

# Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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February, 2014

## From our Principal:

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students of Northlakes High School.

We have had a fantastic start to the new school year. Year 7 has settled in very well to the more complex high school structure. At this point all classes have a teacher's aide, to ensure extra attention is given to any student who needs it. Ms Bissaker is to be commended for her outstanding work in transitioning this group.

Congratulations to Year 12 of 2013. It is good to hear of their plans for 2014, including University, TAFE, other training or employment. Their excellent results reflected the efforts of themselves and their teachers. We will be inviting some of our past students to the school on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 to hear their stories, and for them to give advice to our Year 11 & 12 students.

The school year has started with some significant changes. We have re-introduced a four period day. Each period is 75 minutes; every period will have a variety of learning activities, and is followed by a recess. All students are expected to be fully equipped for lessons, complete homework, arrive on time, and complete all required tasks. Books are submitted a minimum of twice a term, and marking of work occurs regularly.

Senior students may arrive late if they do not have a scheduled lesson in period 1. They may sign out if they do not have a class in period 4. No students are to leave between periods 2 and 3.

We have restructured the library to make it an improved study space, and our relieving librarian, Mr Freebody, is available to assist students.

Northlakes High also introduced our House System, with a major event on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup>

of February 2014. Staff and students spent time getting to know each other, working through Positive Behaviour for Learning lesson, with a focus on respect and responsibility. It was a wonderful day, with many students showing leadership in organising and motivating students. Our staff were fantastic; well organised and enthusiastic.

We have a strong focus of Right Place, Right Time, Right Way, which is fully supported by all staff. The most difficult area for us to manage is at the beginning of the day. Please ensure your child is here ON TIME! Students who drift into school during period one are not hearing important information on assemblies, not being involved in a key part of every teaching period, and are also tying up the office staff unnecessarily. We will be introducing detentions for late arrivals.

Our students are looking fantastic. Thank you to everyone for supporting the school's uniform policy and ensuring students are fully equipped!

Yours in Public Education

**Merrilyn Rowley**  
Principal



Our Principal Merrilyn Rowley and our school leaders for 2014

## Year 7 Report

Welcome Year 7 to High School. I hope your first 3 weeks have been fun and exciting meeting new friends and new teachers. Firstly I would like to say you all look fantastic in your school uniform. Let's keep it up and not lose points for your house. Just a reminder that you all need enclosed leather shoes to participate in your practical lessons such as Technology.

We have introduced a new house system to encourage positive behaviour and build school morale. Students can win points for their house by participating in carnivals and displaying positive behaviour. However, students can lose points for their team through various means such as attending school out of uniform with no explanation, being placed on behaviour monitoring cards or attendance cards etc. The winning team at the end of the Term will be rewarded. So students, let's do it for your house and try your personal best.

Term 1 is a very busy time of year with many great events occurring in the school to benefit your child. We are running a Year 7 Welfare day focussing on anti-bullying, swimming carnival, immunisations and Year 7 camp.

First of all the school swimming carnival was very successful with many students participating and getting involved which was great to see. We are also very fortunate to have the Sydney Roosters visit Year 7 to speak with them about bullying and the effects on students.

Immunisations are on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the immunisation package has been sent home. Would you please complete these forms and return them to the school as soon as possible so we can start the organisation of the day. If you would like to exempt your child from participating in this program, please send in a note explaining this.

Year 7 camp is the 10<sup>th</sup> of March – 12<sup>th</sup> March. We are all extremely excited for this and look forward to participating in some fantastic activities which will encourage team building and respect for other students. Final payment for the camp closes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March, however, Term 1 fees must be paid before this will be accepted.

The Learning Group will be commencing on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at LINKS Youth Support Cabin, Brava Ave San Remo (opposite

Northlakes High School). The Learning Group this year will be focusing on assisting year 7 students to make a smooth transition from primary school to high school. They will have tutors available to assist as well. This program will run Tuesdays 2:30pm-4:30pm during the school terms. Within this group they will be focusing on making SMART based commitment study goals, study plans/timetables, learning how to produce thorough research assignments and essay writing. The Learning Group provides a set time and place to study, support and encourage, develop and improve learning study skills. If you would like further information please call 43907888 or contact me at school.

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

Thank you

*Kerry Bissaker – Year 7 Advisor*

## Year 8 Report

It has been very impressive the way Year 8 has settled into the new school year. There have been very few hiccups and all students seem to be working well. I would like to congratulate all the students that have come to school in the correct uniform and who are ready to work hard. They are great role models for our new Year 7.

Our swimming carnival was a great day with staff and students all dressed in their house colours and supporting the swimmers with war cries; however, we could have had a lot more support from our year group as there were a lot that did not attend. It is a normal school day and all students are expected to be there to support their house.

The Premier's Reading Challenge begins later on in the term and students are encouraged to participate. They are advised to speak with their English teachers who will pass on the details.

A Welfare day has been planned for Year 8 on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. It will be a full day of activities and we will be focussing heavily on cyber-bullying. We aim to have visitors to the school to help students understand what it is and what to do if it is happening to them.

Our year camp will be later in the year and we are going to Foster. More details will be given out closer to the date to enable a payment plan.

I am very proud of the students' attitude and behaviour in starting the year off so well. Remember I am here to help. You will find me in the Science Faculty and I will try to attend to your needs promptly. Thank you.

*Sue Fulwood – Year 8 Advisor*

## Year 9 Report

Year 9 have had a wonderful start to the 2014 school year- I hope that everyone's break was filled with happiness and relaxation! I also welcome new students in Year 9 at Northlakes High School. Students have settled into classes well, and seem to be enjoying their Stage 5 learning. All students have commenced their electives in various faculties.

I have been impressed by the quality of Year 9's uniform. Everyone looks wonderful! Parents/caregivers are reminded that students are required to wear enclosed leather shoes at all times. Also, skirts must be an appropriate length for girls. Students are reminded to come and see me or the Welfare office if they are experiencing difficulties.

It was wonderful to see the participation of Year 9 at the swimming carnival. Students were dressed in their house colours and everyone had a great day! Students are reminded that points for their house can be allocated for behaviour, class work and sporting activities.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact me if there are any situations you wish to discuss on 43900555. Enjoy the end of the Summer sun!

*Erin Campbell – Year 9 Advisor*

## Year 10 Report

I'm delighted to report that Year 10 students have begun their final junior year in earnest. Everywhere I go in the school I'm greeted with smiles and happy faces from the cohort.

Uniform is looking fantastic and is being worn by all students with only a few minor issues. Black leather enclosed shoes are required.

There have been a few requests for changes with the 100 hour electives. These need to be sought with a note from a student's parent or care-giver. A reason explaining the class change is required. At this point it is unlikely that changes can be made.

Recently I've been contacted by Rotary. They are financially supporting a two night camp in the lower Blue Mountains later in the year and are asking for interested students to contact them. The event will work on leadership, goals and is designed to enrich lives. If your child is interested please ask them to see me.

Later this term your child will be involved in a two day welfare program which aims to educate students on healthy relationships. We will have a range of guest speakers and it will also be a good opportunity to get to know the people in their new classes.

This year students will also be offered the chance to be mentored by external people in business that have a lot of useful information to share. There will be around 10 students a term involved. The aim of this is to help students decide on their future directions and think about university options. If your child is interested please let me know.

The best way to contact me is via email, I will endeavour to get back to you as soon as possible.

Write to: [megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:megan.lubinski@det.nsw.edu.au)  
Otherwise you can call the school on 4390 0555.

*Megan Lubinski – Year 10 Advisor*

## Year 11 Report

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome back all of our 'old' students and welcome the new students to the school. At this point in time senior uniforms are looking great, except for the odd students who think that they don't need to belong. Parents and carers are asked to ensure that students are in full uniform when they leave home each day.

I am still looking for several students to form a leadership group which will be responsible for liaising between myself and their fellow students. These students will be asked to offer feedback from their peers on issues such as senior jackets, year camps etc. If any student is



interested they can approach me at any time in and around the school.

*Ed Seaby – Year 11 Advisor*

## Year 12 Report

Welcome back to the last year of school at Northlakes High School for Year 12. What a busy year it will be!

It is important that all Year 12 students have copies of the NHS HSC Assessment Schedule and 2014 HSC Rules and Procedures booklet. (They were given out and signed for last year) These are two vital documents that all Year 12 students and parents should be familiar with. If you do not have these documents or have misplaced them please see me ASAP. Your NHS HSC Assessment Schedule booklet contains all HSC subjects due dates for assessment tasks and exams. Record these dates in your diaries or calendars to help you keep track of when these are due.

### **Time management is very important in the HSC year!**

The 2014 HSC Rules and Procedures booklet has information about the HSC. It is a legal document. Please see me if there are any issues.

Year 12 uniform is looking good. It is wonderful to see all Year 12 students taking responsibility and pride in being senior members of this school. Keep up the great effort.

Just a reminder that all Year 12 students are not permitted to leave school grounds during breaks or free periods unless you have an appointment or TAFE. Appointment notes need to be taken to office before school for an early leavers pass. During your free periods you are encouraged to use the library resources to research and complete tasks or make study notes for your exams.

I am looking for students and parents who are interested in joining our Formal Committee. Please let me know ASAP.

Last year Caillin Wiles and I sat down to complete an application for a Zonta Scholarship. Zonta offers scholarships to female students in year 12 to aid them financially in their HSC and Tertiary studies, through payment for textbooks, tutoring, seminars etc. From the application Caillin participated in an interview in December 2013.



I would like to congratulate Caillin on being successful and gaining that scholarship which will be valuable resource for her HSC and Tertiary studies next year.

Step Up Mentoring program will commence in Week 4.

This is a successful program where teachers will mentor Year 12 students on study skills, time management, exam questions and other school issues. Please make the most of the valuable time your teachers are offering if you are part of this program.

Attendance at school is to be above 85% in all classes. All days absent must be explained with a note from your parent/carer. If a Year 12 student's attendance falls below 85%, a letter will be sent home and students take the risk of failing subjects. Please see me if you are having problems with attending classes or school before it is too late.

Please do not hesitate to call or email ([jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:jodene.garside@det.nsw.edu.au)) me if there are any concerns. Remember I am here to support Year 12 and their families in any way I can.

*Jodene Garside – Year 12 Advisor*

## Attendance

As part of Northlakes High School's commitment to improving attendance, the Home School Liaison Officer will talk to year groups whose attendance is below 85% throughout the year.

If you have any concerns please contact either Mr. Welham or Mr. Boake to discuss further.

## Important Newsletter Information

Today your child will come home with a hard copy of the newsletter; however the choices of how you receive the newsletter will be up to you. At the back of this newsletter is a flyer for you to return if you would like the newsletter mailed home.

## General School Business

### 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 behavioural competence this year. It has 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 Advisor's Commendation. When they earn 5 Year Advisor 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.

#### Computer Game Training Event

On 5th March 2014, Northlakes High School is offering a wonderful opportunity to all students to learn to create their own video games.

By the time students arrive home after the event, they will be able to create their own commercial grade 3D World with hills, ocean, sky and trees which blow in the wind. They will also learn how to import vehicles to make a fun driving game, write simple artificial intelligence code, character animation code as well as learn the 12 most important coding concepts needed to create games for all major platforms, mobile devices and games consoles.

All students would benefit enormously from this experience.

Every Student Receives Links To The Free Commercial Grade Development Software, Access To A Library Of Game Development Resources And Video Tutorials to use At Home Valued At Over \$3,500 - these resources include vehicle packs, 3D models, scripts, terrain tools, an amazing weather simulator and a fully scripted 10 level physics game.

The session will be run by the team from Game Training and there will be teacher supervision at all times.

Below is an overview of the main details for this event.

**Cost:** \$45 - 2 hour session - to be paid at the school front office by 28 February 2014

**Venue:** Northlakes High School

**Date & Time:** 5 March 2014 12:30 - 2:30pm

**Contact:** Mr O'Mahoney (TAS)



## News from the Library

Welcome back to all students and parents, I hope everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable holiday. I would like to introduce myself as the Teacher-Librarian for 2014 at Northlakes High School, Mr Freebody. I am thrilled to be able to continue to work with the school community in the library, having worked in the English department last year.

The library is open recess 1, 2 and 3 every day and has a variety of facilities available for student use including computers and a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. Students have the opportunity to borrow print resources for a loan period of two weeks. Please ensure you return your loans on time, or come to the library and renew them. We're here to help! Senior students are encouraged to use their free periods constructively in the library and I am available to all students to assist them in finding resources for assignments or pointing them in the right direction. I can also assist students in their writing for assignments, such as essay and report writing.

I would also like to remind parents/guardians that the Premier's Reading Challenge begins in March for students in Years 7-9. The challenge is designed for students to read for leisure and pleasure and requires students to read 20 books in six months. Student's that successfully complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier. Interested students can come and see me in the Library during Recess 1, 2 and 3 for more information.



Mr Freebody – Teacher-Librarian

## Swimming Carnival



It was a wonderful day at the swimming carnival, and both the students, and staff thoroughly enjoyed the day. Congratulations to all of the participants, and good luck to the students now heading to zone. Some photos from the day have been placed in the gallery on the webpage.

Here are the house places for the day.

1 <sup>st</sup> Place	Panamuna	(Blue)
2 <sup>nd</sup> Place	Barakee	(Pink)
3 <sup>rd</sup> Place	Allunga	(Yellow)
4 <sup>th</sup> Place	Yindarra	(Orange)
5 <sup>th</sup> Place	Goolara	(Silver)
6 <sup>th</sup> Place	Banyandah	(green)
7 <sup>th</sup> Place	Bimbimie	(red)
8 <sup>th</sup> Place	Dilkara	(purple)

Well done to everyone that participated on the day!





## Community News

### Thank You

We would like to thank the Orange Peel Fruit Market and McKenna's Family Bakery for their ongoing donations to the school. We hope our Parents and Carers support these local businesses, as they provide fruit and bread every day to our welfare team. Natalie and Ash from the Orange Peel also offer a loyalty card with great discounts.

### Breakfast Club

Breakfast Club will run every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the school term from 7:30am at the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre.

### Self Defence for Girls

Come along to LINKS Youth Support Service. This is a FREE Program for girls 12-17yrs every Thursday from 3:00pm till 4:00pm at San Remo Neighbourhood Centre.

### Learning Group

Links Youth Cabin has a Learning Group, where Tutors will be available to help any student needing assistance in school work every Tuesday from 2:30 till 4:30pm

### FREE GP Clinic

Links Youth Cabin has a FREE General Medical Service for Young People aged 14-24yrs every Friday from 9:30 till 12:00pm.

### EMCE & Stage Management Workshops

If your child is interested, there will be a workshop in the LINKS Youth Support Cabin. It will be held every Monday from 2:30 – 4:00pm, and they can gain some practical experience at this year's GOATS Family Festival held on 6<sup>th</sup> April, 2014.

**For more information on all of the above, call Corrina on 4390 7888.**

### Northlakes United Rugby Union Club

Registration days at Slade Park, Budgewoi on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Feb 12:00 to 2:30pm and Sat 1<sup>st</sup> March from 10am till 11:30am. Alternatively, you can register on any Tuesday night from 6:30 to

7:30pm. 7 till 11 years are registered for free. Children 12 to 18 are registered for \$45, this includes shorts, socks and either a club singlet or cap. For more information call Brad on 0420 484 617.

### FREE Academic Software Download Centre!

All NSW Department of Education and Communities students are eligible to download and licence Adobe and Microsoft software from this link. Students will need to use their @education.nsw.gov.au mail address to register on their first visit.

[Free Software](#)

### Northern Lakes Power AFL

Registration Sunday 16 Feb 10-11:00am at Northlakes Oval. 4-8yrs \$70, 8-17yrs \$110, 12-18yrs \$70. For more information contact Lisa Eldridge on 0434 990 269.

**Expressions Dance Studio** at Budgewoi Public School Hall every Tuesday. Enquiries phone Lindsey on 0438 900465

The **University of Newcastle Podiatry** are offering children aged 0-17 **free lower limb assessments** from 3<sup>rd</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> June at Wyong hospital. Children and their families can receive advice on footwear and normal development, and receive treatment of foot warts, foot and leg pain, walking problems, and night time growing pains every Monday from 2:15 to 4:15pm. For more information call 43 922 756.

### Medicare child dental benefits schedule –

Budgewoi Dental Centre is bulk billing dentist covering patients under the child dental benefits schedule. The Medicare child benefits schedule is a dental benefits program for eligible children aged between 2 and 17. Medicare will provide up to \$1000 in benefits per child for basic dental services. For more information call 43 900 445.

**My Family Law App** – This is a free family law app where you can submit your family law query to a real family lawyer in your State in Australia. [www.myfamilylaw.net.au](http://www.myfamilylaw.net.au)



## NORTHLAKES HIGH SCHOOL PLANNER TERM 1, 2014

	Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
January/ February	1A	27 Australia Day Holiday	29 Staff Development Day Uniform shop open 9-11am	29 Year 7, 11 & 12 return Yr 7 Parent seminar 8:45 and 5pm	30 Year 8,9,10 return	31	1 /2
February	2B	3	4	5	6	7 Deposit Yr 7camp Swimming Carnival	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 Zone swimming carnival	27 Love Bites Yr 10	28 Love Bites Yr 10	1 /2
March	6B	3 Final payment for Year 7camp Yr 11 work studies work placement all week	4 P&C Meeting 3:30pm in Language Centre	5 Video game workshop	6 Yr 7 anti- bullying day	7 Yr 7 anti- bullying day	8/9
March	7A	10 Year 7 camp	11 Year 7 camp	12 Year 7 camp	13	14 Yr 8 Welfare Day	15/16
March	8B	17	18 Regional swimming carnival	19	20	21 Yr 9 Welfare Day Harmony Day	22/23
March	9A	24	25	26	27	28	29/30
March/ April	10B	31	1 Immunisation Yr 7 and Yr 9 boys	2	3	4	5/6
April	11A	7CHS Swimming carnival	8 CHS Swimming Carnival	9	10	11	12/13
April		14	15	16	17	18 Good Friday	19/20

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





## **Newsletters live!!!**

**Our Newsletter will now be distributed fortnightly and we will be giving you the option to either:**

- **Receive an email with the newsletter attached**
- **Go online to view the newsletter on our webpage**
- **The newsletter can be viewed via our APP to read on your iphone, or ipads**
- **Or receive the newsletter via the post.**

**It is up to you!**

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**To: Office Staff**

**Yes, add me to the email distribution list (if not already)**

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**No, please send me the newsletter via the post.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Child/ren names**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you**