



THE Normanhurst News

The weekly newsletter of Normanhurst Boys High School

Celebrating 50 years of quality boys' education

Pennant Hills Road, Normanhurst. 2076 Ph.: 9489 1077 Fax: 9489 5722

www.normanhurb-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

email: normanhurb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Principal: Mr J R Bruce

Deputy Principals: Mr F Johnson and Mr J.E. Fielding

Friday 4 April, 2008

Volume 17 Number 9

From the Principal

After two weeks in the job, I am starting to feel very much at home and finding my way around the school, albeit still with map in hand. I'm enjoying getting to know the staff and the boys and giving them an opportunity to get to know me. As yet, I have not had an opportunity to meet with Year 12 because they have been busy doing their Half-Yearly examinations, but I will schedule a meeting with them next week.



Setting the Bar High

At this week's assembly, I introduced the theme of "setting the bar high", a theme I will revisit constantly with the boys. It's an analogy I think sits well with our previous Principal, Mr Warren's mantra of achieving your personal best, another term from the world of sport. One of the things I want to work with the staff and the boys in doing at our school is to ensure that each and every one of us sets the bar high – in other words set ourselves targets to aim for which are really going to be worth achieving and not simply settling for mediocrity. Those bars exist in a whole range of areas. There are, of course, the academic ones and our community expects that we set the bar high in that domain. But there are other bars that I will be working with the boys to set as high as possible, and they are perhaps less tangible than the marks that they will get in exams. I passionately believe that we should set the bar as high as possible in how we conduct ourselves, how we accept responsibility, how we treat other people. I asked the boys to reflect on what personal targets they could set for themselves and in doing so, make sure they set the bar high. Of course, there is always the danger that we set the bar too high; the best athletes set the bar at a height this realistic, that will provide a challenge, that can be achieved by doing a personal best.

Everyone invited to roll their sleeves up

This coming Saturday (April 5th) sees the P&C initiated Working Bee taking place at the school between 9am and 12pm. We are indeed fortunate to have some beautiful grounds in the school, but there are areas that could be improved with a little bit of elbow grease and some TLC. My thanks to the P&C for organising this initiative. It would be wonderful to see as many parents as possible lending a hand on Saturday morning. A bbq

lunch will be provided.

Happy Campers Return

Last Friday evening, all our boys and their teachers returned safely from the Year 8 camp to Jindabyne and the Year 11 Camp to Lake Burrendong. The staff spoke very highly about the cooperative, enthusiastic way in which the boys conducted themselves and the excellent learning experience that the camps afforded. Having been involved in many camps myself, I am well aware of the enormous time and effort it takes to organise and participate in them and my thanks are extended to the all the staff who gave so generously of their time.

National Testing Information.

In 2008 The National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy will be introduced for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. Information about these tests, which will be conducted in May was distributed to all students in Years 7 and 9 this week.

The purpose of the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) is to assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools. The data that will be generated by these tests will help inform teachers in their ongoing efforts to address the literacy and numeracy needs of their students

In NSW the NAPLAN tests will replace the Basic Skills Tests (BST), English Language and Literacy Assessment (ELLA) and Secondary Numeracy Assessment Program (SNAP). The national assessment is designed to provide information on student performance across a number of levels of achievement.

Additional information for parents about the National Assessment Program can be found on the following website:

<http://www.naplan.edu.au/parents/parents.html>

Congratulations to.....

Graeme McIntyre who has been given the honour of being the official MC at the Anzac Day Remembrance Service to be held at the ANZAC Memorial in Hyde Park on April 10. Representatives from many schools attend the ceremony and lay floral tributes.

Jeff Bruce
Principal

P & C NEWS

Working Bee – Saturday 5 April – Urgent call for volunteers!

Objective: Plant trees along Pennant Hills Road to block noise and exhaust fumes

Purpose: Improve the health of our sons and improve the learning environment

Key details:

- Date/Time: This Saturday 5 April, 9:00am till noon
- Meet: at the amphitheatre (inside the Jasmine Rd Gate)
- Must haves: solid footwear and clothing, gardening gloves, hat, and, drink bottle
- Bring basic gardening tools as desired (shovel, rake, mallet, and a wheelbarrow if able)

Entertainment Books

The 2008 Entertainment books are available (place an order). These are great value. A form was in last weeks Normo News. Get your order in soon!

Information (Presentations) of value to parents:

Principal's Vision

At the next General Meeting the Principal will outline his vision and intentions as he begins his tenure at Normo. We are sure this will be of great interest to all parents and it will allow us all to ask questions.

Study Survival Skills

As advised last week the School Counsellor Mrs Joy Straw will deliver a presentation and answer questions on 'Study Survival Skills' at our 13 May meeting.

Boys' Learning and Development

In early June (after mid-year exams) the P&C will host an evening seminar by Dr Andrew Martin, a world authority on adolescent education and learning. **Importantly he will focus on boys' needs** and he is familiar with Normanhurst. The date will be confirmed in the next Normo News.

P&C (Voluntary Contributions)

Please submit these payments for 2008 to the school office soon.

Volunteers for Canteen and Clothing Pool

Volunteers are always welcome Contact the coordinator during the day if you are interested on 9489 4122.

Next General Meeting - 8 April

The next P&C General Meeting will be held in the School Library from 8:00pm on Tuesday 8 April. The outline agenda is:

1. Presentation: The Principal's Vision and questions (Recess)
2. Business Session. Main agenda Items currently on notice are:
 - Vote to adopt the reviewed Constitution
 - Introduce By-laws
 - Results and feedback from the Working Bee
 - Status of planning for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations
 - Executive Reports
 - Other items (seeking parent input on issues of importance)

Best wishes,
Pevlin Price
P&C President

MUSIC NEWS

ANZAC CEREMONY

All concert band members need to remember that there will be a rehearsal on the morning of Tuesday 29th April – the first day back after the holidays – at 8.00am in room 33.

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE, remember to come, with your instruments, as we do not want to perform the ANZAC hymn with a keyboard and a finger cymbal. If you could put it on the calendar and in the diary and in your phone as an alarm for the Monday night that would probably work.

Concert Band is definitely on in the last week of term 1 so that we can prepare for this ceremony.

MOUNT GAMBIER – STAGE BAND

At this stage we are going to Mount Gambier for the festival from the 23rd to 25th May. We still do not know if we have the required amount of students – 16 – as we are waiting from replies from a few more students. Could you please let us know what your intentions are regarding this.

We have places for any **alto sax** player who would like to play baritone saxophone or tenor saxophone in the stage band. If you are interested please let us know. The instruments are provided by the school

MUSIC CONTRIBUTIONS AND STAGE BAND FEES

Stage Band fees are now due for term 1. The amount owing is \$24 and this needs to be paid to the front office as soon as possible.

Just a reminder that **ensemble contributions** are also due. There are now about 90 students involved in the music program at this school. If everyone involved is able to pay their contribution of \$50 then that would be \$4500 raised for the use of the ensembles!!! Could students please pay their **\$50 ensemble** contribution to the school. This needs to be in an envelope marked "ensemble contribution" and handed in to the front office as soon as possible.

Mrs. M. Johnson and Mrs. S Cousins
Music Staff

MOCK TRIAL NEWS

On Monday night, Normanhurst Boys defeated St Leos College in our first Mock Trial. Normanhurst's defendant was Michael Yee who was charged with larceny and shoplifting. Michael was a very believable witness and responded well to cross-examination. Our witness was Jason Lau and he also stood up well in cross-examination and corroborated Michael's evidence.

Michael Tong and Dev Bhutani were the barristers for the defence and did an excellent job of protecting our witnesses and cross-examining the prosecution witnesses. Both Dev and Michael managed to get the prosecution witnesses to admit evidence that supported our version of events. A number of Year 11 Legal Studies students are developing excellent advocacy skills.

Andrew Yi as the instructing solicitor demonstrated a very good understanding of the case and assisted the barristers with objections. Also on the team was Alan Xu who was the Magistrate's Associate and he was proactive in this role.

Well done to the team and thank you to the other students who assisted.

Mrs Black
Mock Trial Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS – YEAR 10

Year 10 students are reminded that they need to organise their Work Experience now. The school holidays will provide a good opportunity to do this and to finalise arrangements where possible.

If any parents have concerns about their son's work experience arrangements, they are welcome to phone Mrs Packham on 9489 1077.

Mrs Packham
Careers Adviser

SPECIAL EXAM PROVISIONS

For School Certificate and Higher School Certificate

For students with special examination needs, the Board of Studies has specifically developed exam provisions to support students in completing the School Certificate, HSC and any school based assessment tied to these certificates. All decisions in regard to agreement of provision and provision allocation are solely made by the Board of Studies and NBHS has no say in this matter.

These provisions relate to boys who have a physical condition, visual impairment, hearing loss or learning difficulty which would make it necessary for them to get extra assistance to manage the exams. Provisions such as writers, readers, use of a computer, extra time or rest breaks are available depending on the individual's situation. Current medical reports (not less than 12 months old) will be required for any disability.

Applications need to be made this term so we ask any parent who feels this may be required by their son to contact the school counsellor as soon as possible.

Joy Straw
School Counsellor

YOUTH ANZAAS

Youth ANZAAS is an annual residential international forum for science students in Years 10 to 12. Every year, students from each State and Territory are selected to participate in three or four days of science activities and experiences.

Youth ANZAAS 2008 will be held in DUNEDIN, NEW ZEALAND from 4th – 11th July to coincide with the University of Otago International Festival of Science

ANZAAS will pay the travel costs of successful

applicants from Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Canberra, Hobart and Melbourne to Christchurch in New Zealand.

Contact your local ANZAAS representative [Mr Steed] to obtain an application form, or download a copy from the ANZAAS website: www.anzaas.org.au.

Mr Steed

YEAR 8 AT JINDABYNE

Year 8 set off on a chilly Wednesday morning to Jindabyne for a Geography and Science fieldtrip. Our first stop was at Questacon which was a fun place that makes science practical and interactive. We were given a worksheet to fill out while at Questacon but also did fun things like a landslide simulator, a free fall slide, a game called "curve ball" and a virtual roller coaster.

We then arrived at our accommodation where we had dinner and listened to a talk prepared by the National Parks and Wildlife service. The next day, everyone was clad in their parkas and jackets waddling about like marshmallows. We had at least three layers, plus a raincoat. We took a chair lift up the steep part of the mountain. The climb up Mt Kosciuszko was cold and bitter, but it also has amazing views of the alpine region. We had lunch at the top of Mt Kosciuszko.

Later that night we watched a movie called "Drill bit Taylor" which was funny. After this we went back to our cabins for the night.

Our final day of camp was exhausting. After packing up our cabins and breakfast we headed off to a trout hatchery. We learned about the life cycle of trout and the operations of the hatchery. They then fed the trout which was really cool, because they jumped out of the water. The last thing we did was go to the Snowy Hydro visitor centre where we learned about the scheme and how it was built.

We arrived back at school about 7pm. All in all however tiring it was, the camp was a great learning experience. We thank all the teachers involved for organising it.



By Jonathan Scott and Suhada Ekanayake.

Normanhurst Boys' High School			Term 1, 2008		
Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
11	7 Apr Yr10 High Resolves Staff training – Hall PA system Staff Meeting Yr12 Visual Arts Yr11 Legal Studies	8 Yr10 High Resolves Rostrum 'Voice of Youth' Public Speaking P&C Meeting	9 Streamwatch Testing Yr11 Music Composn	10 Year Assembly Yr10 Vis Arts / PDM Exc Streamwatch Testing	11 END TERM 1 DofE Expedition 12-13 Apr

← China Tour(Band) →

Normanhurst Boys' High School			Term 2, 2008		
Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1	28 April Term 2 begins SDD	29 Anzac Ceremony Staff Immunisation	30 Streamwatch Testing	1 May Cross Country Streamwatch Testing	2 Yr8 Teachers' Mtg Defence Force Recruitment Team Talk
← NO YEAR 10/11 ASSESSMENTS →					
2	5 May Staff Meeting NO YR10/11 ASSESS. Yr12 Music 1 & 2	6 Yr7 Study Skills	7 Yr10/11 half-yearly Yr12 English Ext2	8 Full Assembly – guest speaker Red Shield App exams Yr7 Study Skills (3-5pm)	9 Debating Invitational, Newington College (pm)
← Yr12 Music 1 & 2 →					

COMMUNITY NOTICES

1. **Epping Street Fair** will be held again this year.

Date: Sunday 25 May
Time: 10am – 4pm
Place: Rawson St, Epping

Features include: market stalls, food, crafts, community information, live entertainment, talent quest, junior art show, roaming street performers

Interested performers and artists please contact Melinda Witherow on 9815 0959 or melinda_witherow@eppingclub.com

2. Guitar Lessons

Individual – shared – group lessons
Guitar tuition is available during school hours to students at NBHS. Please ring to book your place. Most importantly, please speak to me before you buy an instrument. I also do setup and repair work for an instrument you already own.

Owen van der Klauw
9894 1604

0421 818 521

3. **"Coping with my Child's Stress During the HSC"** is on Tuesday 8th April at the Gordon Library Meeting Room at 6-30 pm.

Guest Speakers:

Dr Mark Carter (Principal of Killara High School)

Professor David Bennett (Head NSW Centre for the Advancement of Adolescent Health and Chairman of the KYDS Management Committee)

Harry Smith (Psychologist and Chairman of the KYDS Clinical Support Sub-Committee)

David Citer (Adolescent Counsellor at KYDS)

Sarah Williams (Youth Development Officer at KYDS)

Interested young people in Year 11 and Year 12 and their parents are welcome to attend.

Bookings are required – could you please contact Kuring-gai Youth Services on 9424 0837 or youth@kmc.nsw.gov.au