

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



Find us at: Brava Avenue, SAN REMO NSW 2262 T (02)4390 0555 F (02) 43991792
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Issue. 3

February, 2015

Principal's Report:

After a very busy beginning to the year with many new enrolments and a number of significant events, the school has now settled into focusing on the core purpose quality teaching for effective learning. All staff have well developed programs and a variety of teaching strategies.

Students are expected to:

- Wear full uniform every day
- Get to school on time – by 8.00am
- Be ready to go into every period, moving on the first bell
- Have a separate book and necessary equipment for every class
- Have mobile phones switched off in class time
- Parents/carers hopefully support our strategies to ensure students are able to fully access every lesson.

Parent/Teacher evening begins at 3.00pm on 24th March. All parents are invited to attend; information about accessing our parent portal will be delivered soon.

CCTV – we have been able to add cameras to inside some buildings. This will provide further security for everybody in the school, and will also allow us to monitor school facilities.

Yours in Public Education
Ms M Rowley
Principal

Year 7 Report

February has been a busy month for Year 7. A good number attended the swimming carnival and earned points for their House by competing in events.



Two weeks ago students had their first High School photos taken. I have also noticed many students receiving classroom commendations for excellent work. Remember, when you have five of these you can bring them to me and receive a Year Advisor's award.

Students should now be settling into the routine of following their timetable and packing the correct equipment for each day. I know that many teachers have established seating plans in their classrooms. These are to be followed without discussion as it is an expectation of our school that students will have an environment conducive to learning.

On Wednesday of next week we will be having a Welfare Day for Year 7. It will be held in periods 3 and 4 and include a sausage sizzle.



Education &
Communities

Groups will rotate through four different activities provided by organisations from the community such as LINKS, Police Liaison and Head Space. Welfare Day is part of the school calendar and we expect all students to attend and participate in the fun day. There is no cost for this.

Immunisations are on the 25th March and the immunisation package was sent home in the second week of term. The forms should all have been returned now, so would all parents/carers check that your student has indeed handed the forms in at the student window or to me in the Language Centre. If you would like to exempt your child from participating in this program, please send in a note explaining this.

Year 7 camp is in Week 2 of Term 2. We are all looking forward to participating in some fantastic activities which will encourage team building and respect for other students. Deposits should have been paid by now and final payment for the camp is 30th March, however, Term 1 fees must be paid before this will be accepted.

If you have any questions or need assistance please contact me on 43900555 or fiona.davis4@det.nsw.edu.au

Keep up the positive behaviour, Year 7.

Fiona Davis
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report

We are nearly half way through the term and have well and truly settled into the school year. However I must still remind all students that they are to bring their equipment to all lessons including book, pens and enclosed leather shoes for practical lessons.

A reminder that black tights ARE NOT school uniform and short black shorts are

unacceptable also. Students must also understand the importance of attending school on time. If for any reason your child is late for school, please provide a note or phone the school to provide an explanation. Unfortunately lateness to school interrupts lessons and also causes their house group to lose points.

If for any reason you have concerns regarding your child's progress, please feel free to call me on 43900555.

Kerry Bissaker
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Report

Year 9 have settled into their elective classes and hopefully all the students are now doing what they enjoy. Parents should be aware that it is around this time of the term that students will be receiving assessment. They are a compulsory part of a student's studies and are used to reinforce the content that they learn in class. It also gives a student the opportunity to express themselves, and the teacher is able to have a better indication of where the students are in their classes.

Year 9 are looking great in their uniforms but I would like to remind parents that the girls short shorts are not a part of the uniform, the same applies to tights, unless they have a skirt over the top of the tights. I would also like to let parents know that I am available if they need any assistance with their students at school I would like to know sooner rather than later if any issues arise, so we can work through them. We have had a few new enrolments and I would like to welcome those students to our school and remind their parents that I am only a phone call away and please don't hesitate to call if you are unsure of the arrangement of our school. I hope we have a productive term this term and wish everyone well.

Sue Fulwood
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report

We are halfway through Term 1 and it has been really wonderful to see students in Year 10 settle into their classes. Our year group has had a fantastic start to 2015. It has been pleasing to see a newfound sense of maturity from the students. General reports from staff members have been really positive.

A concern that I have, however, has been the increase in students turning up late to school in the morning. Parents/Caregivers and students are reminded of the importance of pupils being at school on time. Any late arrival does require a written explanation from guardians. A quick reminder that tights are not acceptable as part of school uniform. It is a requirement that girls come dressed to school either in black shorts (of a suitable length) or the school skirt. Short shorts and tights are not to be worn!

Parent teacher interviews are occurring during Week 9 – Tuesday 24th March. It would be wonderful to see parents there – and of course I am available to chat to on this day. Parent teacher interviews are a great way to update and become familiar with your child's schooling experience.

Once again, if you need to contact me, the fastest way is via the school – on 43900555. Have a great rest of Term – get ready for the cooler weather!

Erin Lawson
Year 10 Advisor

Year 11 Report

A reminder to all Year 11 students that the RYDA Driver Awareness Excursion is on Friday 13/3/15 at Wyong Racecourse. Money (\$15.50) is to be paid by Wednesday 4/3/15 at the VERY latest, as numbers MUST be finalised. Please take your permission note and receipt directly to me when paid. It is a valuable experience in helping to raise

awareness of the dangers and responsibilities involved with driving. It is expected that all students will attend this welfare day.

Students MUST wear FULL school uniform on the excursion, and bring their own lunch.

Students not attending the excursion will be going to classes as usual.

As we are approaching the second half of the Term, and many assessment tasks are soon due, please be diligent and organised with your studies. Come and see me if you need assistance with a study schedule, or any issue affecting your schooling.

Jo Knight
Year 11 Advisor

Year 12 Report

As students have now settled into the everyday routine of school, I would encourage parents/carers to monitor their students for signs of stress and anxiety. Several students have spoken to me in the last weeks about their heavy work load, social life, sporting commitments and their heavy assessment and study schedules. The HSC is a fine juggling act and depending on how many 'balls the students have in the air' their anxiety and stress levels will fluctuate. It is a good idea for parents to monitor, in a subtle manner, their students eating and sleep patterns, if these change significantly please talk to us at school as we have experienced professionals who can help the students through these stressful times. Please remember that the HSC is important in the life of the students but it is not, the be all and end all, students should be encouraged to have, not only an A plan but also a plan B and plan C, just in case things don't work out as they have planned.

I have spoken to the students about study days that are available at Sydney University. These courses cover a wide variety of subjects across the Sciences, Maths, English and some HSIE

subjects with most costing between \$45 and \$65, so far there has been little interest from the students, if any parents would like to find out more about these study days please send their students to the HSIE staffroom or contact me at the school for a flyer.

Parent/Teacher interviews will be conducted later in March and parents and carers will be notified in the not too distant future. Parents and carers are encouraged to come into the school on this evening and 'touch base' with their student's teachers or to see members of the school community about any issues that may be troubling them.

Ed Seaby
Year12 Advisor

Welfare Report

Attendance Procedures

Regular attendance at school for every student is essential if students are to achieve their potential and increase their career and life options. Schools in partnership with parents and carers are responsible for promoting the regular attendance of students. In order to maintain an accurate record of student attendance we must rely upon all students and their parents/carers to follow correct procedure.

LATE STUDENTS:

Senior students have been informed that they must scan in with their card or see the office staff for a new one if lost. Students who arrive late without a note need to bring in a note the next day with a valid reason for their not arriving on time. If a student sleeps in or is late for some other reason relating to lack of organisation or negligence on their part and the absence can therefore not be explained with a valid reason, it will remain an unexplained absence and appear on their report at the end of the semester. Any unexplained consistently late students will be put on an Orange Card

and if no improvement a parent interview with me will be arranged.

Senior students who arrive at school late without scanning their ID card are essentially trespassing and will be asked to go to the office straight away. An excessive number of late arrivals without valid reason will result in the school's disciplinary code being enforced.

SCHOOL SICK BAY:

There have been a number of instances of students calling their parents/carers when sick and not notifying the office. The procedure is that a sick student will present themselves to the office either in person at recess or lunch or via a teacher pink note from class. The office will then organise a parent/carer pickup whilst the student waits in sick bay.

SCHOOL ABSENCES:

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has now changed the procedures for student absences. Parents and carers must provide an explanation of their student's absences within 7 days from the first day of any period of absence through means such as a telephone call, written note, through our Parent Portal, app, text message or email.

If the school does not receive an explanation of the absence from the parents within 7 days, the school will contact the parents within 2 school days after the 7 day timeframe has elapsed (if contact has not already been made). Absentee letters will be handed to students in roll call, and should be returned to school to amend any unjustified reasons.

Northlakes High School uses the SMS text message system to alert parents of an absence which a parent can then explain the absence. (If you respond to an SMS you do not need a note).

When frequent absences are explained as due to illness a medical certificate can be used to support the absences.

SCHOOL EXEMPTIONS/HOLIDAYS:

The Department of Education and Communities (DEC) has now changed the procedures for registering Exemption from school requests. From The beginning of 2015, family holidays and travel are no longer considered under the Exemption from School-Procedures. Travel outside of school holiday periods needs a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel available from the school. A principal should accept a reason for travel during school term if it is in the best interests of the student, such as educational, social and participation reasons, this also includes family business, bereavement or other reasons which should be specified on the application.

On accepting a parent's Application a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel must be issued. The certificate is provided to the parent. A principal may decline to accept a parents Application of a Certificate of Extended Leave – Travel, the parent will be advised in writing.

Travel outside of the vacation period is now counted as an absence for statistical purposes by DEC and will be recorded as L – Leave and will count as an absence on your child's school report.

During the year our Home School Liaison Officer (HSLO) will come to the school and interview students whose attendance rate falls under 85%. If you have any concerns about these HSLO interviews please contact me on the number below.

Any attendance related enquiries can be directed to Mrs Merrilyn Rowley and Mrs Jodene Garside on 43 900 555.

Mrs Jodene Garside
Head Teacher Welfare

P & C News

The P&C AGM and General Meeting will be held next Tuesday 3/3/15 at 3:30pm in the Language Centre. Light refreshments will be provided. We look forward to welcoming you all to a new year.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Here is an opportunity for all of our gifted and talented music students!

Young Central Coast musicians have been urged to take part in a National Youth Week Album with Musicians Making a Difference (MMAD)

Musicians of all levels are asked to submit a track before the deadline on Saturday March 7. MMAD will release the album in April. For further information on the National Youth Week Album, or to submit a track visit

<http://www.freeyouthweekcd.com/>

For further information about Musicians Making A Difference (MMAD) and its programs, visit <http://www.mmاد.org.au/>

Azztech Computers:

Professional. Prompt. Reliable. - Servicing the whole Central Coast with professional in-home computer and laptop repairs call 0435 539 102 or (02) 4390 3173

<http://www.azztech.com.au/>

AFL

Registration Sunday 1/3/15 at Northlakes Oval, San Remo – Auskick 5-8yo \$80, Youth 9-17yo

Barbara Petchenik Children's Map Competition 2015

Competition's theme is **"My place in today's world"**. Entries can be nominated in four age groups: under 6 years, 6-8 years, 9-12 years and 13-15 years. The deadline for participation in the contest is **Thursday, 2 April 2015**.

For more detailed information about the competition, please visit the MSIA website

<http://mappingsciences.org.au>

When older kids struggle with reading

Should you let your reluctant teen reader choose magazines over books? If your child is still struggling to read and write, and they're heading into high school, there are ways to get them on the right page. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/english/english-tips/when-older-kids-struggle-with-reading> \$130.00. For more information call 0428 196 667.

Solving equations

Struggling to remember what algebra was all about and need to help your kids with their homework? Take a look at this study sheet for

examples:

http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/homework-and-study/maths/maths-a-to-z-/maths_glossary/Rld5/44/algebra

Avoiding injuries

Have you ever wondered if your child may be suffering physically from using a computer for schoolwork? Or if carrying their school bag may be causing them pain? Experts discuss and give tips on what to watch out for. Find out more:

<http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/en/wellbeing/health/ways-to-keep-your-childs-back-and-posture-healthy>

Free dental treatment for 2-17 year olds

This practice is happy to provide free dental treatment to qualifying students at your school. Now, not many parents are aware of the bulk billing service that Medicare provides for children in the age bracket of 2-17. Families

receiving family tax benefit A and/or B are eligible for this scheme titled the "Child Dental Benefit Scheme."

The Child Dental Benefit Scheme (CDBS) allows each eligible child to receive \$1000 of free (bulk billed) treatment for a designated period of 2 years. Oral health is crucial in the lives of adolescence and regular check-ups are encouraged.

Our concern is that many families are unaware of this simple benefit and therefore miss the opportunity to utilise the scheme which then provides a small financial relief for parents. The CDBS expires at the end of 2015 so our practice has become pragmatic in alerting other citizens of the Central Coast.


Budgewoi Dental Centre has already set up arrangements with other local schools, therefore our practice is interested in possibly distributing a small pamphlet in your weekly (or fortnightly or monthly) school newsletters.

Contact the surgery on 43900445 from 8:30am – 5:00pm.

Dates to Remember:

2-6/3/15	Yr 12 Hospitality work placement
2/3/15	Sydney North Golf trials
3/3/15	P&C Meeting & AGM 3.30pm in Language Centre
4/3/15	Year 7 Welfare Day
9-13/3/15	Yr 12 Construction work placement
9/3/15	Encore excursion
13/3/15	Yr 11 RYDA Driving School
16-20/3/15	Yr 12 Metals & Eng work placement
16/3/15	AECG Meeting Gorokan High School
17/3/15	Sydney North Regional Swimming





BUSINESS SKILLS COURSE

Are you looking to kick-start your career in Business and enhance your employment skills?

Well this is the program for you!

TLK Community College in conjunction with LEAP (Local Employment Access Project) and The Epicentre are pleased to offer a Business Skills Pathway Program!

This program offers six (6) units from BSB30112 Certificate III in Business which is a business skills employment course, and seven (7) units from the FSK20113 Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, which is an employment skills preparation course.

The delivery mode creates a *relaxed, flexible environment* for students and caters to people who have not studied or worked for a long time, people with a disability or people who may struggle with literacy and numeracy.

Where and When?
Blue Haven Community Centre on Thursdays each week, from 9:00am until 2:00pm, for 16 weeks, with a projection to start in March 2015

Eligibility?
If you answer 'YES' to all four questions below, then you are encouraged to apply:

- Are you 15 years old or older?
- Living or working in NSW?
- Have barriers to access entitlements. Eg. financial hardship, disability, struggle with literacy and numeracy
- An Australian citizen, Australian




permanent resident, Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen?

More information?
You can ring the college on (02) 4353 0017, or Lauren/Michelle at LEAP on (02) 43900 897—if you prefer to speak to someone face to face, or just have a look at the training location and meet people from both LEAP and from the college, you can come along to an information session and enrol while you are here.


The info session will be held on **March 10th 2015, at 11am at Blue Haven Community Centre (Apsley Court, Blue Haven)** you can then enrol on the spot!

How Much Does it Cost?
The program is subsidised by the NSW Government (NSW Smart and Skilled Adult & Community Education (ACE) Community Service Obligation (CSO) Program), therefore, if eligible for fee exemptions, the fee is **\$0.00**, or if eligible for concession the fee is **\$80.00**—the college will confirm fees on application.

We can also be flexible with a payment plan, so please discuss this when enquiring or enrolling.

RTO ID: 90381



COMMUNITY SERVICES COURSE

Do you want a career in Community Services but aren't sure where to begin or if it's the right fit for you?

Well this is the program for you!

TLK Community College in conjunction with LEAP (Local Employment Access Project) and The Epicentre are pleased to offer a Community Services Pathway Program!

This program offers five (5) units from CHC20112 Certificate II in Community Services which is a pathway qualification into community services work, and seven (7) units from the Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways, which is an employment skills preparation course!

The delivery mode creates a *relaxed, flexible environment* for students and caters to people who have not studied or worked for a long time, people with a disability or people who may struggle with literacy and numeracy.

Where and When?
Blue Haven Community Centre on Tuesdays and Wednesdays each week, 9:00am until 2:00pm, for 8 weeks, with a projection to start in March 2015

Eligibility?
If you answer 'YES' to all four questions below, then you are encouraged to apply:

- Are you 15 years old or older?
- Living or working in NSW?
- Have barriers to access entitlements. Eg. financial hardship, disability, struggle with literacy and numeracy
- An Australian citizen, Australian




permanent resident, Australian permanent humanitarian visa holder or New Zealand citizen?

More information?
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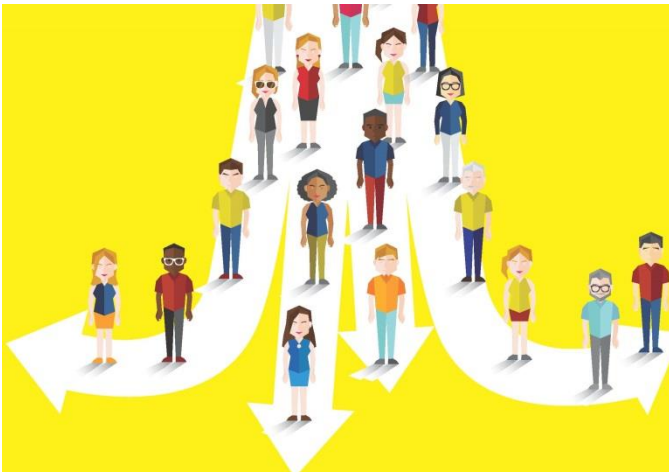
The info session will be held on **March 10th 2015, at 10am at Blue Haven Community Centre (Apsley Court, Blue Haven)** you can then enrol on the spot!

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We can also be flexible with a payment plan, so please discuss this when enquiring or enrolling.

RTO ID: 90381



NEED HELP WITH...

Career advice?

Updating your resumé?

How to take next step?

Central Coast Group Training (CCGT) provide one-on-one career advice sessions that are designed to help you with a range of services including:

- Deciding your career path
- Understanding industry expectations
- Developing interview skills
- Resumé and cover letter writing
- Exceeding employers' expectations when applying for positions


We also provide Aptitude Assessments which help to identify your current skill level for employment within your desired industry.

Each one-on-one career advice session caters for your individual needs and you can select which services you think you need.

Have a chat with us today Ph: 4353 2655

phone 02 4353 2655 email info@ccgt.com.au
address 3 Bounty Close, Tuggerah Business Park, Tuggerah NSW 2259

ccgt.com.au/ facebook @CCGTNSW www.ccgt.com.au




Bringing Up Great Kids

'Making Parenting More Rewarding & Less of a Headache'



Topics & Dates:

4 March -	Messages from the past – beliefs & values about parenting
11 March -	Brain development & its relationship to behaviour
18 March -	Giving & Receiving messages
25 March -	The message of behaviours
1 April -	Messages about me & Passing on messages

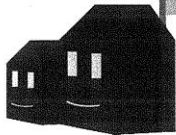
Time: 10am –12:30pm
Cost: FREE – BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
Venue: 33a Alison Road, Wyong



For further enquiries about this program, or to register your interest, please contact Wyconnect
Phone - 1300 654 269 or
Email - wyconnectintake@interrelate.org.au

www.interrelate.org.au
1300 736 966



Small changes, big differences.



FREE Teen Triple P Seminar Series The Power Of Positive Parenting

Children and Young People's Mental Health is pleased to offer parents of young people this evidence based seminar series. There are three 2 hour seminars in the series which will be held on 3 consecutive Wednesday evenings at Erina Community Health Centre. You can attend just one or all three seminars.

The program does not address the management of mental health problems in teens, however many parents have found the program useful in reducing the everyday conflict and stress associated with parenting teens.

DATES: 11TH MARCH – RAISING RESPONSIBLE TEENAGERS

18TH MARCH – RAISING COMPETENT TEENAGERS

25TH MARCH – GETTING TEENAGERS CONNECTED

TIME: 6PM – 8PM

VENUE: ERINA COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTRE (169 The Entrance Road, Erina 2250)

PRESENTERS: Ruth Phelan and Jo Heap

BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL: To book into our seminars or for more information, please phone Children & Young People's Mental Health on 4328 7350 and ask for Ruth or Jo