IMPORTANT APRIL/MAY DATES

Apr 29 City Week starts for Year 9 MNOP
Apr 29 Year 10 Bioeyes Incursion starts
Apr 30 FareShare Year 9 Food students
May 2 Senior Interschool Sports - various
May 3 Year 11 Psychology Excursion
May 3 Year 9/10 Boys Immunisations
May 6 City Week starts for Year 9 QRST
May 9 Year 11 Legal Studies Excursion
May 10 Year 10 Legal Studies Excursion
May 14 NAPLAN starts Year 9

April 26, 2013

PARENTS AND FRIENDS MEETING NEXT WEEK
See page 2 for more details

THANK YOU, FROM DR. MEATH
See page 4 for more

MANINGRIDA COLLEGE CULTURAL EXCHANGE
See page 2 for more

DANDENONG RANGES OPEN STUDIOS
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SHARE LUNCH FIGHT
HUNGER - FARESHARE
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Dear Nossal Community

**School Council**

Our new School Council met last week for the Annual General Meeting where the 2012 Annual Report was presented followed by the usual scheduled council meeting. This year we have increased the size of our council by one parent to ensure parents are strongly represented and to increase the strength and effectiveness of our meetings. Council is made up of community members, students, parents and staff and must have a majority of non DEECD members. It is a legally constituted body that takes significant responsibility for setting the school direction, overseeing budget and finances and setting and approving school policy. We are fortunate at Nossal to have excellent parent and community representation and (as always) strong staff and student participation. The parent member role is to represent the views of the parent body and to ensure that their voice is heard; as is that of the staff and student representatives. Members are elected by their peers for a two year term of office. Council meets monthly in the evening, with representatives also involved in one or more subcommittees (Finance: Education: Facilities, Grounds and OH&S: Parents and Friends). I urge you to communicate directly with them if you would like input or have concerns or ideas that you would like addressed.

The 2013 Council consists of:

- Dr Bruce Verity (President) – Year 12 parent (Finance subcommittee)
- Ms Toni McKern (Vice President) – Year 12 Parent (Facilities & Education)
- Mr Travis Atkinson (Treasurer) – Year 9 Parent (Finance)
- Mr Mark Roberts – Years 9 & 10 Parent (Education)
- Mr Alan Lachman – Year 10 Parent (Facilities)
- Ms Sunita Kore – Year 9 Parent (PFA)
- Professor Leon Piterman – ProVice Chancellor Monash (Education)
- Mr Jack Kraan – Berwick Rotary (Facilities & Finance)
- Miss Shirlene Perera – School Captain (tba)
- Mr Lachy Doughty – School Captain (tba)
- Mr Wayne Haworth – DEECD (Facilities & Education)
- Mrs Diane Latham – DEECD (Education)
- Mr Samuel Hu – DEECD (Facilities)
- Mr Roger Page – DEECD (Facilities & Finance)
- Ex officio members – Dr Toni Meath and Ms Gayl Shute

**Parents and Friends Association (PFA)**

My thanks to Cheong Koo and Meng Eng(parents) who have been making arrangements to set up our very first formal Parents and Friends Association. The PFA will be an extremely important group for the school and will provide a number of avenues to support parents (and their children) and to organise various activities and events such as educational, fun, social, symbolic; to fundraise and support school activities and programs; and any number of other activities and projects that are needed or proposed by or for the wider Nossal community. The first meeting of this group will take place on Wednesday May 1 at 7.00pm where an executive group will be formed and planning for the remainder of the year (and beyond) will commence. I urge all interested parents to attend so we can make this group truly representative and relevant and useful to all.

**Dandenong Ranges Open Studios Weekend** [www.openstudios.org.au](http://www.openstudios.org.au)

I encourage families to take a drive into the Dandenong Ranges this weekend to participate in the Open Studio event. This is a fantastic program where over 30 local artists including sculptors, painters, photographers, potters, glassworkers, weavers and many others open their private home studios to showcase their work. It is a wonderful chance to view them in action and see behind the scenes and possibly purchase interesting pieces. One of our parents (Mark Westaway) is again exhibiting his impressive art works as is his daughter Britt who many of you will know.

**Student Opinion Surveys**

Dr Meath and I will be visiting all classes over the next week or so to administer the annual student opinion survey. This is an important process where we gather anonymous feedback from all students and send it off to DEECD for...
analysis and comparison with other schools. They then send back a comprehensive report and analysis of the Nossal results with comparisons to all other schools in the state. This is very useful data for us, giving us clear feedback about student perceptions and concerns and providing directions for consolidation and improvement.

Year 9 Program
Year 9 have a busy few weeks ahead with the City Program over the next two weeks and the NAPLAN testing over May 14, 15, 16. Not too long after that we will be gearing up for mid year exams and the GAT for Year 12 students (early to mid June)

Congratulations
I would like to congratulate our students and the SRC members in particular who have been actively involved in a range of fundraising activities for various worthy causes. This is a strong feature of the Nossal student group and their social conscience and community service is inspiring to see. I was very impressed with how much they raised during the “World’s Greatest Shave” event late last term and a large number of students stayed back late one night to cook up a storm in the Food Technology kitchen so they could sell the produce at the Athletics Carnival the following day. They too raised significant funds which were donated to the Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal. I commend them all for their fine charitable work and concern.

ICT Upgrades
As a high tech school we expend considerable funds and lots of energy creating, updating and maintaining an increasingly complex and heavily used ICT network. Each new system requires considerable investment in training, maintenance and upgrading and from the start of this year we have instituted major changes to our timetabling, attendance and online communications systems, all of which will provide great improvements to our communications and operations. As always there are teething problems with the translation to the new systems, technical malfunctions, human error and simply learning new systems trip us up at times and in retrospect we should not have instituted three major system changes at the same time. I pay tribute to the IT and admin. staff who are progressively resolving the issues and assure you that the results will be well worth the trouble. Unfortunately NEO was offline during the holidays for considerably longer than anticipated, causing additional stress for students who needed to access online resources and homework. Obviously we will try to ensure this does not recur, although sometimes it is out of our hands and will inform people in advance of the likelihood of any systems being upgraded and the potential impact that may have. My mobile number or email can be used during the holidays when the school office is closed if you do need to contact the school urgently or have identified an issue that you believe we need to address immediately.

Year 9 2014
My thanks to the students and staff involved in the prospective parents information night and tours earlier this week. We have had a steady stream of parents and students visiting the school and increased enrolments for the Year 8 entry exam in June. We will be setting a testing date in June to create a shortlist in case any vacancies arise in Years 10 and 11 for 2014. The closing date for Year 9 applications is May 17.

Parents and Friends Meeting

Become a part of history by joining us to form the Nossal Parents and Friends Association (PFA)!
With a full house of 824 students, it is time for us parents to do our bit for the school.
We are looking at ways of supporting ourselves as parents, helping the school and helping our children.

We invite you to the first PFA meeting which will be held on Wednesday May 1, 7.00pm at Nossal High School.
(Tea, coffee and nibbles provided).
Please mark this date in your diary.

This is an exciting time. A time for us to give back to the school. A time for us to make a difference.

Join us to make history at Nossal.

Yours sincerely,

Cheong & Meng Koo
(Nossal Parents)
Dear Nossalonians,

Before I make my transition to Mac.Rob, I would like to say thank you to our wonderful community for their ongoing support and kind words of congratulations (it has felt like a large, warm, virtual hug).

There are so many rich memories of my time here. It seems a lifetime ago when Nossal was just a green field site and Mr Page and myself were busily planning the new Nossal. I remember vividly the first concrete pour for the slab of our first building, the naming competition for our House system and our many firsts (assemblies, sporting carnivals, choral evenings and speech nights). I will hold close the traditions and symbols of Nossal that we have collectively formed including our motto, the Page Cup, the school flag, the passing of the captaincy colours and our value system.

The creation of Nossal High School has been a gift to us all. Victoria needs schools such as Nossal and as an educator I have been honoured to be a part of the creation of a unique government school. In setting up Nossal we have the opportunity as a community to build the very best contemporary high school for highly able students. At assembly today I spoke about what I wanted this school to look like from the embryonic stages. It would be a school that was:

· a trusted space where students could be themselves and take risks in their learning;
· rich with student voice that was valued;
· a world class learning environment with inspiring teachers;
· a place where students will connect on a life-long basis; and
· a place where students will develop a passion for a discipline, learn to synthesise the complexities of the world, be creative, respectful and ethical.

I believe we have collectively ensured that there are strong foundations so that this is a developing reality. In 2013 there exists a vibrant student cohort, talented and committed teachers, dedicated support staff, an engaged parent body, a strong governance by School Council and an exceptional, visionary leadership team.

At assembly, I also suggested that “we are the sum of those who believe in us”. In saying this, I want us to recognise that it takes a village to raise a child and that Nossal High School will play an important role in being the platform that will launch future careers. Strong family support and the involvement of significant adults who believe in our youth give them the confidence and encouragement to go further. I too, have gained this support from the Nossal community and am grateful for my time here. I especially would like to express my gratitude to Mr Page who has been a wonderful teacher and I have learnt much. As part of the alumni of 2013 I will be forever connected to Nossal of which I am very proud.

And so why Mac.Rob? Put simply, it is my turn to “step up”. I look forward to the challenges that lay ahead and know that I take with me experience and wisdom and am humbled at the opportunity to lead as Principal at this flagship Victorian school, and just as I have at Nossal, I will give it my all.

And to all, “Embrace the challenge” of making Nossal the very best that it can be!

Thank you and please keep in touch.
Lecture on “encountering conflict” for Year 11 students
Karen Ford a well known and experienced senior English teacher, English and GAT assessor and Group Leader with the VCAA, visited the school and delivered a lecture to all Year 11 students on Monday April 22. Karen's lecture was on “Encountering Conflict” which is the context being studied by all Year 11 students as part of their VCE English.

It is hoped that Karen's excellent and informative presentation on the context and how to respond to the prompts related to the context will certainly help the students to improve their English skills in this area of VCE English.

Wide reading program at Nossal
This year the school has consolidated the wide reading program by implementing a scheduled wide reading time table as part of the English course for all Year 9 students. All Year 9 students come to the IRC once a fortnight and share their reading experiences through oral presentations and discussions. They also exchange their books, update their reading folders and spend time reading widely. It is great to see the enthusiasm of the students in wide reading and the increase in the circulation data this year.

This activity will not only add to their enjoyment of reading but also help the students to improve their proficiency in English and widen their knowledge about other places, people, cultures and ideas.
Ever wondered how you could help feed thousands of people in need for just $7.50?

Share Lunch Fight Hunger Day is on Tuesday April 30!

By donating one day's lunch money in a Share Lunch Fight Hunger brown paper bag you and your community will help raise thousands of dollars to provide free meals to Melburnians struggling to adequately feed themselves and their families. Share Lunch Fight Hunger is part of the Feed Melbourne 2013 campaign. Your valued support will contribute to our goal of raising $500,000 for people going without.

Plus, the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation will match dollar-for-dollar every donation made - making your contribution go further.

As a friend of FareShare's we hope you'll participate and thank you again for your support.

We look forward to having you on board in 2013!

PLEASE TAKE YOUR LUNCH MONEY TO THE OFFICE TO BE PLACED IN A BROWN PAPER BAG ON TUESDAY APRIL 30. IF YOUR FAMILY WISHES TO DONATE MORE PLEASE SEE MELISSA OR COURTNEY IN THE OFFICE.

Feed Melbourne

At some point this year 370,000 people in Victoria will run out of food and be unable to afford their next meal. Many hard-working people with families are struggling to cope with rising food prices, and in particular fresh fruit, vegetables and meat. As a result an increasing number of Victorians are turning to food charities for help.

Five years ago, Melbourne food charity FareShare and Leader Community Newspapers launched Feed Melbourne. Feed Melbourne raises money to help local food charities across Melbourne cope with the increasing number of people seeking their help. In 2011 the Lord Mayor's Charitable Foundation joined the campaign as Major Partner.

While people are struggling to afford food, 700,000 tonnes of food is thrown into landfill every year in Victoria. That is the equivalent of 28,000 fully-stocked supermarkets.

Far too much of this is quality food, perfectly fit for human consumption. And this amount is many times more than what is needed to feed all the people in Victoria who are going without. More and more businesses have started offering charities this food. But many charities do not have the fridges, freezers, pantries and other capacity necessary to receive, store and hand out this food.

Every cent raised by Feed Melbourne will be awarded to charities to help them handle food donations.

In the last four years Feed Melbourne has raised over $1.4 million to help charities feed more people. All donations to Feed Melbourne have had a real impact.

Attention Year 10, 11, 12 students, staff and members of the community! ARE YOU LOOKING FOR PART TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY, BUT HAVE LIMITED QUALIFICATIONS OR EXPERIENCE?

Nossal High School in conjunction with Hospitality Training Australia is giving you the opportunity to complete your Certificate II in Hospitality. Within this certificate you will receive your RSA: Responsible service of alcohol, RSG - Responsible service of gaming, Food handlers and Occupational health and safety compliance certificates. The course will take place at Nossal. The course will run for 14 weeks in total. You will be required to attend one Wednesday afternoon for the first seven weeks, then the day will change to Tuesday afternoons on the conclusion of the last day of school.

This course will give you the skills required within the hospitality industry and make you more appealing to employers when you applying for positions.

Certificate II in Hospitality will cost you $105.00 or $52.50 if you have a student ID

How do you enrol? By visiting www.hosptrain.vic.edu.au/nossal You can also register with Mrs Ansalde, there will be a sign up sheet outside the kitchen, or alternatively by emailing me your name and tutor group. If you are a member of the community please email me your name, relationship to student and phone number and address to Leanne.Ansalde@nossalhs.edu.au

If more than 25 people commit and enrol in this course the government will fund this for you for free!
Nossal High School has been given a unique opportunity to be part of a Cultural Exchange with an indigenous school known as Maningrida College.

The college is situated in a small Aboriginal community known as Maningrida at the top of the Northern Territory in Arnhem Land, 550km east of Darwin. The population is around 2700 people and the community has all the facilities a small town requires such as supermarkets, doctors, dentists, food outlets and banks.

It all began in the FareShare Soup kitchen in South Melbourne. FareShare is where our Food Technology students regularly donate their time and assist in preparation and cooking of meals with a small team of volunteers for people in need.

On one particular session at FareShare our students donated 80 kilos of Bok Choy from the Nossal school garden. Melbourne University where observing this session and were very interested in the concept of our school garden, “growing produce for non for profit organisations.” They then explained their research and involvement in Maningrida and how the Maningrida students were hoping to develop a school garden. A teacher from Nossal High School was then invited to join them on a recent visit in March to propose a cultural exchange between the two schools. This visit was extremely successful and strong connections and relationships have now been established.

Our students will be given the opportunity to visit Maningrida College in 2014 and work with their students on significant cultural events. The learning focus will be on the relationships between indigenous people and their connection to the land, as well as learning their cultural science, such as bush foods and medicines. In exchange we will share our western life experiences and our interpretations of science and compare similarities. Inclusively both schools will work on particular topics of concerns that not only affect indigenous people but Australia combined, such as health, medicine, mining and employment within the Northern Territory.

Nossal High School will also have the opportunity to work alongside Melbourne University and observe their research and discovery of venomous snakes, spiders and plants in Maningrida. Dr Ken Winkle is leading this project and will be visiting Nossal High School to brief our students and enrich their learning on Venom, the positive and negative roles it plays in our community and what we can learn from this. The students will also be invited to lectures and learn more about “The story of Venom within Australia”.

Maningrida College is preparing a visit to Nossal in November this year. We will be providing students with an opportunity to begin a pen-pal exchange to build on relationships for their visit. Students from both schools are currently working on a hello and welcome DVD, to share with each other what their schools and community environments look like.

Currently we are still in the early planning for this exchange. We will give you more information on this exciting opportunity as it unfolds. Nossal has a small team of staff working with Maningrida to ensure the success of this project now and in the future.
As Nossal High School is an academic select entry high school the very nature of our students means that they are working at a very high level in all academic subjects. All of our students however, can access an individual learning pathway and choose subjects appropriate to their own strengths and interests. For many students this includes accelerating their studies in one or more subject areas.

We have guidelines in place that students should be aware of in choosing their academic course from year to year.

**Progression to Year 10, VCE 1 & 2 and VCE 3 & 4**

- Students who wish to progress in a subject should be achieving at C or above in all areas of assessment in that subject. Students who are not achieving at this level will review their course during course counselling to ensure that they are in an appropriate pathway.

**Acceleration**

- Students who wish to accelerate in a subject should be achieving at B+ or above in all areas of assessment in the subject or appropriate subject area. E.g. For Philosophy Units 1 & 2 at Year 10, students should achieve at B+ or above in Year 9 Humanities.
- Students who wish to accelerate in more than one subject should be achieving at B+ or higher in all their subjects in order to show that they are capable of maintaining a consistently high level of achievement.

Students will be assessed on what they are currently achieving and those who wish to accelerate must be achieving at the level for acceleration when they choose their courses.

There are also guidelines about subjects that students must complete in each year level. These will be published for Years 10 to 12 in the senior school handbook for each year.

Students should also note that some VCE subjects will not be available for acceleration. These will also be published in the senior school handbook for each year.

**Subject Changes for Semester Two**

Many students have spoken to me about changing subjects for semester two. All students will have the opportunity to request a change. Forms will be available from the VCE office from Monday April 29 to Friday May 10. Any student who wishes to change subjects for semester two must complete and return a form by Monday May 13. All changes will be made during the week of May 13.

**Legacy ANZAC Day Commemoration**

On April 18 all the Year 9 students went to the Shrine of Remembrance as part of the Nossal curriculum. We arrived at Flinders street station at 9.30am and then walked to the Shrine of Remembrance. When we reached the Shrine, cadets from Melbourne High were marching up and down and were really interesting and impressive to observe.

After the cadet march, Dr Denis Napthine, the Victorian Premier, spoke about the commemoration and its value. This was followed by the wreath laying ceremony. I was fortunate enough to lay the wreath alongside Maatharan and many other schools. Each wreath was laid next to the eternal flame.

The whole ceremony was a great experience for me as I'd never been to anything like that before. When the commemoration concluded we toured the Shrine. It was a truly beautiful place with detailed information and interesting facts. It stands to remind us of all of those who fought so bravely and many who paid the ultimate sacrifice.
Mid Year Exams at Nossal

Ms Sue Harrap

The mid year exams for students in Years 9 - 11 will be held in week 8 of this term, Monday June 3 – Friday June 7.

Year 12s will not have mid year exams, but there will be SACs in a number of subjects, including: English, Maths Methods, Music Performance and Chemistry. Year 12s also have a compulsory Tertiary Information Session with VTAC to outline how to apply for university places in 2014. This is on Tuesday June 4, 11.00am – 1.20pm. At all other times, Year 12s are expected to attend normal classes.

An exam timetable will come out during week 3. Students should examine the timetable to check when their exams are running, to make sure they do not have clashes. Students with clashes will be invited to see Ms Harrap to reschedule their exams.

For approximately 70 students, Division Cross Country is also on Monday June 3. We have tried to minimise the number of clashes so that students can compete in this important sporting event, however there will still be some students who need to arrange exam swaps so that they are able to represent the school. We encourage you to attend the Cross Country and we will accommodate you with your exams as much as is practical.

For the Year 9s and students who are new to the school, we do not run our normal timetable during exam week. All classes are cancelled. Year 9s are expected at school for the entire week. When they do not have an exam on, they will have supervised exam revision/study.

Students in Years 10 and 11 only need to attend school when they have an exam. Students are welcome to study at school, but may also choose to do so at home.

It is common for teachers to allow students to do some revision in class in the week prior to exams. This should not be the only study students do. It would be wise to begin a regular revision program on the topics already covered now.

Stay tuned for more information in the coming weeks.

Woolworths Earn and Learn is back!

Mrs Simone Kluckow

The Woolworths Earn & Learn program is back! This community program enables schools and early learning centres throughout Australia to earn educational resources simply through the school community shopping at Woolworths.

Last year, the program provided 720,000 pieces of educational equipment to more than 12,500 schools and early learning centres. Schools selected from thousands of different items through our program, highlighting how each school’s needs are different and how critical a breadth of range is.

From Monday April 8 until Sunday June 9 2013, when you shop at Woolworths you will be given a Woolworths Earn & Learn Point. There’ll be one Woolworths Earn & Learn Point for every $10 spent. Collect these Woolworths Earn & Learn Points and Nossal will be able to redeem these for educational resources.

Students and families will be emailed the sticker sheet for you to place your stickers on. Unfortunately this year, Woolworths made a decision not to print sheets for schools.

Start collecting today and please make sure you place your house on the back of the sheet when you drop them in the Woolworths box near the internet cafe/canteen area. Let's see which house can collect the most stickers, a great opportunity to boost your house points for the “Page Cup”.

Nossal can also go in the running for singer “Jessica Mauboy” to visit the school. Each student needs to enter online for a chance to win! Google “Woolworths Earn and Learn” and click on “The Voice” logo or competition. Entries close for the “Jessica Mauboy” competition next Wednesday May 1, so get in quick!