



THE Normanhurst News

The weekly newsletter of Normanhurst Boys High School

Celebrating 50 years of quality boys' education

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Principal: Mr J R Bruce

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

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From the Principal

As we approach the end of Term I, it has certainly been a busy but very enlightening 2 weeks for me. I have tried to immerse myself as much as possible in trying to get a better understanding of the school and each day has brought with it a new glimpse into some previously unknown dimension. Every school is a different beast, with its own set of traditions, idiosyncrasies, and culture. Normanhurst Boys is no exception. I was particularly happy on Thursday morning to be able to finally introduce myself to Year 12, the last group in the school I was able to meet after their return from examinations.



Keeping In Touch

I was very happy to be able to speak at the P&C meeting on Tuesday night and outline my philosophy and vision for the school. One of the areas that I stressed in my presentation was my commitment to ensuring that we have clear and open lines of communication between all sections of our community and I hope to use my report in our Newsletter each week as a medium by which that communication can take place. I am well aware that sometimes newsletters don't arrive home for a variety of reasons such as when boys are absent from school when the newsletters are distributed. Being the father of two boys, I also know how communication from the school can often be found days or even weeks later at the bottom of school bags amongst the other assorted flotsam and jetsam that boys somehow have the ability to accumulate. Hopefully, some of these problems can be alleviated by switching to a system of automatic emailing of the newsletter each week. We are currently investigating our options in this area and I hope to be able to implement this system as soon as possible. I will leave it up to you, the parents, to deal with the issue of the flotsam and jetsam in your sons' school bags.

Another area that is being investigated is the feasibility of introducing a system of sending an SMS message to parents to notify you when your son is absent from school. I will keep you informed of progress in this area.

Improving Our Environment

On Saturday of last week, a group of enthusiastic parents, staff and even a couple of boys, spent a very

productive morning planting the embankment that borders on Pennant Hills Road This is the first stage of a Landscape Plan that will undoubtedly enhance the aesthetics of the school, while at the same time helping to reduce to impact of traffic noise and the drift of vehicle emission from the road. My thanks to all those who gave so generously of their time and particularly to one of our parents, Mr Jon Sanders, for devising the plan and for being able to source the plants and materials for stage one of the project.



I was very happy to hear news during the week that the

school will be given up to \$20,000 to be used to rectify issues with the concreted areas in the school. This will involve work being done on eliminating trip hazards where the concrete levels have shifted. It wasn't money that we were expecting but it will be gratefully accepted.

Normanhurst On Tour

On Sunday morning, members of our concert band, teachers and a group of parents will be departing for a two week tour of China. The tour will provide opportunities for the boys to perform in concerts and also to experience the culture of this fascinating country. On behalf of our community can I take this opportunity to wish them all a safe and enjoyable trip. We look forward to hearing about all their wonderful experiences on their return.

New Addition to the English Staff

It has been unfortunate that there has been a number of changes of teacher allocated to some of our English classes. The situation arose because of an unfilled vacancy but I am pleased to report that we have been able to appoint a permanent teacher to the position. Miss Claire Ormiston will commence duty at the start of Term 2. This will alleviate the problem and will ensure that there is continuity in teaching programs for those classes from now on. I would also like to take this opportunity to say farewell and to thank Miss Amy Perkins who did a wonderful job on a temporary basis and to wish her luck in her new school.

Learning To Be Global Citizens

A group of 30 Year 10 students participated in an excellent program called High Resolve. The program is designed to give students a perspective of the world and enables them to work towards the idea of being a global citizen. Thank you to Mrs James for organising this.

Jeff Bruce
Principal

P & C NEWS

Communication

Our widely spread families need to be able to communicate: with the school, with the P&C (their voice) and with other families. I am pursuing and supporting all possible improvements to enable this but ideas and experiences (as well as contact details) need to be shared. It is anticipated that Class lists will be distributed shortly.

Working Bee – Saturday 5 April – A success

Thank you to the team who participated. This has begun the process of improving the school grounds. The next Working-bee is on Sunday 25 May. This allows those with sport commitments on Saturday the option of participating. Bringing your son along to assist is strongly suggested – after all it is their school!

Entertainment™ Books

The 2008 Entertainment books are available (place an order). These are great value. An order form is available from the office Get your order in soon!

Information and Presentations of value to parents:

[Back Issues of Normo News](#)

No news received? If you do not receive this Newsletter copies are kept in the main entrance foyer or on the website.

13 May - Study Survival Skills

The School Counsellor Mrs Joy Straw will deliver a presentation and answer questions on 'Study Survival Skills' at the next P&C meeting (see below). As the mid-year exams are nearly upon us this will be of great interest to parents.

18 June – Boys' Learning and Development

On Wed 18 June 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 in a setting of excellence** and he is familiar with Normanhurst. Application forms will be in the News in week 1 of term 2.

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 13 May. The outline agenda is:

1. Presentation: Study Survival Skills – Mrs Joy Straw
2. Principal's report
(Recess)
3. Business Session. Main agenda Items currently on notice are:
 - Vote to adopt the reviewed Constitution and By Laws
 - Status of planning for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable holiday,

Pevlin Price
P&C President

PUBLIC SPEAKING

On Tuesday 8th April, eight boys represented Normanhurst at the Regional Final of the **Rostrum "Voice of Youth"** Public Speaking Competition. The students competed against students from Willoughby GHS, Barker College, Knox Grammar School, Hornsby GHS and other schools in the Region.

The competition was of a very high standard and all boys involved should be commended for the effort they put into training sessions, preparation and performance on the day. It was a very worthwhile and valuable experience.

Martin McCarthy of Year 11 won his final and will participate in the Sydney finals to be held later in the month.

Congratulations to all participants.

Year 7: Miles Watson
 Year 8: Utkarsh Sood, Parth Nathani
 Year 9: Pedram Mohseni
 Year 11: Graeme McIntyre, Lachlan McIntosh, Martin McCarthy

Mrs Fowell
Public Speaking Coach and Coordinator

NATIONAL YOUTH SCIENCE FORUM

The National Youth Science Forum is a two-week programme for students in Year 11, moving into Year 12, who are thinking about a career in science, engineering and technology.

The forum is fully residential and takes place in January at the Australian National University.

Applying for NYSF is a simple process. Simply apply online at www.nysf.edu.au/application, and follow the instructions. Applications to Rotary Clubs close on the 15th of May.

See Mr Steed for further details.

D Steed
Head Teacher Science

MUSIC NEWS

CHINA TOUR

Everyone in the China tour band has been working really hard and this was evident at the concert on Sunday. Despite having a much smaller ensemble than we are used to and a balance that could only be described as questionable, the band sounds tight and slick and will be a credit to the school. Yay!!!

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. We will then be playing for the Anzac Ceremony in period 1.

REMEMBER TO PUT THIS REHEARSAL IN YOUR PHONES OR CALENDARS OR DIARIES.

String Ensemble will not be rehearsing again until Week 2 Term 2.

MOUNT GAMBIER – STAGE BAND

Unfortunately we have had to cancel the trip to Mount Gambier as we have not reached the required 16 participants. Sorry – maybe next year!

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

STUDENT EXCHANGE

Student Exchange Australia Ltd is inviting applications for Language & International Affairs Scholarships. The application deadline is Friday 30th May 2008.

Scholarships are open to students between 15-18 years of age and offer the opportunity to live and study overseas for a semester or year.

24 x Language Scholarships are offered in conjunction with the Australian Federation of Modern Language Teachers Associations (AFMLTA). Valued at up to \$3,500 each these scholarships offer language students the chance to immerse themselves in the language and culture of their choice.

2 x International Affairs Scholarships named after one of Australia's leading post war diplomats, Rawdon Dalrymple AO. Valued at up to \$3,500 each, these scholarships offer those with a keen interest in international affairs a chance to sample the world first hand.

Scholarship Information and Language Scholarship Application can be downloaded at: www.studentexchange.org.au/downloads/.

Any students who are interested in these scholarships, please speak to Mrs Packham before applying.

Mrs Packham
Careers Adviser

<i>Normanhurst Boys' High School</i>				<i>Term 2, 2008</i>	
<i>Wk</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
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	6 Yr7 Study Skills ←	7 Yr10/11 half-yearly	8 Full Assembly – guest speakers Red Shield Appeal/MS Read-a-thon exams Yr7 Study Skills (3- 5pm)	9 Debating Invitational, Newington College (pm)
	←		Yr12 English Ext2		→
	NO YR10/11 ASSESS. Yr12 Music 1 & 2		←	Yr12 Music 1 & 2	→

3	12 May Yr12 reports to coordinator Yr7/8/9 exams for printing	13 Yr11/12 Youth Trauma Forum ← Yr10/11 half-yearly exams ← Yr7 Study Skills (3-5pm) P&C Meeting	14 ← Yr10/11 half-yearly exams ← Yrs 7/9 National	15 Year Assembly Yr12 Teachers' Mtg exams Testing →	16 →
		← NO YEAR 7/8/9	ASSESSMENTS		→ Yr11 Visual Arts
4	19 May Alt Cross Country ← Yr12 'King Lear' Incursion	20 Yr12 reports issued ← Yr7/8/9 exam	21 period →	22 Athletics Carnival	23 ← Yr7/8/9 exam period →
	Yr12 Physics	Yr10 Commerce	Yr12 Music 2		

SPORTS RESULTS

GRADE SPORT			DATE:9/4/2008	ROUND No 1
		OPPOSITION	WINNER	SCORE
Rugby	1st	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Rugby	2nd	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Rugby	15A	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Rugby	14A	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Rugby	13B	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	1st	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	2nd	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	3rd	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	15A	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	15B	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	14A	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	14B	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	13A	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	13B	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Soccer	13C	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Hockey	1st	Homebush	Homebush	2-6
Hockey	15	Homebush	Homebush	0-4
Tennis	1st	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Tennis	2nd	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Tennis	15	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Tennis	14	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Table Tennis	1st	Homebush	Homebush	1-4
Table Tennis	2nd	Homebush	Normanhurst	4-3
Table Tennis	15	Homebush	Homebush	2-4
Table Tennis	14	Homebush	Normanhurst	4-0
Lawn Bowls	1st	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out
Lawn Bowls	15	Homebush	Draw	Washed Out