



THE Normanhurst News

The weekly newsletter of Normanhurst Boys High School

Celebrating 50 years of quality education for boys

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 25 September, 2009

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From the Principal

This has certainly been an interesting week, courtesy of the dust storm that descended upon us on Wednesday. The swirling clouds of dust cast an eerie glow and, like the rest of Sydney, the school was blanketed by a layer of red dust. In accordance with guidelines issued by the Health Department, we instructed all the boys to remain indoors and all sport was cancelled in the afternoon. As always, I was impressed by the cooperation of all members of our school ensuring that we coped in the best possible way with a difficult situation.

Term 3 is almost at a close and for some, a leisurely two weeks of vacation lies tantalisingly close. There is still work to be done, however, before the term ends and I seek the support of all parents in ensuring that your sons attend school until the last day of school, Friday October 2.



Looking Towards 2010

Our executive conference last weekend provided us with a wonderful opportunity to review the current year and to explore a number of ways we can make our school an even better place. Amongst a range of issues that were discussed was the adopting of a new assessment model for students in Years 11 and 12 which will see all assessment tasks being conducted in blocks, occurring over 4 terms. We will implement this new schedule commencing with the current Year 11 who will begin their HSC courses in Term 4 of this year. Information will be given to Year 11 early next term.

Celebration Day for Year 12

Next week is certainly a big week for our Year 12 students who will see the end of 13 years of formal schooling. Their last day of school will be on Tuesday, a day that we are acknowledging as Celebration Day, when as a school we can farewell them. The boys have been given clear, unambiguous guidelines as to what is considered appropriate behaviour and I would ask all parents of Year 12 to reinforce that message with them. The day will begin with a barbeque breakfast, which will be followed by concerts and then football and rugby games between Year 11 and Year 12. The finale of the day will be the graduation dinner at the Hornsby RSL commencing at 6.15pm and I am very much looking forward to celebrating with the boys and their families at that event.

Information Morning for Year 5 students and their parents

I look forward to welcoming prospective Year 7, 2011 students and their parents to our school next Thursday when we hold the first of our Information Mornings (the second one will be held in Week 1 of Term 4, on Monday October 19). After giving an introduction to the school, I will invite the boys and their parents to have a tour of the school, led by some of our Year 11 students. With all the work that has been carried out over the past months, the school is certainly looking in a very presentable condition!

Talking our way to success

Both Chris Walsh and Pedram Mohseni from Year 10 were finalists in the SpeakersBank Out! Competition. Both students did well. There was stiff competition from a range of schools and Chris managed to receive third place in this national competition final.

Utkarsh Sood (Year 9) performed extremely well in his round of the UNYA Junior Public Speaking Competition. Whilst he did not secure a place, his speech was well received and scored very highly on the night. Our Year 8 Debating team, consisting of Murray Noble, Chris Tompkins, Amar Subramaniam and Varun Mathew won their inter-zone final of the Premiers Debating Challenge against Turrumurra High School. The boys will now go on to compete in the Regional finals next term.

Congratulations to....

Our Chemistry students who achieved some superb results in the National Titration Competition. Congratulations also, to Mrs Barbeler and Dr Hooper for the wonderful support they have provided to our team.



Stephen Browne, Daniel Yeo and Alex Chan with team coordinators Dr Hooper and Mrs Barbeler

Luke Harrison who won a silver medal in the Australian Information Olympiad

Mark Broadbridge (Automotive) and Jeremy Leung (Accounting) who have been awarded Outstanding Achievement Awards from TAFE NSW

Enoch Chiu (Year 7) who has been awarded Platinum and Gold Awards at the International Painting and Calligraphy Art Exhibition.

Kind regards

Jeff Bruce

Principal

P & C NEWS

Tue 20 Oct - (Extraordinary) General Meeting

Supper at 7:00 pm to mark the service of our long-serving and dedicated Canteen Committee Treasurer Glenys Porter

Meeting at 8:00 pm

- Principal's Report
- Head Teacher presentation (TBC)
- P&C Business Session, including
 - **Progress** against a 3-year plan
 - **Acceptance of financial review for 2008** (as distributed in July, it will also be emailed to all email addresses for P&C members next week)
 - A proposal to **build a shade area for the main quad** – collaboration with the school building fund
 - A need for **consensus on funding requests from school** and how the P&C links with the school budget
 - Update on **changes to uniforms** and the management of the clothing shop

Uniform Snippets

Thank you to those parents (and students) who have taken time to provide feedback on uniform items mentioned recently (Blazers, black pullover, optional sun hat and tracksuit/PE attire). The amount of input however is a bit low to support any informed changes so **more input is encouraged**. The review should consider a wide cross-section of views rather than ones from a small yet active group!

School will soon convene a uniform review committee to consider these matters, in the meantime kindly send suggestions and feedback to me.

Canteen Committee Treasurer

We take great pleasure in announcing the appointment of **Annette Phillips** as the new Treasurer for the Canteen Committee. We are most thankful to the school and our Admin Manager, Lorraine Sneddon who assisted the Committee with the selection panel.

Sister School

I recently met with the President of Hornsby Girls' P&C, Greg Spencer. As a result their subsequent P&C meeting **welcomed the possibility of improving ties with us** in the future. This will be discussed with our respective school executives in the near future. The intention is there, however the P&C must support the school in this aspect of our sons' development.

It is unfortunate that the different sports days make the idea of combining for some of our Wednesday non-competitive 'social-level' sports a difficult thing to coordinate. We certainly do not seek to disrupt the timetable!

There may be other ideas worth developing. It seems that while keeping the genders separate allows higher focus on coursework I think we all accept the need to provide a bit of balance. Opportunities to develop social confidence in an appropriate setting are worthy of our support. What can we as parents suggest and support that grants a bit of freedom and also encourages responsible behaviour?

The HGHS P&C view is that the interaction for events such as Yr 10 Business Week and Staff/SRC-led social activities are all welcomed. We also need to **encourage the boys to support these efforts** and events already in place by actively participating!

Family perspectives and suggestions on any ideas that might improve interaction between the two P&Cs, Schools, and student bodies are most welcome and we will pass these on to school for consideration.

**Best wishes,
Pevlin Price
P&C President**

pevlin@hotmail.com

CHEMISTRY NEWS

This week has been a very successful week for our chemistry students. On Saturday 19/09/09 Stephen Browne, Alex Chan and Daniel Yeo competed in the RACI National Titration competition and all were awarded individual gold medals meaning that their results were within 1% accuracy with very dilute solutions. Daniel Yeo achieved a personal score of 1 (giving him an accuracy to within 0.05%) and is now in the running for the best result in NSW - the de Mikluoho-Maclay Prize. These young men have exceptional practical skills and solid understanding of analytical chemistry that will ensure they succeed in future scientific endeavours.

The results for the RACI National Chemistry Quiz also came through. Normanhurst Boys achieved 4 awards of excellence, 44 High Distinctions out of 116 participants. The four boys who are to receive the plaques of excellence are Daniel Phillips-Year 7, Gabriel Low-Year 9, Daniel Yeo-Year 12 and for the third consecutive year Malcolm Ramsay-Year 12. These results are outstanding and show that our boys have a great understanding of chemical processes and concepts. We look forward to improving on our results again next year.

**K Barbeler
Science/Chemistry Teacher**

YEAR 8 "WRITE! CAMERA! ACTION!" CAMP

After a year's hiatus, Normanhurst Boys High School in conjunction with Hornsby Girls High School are running the creative writers' camp. Now called *Write! Camera! Action!*, the camp runs over three days and students are given the chance to work with a variety of professional authors and screen writers in workshops. In addition to this, students will work as individuals and in groups to compose their own creative texts and shoot their own original short films.

The facilitators running workshops at this year's camp are Stephen Measday, Deb Westbury, Richard Harland and James Roy. These authors come from a range of backgrounds and write in a variety of styles and will be running workshops to help students enhance and develop their skills.

Students in the past have really enjoyed the camp and found that their love of writing creatively had been enhanced and their reading boundaries broadened.

- "I wish I could go again!"
- "I found the variety of workshops really fun, and making the film was awesome!"
- "It's the best English excursion!"

There are only a limited number of spaces available so get your applications in as soon as possible! If students need a spare form, feel free to come to the staffroom and grab one.

Mr Treleaven and Ms Ormiston

CAREERS NEWS

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship valued at \$5000 to help make a film to enter in movie extra Tropfest 2010 for emerging and developing filmmakers living in **Western Sydney**. <http://ice.org.au/newswire/tropwest2009>

Scholarship Competition worth \$19000 for the Australasian College of Natural Therapies. For more information call 1300 017 267, email enquiries@acnt.edu.au or visit www.acnt.edu.au

Sydney Hair Design College are currently awarding scholarships totalling over \$100,00. Currently there are 12 scholarships available for 2009. To apply for an SHDC Scholarship, complete an application form available from Sydney Hair Design College, 55 Regent St Chippendale. www.shdc.nsw.edu.au or phone: 9698 9977

GENERAL NEWS

Academy of Interactive Entertainment Information Evening & Open Day Sydney Campus.

Information Evening: Thursday 1st October from 6pm - 8pm

Open Day: Saturday 14th November from 10am - 4pm www.aie.edu.au

University of Sydney Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood Education). New course for 2010.

www.edsw.usyd.edu.au/future_students/undergraduate/bed_early_childhood/index.shtml

Macquarie University Elite Athletes and Artistic Performers Entry Schemes close on Friday 27 November 2009

www.reg.mq.edu.au/undergrad/admissions/prospectivestudents/alternatepathways/athletes.htm

Macquarie University uniTEST. For students who satisfy the eligibility of disadvantage as assessed under the Educational Access Scheme (EAS). Registrations close 13 NOVEMBER. The test is on Monday 7 December.

www.reg.mq.edu.au/undergrad/admissions/prospectivestudents/alternatepathways/uniTest.html

Applications for **Reserve Bank 2010 Business Administration and Information Technology Traineeships** open in November. Enquiries 9551 9649 or toll free 1800 805 135. <http://rba.recruitasp.com.au/traineeships.jsp>

National Computer Science School (NCSS) is a week long summer school for students going into Years 11 and 12.

2 - 11 January, 2010. Applications close on the 13th of November. http://www.ncss.edu.au/summer_school

Macquarie University Hospital opens in the first half of 2010. <http://www.mu.h.org.au/>

University of Sydney Cumberland Campus is celebrating 30 years, October 31 2009, 11-4pm.

www.fhs.usyd.edu.au/anniversary

Mrs E Kesby, Careers Adviser

Normanhurst Boys' High School						Term 3, 2009					
<i>Wk</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Wk</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
10	28 Sept ← Yr10/11 Exams → Streamwatch testing (P1/2)	29 Yr12 Graduation Streamwatch testing (P5/6) Yr12 Graduation Dinner Yr11 PDHPE	30 Yr9/10 Phoenix production team mtg	1 Oct Yr7 2011 Info Morning High Resolves Leaders' lunch	2 END TERM 3						
				Yr11 Music 1 Composn							
Normanhurst Boys' High School						Term 4, 2009					
<i>Wk</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Wk</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>
1	19 Oct Start Term 4 Yr7 2011 Info Morning	20 HSC begins	21 Yr9/10 Phoenix production team mtg	22	23						
	←----- NO YEAR 7/8/9 ASSESSMENTS ----->										
2	26 Oct Streamwatch testing (P1/2)	27 Streamwatch testing (P5/6)	28 Yr9/10 Phoenix production team mtg Yr7/8/9 yearly exams	29	30 Yr11 Teachers' Meeting						
				Yr10 Photo Dig Media	Yr10 Photo Dig Media						



NORMANHURST BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL

PENNANT HILLS ROAD

NORMANHURST 2076

FAX: (02) 9489 5722

e-mail: normanhurb-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

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

ABN: 48 553 154 775

TELEPHONES

(02) 9489 1077

(02) 9489 1078

PRINCIPAL: Mr J R Bruce B.A., Dip Teach.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr F. Johnson B.Sc., M.Ed., M.I.I.A. M.A.C.E.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Mr J. Fielding Dip Teach., Dip I.A. (Ed). M.I.I.A.

Dear Parent/Caregiver,

RE: Hearing Tests for Year 11 Students

I am writing to let you know of a valuable opportunity for Year 11 students at Normanhurst Boys High School.

We know that many parents are worried that everyday activities may expose young people to sounds that are loud enough to damage our hearing over time. NAL is planning a study which will find out about the hearing of young people and the effects that exposure to loud sound during everyday activities might have on their hearing.

The National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL) in Sydney currently has special Commonwealth Government funding to conduct to conduct extensive research into the hearing health of adolescents, and to investigate their exposure to leisure sound, (e.g. through the use of personal stereos/MP3 players, power tools, machinery, etc). Fortunately, Normanhurst Boys High School has been invited by NAL to take part.

As well as providing important information to the community as a whole, individual participants will benefit significantly from taking part. Each participant will have a complete audiological assessment which includes a hearing test and additional state-of-the-art measures of middle and inner ear function. The testing is being carried out at school by professional Audiologists at no charge to participants.

The Audiologist will provide a full report to parents which will identify any issues related to your son's hearing health. Results will also provide excellent baseline information for students who are about to enter the workforce and may need to consider hearing loss prevention strategies. Participants will also receive information about hearing and hearing loss prevention.

We would like to encourage every family to take up this excellent opportunity. To take part simply cut off the reply slip below and return it to me by Friday 23rd October.

If you have any questions about participation you may contact me on (02) 9489 1077, or contact NAL directly. Call Lyndal Carter (Senior Research Audiologist) on (02) 9412 6962, or email her on Lyndal.Carter@nal.gov.au .

Yours sincerely,

Frank Johnson
Deputy Principal



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I would like my son _____ (full name) to take part in the iHEAR hearing research study. I would like to receive more information and a consent form from National Acoustic Laboratories (NAL). *These will be given to your son at school, early in Term 4.*

Parent's name _____ Signature _____