Dear Parents and Students,

2012 has flown by and this is our last newsletter for the year. At this late stage we are still finalising the timetable and the last of the class clashes and course adjustments; we have another four staff members to interview and appoint and have much curriculum planning and furniture arranging yet to be completed.

We have appointed the bulk of the new staff for 2013 and have managed to again secure outstanding teachers who will complete our team and fill a few remaining specialist gaps.

Thank you to our staff

I would like to publicly acknowledge the excellent work of our hard working teaching and support staff this year; it is a pleasure to work with such a dedicated, talented and professional group. Similarly we are blessed with an active, proactive and effective school council who have been outstanding advocates, supporters and innovators and I sincerely thank them for taking on this significant additional responsibility.

Staff Farewells

Farewell to Mrs Papp and to Mrs Rogerson who will be leaving us to take up positions at private schools. Both have made outstanding contributions to the school, Mrs Papp as a Senior Maths Teacher and Domain Leader and Mrs Rogerson as our foundation Laboratory Technician, who is responsible for the smooth running and equipping of the science area and for the growth and nurturing of our expanding menagerie. I thank them for their work and wish them well in their new positions.

Terry Bennett Cup

A gallant Year 9 cohort and staff took to the trains last week to travel to Suzanne Cory High School in Werribee to compete for the second time for the honour of winning the Terry Bennett Cup. This competition was instigated last year and is now an annual event where the whole Year 9 cohort from both schools take part in a variety of competitions and fun events. We hosted the event last year and were the winners – this year Suzanne Cory were decisive winners so a home ground advantage may assist. More importantly, it was a chance for us to forge links with our spiritual sister school in the west and a chance to get the students and staff together for some light hearted competition and to experience the similarities and differences between the two schools, structurally, architecturally and organisationally. I expect the cup to return to Nossal next year, as we won’t go as easy on them and we may have to design some Nossal specific challenges.

Monash Challenge

My thanks and congratulations to all staff and students (and Monash) who were involved in the annual Monash Challenge last week, particularly Mr Clark and Mr McQuaid who took responsibility for daily management of the program. Some very enthusiastic and creative responses were made and Professor Leon Piterman (Monash Pro Vice Chancellor) was full of praise for the depth, intelligence and detail in the student presentations. Congratulations to Garuda, the winning house, who are now off to a very good start in the contest for the 2013 Page Cup.

Working Bee

A big thank you to the 30 or so parents and students who managed to make time to attend and assist with our second working bee last Sunday week. While we didn’t get too far with the blackberries, a great deal of improvement was made to the gardens to the north of the school and BMD Road Constructions have agreed to run a bulldozer through the
blackberries to tidy the area and flatten the ground so it can be properly maintained in the future. A special thanks to parent Phil Butler for his additional work with the spraying of weeds, supply of chemicals and the supply and maintenance of our fruit trees and vegetable garden.

Reports
End of year reports should arrive in the mail sometime during the last week of the school year (from Dec 17) As previously explained in earlier newsletters, most contain no detailed comments due to industrial action taken by members of the Australian Education Union. Unfortunately the talks have broken down and it looks like there will be no resolution this year and the likelihood of further bans and restrictions in 2013.

World Challenge
Brief reports have been trickling back when one or other of the teams in Ecuador is near electricity or the internet. They have met some challenges and are now involved in their community projects and are having a great (and challenging) time.

Thank you to our community
My thanks to all members of the Nossal community for their continued input and support in making our school a lively, challenging and enjoyable place. I urge all students (particularly those in Year11) to rest and enjoy the break from studies for a while and to ensure some hobby, family and self time. We want everyone returning in 2013 safe, refreshed, enthusiastic and confident about facing the new challenges and experiences that 2013 will bring. It will be a very interesting year for us with a larger number of new students coming into Years 10 and 11, our first full Year 12 cohort, and first Nossal graduates and our first time with the school at capacity of just over 800 students. I wish all Nossal families a safe and enjoyable holiday break and a peaceful new year.

The School Office will be closed from 1.30 pm on Friday December 21 until 9.00 am on January 22, 2013. Teachers resume on Tuesday January 29 and students on Thursday January 31.

Mr Roger Page
Principal

2012 Community Spirit and Leadership Awards

Congratulations to Natasha Aulia, Year 9 who is the recipient of this prestigious award.

The Community Spirit and Leadership Awards acknowledge students who contribute actively to their school community, and indeed their wider community by, for example, volunteering for school activities and helping other students to be involved in school life.

Throughout the year Natasha has been actively involved in student leadership. As a Tutorial leader she has represented her class at the SRC meetings were she has made a significant contribution to the various discussions. Natasha should also be commended on her high levels of active participation in sport. She is always encouraging and supporting others to also be involved. Natasha took part in the recent Leadership Camp, held at the Bogong Outdoor Education Centre. During this camp Natasha’s physical and leadership skills were challenged. As a Peer Support leader Natasha will support the new students, both on Orientation Day and also next year. Natasha is a worthy winner of this award.

Mr Wayne Haworth
Director Of Student Wellbeing and Leadership

A Christmas wish...

The English Domain would like to wish all students a relaxing break. Please remember to read all your texts over the holidays.

Ms Gabrielle Gory on behalf of the English Domain
**VCE News**

**Unit 3 & 4 Results**
Students can access their Unit 3 & 4 results by logging into: [www.resultsandatar.vic.edu.au](http://www.resultsandatar.vic.edu.au)
Use your VCAA student number as user name and your date of birth eg. 2602 (for February 26) as password. 
These are available from 7 am on Monday December 17, 2012.

**Year 11 Morning Tea**
On Monday December 17 at 11 am in the Jean Russell Centre we are holding a morning tea with staff to celebrate results and the completion of Year 11. Whilst it was originally available to all students, it is now only available to those students who have RSVP’d with a YES.

**Changes to Courses for Year 12, 2013**
Once students receive their results on Monday December 17, they may wish to have their course reviewed for 2013. Students who wish to discuss this face to face at Nossal High School, should ring the front office to obtain a PTO login code and make an appointment for Monday 17 or Tuesday 18 December. There is no need for parents to come to these appointments, although they are most welcome if they are available. For students who have asked us to ring them, we will do so throughout Monday and Tuesday.

**University Extension/Enhancement Studies**
Once the Unit 3 & 4 results are in on Monday I will arrange for your Semester 2 reports and VCAA results to be forwarded to the relevant Universities.

**Course Changes - Everyone**
Throughout the last week we have made a significant number of course changes for students and we have sent the outcome of those changes to the email addresses provided. In the case where an email address has not been provided we have sent an email to the student’s Nossal email address or phoned home. Students are reminded to check their emails regularly at this time. If you had put in a subject change request and you have not heard from either Ms Callahan or myself please email us on: harrap.susan.j@edumail.vic.gov.au or callahan.jennifer.j@edumail.vic.gov.au and we will respond as soon as possible.

**Booklist Reminder**
The due date for the booklist has been extended until Monday December 17.

**Holiday Homework**
A reminder to students and parents about the guidelines for holiday homework. We want to ensure that students have the opportunity to rest and recuperate and develop reserves for the hard year ahead. We do not want students to study all summer long and arrive back at school exhausted.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 12s</th>
<th>Read English/Literature novels twice. Complete the set homework from each of your subjects. Approx 3 hrs per subject = Total 15 hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 11s</td>
<td>Read English/Literature novels twice. Complete set homework for each of your subjects. Approx. 2 hrs per subject = Total 12 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 10s</td>
<td>Read English novels at least once. Complete set homework for each of your subjects. Approx 1.5 hrs per subject = Total 9 hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We wish all students a happy, restful and rejuvenating break and thank them for their hard work and dedication throughout the year.

Ms Sue Harrap

*Director of VCE and Senior Programs*
**Student Wellbeing and Leadership**

**A Year 9 student’s reflection**

Over the past couple of weeks, the Nossal Year 9 cohort have participated in a numerous range of events and excursions. The annual Nossal/ Suzanne Cory Challenge, as well as the Monash Challenge and the Big Day Out have been extremely successful with all of us participating eagerly and enthusiastically.

The Nossal/ Suzanne Cory Challenge, was filled with fierce yet friendly competition to see who would win the acclaimed Terry Bennett Cup. It consisted of activities ranging from minor games to debating and we were able to show everyone our wide variety of talents. It was a great place to meet new people and many friendships were formed!

During the last full week of term four, we all participated in the Monash Challenge. The Monash Challenge required us to formulate a response to a statement that was given and it involved the knowledge and participation of everyone to think of a response that fulfilled the criteria. Teamwork and cooperation were tested during this challenge but overall, all houses did extremely well.

And lastly, on December 10, 2012, as part of the Big Day Out, we all went to Emerald Lake Park to have a day of celebration of a very successful year at Nossal. The weather was beautiful and the atmosphere was great during the tug-of-war contest between the houses. The day was filled with much enjoyment and everyone had a fantastic time.

**Natasha Aulia 9M**

**Student Leadership**

Thank you to the Peer Support Leaders for 2013. All students worked diligently during the recent Orientation Day. Peer Support Leaders planned and ran many activities designed to welcome and enhance the transition of new students into the Nossal learning community. Peer Support Leaders recently were also actively involved in facilitating Circle Time activities with their tutorial groups. I would like to thank all students for their fine effort and contribution.

**Year 11 “Black and White” Ball - 2013**

September 6, 2013 will be a night to remember. Leonda by the Yarra will be the venue for the 2013 'Black and White’ Ball. Parents and family members are warmly invited to attend this special event. A three course meal along with soft drinks will be served. Tickets are $90. A non-refundable deposit of $20 is required to be paid by no later than Friday February 15. Ballroom dance lessons for attending students will be available. Further details about the lessons will be provided next year. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire Nossal community to come together. So please join us.

**Aviation in Schools**

How does being a member of the Nossal Flying Club sound? I have been in discussion with Tooradin Airfield about establishing such a club for Nossal students in Years 10, 11 and 12. An information session for parents and students will be held in Term 1 next year. Watch this space…..

**Mr Wayne Haworth**

**Director of Student Wellbeing and Leadership**

**France Study Tour 2013**

Plans are underway to organise a study tour to France for 15 to 20 Nossal students for the end of Term 4, 2013. The tour is open to all students studying French from Years 10-12. We will be going for two weeks and the program will include:

- Approximately 15 hours of intensive language classes
- Six nights of homestay with a French family (students will stay in pairs of the same gender)
- Visits to the Louvre, Versailles Palace, the top floor of Eiffel tower
- Tours of the Loire Valley and Mont St Michel
- Cooking class

The approximate cost will be around $4,800 including all costs except usually one meal per day and souvenirs. We will be holding an information night for students and families on February 7 next year and will be asking for a $500 non-
refundable deposit by February 11 to reserve your place! A monthly payment plan will be established to assist parents.

This is an excellent opportunity for students to immerse themselves in French culture and language with countless authentic opportunities to speak French. Last year’s trip to New Caledonia was a great success and we are looking forward to taking another wonderful group of students on this exciting immersion experience.

More details regarding the information evening will be emailed in Term 1 next year.

Ms Kellan Wakeman
French Teacher

## Science News

### Science Olympiad Competition

Earlier this year, Nossal High School participated in the Science Olympiad Examinations. These exams are run by Australian Science Innovations in conjunction with Monash University and they comprise the selection event for the International Science Olympiad. The examinations are of an exceptionally high difficulty level.

14 Nossal students (11 from Year 10 and three from Year 11) participated. These students were selected by their teachers as high-performing science students. We are proud to announce the following results for the 2012 Science Olympiad:

**Biology**
- Kim Long Le: Distinction
- Victoria Vu: Credit
- Grace Ho: Credit
- Lillian Charman: Credit
- Vishmitha De Alwis: Participation

**Chemistry**
- Jason Zhou: Credit
- Rui Ying Yew: Credit
- Shreya Suresh: Credit
- Carlyna Yap: Credit

**Physics**
- Edward Cheong: Distinction
- Randall Chu: Credit
- George Lim: Credit
- Leela Calalang: Participation
- Nidhin Benny: Participation

### Victorian Young Physicists’ Tournament 2012

On Thursday December 6, three Year 10 students attended the Victorian Young Physicists’ Tournament. This prestigious and challenging tournament, run by the Australian Institute of Physics and hosted by Quantum Victoria, is based on the International Young Physicists’ Tournament and forms an ideal training ground for that competition. These tournaments focus strongly on the students’ ability to follow the scientific method and emphasises the concept of peer review, which remains central to scientific progress around the world.

Leela Calalang, Nidhin Benny and Victor Le, all 2012 Foundation Physics students, gave up their time over the final weeks of the year to design and undertake their own experiments investigating various research questions posed by the tournament organisers. They then attended a day of “Physics Phytes” in which they reported on their own projects and critiqued the work of their opponents in a manner reminiscent of the viva voce defences required of university graduates around the world. As the first Nossal attendees of this tournament, these dedicated and accomplished students were engaged in a wonderful learning experience which will stand them in good stead in their future studies.

The members of the Nossal Science Domain would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and peaceful new year. We look forward to seeing you all in 2013.

Mrs Diane Latham
Science Domain Leader

All the staff at Nossal High School wish you a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. We look forward to seeing you in 2013.
National Recycling Week

Australia’s National Recycling Week took place on 12-18 November. National Recycling Week is all about bringing the nation to attention on the environmental benefits of recycling. It has been taking place annually for 17 years now.

Some of the benefits of recycling:
- A reduction of the amount of (possible toxic) waste going into the natural environment
- It reduces pollution produced by incinerators as well as the need to collect new raw materials
- A reduction of greenhouse gases that contributes to climate change
- It allows us to sustain the environment for future generations

Since recycling can do so much for us and the environment, why not make an effort to increase the amount of recycling you do at home and at school - every little bit counts.

It’s been a great year for NEST - we’ve had a number of events that were really successful. Remember the slave auction, the Rainforest Rescue cupcake sale and Tree Day fashion parade? We’ve had a lot of fun this year and we hope to continue with even bigger and better events next year.

We’d like to thank everyone for supporting NEST in terms of fundraising and participation, and we hope to see new members in 2013. If you’d like to do a little more for the environment and have fun doing it, join us next year! Everyone’s welcome!