

Northlakes High School Newsletter

"Opportunities for future success"



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Issue. 16

November 2017

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

During the month of November our school is participating in 'Movember' and has a number of staff and Senior students competing to grow their moustaches in support of raising funds and awareness of Men's Health issues. I look forward to seeing the final results at the end of the month.



I would like to acknowledge Mr Lappas and Mr Mansfield for their leadership in this activity and for hosting a 'Men's meeting' of male staff and Senior students to discuss the important issues of looking after each other's mental health and also testicular health.



This week and linked to our efforts for 'Movember' we also held our school 'R U OK' day. Students created 'compliment cards' to be distributed to students and staff throughout the day. Students also held a lolly guessing competition and bake sale at recess to raise funds and awareness of asking each other 'R U OK'. Funds from the day are also going to our contribution to 'Movember'. A big thank you to Jennifer Lowe, Mrs Davis and Ashleigh our Student Support Officer for leading this day's activities.

Also this week a large group of Year 9 students have travelled to Western Plain Zoo in Dubbo for a 3 day camp and adventure. By all reports they are having a great time and are really enjoying their time in Western NSW. Next newsletter will have a lot more photos and reports of their time away.

At Ourimbah Campus of Newcastle University this week we have students from our AVID classes competing in the 'Illuminate' challenge. Our school has won the last two of these challenges, so the pressure is on these students to maintain a high reputation in this challenge. The 'Illuminate' challenge is designed to encourage students to work positively in groups, critically thinking about an issue and 'thinking outside of the box' to create a solution. Again I look forward to seeing what the teams produce in this challenge and wish them good luck in the competition.

A reminder that school attendance is compulsory for all young people aged under 17 in NSW and that this attendance is reported on end of Semester reports. Local employers often look at attendance figures on school reports as an early indicator of a person's reliability and commitment to ongoing employment. It is very important that a high attendance percentage is maintained right through to the end of the year and that any absences are explained within 5 days of the absence. It would be disappointing if a student's reported % of attendance on their reports falls just because it is getting towards the end of the year. Parents can be assured that meaningful learning activities will be occurring through to the end of term.

Yours in Education,

Mr Warren Welham

Relieving Principal

MATHS

After a busy and productive year it is now time to take stock and plan for next year. It has been good to look back, both for teachers and students, at the things that have been achieved this year.

Part of the planning process at the moment is to work out class lists for 2018. We predominantly use marks or class rankings to help with this process however there is also consideration given to individual student needs and to this end teachers are consulted thoroughly to determine the most appropriate class for each student.

The Mathematics faculty has many strategies to support students with different learning styles and levels of ability. Streaming classes into similar ability groupings helps to do this however, within each class there are many opportunities to differentiate the curriculum.

Opportunities for extension arise in most learning activities – especially with the technology available today. At various times in the year individual teachers provide open ended activities and discovery learning activities. These are particularly attractive to gifted and talented students as they allow them to work at their own pace on meaningful quests for deeper knowledge.

It really is a joy to see the enthusiasm of students with a thirst for knowledge engaged in meaningful activities that challenge and develop their knowledge and interest in the subject. The Mathematics faculty at Northlakes High School aims to provide such opportunities for our students.

Mr Dean Lappas
Head Teacher Mathematics

SCIENCE

As the end of the year approaches swiftly, we have been as busy as ever in Science. In the last couple of weeks students in years 7 to 10 have completed written examinations on the content they have covered in Science this year. I would like to take this opportunity to remind students that their teachers are currently writing reports on each students achievements this year, it is important that students reflect on their effort in Science and how they can improve their achievements in the future.

The Science faculty has been working on developing meaningful teaching and learning programs for the new HSC curriculum being

introduced in 2018. It is an exciting time of change and teachers have collaborated with fellow Science teachers throughout New South Wales to ensure that we are well prepared to implement these changes.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Bryant for taking over many of the Agriculture classes whilst Mr Pankhurst is on leave. He has ensured that the animals down on the farm are well cared for in the manner that they are accustomed to. We still have many exciting activities for students in the final part of the year, including Mrs Fulwood's Year 8 class heading down to Luna Park and other students completing experiments on topics such as forces, electricity and energy. I would like to encourage all students to actively participate in all classroom activities provided in the final weeks of the year.

Mr Geoff Fleming
Head Teacher Science

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Post Testing

Students attending literacy or numeracy intervention programs are now undergoing post testing to determine their improvement over the year. Students will receive a Learning and Support report outlining gains made with suggestions for further improvement in specific areas. The LAST (Learning and Support Team) have thoroughly enjoyed working with students and commend the sustained effort students have put in.

Individual Education Plans

The Teaching and Learning Faculty is now conducting IEP meetings for students from Learning Supported classes and their parents. The meetings will address student performance and achievement over the year and will also give parents an opportunity to discuss class and program options for next year. If you are unable to attend your meeting please phone the school so that we can arrange an alternate time.

Quicksmart Numeracy

The Teaching and Learning faculty would like to thank Mrs Honeyands, Ms Spain and Mrs Rowett for their amazing efforts teaching Quicksmart Numeracy over the last 8 years. Students have really benefitted from their tutelage with excellent growth documented each year in NAPLAN

numeracy results. Students have also shown more confidence in the classroom when applying the skills they have learned in Quicksmart. Unfortunately we must farewell our three tutors as our numeracy program is ending. We wish them well in their future endeavours.

Mrs Jan Curran

Head Teacher Teaching & Learning

TAS

VET Construction

Year 12 Vet Construction students have been busy completing theoretical assessment tasks and will soon be starting a major practical component of the course. The nominated practical activity significantly contributes to the senior students obtaining a Certificate II in Construction Pathways. This will involve the excavation of soil, construction of formwork and the pouring of concrete via pumps from small trucks. Students will be exposed to invaluable learning experiences through participating in these processes which aim to simulate relevant industry procedures. These concrete slabs aim to provide a foundation for future student seating/quiet outdoor study space, particularly for seniors. Under the guidance of Mr Reilly, a quality construction project will be commencing soon and the students concerned are very enthusiastic about getting on the tools as soon as possible.



HSC Timber

Year 12 Timber students have been demonstrating creative genius by working steadily on designing

their Major Timber Projects for the HSC in 2018. The students involved are currently putting forth project proposals which involve freehand sketching and accurately drafting design ideas onto paper, conducting a series of research techniques on existing furniture products, timber types as well as construction methods and formulating a presentation in which to showcase their chosen timber project to the class. The Year 12 Timber class have decided upon some awesome projects which include dining room tables, dog kennels, beds, tool cabinets, hall tables, chest of drawers and many more home furnishing creations. Under the guidance of Mr Vanderkroft, the students participating in this course will be spending a good portion of 2018 in the workshop and will subsequently see their great design ideas come to life in the form of quality timber projects.



Technology Mandatory

We have been very busy in Technology Mandatory - Food. We would like to congratulate 7Tech5 for every single student bringing the correct equipment to participate in the practical lesson last week. It was great to see the students so motivated and excited to create some yummy meals.



7Tech3 and 7Tech7 have been busy designing and creating computer games using blocky technology. I would like to make a particular mention to Abi Rippard for her team work and dedication both at school and at home to produce a quality game that is fun and enjoyable to play. It was great to watch her help and support her peers to solve problems using digital technologies, a desirable attribute to have.

Stage 5 Food Technology

Last week the 100 Hour Food Technology class created some amazing cakes as part of their practical lesson. The effort and expense the students went to was absolutely commendable. The students were very proud to be taking these home to share with their families and Ms Whitton was extremely proud to share the efforts of the students with the executive staff.



SUPPORT UNIT

This week 18 students and staff had an amazing time attending a 3-day camp at Active Education outdoor camp at Morisset. Students pushed themselves and completed many challenging activities such as the flying fox, giant swing,

archery, rock climbing, high ropes, canoeing and fencing.



All students and their parents should be very proud of their children as they had a lot of fun, were well-behaved and great ambassadors for our school.

Ms Louky Parkes

Head Teacher Support Unit (Rel.)

LANGUAGE

Year 7 students of Japanese have just completed a unit of work on 'Sports'. All classes completed an assessment task in the computer room relating to Japan at the Olympics. Tokyo is holding the next Olympic Games in 2020. Those that did well at this task were awarded Classroom Commendations.



Year 7 is now moving on to the Food and Shopping topic. Students will be able to order food and drinks in Japanese. They will also be able to identify and describe a number of traditional Japanese foods and the traditions attached to eating with chopsticks.

Stage 6 students are currently working on their first Oral assessment task for HSC. They will be creating a dialogue in Japanese between a customer and a shopkeeper. This task is to be submitted as a short video presentation. I look forward to seeing what they produce.

Keep up the effort everyone! Remember Language learning is FUN.

Mrs Fiona Davis
Language Teacher

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Term 4 is a very full term with lots of activities happening!

The Didgeridoo players attended Mannering Park P.S. and performed at the opening of the Gibalee cultural day.

Jo Spain and some Aboriginal students participated in Aboriginal Art at the San Remo Neighbourhood Centre earlier this term.

Fifteen young people (Aboriginal and friends) attended the RYSS visiting bus and participated in the Celebrate Safely program.

We have 2 of our Aboriginal girls receiving sporting scholarships with the Central Coast Academy of Sport, these are for 3 years. We would like to congratulate Erika Stoddard and April Hemopo who are both in Year 7. Ten Aboriginal Students attended from NLHS participating in the selection day. 20 positions were on offer with 120 students competing in total from schools across the Central Coast.

The Didgeridoo group has become stronger lately with Year 10 boys joining and performing outside of the school with more performances coming up this term.

The Dancers have now formed both contemporary and traditional dance groups and are also performing internally and externally this term.

The Aboriginal Garden Carving Artists are producing some very good works with Tracey Page volunteering and relating well with the students.

Some of our Aboriginal Dance students are performing in Schools Spectacular next week. Main performances are on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th of November.

Eight Aboriginal students are attending the maths challenge at the Entrance High School on the 21st November.

Twelve Aboriginal Students are participating in the Margret Merritt Mixed Touch Football Cup on December 1st at Harry Moore Oval Toukley.

Our Aboriginal Students will be performing Didgeridoo and Dance at the San Remo Family fun day on the 30th of November.

Ms Kathryn Freeman

AVID 2018

Northlakes High School is continuing with the highly successful Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) program in partnership with AVID Australia.

In 2018 we will have five dedicated AVID classes: one in Year 8 and two in Year 9 and Year 10. The WICOR principles of AVID will also be taught to all students in all years at Northlakes High School.

The targeted AVID class is a university and work readiness program with the mission of 'closing the achievement gap'. It targets students who have the desire to achieve academic success and attend university with the willingness to commit to working hard to achieve their goal. The program incorporates systematic training and note taking, questioning techniques and organisational skills in timetabled AVID periods. Students will participate in weekly tutorials.

Northlakes High School has committed resources to the program, including training staff, setting up tutorial spaces, adding to our technology capacity and purchasing materials. We expect significant positive outcomes; most particularly an increase in students aiming to attend university.

The AVID selection process involves an evaluation of each student's academic, behavioural and attitudinal achievements. Some students will be invited to participate in AVID classes. All students have the opportunity to apply for participation in AVID classes.

All students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will have the opportunity to complete the AVID Application to apply for entry into AVID classes in Years 8, 9 and 10. This will occur during Term 4.

Student academic achievement in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be analysed based on assessment results in core subjects.

Student attitude to learning and behaviour in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be assessed based on positive and negative Sentral entries and attendance data.

Consultation will take place between the AVID Co-ordinator, Year Advisors, faculty Head Teachers and Deputy Principals before students are offered a place in an AVID class.

The AVID Letter of Offer will be posted to the parents of selected students before the end of the year offering students a place in an AVID class for the following year.

Students wishing to apply for a position in an AVID class for 2018 should complete the AVID Application form and return it to school by Friday 24th November. Forms will be available on the school website and in the library and should be returned to the library.

Mr David Hextell
AVID Co-ordinator

CENTRAL COAST WORLD TEACHERS DAY

World Teachers Day is a day to celebrate the qualities and values of great teachers.

This year, 48 staff were nominated from across the Central Coast and among them were two Northlakes teachers, Mrs Anna Howard and Mrs Fiona Houston.



Mrs Anna Howard was nominated for being a Head Teacher who has lead significant positive change in pedagogical and administrative practice leading to improved student outcomes and stage capability.

Mrs Fiona Houston is an experienced and talented teacher of Mathematics, who has developed engaging programs and worked collegially to improve the teaching capability of her colleagues.

We congratulate both teachers and thank you for the contribution you make every day to the students here at Northlakes.

CONGRATULATIONS

Jake Dalli, Year 12, has received an early acceptance offer at the University of Newcastle – Ourimbah Campus. He gained entry to a Bachelor of Psychological Sciences Degree, which was his first preference. Jake has consistently applied himself to his studies for the past 6 years and should be proud of this massive achievement. Jake has proven himself to be a capable student, a role model for younger students and performed an excellent job as Northlakes School Captain. A huge congratulations to Jake!

R U OK DAY

Monday was our “R U Ok” Day run by our year 10 students who participated in a mental health first aid training. This included some fun activities, a bake sale raising money for Movember and compliment cards. The compliment cards were a big success with hundreds of students across the school receiving cards with inspirational quote or kind messages. Huge thank you to Baeleigh Paige, Rennae Moore, Felicity Drew, Ms Davis and an extra big thank you to Jennifer Lowe who put in hours of work to do all the baking and compliment cards.



BREAKFAST CLUB NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We have made big changes to the Breakfast Club by making it much healthier with only breakfast foods. These can become a bit boring for kids so we were hoping for donations of any of the following:

- * yogurt
- * toasted muesli
- * long life milk
- * plastic spoons
- * fruit in jelly or juice
- * juice concentrate or cordial
- * fruit toast
- * pikelets
- * English muffins
- * vegemite
- * butter

Lots of our kids benefit from Breakfast Club and without community support we cannot keep it going. Donations can be dropped into the front office.

Mrs Ashleigh Cousins
Student Support Officer

COUNSELLOR CORNER

I often speak with parents about the difficulties they have managing their children's behaviour. While parents want the best for their children, it must be acknowledged that parenting is hard work and requires effort and thought. Some of the best tips for managing your child's naughty behaviour, anger outbursts or stubborn refusals to cooperate involve staying calm and not letting yourself escalate – especially when you are feeling upset too. If you do not want your child to shout and rage when they are upset, then stay calm and quiet when you are upset. If you want your child to tell you about his/her day, then tell them about your day. Show them how to recount the funny bits and how to talk honestly about the bad bits. Angry adults put kids into emotional overdrive. Denial and blame shifting are the most common reactions e.g. “I didn't do it... she made me... it wasn't my fault”. Help your children to take responsibility for their own behaviour by preserving their dignity. Keep the emotion low key. Make any punishment a natural consequence. And most importantly, give them help to solve the problem they have caused e.g. “I can see you were upset, but what you did was not okay. How are you going to let Mrs (teacher) know that you are sorry?” By modelling calmness and control when you feel upset, you are helping your children to learn how to deal with their upsets in a helpful and positive way.

Ruth Jenkins
Senior Psychologist, Education



Stressed about school costs?

Would \$500 help pay for uniforms, books, excursions, tutoring, a laptop or tablet?

Saver Plus can match your savings for school costs, dollar for dollar, up to \$500!

You may eligible if:

- you have a Health Care or a Pensioner Concession card and,
- you or your partner have some regular income from work such as full-time, part-time, casual or seasonal work.

Contact Saver Plus Coordinator Meredith Lawson

0428 282 900 / 02 4333 8061

meredith.lawson@thesmithfamily.com.au

Or enquire online at www.saverplus.org.au

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The Program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Social Services.






Go to www.dss.gov.au for more information.

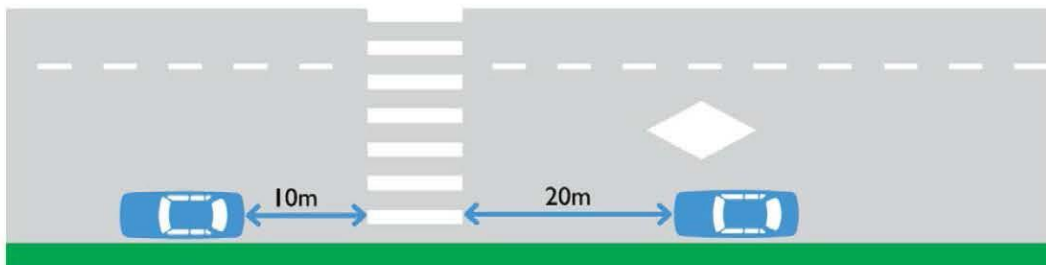


School Traffic and Parking Around Your Local Community

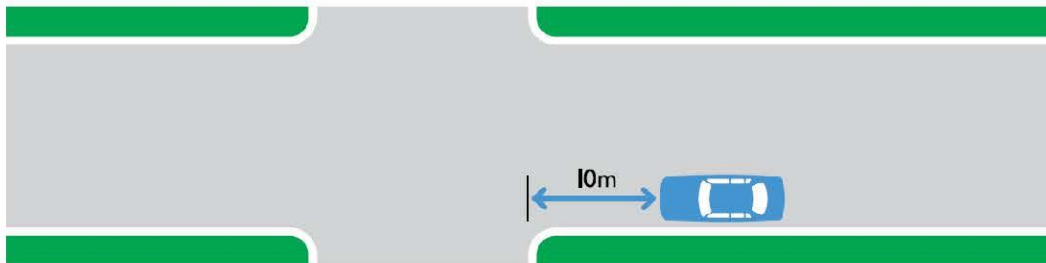
Parking rules are designed to stop vehicles from parking where it would be dangerous or inconvenient for others. Please consider the residents when parking in streets surrounding your school.



You must not stop your vehicle (that is, bring it to a stop and either stay with the vehicle or leave it parked) in the following circumstances:

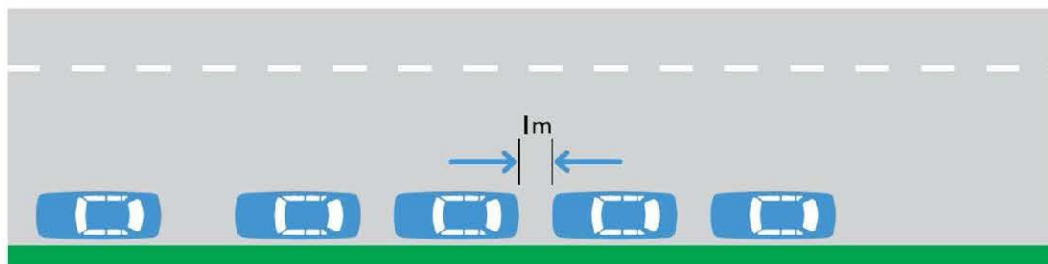
-  Double parked (that is in the road alongside a car that is parked)
-  Across a driveway or footpath
-  On a median strip or traffic island
-  On footpaths and nature strips
-  On or within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a children's crossing or pedestrian crossing





-  Within an intersection
-  Within 10 metres of an intersecting road at an intersection without traffic lights unless signposted otherwise



-  In Bus Stop, Bus Zone, Taxi Stand or Taxi Zone signed areas
-  At least one (1) metre from any other parked vehicle, close as possible and parallel to the kerb, and facing the same direction as the traffic lane



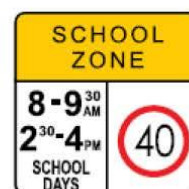
-  Within three (3) metres of any double centre lines
-  Within 20 metres before and 10 metres after a bus stop

Adherence to signposting, linemarking and road rules around your school will assist in providing a safe environment for the school community and residents.

- ✓ **School Bus lights** – buses use signs and orange flashing 'wigwag' lights to warn motorists and pedestrians that they are picking up or setting down school children. The lights begin to flash when the bus stops and the doors are opened. They keep flashing for about 30 seconds after the doors close and continue even after the bus moves off. You must not drive past the bus in the same direction at more than 40 km/h while the 'wigwag' lights are flashing as there may be children crossing or about to cross the road.



- ✓ A **School Zone** is the area around a school with a speed limit of 40 km/h. Between the School Zone and End School Zone signs you must obey the school zone speed limit. The school zone speed limit only applies on gazetted school days and during the times shown on the sign.



- ✓ A **No Stopping Zone** means no stopping at any time.



- ✓ A **No Parking Zone** means that you must not stop for more than two (2) minutes. You must remain in or within three metres of the vehicle. - No Parking Zones are suitable for 'Kiss & Ride' – but you must abide by the rules.



- ✓ A **Bus Zone** means that the area is restricted for bus use only. If hours of operation are shown, the restriction only applies to this time. You may use this area outside of these times.



For more information regarding parking restriction around your school please contact Council's Road Safety Officers via email at: roadsafety@centralcoast.nsw.gov.au

