SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN
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2014 INTAKE
Applications for Year 9 entry for 2014 are now open. See page 2 for more details.

CENTRAL AUSTRALIA TRIP - LAST CHANCE
Year 10 & 11 students, 16 places still to fill. See page 5 for more information.

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Dear Nossal Community

School Council Elections

I call on any interested parents to fill one of three parent vacancies on our School Council. Council is the peak decision making body in the school and requires the participation of parents, staff, students and community members. The majority of the members are parent representatives and it is important that we have strong parent voice and broad representation. The role is not onerous but is very important, rewarding and we greatly value and benefit from the input of all community members. No experience is necessary, just an interest in the school and a willingness to participate and represent the views of parents. We have increased the size of our council this year to add another parent position so now have one staff and three parent vacancies to fill. The term of office is two years and council meets about eight times per year, in the evening. If you are interested, please collect a nomination form from the general office or visit the Nossal website, School Council page. Should we receive more than three nominations an election will be held.

I would like to formally thank and acknowledge the excellent work of the council members who have completed their terms of office - Bruce Verity and Ann-Marie Hermanns (parents) and Simone Kluckow (staff).

Foundation Assembly

I look forward to seeing our new Year 9 parents at the 4th annual Foundation Assembly on Thursday February 28. This will be the first Foundation Assembly that we have held at the school and will be in a slightly different format to the previous events. Sir Gus is very keen to meet the new students and staff and will personally welcome each of them, present them with a badge and address the assembly. This is a very important, affirming and enjoyable event for the school, honouring and recognising the new members of our school community and our treasured patron Sir Gustav Nossal. Important members of Monash University and the wider community will also be in attendance and we will also be holding a special Year 12 Assembly at 12.30pm to enable Sir Gus to spend some time acknowledging and inspiring our very first Year 12 cohort as they embark on their final year at Nossal.

2014 Intake

Applications for Year 9 entry for 2014 for the four selective schools are now open (closing in May) so if you have friends or family who you think may be interested in attending Nossal, please encourage them to apply online. All details are on the school website. A testing date for entry to Years 10 and 11 in 2014 (if any vacancies arise) has yet to be set, but is likely to take place in June. Please note that this is a change to the practice in previous years and will be the only avenue for entry to the school at those levels.

Joint Selective School Curriculum Day Friday March 15

Dr Meath and a team of leaders from the other three selective schools have been working on a significant and challenging program for this historic event, to be held at Suzanne Cory High School. This activity will bring all staff (nearly 400 teaching and support staff) from the four selective schools together for the first time and will be wonderful opportunity to share experiences, learn from each other and strengthen the links between the four schools, domain areas and individual staff members. I am looking forward to what we hope will become a very powerful annual event.

Uniforms

PSW assures me that all outstanding Blazer orders have now been filled and I hope that no-one is short of any uniform items. Please contact me directly if this is not the case.

Concerns

I have been very pleased to be in a school (sadly for the first time in over 30 years of teaching) where litter is not an issue, where there is no vandal damage or graffiti and where the students are given the opportunity to work in an open and more adult learning environment. The start of the year can be quite challenging for new staff and students as they adapt to the different spaces and expectations at Nossal. In 2013 we are full for the first time, so space is very tight and the sheer number of students presents some additional challenges for us all. Teaching spaces have been designed to enable team teaching and flexible configurations, meaning that some spaces may have up to 75 students and three teachers working alongside or together in one area. This allows for innovative and different pedagogical approaches, spreads expertise and enables differing class and group configurations. These spaces can appear quite daunting.
initially, particularly to students and staff used to a more traditional classroom space as they are open (no walls or
doors), there may be much more movement and people need to be more conscious of noise.

There has been an increase in litter around the school this year and I would like to see all students taking responsibility for ensuring that does not continue.

The stairwells can be quite crowded during class changeover and I remind students to “keep left.”

The Berwick station is very crowded, especially in the mornings when large numbers of Nossal students arrive on the one train. It will be difficult as the pathways are narrow, but I ask that all students remember that there are other commuters trying to get to the trains and to make sure that they leave access spaces for them. I have had complaints from members of the public who have missed their trains as the Nossal students are blocking the entry ways due to sheer numbers coming down the station walkways.

To my great distress and for the first time in Nossal history, some students have tarnished our reputation by deliberately making a mess in the change rooms at the swimming centre during the recent (highly successful) House Swimming Carnival. I am keen to learn who was responsible so I can assist them with their transfer to a new school. I would expect all students to challenge these transgressions; to ignore them is to condone them.

On a positive note.....

On two occasions in the last week students have handed in sums of money that were lost by others (a considerable amount in one case) and I applaud the honesty and integrity of the finders. This is the sort of behaviour that I would expect, but am pleased to acknowledge, from members of our school community. I adhere to the very simple philosophy that you treat others (and your environment) the way you would want to be treated, and at Nossal we are all responsible for the environment and the school culture and ethos.

Driving in Monash/Parent drop off

I ask that all parents (and students) obey the speed and “Shared Zone” regulations; are conscious of the need to give way at the roundabout at the Monash entry; and to not impede traffic flow through the bus bay/student drop off zone. We have been very concerned that parents are parking on both sides of the school entry ways at the end of the day, creating dangerous congestion when students are trying to cross the roads at the same time. Mr Bell has been directing parents to park elsewhere and I suggest that the Jean Russell Centre carpark, or the gravel road adjacent to the hangars, are more appropriate (and safer) places to wait.

Student Drivers

A reminder to Nossal students who intend to drive themselves to school that they need to see Dr Meath to receive a Nossal student parking authorisation and that there are some strict rules around the transporting of passengers that must be adhered to.

A plea for assistance

I am aware of at least one family who are in need of assistance with transport from the Cranbourne area. If anyone is able to help could they please contact me directly.

Grounds Development

School Council and the Leadership team have been viewing the concept plans prepared by “One Red Tree” Landscape architects who have come up with some stunning designs for a Japanese themed garden, myriad outdoor classroom spaces, an amphitheatre, oval, playing fields and numerous other options for our site. We will now enter the more challenging part of the process by costing the proposals so we can determine how much we are able to achieve in the short term and what things need to be deferred until a future date. We hope to hold another family working bee shortly to assist with maintenance and improvements to the grounds and to continue the excellent work completed by parents late last year.

Parents and Friends

School Council are very keen to build on the enthusiasm for the Parents and Friends group that was instigated last year, and will be reactivating the group shortly. One of the first events they hope to hold will be a “Meet and Greet” evening for Year 9 parents later this term – possibly in conjunction with the parent information night for the City Program which has now been moved to Term 2. More information soon.

Diaries

It was brought to my attention by School Council parents that the decision to not offer a hard copy of the Nossal diary this year has not been clearly communicated to students or parents. I apologise for that oversight. When we
investigated last year we discovered that a very small percentage of students were actually using the diary as intended, so to reduce the booklist costs and to improve efficiency we decided to eliminate the hardcopy version and focus on the use of electronic diaries. Students who prefer to use a hard copy diary may purchase one of their choice outside the school and use that, and we will ensure that our staff and student calendars and other planning tools are up to date and easily accessible by students and their families. To this end, please check and ensure that you have a working, current email address that we can use to communicate with you. Please contact Helen Wallace, or the general office should your contact details change.

The Nossal High School uniform has been designed to be distinctive using a classic style with a contemporary feel. The colours and crest are unique and were selected purposefully to create an image of excellence and pride.

School uniform is a visible sign of the school as an entity and of the individual student's membership of a school. The wearing of a uniform symbolises both the wish to belong to the school and pride in the school. Students seeking to enrol at Nossal High School accept the responsibility to wear the school uniform as approved by the School Council on all occasions when they are representing the school, and in a manner which will bring credit to the school. Parents are expected to give active support to the school's uniform policy.

The school blazer must be worn to and from school, except on days of exceptional heat and in the months of February, March and December. Under no circumstances is the jumper to be worn as the outer garment.

**Academic Summer Uniform (Terms 1 and 4)**

**Girls**

- Black flannel blazer with embroidered school crest
- Short sleeve, summer tunic in school colours
- Tailored pleated grey shorts
- School pullover
- Ecru ankle socks
- Black lace-up school shoes
- Hair Accessories- Rust, black or ecru only
- Black school bag with logo

**Boys**

- Black flannel blazer with embroidered school crest
- Tailored pleated grey shorts
- Short sleeve striped ecru shirt
- School pullover
- Black or oatmeal socks
- Black lace-up leather shoes
- Black school bag with logo

Please note: Girls must not wear T-bars, only black leather lace-up school shoes are allowed.

**Sport and Physical Education Uniform**

**Boys/Girls**

- Sports Top with logo
- Black micromesh shorts with logo
- Rugby jumper with logo
- Spray Jacket with logo
- Tracksuit pants with logo
- Baseball cap with logo
- White ankle sports socks
- Non-marking sole sports shoes
  - May be worn to school if student has Sport or PE on the day

**Accessories/Jewellery**

Jewellery must be simple and appropriate to wear with the school uniform. A watch and plain sleepers or studs for those who have pierced ears are acceptable items of jewellery. Nose rings or studs or other facial piercings are not acceptable at school. All other jewellery will be confiscated and returned only on receipt of a note from the parents. Hair accessories must be black, rust or ecru coloured only. Hair must be neat and tidy and must be tied back if long. Plain black gloves and a plain black scarf may be worn in winter.

**School Bags**

Students are required to purchase the official school bag: a monogrammed, black ergonomically designed backpack.
Students are not allowed to use any other bag.

Please support our community by assisting your son or daughter to wear the Nossal uniform correctly and with pride.

Flags at Nossal
As a proud government school, at Nossal we fly six flags including: the Australian, Victorian, Indigenous, Torres Strait Islander, Nossal and combined House flags. Thank you to the following new year 9M students who have held the responsibility of raising and lowering the flag daily for the first part of Term 1: Divya Dyavanapally, Anisha Kore, Aedan Kertesi and Will Maddren from 9M.

International Women’s Day Friday March 8  Dr Toni E Meath

Purple/Green/White the colours of the Suffragettes who first gained the vote for women in 1911. One hundred and two years ago, when the world first commemorated International Women's Day, gender equality and women's empowerment were largely radical ideas. In 2013, we celebrate the significant progress that has been achieved through determined advocacy, practical action and enlightened policy making.

However, as a planet, we have a long way to go as exampled in the following World Vision (2012) data:

- Although the gender gap in education is closing, there are wide differences within and across countries, and far too many girls are still denied schooling, leave prematurely or complete school with few skills and fewer opportunities.
- One in seven girls in developing countries will become a child bride before the age of 15.
- Girls are three times more likely to suffer from malnutrition than boys.
- 90% of child domestic workers are girls between 12-17 years.
- Nearly half of sexual assaults worldwide are against girls under 15.

At Nossal High School we recognise and value the important roles women play in our society and on this special day we wear the colours of the suffragettes.

Central Australia & Territory Adventure  Miss Amanda Wreidt

We are excited to announce that we are offering the students in Years 10 and 11 the opportunity to partake in a camping adventure to Central Australia and the Northern Territory from Saturday June 22 to Monday July 1, 2013.

This trip will involve approximately 40 Nossal students and 4 Nossal staff travelling to the Northern Territory to explore the best the red centre and top end has to offer. This will be an excellent opportunity for students to experience Australia's natural beauty, history and culture and foster greater independence and self-confidence. The cost of the trip in 2013 will be $1900 per student. A non-refundable deposit of $50 is required by this Thursday recess to secure your place on the trip. The balance of payment will be due approximately 45 days before departure on May 8, 2013.

At this point we still need another 16 students to participate in this experience. If we don’t get the numbers by this Thursday we are sad to say it will be cancelled. This is the only opportunity for Year 10 and 11 students to participate in a camp in 2013. We encourage you to consider this opportunity for your son or daughter. It is a trip of a lifetime to explore the inner beauty of our country.

Please see the brochure attached to the newsletter for more details about the trip and what the students will be doing while away. If you have any questions please contact the school on 8762 4600 and ask for Miss Amanda Wreidt, Camp Coordinator.
Literature Circle Book Club
This year with a full complement of students from Years 9 to 12, the IRC is excited to start the Literature Circle Book Club once again. It will operate once a fortnight during lunch breaks in the IRC whereby members of the group will meet and discuss their readings and share their thoughts about the books they are reading. Members of the club will have the opportunity to win prizes/rewards at each meeting. Parents are requested to encourage their students to participate in the Literature Circle Book Club and read widely as research shows that reading widely has a direct impact on student achievement.

Teen Book Group
There is a new book group called “The Book Group for Teens” that is being started by the Narre Warren Library. It is a book group for teens who love books and love talking about books. If your student is interested in joining then please ask them to see Mrs Reddy in the IRC.

The Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize Competition
The 2013 - 14 Premier’s Spirit of ANZAC Prize Competition is open to all Year 9 and 10 students in Victorian secondary schools. State finalists will have the opportunity to travel on an overseas tour to Gallipoli or the Western Front during the Term 1 school holidays in 2014. Regional finalists will participate in a study tour within Australia.

The costs of the study tour including airfares, meals and accommodation will be fully met by the Victorian Government. Entries can be an essay, poem, short story, audio or video presentation, musical composition, digital presentation or art work and must be submitted by Friday October 11, 2013. If your student is in Year 9 or 10 then please encourage them to participate. Interested students may obtain further details from Mrs Reddy in the IRC.

Sustainable School Shop
We have had great success with the usage of the Sustainable School Shop since introduced at the end of last year. There has been 260 Nossal families who have registered with the school shop to buy and sell their school books and uniform items. We encourage all Nossal families to utilise this fantastic service. Please visit www.sustainableschoolshop.com.au

School Council 2013
*The following details were emailed to all families on Friday February 22, 2013. If you did not receive your electronic copy we request that you urgently update your family email details to ensure you receive further important school information, including the fortnightly newsletter. Update your details to Helen Wallace via email at wallace.helen.h@edumail.vic.gov.au

Dear Parents/Guardians,

School council is the peak decision making body at our school and effective parent and student voice is an essential element for our ongoing success. Council meets 8 times per year in the evening and the term of office is two years. Following the completion of their terms of office, Nossal High School will have 3 parent vacancies and 1 DEECD staff vacancy on School Council this year.

I now call for nominations to the parent representative category – you may nominate yourself – or be nominated by others (with your consent). Please collect, or ask your child to collect a nomination form from the general office and have it returned by 4.00pm on Monday, March 1. Should the number of nominations exceed the number of vacancies we will then hold an election to select our new council members.

I strongly encourage you to consider taking on this most important responsibility.

Mr Roger Page, Principal
School Council Elections 2013

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

• A mandated elected Parent category. More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (DEECD) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.
• A mandated elected DEECD employee category. Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.
• An optional Community member category. Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DEECD employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school. Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.
In view of this, you might seriously consider
• standing for election as a member of the school council
• encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DEECD employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled
Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.
If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
• Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
• Consider standing for election to council this year
• Be sure to vote in the elections.

For more information – please contact Roger Page (Principal) or refer to the link below . . .

Equestrian Success for Nossal

Student: Lillian Charman

During the 2012/2013 school holidays, I competed twice at Interschool Showjumping Competitions for Nossal High School. The first of these was Newhaven College Interschool Showjumping at Ayr Hill on December 7. My horse, Lone Sun and I, competed in Class 4, competing in three individual rounds.

- An AM7 – a full 12 obstacle course, with an immediate jump-off over a shortened course against the clock if clear in the first round
- A Two-phase - a 12 obstacle course which has two phases, power (the ability to jump clear over the first half of the course), and speed (against the clock for the second half of the round)
- An AM5, which is similar to an AM7, except the jump off is completed after all competitors have jumped their first round.

In the AM7 we had two clear rounds, placing us 8th, one rail (4 penalties) in the Two Phase, with a place of 9th, and two clear rounds in the AM5, with 1st place.

Our second interschool, the first of 2013, was the Port Phillip Showjumping Club Interschool on the 18th of January. Lone Sun and I competed in the Advanced class, with two rounds, a Two Phase, and a Grand Prix, which is very similar to the AM5 round. We were clear in the two-phase with a placing of 4th, and had one rail (4 penalties) in the second round of the Grand Prix, which gave us a placing of 5th. Overall, we placed 5th and were very happy with our efforts for the day.

FareShare

Student: Hilary Ung

On February 21, on a nice Thursday morning, 15 Nossalonians came to South Melbourne to breathe it’s brisk morning air. When we arrived at the Town Hall, we didn’t know what to expect at FareShare but we knew that after this experience, everyone would be proud of what they would have achieved. However, no-one was prepared for what FareShare had installed for us. “You have just made a difference to around 700 people!” Those words stayed with me for the rest of the day. Who knew a group of high school students, spending three hours of continuous cutting, stirring and packaging would have prepared meals enough to feed around 700 people. And who knew a single trip to FareShare would have given me such great satisfaction and pride.

This experience at FareShare has given me an insight of an organisation that is dedicated to helping the needy and this not only has inspired me to do more charitable deeds, it has also made me feel privileged to have worked alongside Alice, Polly and Sandy who are FareShare passionate volunteers who RESCUES food and FIGHTS hunger.

Today has by far been the most rewarding day for me. Let's rescue food and fight hunger together!

Would $500 assist you with education cost?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings dollar for dollar, up to $500, for education costs including school uniforms and text books, laptops, sports equipment and music tuition!

To be eligible you must:
- have a Centrelink Health Care or a Pensioner Concession Card
- have a child at school or starting next year
- have some form of household income, for example, you or your partner may have casual, part-time, full-time or seasonal employment.

Call or SMS Karmen Dayal, your local Saver Plus Worker at the Brotherhood of St Laurence on 59419155/0459190144.

Saver Plus is an initiative of Brotherhood of St Laurence and ANZ, delivered in partnership with Berry Street, The Benevolent Society and The Smith Family and other local community agencies. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs, with ANZ providing matched savings for participants.