights. Equally important is individual responsibility.

### **HSIE Assignments due 3pm Friday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Year 10 History Task 1 Decade study Major 2013

Year 10 Geography Task 1 Foreign Aid 2013

Year 9 History Task 1 Aboriginal Experience 2013

Year 9 Geography Task 1 Natural Disaster 2013

Year 8 Geography Task 1 Human Rights research 2013

Year 7 Geography Task 1 Antarctic Research 2013

Year 9 and 10 now do half a year of History or Geography and then swap over for the second half of the year. This is so the students see their teachers more regularly over the two week cycle therefore improving the pace of learning and discipline, and the students will have experts in their field teaching the subject. Year 7 and 8 continue to do Geography in first semester and History in second semester.

The staff in HSIE for this year includes: Ms Bromley, Ms Campbell, Ms Dean, Mr Dean, Mr Gumley, Ms Hewett, Ms Moore, Ms Scott, Mr Seaby and Mr Williamson. We welcome parent contact so never hesitate to talk to us. Communication is the foundation of all successful relationships.

This year Northlakes students of HSIE will have the opportunity to attend several excursions, starting with the Ancient History HSC students attending the Australian Museum in Sydney Alexander the Great exhibition on 20 February. **Year 7** will also be going to **the Australian Museum** in Sydney on the **5<sup>th</sup> March 2013** for their Geography Stage 4 subject, Rainforests and the world environment, they will not only visit the Museum but have a short walk through the historical streets of Sydney and lunch at the Botanical Gardens, all for **\$15.00**.

**Year 9** have a compulsory site study excursion to Newcastle that involves a walk around the new **Honeysuckle Development** and a visit to the **Newcastle Art Gallery** to view artefacts from the turn of the twentieth century, that have been brought up to the gallery from the Sydney Library archives. A big day out for only **\$20.00**. This excursion is booked for **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of March 2013**.

**Year 8** will be going to **Taronga Park Zoo** on **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 2013** as part of their Geography studies. At a cost of **\$30.00** this should be a great day out.

**Year 10** have a compulsory site study component in their Geography course that involves an excursion to the beach. The Norah Head and Lakes Beach excursion will cost **\$10.00** and will be running **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2013**, all Year 10 students must attend this excursion.

Last year the HSIE department had students in six subjects in the 2012 H.S.C. They were Aboriginal Studies, Ancient History, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Modern History and Society and Culture.

Our results differed markedly from student. Some applied themselves and did as well as could be expected and others did not. It is very disappointing as a teacher to see young people not apply themselves to their studies and therefore effectively minimise their employment and further education opportunities upon leaving school. This is a serious issue and all our school community must fully explain to young people, the need to have greater choice in their working life. The retirement age is getting older and while one is a short time in school/education, you are a very, very long time in either employment, or the pursuit of employment.

**Mr R Gumley**  
**HSIE Faculty**

### Science Report

It has been a busy start to 2013 in Science. Students in Years 7 through to Year 10 have just completed their first units on experimental design and the scientific method with their first assessment tasks due to be completed soon. I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that there are numerous activities on the school moodle site that students can access to revise and strengthen their knowledge in each unit of work in Science throughout the year.

Down on the Agriculture farm we have had a great start to the year with many new animals, including steers, a number of piglets and a sheep. It is great to see many students participating in both Agriculture and Marine Studies this year; I would like to remind you that these courses do rely on students paying their school fees in order to enrich the activities we can provide for them.

All of the Science staff are looking forward to a positive and successful 2013.

**Mr G Fleming**  
**Head Teacher Science**

### Languages Report

This year there are three different languages being taught at Northlakes High School. Year 7 students are learning either Japanese, Indonesian or Spanish. Two classes – 7WQ and 7GO – are learning Indonesian with Mrs Davis. 7GN will be the Spanish class, taught by Mr Meza. All remaining classes are learning Japanese. All students in Year 7 have now completed an Introduction to Language and are moving on to learn how to talk about themselves.

This will include greetings, introducing themselves to others and telling their age.

I am also particularly excited to have a Year 9 elective class for Japanese this year. So far, students have revised important language skills such as self-introductions, greetings and classroom instructions. The next few weeks will focus on learning Japanese script.

The new Year 11 Beginners students appear very keen. They have applied themselves diligently to learning the first of the Japanese language scripts called hiragana ひらがな. I even found some of these students studying Japanese in the library! This class has also tried to master picking up smarties with chopsticks.

I welcome back the Year 12 class who ended last year on a high note by visiting the Australian National University for a Secondary Japanese workshop. This class has their first assessment task for this year due shortly. It will be a listening and writing task to be completed in class time during Week 6 of this term. I encourage all students to make revision a priority in their homework schedules.

**Mrs Davis  
Languages**

## Sport Report

Term 1 is always a busy time in Sport, with the Swimming, Athletics and Cross Country Carnivals all to be completed by the end of term. The Swimming Carnival was held in Week 2, and again had pleasing numbers of students participating, particularly for the 13s, 14s and 17s age groups. The carnival this year had a Hawaiian theme, well received by both staff and students. The list of age champions is below:

Age	Gender	Name
12	Female	Amie Akers
12	Male	Riley Scown
13	Female	Georgia Fleming
13	Male	Joshua Gray
14	Female	Ella Henderson
14	Male	Jack Justin
15	Female	Ashley Whitehead
15	Male	Reece Dawson
16	Female	Amber Henderson
16	Male	Luke Fuller
17	Female	Tabitha Rodrick
17	Male	Joel Ivankovic



Other dates to mark in your diary are the Premiers Sporting Challenge Workshop on 14<sup>th</sup> March, the Athletics Carnival on 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> March, and the Cross Country on 9<sup>th</sup> April. Further information regarding the Cross Country is found below:



**We will be holding an *adidas School Fun-Run* as a major fundraising event this year. The event will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> April within the school grounds.**

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

All students in Year 7 and Year 8 will receive a Sponsorship form to help collect sponsorship on behalf of the school. Any students from Years 9-12 wishing to raise money will need to come and collect a sponsorship form from the PDHPE staffroom. The funds raised will be used to subsidise costs for Northlakes High School sporting teams.

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

Students wanting to train for our event and to receive advice from sporting heroes like Sally Pearson and Jonathan Brown, can do so by logging onto **[schoolfunrun.com.au/students](http://schoolfunrun.com.au/students)** and clicking on **[mi adizone](http://adizone)**.

Thank you, good luck and happy fundraising!

**M. Mansfield**  
**Sport Coordinator**

### **Dance/ Drama Report**

Students of Year 12 Drama attended an excursion to 'OnStage' at the Seymour Centre in Sydney. This involved past HSC students performing their exemplary HSC works from 2012. This experience has inspired students to further develop their major

work, required for the HSC drama course and expand developing ideas.

Year 12 Dance students also attended 'Callback' at this venue. They participated in a workshop, where they were given advice and experience in all core areas of the HSC course. They were able to develop new skills and broaden their ideas for their compositions. Following this, they viewed performances from past students, who also received outstanding results from their HSC works in 2012.

**Ms Tina Koteczky**

### **CAPA Report**

Along with these great activities, the Creative Arts department is planning a number of excursions to places like Luna Park for Year 12 Photography students, Newcastle for Year 11 Photography students, the Archibald and Artexpress for Year 9, Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Arts students and a recording session for GATS Music students at a Charmhaven Recording studio. This studio is run by Howard Shearman, an ex-Northlakes High school student and gifted musician. Students will record their compositions and have them put down on a compilation CD, for them to take. A selection of year 10 Visual Arts students are participating in the Sculpture by the Bay project, conducted at the Gosford Regional Gallery. This exhibition will be on display for approximately three weeks, with an anticipated audience of over 30,000 people.

As far as achievements go Jacob Thomas, a Year 11 Music student and rising talent, has made the final auditions of Starstruck. Starstruck is a major regional entertainment extravaganza housed at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre. Jake Donaldson and Lincoln Adams have also been selected to represent the School at the Central Vision exhibition. This exhibition surveys the best works completed on the Central Coast by local high school students in 2012. One of the greatest achievements from last year's HSC group was Jake Faber's Encore selection for his viva voca. Encore being the presentation of the highest musical achievements from the 2012 HSC Music courses.

**Mr Les Brimbecom**  
**Head Teacher- CAPA/Languages**

### **Teaching & Learning Report**

#### **Learning Support**

The Teaching and Learning Faculty focuses strongly

on learning support for students from Year 7 to Year 12. We have two learning supported classes in Year 7 and one in each year from Year 8 through to Year 10. Each of these classes is **mainstream**. The middle school classes have the additional support of a School Learning Support Officer (SLSO) and all classes benefit from LAST (Learning and Support Teacher) Team assistance.

There have been a few staff changes in the Teaching and Learning faculty this year. Mrs Curran is the Head Teacher. Ms Simmons is teaching 7WA with Ms Alley, supported by Mrs Hanson and Mr Nowland. Ms Watts is teaching 7WL supported by Mrs Whitehead and Ms Gorham is teaching 8WL supported by Mrs Anderson and Mrs Schofield. The Learning and Support Team comprises Ms Hsu, Ms Byrnes and Mrs Curran with Ms Parfumi permanently joining the team this year. The LAST team's role is broad and involves assisting students with additional learning and support needs.

The LAST team is currently assessing Year 7 learning needs and reading groups will be organised shortly. Parents will be notified if their child is required to attend a reading group. Peer Mentoring will begin in Term 2 for around twenty Year 7 students who will be tutored in the library by Year 10 students studying at TAFE to receive a Reading Tutoring Certificate. The Quicksmart Numeracy Program is already underway with twenty students from Year 8 involved in the ten week 'high achievers' program. The more intensive thirty week program will begin in Term 2.

Students involved in Quicksmart in the past gained strong growth in NAPLAN and greatly improved basic maths skills and problem solving ability.

Assignment workshops will be starting soon for selected students in 'L' classes in Year 9 and Year 10. These students will receive a 'pass' giving them permission to attend the workshop in a designated period. Students must bring their assignments with them. The LAST team will provide assistance in researching, preparing and presenting the assignment.

Individual Education Plan meetings will be held soon with parents who have students in 7WL, 7WA and 8WL. Parents will be contacted to arrange a suitable time to visit the school. These meetings will be a chance for parents to meet with the class teacher and the LAST team and discuss educational goals for their children. If parents have any questions or concerns before these meetings please do not hesitate to contact us.

## **Special Provisions for the HSC**

If your child is in Year 12 and requires **any** special provisions (i.e. reader, writer, extra time, food for diabetics, coloured paper etc.) please contact Ms Hsu or Mrs Curran **ASAP**. Formal application must be made to the Board of Studies and as the process can be quite lengthy it needs to be started as early as possible.

## **Teaching and Learning Faculty**

### **Support Report**

The support unit has started the school year with our middle class spending four days at Stewart house. Stewart House, which is located on the beach at Curl Curl, offers students a once in a lifetime experience of excursions and activities throughout Sydney. A huge thanks to staff members Tony Quodling, Melissa Hardy and Kerry Schnieder who gave up their time to accompany the students on this worthwhile activity. Stewart House staff reported that our students were the best group of students they'd had and all should be proud of their achievement.

The support unit also participated in the annual school swimming carnival, which was a great opportunity to see our students participating as part of the whole school community. It was extremely pleasing to hear the support our students received from the mainstream school. The support shown by the whole school reflects the attitude toward students with disabilities, in our school, and the effort staff and students make to include everyone.

In the classroom, staff, students and parents are currently completing Individual Transition Plans, which is an important part of our annual planning process. Thanks to all parents who promptly attended, and patiently waited for each meeting. Staff truly appreciated your support during this process. During these meetings, parents would have been informed that this year, students from the support unit will have access to woodwork, art and music rooms. This opportunity provides students with added expertise in specialised areas, which will enhance student learning and inclusion in the whole school community. A big thank you goes to the senior executive for assisting in the coordination of these classes within the timetable.

## **Support Faculty**

### **Careers and Transition Report**

Welcome back to all the students. Mrs Carol Dunn is the new Careers Advisor, Ms Lois Hewett and Mr

James McKinnon are the Transition Advisers for Years 10, 11 and 12. TAFE has started back for the students who are enrolled this Year and we have some new and exciting courses running throughout the school for students of Northlakes High School. There has been a new Beauty course running at Wadalba Community School for 12 of girls. In March and new TAFE course starts at Wyong TAFE which is a cert 2 course that includes Aged Care and a program called HUGS that gives students skills that makes them employable in the area.

The Northlakes Mentoring program starts on the 4-5<sup>th</sup> March with 10 students participating and Mentors providing their services to students who will benefit from years experience towards their future.

There is a Board of Studies night also arranged for Year 12 and Year 10 students and Parents.

The Year 12 night is on 13<sup>th</sup> March 6.30 in the Library. This is a presentation for both Parents and students to inform them of the expectations for their HSC

Year 10 Night is also for parents and students on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 6.30 in the Library also an information night on the new ROSA.

We are looking forward to meeting all of the parents throughout the Year.

**Ms Louis Hewett**  
**Careers and Transition Adviser**

### **Student Support Officer**

My name is Angela Ware. I am the Student Support Officer at Northlakes High School. I am part of the Welfare Team and Career and Transition Team (CAT Team). My role at the school is to support students and their families. I assist students and their families with Centrelink, accommodation, clothing, food, and alternative education. I run RAGE and SCREAM Anger management for both boys and girls. I organise referrals for group programs run both in the school out of the school by other services. I work closely with Mrs Fulwood, the Northlakes High School Anti-Bullying Co-ordinator. I am very excited about my role at the school. We have some really good programs happening and I am looking forward to meeting students and working with families. I receive all referrals through the Head Teacher of Welfare Simone Byrnes and Fiona Kennedy.

**Ms Angela Ware**

### **Student Welfare**

Northlakes High School has a strong student welfare focus, based on the belief that students learn best in a safe, supportive and positive environment. Programs have been developed to increase the social and personal development of skills of students as well as to provide a framework for addressing concerns or issues that arise on a day to day basis. All staff are aware that student welfare underpins all school endeavours and that everyone has a role to play in providing the optimum learning conditions.

The Northlakes High School Student Welfare and Discipline system continues to change and develop according to the need of our students and staff. This has resulted in relevant and timely services to meet the welfare needs of our students and their families.

These changes and developments have included:

- A continuing holistic approach to student welfare using a whole school Learning Support Team structure with three interactive levels, including the classroom teacher, Year Advisers, Faculty Head Teachers and the Senior Executive. Identified students may be case managed at any of these levels with documented support and collaboration with parents/carers ensuring that the long term needs of every child is addressed, monitored and reviewed as necessary. The LST system has resulted in improved services for our students reflected in the positive feedback from parents and students and the increased number of students accessing appropriate services
- A new Discipline Policy
- Northlakes High School becoming a PBL school (Positive Behaviour for Learning)

**Welfare programs** are well underway, including the 'Drumbeat' program, 'Anger Management', 'I Track', 'The Men's Shed- Boys to Men', 'Green Room', 'Glow', 'Youth Connections', 'Breakthru', 'Links to Learning', 'Reality Check' and 'The Step-up Program'.

Additionally the following welfare initiatives also continued:

- Immunisation program
- Study skills days and senior mentoring
- Peer Mediation
- E-Mentoring
- Aboriginal Education and Cultural Programs
- Life Education Lessons - Face the Facts: Alcohol

- Student assistance scheme to assist students with uniforms and subject fees
- Phone home program to reduce student absences and improve school/family partnerships
- Uniform Shop and Uniform Monitoring
- Attendance and Truancy monitoring and HSLO interventions. 'It is NOT ok to be away!' Students need to attend school regularly to meet course and department requirements
- Transition Year 6 - 7
- Presentation Day Assemblies occurred during the final weeks of school and celebrate student achievements across all years
- NHS Student Support Officer **Angela Ware** continues in her role and School Chaplain, **Mr Matt Adams** is here again in 2013.
- Staff and School Learning Support Officer training in anaphylaxis, autism, asthma, behaviour management, mental health and carers support.

#### **'Respect and Responsibility'-School Leadership initiative**

Northlakes High School has implemented a range of programs and initiatives to promote respect, responsibility and personal best, and implement the school Welfare and Discipline Policy. These include;

- all teachers displaying and reinforcing the NSW Government core rules for Government Schools;
- anti bullying focused programs implemented to teach students strategies to address and report and thus reduce bullying, and model appropriate behaviours;
- Term 1- Welfare Focus Days  
Week5- Year 10 'Lovebites'  
Week 7- Year 7 'Antibullying'  
Week 8- Year 8 'Cyberbullying and Social Groups'  
Week 10- Year 9 GP's in schools and Life Education

A big thanks to our Student Representative Council and Student Leadership Programs. These programs provide opportunities for students to:

- Act as positive role models for their fellow students
- Encourage school spirit and pride
- Work with school community towards school improvement
- Discuss student rights and responsibilities
- Encourage and model a sense of community awareness and involvement

- Be worthy representatives of the school in the broader community.
- The SRC, P&C and AECG being identified as key stakeholders in the planning for school based decision making;
- Northlakes High School VIP and Personal Best Programs - Introduced to reward students already modelling positive behaviours.

The Welfare Team at NHS consists of a Principal, Learning Support Team, two Head Teachers Welfare, Year Advisers, three counsellors, social worker, chaplain, 10 School Learning Support Officers, four Learning and Support Teachers and a dedicated staff that endeavour to promote the schools values of 'Respect', 'Responsibility' and 'Personal Best' to all students of NHS regardless.

**Ms Simone Byrnes**  
**Head Teacher Welfare**

#### **Aboriginal Education Report**

This year our School Aboriginal Education Support Team is made up of:

Simone Byrnes- Aboriginal Co-ordinator  
Midi Klenner-In Class Tutor  
Jane Wilson-In Class Tutor  
Lois Hewett- Aboriginal Studies Teacher  
Gail Byrne- Senior North North Tutor

Our didge and dance groups are well underway. We are very happy to have Ross Smith back again teaching our boys didge.

We are also pleased to announce that we have a new Art/Dance teacher Leah Ingram who has come to us from Gorokan High School and is teaching Contemporary Dance.

Chris Nowland will be running our bush tucker garden, these lessons will include landcare construction and some new permanent art placings.

Our North North tutor program will start up again in Week 6 of Term 1. We are fortunate enough to have received the funding which allows our Aboriginal students to have the extra tutoring in certain subjects where they may need extra assistance in. Gail Byrnes is our main tutor for most subjects. She has had a very successful outcomes from her tutoring and has an excellent rapport with our students.

This term we have had a few of our students have been placed on partial attendance allowing them to attend a TAFE course two days a week. This course

runs for 8 weeks and at the end each student will obtain a Certificate III in Landscaping. This course is a Hunter Institute Learning Circle Project delivered by an indigenous instructor.

Three Year 10 girls travelled to Blacktown for a Bangarra "Rekindling" workshop audition. All three girls were successful in obtaining a placement in the program. Northlakes High School is very proud of this achievement and hope the girls are as proud of themselves as we are.

Our school was lucky enough to win the permanent placement of the Indigenous art work that was displayed at Gosford Art Gallery last year. We will receive these pieces of art in Term 4.

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of Feb we have Midi Klenner, Lois Hewett and Gail Byrnes attending Professional Development 'Dead To Lead Course'.

The dates for this year's Muru Bulbi AECG meetings are:

18/3	02/09
13/5	21/10
22/7	25/11

These will be held at Gorokan High School throughout the year and all parents are welcome to come along to hear about and contribute to the decisions-making process your child's education.

**Ms Midi Klenner  
In Class Tutor**

## **PBL NEWS**

**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 in **2013**. 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 expectations for all student behaviour will be made clear throughout our buildings and playground areas.

The PBL award system recognises student's positive behaviour through our school values of **Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best**.

The awards are called Gotcha's.

## **Awards:**

1. Consistent Gotcha recipients who receive *10+ Gotcha's* will then receive the *PBL Achievers Award* (same as the Year Advisor Award) and their name displayed on PBL honour roll on TV in front foyer of school.
2. Consistent Gotcha recipients who receive *20+ Gotcha's* will be invited to a Movie/Concert afternoon at the end of each term.
3. Consistent Gotcha recipients who receive *30+ Gotcha's or 3x PBL Achievers Awards* to receive a BRONZE Achievers Award. These students also become part of NHS VIP Programs and receive awards at the end of the semester.
4. Consistent Gotcha recipients who receive *50+ Gotcha's or 5x PBL Achievers Awards* to receive a SILVER Achievers Award.
5. Consistent Gotcha recipients who receive *100+ Gotcha's or 10x PBL Achievers Awards* to receive a GOLD Achievers Award.

The PBL Committee wishes all NORTHLAKES students good luck in their endeavour to receive GOTHCHA's

## **Anti Bullying Report**

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."

Unfortunately some students report that they have been told to fight back when they have been bullied. I am asking those parents for their cooperation to teach the students to walk away and tell someone. That way the person who is doing the bullying will be able to be assisted with changing their ways and education on what bullying can actually do to a person. Violence and reacting with violence is not the way to solve a bullying situation. Every student as the support of teachers and specialised staff available to stop this behaviour. Every student has the right to be safe and happy at school.

If you feel you or your child suffers from bullying, teach them to:

- Try to stay calm if someone is calling you a name and try to ignore them
- Report the incident to a teacher

- Think before you hit ENTER on Facebook & Myspace
- Once you have typed something STOP and consider the consequences of your words.
- Bystanders who say something are one of the most effective people to reduce bullying
- Remember.....“Do on to others as you do on to yourself”

That is.....

- Treat people the way you want to be treated

**Ms Sue Fulwood**  
**Anti Bullying Coordinator**

### **P&C News**

We are looking forward to welcoming all of our new, and existing Parents/Caregivers to the first P&C Meeting for this year. It will be held on 5<sup>th</sup> March at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. Afternoon tea will be provided.

### **ARE YOU ON FACEBOOK?**

Northlakes High School now has a Facebook page. If you search for 'Northlakes High School Information' and 'like' the page we will give you up to date information about what is happening in your school.

### **Canteen**

We have attached a new up to date canteen price list for you to display in a convenient location.

### **Uniform Shop**

The children look wonderful in their uniforms. The uniform shop is open every Friday from 9:30 till 11:00. If this time is not convenient for you, your child can pick up an order form and return it to the canteen any day of the week, and we will call for your child when the order is filled.

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

### **Year 7 Report**

We have had a very successful transition with our new Year 7 group. I would first like to congratulate all the students on their appearance with everyone looking great in their school uniform. All students have settled in and are seemingly enjoying their high school experience. Students have encountered many new faces and activities, and are enjoying

various classes and experiences at Northlakes High School.

Year 7 students have a big year ahead of them!! The Year 7 Camp will be taking place in Week 2, Term 2 (8<sup>TH</sup> -10<sup>TH</sup> May). Deposits have been paid, and regular payments until the closing date are appreciated. Camp information will be handed out when available – and in plenty of time! If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me on the school phone number.

Our HSIE department has arranged to take Year 7 to the Australian Museum, only 50 students will be going and this is on a first in situation so if you want to go get your notes and money in as soon as you can.

Unfortunately there has been a few bullying issues. I remind every student that bullying is not tolerated at NHS, and any reports made to teachers will be taken seriously. This also includes cyber bullying (bullying via internet sites, facebook etc). As well as my role as year adviser I also have the role of Anti-bullying Coordinator so any issues that come up it is important that the school knows sooner rather than later so we can stop any bullying before it escalates. Ms Tsu is also involved with anti-bullying for Year 7 so if any issues come up parents are urged to contact myself or Ms Tsu as soon as possible

Students are required to have a book and appropriate materials for their class work. It is important that students come to school each day with the correct equipment for participation in every lesson.

Enclosed leather shoes are compulsory. If you have any questions regarding appropriate equipment, please don't hesitate to call me.

Parents are also reminded that school fees are due and need to be paid so we can deliver a great education for your student. Subjects like Science and Technology have to supply a lot of extra resources and without these fees it makes it difficult to provide a wide range of experiences.

I hope you all enjoy a busy and successful first year of high school!

**Ms Sue Fulwood**  
**Year 7 Adviser**

## **Year 8 Report**

Year 8 have had a wonderful start to 2013. Students have matured both physically and mentally over the summer holidays and most have had a great start to Term 1, 2013.

Students are reminded to be prepared to work in class. This includes being punctual, having all equipment and working to the best of your ability at all times. Many class changes have occurred from Year 7 to Year 8. I am confident that students will be happy and working hard in their new environments. I have had many teachers see me about the positive changes in Year 8 – both in the classroom and the playground. I urge all students to keep in mind that it is Term 1- and a best effort should be made nice and early!! Students are reminded to see their classroom teacher, Head Teacher or myself if they need help in any subject area.

I was particularly impressed with Year 8's attendance at the Swimming Carnival, held in Week 2. It is wonderful to see so many students actively participate in sporting activities at school. Students and parents are reminded that the Athletics Carnival will be held later on in Term 1. It would be wonderful to see 100% attendance and many students actively having a go at the carnival!

Currently, I am researching possible sites for the 2013 Year 8 Camp. I will keep updating parents and students as I confirm any camps or activities we will be participating in this year.

Finally parents and caregivers are reminded that the Uniform Shop is open and functioning. There are book packs available. If there are any general concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. I aim to be prompt in my reply.

Looking forward to a successful 2013.

**Ms Erin Campbell**  
**Year 8 Adviser**

## **Year 9 Report**

It was great to welcome all of Year 9 back to school this term. They are a wonderful group of people who have made a fantastic start back. I have had many teachers comment on their commitment to their studies and that they are polite and amiable.

Elective changes have now been finalised. Students will learn later in the year what they will do for their 100hr "Z" elective for 2014.

I have been sent some promotional material from World Education Program Australia, a non-profit organisation that manages student exchange. I have some brochures and a flyer to apply for a scholarship to Argentina. Interested students can come and see me for more information.

I was a little disappointed by the fact that only a small number of students attended the Swimming Carnival from Year 9 to represent their age group. I'm hoping to see a much larger number for the Athletics Carnival.

The Illawarra Camp is nearly full. Please advise me as soon as possible if your child wants to go. We are really looking forward to going. Please remember to keep making regular payments. I thank those parents that are supporting this great opportunity for their child. When they look back at their time at High School, I hope they have many fond memories and that camp will be one of them.

Please contact me if you need to update me on any details regarding your child. I am contactable via phone on 4390 0555 or email: [megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Mrs Megan Lubinski**  
**Year 9 Adviser**

## **Year 10 Report**

It is great to see so many happy smiling faces returning for Year 10 at Northlakes High School. I hope that all students, parents and carers had an enjoyable summer vacation period.

The commencement of Year 10 studies is often seen as the commencement of senior studies for students. Later in the year, they will have the opportunity to select their educational options for years 11 and 12, through the process of subject selection for their Preliminary and HSC years. Now is a good time for students to start thinking about what studies they would like to undertake in these very important years.

While on the topic of subjects the process of elective changes has been occurring and by the time you read this all student will, hopefully, be happy with their subject choices for Year 10. Student numbers for Year 10 at Northlakes H.S. are very high this year, with year 10 having the highest year cohort in the school.

Unfortunately the issue of cyber bullying is not going away and I would once again ask parents and carers to monitor students' use of social media in relation to

this issue, but unfortunately the school has a very limited scope to take action when this form of bullying occurs, as it usually occurs outside of the school and school hours and unfortunately often gets dragged into the school. If a child in your care happens to suffer from this form of bullying please feel free to notify the school but be aware of our limited scope for action. It would be timely for parents and carers to remind students that if they would not say something to a person's face then social media should not be used either.

The proposed year 10 excursion to Tasmania planned for later in the year is, at this point, still going ahead. However, because of the small numbers of students who have expressed an interest in going on the excursion, the price has unfortunately been adjusted. A meeting will be had with students shortly where the pricing structure will be revealed.

If any parent or carer would like to contact me they can through the school on 43900555

Regards,

**Mr Ed Seaby**  
**Year 10 Adviser**

### **Year 11 Report**

Welcome back to a productive year particularly for Year 11, beginning their senior schooling. Year 11 all look fantastic in their senior uniforms. I am proud to be Year 11 Adviser and I will be working closely with all of the students, especially with any welfare or study concerns.

Respect, responsibility and personal best are three areas we focus on at Northlakes High School. As Year 11 Advisor I would like Year 11 to focus on their uniform, being prepared for classes and their overall attitude to school for the next two years as seniors! These next two years are very important as it is the beginning of their future as young adults. It is a time when they will make decisions about further study and employment. A mature and positive approach is needed for their senior years.

I would encourage parents/carers to discuss with their child the use of mobile phones and iPods in classrooms. It is against school policy to use these electronic devices during class time. If they are caught using them they will be sent to a Deputy Principal, who will contact parents/carers to come to the school to collect these devices.

All Year 11 classes have now been finalised. I hope all students have chosen subjects which will aid them

in their future careers. Now is the time to make the most of our excellent teachers and resources at Northlakes High School.

On March 20<sup>th</sup> approximately 100 Year 11 students will participate in the RYDA program. Getting behind the wheel of a car as a young driver is said to be the most dangerous thing that a person will do in their entire life. The RYDA Program equips young people with the tools and knowledge they need to stay safe on the roads.

Please contact me if there are any concerns with Year 11 students by phone on 43 900555 or email [jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu](mailto:jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu)

**Mrs Jodene Garside**  
**Year 11 Adviser**

### **Year 12 Report**

Year 12 is a busy time for students as they study for the Higher School Certificate and make plans for life after school. Remember that while you are at school and studying you are gaining life experience as well as building and making a positive contribution to your future life.

This year it's more important than ever for students to balance commitments between their school, social and family life. Being able to balance your school commitments with social, recreational and family life is important for a happy and healthy lifestyle.

Strategies for students to achieve this balance include:

- having a set of priorities and goals
- being positive
- having support networks of people you can talk things over with
- being prepared to tackle problems early and work out ways to manage them.

Some things to remember to help with the extra workload expected from Year 12 students include:

- Prioritising – Work out what needs to be completed when and set work priorities for yourself
- Time management - Planning your time will allow you to study as well as take time off to to meet your other commitments
- Planning and discipline - Select a time for

study when you concentrate the best and develop a habit of studying at this time. Try to make this study time when there are fewer distractions around you.

- Keeping fit - A fit and healthy lifestyle helps you feel more positive and have more energy. It also helps concentration. Even 10 minutes of fitness activity each day has benefits.
- Manage your stress - It's the rule rather than the exception for student to feel nervous before assessments or exams. This is not necessarily a bad thing. Stick to your revision plan and give yourself the best opportunity to do well in the task.
- Learn to say no – A small amount of sacrifice now will pay off in the future. If you commit to your study and assessment tasks, to completing your homework and revision, you will improve your HSC results.

There is no perfect way of 'doing the HSC'. Each student needs to be supported to find their own way of managing their lives at this stage. If things are not going well at school or there are other pressures, it is useful to know that there are other pathways to the HSC.

Year 12 is a challenging time for students. There are many avenues of support available to students and I urge any students who feel they are having difficulties to seek help as early as possible. A number of students have been invited to participate in the Step-Up mentoring program. Small groups or individual students will meet regularly with chosen staff members with the aim of increasing student performance in the HSC through positive intervention and mentoring. I strongly encourage students to take up this opportunity and meet with their mentors as soon as possible.

Students should also be in possession of their HSC Assessment Schedule to guide them through their subject assessment tasks over the next 3 Terms. Students should be reminded that they need to attend all classes and utilise the library for study during free periods.

Students must also attend school on time unless they have a free period at the start of the day as after school detentions are being issued for lateness.

## **Mrs Kerry Bissaker and Mr Dave Hextell Year 12 Advisers**

### **Looking For Volunteer Host Families**

World Education Program (WEP) is inviting you to experience another culture in your own home by becoming a volunteer host family to an international student arriving in July 2013. Our students from Italy, Belgium, Finland, France, Switzerland, The Netherlands and South America are looking forward to experiencing life in Australia, making new friends and becoming a member of an Australian family soon.

### **Find out more!**

Getting to know your student before he or she arrives brings fun and joy to everyone involved. Take the next step and contact WEP today to receive a full information pack for your family.

### **Sylvia Kelly**

Manager – Inbound Exchange Programs

Phone: 1300 884 733

Email: [info@wep.org.au](mailto:info@wep.org.au)

Online: <http://www.wep.org.au>

### **FREE courses for Men and Women-get a head start on a career change now!**

☐ *Have you been out of the workforce for a while?*

☐ *Do you want a career change?*

☐ *Have you been made redundant?*

If you answered with a YES then this is the course for you!

You will obtain a Certificate II in Skills for Work and Training in 6 months.

Attendance is 4 days per week and is within school hours.

**Information and interview sessions will be held on:**

Wednesday 30 January (men and women) 10:00am – 12:00 noon *and* Wednesday 30 January (women only) 10:00am-12:00 noon in room NG3A **Wyong** Campus or for more information contact:



### **Facebook Rules for Young People**

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

#### **1. General Comments**

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

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

Consider the following statements from the official Facebook terms:

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

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

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

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

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

#### **2. Privacy settings**

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

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

### 3. Profile

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

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

### 4. Friends

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

### 5. Networks and Groups

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

## 6. Places you go

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

## 7. Features you don't use

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

## 8. Other

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

**Mr Welham  
Deputy Principal**

# PARENTS.....

## come back to school for a while....

### Workshop 1—for Parents of Yr 7 students

Help your child adjust to the demands of high school work. Learn how to support your child in a range of skills including book organisation, time management, assignment preparation and study strategies. Also learn basic essay writing techniques and get access to some great resources. See you in the school library at 4.45 (until 6.00pm) on Tues March 5th.

### Workshop 2— for any parents and students who want to brush up on their basic maths skills

Been a while since you had to do high school maths homework? Like to brush up on some basic skills/strategies so you can help your kids with numeracy? We can help. Come along to a fun afternoon with your child and learn together! March 20th, 2.30—3.30pm in D43.

### Workshop 3— Elevate HSC Parent Seminar

Time and date to be advised.

Elevate Education will present a 60 minute seminar on how to support your child through the HSC answering questions on how to help motivate your child, how to help them manage their time and how to develop reasonable expectations.

CUT HERE-----

**ATTENTION STUDENTS!!!!**

**RETURN THIS COMPLETE SLIP TO ONE OF YOUR CLASSROOM TEACHERS IN RETURN FOR A “GOTCHYA”!!!**

**I acknowledge that I have received the NHS Newsletter**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent/ Guardian Signature**

## World Education Program

### World Education Program (WEP)

World Education Program (WEP) Australia is now accepting applications from students who wish to participate in 2013/14 exchange programs for a summer, semester or year. Students can choose to study and live life with a carefully selected host family in more than 25 countries.

*I did it! 10 months in a foreign country, without knowing the language, culture and not even a single person at first. I have experienced unforgettable moments of highs and lows, but I can't imagine not having done this now. Thinking about all the amazing people I've met, the lessons I have learnt and things I have seen, I feel truly lucky to have been here living a different life. I have no regrets, as I have grown to be more mature, open to life and aware of the world around me. Despite it being hands down the hardest, it has also been the best thing I have ever done for myself. I now feel ready to start life in Australia with a clearer idea of who I am, knowing my strengths, weaknesses and my future goals. Exchange has really helped me define myself and become a stronger and more confident person.*  
Alison (Moreton Bay College) year program to Italy

Exchange students return to Australia with maturity, confidence, and in many cases, proficiency in another language. If learning another language is not for your child, excellent programs to the USA, Canada, Ireland and the UK are also available.

**Scholarships** to Argentina and China and **Early Bird Specials** are now available for programs commencing in 2014!

### **Become a WEP Host Family!**

Experience the joys of hosting an exchange student and gaining an international family member. Visit [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au) to find out more.

### **Upcoming Information Sessions**

#### **Sydney**

Bowlers Club of NSW

Level 2, 95-99 York Street, Sydney

19 January 10:00–11:30am

13 February 7:30–9:00pm

13 March 7:30–9:00pm

21 February 7:30–9:00pm

14 March 7:30–9:00pm