

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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From our Principal:

Parent Meeting

I had the pleasure in week 4 of visiting our three feeder primary school and hosting parent meetings at Northlakes High School, meeting some of our school community parents. It was a great opportunity to discuss what we are doing at Northlakes High School and how we address the learning and social needs of all our students. Ongoing conversation with our parents is a very important component of the school's assessment of how well we are doing our job! Your comments are taken back to our school staff, and are guiding our future planning.

Improved Facilities



We have just completed a new seating area in the lower playground. This has seating, a garden area, and trees donated to the school. Our school is also finalising the details of an upgrade to the basketball courts.

CCTV

The cameras and wiring are in place and signs have been put up as the last step in the process of having the school fully protected by 24 hour CCTV surveillance.



We have suffered some mindless vandalism in the past. Hopefully this new system, funded by the D.E.C., will act as a real deterrent.

Karen Keenan

We in the local school community have been saddened by the recent passing of Karen Keenan, of Northlakes Public School. Karen was a highly esteemed teacher, who positively affected many students in her years there. Our thoughts are with her family and friends.

Central Coast Dance Festival and Starstruck

There are fifty-four students involved in these major events, our biggest group of participants ever! It is great to see our students able to showcase their talents. Our Creative and Performing Arts staff, and most particularly Ms Tina Koteczky and Mrs Claire Brimbecom, have put in an enormous effort. I am also very aware that there are a lot of parents who are also doing long hours supporting their children in these very exciting events. You are to be congratulated for the support you are giving both your child/ren and the school. It is greatly appreciated.

Careers

Our school has a very strong focus on providing students with support and information regarding their long term future, especially related to possible careers, and study patterns. Year 12 went to Singleton for a H.S.C. study Day on the 30th May. They also had the opportunity to go to the Careers Day in Sydney. Later in the term, The Central Coast Career Pathways Expo will be held on the 24th June. As well as these events, the school is liaising with the University of Newcastle's Aim High and Uni4u programs. Please ensure your child participates in these programs if they are given the opportunity.

Yours in Public Education
Merrilyn Rowley



Reconciliation Week Celebration

Today Northlakes High School celebrated Reconciliation Week, and spoke about reconciliation, and about building relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples for the benefit of all Australians.



Some of our students working in our Aboriginal Garden

To create positive change we need more people talking about the issues and coming up with innovative ideas and actions that make a difference. At Northlakes High School 12% of our student cohort identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders, so today we celebrated by letting students experience some Aboriginal culture, tasting wattle tree ice cream, watching our students perform in dance and didgeridoo, taking part in a traditional smoking ceremony and by coming together to create a "sea of hands".

Library Report

Congratulations to Baeleigh Page from Year 7 on being the first person to finish reading for the Premier's Reading Challenge! Baeleigh has

successfully read all twenty books since the challenge started. Well done!



Baeleigh Page – Year 7

The challenge does not finish until August 22nd, and I encourage all participants to continue reading so that they can finish. Students must also remember to keep returning books that they have finished, so that other people can enjoy them as well!

Mr Freebody & Mrs Brown

CAPP Class Report

Our CAPP (Careers Accelerated Pathways Program) Class has been planting some mature ornamental pear and brush boxes near the basketball courts. These plants were generously donated by Karignan Plantation. We look forward to the flowers in spring.

The CAPP class will also be working on the BBQ area near the hospitality centre with funds provided by the School P&C.

Mr James McKinnon

Languages Report

Students in Year 7 are currently working hard to learn their numbers. Everyone can now count to one hundred at the very least and should be practising



them out loud at home. Teachers were very pleased with the effort many students put into their culture assignments. Topics covered included food, traditional and modern sports, animals, and poverty.

Year 11 Japanese Beginners language students have started their next topic for assessment which is daily routine. This will be an aural task. Year 11 continuers are working hard and often independently with focus on translation and grammar skills.



Year 12 Japanese language students have a reading and speaking assessment task which will be conducted in class during this term. As always, these students have been ploughing through some difficult grammatical concepts as well as learning new kanji symbols.

At the end of term 1 the Year 11 and Year 12 students had fun making teriyaki chicken in Language Centre. Most used chopsticks to eat their meal as well!

Mrs Davis

Support Unit Report

Today, some students from the Support Unit will be travelling to Henry Kendell High to participate in a "Come Try It" sports day for students with disabilities. Mr Quodling, Mrs Schneider and Mrs Lewsam will be accompanying the students. This day will provide another great opportunity for our students to be active and enjoy socialising in a new context with new friends.

The 'Sensational Soups' program continues to be sensational. We would like to thank our wonderful staff for their ongoing support.

The IOJ, MC and IOS classes continue to work productively in the garden. The students have recently planted our winter crop and beautiful herbs. Thank you to Ms Parkes for overseeing this wonderful program. We have recently

received a generous donation from Bunnings Lake Haven. This will assist us in our ongoing maintenance of our Support Unit garden.

During week 3 a number of our students completed the NAPLAN literacy and numeracy tests. Mr Quodling and Mrs Anderson spent many hours preparing the students and enhancing their confidence in order to manage these tests. Both students' and teachers' effort and commitment are commendable.

On Thursday 26th June, a number of our senior students will be attending the Careers Expo at Mingara Sport and Recreation Centre. This will provide a great opportunity for students to explore their post school options. Parents are encouraged to attend to help prepare their child for future employment opportunities.

Four of our senior students will be attending work experience, as part of their TAFE courses, in the last week of this term. We wish all of our students the best of luck in their placements.

Jake Slapp, one of our Year 12 students, continues to excel in his Horticulture traineeship. We are very proud of his achievement. Well done, Jake.

Careers Report

A busy start to Term 2 so far. We have had the Aim High team from Newcastle University visit all our Year 7 students for their Career day with the University.



A Year 7 student assisting with the Science experiments

This was an exciting presentation. Not only did the students get to look at and discuss different career choices but there was also a Science show with experiments that showed them how different courses and subjects could influence you when making a career choice.

Year 10 visited the Ourimbah campus of Newcastle University with the Next Step Up program which we are involved in.



Year 10 students at the Newcastle University's Ourimbah Campus

This programme has been created to assist students and their families make informed career decisions that will help them make a smooth transition from school to employment or further study. The students had the opportunity to learn about careers and study options available to them through presentations from The University of Newcastle, Hunter TAFE and the Australian Defence Force.

The Lemon Car will be visiting the school on the 5th June in periods 2 and 3 for Years 10, 11 and 12. This is a programme aimed at showing students the right and wrong way of how they can jazz up their cars.

Some students from Year 8 will be attending the mentoring programme run by the Department of Community Services at school on the 17th and 18th June. This is a leadership programme aimed at improving practical leadership skills, and increasing connectedness with the community.

Years 7 and 8 have both had two intense days with Wollotuka the Indigenous S2U I Believe programme from the University of Newcastle.



Year 7 & 8 students at the Indigenous S2U I Believe programme

This programme is an interactive program culturally designed to empower Year 7 and 8 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to make educated choices about their future aspirations and pathways.

Year 10 Aboriginal students will also have a day at Ourimbah Campus on the 16th June that will help your child to make informed decisions about their future study options.

The Oasis driving course from the Salvation Army has been extended this term and we would like to thank them for their generosity towards the school. Many students have benefited from this course. The Salvation Army also would like to extend a big thank you to the Students and Staff at Northlakes High School for their generous donation of \$85.00 towards the Red Shield appeal.

To finish off the term we have the Careers Expo at Avondale on the 24th of June, for which Years 10 11 and 12 will receive notes next week at school. This is a fabulous opportunity for students to see what is on offer outside of school and where their careers choices may take them.

On the 25th June the School's Year 10 Expo Parent evening for subject selections will be held in the school hall. This is an important evening for all Year 10 students as it is the

beginning of their senior year choices. As this is a very important evening we would like to see all students and parents attend.

Ms Lois Hewett

Careers/Transition Mentor

Welfare Report

We would like to thank The Orange Peel Fruit Market, McKenna's Bakery at Charmhaven and Charmhaven Bakery for their ongoing donations. These businesses give to our school every week. Please support them.

We would like to ask for donations for our breakfast club. We are in need of vegemite, jam or any other spreads excluding peanut butter, as Breakfast Club is nut free.

The Welfare team is also asking for any green school shirts to be donated. Please send in to the school if your child has grown out of them. We are also seeking any overalls and/or business attire that could be used by our students for when they have work experience or work placement. We would greatly appreciate any of these items. Thank you!

Amanda Morgan

Student Support Officer

QuickSmart Report

Fifty-five students from Year 9 celebrated the completion of their 30 week QuickSmart program this month with a luncheon. Students were presented with a certificate by the Principal, Mrs Rowley, and enjoyed hot dogs and drinks with their QuickSmart tutors.



Some of our Year 9 QuickSmart students with their tutors

Mrs Honeyands, Mrs Rowett, Miss Rogers, Mr Lam, Mr Allanson, Mr Meza and Mrs Houston are all extremely proud of their students who all improved their automaticity and speed in recalling basic number facts as well as improving their skills in numerical problem solving.

SRC Report

This term has been quite busy for our SRC students. In Week 3, three senior students represented Northlakes High School at the inaugural Student Voice meeting at Wyong High School. During this meeting, Ashlee Faber, Rhys Gosper and Jamiel Zakaria mixed with students from other schools around the Central Coast and voiced their opinion on different aspects of school life. This was an enjoyable and informative day for our students and we look forward to participating in future meetings.

In Week 4, ten students from Year 7 to Year 10 visited Newcastle Town Hall as part of the Global Leaders' Convention run by World Vision. At this convention, our students learnt what it means to be a global citizen and how they are able to help with some of the issues our world is facing today. As part of this meeting, our students agreed to participate in the 40 Hour Famine this year and will ask other students in the school to become involved later in the term.



Students at the Global Leaders Convention

We are also pleased to say that we are having more regular meetings to address issues in our

school and are almost ready to have an assembly with the students and their parents, to formally recognise the students' participation in the SRC.

Paige Watts

Acting SRC Coordinator

Hunter Wetlands Excursion

On Monday 26th May a group of Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students travelled to Hunter Wetlands. This is a former disused rugby field which has been transformed into an ecologically important site for many species. Students undertook an ecological study of the local ecosystem as a part of their respective subjects.

The day involved a brief introduction about what a wetland is and the different types of wetlands, to the important role in which wetlands play for the environment. Throughout the course of the day students became aware of the importance of wetlands in providing a mostly permanent water holding habitat in which a large number of important species are able to have food, water and breeding sites. Students observed and collected scientific data relating to the ecosystem such as the pH, salinity, temperature and turbidity of the water and related this to the distribution and abundance of vertebrate and invertebrate species in the wetland environment. In addition students discussed the role humans play in both damaging and protecting these sensitive environments.

The day was a positive experience for all students, being provided with the opportunity to develop skills in the application of a first-hand investigation. To work in groups to effectively collect and analyse data using a range of scientific equipment in a real field environment and apply these skills in the ever increasing field of environmental science.

Ben Bryant

Biology Teacher

Inconcert 2014

On Tuesday 19th May, Tiah Hartas, Kate Pope and Mrs Brimbecom travelled to Sydney to take part in 'Inconcert' at Town Hall. 'Inconcert' is a concert run by The Arts Unit (DEC) to showcase ensembles such as Symphony Orchestra, Symphonic Wind Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble.



Kate Pope and Tiah Hartas at Inconcert 2014

We attended as part of the combined Public Schools choir of 900 students and were able to work with the professional accappella group Idea of North. Four items were performed by the choir in all ranging from Handel to Stevie Wonder.

It was a great experience for students and teachers and we hope Northlakes students can take part in many more concerts in the future.

Mrs Brimbecom

Zone Cross Country

Today we had 35 students compete at the Zone Cross Country. We look forward to some great results. Congratulations to everyone who made it through to this level.

Improving Literacy/Numeracy National Partnership (ILNNP)

Northlakes High School has hosted a number of parent workshops this year.



Mr O'Mahoney presenting the PowerPoint workshop to parents

Parents have come into the school to attend workshops on Transition to High School, Numeracy, PowerPoint Presentations and Breaking Down and Completing Assessment Tasks.

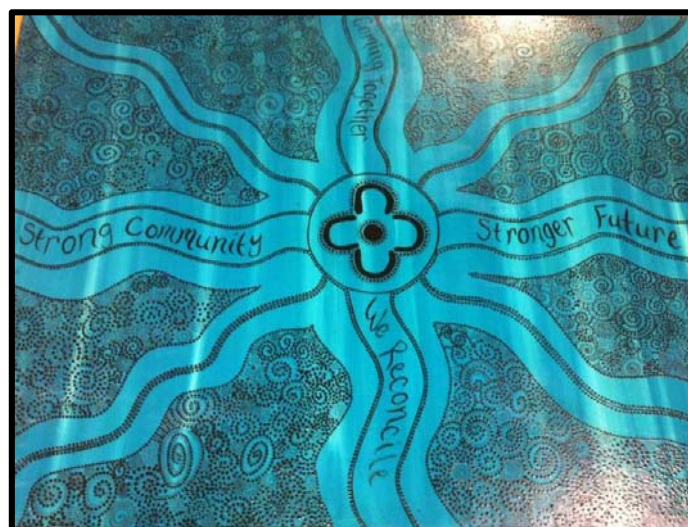
The photo shows Mr O'Mahoney presenting the PowerPoint workshop. Participants felt welcome in the friendly atmosphere in our school library.

Community members are encouraged to attend as many workshops as possible, to gain an understanding of how to help their children succeed in school.

Jan Curran

Collaborative School Project – Art Prize

Congratulations to the students who painted this artwork.



It was entered into a collaborative school project for Years 7-11, and we received a certificate from Phoenix Library Services for an outstanding contribution to the Exhibition helping to promote reconciliation on the Central Coast.

Mr O'Mahoney Nominated for NSW VET Teacher Training Awards

Congratulations to Mr O'Mahoney for being nominated for NSW VET Teacher Awards. Mr O'Mahoney was successful to interview level, which is a wonderful achievement.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

If you know of a local in the community, or an ex-student making a difference in our area, please let us know.

This week's feature is **Daly Café** at Budgewoi. Two ex-students and their Parents are operating this café. If any Parent or student mentions that they are from Northlakes High School they will receive a 10% discount.

Free Film Making Workshop – with Phil Moore

This free workshop will run throughout June, and will be held in the IT room at Blue Haven Community Centre from 1:00 till 5:00pm. Learn all the basics of how to make your own film.

Camera (GoPro, smartphone or video camera) and laptop/notebook essential. You must phone to book your place with Lyn Cooper on 4350 5522.

Tag-A-Friend

If you are aged between 14-17 years old come along to tag football at Bateau Bay PCYC every Friday from 6:00pm - 7:30pm. Membership is just \$7.50 and then every game is free!

STOMP is a free live event held at Bateau Bay PCYC. Friday 30th May from 7:00pm till 10:00pm. Live music, activities and free food

DATES TO REMEMBER

2/6/14	Year 7 Police Liaison Visit
2/6/14	Year 12 Retail Work Placement
5/6/14	Year 8 Police Liaison Visit
5/6 14	Year 10,11,12 Lemon Car
5/6/14	Shoe Horn Sonata
6/6/14	Stage Assemblies
6/6/14	Backup Zone Cross Country
9/6/14	Queens Birthday – Public Holiday
11/6/14	Starstruck Rehearsals
11/6/14	Discover University Day 20 x Year 10 Student Mentors
11/6/14	Year 9 Maitland Gaol Excursion
12/6/14	Regional Cross Country
12/6/14	Starstruck Rehearsals
13/6/14	Year 10 & 11 Reports home
13-14/6/14	Starstruck

