Principal’s Report:
As an Educator, I am constantly looking to improve our practice. At Northlakes High School, we have implemented a number of programs to meet the needs of students. We have been asked to talk to other schools about these, and are proud of our successes.

Education is NOT a one-size-fits-all field. Diversity is absolutely the bottom line. Our students come from a wide range of experiences, skills and beliefs... but we accommodate them all, and aim to help them continue to progress.

We have implemented a number of significantly successful strategies and systems, all aiming to help students achieve better results, and thus give themselves more choice in the future. This year, every student had university students present study skills in ELEVATE.

Our AVID and senior students have worked with the AIM HIGH Team from Newcastle University. Many students, at all levels, have benefited from Mentors’ tutoring. All of our Aboriginal students have the option of extra tutoring through Norta Norta funding.

Through the “Tell Them From Me” survey, we know there have been significant improvements. 97% of our staff have seen an improvement in Northlakes High School, and highly assess our learning culture, teaching strategies, and our focus as an ‘inclusive school’.

Our students have also reflected a perception of improvement in most areas. Attention in class was a standout, with a 23% improvement. They have reported improvements in teachers explicitly teaching writing skills in the core subjects, their own positive work behaviours, their sense of belonging, and their belief that education is valuable. All of these are reflected by staff in their responses to this survey.

Tell Them From Me Parent Survey
We would appreciate it if you could please cut and paste this link into your URL browser and complete this survey. If you do not have internet access, or are having troubles we will be opening the Library next Tuesday 15/9/15 from 5:00pm till 6:00pm.

https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/j_acegi_security_check?j_username=parent17181&j_password=Nor8547
Year 12
Last days of high school are special. Our Year 12 is planning celebrations of their years at school. I have been very impressed with the leadership, maturity and responsibility of most of these students. All who achieve their HSC are to be commended. It is a long and demanding process! I hope all enjoy the time after examinations – but study hard before!

Year 11
Year 11 have the opportunity to move to studying 10 units in Year 12. Mr Welham has explained this process clearly, and all students have paperwork.

It is very important that all Year 11 students focus on attending every day, and completing all tasks. Unfortunately, a number of Year 11 students have had ‘N’ awards recorded because they have not completed required tasks. This makes their transition either very difficult, or in some cases, impossible.

Donation from Teachers Mutual Bank
Thank you very much to Teachers Mutual Bank for donating a cheque for $1450.00 to help regenerate our Aboriginal garden.

Yours in Public Education
Ms M Rowley
Principal

Year 7 Report
We are nearly at the end of Term 3 and I’m sure many people are exhausted after the many activities that have occurred over the past 9 weeks. I would like Year 7 to remember that our Year 12s will be finishing their studies next week and it would be appropriate to show them the respect they deserve on their final days.

For Year 7s there is still a week of school, plus Term 4 to get through. This means you must have your equipment for lessons every day. If your exercise books are running out you will need to buy a new one. There is still a lot of learning to be done in the upcoming months. Students must learn to be responsible for packing the correct books and equipment each day so they can participate properly in every lesson. Remember appropriate footwear for Tech classes and sport uniform for P.E. practical lessons.

I know that there have been many Year 7 students achieving their Personal Best in a variety of subjects this term. Once you have 5 Classroom Commendations I can present you with a Year Advisor’s award. This will help you earn even more points for your House. It is the student’s responsibility to bring the Classroom Commendations to me in the Language Centre before I can have your Year Advisor award printed up. I would also encourage everyone to hand in any Gotchas you have received over the term. These are all recorded on the school’s computer system and helps to paint a positive picture of your contributions to our school.

Please be safe in the holidays and come back refreshed for Term 4. We will be looking closely at classroom achievement and behaviour in
Term 4 so that classes can be compiled for next year. This is your opportunity to do your very best.

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 Report

**Year 8 Report**

It has been a great pleasure to help Ms. Bissaker to look after Year 8 this Term. During my classroom visits I have seen amazing artworks in Ms. Leffley’s class, beautiful pencil boxes being made in the ARC class and an amazing collection of creepy crawlies collected by Mr Weigner’s Science class. Today I walked into Ms. Legge’s English class to see most of the students awarded with classroom commendations.

As we reach the end of Term 3 regular attendance at school is still essential. Remember that if your child is absent from school, you are required to explain the absence of your child within 7 days of the first period of absence. Please let me know if you have any attendance concerns.

Also a reminder that all students are expected to wear the correct school uniform. This includes black shoes, black pants or shorts and a plain black jumper. It has been disappointing to see a number of Year 8 students regularly out of uniform this Term. If your child is unable to wear the correct uniform on a particular day, please send your child to school with a note explaining the issue.

Thank you to all of the students who promptly returned their Year 9 Subject Selection Forms. The applications are currently being processed and the classes arranged.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me on 43900555.

Kate Pidgeon
Year 8 Advisor (Relieving)

**Year 9 Report**

Due to unforeseen circumstances there is no Year 9 Report available at this time. Sorry for any inconvenience. Please contact Sue Fulwood on 4390 0555 if you have any questions regarding your child.

**Year 10 Report**

Term 3 is coming to an end quickly. Students have been completing final assessment tasks for the term and finishing up on their topics for the first part of Semester 2. Caregivers and students are reminded that it is imperative that students complete any outstanding N award warning notifications that they have received as soon as possible. It is very important to ensure that all required tasks and classwork is finished before the start of senior studies. Students can see their classroom teacher or myself for any outstanding work.

Term 4 is going to be busy! Students will be back into their summer uniform – wearing junior skirts/shirts for the final time. Students are reminded that full school uniform is required for the duration of Term 4. This includes black enclosed shoes and the correct coloured shirt/pants. Please see me if there is a problem.

Attendance as a group cohort is of a concern at the moment. I remind all students and caregivers that it is compulsory to have a satisfactory level of attendance for Year 10. Any absences must be explained to the office within 7 days. Please ensure that all absences are excused. Teachers are checking attendance regularly.

At this stage, Year 11 subjects have been chosen. Please see Ms Hewett to finalise Year 11 2016 subject choices ASAP.
Enjoy your spring break! See you next term!

Erin Lawson
Year 10 Year Advisor

Year 11 Report

It's been an extremely busy and stressful term for Year 11 as they have just completed their Preliminary examinations. The increased effort for study and revision should be maintained as we roll over into Year 12 coursework early next term. Consistent revision of Preliminary Concepts that will be used in the HSC course is essential for maximising results. If your child is unsure of what revision to continue with, have them see their class teacher for ideas.

We are in the midst of voting for our 2016 School Leaders and the nominated students have undergone an intensive process involving submitting an application, being interviewed by myself and Mrs Rowley then giving a 5 minute speech at an assembly. The voting process is currently under way and the results will be announced by the end of next week. Congratulations to all students who have made it through to the speeches, which were very well done by all. Thank you to all students who applied for a leadership role.

Please be aware that all students must attend greater than 85% of each class and that any outstanding N-Awards need to be cleared. Some students need to apply greater effort with attendance and coursework in order to avoid these consequences. Students are to make contact with their class teacher for any guidance in these areas.

Jo Knight
Year 11 Advisor

Year 12 Report

As the academic year for our graduating class comes to a close, there are still two important events which will finalise the year. The first of these is the Graduation Assembly. This assembly will occur on Thursday the 17th September 2015. All parents, carers and siblings of Year 12 students are invited to this assembly which will take place in the school hall, commencing at 9.00am and concluding at 11.00 am. Refreshments will be provided at the end of the ceremony.

The last school activity will be the Year 12 Formal. This will be held at Kooindah Waters, Wyong on Saturday 14th November 2015. Students have made aware of the requirements necessary to attend the formal. For students to attend the formal they may purchase tickets from the school. Deposits and money can be paid at the finance window at the Administration block.

However, before formal tickets can be purchased, students must have paid the Year 11 and 12 school fees. Students have been made aware of this fact and many are making an effort to pay these fees.

Parents and carers are encouraged to consult with Mr Boake to find solutions to any financial issues relating to the formal. The final date for student payments will be Friday 16th October.

With the HSC exams commencing on Monday October 12th, all students, should, by now, be settled into a program of study and revision. There are past HSC papers, for all subjects, on the Board of Studies web site, which students can access. Along with these papers are the marking criteria used by the markers, and sample answers. If students are starting to feel the stress and anxiety which often accompanies the HSC exams there are a team of trained professionals at the school whom the students can access. If parents and carers are worried about their students during this period please feel free to contact either myself or Mr Boake on the school phone number 43900555.
and referrals can be made to the appropriate professionals for assistance.

Ed Seaby
Year 12 Advisor.

Sport Report
There are still quite a number of events taking place in the world of sport here at Northlakes High School, and I am pleased to be able to report some very positive news!

As reported in the previous newsletter, our Year 7 and 8 Netball Girls recently competed in the Sydney North Regional Gala Day and walked away as winners of the whole event. It has been a long time since I’ve been able to say we are regional champions at anything, so a very big well done to the girls, along with their coach Miss Levido.

Huge congratulations to Piper Nowland in Year 9. Piper competed in the discus event at the NSW CHS Athletics carnival and came 6th overall. This is a huge achievement for Piper, coming 6th in an individual event across all NSW Public Schools. Already a high achiever in sports such as Touch Football and Netball, Piper is very busy, as are her parents, and all are to be congratulated for their dedication and achievements.

Our annual ‘Leading with Action’ Premiers Sporting Challenge day was conducted on Thursday 3rd September at Blue Haven Primary School. A range of Year 9 and 10 students adopted the role of ‘Coach’ for the day, with their participants consisting of students from Years 5 and 6 from Blue Haven, Budgewoi, Northlakes and Toukley Primary School, as well as students from our Years 7 and 8. All of our coaches were performing this role for the first time and must be commended on an exceptional job. In November this year, our Year 8 participants, along with the Year 9 coaches, will be invited to a training day at Swansea HS to then continue as coaches for the 2016 event. It has been tremendous to see some faces go through the entire program from Year 5, to now be the leaders of the Premiers Sporting Challenge in Years 9 and 10.

Premiers Sporting Challenge – a very successful day, well done to all!

Our next newsletter will contain reports from a Year 7/8 OzTag Gala, Year 9/10 OzTag Gala, along with the Year 9/10 Netball Gala Day.

Mark Mansfield
Sport Co-ordinator

Dates to Remember:
14/9/15  State Dance Festival
14/9/15  Glow lunch
15/9/15  Year 9 Aim High
15/9/15  Tell Them from me Parent survey – library 5-6pm
16/9/15  Year 8 darling Harbour Aquarium
16/9/15  Singleton Agriculture Excursion
16/9/15  Support Unit disco at Tumbi Umbi
17/9/15  Year 12 Presentation Day 9-11am
17/9/15  CAPP Presentation
5/10/15  Labour Day Public Holiday
6/10/15  Staff & Students return
12/10/15  HSC Starts

Does Your Child Receive Regular, High Quality Dental Care?
Hunter New England Oral Health provides comprehensive dental care for children under 18 years of age, completely FREE of charge.

For more information, phone 1300 651 625

Our Clinic Locations:
- Armidale • Barrington • Cessnock • Forster • Glen Innes • Gunnedah • Inverell • Maitland • Moree
- Muswellbrook • Narrabri • Nelson Bay • Newcastle • Raymond Terrace • Scone • Singleton
- Tamworth • Taree • Toronto • Wallabadah

NSW Health Hunter New England Local Health District