November 19, 2013

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Dear Nossal Community,

Exam Performance
Exams proceed apace with most of the Year 12 students nearing the end of their final exams. They are feeling the pressure but appear to be performing well and there have not been too many surprises for them, which I hope means that they have been well prepared and will achieve well.

We have always been concerned that the focus in a school like Nossal can become very score orientated and we need to constantly remind ourselves and our students (particularly those in the final stages of VCE) that the ATAR score is important, but does not fully define success, nor does it necessarily accurately predict future successes or outcomes. Our Year 11 students were lauded last year for their excellent Unit 3 & 4 results and this may have set an unrealistic expectation for their performance in 2013. In 2012, nearly all Year 11 students completed one Unit 3 & 4 study (some more than one) and these subjects were ones they were particularly interested in or good at and they all performed very well and achieved high scores, sometimes at the expense of their Unit 1 & 2 studies. This gave us an artificially inflated result for Year 12 in 2012, which is unlikely to be matched in 2013 and I would be very disturbed if the students felt that they had performed poorly this year by comparison with their single study results last year. I hope that all students achieve their best and that they measure their performance broadly and realistically; not all will achieve the results they would like, but I would hope that they all achieve the best results they can and that we have prepared them well for long term success. We know that many high performing Year 12 students do not successfully transition into tertiary environments, dropping out of their university studies we will be working with our exiting students through the newly formed alumni and by individually tracking them all to ensure that we can continue to support them if necessary and to determine that we have done as much as possible to guarantee ongoing and future success. Our graduating students will continue to help inform our structures and approaches and help us to learn and improve what we do.

Year 9 students are now moving into their formal exam period and the Year 10 and 11 exams begin on November 18.

NAPLAN Results
Current Year 9 students will receive their Naplan results in the school mail out next week. The certificates came to the school very late this year, so rather than do a separate (expensive) individual mail out we will enclose them with the Year 10 information package.

World Challenge
We have a very dedicated staff and student team currently preparing for our second World Challenge expedition late in 2014. This expedition will be trekking through Tanzania, and have a fantastic itinerary planned. There is still time for others to join this expedition, but they would have to do so late this year or very early into 2014 to ensure appropriate lead up and preparation. Please see Miss D’Mello if you might be interested in this exciting opportunity.

Vacancies for 2014
The final Year 9 positions for 2014 have been filled, although we may find some late movement if the previous years are anything to go by. Again we have students coming from 92 different schools from right across the metropolitan area and Gippsland; half from non-Government schools. This has been a consistent pattern for 5 years now – although the schools vary from year to year and the numbers coming from individual schools is quite variable from year to year.

There are still a large number on the waiting list for Years 10 and 11 and I have been able to offer four Year 10 and one Year 11 places to date. We have advertised quite a number of teaching and support staff jobs in recent weeks and will be embarking on a week of solid interviewing to appoint the best applicants into these roles. In spite of the large number of jobs being advertised around that state at the moment we again appear to be attracting large fields of high quality applicants.

Speech Night
Please make sure that you have all planned to attend our first full Speech Night. We have many worthy award recipients and our first Year 12 cohort to acknowledge, and a very full program to celebrate and showcase our
outstanding students and staff. I am hoping to see a very full house on the evening.

PFA (Parents and Friends)
Nossal has a wonderful group of very enthusiastic and dedicated parents who have done a fantastic job in creating our new PFA this year. Under the leadership of Mr Cheong Koo they have initiated many worthy projects and have many more in the pipeline. I urge you to support them wherever you can as they have planned some very exciting and worthy activities that will be of direct benefit to all of us.

There are a number of fundraisers running – or planned for 2014, and a key event - the second hand book and uniform sale (and sausage sizzle) will take place from 10.30 am until 1.00 pm on Saturday November 30.

Working Bee
This is long overdue and badly needed and I have had trouble finding an appropriate time so plan to combine it with the book and uniform sale on Saturday November 30. If anyone is able to assist between 9.30 am and 1.30 pm it would be much appreciated. We need to move lots of mulch; weed, mow and trim around the northern carpark, and tidy up the swale drains and garden beds. Mowers, whipper snippers and basic gardening equipment would be most welcome – there is a fair bit to do but many hands make light work and if you are coming in for the book sale and can spare an hour or so to stay and assist with the gardening you would be most welcome. Just turn up on the day – we will have barrows and spades and some equipment, a large supply of weeds, and sausages and drinks courtesy of the PFA to sustain us.

Farewell
This week we farewelled Miss Melissa Bowey who has been our key receptionist and administrator in the general office for the last 18 months. After completing her traineeship with us she has secured a permanent position elsewhere. We thank her and wish her well in the new role.

Congratulations to Natalie Grimmett and Lachlan Boldt of Year 9 for gaining Academic Achievement Awards for their VSL studies in Indonesian and German respectively. They have been invited at an awards ceremony at the Victorian School of Languages in December. Thanks to Ms Wakeman for her role in supporting this program.

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Important Information

Year 10 and 11 Exams – Monday 18 – Friday November 22
Throughout Week 7 the Year 10s and 11s will sit their end of year exams. They must wear their full academic uniform during exams. Students only need to attend school when they have an exam. They may arrive at school 30 mins prior to their exam and leave as soon as they are finished. We expect that students will utilise the time to prepare for subsequent exams. If students wish to study at school and/or seek help from teachers they are welcome to do so, but must maintain a quiet and orderly environment.

There will not be any canteen services during this week on Monday – Thursday. Students must bring their own snacks and lunch if they are required at school for the whole day.

Procedures for exams:
Our own internal exams are practise for VCAA exams, and as such we comply with the rules and conditions of VCAA exams. Students:
- Are not permitted to bring mobile phones or other electronic devices into exams.
- Must have clear water bottles which are place on the floor during the exam
- Should only bring approved pens and other stationary in a clear bag
- Must line up in the 30 mins prior to the exam in class groups
- Must know their Automarque Numbers (found in the canteen foyer)

We wish our students all the best during the examination period; we know that your hard work throughout the year will reap rewards.

All Students Year 9-11 – Expectations during Week 8
Throughout the week of November 25 - 29 students will attend their normal 2013 timetabled classes on Monday –
Wednesday. During this time students will receive valuable examination feedback. Students are encouraged to reflect on their study habits, performance and the answer key provided by the teachers, to identify where they can refine their technique, understanding and performance in the future.

On Thursday and Friday, each student will experience at least one, 75 min lesson in each of their 2014 subjects. These sessions are designed to give the students an outline of their courses and describe the recommended holiday reading and work expectations. A timetable for these two days will be distributed to students at the beginning of week 8. Students will only be expected to have stationary for these classes.

Some homework will be set in the holidays, however it is important for students to have time to relax and enjoy their holidays. The amount recommended for each year level is shown below.

- Year 10 9 hours – approximately 1.5 hrs per subject
- Year 11 12 hours – approximately 2 hours per subject
- Year 12 15 hours – approximately 3 hours per subject

In addition, all students moving in Years 10-12 should read their English/Literature novels at least once. It would be ideal for Year 12s to read them twice.

**Final Assemblies for 10 and Year 11 – Friday November 29**
- Year 11s will be dismissed from school for the year at lunch time after their final assembly
- Year 10s will be dismissed from school for the year at the end of the day, after their final assembly

**Final Assembly for Year 9 - Friday November 13**
Year 9s have an extensive academic and co-curricular program for the remaining weeks of school. Full attendance is expected. They will be dismissed early on Friday November 13, immediately after the assembly. Every student is expected to attend their final assembly; they are required to wear full academic uniform.

**Speech Night - Monday November 25 – Robert Blackwood Hall, Monash University, Clayton Campus**
Recognising and celebrating academic, service and house achievement is something we pride ourselves on as a community. With this in mind we want to share the success of our students with the whole school community. Speech night is a compulsory event for all students. Full summer academic uniform must be worn by all. Those students not receiving an award are expected to sit in their tutorial groups with their tutorial teacher and other members of staff. They should arrive at 6.00 pm to be seated in readiness for a prompt start.

This year all of our Year 9s will sing on stage and all of the Year 12s will be on stage for their final farewell to the school community. Sir Gustav Nossal will address us and we will hear the 2013 Speech Night Oration from Professor Leon Piterman, the Pro Vice Chancellor of the Berwick and Peninsula Campuses of Monash University. We welcome parents, friends and family to join us in this historic celebration of our school's success. Tickets are free and will be available to guests at the door.

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**Speech Night 2013**
Monday November 25, 7pm
Robert Blackwood Hall,
Monash University, Clayton

**Tickets are free**
Tickets will be available at the door on the night
Language Domain Awards

Nossal High School Language students have taken part in several competitions during the year. We would like to congratulate all students for their participation and acknowledge and celebrate the highest achievers. Congratulations to the following students for winning a 2GB iPod Shuffle from language perfect due to their commitment to using the language perfect website to improve their language skills: Marie Lee, Qiao Si Tee and Lachlan Boldt.

ACER Assessment of Language Competence Certificates
The following Year 9s achieved high distinction standard for listening level 1:
French: Jake Blight, Rhea Choudhary, Malaika Lobo, Natasha Menzis
Japanese: Joanna An, Edward Chhim, Austin Iuong, Tien Nguyen, Steven Sagayaraj, John Tran and Kevin Wijaya

The following Year 10 students achieved two high distinction certificates for reading and listening level 2
French: Rui Ling Yew
Japanese: Waverly Chai, Jennifer Gu and Sage Naphine-Morrison

The following Year 10 students achieved two certificates at least of distinction level for reading and listening level 2
French: Priyuni Desai, Matthew Fung, Muzamal Ibrahimji, Botidah Thach, Vincent Yip
Japanese: Gabbie Jimenez, Thomas Kamuyu, Joey Lee and Jake Piddington

The following Year 10 students achieved two high distinction certificates for reading and listening level 3
Japanese: Nobutaka Chong and Erika Scully

The following Year 11 students achieved two high distinction certificates for reading and listening level 3
French: Fiona Chen
Japanese: Nipuni Perera

The following Year 9 Japanese student achieved two certificates of at least distinction level for reading and listening level 3
Japanese: Hirotaka Chong

The following Year 10 student achieved two certificates of at least distinction level for reading and listening level 3
Japanese: Riley Baird

The following Year 11 students achieved two certificates of at least distinction level for reading and listening level 3
French: Nidhin Benny, Patricia Bordos
Japanese: Thanh Do, Laura Forster, Nicole Lim, Emma Luong, Theresa Qin, Joel Santos, Lucy Shi and Jack Tong

Alliance Francaise Berthe Mouchette Competition
This competition assesses speaking and writing skills. The following Year 11 students achieved a very high level of achievement on both the oral and written exams: Grace Ho, Fiona Chen and Nidhin Benny. The following Year 12 students achieved a very high level of achievement in the oral exam: Levi Barker and Ying Yew.

Remembrance Day

Written by Thomas Velican & Kenisha Ferreira 9T

On Monday November 11, ten Year 9 students from our very own Nossal High School were included in the Remembrance Day ceremony hosted by Berwick RSL and Legacy. The students were led by Ms Thompson and Mr Haworth to Berwick Main Street where war veterans along with the general public were present to commemorate Remembrance Day and to mark 95 years since the end of World War 1. The Berwick RSL President Mr Ray Heathcote led the crowd in reciting The Ode as many looked upon the Berwick war memorial. Students from primary and secondary schools as well as members of clubs and nursing homes lay a wreath on the memorial after the Last Post was played. The ceremony was an important way to remember all those who sacrificed their lives for our country as well as recognising those still involved in conflicts around the world.
The school receives a lot of information from local, state and national organisations about programs they run. As we can't vet every one, you should take their inclusion here as a recommendation. However, these may be worth your consideration.

**BRAVE-ONLINE** is a program that helps young people and their parents learn strategies and techniques for coping with social anxiety: situations where young people experience fear of embarrassment in front of others, and extreme shyness.

At school that might be about reading aloud, presenting oral reports, asking questions, participating in class, playing or competing in teams, even joining in social groups at lunchtime. This is a pilot research program for young people and their families. It is done online from the comfort of the family home. The program needs participants aged 13 to 17. To find out more go to [www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/socialanxiety](http://www.exp.psy.uq.edu.au/socialanxiety)

**Powerhouse Programs** run a program to help teenage boys and their parents to develop the best possible relationships and communication with one another. The program involves a son and father going away on camp together for five days.

If enough parents are interested in this program, the school could negotiate with Powerhouse to run the program here at Nossal. Email the school counsellor at [leigh.candy@nossalhs.vic.edu.au](mailto:leigh.candy@nossalhs.vic.edu.au) to register an interest.

The local **Connections Youth and Family Services** six-session Pit Stop program for fathers - new dads, step-dads and grand-dads runs at Hampton Park from Tuesday November 12. It is described as a parenting tune-up and the cost is a gold coin. It might not be too late to join. Call Sidney on 5945 3900 or Jonathon on 9704 8377 to register.

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**40hour Famine Results**

This year Nossal High School once again participated in the World Vision 40-hour Famine. Over 35 students participated in this fundraising event and did amazing work - giving up everything from food to furniture. The school raised just over $2,330 dollars for community projects and families living in poverty. We had some individual students who raised incredible donations on their own. Our top raisers were Shanice Ngari in Year 9, who raised $430 and Cherry Chan in Year 10 who raised $255. A huge thank you goes to all of our students who worked hard to raise funds for this cause and to all those friends and family who supported the students in their efforts.

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**IRC News**

**White Ribbon Awareness Day at Nossal**

This year our school observed the White Ribbon Day on Monday November 4. The aim was to raise awareness of family violence among the school community. On the day two speakers namely, Ms Naureen Choudhry, the Secretary of Casey Multifaith Network and Sergeant Graeme Stanley who is the Divisional Family Violence Manager for Southern Metropolitan Division and an Ambassador and Community Leader for White Ribbon Australia addressed the students and staff at the school assembly. They spoke about the history of White Ribbon Day as well as the family and domestic violence in the region.

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**Second Hand Uniform & Book Sale**

**Saturday November 30, 10.30am - 1.00pm**

Buy a table for $10 to sell your goods. All proceeds go back into the school. If you wish to donate items to the school please drop them into the school office prior to this day. For further information email PFA President Cheong Koo at [cheong.koo@gmail.com](mailto:cheong.koo@gmail.com) or call 0403 234 698
Central Australia Trip 2014

We are excited to announce that we are offering the Year 10 and 11 students in 2014 the opportunity to partake in a tour of Central Australia and the Northern Territory from Friday June 20 to Monday June 30, 2014. This trip will involve 40 plus 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. This is currently the only camp that will be offered to Year 10 and Year 11 students next year.

The cost of the trip in 2014 will be $1780 per student. A deposit of $100 is required by Tuesday December 17, 2013 to secure your child's place on the tour (should the trip not run for any reason, families will be refunded their $100 deposit). Upon deposit of $100, students will be given the details of a payment plan that outlines the due dates for four further instalments, with the final payment being due on May 1, 2013. The price of $1780 includes accommodation, most meals and a flight from Darwin to Melbourne. Travel insurance is available to students for an additional price.

A letter was distributed to interested students on Tuesday November 12 during tutorial, which includes a short summary of the tour as well as return slip to accompany the deposit to the office. Any questions about the tour can be directed to Amanda Wriedt via email: amanda.wriedt@nossalhs.vic.edu.au.

Save Our Stig Day

Thank you to all those who came to school last Friday in free dress, especially to Callum who was in a turtle outfit, to support S.O.S. – “Save Our Stig” – Day. Our school turtle is now recovered from his health set-back earlier in the year. A thorough renovation of his tank and expert advice from Bunarong Aquarium helped him get back on track and he started to pick up last term. This term, he has moved to a much larger tank in the Science Theory Area 1 upstairs, with new heating and lighting and a state of the art filtration system to keep the water clean and pH balanced.

During a “well turtle check” with Shane, the Vet from Karingal Veterinary Hospital, we learned that the turtle we thought was a girl turns out to be a boy turtle all along. Stig accepted this shocking news with typical placid resignation and the rest of us at school have to get used to not referring to him in the feminine gender.

All things associated with the specialized care of reptiles however come at a high cost and we are very grateful to all those who supported last Friday's fundraising “Turtle” free dress day. About $440 was raised towards the cost of Stig's new tank and its accessories. We hope to be able to purchase a basking lamp for him and some aquaria internal decorations with some of the proceeds. If you missed out on the day, any further donations would be very welcome – there is a “Save Our Stig” donation box at Reception. Stig is really coming out of his shell now that he is in his new residence and he is “at home” to receive visitors any time during school hours in the corner of SCT1 between the Prep Room and Chem 1.
A Gap Medic Work Experience Placement

Aspiring medics between the ages of 16 -25 can join us this summer on our Australian Summer Special in Thailand or Tanzania from 5th January 2014! (there are placements throughout the year however) Here they will shadow healthcare professionals in a variety of departments, getting a real-life insight into the work of medical professionals in a new and exciting country. No amount of work experience available back home in Australia will measure up!

- Students are collected from the airport and all live in our Gap Medics houses together with 64 other students, all the same age from all over the world.
- Mon-Friday students work in the hospitals from 8am to around 2pm
- They shadow doctors, dentists, nurses and midwives in a variety of department's
- The main areas of the hospital that they work in are Obstetrics, Surgery, Paediatrics and General Medicine.
- 3 times per week they have a clinical teaching session where they are all brought together to discuss and interpret what they see on placement
- Weekends are time for travel with other students and our staff
- All food is included
- We have 24/7 security at all houses.
- We send 3,000 students from across the world each year

www.gapmedics.com.au

Places are limited and are likely to fill up quickly, so students should book early to avoid missing out on this once in a lifetime experience! The cost of a two-week placement is $2,190 (USD), but students can opt to join us for longer if they wish.

If you know of an aspiring medic, you can simply pass on this email, print out a letter for your students here, you can direct them to our website www.gapmedics.com.au, or they can call our friendly Head Office team for a chat on +44(0)191 230 8080

Can Saver Plus assist you with education costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:

- school uniforms and text books
- excursions and camps
- laptops and notebooks
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
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Saver Plus is Australia's largest and longest running matched savings and financial education program, supporting over 20,000 people to build their financial confidence since 2003.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Karmen Dayal, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(03) 5941 9155 / 0459 190 144 or kdayal@bsl.org.au

Saver Plus was developed by ANZ and the Brotherhood of St Laurence and is delivered in Casey and Cardinia by the Brotherhood of St Laurence. The program is funded by ANZ and the Australian Government.