Principal’s Report:

Our year 12 students have finished the HSC examination period, and are beginning to enter the world of work, holidays or planning for the future. We will celebrate the official end of their time at Northlakes at their formal night on November 14th, and then wait expectantly for their final results in December. Many have worked very consistently and we hope their results are what they deserve. Our examination supervisor, Ms Peterson, has commented on how well behaved and studious the group has been.

Our new Year 12 is half way through the term, and beginning to work on the first round of assessment tasks. I hope all of them are using the library, the tutoring capabilities of Mr Freebody and their study periods, effectively. Organisation, routine and commitment are integral to success, whatever you are trying to achieve!

Farewell Staff

Mr Brad Glachan is leaving to take up Deputy Principal at Wadalba High School. Brad has been a fabulous member of staff and we wish him all the best in his new role.

We also farewell Mr Ben Bryant who will be going to Maitland Grossman High School as relieving Head Teacher Science. Ben has been a great teacher and leader in this school and both of these Teachers will be missed.

We also wish Mrs Lawson (HSIE) and Mrs Barnett (ADMIN) and families all the best with the awaiting arrival of their babies.

School Fees

All students are regularly invoiced. Senior students must have paid all fees before they can participate in non-compulsory excursions and events. This includes the Year 12 formal. Students in Year 12 2016 are well aware of this. Those who meet financial requirements as they occur, by making regular smaller payments, do not find themselves with a large amount to pay at the end.

Attendance

I have attached some facts (page 7) about the impact of poor attendance on a student’s participation and engagement. The numbers are horrifying! I expect everyone to be at school
all day, every day, unless there are exceptional circumstances.

**Validation**
Northlakes High School is a trial school for a new Department of Education process called Validation. We will be supplying all sorts of information to a team of Principals, to prove our progress on our management Plan, and our effective use of school resources.

I am very pleased with the positive outcomes of many of our big initiatives, which include the House system, Positive Behaviour for Learning, the ARC, ETC and CAP classes, library as Learning Centre, extensive Aboriginal programs, support for students with disabilities and welfare needs…. and so much more.

**Extra-Curricula**
Just this week we ran a year 8 Welfare Day, Aboriginal Student Numeracy Day, and an AVID student visit to another high school.

Ms Hewett continues to source courses to be run at Northlakes High School in conjunction with mainstream curriculum. We are hoping to introduce a Child Services and Land Management program in 2016.

Year 10 are all in the process of organising themselves for Work Experience later this term. This is a very valuable activity. It is good to see that many have already got everything in place.

**UNITY 3D.COM**
Mr O'Mahoney has managed to secure a donation of $792,000 which will enable Northlakes High School to install the professional version of UNITY 3D game development software on all of our computers at school.

This will allow teachers to teach programming through all stages of high school in a gaming format, which students can relate to. This will be incorporated into technology subjects in 2016.

Yours in Public Education
Ms M Rowley
Principal

**Year 7 Report**
We are half way through the final term of Year 7. Like every other term at Northlakes, Term 4 is cram-packed with things to do and to be done.

I would like to start by commending all those that dressed in pink for our special breast cancer fund raising day. Seeing so many Year 7s involved made me very proud and as a school we raised a significant amount in donations for this worthwhile cause.

Mr O'Mahoney, myself and the other staff supervising on the day, were very impressed with the behaviour of Year 7 students in the hall
when we had a special visitor to explain a new gaming program available to our school. All students sat and listened respectfully and asked excellent questions. Well done everyone.

It is very important to continue working at your Personal Best. Teachers are beginning to write the final yearly report in each subject. You will want to be confident that the comments in your report reflect the person you really are. Responsibility continues until the end of term as well. A reminder that your responsibility is to have the correct equipment for each subject, including an exercise book and pen – every lesson! Also, show respect for yourself and your school by wearing the correct uniform every day. This includes black leather shoes and skirts or shorts of the appropriate length.

Another very important issue to remind Year 7 about is - think about what you say. Whether it be in person, by text or over the internet. You are responsible for everything you say or type. Let’s finish this year on a positive note. Keep earning those Gotchas, work hard for the Classroom Commendations and be sure to bring them to me for a Year Advisor’s Award when you have earned 5. I am always happy to present these awards on assembly to my Year group.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 4390 0555 or Fiona.Davis4@det.nsw.edu.au

Fiona Davis
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report
Welcome back to Term 4. Hope everyone had a safe and restful break. This term is going to be another busy one with all subjects finalising assessment marks and conducting examinations in the first half of this term in preparation for writing Yearly Reports. A reminder to our students to start organising time to revise and complete tasks would be greatly appreciated.

We would like to congratulate Jarred Keegan who is through the first round of judging in the 2015 Schools Poetry and Short Story Competition. His story, “The Boy Who Could Not Stop”, is still in the running for $1000 First Prize. He has also been asked for permission to publish his work. Good Luck Jarred!

This term Year 8 participated in a Welfare Day about Cyberbullying, which is the use of technology to bully an individual or a group with the intent to cause harm. The intended harm may be social, psychological and, in extreme cases, physical. Cyberbullying can cause fear, withdrawal, shame, guilt, loneliness or depression so we feel it is very important to make all of our students aware of their responsibilities in Cyberspace. Year 8 attended sessions with our Police Liaison Officers and Welfare Team then finished the afternoon with a barbeque lunch and teambuilding activities. If you would like any information or advice regarding Cyberbullying please try https://esafety.gov.au/esafety-information/esafety-issues/cyberbullying.

I was lucky enough to attend a Science excursion with some wonderful Year 8 Students at the end of last term. We went to the Sydney Aquarium and the Powerhouse Museum. I was so impressed with their behaviour and willingness to get involved in all of the offered activities.
Thank you to Ms Fulwood for organising the excursion and for inviting me along.

I will be assisting Ms. Bissaker with Year Advisor duties again this Term, so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 43900555. Also if your child is involved in any competitions or sporting teams outside school we would love to hear about it. You might like to send me an email at kate.pidgeon@det.nsw.edu.au.

Kate Pidgeon
Year 8 Advisor (Relieving)

Year 9 Report
Welcome back to Term 4. This year has gone so fast and I can see how much my year group have grown and how they have grown. I would like to remind students that it is their responsibility to bring their own equipment for every subject.

Last term the HSIE faculty took a group of Year 9 students to the Maitland Goal. The students had a great time and it was very educational to see how the prisoners existed. I would like to congratulate the students on their excellent behaviour. Our Year 9 students entered in the Singleton Beef Competition where our students came 3rd in the heavy weight division. They also won the Farmers Challenge. Well done!

I would like to acknowledge Tallis Angianga who represented the Tonga Under-17 rugby league team. We all wish him well.

We have some real talent in Year 9. Last term we saw the launching at our concert of our Year 9 Band, which consists of Billy Davies, Corey Robinson, Josh Trew, Brody Peachey, David Courtney and Harry Wills. I was very proud to watch their performance.

We also have a very talented student Piper Nowland, who has made the State Netball team, and the state athletics.

A group of Year 9 students, Lillian Johnson, Piper Nowland, Chloe Tarleton, Jackson Smith and Gerry Wright, entered the Premier Sport day, and also did the Raw Challenge. I am proud of the students successes in such a diverse field of activities, all out their doing their personal best.

Sue Fulwood
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report
Term 4 is a very busy term for Year 10! Students will all have their major exams coming up and it is important that they are developing and following study programs from home in preparation for these exams. Their Mock Interviews will be taking place in week 8. Careers’ advisor Ms Hewett will be providing students with further information about these interviews as they draw closer. It is also important that students approach Ms Hewett if they wish to go out on work placement during the final weeks of this term; she can provide them with the appropriate paperwork.

Just a reminder, that all students should be wearing the appropriate uniform for the remaining 6 weeks. This includes black enclosed shoes and the correct colour shirt, pants/shorts and skirt. I remind all students that attendance needs to continue at a satisfactory level for the remainder of the year and any absences must be explained to the office within 7 days. Mrs Lawson is currently on maternity leave and will be returning in Term 2 of next year. I will be the relieving year advisor during this time. We wish Mrs Lawson all the best with her new role as mother!

Stacey Ewer
Year 10 Advisor - Relieving

Year 11 Report
Term 4 brings the start of the Year 12 Courses and the commencement of formal assessment tasks for all subjects. Students are reminded that if they are absent on the day of an assessment task, THEY MUST HAVE A DOCTOR'S CERTIFICATE to verify the
absence or they will receive ZERO for the task. This is as per the BOSTES rules and guidelines, and Northlakes High School Policy which is outlined in the Assessment handbook. Students are expected to be attending a minimum of 85% of each class up until the very end of the year, with some subjects having assessment tasks in the last week of term. Students need to be preparing for tasks, where possible, as of now.

A reminder that students are expected to be in full school uniform at all times! Our Year 12 students are the role models of the school and significantly contribute to the tone of the school. As such, as Year Advisor, I expect my year group to be exemplary examples for the rest of the school, both with uniform and behaviour. Please note that truanting classes in Year 12 is a highly unacceptable behaviour that will not be tolerated here at Northlakes High School.

Our year group has their first fundraiser event, CRAZY HAIR DAY, on Friday 20th November. It is to raise funds for the Year 12 gift to the school and is an event to inspire students to be creative and step outside of their hairdo comfort zone! A little bit of crazy fun where hair can be wildly styled and colours of the rainbow!!! :-) FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM MUST BE WORN ON THIS DAY. Students across the school are being asked for a gold coin donation at the morning assembly where prizes will be awarded for the craziest hairdos in each house group! There will be a BAKE SALE at lunchtime and we are looking for donations of cakes, cookies and slices to be brought into school on Friday morning. Please let me know if able are able to contribute to this.

We are also starting to plan the formal for next year, so stay tuned for more details on that. :-))

Jo Knight
Year 11 Advisor

Year 12 Report

With the HSC concluding at the end of this week the school careers of our students is rapidly drawing to a close. The year 12 formal to be held on the 14th November will be the last official event for the HSC class of 2015. I would like to reiterate what a great year group the students have been and how much I will truly miss them. The HSC results, which will be released on Wednesday 16th December, will for dictate, for many of our students their immediate futures. Even though students may have signed out from the school they are still able to access Ms Hewett and the school staff in regards to their futures. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students the best of luck for their respective futures.

Ed Seaby
Year 12 Advisor

National Bandana Day

Every bandanna sold helps CanTeen support young people affected by cancer. Bandannas are a symbol of hope and empowerment and are worn proudly by young people. A big thank you to all students & staff that purchased a bandanna last week on Bandanna day. We raised $528.00. I am also very proud of the students who helped sell: Kirrily Sargeson, Briannon Heather-Hawes, Gabi Young, Samantha Taylor-Monzer and Gemma Dickinson. Well done Northlakes!

P & C Meeting

Our final P & C meeting for 2015 will be held in the Language Centre @ 3.30pm next Tuesday.
10th November. All welcome and afternoon tea will be provided.

LEAP
LEAP to Employment will be hosting Hunter TAFE with an Introduction to Computers Course
Where: LEAP to Employment Blue Haven Community Centre, Apsley Court Blue Haven
When: Wednesday 18th November to Wednesday 16th November.
Time: 9:30am to 2:30pm
Cost: Concessions may apply to eligible participants Please contact Kerry at Hunter TAFE on 43 502 370 or Michelle or Lauren on 43 900 897 at LEAP to Employment for further information.

Dates to Remember:

10/11/15 Treetop Adventures SLR Students
10/11/15 Yr 12 English Studies
10/11/15 P&C Meeting 3:30pm
12/11/15 Premiers Sporting Challenge
13/11/15 Japanese Film Fest
14/11/15 Year 12 Formal
16-20/11/15 Mini Transitions Yr 6-7
18/11/15 Year 8 Medieval Day
20/11/15 Crazy Hair Day
23/11/15 AECG Meeting 5:30pm Gorokan
23-24/11/15 Vaccination
24/11/15 Orientation Day Yr 6-7
26/11/15 Year 10 Mock Interviews
27-18/11/15 School Spectacular
30/11/15- Year 10 Work Experience
4/12/15 -
10/12/15 Year 7-11 Presentation Assemblies
17-18/12/15 Staff Development Days
18/12/15 Uniform Shop will be open 10-12
Regular Attendance = Better Outcomes

Often students and parents do not see that regular and punctual attendance at school is important. Attendance patterns affect students learning. Students miss out on valuable content which includes valuable information, discussion and skills development that are the pathway to success and the development of high self-esteem.

The following chart highlights the impact of non-attendance and partial attendance over time. Viewed in this context, the implications of regular absenteeism is startling.

The chart shows the cumulative effect of persistent non-attendance over the period of compulsory schooling from kindergarten to the end of year 10.

<table>
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<th>DAYS ABSENT</th>
<th>TOTAL DAYS</th>
<th>NUMER OF TERMS</th>
<th>NUMBER OF YEARS MISSED</th>
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<tr>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>451</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 years 1 term</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.5 days per week</td>
<td>676.5</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>3 years 1.5 terms</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>4 years 2 terms</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>5 years 2 terms</td>
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<td>Average 5 days per term</td>
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<td>1 year 1.5 terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average 10 days per term</td>
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<td>75 days</td>
<td>1.5 terms</td>
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<td>0.5 hour late per day</td>
<td>188 days</td>
<td>3.75 terms</td>
<td>Almost a year</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 hour late per day</td>
<td>376 days</td>
<td>7.5 terms</td>
<td>1 year 3 terms</td>
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