Principal’s Report:
At Northlakes High School our core business of achieving the best possible outcomes for each individual student has never been more focussed than it is currently, and frankly, it needs to be.
A report on intergenerational mobility in Australia confirmed that it is becoming more difficult for subsequent generations to move beyond the level of individual income, occupation and social class they are born into. In short, current society does not provide a level playing field with equal access to all opportunities based on qualities such as effort and determination.
However, education is a mechanism which can improve the range of opportunities available to students and our current needs based funding system allows us as a school to invest heavily in the quality of the learning experiences provided daily for our students.
To this end, we have had a further 10 staff introduced to the AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) system of learning. We have committed to building this into classrooms across the school due to the positive response from students and successful results achieved in 2015.
Aspiration is crucial in this process, and so much is influenced by home. If you build a sense of possibility and confidence in the ability of your student, they will be well positioned to capitalise on the great range of opportunities available to them each day.
Who knows where that may lead?

School Photos
The majority of our students had their photos taken on Monday in the hall. Any students who were absent, or who would like a family photo taken, please head to the hall after roll call on Monday 15th.

Swimming Carnival
We had a very enjoyable swimming carnival last Friday and I would like to commend students on their behaviour on the day. There was a great show of support with staff and students dressing in house colours.

Matthew Boake
(Acting Principal)

Year 7 Report
Welcome Year 7 to High School. I hope your first couple of weeks have been exciting meeting new friends and new teachers. Well done to everyone wearing the school uniform. You look fantastic. Just a reminder that you all need enclosed leather shoes to participate in your practical lessons such as Technology.
The house system encourages positive behaviour and builds school morale. Students can win points for their house by participating in carnivals and displaying positive behaviour. It was great to see everyone wearing house colours for the swimming carnival last Friday. It was a fantastic day, with all staff and students dressing up and having a fun time.

Year 7 camp will be in week 5 of term 1 – 22nd to 24th of February. Thank you to those parents who have paid. Term 1 fees must be paid before students will be able to attend the camp.

I hope you have all enjoyed your start to high school welcome to Northlakes. If you have any questions or need assistance please contact me.

Marshall Wilkinson
Year 7 Advisor

Year 8 Report
Welcome back Year 8 students, parents and caregivers.
As always at Northlakes High School it is a busy start to the year. On Friday we had the swimming carnival at Wyong where a number of Year 8 students performed well in the pool. This week is school photos with catch up next week for anyone not able to attend.
I handed out diaries to all Year 8 students on Monday this week. Please ask your student to show it to you on a regular basis. Homework and any school events should be recorded in this diary. You can also use it to communicate with your student’s teachers. Can you please check that each student has written their name and Year 8 on the front cover so any lost diaries can be quickly returned to their owner.
I have noticed that Year 8 are wearing their uniforms properly and looking great. Just a reminder about having the correct shoes, especially when you have practical classes. You can also use it to communicate with your student’s teachers. Can you please check that each student has written their name and Year 8 on the front cover so any lost diaries can be quickly returned to their owner.
I have noticed that Year 8 are wearing their uniforms properly and looking great. Just a reminder about having the correct shoes, especially when you have practical classes.

Please hold on to any classroom commendations you have from last year. These can be added to those you receive this year. When you have 5, bring them to me and I will present you with a Year Advisor’s Award. I hope to present as many as I did last year.

There were many class changes made this year. Please put your best effort into all your lessons. Class time is for learning, recess and lunch are for socialising.

Just like last year, I am available to talk to Year 8 students in the breaks. You can find me in the Language Centre or on playground duty. Please let me know if I can help you in any way or if you have any exciting news you would like to share.
Parents and caregivers, if you have any questions or need assistance please contact me at school on 4390 0555 or by email at fiona.davis4@det.nsw.edu.au

Keep up the positive behaviour, Year 8.

Fiona Davis
Year 8 Advisor

Year 9 Report
Welcome back Year 9 I hope you enjoyed your holidays. We have a busy start to 2016 with school photos and the swimming carnival where Year 9 performed well. If anyone missed out on having their photo taken there will be a make-up day on Monday.

I hope that all students are enjoying their chosen electives. If there are any problems in regards to timetables please see me in the TAS staffroom.
The Year 9 Assessment schedules will be handed out to students soon. This will allow
students and parents to plan for all upcoming assessment tasks.
If any Year 9 students have commendations from last year hold on to them as they can be added to this years. When you have 5 please bring them to me for a Year Advisor’s Award.
Year 9 are wearing their uniforms correctly and looking great. Just a quick reminder regarding wearing appropriate shoes; especially when you have practical classes.
Parents/carers if you have any concerns or questions please don’t hesitate to contact me on 4390 0555 or email me at kerry.Bissaker@det.nsw.edu.au

Kerry Bissaker
Year 9 Advisor

Year 10 Report
Welcome back to my students who have reached Year 10! What a great milestone. It seems only yesterday that I was welcoming in Year 7 students on their first day of high school – how time has flown and I can’t believe how much everyone has grown. It has been wonderful to see students settle in quickly to Year 10 – and provide great mentoring to our younger students.
Year 10 is a big year for students – and parents. Students are beginning to complete their Stage 5 courses in preparation for the Higher School Certificate. It is not too early to start thinking about the subjects you would like to choose for 2017. For parents, Year 10 is also a busy time. Lots of events occur during this year – stay tuned to the website and newsletter for more information!
Students are reminded to complete work to the best of their ability in every class. This means having a book for each subject, the right equipment and be on time and ready to learn. It is absolutely imperative that every assessment task be completed and submitted in Year 10.
There are big consequences for non-completion of assessments. You are here to work to work hard and achieve your personal best. As such, you are required to complete all set tasks by all teachers. Failure to do so could result in an N award warning. You will need to work on managing your time to incorporate all aspects of your life: family, school, work, friend and you will need to further develop your study skills to maximise your results. Please see me or your classroom teacher if you have concerns about any subjects.
Also another reminder about uniform – it is an expectation that students will come to school dressed appropriately. This includes correct length skirts and shorts for girls. In I hope that everyone has a great productive year and please remember if you have any concerns about your school life don’t hesitate to contact me I would rather know sooner than later.

Mrs Fulwood
Year 10 Advisor

Year 11 Report
Welcome back to all of our Year 11 students for 2016. All students look fantastic in their new senior uniforms – just a reminder that these uniforms must include a white polo or button up collared shirt.
The students should be settling in well after their first few weeks of year 11. Already we have implemented a mentor program. The students were asked to choose a teacher with whom they felt they had a good working relationship with and have invited this teacher to become their mentor for their senior years at NHS.
In early March we have an excursion regarding road safety, this is organised through RYDA Road Safety Education Program, students will receive more information about this next week. Just reminding students this is the time to start organising at time study programs for their new senior courses. Looking forward to a good term!

Stacey Ewer
Year 11 Advisor (relieving)
**Year 12 Report**

Welcome back to an extremely important and busy year! Assessment tasks will be happening before you know it!! Just a reminder to all Year 12 students, if you are absent on the day of an assessment task, you MUST present a doctors certificate on your return to school to avoid being awarded zero for the task. This is a BOSTES requirement and is not negotiable.

Fundraising events are underway with our first bake-sale happening this week to contribute to the Year 12 gift to the school. Thank you to all the students and parents that have contributed to this.

The Year 12 formal is booked for Friday 11th November 2016 at Kooinda Waters Resort. The formal committee is busily organising many aspects of this exciting event. Stay tuned for further details.

Please be aware that we are keeping a very close eye on Year 12 attendance rates this year. There is an expectation that students attend a minimum of 85% of all classes. Should any student fall beneath this rate, they will be interviewed and parents will be contacted. Students cannot hope to maximise their results if attendance is poor.

I am looking forward to a productive and exciting year with this great group of students!

Kind regards,

Ms. J Knight

*Year 12 Advisor*

---

**Welfare Report**

Welcome back to another successful year at Northlakes High School. We welcome all our New Year 7 students and their families.

Our Welfare team for 2016 are:

- Ms Simone Byrnes  Head Teacher Welfare
- Ms Jodene Garside  Head Teacher Welfare
- Mr Matthew Boake  Deputy Principal
- (7,9,11)
- Mrs Warren Welham  Deputy Principal
- (8,10,12)
- Mrs Amanda Morgan  Student Support Officer
- Ms Felicity Robinson  School Chaplain
- Ms Lynda Purchase  School Counsellor
- Mr Wayne Hill  School Counsellor
- Mr Marshall Wilkinson  Year 7 Advisor
- Mrs Fiona Davis  Year 8 Advisor
- Mrs Kerry Bissaker  Year 9 Advisor
- Mrs Sue Fullwood  Year 10 Advisor
- Ms Stacey Ewer  Year 11 Advisor
- Ms Jo Knight  Year 12 Advisor

As you can see our Welfare Team is extensive and all are experienced in supporting students at Northlakes High School. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if your require welfare support for child.

The following welfare programs are already up and running this term for our students: GLOW, RAGE, Seasons for Growth, Reality Check, Social Skills, Travel Training and mentoring groups. Our students at Northlakes High School benefit immensely from these welfare programs, offering support throughout their school and family lives. Thank you to the many staff that organise and run these groups for our students.

Attendance is an important aspect of a student’s school life. If for any reason your child is unable to attend school you must contact the school and explain their absence within 7 days of the first day absent day. If we can assist in any way to prevent ongoing student absences please contact your child’s Year Advisor. Remember it is not ok to be away!

Full summer school uniform is to be worn at all times to school. If there are any circumstances which prevent this please write a note to explain the situation and students are to give the note to their Year Advisors for a uniform pass. Our uniform shop is open Friday mornings.

*Head Teacher Welfare*

*Jodene Garside and Simone Byrnes*
Northlakes High School  
Aboriginal Education

The Aboriginal Education Team at Northlakes High School, after listening to students, parents and community feedback are working on some great initiatives this year. Here is an outline of what is happening this year. More detailed information will follow as events approach.

Aboriginal Dance Groups:  
Aboriginal dance is for both boys and girls, and we are excited that we have grown to two very talented dance groups that practice every Thursday morning. All Aboriginal students are encouraged to come along and get involved even if you have never danced before; part of the fun is in the friendships and connections formed as well as the learning.

Boys Didge Group, Bushtucker Garden, Brospeak and Art Groups

Didge Group: This group saw some of our boys take up the challenge of learning this difficult to play instrument. The boys got a lot out of the classes and I’m told there were lots of great conversations that went along with the learning. The group performed at many events and are highly sought after in the community. This group will continue to run on Tuesday morning, Period 2 by Ross Smith.

Brospeak will also be held on Tuesday’s period 4, run by Chris Nowland, and alternating with guest speakers, information on culture, and hands on activities.

Aboriginal Art groups: These groups have grown, with us now having a large boys group operating Tuesdays with Ross Smith and Chris Nowland and the girls group being led by Mrs Leanne Dann. These groups are both working on entries for the Reconciliation Art Competition at Gosford Regional Gallery. Competition between the groups is quite fierce.

Junior Norta Norta Tutoring and Quicksmart

Junior Norta Norta Tutoring has started with Chris Nowland being employed as an In class tutor supporting Aboriginal Students in literacy and numeracy from within the classroom. Quicksmart runs 3 days a week with Jo Spain (Aunty Jo) supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 7 and 8 in the Quicksmart Maths Program.

Senior Norta Tutoring

Senior Norta Tutoring will continue this year for our senior students. Each of our senior students has been allocated about 50 hours each for individual tutoring for this year. The tutoring will be built into students PLPs. Shortly you will receive a letter notifying you and your child of who their allocated Norta tutor/s will be, so that they can meet them to work out a plan that will help them gain the best results for their HSC.

Junior AECG training

During Term 1, all Aboriginal students will be invited to undertake leadership training and then our school will elect a Jnr AECG executive. This is a great opportunity for all our students to meet members of our community and learn valuable leadership skills so that they can lead the future and have a stronger say in their own education.

Other upcoming events this semester include;

- Year 7 site Visit
- Star struck Aboriginal Ensemble
- I-Believe Program
- NSW Aboriginal Dance Ensemble Auditions
- Completion of our new Aboriginal spaces; a senior study area and a new Aboriginal Community and Student room.
- Sorry day Assembly
- Reconciliation art competition
I will send out more detailed information on each of these initiatives as soon as I can. In the meantime if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at school. I look forward to sharing the year with you and your students.

Simone Byrnes
Aboriginal Coordinator Northlakes High School

Disability provisions for the Higher School Certificate examinations

Disability provisions in the HSC are practical arrangements designed to help students who couldn’t otherwise make a fair attempt to show what they know in an exam room. The provisions granted are solely determined by how the student’s exam performance is affected. Provisions may include braille papers, large-print papers, use of a reader and/or writer, extra time or rest breaks.

Applying for disability provisions

Disability provisions application forms and information guides are available to schools from Schools Online for students who intend to sit for the Higher School Certificate examinations. Students who wish to apply for disability provisions should see the Learning and Support Teacher who will complete the application form with the student.

A note to parents

If you are concerned about whether disability provisions apply for your child, you should contact the Learning and Support Teacher. The application form must be submitted by your child’s school as it requires specific information about the difficulties your child may experience in a classroom or examination situation.

Who can apply for disability provisions?


The definition of ‘disability’ in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 (Cth) includes:

- physical
- intellectual
- psychiatric
- sensory
- neurological, and
- learning disabilities, as well as
- physical disfigurement, and
- the presence in the body of disease-causing organisms.

Note that the disability provisions apply only where the disability is such that a practical arrangement is required to reduce disadvantage in an exam situation. Disability provisions also apply to temporary and emergency-related disabilities. A typical example of an ‘emergency’ is where a student breaks their writing arm a week before an examination.

Students who become ill during an examination period may be eligible to make an illness/misadventure application rather than a disability provisions application.

Free lower limb assessment

The University of Newcastle Podiatry Clinic at Wyong hospital is offering children age 0-17 free lower limb assessments. Children will be assessed by final year students, supervised by a podiatrist. Children and their families can receive advice on footwear and normal development, and receive treatment of foot warts, foot and leg pain, walking problems, and night-time ‘growing pains’.

When: Mondays from 3.15 to 5.00pm from 29th February to 30th May

To make a booking, or for more information, call 43947280
is it BULLYING?

When someone says or does something unintentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's RUDE.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they do it once, that's MEAN.

When someone says or does something intentionally hurtful and they keep doing it—eventually even when you tell them to stop or show them that you're upset—that's BULLYING.

YC NDIS PARENT FORUM

Wednesday 17th February, 6pm
Gravity Youth Centre,
Bannister Drive, Lake Haven
RSVP – Monday 15th February

Thursday 25th February, 4:30pm
Green Central – Gate 1, Kangoo Rd, Kariong
RSVP – Tuesday 23rd February

Monday 7th March, 10am
Green Central – Gate 1, Kangoo Rd, Kariong
RSVP – Friday 4th March

A light morning tea/afternoon tea will be provided

For all enquiries please contact us via
E: matt@youthconnections.com.au or
Ph: (02) 4346 1111

YC NDIS PARENT FORUM

Wednesday 17th February, 6pm
Gravity Youth Centre,
Bannister Drive, Lake Haven
RSVP – Monday 15th February

Thursday 25th February, 4:30pm
Green Central – Gate 1, Kangoo Rd, Kariong
RSVP – Tuesday 23rd February

Monday 7th March, 10am
Green Central – Gate 1, Kangoo Rd, Kariong
RSVP – Friday 4th March

A light morning tea/afternoon tea will be provided

For all enquiries please contact us via
E: matt@youthconnections.com.au or
Ph: (02) 4346 1111

NHS