March 22, 2013

NOSSAL PARTNERSHIPS
See page 2 for more details

PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS
See page 2 for more

JOINT SELECTIVE SCHOOLS CURRICULUM DAY
See page 2 for more

IMPORTANT MARCH/APRIL DATES
Mar 26 Nossal Athletics Day
Mar 27 Parent Teacher Interviews, Victorian Swimming Competition
Mar 28 Pupil Free Day: Parent Teacher Interviews, School Term Ends
Apr 15 Term two commences
Apr 16 Cross Country
Apr 18 ANZAC Commemoration Year 9
Apr 22 Guest Speaker: Karen Ford Year 11
Apr 25 ANZAC Day - Public Holiday
Apr 29 City Week starts for Year 9 MNOP
Apr 29 Year 10 Bioeyes Incursion starts

UPDATING YOUR DETAILS
Page 2

SPORTS TEAMS
Page 3

YEAR 9 2014 APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN
Page 2

ENGLISH COMPETITION RESULTS
Page 6

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Dear Nossal Community

Parent Teacher Interviews
By now I hope all parents have received their interim reports in the mail and have been able to make bookings for parent teacher interviews next week.

The new booking system should be much more efficient and we have increased the times that teachers are available for interviews, but I expect that there will be some teachers and some timeslots that will fill quickly and you may not be able to gain a suitable appointment. If that is the case, could you please ring or email the school and your contact details will be passed on to the teachers concerned (please be specific about who you wish to communicate with). Teachers may not be able to contact everyone before the holidays and if you have not heard by early next term, please let us know.

Parent / Family Email Addresses
We still have a significant number of family emails that bounce back, have been changed, or no longer operate, which means that you may miss important information from us. If you are not receiving this newsletter via email then we probably do not have a current email address for you. Could all parents please ensure that all your details, email, telephone, address and emergency contacts are up to date. If there have been any changes since initial enrolment, please ensure that the office has been informed and records updated accordingly.

Joint Selective Schools Curriculum Day
Last Friday was the inaugural joint curriculum day where all staff from Nossal, Melbourne High, MacRob and Suzanne Cory gathered together (at Suzanne Cory) for an intensive Professional Learning program. The day consisted of addresses by Associate Professor John Munro from The University of Melbourne (on gifted education), Mr Ian Burrage from DEECD (the DEECD response to the Parliamentary Inquiry into Gifted Education), joint faculty and team meetings, followed by a series of elective workshop presentations from staff from all four schools. It was an inspiring event with over 400 staff gathered together for the first time, to discuss common issues and approaches, share experiences, resources, to learn from and network with our colleagues in the other schools. My thanks to all involved, particularly the organising committee (Dr Meath the Nossal representative) and the Nossal staff presenters who were very well received (Mr Clark, Ms Wriedt, Mr Fankhauser, Ms Mackin, Mr Haworth, Ms Warriner). Special thanks to Mr Pegram and Ms Desaulniers for wrangling the bus for me.

This will be the first of what we hope will become an annual event and more importantly will strengthen direct links between teachers in the four schools. The 2014 event will be held at Nossal which will be a relief for us, but a commuting challenge for the Suzanne Cory staff who will have to leave at the crack of dawn to get here, as our staff did this year.

Nossal Partnerships
We are slowly building some really interesting links and connections with various groups and organisations that will be of enormous long term benefit for Nossal students. Our Monash partnership is already very strong, but we are meeting regularly with the leaders of the Education Faculty and other key Monash staff and developing some exciting prospects around mentoring of students, access to courses, classes and spaces, mutually beneficial activities and events both here at the Berwick campus and beyond.

The Nossal Institute of Global Health is part of The University of Melbourne and are very keen to make some links and structure some projects with our students. This initiative is particularly inspiring as it has come from the students at the Nossal Institute (mainly senior medical students who are working on projects in global health in third world areas) They will be here next week to set up a planning group with our student leaders and to instigate a partnership that has some very exciting possibilities.

Mrs Ansalde has just returned from a week in Arnhem Land at the Maningrida community where she is beginning to work with a team of researchers and academics from The University of Melbourne and Maningrida College which will ultimately result in student exchanges between Nossal and Maningrida and some high level academic research, both there and here.
I have been meeting with a team of principals from a diverse group of local schools, both government and non-government to apply for Trade Training Centre funding to enhance VET provision in the area. If successful this will provide a substantial injection of funds into the individual schools and a significant increase in the number and diversity of VET programs on offer locally which will be shared across the schools and available to students in each school.

The Nossal Flying School is about to get off the ground (pun intended) and thanks to Mr Haworth and the Tooradin Flying School our students now have the opportunity to do some flying and gain their pilot's licence (at a significantly reduced cost) as part of the school co-curricula program.

These holidays will see Nossal providing the venue for the annual Southern Music Festival as part of the Southern Arts Show which will also be hosted here later in the year. Musicians from all areas will be competing in the events at Nossal during the holidays and this will be the first time that we have formally opened the school up for a community run event (the first of many).

We have been talking with the World Challenge Organisation about the possibility of Year 12 Nossal students being offered the opportunity to undertake an overseas project after they have completed their exams, so rather than becoming involved in a “schoolies” event in Queensland they could undertake a significant community project in a needy area in South East Asia. We thought this might be a safer, more positive and socially responsible way for interested students to celebrate the end of their secondary schooling. We will be talking to students to determine the level of interest shortly.

Places for 2014
There has been increased interest in places for Year 9 2014 again this year. Online applications to sit the entry exam are open and close on May 17. We will be holding an Information Night for prospective students on April 23 and are running tours on Friday mornings.

Concerns
The following issues are areas that we need to address and I ask for parent and students support in ensuring that we are all aware of the expected behaviours, and are actively encouraging those behaviours in others.

- Driving through Monash – I am still receiving complaints from Monash security about parents speeding through the pedestrian zones in Monash
- Students walking through the Monash carparks instead of using the footpath, impeding traffic and in danger from cars attempting to park
- Uniform issues – only the blazer or sport jacket (with sport uniform) is to be worn to and from school as an outer garment – not the jumper (shirts are acceptable during Term 1 and 4). Socks should be black (boys only) or ecru – not white
- Designated study periods are for study (not lunch or games). Year 12 students (only) may exit the school for home if they have a free period 5 (or 4 on Wednesday), but only if they sign out officially and not during designated study periods
- Bags should not be taken to class or study periods, unless it is period 5 (not period 4 on Wednesday); you need to be on the early train; they are not a trip issue in the classroom (your class teacher will advise).

Sports teams
Thanks to Miss Veale in particular and to the dedicated staff coaches and students who volunteer to participate in the numerous sporting teams and events at Nossal. A wide range of sports are offered and we field some very enthusiastic and successful teams at most local competitions; and perform much better than we might expect, given our limited cohort (no Year 7 or 8) and comparatively small size (800 students compared to 1500+).

Congratulations to our swimming team who managed second place overall in the District Swimming competition last week competing against much larger schools and with no Year 7 or 8 students to gain points in the junior events. Another very impressive effort, with our team only bested by Berwick SC at twice our size. There were some very impressive individual performances, but we excelled in the teams events and this mirrors the Nossal ethos of teamwork, support, sportsmanship and enthusiasm. It is not always about winning, but is important to have a go and we regularly perform very well in most of the sporting competitions as we are able to field teams of enthusiastic competitors willing to have a go.

Central Australia Trip
Unfortunately the proposed Central Australian Tour will not proceed this year as minimum numbers were not reached. The office staff will be in contact with those who have paid the deposit shortly.
The importance of breakfast is to provide energy and to enhance concentration. As studies tell us, breakfast is the most important meal of the day and is a mandatory requirement for all students to have a healthy brain function to process and retain information. The breakfast program has had the added benefit of enhancing student social connections. Our data shows that every other student within each year level comes from a different school. As such, it is vital that students make firm social connections with their peers as a strong sense of belonging provides a foundation on which academic success may be established. Currently community donations have played a significant role in funding this program.

Our students participate in running this program successfully by allocating breakfast leaders who are responsible for cleaning up at the end of each day. Last year we also ran Friday cooked breakfasts but due to time restrictions we are no longer able to offer this.

Due to Nossal now running at full student capacity we will be relying on community involvement and donations to keep this great program running. You can help by donating breakfast items, financial donations and of course volunteering from 7.50 to 9.15am. We really would appreciate having a kitchen volunteer to run our Friday cooked breakfasts from 7.30 until 9.15am. If you are able to assist please phone the school on 03 8762 4600 or alternatively email ansalde.leanne.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Nossal Sustainable Vegetable Garden
Volunteer Garden Manager Wanted

Nossal High School has a significant garden program. We encourage our school community to take on community work and make a difference to people in need, as every little bit of help can go a long way. We pride ourselves on our humanitarian beliefs and make respectful and ethical ideas a reality.

This initiative started early in 2012 with students wanting to donate time to help individuals and families in need. The student idea consisted of cooking meals for homeless people, but due to the enormity of such a task, we settled on the idea of growing fruit and vegetables and donating them to charities and not for profit organisations. Mitre 10 and Speedy Seedlings in Berwick have been our major sponsors and have made this project possible. Last year we donated over 180kg of broccoli, cauliflower, bok choy and beetroot to various organisations. Our students have been maintaining the garden and are in charge of planting, harvesting and general wellbeing of the plants.

Nossal High School has developed a strong relationship with FareShare which is a not for profit organisation that allows schools to participate in cooking meals for people in need. FareShare collects donated foods and turns them into nutritious meals for people who are finding it hard, such as pensioners, homeless people and families in need. In 2012, one of our donations (40kg of bok choy) was used by our students to make chicken curry. Our donation extended the quantity of meals by 40%.

Our other produce went to the Salvation Army in Pakenham who made up hampers and delivered them to those in need; just in time for Christmas. We look forward to donating much more this year but need some community help.

Due to our garden’s high demands we are seeking a volunteer to help out once a week for 1 – 2 hours; if you can help or know of someone who can, please contact the school on 03 8762 4600 or alternatively email ansalde.leanne.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

Parent Travel Needed

One of our Nossal parents has placed a request with us to appeal to the Nossal community regarding assistance with travel. Mrs Hanan Jacoub is wishing to share carpooling of a Year 9 student with someone in the area of Bellbird Park in Berwick just off Ernst Wanke Rd.

If you are able to assist please contact Mrs Jacoub directly on her mobile 0431 538 552.

Thank you.
Premier’s Reading Challenge 2013

Our school is once again taking part in Premier's Reading Challenge 2013 and invites students in Years 9 and 10 to join in discovering the magic of books. The challenge promotes the importance of reading among students in Victorian schools. The 2013 Challenge booklists have been expanded and cater for all types of interest, with fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry, short stories as well as graphic novels.

The Challenge will end on September 12.

We would appreciate if parents of students in Years 9 and 10 could please encourage their students to participate in Premier's Reading Challenge 2013. Those interested in participating could come to the IRC to collect the parental permission forms. There will be awards for the students who read the most number of books and they will also win points for their Houses.

Science News

In the world of Science at Nossal, it is always busy. Our staff work room is constantly bustling with creativity and inspiration. Students visit all the time with their questions and queries. It is an open and welcoming learning environment.

Some of the recent events in Science at Nossal include:

- All Year 9 Science classes are completing a “Testing a Consumer Product” activity. Students have designed their own experiments to test a commonly available consumer product. Many cola taste tests are planned as well as experiments testing the “stretchability” of different types of elastic bands, the height that different types of balls will bounce and how quickly a well-known brand of dairy spread can be spread onto different types of bread. Students have learnt the difference between dependent and independent variables, subjective and objective measurement and between discrete and continuous data. They have also learnt how to write an effective scientific hypothesis.

- On Tuesday, March 5, 80 Year 11 Biology students completed a fieldwork study at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Cranbourne. In spite of really hot weather, the students were able to conduct a study of marshland and heathy woodland. They learnt how to identify different species of native plant using a dichotomous key. Students also learned important facts about the recovery of the Australian bush after fire. Ms Harrap, Mr Labrooy, Ms Chew and Mrs Latham accompanied the students on the day. The students worked really hard, as you can see in the photos.

- Inaugural Australasian Genetics Society DNA Essay Writing competition. A number of Year 11 and 12 students are drafting essays for this competition. First prize includes publication of the essay in a scientific journal. Hopefully a Nossal student will achieve this prestigious award.

- At the STAV Chemistry teacher’s conference two weeks ago, two of our very talented Chemistry teachers Ms Jenna Richards and Ms Amanda Wriedt, presented a session to over 60 beginning Chemistry teachers. It was a very rewarding challenge for them both and we are most proud of them.

- All new students to Nossal should now have their lab coats and safety goggles thanks to the efforts of our wonderful laboratory technicians Mrs Mary Johnston and Ms Kathy Watson.
**Australian Computational and Linguistic Olympiad**

25 Year 11 English Language students participated in the Regional Round of the Australian Computational and Linguistic Olympiad on Thursday March 7. The OZCLO competition, as it is called, is a language puzzle-solving competition. There were 7 teams in the Regional Round and successful teams advance to the National Round to be held on March 26 at the University of Melbourne, Parkville Campus. National Winners will go to the UK to participate in the International Olympiad.

**Student’s response to the competition**

The OzCLO was a new and different experience for the students at Nossal High School, as we could work in teams to test our skills in linguistics and problem solving. Determination and commitment was shown across all teams to achieve their best in this challenging competition. In small groups of four, every team member displayed outstanding teamwork to solve the difficult, but enjoyable, language puzzles. We all had an extraordinary time and would definitely seize the opportunity presented if we were to make it into the next round. Finally, we would like to thank Mr Mahalingam for giving us the opportunity to test our skills in this challenging experience.

*Kim Long Le 11M (on behalf of Team 235)*

**The results!**

Congratulations students! We are pleased to announce that the following Year 11 English Language students did exceptionally well in the OZCLO competition and have finished in the Gold Category:

- Team 235 (Kim Long Le, Jason Zhou, Henry Pan and Carlyna Yap)
- Team 238 (William Campbell, Tanvir Singh, Ajinkya Khairnar and Rounak Dalal)

This year 302 students participated in the OZCLO competition from all over Victoria. The quality of the submissions was impressive and teams performed to a very high standard on what was a tricky paper. The teams from Nossal High School performed very well this year. Well Done students!

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**VCE Surf Camp, March 4-6**

We have just returned from the inaugural VCE PE Surf Camp at sunny Phillip Island, having spent three beautiful days in the sand and surf. Our students were fantastic and certainly ‘Embraced the Challenge’. Each day the temperature was over 30 degrees, however fortunately involved a surf lesson at Smith’s Beach and a variety of other activities from which it was hard to pick a favourite. Some liked the penguins while others enjoyed the surfing. We managed to fit in a yoga class, a beautiful hike, ‘Amaze n things’, sliding down sand dunes, rock pools, pier jumping and pizza eating! I thought it was fun, but don't take my word for it, here's what the students had to say:

“*I enjoyed the walk along the beach and the pier jumping*”

“The rock pool jumping was radical mate. Surfing was rippin”

“*Surfing and going down the sand dune was amazing*”

“Surfing lessons were really fun”

“Everything was awesome! Surfing, the rock pools, pier jumping, the hike, and the weather was amazing. Perfect!”

*In the midst of having all this fun we were also reflecting on our own activity levels and the factors that can impact on these. I'm not sure which they will remember most!*