



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

Looking Ahead

We are living in rapidly changing times and schools, in so many ways, are at the forefront of that change. Clearly, the educational landscape that exists today is almost unrecognisable from that in which many of us who are teachers began our careers. Whilst we still work with students who fit broadly into the same demographic, these children are products of the late 20th Century and the world in which they are growing up has impacted upon their attitudes, values and perspectives in ways that cannot be ignored.



With this in mind, our School Development Day, which had the theme of *Looking Ahead*, opened with a brief exploration of some of the issues that we as staff need to take on board about this group who are most commonly referred to as "Generation Y". Our program then proceeded to investigate strategies to best address the learning needs of our students by revisiting elements of the Quality Teaching Framework and particularly how our assessment practices can most effectively align with its principles.

The second half of the day afforded a wonderful opportunity firstly, to review our current school strategic plan and then for a think-tank on possible directions for the school to move in both the short and long term. A particularly valuable component of this part of the day was the contribution of our student representatives and our parents who were able to attend the day. Their ideas and opinions will certainly be taken into consideration as we begin the task of preparing the 2009-2011 School Plan.

We pay tribute to the Anzacs

On Tuesday, our boys participated in a very moving and dignified ceremony that recognised the sacrifice of the men and women who have fought for our country. All the students involved in the presentation deserve to be congratulated: our student leaders, Dominic Woodward, Tim Wearne and Marc Messina for the fine manner in which they led the ceremony; the moving tributes by Shaun Magee (Year 8), Issac Freeland (Year 10); the superb playing of the Last Post and Reveille by Malcolm Ramsay; and the school band for their playing of the Recessional and National Anthem. A special thank you

also, to Mr Seabrook who coordinated the event.

Following the school ceremony, I accompanied our student leaders to Bowden Brae, our neighbouring Retirement Home, where the boys presented an ANZAC tribute for the residents. The large group of aged folk that attended were most appreciative of what our boys did. At the conclusion of the ceremony, one elderly lady pulled me aside to make the comment "With such fine young men as these, the future of Australia is in very good hands". I couldn't agree with her more!

The Sporting Side of School

On Thursday of this week, the school's Annual Cross Country will be held at Pennant Hills Park, and I look forward to being able to give you an account of the afternoon in next week's Newsletter.

We have had to alter arrangements for the School Athletics Carnival which was originally scheduled for May 22. Unfortunately, this date clashed with the proposed full day Teacher's Strike and so we have had to move the day to the only other available date for the Homebush venue, Tuesday May 13th. This in turn has created a problem as it is the same day as the first of the National Tests in Literacy. By some clever juggling of schedules and events, our sports organiser Mr Rodgie has managed to create a program that will enable our Year 7 and 9 boys to complete the test at school early on the morning of the 13th and then be bussed out to Homebush to participate in their events. Obviously this is not an ideal situation, but given the circumstances an acceptable compromise.

At the end of last term I was delighted to attend my first sports event as a Normo supporter when the boys in our Open Football team took on Pennant Hills. They had a thrilling 2-1 victory and now go on to meet The Forest High School in the Regional Semi Final. Congratulations to the team and their coach Ms Wright.

Celebrating 50 Years

The joint parent/teacher committee had its first meeting last Tuesday night and made excellent progress in the organisation of the big event. The weekend of August 30-31 has been set aside for the majority of the celebrations and details will be made available as soon as possible. If there are any parents who are able to volunteer their services to help with the catering on the Sunday of that weekend, could you please contact the school for further details. Also, if any members of our

community would like to contribute items for a raffle, your items would be gratefully accepted.

Band Tour an Outstanding Success

Our school band returned home last Sunday after a successful tour of China and from all accounts, it was a wonderful experience for all. Activities such as these provide excellent opportunities for cultural enrichment and certainly fit into the school's ethos of providing an holistic education. Our thanks go to the band's coordinators, Mrs Johnson and Ms Cousins for their commitment to promoting this outstanding initiative.



Important Notice for all parents

A person who attends Normanhurst Boys High School has been diagnosed with Whooping Cough (pertussis). The illness is usually characterised by a feeling of being generally unwell with an accompanying deep harsh cough that tends to occur in bouts. The cough may be severe enough to cause the affected person to vomit after a bout of coughing. Whooping cough can cause a severe illness in young children particularly in children under the age of 1 year.

Whooping cough is usually spread by direct contact with the droplets from the nose and throat of an infected person during cough. People at greatest risk of getting the illness are those who have had a considerable amount of face-to-face contact with a person with the disease. Whooping cough can occur in people

previously vaccinated. We suggest that should any person develop some or all of the above symptoms that they consult their local doctor and mention that there has been a case of whooping cough in the school.

Please feel free to contact me should you have any further concerns or queries.

Jeff Bruce
Principal

P & C NEWS

Communication - Class Lists

It is anticipated that Class lists will be distributed shortly. If there is any parent interested in being a 'class coordinator' you would be most welcome – send a note to the office and they will pass it to the committee who will make contact with you. Privacy is respected and lists will only be sent to those who provide their details. Updates will be made as required. I apologise for the delay in getting these completed.

Working Bee – Sunday 25 May – Early Planning

It is now time to check calendars and see if some families with Saturday sports or other commitments can come along to the Term 2 Working Bee on Sunday 25 May. Don't be shy - and your son can come along and help too! Let us continue the good work begun last term.

Entertainment™ Books

The 2008 Entertainment books are still available (place an order using the flyer provided). These are great value. An order form is also available from the School office Get yours soon!

Information and Presentations of value to parents:

13 May - Study Survival Skills

The School Counsellor Mrs Joy Straw will deliver a presentation and answer questions on 'Study Survival Skills' at our next Meeting. As the mid-year / trial HSC exams are nearly upon us this will be of great value to parents.

18 June – Boys' Learning and Development

On Wed 18 June (7:00 for a 7:30 start) the P&C will host an evening seminar by Dr Andrew Martin, a world authority on adolescent education and learning who is familiar with Normanhurst. **Importantly he will focus on boys' needs in a setting of excellence.** Application forms will be in the News next week. Cost by prior payment is small and seminar notes will be provided. Places will be offered exclusively to Normo parents for two weeks and then to the wider community.

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.

Issues of importance or concern to parents

The P&C is able to discuss any issues of concern, a thank you, or a suggestion for improvement with the school executive. Please let the Committee know – send a note to the P&C via our 'post box' at the School office.

Next General Meeting – 13 May

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
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 and stay safe

Pevlin Price
P&C President

MUSIC NEWS

MUSICAL EVENING Thursday 5th June School hall.
Please remember to keep this evening free – it involves all elective classes, the concert band, the stage band, the vocal group and strings as well as some solos from various students. It will probably only last an hour and if everyone brings a plate of something we can have supper and commune!

CHINA TOUR!!!!

Yay!! We're back!

Although some of the members of the tour have caught colds and bugs from the trip home and everyone is exhausted we can safely say that the trip was well worthwhile. The musical experiences themselves were outstanding and the cultural interaction and encounters definitely lived up to our expectations.

Our small band of about 30 students played exceptionally well at all three performances – Hotel International in Beijing, Middle School in Xian and the College of the Arts in Hangzhou. The best part of these experiences was the cultural exchange and interaction between the students. In Xian an impromptu jam session next to the coach at the end of the visit was one of the highlights of the tour, as was the tour of the school at the beginning of the visit. In Hangzhou our students were invited to an informal session with the students before the main performance and this was also very enjoyable.

We were also fortunate to see a number of performances – some professional and some at the schools – and these included an acrobatic show, a Tang Dynasty show and some wonderful classical Chinese pieces performed at the two schools. As our only exposure to erhu performances before this was the odd busker, the virtuosic displays we saw in China were eye openers.

Some of the parents were so inspired by the two school visits that they organised for the adults on the tour to donate enough money to buy the school some good quality instruments. So we now have an erhu, a pipa and a hulusi! If any parents are able to give us a lesson on the playing technique for any of these we would be very grateful.

A big thank you to the parents who took part in the tour for all their assistance, and to those at home for their support – particularly Mr. Tuckwell who set up the blog site for the parents and friends at home to keep track of

what we were doing.

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

DEBATING NEWS

On Wednesday April 30, the Year 12 Debating team of Oliver Mitchell, Tim Patrick, Adam Smith and Matthew Marks competed in the second round of the Premier's Challenge Debating Competition.

Their opponents were Pennant Hills High and the Normanhurst team argued the negative case for the topic: *That we should embrace high density living*

Students drew on their knowledge of geography and economics to achieve a win.

Congratulations to the students. This is the second win they have achieved in their quest to be Zone winners.

Mrs Fowell
Debating Coach/Coordinator

CAREERS NEWS

1. The **Australian School of Business** at UNSW is holding an Information Evening for **students in Year 11 and 12 and their parents.**

Date: Wednesday 7 May, 2008

Time: 6.00pm Registration

6.30pm Presentation

7.30pm Refreshments

Where: John Niland Scientia, UNSW Campus

Registration is essential at web address:
australianschoolofbusiness.com.

For further information, see Mrs Packham.

2. **Year 12 students** interested in an **Accountancy Cadetship** (and their parents) are invited to attend an Information Evening

Date: Thursday 22 May, 2008

Time: from 4.30pm

Where: Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour

Register at charteredaccountants.com/students (Parents can be registered as the student's guests – maximum of 2 guests per student).

3. Students interested in music or the performing arts are invited to an Open Day for The Australian International Conservatorium of Music and The Australian International Performing Arts High School. Includes: course information; live performances; workshops; auditions and campus tours.

Date: Saturday 31 May, 2008

Time: 11am – 2pm

Where: 31 – 33 Allen St, Harris Park

Register by email: admin@aicm.edu.au or phone: 96370777.

Mrs Packham
Careers Adviser

SPORTS RESULTS

GRADE			DATE:30/4/2008	ROUND No 2
SPORT		OPPOSITION	WINNER	SCORE
Rugby	1st	Ashfield	Ashfield	24-29
Rugby	2nd	Bye	-	-
Rugby	15A	Ashfield	Ashfield	0-87
Rugby	14A	Ashfield	Normanhurst	50-0
Rugby	13B	Epping	Epping	0-35
Soccer	1st	Ashfield	Normanhurst	3-1
Soccer	2nd	Ashfield	Ashfield	0-8
Soccer	3rd	Ashfield	Draw	2-2
Soccer	15A	Ashfield	Ashfield	1-3
Soccer	15B	Ashfield	Normanhurst	4-0
Soccer	14A	Ashfield	Ashfield	3-4
Soccer	14B	Ashfield	Ashfield	0-2
Soccer	13A	Ashfield	Normanhurst	2-1
Soccer	13B	Ashfield	Normanhurst	3-2
Soccer	13C	Epping 14c	Epping 14c	0-1
Hockey	1st	Asquith	Normanhurst	5-2
Hockey	15	Ashfield	Normanhurst	5-0
Tennis	1st	Ashfield	Normanhurst	4-0
Tennis	2nd	Ashfield	Normanhurst	4-1
Tennis	15	Ashfield	Normanhurst	4-0
Tennis	14	Ashfield	Normanhurst	4-0
Table Tennis	1st	Ashfield	Normanhurst	6-0
Table Tennis	2nd	Ashfield	Normanhurst	6-0
Table Tennis	15	Ashfield	Normanhurst	6-0
Table Tennis	14	Ashfield	Normanhurst	6-0
Lawn Bowls	1st	Ashfield	Normanhurst	16-3
Lawn Bowls	15	Ashfield	Ashfield	4-7

Normanhurst Boys' High School						Term 2, 2008					
Wk	Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday		
2	5 May SMH Plain English Speaking Award		6 Yr7 Study Skills (Periods 1-3) Yr12 Music 2 Exc		7 Yr7/8 (6 students) Values/Leadership Day		8 Full Assembly – guest speakers Red Shield App/MS Read-a- thon		9 Football KO		
	Yr12 Bond Uni Mooting Comp Staff Meeting		←		Yr10/11 half-yearly		exams Yr7 Study Skills (3-5pm)		Debating Invitational, Newington College (pm)		
	←				Yr12 English Ext2		←		←		
	NO YR10/11 ASSESS. Yr12 Music 1 & 2				←		Yr12 Music 1 & 2		←		
3	12 May		13 Athletics Carnival		14		15 Year Assembly Yr12 Teachers' Mtg Yr11 Youth & Road Trauma Exc		16		
	←		←		Yr10/11 half-yearly Yrs 7/9 National		exams Testing		←		
			Yr7 Study Skills (3-5pm) P&C Meeting		←		←		←		
	←		NO YEAR 7/8/9		ASSESSMENTS		←		←		
									Yr11 Visual Arts		

Normanhurst Boys High School

entertainment™ BOOK FUND RAISER

Imagine dining at Sydney's finest restaurants, having lunch at the trendiest cafes, spending a relaxing weekend at a luxury hotel or resort, attending the theatre or movies, **all at two for the price of one or 25% to 50% off!**

For \$65.00 the Book pays for itself in just two visits to a restaurant or one family day out.



FINE DINING RESTAURANTS

The Bathers Pavillion
Lavender Blue
Food & Plonk

Berowra Waters Inn
Harbour Kitchen & Bar
Coonabarra Cafe

Tables
Bilsons
Coast

CAFÉ, BISTRO AND FAMILY DINING:

New Orleans Cafe
Newport Arms Bistro
Hogs Breath Cafe

Brewhaha
Tablespoon
Wagamama

Captain Cook Cruises
Pancakes on the Rocks
The Coogee Bay Hotel

INFORMAL DINING AND FAMILY DINING

Sydney Wildlife World
Sydney Tower Skywalk
Sydney Swans

ARTS, LEISURE & SPORTS:

Greater Union Cinema
Hoyts Cinemas
Museum of Sydney

Roar and Snore
Powerhouse Museum
AND MANY MORE...

...valid from NOW until June 1st 2009, with over \$15,000 worth of value in each book for just \$65.00 incl. GST...
With every Book sold raising \$13 towards Normanhurst Boys High School.

Thank you for your support!

For further details please do not hesitate to contact: Mai Brett on 9213 7088
Books sell out quickly, so be sure to get your copy ordered before they go!

Normanhurst Boys High School

entertainment Book Order Form

To secure your copy of the 2008/2009 Entertainment™ book, please complete the order form & enclose with payment in an envelope and return to the school office **by 23 May 2008.**

Child's Name: (please print) _____ Class _____

Editions required:

_____ x Sydney and/or _____ x Sydney North @ \$65 (incl. GST) per Book = \$ _____
 _____ x Parramatta/Hills & Surrounds @ \$55 (incl. GST) per Book = \$ _____
 _____ x Newcastle, Central Coast and The Hunter @ \$60 (incl. GST) per Book = \$ _____

Total amount enclosed: \$ _____

Method of Payment - I have enclosed: Cash Cheque * payable to Normanhurst Boys High School P & C

OR Please charge my: Visa MasterCard

Card Number _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Exp Date ____ / ____

Card Holder's Name: _____ Signature: _____

Address: _____ Daytime Tel: _____

Note: If you don't want to purchase the entertainment book you might care to make a donation of \$13, which is the amount the P&C will make from the sale. If you wish to make a donation please include the amount in an envelope marked Entertainment Book Donation and ask your son to deliver it to the office.

For High School
Students in Years
7-9

HOMework ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

This is a **free** program that offers assistance with English or Maths or help developing study skills

At the Homework Assistance Program you get:

- A qualified tutor to help you learn
- Access to library and internet resources
- Afternoon tea provided

WHERE

Hornsby Library

WHEN

Tuesday afternoons during school term



HORNSBY
SHIRE COUNCIL

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO MAKE A BOOKING
Hornsby Shire Council Youth Services Team
Tel: 9847 6585



COMMUNITY NOTICES

1. A prayer meeting for Normanhurst Boys' High School and Hornsby Girls' High School will be held On Tuesday 6 May 2008 from 7.45 - 9.15pm. Please contact Deborah Young on 9481 0081 for details of venue.
2. **Normanhurst West Public School Family Fun Day**

What: Normanhurst West Public School will hold its annual major fundraiser

"Family Fun Day" on Sunday 1st June 2008

Where: Normanhurst West Public School, Dartford Rd, Thornleigh

When: Sunday 1st June 2008, 11.00am – 4.30pm

Entry: Gold Coin Donation

Attractions: A range of rides for all age groups (all day pass or individual tickets available), pony rides, climbing wall, kindi-farm, remote control cars, stalls for the children...face painting, hoopla, tombola, teddy bear competition and showbags... a diverse range of food stalls, quilt exhibition, silent auction, trash and treasure, chocolate wheel, live music,and lots more.

Everyone is welcome!!!!

For further information contact Michael Vandervelde: 0421 708 483 (Family Fun Day Convener)

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

