

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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From our Principal:

Dear Northlakes High School Community

The last couple of weeks have been very hectic. We have had a famous anti-bullying campaigner, Brett Murray, speak to staff, students and parents about the impact of such anti-social behaviour, and strategies to address it. Northlakes High School strongly promotes respect for others. We have clear rules and expectations about behaviour, and reinforce these in regular discussions and reminders. Our aim is to have a safe and happy workplace for all.



Brett Murray speaking with students

We have also brought a team of University students in to address the entire school in the ELEVATE program. Every year groups hear a presentation from those young people, with a different focus depending on the year groups, but with an overall promotion of strategies for students to achieve their best. It has been very highly evaluated by students in 2012 and 2013; the school has ensured its concepts are embedded in teaching programs, and revisited by staff throughout the year.

Our school is strongly promoting 100% attendance (unless you are REALLY unwell). Good attendance patterns are HIGHLY linked to good academic outcomes. I am happy to say we have seen a significant improvement in students arriving on time..... I thank all parents/guardians for their support of this strategy.

It is very important that we have accurate contact and medical details – including mobiles, contact people and email addresses and any medical issues. The change of details form is on our website. We are also sending out a letter to every parent/guardian regarding accurate medical details. This is very important. All entries returned by June 30th will enter a draw for a \$200 gift voucher.

Mr Bryant and Mr Pankhurst have recently begun to build further improvements on our farm. It is a real asset to the school, and every student lucky enough to be able to do the subject seems to get a lot out of it. They have made major improvements to the program, are building a cattle yard, have raised chickens to show at the Royal Easter show, have flowers growing for Mother's Day and more! We look forward to seeing how successful our exhibits at the show are! I thank both of these teachers for their huge effort.

We have VERY successfully introduced a House system to the school. House points are awarded for excellence in class, wearing uniform, attendance, honesty, outstanding assignments, community services, sport, participation in extra-curricula events, such as bands, debating, breakfast club, and others. It has been a very positive influence on students' behaviour (as negative activities lose House points.....). At the end of the term, the winning house will have a fully funded major excursion

and the choice of where their house sits for assemblies.

Top 3 Houses - 14/03/14

1st Dilkara
2nd Allunga
3rd Goolara

We have been lucky enough to secure some Government funding for improvements in the school. One of the initial constructions will be a completely new kitchen in the Support Unit. We are hoping this will be done in the April school holidays!

We will have our first Parent/Teacher evening on 1/4/2014. Parents and guardians will be able to register on-line – details are included in this newsletter. Please make every effort to come to the school, meet your child's teachers and discuss their progress. We look forward to seeing you.

I wish to run some public parent forums this year, at different times of the day, to enable anyone interested to come. Our first will be at 10.30am on Wednesday 26th March 2014 in our library. We will supply morning tea, and have a discussion about parent perceptions, praise or concerns.

Ms M Rowley
Principal

From the Deputy Principal's Office:

Firstly, I would like to thank parents and carers for taking the time to read the Newsletter. From our perspective, communication with home is one of the essential factors in providing positive educational outcomes for students. The following information is a snapshot of areas that may be of interest based on the many conversations I have had with parents and carers.

Teaching and Learning:

Once a fortnight I leave the Deputy Principal's office and base myself in a faculty for the day. This allows me to observe lessons being taught, check how our school wide initiatives are being implemented and monitor student progress. This has been very rewarding in the two faculties I have visited, TAS and Science,

and the quality of learning experiences provided and degree of student engagement has been high. Both Mr Welham and I will continue this throughout the year. As a parent, asking to view your child's work books will also allow you to monitor their progress or identify any issues, as it remains our expectation that all students have a book for each subject and that it reflects their learning experiences.

Uniform:

The school uniform was the best it has been at the beginning of the year. I thank all parents and carers for supporting the school in maintaining high standards in this area. Often we see subtle changes to uniform occur as we enter Autumn, namely a variety of coloured jumpers and hoodies. School jumpers are available from the uniform shop and I encourage student who need to place orders to do this before the cold snap arrives. Finally, on the uniform front, black tights and leg-ins are not now and have never been part of school uniform.

Welfare:

I was fortunate enough to spend a day with Year 7 at the Outdoor Education Experience at Mangrove Mountain. The students and committed staff were away from home for three days and two nights. This fantastic opportunity to connect as a year group was invaluable and I would like to thank Mrs Bissaker for her organisation of the camp as Year Adviser. I would also like to thank Mr Louie, Mrs Garside, Mr Wright and Mrs Anderson for spending time away from their families to ensure the camp was a success. Congratulations must also go to the students, as the vast majority attempted all challenges and pushed themselves to overcome their fears. There will be some fantastic photos on the school website soon!

Mr Boake
Deputy Principal – Yr. 7, 9 & 11

Year 11 News

All Year 11 students appear to have settled into the steady routine of classwork, homework and assessments. Uniform or lack of it is still causing some irritation, however the vast majority of Year 11 students are doing the right thing.

Upcoming events will include the RYDA driver awareness program - watch out for the notice

coming home shortly, there are sixty places available, first in best dressed.

The leadership team is currently working on Year 11-12 jackets and /or jerseys, expect more information in the not too distant future.

Mr Seaby
Year 11 Year Adviser

Year 7 Camp

It was a wonderful three days for our Year 7 students, and Teachers that attended camp at Mangrove Mountains, and the weather was perfect. The students that remained at school also had an interesting day collecting bugs at the Lake.



Year 7 student on the Challenge Ropes



Northlakes Teachers on 'Commando Night' at the Year 7 Camp

Over 500 photos were taken over the three days, and by the looks of them they had a great time. We have condensed it down and have uploaded onto our website at www.northlake-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

HSIE Report

Congratulations to all the students in Year 7 - 10 who handed in their HSIE assignment which was due on Friday 28 - 2 - 2014. We were very happy with the number and quality of these assignments. Letters will be sent to those students who did not hand in this assignment.

Letters have already been sent to those students who have less than 60% attendance.

We have implemented a new lesson structure in Years 7 - 9.

The lesson now begins with a handout that contains metalanguage (words that are specific to that topic) and reading activities. If this is not completed in the 25 mins given then the student is required to complete it for homework. Each reading activity is a summary of the lesson content and provides information for preparation for the topic test.

We would love parents and carers to check your student's book to see how they are progressing. Students who are absent need to ask for the handout that is missing.

We will be adjusting the Geography handouts to incorporate geography skills activities.

Teachers and students then complete classroom activities differentiated for the abilities of the class for 40 minutes.

The last 10 minutes is a writing activity which also is completed for homework.

All the lessons are contained in a PowerPoint which means that teachers are all on the same page and casuals can easily pick up on what the class is up to. We are finding this structure to be quite successful and of course will be adjusting it to make it even better!

The next assessment task for Years 7 - 10 will be an skills based task that will be completed in class in Weeks 9 and 10 (March 24 - April 4th 20). Students will be required to complete the task at home if they do not finish it in class. It will be due by 3pm Friday 4th of April 2014.

We had a successful incursion to the Lake organised by Mrs Moore to complete Water Watch activities with the Year 7 who did not attend camp. We counted bugs etc and tested the water. It was quite fun though a little icky!

Mr Seaby and some delightful Year 11 Ancient History students attended an archaeological dig at The Rocks in Sydney. It was very informative and insightful. The students were great ambassadors for our school.

Anna Bromley
Head Teacher HSIE

Breakfast Club News

Elmo's Special Appearance

Elmo visited Northlakes Primary School on Thursday 6th March where he was spotted handing out pikelets and brochures for our Breakfast Club. He was there to invite students to attend Breakfast Club on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings. Elmo's helpers let the students know that if they wanted to come along we could arrange a responsible adult to walk them to and from Primary School. We are hoping for another visit from Elmo in the future and thank him so much for his appearance. The students were so surprised and excited by Elmo and they were sad to say goodbye.



Elmo with 2 of our Breakfast Club Volunteers and a Northlakes Primary School student

Northlakes Games Development Training

On March 5th, 2014 we held our Game Development Training where students who elected to attend learned how to create 3 dimensional games using a huge range of graphical resources provided by the people who delivered the training. Not only did they get to see how to develop games, but they were also shown how to create different levels and alter the difficulty as they progressed.

Having attended, they now have access to over \$3,500.00 worth of resources to create their own games or to build upon games already created.

Those who attended can upload games they develop using the Game Development System and sell them for a lot of cash!

The creativity of the session does not end there: attendees can continue to take advantage of the Game Development System by taking advantage of the "challenges" that will be sent to them. Students can complete the challenges to gain access to additional resources that continue to enhance the games they create.

When I was asked to take this incursion on, I did some research and some of my current year 10 students had attended this session in the past. When I asked them if it was worthwhile, they all responded that it was totally worth it. Then, they attended again this time!



If you missed this session, stay tuned, I've got it in my calendar for next year! But be quick, those who attended are raving about the training to their friends resulting in students asking me if it's going to be on again!

If any student who attended has difficulty logging onto the gaming website, they should ask me for assistance.

Gerry O'Mahoney
TAS

Premiers Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the 75 students that put their names down for the Premiers Reading Challenge. 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.

Term 1 Fees Due Now

Parents, please be aware that your Term 1 fees are due. As from next Wednesday 19 March students will be unable to participate in their electives (cooking, woodwork etc.), so please make arrangements as soon as possible. (Also please make sure they are wearing appropriate foot wear) Thank you.

Assessment Schedules & Calendar

Year 9, 10, 11 & 12 Assessment Schedules and calendars are now available on our website:

www.northlake-h.schools@det.nsw.edu.au

under the school years tab. Years 11 & 12 have been distributed, and Year 9 and 10 will come home shortly. Please help your child by looking through the booklet and knowing when assessments are due to avoid N Warning letters.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

We are very excited to introduce a new way of booking your Parent/Teacher Interviews. The Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted on Tuesday 1/4/14, and will be held in the hall for Years 7 to 12 from 3:00pm to 6:00pm. Interviews will be of 5 minute duration. A letter will come home shortly to explain how to access online and book your appointments at a time convenient to you. The link will also allow you access throughout the year to our Parent Portal, which will provide parents discreet information about your student/s progress in our school. For Parents that do not have

internet access at home or elsewhere, or if you encounter any problems you can contact the school during business hours, and we will be happy to assist you.

Elevate

This week, over two days all of our students had the opportunity to attend an Elevate seminar. Young University students ran the seminars, called Elevate, which educates students on how to develop study skills that achieve real, empirical, measurable, and noticeable results. Such results include changes in student confidence; changes in student attitude; and most importantly, changes in performance. If you would like more information go to www.elevateeducation.com

ADF (Australian Defence Force) Visit

Some of the Australian Defence force members came to our school last week and spoke to Years 10 to 12 about careers in the defence force. The students were very interested and asked lots of questions.



Year 12 students speaking with one of the ADF guest speakers

Support Unit News

It is pleasing to see the garden area in the Support unit is getting back on track with all classes contributing to its upkeep and maintenance. The students have recently planted tomato plants and chrysanthemums, and are looking to plant a variety of herbs which can be used by the classes in recipes in their cooking lessons. Out thanks must go to Mr Pankhurst for supplying the chrysanthemums and Matthew Hazzard's grandmother for the tomato plants. Any further donations of vegetable plants, cuttings or seeds would be greatly appreciated to enable the ongoing use of our vegetable gardens.



Some students are undertaking work experience as Library Monitors and are enjoying the experience. Students involved at present are Chloe Clarke and Joshua Bedford. Other students will be given an opportunity to undertake this experience later in the year so that they may also develop a range of skills.

The senior students who are attending TAFE on Tuesdays are now travelling independently, and are to be congratulated on their successful conclusion to travel training.

Class Commendations have been awarded to Matthew Lloyd and Jackson Mac Donald from the Senior class and to Kyle Logan, Adam Fielding and Liam Mc Clung from the Junior class. These students are to be congratulated on their excellent effort and attitude to their classwork.

As PDHPE is a mandatory requirement for each of the students in the Support Unit, we are asking for parents to encourage their child to actively participate in the lessons provided by specialist teachers from the PDHPE Faculty. Currently the Junior class and MC class have a practical lesson each Tuesday, while the Middle class, Senior class and ED class have their lesson on a Monday. It would be appreciated if parents could please provide a note to exempt their child from any lesson on the rare occasion that they are injured and unable to participate.

We encourage all students to have a change of shirt for these lessons and use deodorant. Parents are reminded that spray deodorants or body sprays are not permitted at school at any

time, and we seek your co-operation in providing a roll on or stick deodorant for your child to use.

A special thank you goes to all the parents of students in Years 10, 11 and 12 who have attended the ITP meetings with classroom teachers and Mrs Tracey Scheitel (Support Teacher Transition- DEC) so far to ensure that future goals can be set for their child and assistance from outside agencies sourced to further assist their child within the school or in the transition to work.

R.Rossetti and K Pafumi
(Relieving HTs – Support)

Tell Them From Me

I am delighted that our school has been selected to participate in a Department of Education and Communities pilot of the Tell Them From Me student survey. This is phase 2 of the survey which aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW pilot project is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

The survey will provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is anonymous and students cannot be identified by their responses. The survey is conducted online and will take around 25 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 17th March and 11th April 2014. An information sheet about the survey and consent form is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 14th March 2014.

K Bissaker
TAS

Sport Report

Term 1 brings a busy start to the year with not only CHS knockout sport competitions, but the school swimming, athletics and cross country carnivals.

Week 2 saw the swimming carnival take place at Wyong Pool, with the first test run of the new house structure taking place.



Congratulations to all houses for lifting the colour, energy and competitive spirit of the carnival, with 'Panamuna' taking overall honours. On an individual note, the age champions for the swimming carnival were: 12 years Boys, Bailey Grant; 12 years Girls, Jemma Justin; 13 years Boys, Zachary Harris; 13 years Girls, Tamara Puxty; 14 years Boys, Joshua Gray; 14 years Girls, Lillian Johnston; 15 years Boys, Jack Justin; 15 years Girls, Ella Henderson; 16 years Boys, Connor Piipari; 16 years Girls, Simone Cravero; 17 years Boys, Joshua Glachan; 17 years Girls, Amber Henderson.

Following the school carnival, we sent a team of twenty students to the zone carnival, with Jemma Justin, Tamara Puxty and Ella Henderson qualifying for the regional carnival. An extra congratulation goes to both Jemma Justin and Ella Henderson for finishing as age champions at the zone level also. The regional carnival is at Sydney Olympic Park, Homebush, on Tuesday 18th March.

Some important dates to remember for upcoming carnivals are Monday 24th and Tuesday 25th March for the school athletics carnival, and Wednesday 9th April for the Cross Country Carnival.

Upcoming Sydney North Regional trials are:

U/15 Central Coast Rugby League – Monday 17th March

Girls Football – Monday 17th March

Boys and Girls U/15s Touch Football – Thursday 20th March

Boys Football – Tuesday 25th March

Boys Softball – Thursday 27th March

Girls Hockey – Thursday 27th March

Open Girls Netball – Friday 28th March

Opens Rugby League – Tuesday 1st April

Boys Hockey – Tuesday 1st April

All students who are wishing to nominate to trial in any of the above teams are to see Mr Mansfield in the PDHPE staffroom. Please also continue to listen on morning assemblies for other information regarding trials and CHS knockout teams.

Some of our knockout teams have started their 2014 competitions, with the Boys and Girls Football teams playing on Monday 17th March. The open boys touch team enjoyed an 8-7 victory over Gorokan High, with Joshua Glachan putting on a dominant performance. The open girls' team travelled to Wyong High and despite being led well by Taylah Tudehope, unfortunately went down 6-5 in extra time. The Open boy's cricket team are into the next round, after defeating Tuggerah Lakes Secondary College. Off the back of a Josh Abel century, and good support from John Boyd, the boys are now looking forward to playing the winner of Kincumber and Wyong.

Also very near on the agenda on Thursday 3rd April is the Premiers Sporting Challenge workshop at Blue Haven Primary School. Students who were at the 'Learning to lead' day at Swansea High in November 2013 will be coaching yr 5 & 6 students from several local primary schools, as well as year 7 & 8 students from Northlakes High. More information on the specifics of this day is to come.

Well done to all involved so far in all aspects of sport, with many more opportunities to come throughout the year.

M. Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator

Community News

Free Cyber Safety Presentation

In our ever more digitally connected world the use of smartphones, iPads and apps has transformed the way that we connect and communicate. It can feel like the technology and culture is evolving so fast that it is hard to keep up and understand the things that you, or your children or grandchildren might be accessing or exposed to online. If you would like to educate yourself further regarding cyber safety and keeping yourself and your family safe and secure in a digital world we invite you to attend the free Cyber Safety Information Session being hosted by the Salvation Army and the Mingara Club on the 2nd of April at 6:30pm. Please confirm your attendance at this event by calling the Welcome Desk at Mingara on 02 43497765.

Youth Week 2014

Phoenix Youth Support Service and Breakthru are holding an Art Exhibition for Youth Week on Thursday 10 April, showcasing the Art Work of local Young People created during Term 1 programs. It will be held at the Gravity Building at Lake Haven from 12:00 pm and 4:00 pm.

Fundraising Fitness Day

Ian's Fitness & Personal Training is holding a fundraising fitness day on behalf of and at Camp Breakaway on Saturday 10 May. Cost is \$10 Adults and \$5 children over 10yrs. For details and booking call Ian Matteson on 0434 986 051.

Single With Children

Are you a single Parent? Every week Single with Children provides fun and exciting activities especially for single parents and their children (many activities are subsidised or even free). It's a great way to meet and get to know people in your area. To find out more and get a FREE copy of our social calendar, contact us today on 1300 300 496, or visit www.singlewithchildren.com.au

DATES TO REMEMBER:

17th March - Tell Them from Me Survey

17th March - VET Information Night for Parents @ 6:30pm

17th March - AECG (Aboriginal Education Consultative Group) at Gorokan High School

18th March - Regional Swimming Carnival

18th March - P&C Meeting & AGM – All Welcome @ 3:30pm in the Language Centre

20th March Assemblies Stage 4, 5 and 6 Periods 2-4

21st March - Year 9 Welfare Day

1st April - Parent Teacher Interviews 3-6:00pm

1st April - Year 7 boys and girls, and Year 9 boys Immunisation Day



CHANGE OF ENROLMENT DETAILS

Please only complete sections where details have changed

OFFICE USE ONLY

Family Code	
OASIS altered (please ✓)	
Date	
Signed	

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ **Year:** _____

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mailing Title - (all correspondence to be addressed to)

Postcode: _____

CHANGE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN DETAILS

PARENT/GUARDIAN 1:

Name: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN 2:

Name: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

CHANGE OF EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS

Please provide a different number than those listed above of someone who is able to collect your child in a case of illness or emergency

EMERGENCY CONTACT 1:

Name: _____ Relationship with Family: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT 2:

Name: _____ Relationship with Family: _____
Daytime Phone Number: _____ Mobile Phone Number: _____

Signed: _____ **Mother/Father/Guardian:** _____

Please Print Name

Date: _____