

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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February, 2015

Principal's Report:

Swimming Carnival

Thank you to Mr Mansfield and the PE Faculty for their efficient organisation of our Swimming Carnival last week 06/02/15.



While it was disappointing that so many students were 'sick' and did not attend, all those that did had a great day. Our house leaders and staff and students – organised activities and entertainment, our music students provided a great sound track, and our student support officer, Amanda Morgan, bought a number of large scale games to play.

Senior Students

It has been good to see so many Year 11 & 12 students using their study period well. We have a tutorial afternoon on Tuesdays and at other times. Students know to book in with Mr Freebody or Mrs Dinnery. If there continues to be a lot of interest in our tutorial program, I am planning to expand it.

School Population

One of the many things we have done in the past few weeks is a complete census of our students. The biggest year group is again Year 11. Our Year 7 has settled in well. Our Deputies, Mr Boake and Mr Welham have completed over 60 enrolment interviews in the first few weeks of term – a huge effort! It is our policy also to have our Learning & Support Team test the literacy and numeracy skills of all new arrivals, so the best class placements can be made.

Year 12, 2014

This week we invited HSC students in 2014 to return to talk to Years 11 & 12 about their strategies and advice for doing well in the HSC and their choices for the future. We also congratulated Jimi Russell, who was Dux of the school. He is about to start a Bachelor of Science/Maths Degree at the University of Newcastle.



Ms Rowley and Mrs Garside with 2014 HSC students

These are just some of our students who were accepted at local Universities. Lauren Holman



Education &
Communities

was accepted in Bachelor of Psychology, but has deferred for a year to study French. Ashley Faber was accepted into a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Psychology. Taylor Gilmer was accepted into Bachelor of Teaching, John Dykes was accepted into Bachelor of Business/Commerce, Beau Keyword was accepted into Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science. We wish all of our Year 12, 2014 students every success in the future.

School Fees

Subject fees buy the raw materials used by your student in a subject – these include science chemicals, sport equipment, art supplies, musical instruments, wood, metal, food, textbooks, paper, etc. Students will not be able to attend excursions, including Year 12 Formal, school camps etc. which are not limited to faculty outcomes, if they have outstanding fees. Fees may be paid off gradually. This is especially easy through our Parent Online Payment (POP) tab on our website.

Website

We are very proud of our website and app. All faculties are in the process of being trained so they can upload information related to courses and year groups and special programs. Mr Wilkinson & Mrs Bambey monitor and add our information. Please check it regularly and give us any proactive feedback – positive or negative.

Parent Online Payments (POP)

The parent online payments came into action last year. We encourage you to make payments through this online system. You can access this through our website when you click the \$ Make a Payment tab.

Parent Portal

Letters have gone out to all of our new enrolments including Year 7. If anyone is having trouble logging on please call our school

and we will guide you through it. The rest of the years that have not logged on will receive a letter before Parent/Teacher Interviews (Week 9).

CAPA Report

The level of motivation from our staff is indicated; by the extra-curricular activities they involve themselves in; including excursions, exhibitions, performances and recording sessions. This department prides itself on the GATS initiatives supplied to students. Excursions are seen as a fundamental part of learning, from HSC performances, to workshops at outside venues and photo shoots on location, to complement the work done in the classroom. Other opportunities to students include excursions to the Japanese Film Festival in Sydney, inclusion in regional and state-wide representation; such as Starstruck, Central Coast Dance Festival, Youth in Performing Arts, Central Coast Showcase, Central Vision, FACE, ABOUT FACE, Sculpture on the Greens, First Class, Talented Youth Program and the Artsunit Choir, as well as student concerts at the studios of the Regional Youth Support Services at Gosford. Our aim is to provide the highest level of opportunities and success for our Creative and Performing Arts/ Language students. Currently we have two ex-HSC students with work in the "FIRST CLASS" exhibition at Lake Macquarie Regional Gallery.



Taylah Gilmer's HSC Major Work

The students involved are Taylah Gillmer and Leo Feng, both have gained entry into University, Taylah at Newcastle and Leo at UNSW- College of Fine Arts. The exhibition is a collection of the best HSC works from across the Hunter/ Central Coast and is on display with a solo exhibition by contemporary artist Ben Quilty.



Leo Feng with his HSC Major Work

The opening was a very large event and demonstrated the gallery's commitment to Visual Arts education. A number of events will be coming up shortly, so all CAPA students should keep in contact with their teachers. Year 11 Visual Arts students have been invited to exhibit at this year's "Sculpture on the Greens". All Visual Arts students are invited to submit their best works from last year, for possible inclusion in "Central Vision" exhibition at Gosford Regional Gallery and "Showcase 3" at Maitland Regional Gallery.

Mrs Davis in Languages has obtained a band 5 in Japanese Beginners and has been busy with Stage 4, 5 and 6 courses in Japanese and Indonesian. The increased workload has meant the inclusion of Spanish in stage 4 for the second year with Mr Meza. This diversification of Asian Languages is in readiness for the new National Curriculum, which in this KLA should start in 2016. Languages under Mrs Davis are developing a more substantial profile and awareness in the school, as well as the

importance of bilingual and multilingual speakers in modern Australia.

Farewells are due to Mrs Lubinski – Visual Arts Teacher, 2IC and Year 11 Advisor. She has been appointed Head Teacher CAPA/LOTE at Lake Munmorah HS. Mrs Lubinski will be a big loss to the school, although disappointing to see her go; it is great to see her abilities recognised and follows the promotion of Miss Dunlevie to Head Teacher CAPA at Kurri Kurri HS. We wish her all the best in her new position and we hope to keep in touch.

Mr Les Brimbecom
Head Teacher
Creative and Performing Arts/ Languages.

HSIE Report

Welcome to another fantastic year at Northlakes High! This year sees the compulsory implementation of the new National Curriculum in Years 7 – 10. The HSIE department is fully prepared and classes have begun well.

The staff in HSIE for this year includes: Mrs Howard (Bromley) HT, Ms Dean, Miss Ewer, Mr Gumley, Mrs Lawson (Campbell), Mrs Moore, Mr Seaby and Mr Williamson. We welcome parent contact so never hesitate to talk to us. Communication is the foundation of all successful relationships!

Our **senior classes** are proving to be very popular. We are running Aboriginal Studies, Business Studies, Geography, Legal Studies, Modern History, Society and Culture and Studies of Religion II in Year 11 and Ancient History, Business Studies, Legal Studies, Modern History, Retail Studies, Society and Culture and Studies of Religion II in Year 12. The students have settled into their work and we wish them well in these most important years.

Year 7 – 9 are studying **Geography** for **Semester 1** (Terms 1 & 2) and History in semester 2 (Terms 3 & 4) with the same teacher all year

Year 10 are studying Geography and History simultaneously with separate teachers for each subject.

Each Year group 7 - 9 will soon be receiving their **first Assessment Task** for the year in Geography and Year 10 in Geography and History. It is very important that students complete these assessment tasks as they form a major part of their yearly mark which we use to determine class placements for 2010. In Years 9 and 10 failure to complete an assessment task will result in a **N award warning**. All assessment tasks can be found on the schools Website.

Year 7 – 9 HSIE Assignments due 3pm Friday 6th March 2015

Year 9 Geography Task 1 Natural Disaster research

Year 8 Geography Task 1 Human Rights research

Year 7 Geography Task 1 Antarctic research

Year 10 History Task 1 Decade study **due 3pm Friday 6th March 2015**

Year 10 Geography Task 1 Research Action Plan: Coastal Management **due 3pm Friday 10th March 2015**

Year 10 Geography Task 2 Fieldwork Booklet: Coastal management / Alternative task: Essay **due 3pm Friday 10th March 2015**

Starter Sheets

In Years 7 – 9 all HSIE lessons begin with a starter sheet which contains metalanguage, skills, and reading activities. The first 20 minutes of class are dedicated to doing these sheets and students are expected to complete them as homework. In fact Task 3 is the completion of these sheets and is worth 30% of the final mark.

HSIE Website

On the Northlakes High Web site under Faculties is the HSIE department's pages. In these pages you will find all Starter sheets attached under the headings of metalanguage, Skills, and Readings. You will also find the assessment tasks and schedules, homework, literacy and numeracy activities and the scope

and sequence for each year. Senior students can find the student handbook for each subject and assessment tasks. Various resources will also be available.

Mrs Howard (Bromley) would like to congratulate the **Year 10 kids who painted the murals** last year. They are really fantastic and are a credit to the talented and lovely students who created them. Well done!!



One of our fantastic murals

We would like to thank the parents and carers of our students who have sent them off to school fully equipped and ready to be involved in the enriching and varied learning experiences the HSIE department endeavours to provide. We appreciate the efforts of the parents and carers to support the learning of their students so that they can achieve their personal best. **Together We Achieve!**

Anyway 2015 is going to be great! Do your classwork! Bring a pen every day!

Mrs Howard
Head Teacher HSIE
(Human Society and its Environment)

Science Report

The Science faculty would like to welcome back all students and wish them a productive and successful year.

Parents are reminded that every junior student will be doing an assessment task in early term 1. If your child informs you otherwise it is not true. The assessment tasks are compulsory and are an important component of the students' final mark.

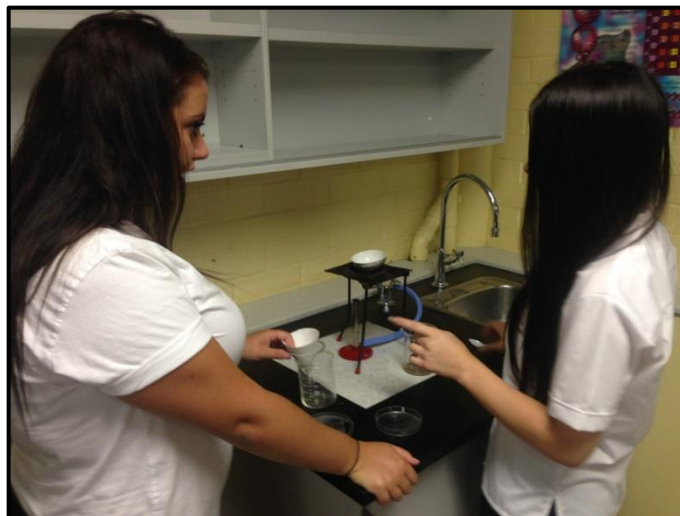
Our Science club is being run again this year. It is held on Tuesdays in lab 1 in the big break. If your child has an interest in Science please encourage them to go it's a lot of fun. We have acquired a fish tank and filled it with gold fish and another with yabbies and the students have the responsibility to look after them.

Some of our year 8 students will be attending a bug watch at our local wetlands at Charmhaven. The day is being run in conjunction with Water Watch and the results will be used to identify the quality of our local water ways.

"Year 8, 9 and 10 Science students have spent the last few weeks studying experimental design. In this topic they learn how to design the perfect experiment, a fair test. Students have been testing a number of questions, including "Which material makes the best plane?", "Which type of string is the best track for a balloon rocket?" and "How does dropping height effect the bouncing height of a tennis ball?". In these pictures you can see Year 10 students testing which type of cola, when mixed with Mentos, produces the best reaction. To create a fair test they have to change only one variable, which was the type of cola, and control all others, such as amount of cola and number of Mentos."

"Year 11 Chemistry students have been working hard on the basic concepts of the course. Here they are completing their first Chemistry experiment, separating a mixture of sand, salt and iron filings. They were given no instructions, so had to rely on their problem-solving and teamwork skills. The students

completed the practical task in record time and have now moved on to tackle maths in Chemistry.



Year 11 Chemistry students conducting their experiment

Year 12 Earth and Environmental Science are in their final year of Science and are currently having a lot of fun studying fossils and replaying how they are formed with the aid of chocolate and jubes, and will be travelling up to Dudleys Beach to see the fossilised forest.

So as you can see there are a lot of opportunities for students to enjoy Science and the more the student gets involved the more they will get out of their studies.

Mr Geoff Flemming
Head Teacher Science

TAS Report

The TAS faculty welcomes back Mr Tony Reilly after his year at Broken Hill. Mr Aaron Vanderkrogt has been appointed as a permanent teacher at Northlakes High School. Our Year 7 students have begun their Technology classes with a common Introductory Unit which provides them with skills and knowledge in Safety and environmental issues. In week 5 each class will begin their specialised topic areas which include practical experiences. A reminder to parents that it is essential for students to wear enclosed leather shoes in practical lessons. Years 8,9 & 10 have settled in well to their

Technology classes and will be commencing practical lessons shortly. Our expectations are that these students will come prepared for their lessons and be engaged in quality learning experiences.

Our Preliminary students have entered into new classes this year, some classes are filled to capacity at the moment. Students are asked to have patience especially in practical lessons whilst waiting for their teacher's assistance.

HSC students are working productively in their subjects. Major works are well under way and students are highly committed to successfully completing their projects within the time constraints. The Year 12 Food Technology class woke up nice and early last week to visit Baker's Delight as part of their Food Manufacturing component of the course. The purpose of this excursion was for students to gain knowledge and understanding of food manufacturing processes.



Some of our Year 12 Food Technology students at Baker's Delight

We would like to thank Chris from Baker's Delight for welcoming our students into his business and spending the time to inform our students of the processes that take place in a bakery. The students really enjoyed it and appreciate being given this opportunity.

Mrs Dale De Waal
Head Teacher TAS
(Technology & Applied Science)

Mathematics Report

Firstly I would like to welcome all our students back for 2015 and extend a special welcome to Year 7 and new students from other years. We are looking forward to a productive year of learning.

All students should have an exercise book, pens, pencil, ruler, geometry set and calculator. Seniors are already working hard on their courses with well-established work habits.

At the end of each year staff make decisions about class placements for the following year. The decisions are made with careful deliberation and are based on a variety of factors including test results, teacher judgement of the student's ability and confidence and the mix of students in each class. It is important for students to establish a good work ethic early, as well as effective working relationships with their teachers and class mates.

Casio fx-82 calculators are the desired calculator at NHS for the Maths Faculty. They are available from our canteen for \$30 (which includes engraving) and most outlets such as Officeworks. They will be used regularly in class and will be of great benefit to their learning. Students can use them during all exams including the HSC.

Australian Mathematics Competition

The competition is not until August, however the entries are due in March. All students are encouraged to participate in this. We do make it compulsory for the top class in each year as an extension activity. The cost is \$6.

Challenge: Here is a brain teaser for you to try. We will try to include one each Backchat. Students are welcome to submit the solution, with reasons, on paper to the Maths staffroom. Parents are welcome to help. Edible prizes to the first correct entries.

On the 1st of February Kev the caterpillar ate through a leaf. On the 2nd Kev ate through two leaves. On the 3rd Kev ate through four leaves. On the 4th Kev ate through 8 leaves. Assuming the pattern continues:

How many leaves will Kev eat on the 8th Feb?

How many leaves will Kev have eaten in total by the 10th Feb?

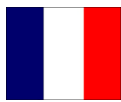
On which date will Kev eat his 200th leaf?



(Disclaimer: No real caterpillar, living or dead, was harmed through overeating during the making of this Newsletter article.)

Mr Dean Lappas
Head Teacher Mathematics

Languages Report



This year there are four different languages being taught at Northlakes High School. Students in 7GQ, 7GN and 7GO are learning Japanese with Mrs Davis. 7WA is learning Indonesian with Mrs Davis. Mr Meza is teaching Spanish to 7WH and Miss Watts is teaching French to 7WL. All students in Year 7 have nearly completed an Introduction to Language and will be 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 Stage 5 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.

I welcome back the Year 12 class who ended last year on a high note by cooking a Japanese dish called kushi-dango. The Beginners level in

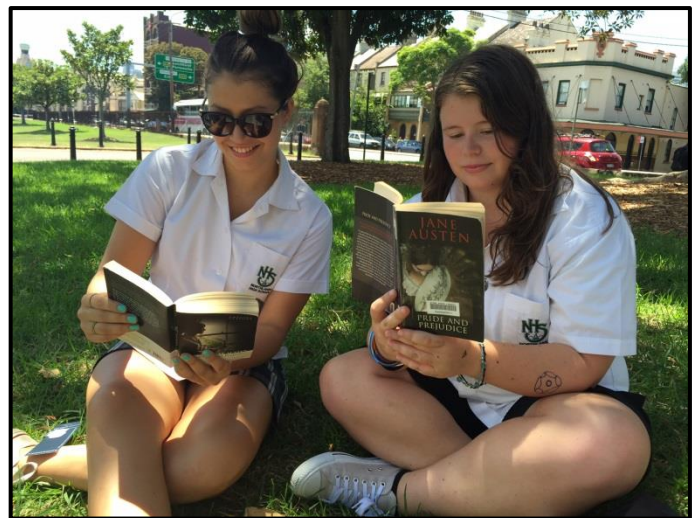
this class has their first assessment task for this year due in week 6. It will be a listening and writing task to be completed in class time. The Continuers students will have a reading task in Week 9. I commend this class on their ability to work individually when necessary and together as a group. The Beginners are benefiting from the extension provided by working at a higher level.

I encourage all students to make revision a priority in their homework schedules.

Mrs Fiona Davis
Languages

English Report

It has been a busy start to the year in English with all years settling into their classes with their teachers for 2015. Year 12 are busy into their second term of HSC work and need to be studying and revising their notes on a daily basis.



Nikki Kimmorley and Jacqui Walsh from the Advance class taking some time out while on an excursion to enjoy *Pride and Prejudice* in the park at Sydney University.

Year 11 and 12 AVID tutoring will commence Week 4 with Mr Freebody in the Learning Centre. Students need to check their names for their assigned period.

The Standard classes currently reading and studying the drama "The Shoe Horn Sonata" which retells the story of Army nurses held captive as Prisoners of War during World War II. The Standard students will attend an

excursion to Sydney to view a live performance of the play on Thursday 19th March. Students who have not yet paid and still wish to attend the excursion must collect a permission note from the English staffroom and pay ASAP. The Year 12 Advanced class are extremely busy with a comparative study of Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* and *Letters to Alice*. They are required to write and deliver a speech comparing the two commencing in Week 7. The Year 12 English Studies class are currently studying Documentary Filmmaking and will be required to write a film review on the two films they have studied in class during Week 7.

The Term 1 topics for Stage 4 and Stage 5 are as follows:

Year 10- Speculative Fiction

Year 9- Survival

Year 8- The Environment

Year 7- Choices

Students interested in entering a Creative Writing Competition to commemorate ANZAC Day need to see Mr Freebody or Miss Smith in the English staffroom for information. There are many prizes to be won and we would love to see some of our talented young writers involved to show our community the spirit and creativity of our students here at Northlakes. Mr Freebody and Mrs Reay have also started a Stage 4 and Stage 5 Debating Team and we wish them luck in the upcoming local competitions.

We look forward to a busy and positive 2015 with all of our students,

Miss M Smith

English Faculty

Support Unit Report

The Support Unit has been very busy at the beginning of Term 1. We have had a number of new enrolments in Year 7 and have been delighted to welcome all students to the faculty. The faculty is a hive of activity with many students accessing a wide range of activities across the whole school to support their

individual learning plans. All staff are very happy with the effort our students are making to complete their schoolwork and cooperate in class.

The Senior Class have commenced their Community Access Program and have gone to Lakehaven Shops with Miss Milne and Mrs Schneider. Many of the students have started their TAFE Access Programs in Horticulture, Animal Studies and Automotive. We have been extremely happy with the students enthusiasm and positive attitude. Our Junior and MC Class have also started community access activities and all students are enjoying the opportunity to go out into the local area with their classmates.

Last week our students enjoyed the swimming carnival. We organised games and activities in the hydrotherapy pool for all of our students.



We were also very proud of Tyler (Yr 7), Damien (Yr 7), Chloe (Yr8) and Amanda (Yr 12) who swam in events with their mainstream peers over 50 meters. It was an excellent day that reflected our positive school spirit. Well done to all of our students who attended and participated!

Mr Roy Goodenough
Head Teacher Support

Swimming Carnival

Northlakes High School held the 2015 Swimming Carnival on Friday 6th at Wyong

Pool. Congratulations to all students and staff who contributed to a very successful day. Every single student who participated in a race earned points for their house, with the top four houses swapping places frequently throughout the day.



In the end though, it was Panamuna taking out the title for the second year running. Congratulations again to all competitors, with those finishing in the top two qualifying for the zone carnival on Wednesday 25th February at Mingara. Please see Mr Mansfield in the PDHPE staffroom for notes and information regarding the zone carnival.

House places

1st Panamuna	5 th Banyandah
2nd Allunga	6th Yindarra
3rd Barakee	7th Goolara
4th Bimbimbie	8th Dilkara



Age Champions

12 years	Girls – Ella Murphy Boys – Adam Cartwright
13 years	Girls – Jemma Justin Boys – James Taylor

14 years	Girls – Tamara Puxty Boys – Blake Langton
15 years	Girls – Lillian Johnston Boys – Joshua Gray
16 years	Girls – Ella Henderson Boys – Jack Justin
17 years	Girls – Amber Henderson Boys – Braydon Keegan

Mr M. Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator

Breakfast Club

Every Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of the School Term from 7:15am at the Neighbourhood Centre. For more information call Corrina on 4390 7888



International Open Water Diving Ticket

Are you, or your child interested in doing an International open water diving ticket. Lessons will be after school and weekends for dives. Cost will be around \$250- \$300 depending on numbers. For more information get them to see Mr Lane in the Science Faculty.

Free lower limb assessment

The University of Newcastle Podiatry Clinic at [Wyong Hospital](#) is offering children age 0-17 free lower limb assessments. Children will be assessed by final year students, supervised by a podiatrist. 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'.

When: Mondays from 2.15 to 4.15pm from 2nd March to 25th May 2015

To make a booking, or for more information, call 43947280.

Homework Tips

How do you help your child while allowing them to develop independence? **Teachers talk** about how parents can help kids take responsibility for their homework and avoid Thursday night meltdowns.

Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/homework-tips/helping-your-primary-school-child-with-homework>

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey 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-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they 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 confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey 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 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

DATES TO REMEMBER

16/2/15	School photo back up day
16/2/15	AECG – Gorokan High School
20/2/15	Maitland Show Excursion
23/2/15	Girls Open Netball
23-27/2/15	Yr 12 Entertainment work placement
24/2/15	Boys open cricket
24/2/15	Yr 8 bug watch
25/2/15	Zone Swimming
3/3/15	P&C Meeting & AGM 3:30pm

