

Northlakes High School Newsletter



“Opportunities for future success”

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT:

I hope our families all enjoyed some quality family time in the holidays, and students are rested and keen for Term 3.

We had a big start, with a very successful NAIDOC celebration. This showcased some of our students, who performed on stage, and allowed us to recognise student achievement. We were happy to have Talara Freeman and Kirsten Booker from Gosford office as special guests. I would also like to acknowledge the work of Ms Kathy Freeman, who put the assembly together, and Mrs Tracey Page who assisted on the BBQ. All day! Mr Wilkinson also organised a "pop-up" concert, starring some of our very talented former students, "Sunday Ave".

On Thursday we hosted a large group of parents, children and other community members to a "Meet and Greet". Mrs Whitehead, our Community Liaison Officer, and Ms Stacey Ewer, Year 7 Advisor in 2018, conducted a tour of the school.

Also, we held our Year 10 Subject Selection night. This year, we also organised a speaker from Elevate, a program we have run in the school for a number of years, to address parents and guardians about what they might expect as their student begins senior school, and how to support them.

Every year, Central Coast educators hold a ceremony to recognise staff who make an outstanding contribution to the school. This year, these are;

- Mrs Kerry Schneider, who has worked as a member of our support staff for ... years. She has significantly supported special needs students. She is recognised for her professionalism and collegiality.

- Mr Gerry O'Mahoney, who is an outstanding teacher of technology. He also maintains our network, and is extremely conscientious in assisting staff to manage technology issues.
- Ms Kate Pidgeon, who is an outstanding teacher. She has led the Positive Behaviour for Learning program, one of our core vehicles for ongoing school improvement. She has been a real leader in implementing AVID, and is also relieving as Year Advisor.

Yours in Public Education,
Merrilyn Rowley

YEAR 12 REPORT

Welcome back to the final school term for Year 12! In less than 50 days, students in Year 12 will be preparing to undertake their final HSC examinations. Time is certainly flying by!

Trial examinations will begin in Week 3. Students have been issued with a timetable during Week 2. Students must take responsibility for their subjects and exams and ensure that they are on time and prompt. Trial examinations are a great practice run for the actual HSC – students should endeavour to treat these assessments seriously.

It is vital that students return to school after the trials. Students can work with their teachers to fine tune any lingering difficulties in their subjects. It is of a huge benefit to turn up every day, on time and ready to work – and attendance is a huge factor for success.

I am very aware that some students are beginning to worry about stresses and the HSC. I am always available to talk to – or



gather help if required. My biggest piece of advice is TIME MANAGEMENT! I cannot stress the importance of staying on top of your tasks. Please see me if you are feeling upset or worried – I have some techniques that can help. Parents, feel free to contact me anytime. Good news – Year 12 attendance has increased by 2.5%! This is wonderful news – and means our fundraising Onsie Day WILL go ahead, probably in Week 6. I will be talking to students about this AFTER their trials!

Students can start paying for their formal ticket when they return from their trials. I have had to open the account later this year, as our financial systems have slightly changed. It is expected that school fees will be paid first before the formal ticket.

I know many subjects have their major practical works due. Good luck to the students who are finishing off their projects – it is a huge effort and you should be proud of your achievements. We have 40 days to go! As always, if there are any concerns do not hesitate to contact me on 43900555. I aim to be prompt in my reply.

Erin Lawson

Year 12 Advisor

YEAR 9 REPORT

I am pleased to have finalised plans for the Dubbo Zoo/Jenolan Caves camp. Those students who handed in an Expression of Interest last term have been given notes to complete and return to me in J Block. **Places will be limited to 45.** It is therefore important to return your signed permission note and deposit of \$50 as soon as possible to guarantee a place on camp. Deposits are due by Monday 7th August. Final payment needs to be made by the end of Term 3.

Please complete and return all 3 notes (permission note, medical note and extra information for overnight excursions) as soon as possible and pay deposit by Monday 7th August 2017. **I will need the medical form filled out for each student to ensure all needs are met.**

After 7th August I will be able to give permission notes to students on the reserve list if there are still places to fill.

It will be winter for a few more months yet, so please ensure you are wearing the correct jumpers as part of your uniform. Plain black jumpers or Northlakes High hoodies are the only ones permitted. Uniform checks on assemblies will continue this term.

I encourage students to continue working to the best of their ability and to earn Classroom Commendations. I have recently handed out Year Advisor Awards to Lorelei Burton and Amy McHale for receiving 5 Classroom Commendations each. Well done girls! Time for the boys to step up.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact me on

4390 0555 or Fiona.davis4@det.nsw.edu.au

Fiona Davis

Year 9 Advisor

YEAR 8 REPORT

Welcome back to Term 3. Term 3 will be a busy term for year 8 students with the introduction of a new spelling program, and the upcoming subject selection process.

Last week a spelling program was implemented for Year 7 & 8. All Year 7 & 8 students are involved in this program. This program has been implemented as part of the NSW Premier Goals to improve literacy outcomes for students. Being a confident speller increases a student's ability to produce quality writing and use more complex vocabulary. Next year your child will be sitting their Year 9 NAPLAN and the aim of this program is to increase their bands in all areas of literacy. Spelling words will get more difficult as we move through the term with students being exposed to vocabulary they may see, or can use in their NAPLAN tests.

Pre-testing of the week's list takes place on Monday and students will receive the weekly homework sheet that consists of spelling words, focus times tables and an extension

activity. Post-testing takes place on Friday and students are expected to hand their homework sheet in on Friday. If your child is absent from school on Monday when the homework is distributed, they can come and get a homework sheet on their return from myself in the Teaching and Learning faculty. The homework sheet will also be available on the school Facebook page each week. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Year 8 subject selection night is in the hall next Wednesday, 2nd August at 6pm. This is an opportunity for students and their parents/carers to find out more about what elective subjects will be available to students for year 9 and 10, and to have conversations with the teachers about their subjects. I would encourage all students and their parents/carers to attend the evening. Partial payment will be required on the night to secure a place in some subjects.

Just a reminder for students to be sure to hand in their Gotchas to go into the weekly Gotcha draw and earn points for their house group. In addition, I would like to remind students that if they receive five Classroom Commendations to bring them to me to receive a Year Advisor Award.

If you require any additional information, or have any concerns about your child please do not hesitate to contact me on 4390 0555.

Genevieve Henry

Year 8 Advisor (Rel.)

YEAR 7 REPORT

Congratulations on everyone successfully completing their first semester of high school. It has been great to see the growth in all students in getting used to the routine and challenges of year 7. I encourage all students to maintain focus in class and be consistent with our Non-Negotiables.

All year 7 will be receiving a TERM 3 DIARY and every student will be expected to write a lesson reflection and any homework or

assessments for each lesson. As a minimum, revising the work you completed during the day if you haven't been given any other homework.

Please keep the classroom commendations coming. Remember when you are awarded 5 bring them to me for your Year Adviser Awards.

Lastly remember to speak GREEN!

Mr MacKinnon

Year 7 Advisor

ENGLISH FACULTY

Term 2 in English was a very busy and productive term for both students and staff.

Students in Year's 9 and 11 have completed their speaking tasks and are to be congratulated on their efforts. Their speeches were of a very high quality and extremely engaging and informative.

Year 12 had a successful excursion to see The Shoe Horn Sonata in Sydney. The performance will be an invaluable asset for those who attended as they can now translate their experience into a critical response to the text already read in class. We encourage all students to participate in future excursions as a way to enhance your learning experience beyond the classroom.

Our Northlakes High Debating Team are beginning their 2017 rounds of debates and after an intensive workshop with Mr Freebody and Mrs Reay we are sure that they will continue to find success and bring esteem to our school this year. Good luck to them from all of us at Northlakes High School.

Term 2 may have been productive but on a more sombre note, the English Faculty would like to remind all students that having the right equipment each and every lesson is an essential component of educational success. At times there were more than a small number of students attending English classes with no pens, no books and no equipment. Success cannot be found in a half effort. A full pencil case with red, blue and black pens, a ruler and an individual book for each subject is required, every lesson and every day. Phones and food

in class continue to be distraction as well and we ask for your cooperation in adhering to the school's non-negotiable rules. If students need to speak urgently to parents we ask that they go through the office or wait until the breaks to do so. The classroom is a workplace and needs to be treated as such.

On a brighter note students are regularly using and engaging with a range of AVID strategies and Year 9 are to be commended on their engagement with Philosophical Chairs and Socratic Seminars and Years 11 and 12 are to be congratulated on their use of Critical Reading and Cornell Note Taking to better engage with work done in class and at home.

Finally, the English Faculty would like to thank the students for their continued hard work and effort in Term 2. We hope that as we move through the year the enthusiasm and optimism continues.

Kind Regards

The English Faculty

CAREERS REPORT

We have had a busy 2 terms for all years.

- **Year 9** have worked on resumes, AVID sheets, and are now working on cover letters to go with their resumes.
- **Years 10, 11 and 12** have had meetings with the Defence force, apprenticeship Australia, a careers expo, TAFE NSW and university of Newcastle. We have also had private enterprises e.g. MARS Australia discuss apprenticeships. Also any children completing Work Experience this term – please make sure you have your White Card and First Aid Certificates if required.
- **Year 10** have recently had their subject selection night – thank you to all that attended. Ms Pigeon and Ms Hewett have worked with them for subject selections and all had to be in by Thursday. If you still have not chosen please see Ms Hewett or Ms Pigeon ASAP. Subject Interviews with parents and carers will be held Week 5 (Thursday 17th and Friday 18th August). We strongly encourage parents to attend if possible.

- **Year 11** - This is the last term for Year 11 2017. They need to be looking at their subject choices for Year 12 – meetings will be held early Term 4.
- **Year 12** start their trials next week – parents please make sure you have looked at their timetable and make sure students are on time. Any early university entry information is shared between myself, Mrs Lawson and Ms Rowley so if you have any questions please contact us regarding this.
- Please remember University is not the only option after school – TAFE, Private Colleges etc have courses available to you – please see me for more info. Good luck in your trials.

Ms Hewett

Careers Advisor

ELEVATE

The new Elevate student portal has been launched and provides students with access to customisable content, practice questions for HSC subjects, study and stress-relieving tips and free templates.

We have been invited to forward the web address to our students:

<http://www.elevateeducation.com>

Students can set up their own profile and customise it to suit their needs.

Please take a look at the website and pass it on - it could save a lot of student anguish!

YOUNG ARCHIE 2017 COMPETITION

Budding artists between the ages of 5 and 18 were invited to submit a portrait for the Art Gallery of NSW's Young Archie competition, as part of their Archibald, Wynne and Sulman Prizes 2017 exhibition. The portrait had to be of a person who is known to the artist and plays a significant role in their life.

The competition was judged by the Art Gallery of NSW's community engagement manager Victoria Collings and a guest judge, artist Abdul Abdullah and was based on merit and originality. Artworks that receive an honourable mention are displayed on the Art Gallery of

NSW's website and exhibited at the SH Ervin Gallery in the Rocks, Sydney.

One of our budding young and talented artists Libbie Everley (Yr 10) submitted an artwork of her art teacher Mrs Lee (that's me) into the competition.

This year there were 2000 entries in the Young Archie competition and we have received the exciting news that Libbie's portrait painting has received an honourable mention in this year's prize.

This means that Libbie's work is one of the top 50 entries and is now published on the AGNSW's website and will be exhibited at one of Sydney's top Art Gallery's.



You can view Libbie's work and other entries by visiting <https://www.artgallery.nsw.gov.au/prizes/young-archie/2017/>

Libbie's work will be exhibited at the SH Ervin Gallery from 29 July until 15 October and visiting the Young Archies is free. May I suggest a train trip to Circular Quay and a visit to the gallery for a great day out!

Congratulations Libbie on your hard work and dedication to your artmaking practice. It is an incredible achievement to have your work hung at such a prestigious event and gallery. The CAPA staff are very proud of you and your achievement. You are a fantastic example of our motto here at Northlakes High School that we strive for opportunities for future success. Keep creating, amazing things are everywhere.
Ms Lee

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

Northlakes High school Aboriginal dance students performed at Northlakes Primary school for their NAIDOC celebrations last week on Friday. The students ran workshops in dance with all students enjoying NAIDOC. Thank you Jo Spain for organising the visit.



UPCOMING COURSES

Congratulations to all students who successfully completed their First Aid and White Card competencies at the end of term 2. We will be offering the RSA/RCG course over a 2 day period for \$199 or \$189 if students have completed their White Card with Coastal OH&S in the past few years. We have some payments and deposits and I will need 8 paid to set a date and confirm the course.

Stay tuned for the next White Card Induction course in term 3. A confirmed date will be communicated at school assemblies and on Facebook. The cost of this course is \$80 and this is especially important for those wanting to

complete their work experience on a building site at the end of term 3.

Mr MacKinnon

Transitions Adviser/SBAT Coordinator.

2018 INDIGENOUS HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS

The Central Coast Local Health District has on offer their 2018 Indigenous School Based Traineeships in Allied Health, Nursing and Corporate Support roles. The initial information session is on 31 August and then selection on 11 October 2017. If there are any interested students who Identify as Indigenous and are going into year 11 in 2018 please see me for more information. Northlakes has had 1 successful student complete this program and I hope to see many more in the future.

Mr MacKinnon

SBAT Coordinator

EXPERIMENT FEST

Northlakes High School HSC Biology and Chemistry students attended the University of Newcastle run ExperimentFest 2017 in late June last term. Twenty two student attended UoN Ourimbah campus for a well organised day of practical work in university level laboratories in which they were able to perform some key practical activities from the HSC course to help their preparations for their HSC examinations in October. Ms Pidgeon and Mr Webb were the supervising teachers and both reported positive feedback from students about the learning activities undertaken and from the university staff who commented favourably on both the results obtained by our students in performing tests and on their attitude and engagement. Another example of our senior students making the most of opportunities made available to them and leaving a positive impression in the community.

A special word of thanks to the P&C who were willing to make a significant contribution by subsidising student costs to ensure that all students had the opportunity to attend the day

to experience both the learning activities and to have 'a day at uni' to help set future goals and directions.



BREAKFAST CLUB

The Northlakes High Breakfast Club runs every Monday, Thursday and Friday mornings across the road at the Epicentre. This is a free service that is run by volunteers. Any donations of Milk, Cereals, Spreads (Vegemite, Jam etc) and Milo would be very much appreciated.

P & C

The next p & c meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th August in the Library at 3.30pm. All parents, carers and staff are welcome to come. It is a great way of staying informed with what is going on around the school.

THE EPICENTRE

Please take a look at the Epicentre Term 3 Newsletter on the this link

<http://bit.ly/2tL4HWp>

It has lots of valuable resources for our community members such as youth mental health support, group sessions for young parents, addiction support, tutoring, after school and vacation care information etc.

Term 3 Planner

	Week	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT/SUN
July	1	17 Staff Development Day	18	19	20 Primary school meet & greet 3pm Yr 10 Subject selection 6pm	21	22/23
July	2	24	25	26	27	28	29/30
July/Aug	3	31 Year 12 trials start Education Week	1	2 Yr 8 Subject Selection 6pm	3	4 Science & Engineering challenge yr 10 Pop up concert Lakehaven	5/6
August	4	7	8	9 Yr 5 transition	10 Yr 5 transition	11 Yr 5 transition	12/13
August	5	14	15 P&C Meeting 3:30	16	17 Yr 10 subject selection interviews	18 Yr 10 subject selection interviews	19/20
August	6	21 Book Week	22	23 Central Coast Showcase	24 D&T HSC projects due 3pm	25	26/27
August/Sep	7	28 NAPLAN readiness tests all week	29	30	31	1	2/3
September	8	4 Yr 6 testing primary school	5	6 Yr 6 testing primary school	7 Yr 6 testing primary school	8	9/10
September	9	11 Yr 10 work experience week	12	13	14 State Dance Festival	15 Kids vs Cops Gala day	16/17
September	10	18	19 Yr 9 AVID Callaghan Campus	20	21 Yr 12 Presentation Day 9-11:30 am	22 Last Day Term	23/24



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.