

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Principal's Report:

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have now completed their HSC examinations. I know many put in extra hours of study to prepare for exams and I hope they are rewarded with good results when they are released near the end of December. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Year 12 teachers who have taught and assisted students throughout their Senior Studies, especially those who gave up their time voluntarily in school holidays and after school to mentor/tutor and support the students. I know many will be enjoying post exam trips away and wish them all a safe and happy time.

Congratulations to Mrs Anna Bromley HT HSIE on her wedding to Michael Howard. We wish you both the best of luck in your future.



The school yesterday practised our evacuation routine. It is important that we 'drill' our various evacuation/lockdown procedures on a regular

basis to ensure all staff and students understand and are confident in case of a real emergency. It is also increasingly important to parents to stay informed about what is happening throughout the day with their child and so I encourage parents to link to our Facebook page 'Northlakes High School Information' for updated information.

Another issue I would like to highlight currently is the significant number of students coming to school very hungry. The majority of students who are being interviewed for behaviour issues and disengagement in the classroom by the Deputy Principals are indicating that they have not eaten anything for breakfast. This places them at a significant disadvantage in the classroom when their bodies do not have the 'fuel' to concentrate or deal with situations they are placed in. Teenagers use significant amounts of energy overnight while sleeping due to hormone production and growth/changes in their bodies. Sending them to school without any breakfast means they are trying to operate their bodies on 'empty'. This leads to them being less focussed in the classroom, more irritable and unable to process and react appropriately to a range of situations. Research shows that student behaviours and academic results do improve if students maintain healthy diets that include eating regularly, including breakfast.

To assist families, San Remo Neighbourhood Centre run a breakfast program 3 days per

week on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 7.30am.

With summer approaching and the weather heating up, we are seeing students return to their summer uniforms. A reminder that skirts/shorts must be longer than the fingertips of the student when they place their hands down their sides. Some girls and boys are starting to wear inappropriately short black shorts that are designed as sportswear and not everyday classroom wear. Also, a reminder that tights are not allowed as uniform unless covered by a skirt or shorts. This rule has been in place for over 4 years now so there is no excuse for girls to continue to wear tights as outerwear.

Also in regards to summer approaching, it is a timely reminder for families to be bush fire aware and ready. The school is working closely with the local RFS to manage our role and we currently have approval for a backburn operation to occur on bushland surrounding the school. This is currently waiting on the RFS to action when weather permits and they have the resources to do it.

For families it is important for the following:

- Know the Fire Danger Rating for your NSW fire area (especially on hot, dry, windy days)
- Actively monitor information on fire activity through TV, radio and www.rfs.nsw.gov.au
- Be on alert for warnings such as Bushfire Alert levels issued by the RFS
- Watch for signs of fire, especially smoke or smell of smoke
- Download the free NSW Rural Fire Service "Fires Near Me" mobile app
- Monitor road closures and traffic reports on www.livetraffic.com

Yours in Public Education
Mr Warren Welham
Principal (Relieving)

Grip Youth Leadership Conference

On Thursday October 30th the incoming student leadership team attended the Grip Youth Leadership Conference at Civic Hall in Newcastle. This was a conference that was well attended by many government and non-government schools from the Hunter & Central Coast regions.

The day was a mix of high energy presentations which encouraged students out of their comfort zones and offering them the opportunity of interaction with students from many of the different schools attending the conference.

The conference also offered elective topics in which individuals could participate in hands on activities which further developed the student's individual leadership skills.

Talking with the students on the way home, all commented about the day in a positive manner with many expressing ideas that they believed could be implemented to further increase school spirit and a sense of pride in being a member of the Northlakes school community.

Ed Seaby
Year 11/12 Advisor

Creative and Performing Arts/Languages Report

Firstly, all Creative and Performing Arts and Language staff would like to wish all HSC students, especially those who completed courses in our area the very best for the future and a whole and satisfying life. It has been a pleasure to teach these students, as well as being part of their learning experience at Northlakes High School. Congratulation goes to Jacob Thomas for winning the Creative and Performing Arts Award for 2014; this included a \$50 JB-HI gift voucher. While on the subject of Jacob Thomas, he and his band Eighteen and Two have signed a recording deal and are looking forward to releasing new material in the

near future. The band line-up includes Jayden Stewart and Jackson Wood from Northlakes High School and Kelton Hirst from Waldalba Community School. We as a faculty, wish them all the best for the future.

To finalise to the signing out process for Year 12, could students fix up outstanding accounts, return any borrowed equipment and collect Bodies of Work, as work may be disposed of before the end of the year. Students from the GATS Visual Arts program submitted and exhibited six works at cstudios in Newcastle, as part of the regional funded exhibition Face in the Urban Landscape. These GATS classes are being run on Monday afternoons after school to develop the schools' creative talent. These works and others from the Face exhibition at Maitland Regional gallery will be collected shortly. Future excursions include the Archibald exhibition at Gosford Regional gallery and a GATS excursion to the POP ART exhibition at the Art Gallery of New South Wales, as well as a Japanese Film Festival excursion to Sydney on the 21st November. To support the good work happening in the classroom, could parents and carers be aware of the contribution schedules for material equipment required for subjects in this area. Another area we would like to address with parents and carers is the requirement of pens and books for each lesson, there has been an alarming trend recently for this not to happen, particularly in the stage 4 and 5 courses. There is still six weeks of learning to be completed and without this support student learning will suffer.

Miss Leffley's Year 9 Visual Arts class on Wednesday 29th October completed a sculpture unit, by installing artworks around the school. Both staff and students from all over the school, enjoyed seeing artworks outside the room and in the playground. Photographs of this event are included with this article and the works are a credit to Miss Leffley and her students. Programs such as this expand the perception of Art and how audiences can

interact with pieces, as well as allowing others in the school to see the creative talent of our student body.



I would also like to thank all staff involved in the supervision and technical support for this project and particularly Mr Welham (Relieving Principal) for the permission to display the works on the school grounds.

Les Brimbecom

*Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts/
Languages*

Bandanna Day

Thank you to everyone who joined the fight against cancer and took part in National Bandanna Day last Friday. Together we raised \$450.00, thank you! Funds raised through National Bandanna Day help ensure that no young person has to face cancer alone.

White Card Course

If your child is interested in doing a white card course, which is mandatory if working in construction, please get them to see Mr McKinnon in the Language Centre.

Second-hand Uniforms Needed!

We are in desperate need of any second hand uniforms, from shirts, shorts, and jumpers. If your child has grown out of any uniforms can you please forward them onto the School. Thank you

Uniform Shop

The Uniform Shop is open every Friday from 10:00 till 12:00pm. If you know of someone starting High School next year, let them know they are more than welcome to come in and beat the rush on Orientation Day. We now have green button up cotton shirts with our logo on for \$25.00. We are also open on the last day of this Term (Staff Development Day) 19/12/14 and the first day back next year Tuesday (Staff Development Day) 27/1/15 from 10:00 till 12:00pm.



P & C News

We will be holding our P&C Meeting next Tuesday 11/11/14 at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. We would love to see many more Parents/Caregivers come along. It is a great way to find out what is happening in the School. Afternoon Tea will be provided.

TEXT MESSAGES

Please note you cannot send text messages to the number you receive from absence notification. You can only respond to this text number. If you would like to contact the School, you can either do it through the Parent Portal, phone, or the app.

Mobile Phones – Sick Bay

It is very important that all Parents are aware of our mobile phone policy. If your child is found using their mobile phone during class time it will be confiscated and you will receive a call to

collect it at a later time. It is also very important that your child is aware of our sick bay procedures. First of all they inform the Teacher that they are not feeling well, and he/she will send them to the office with a note, where we will then phone you, or your contact. Students that call their Parents direct arrive at the office and cause confusion, or Parents arrive, and their children are still in class, so just reinforce them on the correct procedure.

Deodorant

Please be aware that students are NOT allowed to bring aerosol deodorants to school. If they need to bring deodorant they are allowed to bring roll-on deodorant.

Year 10 Poetry

Walk

*Sometimes I walk,
I see fences that block the view of houses,
I see thunder clouds strolling along with me at my
pace,*

*Sometimes I walk,
I see people walk past me with earphones in,
Probably listening to some of the freshest hits,
I see cars with darkly tinted windows,
I see a man, yelling at his son for yelling,*

*Sometimes I walk,
The weather turns breath into fog,
Light into dark,
Noise into silence,*

*But sometimes I walk,
I see neighbours conversing,
I see children playing,
Everyone balanced,
Everything clear.*

*Sometimes I walk,
The sweet smell of nature,
The white clouds floating,
The coloured flowers flourishing,*

The pure sound of water flowing.

*I'll never stop walking,
Even if gates continue closing,
neighbours stop conversing,
and flowers stop flourishing.*

*I'll never stop walking,
At least your shoes will stay the same.*

By Suzy Taylor-Mozer – Year 10

Dates to Remember

- 10-14/11/14 Year 9 portfolios due
11/11/14 Year 11 Presentation Day 9:00 – 10:30am
11/11/14 Remembrance Day Assembly 11:00am
11/11/14 P&C Meeting 3:30pm in the Language Centre
12/11/14 SRC Student voice meeting
12/11/14 Year 12 English Studies Excursion
14/11/14 Year 10 Smart Start – Commonwealth Bank
15/11/14 Year 12 Formal
19/11/14 Year 7 boys & girls & Year 9 boys Immunisation
19/11/14 Year 10 Mock Interviews
20/11/14 Year 11 Legal & Business studies excursion to Sydney
20/11/14 Drama Workshop
21/11/14 Japanese Film Fest
24-28/11/14 Year 10 Work Experience
24/11/14 AECG Meeting
25/11/14 Immunisation Back up day
26/11/14 Year 8 Medieval Day
3/12/14 Orientation Year 7, 2015
8/12/14 Luna Park Excursion for PTR students
10/12/14 Year 7 Medieval Day
10/12/14 Wizard of Oz excursion – support unit
11/12/14 Year 7 – 10 Presentation 9-11am
18-19/12/14 Staff Development Days
19/12/14 Uniform Shop Open 10-12pm

Community News

As Christmas is fast approaching, local churches will come together to celebrate in an Advent service to which all are welcome.

Details are:

Advent Churches Together service led by various clergy and lay leaders.

Venue - St Luke's Anglican Church, 21 Hammond Road, Toukley

Date – Wednesday 19th November

Time – 7.00pm with supper at conclusion

Enquiries: Adel 0438 638 685



Games are a form of culture based on shared knowledge of codes and conventions. They are good for brain health and life skills like socialisation, negotiation and team work. And games are fun!

Get your game on at Lake Haven Library
in a Kings of War battle
Saturday 15 November
11am

Kings of War is a miniature fantasy and combat game where you can unleash armies or use wizardry to defeat enemies and control the balance of good and evil. Join us to play, paint your miniatures or just to watch

Bookings for gamers are essential: 4350 1570



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- Excitement and Fun
- Achievement and recognition
- Friendship and Team Spirit
- Plenty of Challenge

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- Participate in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme
- Develop self esteem, self confidence & self discipline
- Music lessons to join our marching band

DOYALSON GIRLS' SQUADRON

MEETS FRIDAYS 7.00 PM TO 9.30 PM

AT THE BROWN COTTAGE

DOYALSON-WYEE RSL CLUB

(cottage on the northern side of the playing fields)

For further information contact

Mrs Pam Price - Officer Commanding

Phone 4393 1881 or 0409 152 817

Air League Website - www.airleague.com.au