February 10, 2014

Aviation at Nossal

On Thursday 13th February commencing at 7pm in the lecture theatre there is an information evening for parents and students regarding participating in this year’s aviation program. The program is aimed for students in Year 10-12. Last year students were invited to participate in the program that operates on a Wednesday afternoon at Tooradin Airfield. If you would like to find out more and talk with student who participated, please join us on this evening.

2013 VCE Results

It was great to see our top performing graduates from 2013 back here for our first assembly so that the whole school could celebrate and congratulate them and their peers on their fantastic performance.

Page 2
Dear Parents and members of the extended Nossal High School Community,

Welcome to 2014.

I extend an especially warm welcome to our new Year 9 cohort of 208 students, and we welcome five new Year 10 students and three new Year 11 students.

We also welcome the following new staff members to our team….

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Teaching</th>
<th>Education Support Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Lucy Bonham</td>
<td>Ms. Jane Petty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Susan Lee-Ack</td>
<td>Ms. Mel Nicholson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Briony Schroor</td>
<td>Ms. Robyn Jackson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Ashleigh Taylor</td>
<td>Ms. Sheren Hawking</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Subu Chockalingham</td>
<td>Ms. Susan Filips</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Dominique De Mareuil</td>
<td>Ms. Julia Slywka</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Mary Fankhauser</td>
<td>Ms. Audrey Alvarez</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. Andrew Hamilton</td>
<td>Mr. Christopher Bramich</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Shelley Warner</td>
<td>Ms. Chanda Barraga</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms. Violette Toth</td>
<td>Japanese/Humanities</td>
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<td>Ms. Belinda Pearson</td>
<td>Humanities</td>
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</table>

### 2013 VCE Results

It was great to see our top performing graduates from 2013 back here for our first assembly so that the whole school could celebrate and congratulate them and their peers on their fantastic performance.

It was our pleasure to have the Minister of Education, Mr. Martin Dixon and Mr. Brad Battern MP join us on our VCE Results day.

### School Review and Strategic Plan

Every three or four years government schools are required to undertake an intensive self-evaluation and review of their performance and to formulate a new strategic plan which will outline the directions, priorities, and improvements that will be addressed during the next three years. Nossal will be undertaking this process in 2014 in order to formulate a strategic plan for 2015 onwards. DEECD are rolling out a new process for this so we are still waiting on some detail and documentation, but in summary we will be undertaking an intensive review of our performance and seeking and analysing input and data from staff, students, and parents. This review will be analysed and challenged by “critical friends” (other Principals, University academics or DEECD staff) and final recommendations formulated in conjunction with an external independent reviewer. This is an important activity for us – particularly so as we are a “young” school and still establishing our structures and procedures. It will require significant time and input from the school leadership team and staff; and will be most effective with substantial parent, student and community involvement. More information and requests for input and feedback opportunities will be rolled out progressively.
Roses Gap Campsite

Sadly our Year 9 camp venue was significantly damaged in the recent fires in the Grampians. Fortunately the owners and staff were safe, but the camp site sustained considerable damage, as did the surrounding bush area, so they will not be operational for at least another six months. They have been of huge assistance to us in helping to locate an appropriate alternate venue and the Year 9 camp this year will be relocated to the Alexandra Adventure Resort (in Alexandra) which offers a very similar program, and is available for the dates we need.

I have offered assistance to Roses Gap with their clean up and rebuilding program.

School Council

I will shortly be calling for nominations from parents and staff to stand for election to our School Council. School Council is the peak decision making body in the school and is responsible for overseeing and advising on policies and resourcing. It consists of parents, students, DEECD employees and community members. More information will be emailed within the next week or so. Please consider taking on this very important role, and make sure you vote for your preferred parent candidate in the forthcoming election.

Parents and Friends Association (PFA)

The PFA held their first meeting for 2014 on Wednesday February 5, and is seeking input and involvement from any interested parents – particularly those who are new to the school. They are a very enthusiastic and welcoming team who do a wonderful job in assisting the school and supporting the parent community through a broad range of activities and initiatives. Please contact them directly via the information previously provided, or just come along to one of their meetings. (see website for contact details)

Parent Contact Details

Effective home-school communication is vital for all parties involved; and I strongly encourage all parents (and students) to contact us at any time if they have any concerns, suggestions or feedback. The school is very responsive to this and I would much rather we were proactive in addressing any issues before they became problematic, and am happy for people to contact me directly if they need to. The bulk of our communication and information will be via email so it is essential that we have up to date and operational email addresses for all our families. Please ensure that you inform the office of any changes to email, phone, address, or emergency contact details. We will send update sheets home with students periodically to ensure that we have accurate details recorded.

Holiday Absences and School Attendance

As many of our community have family overseas we understand that there will be occasions when overseas visits are required and at times these will fall outside school holiday times. Where possible I request that you not arrange extended holidays or overseas trips during the school terms as it can be quite disruptive to our programs. Our teachers are very good at providing additional work and assistance to catch up with essential parts of the course, and many things can be accessed electronically these days, but it does create a significant additional workload and not everything can be covered in the same depth or detail. At VCE there are very specific attendance requirements that must be adhered to, and assessment tasks, tests and deadlines are not able to be changed to accommodate absences. Students who are studying Unit 3/4 VCE subjects will not be granted permission to travel during school times.
2013 VCE Results and University Offers

The inaugural graduating Year 12 class received outstanding results last year (details on the website) and nearly all have received their first or second preference university offer. Many have been in touch or visited to share their news and to offer continued involvement with our school which is a testament to the bonds they feel to our school community and a wonderful demonstration of the culture I hope will continue with subsequent graduating groups. We are very proud of all our students and they are by far our best advocates and best “advertising.” I look forward to their first “reunion” and alumni meeting next month.

Facilities Update

- The grounds works had stalled a little late last year, but have resumed and there will be a flurry of activity on the oval site and around the perimeter of the school as we finish the baseworks for the grounds and sporting fields development.
- Acoustic material has been installed on the ceilings of the main building to reduce the transmission of intrusive noise along the main corridor.
- Reflective insulating/security film has been installed on the gym and music room windows to improve comfort levels and increase security.
- Drop down display screens and a PA system has been installed in the Gym to improve our whole school assemblies.
- A “Soundfield” system will be installed across the main classrooms in the school to ensure improved acoustics.
- Some office relocation is planned and will now occur during the term holidays.

Traffic Cautions

When driving to the school please be aware that you are passing through Monash University and are subject to both the usual road rules and the Monash regulations, both of which are likely to be enforced. We have had issues in the past with people not giving way appropriately at the roundabout just inside the Monash entry (particularly when leaving); not stopping and giving way to pedestrians on the shared road zones (the raised parts of the roadway) exceeding the designated speed limits, and impeding traffic through the Nossal drop off areas by stopping in the wrong places and double parking. Please be aware of these issues and assist us in ensuring the safety of our (and Monash) students.

World Challenge

There is still opportunity to join the 2014 Nossal World Challenge Expedition to Tanzania at the end of the year, but you will need to see Ms D’Mello and sign up quickly if you wish to take part. This is a life changing program with significant leadership benefits and will give you the opportunity to challenge yourself, trek through Africa, experience the life, culture, wildlife and natural environment, and to work on a community service project within a local community there. It is a very safe and supported, but challenging and highly rewarding program. Speak to Ms D’Mello or some of our 2012 Ecuador expedition team if you would like more information.

Important Upcoming Events

Please see elsewhere in the newsletter or in future communications for information about…

- Year 12 Camp - Feb 10-12
- Foundation assembly – Feb 17
- Unit 1/2 PE Camp – Feb 19-21
- VCE Information Night
- Aviation Program
- House Swimming Carnival
- Year 9 Camp and Duke of Edinburgh Information Night
- Orchestra Camp
- Year 9 Alexandra Camp
- Select Entry Professional Learning Day at Nossal (Pupil free)
- Regional Swimming Carnival
- Year 9 computer rollout
- House Athletics Carnival
- Interim Reports and Parent Teacher Interviews (end of term)

…and much more.

A busy term.
Welcome back to the 2014 school year to our students, staff and parents.

**Focus on Progress rather than Achievement**

Students may be accustomed to being the top of their class in your old school, and it may have been easy for them to complete the work required. In a school like Nossal High School, where students are highly able it is very difficult to be the best student. We always talk about students being the best they can be, and tracking their own personal journey, rather than worrying were they are situated in the class. The reason students and parents are preoccupied about where their child sits in the class is because their priority is on achievement. If we switch our priorities to progress, then we would also celebrate the students who have made the most progress. We have progress awards in our mid and end of year celebration of student results so that the value of learning over achievement is seen as a priority. We would appreciate it if parents had conversations with their children about how they improved, rather than what grade they were given.

In saying this, it is inevitable that your child will be assessed and given a grade, so it is important that you have a good understanding of how we tackle assessment here at Nossal.

**Assessment at Nossal**

For those of you who are new to Nossal, there are a lot of new and unfamiliar things to grapple with. One of the differences you may face is adjusting to the way we challenge students through their assessments. You may be accustomed to achieving 100% (or close to it) on assessments. That is unlikely to happen at Nossal for a number of reasons:

- Firstly our curriculum is delivered at a standard that is generally above the expected level of an average student at each year level. So it is more challenging to begin with.
- We purposely set challenging assessment tasks for our students. We feel that if students achieve 100% we have not done our job properly; our job is to extend students as far as we can. If a student achieves 100% we have created a ceiling on their performance; we don’t know how much more they know because we haven’t given them the opportunity to show us. It may be difficult for your child and for you to adjust to the fact that they are not receiving the extremely high marks they are accustomed to. It does not mean they have gone backwards, it just means that the challenge is higher. It is also an advantage to our students, because when they sit VCE exams at the end of Year 12 they are working at a higher level than the average student across the state and can therefore achieve excellent results.
- Our grading scale is also different to most schools. We have created a scale for our grades that is more consistent with the scale used in the VCE. The following table outlines the percentage range for each grade.

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<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Scale</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>92-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>84-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>68-75</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>60-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>52-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>44-51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>36-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E+</td>
<td>28-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>20-27</td>
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*Students working in the green area are achieving very well.*

*Students working in the yellow area have a strong understanding of the concepts and skills but could extend themselves further.*

*Students working in the red area need to seek additional assistance from their teacher, specific feedback about how to improve their skills, and will be encouraged to work harder/smarter.*
Coupled with all of this, the transition to a new school, the demands of traveling and the general stress of adjusting to a new environment, culture and system may take some time. Your child may find it more difficult to perform at their best for a period of time.

**Tutors:**
Nossal High School does **not** expect nor encourage students to regularly engage private tutors for subjects undertaken at the school. Studies show that doing so can have a negative impact on a student’s learning experience. It can lead to a sense of disparity and awkwardness among students, where they may become conscious of who does and does not receive supplementary assistance.

It can also lead to fatigue. As students go from mainstream school to supplementary classes or tuition sessions, it may deny students sufficient rest and relaxation, especially on top of an already heavy workload in meeting the school’s expectations. This may lead to reduced connection when in class, thereby reducing engagement and learning. The school classroom should be a place of discussion and connection with peers. Negatively affecting students’ ability to engage in this environment is to do them a disservice.

The school curriculum has been developed with students’ social, emotional and academic progress in mind. Private tutors may choose to exclude what they consider to be irrelevant content in order to focus solely on academic success, thus upsetting the balance between learning for learning’s sake and demonstration of understanding as required. Private tutors are not compelled, as school professionals are, to teach according to the latest study designs. They may therefore be teaching and setting work on irrelevant content, resulting in heightened student distress and negligible academic gain.

We do recognise that some students may, on occasion, need additional support to help them master subject content. Teachers at the school generously support students out of class time and students should make sure they approach their teacher for assistance in the first case or the lunchtime and after school help sessions that are run by some faculties. If a student encounters considerable difficulty, such as prolonged absence, then a tutor may be of some value in providing one-on-one support for specific areas of the course.

Source: International Institute for Education Planning, [www.unesco.org/iiep](http://www.unesco.org/iiep)

**Reporting Review:**
In 2014 we are reviewing the format and nature of our school reports. Throughout Term 1 I will be hosting parent and student forums to gain your perspective about what you would like from our school reports on your child. Please keep your eyes open for an invitation to attend these informal gatherings. Your input is highly valued, since after all, you are the target audience for reports.

I look forward to working with you throughout the year.

**Sue Harrap, Assistant Principal - Curriculum and Pedagogy.**

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**Assistant Principal News**

**Foundation Assembly with Sir Gustav Nossal**

I wish to invite parents of all new students to an important event that will take place on Monday 17th February at 10am. Each year at this time of the year we officially welcome and present all new students and staff into the Nossal Community. Sir Gustav Nossal will present Nossal badges and will formally welcome all new Nossalonians. The assembly will commence at 10:00AM sharp and we ask all parents to be seated by 9.50AM. The Foundation Assembly will conclude at approximately 11.15am followed by a morning tea for parents. I hope that you are able to join us on this special occasion and look forward to seeing you at this time.

**School Uniform**

It has been great to see students wearing the Nossal uniform with pride. However, I wish to clarify some uniform requirements.

- **Blazers** - must be worn to and from school each day. On extremely hot days (above 30°C) students may wear the shirt or dress as the outer garment. The jumper is not to be used as the outer garment. Students must carry their blazer with them.

- **Socks** - Term 1 and 4 Summer Uniform must be worn. Girls must wear plain white socks. Black socks must **not** be worn. Boys must wear plain black or ecru socks. School socks **not** sports-ankle socks are to be worn. Please check your student diary regarding for any further uniform clarification.

**Sports Uniform** – may only be worn when students have a practical Physical Education lesson or are involved in House or Interschool Sport for the day. On all other occasions students are required to wear their academic uniform.

If a student is out of uniform, a note signed by parents is required and must be presented at the start of the day to the attendance office.  

*Thank you for your co-operation.*
Late arrival and early leave

Attendance at school is vital and contributes strongly to academic success. It is vital that all students arrive in time for Tutorial which commences at 8.48am. If a student arrives late to school students must scan in by using the scanner currently located at the front office. If a student has an important appointment during the day and therefore must leave school prior to the usual finish time, a signed note from parents must be presented at the start of the day to the attendance office. Just prior to leaving the school grounds students must scan out to formally register that they have exited the buildings. Year 12’s, only with a private study in period 5 may scan out and leave early at the end of period 4. Class studies with their teacher must be attended and count towards VCE attendance.

Duty Students

At Nossal we encourage students to consider contributing to the wider community. Starting next week Year 9 students will rotate through our ‘Duty Student Program’. In pairs, students will contribute by assisting with administration and other tasks throughout the school for a day, gaining a broader understanding of the workings of the school and value of service to others.

Parking

In the interest of health and safety, I request that parents do not park in our drop off zone. This area is designed for drop off and pick up only. It is a no parking zone. A significant section within this drop off zone is for bus parking. We have a number of camps and sporting events this term, please do not park in this area as we do not wish to risk personal injury or possible damage to vehicles. Parents are requested to use the car park behind the Gymnasium. Please do not park in the southern car park as this is for Nossal staff. Thank you for assistance and co-operation.

Mr Wayne Haworth
Assistant Principal

VCE News

Ms Katherine Warriner

Unit 3/4 and 1/2 Information Evenings

Information Evenings to provide advice about Units 1 & 2 and Units 3 & 4 VCE processes will be held in the Meath Auditorium. Students have been given a letter with a reply slip to indicate attendance. Please contact the school if you have not received a letter and would like to attend. It is not necessary to attend both evenings as the same information will be covered in both sessions.

Unit 3 & 4 Information Evening – 7pm Thursday 20th February
Unit 1 & 2 Information Evening – 7pm Tuesday 25th February

Ms Warriner
Director of VCE

Information Resource Centre

Mrs Kamla Reddy

LITERATURE CIRCLE/BOOK CLUB AT NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL

Nossal High School Information Resource Centre has been running successful lunch time activities involving both students as well as staff over the last couple of years. One such very successful activity was the Literature Circle/Book Club which met at least once every two to three weeks during lunch breaks when students and staff met, discussed and exchanged their views on what they were reading. The meetings were quite engaging, lively and interesting and contributed to broadening our students knowledge of books and literature.

This year we would like to go a step further and invite interested parents to join the Literature Circle/Book Club and participate in discussion with our students and staff.

The club will meet once every two weeks on a Tuesday in the IRC during lunch breaks from 1.20 to 2.20 pm. Parents who join the club will be able to borrow novels from our Information Resource Centre.
We encourage parents to join in this exciting activity and contribute towards broadening our students knowledge.
If you are interested then please contact Mrs Kamla Reddy on 87624611 or on 0402436849 during school hours.

“Growing Up Asian in Australia” edited by Alice Pung

The school wishes to purchase 2nd hand copies of “Growing Up Asian in Australia” by Alice Pung. If your student has a copy of this book and wishes to sell it to the school, then please request him or her to bring the book to the IRC.

Year 12 English

YEAR 12 ENGLISH ORAL ASSESSMENT

All Year 12 English students will complete their first assessment during Week 4 (beginning 17th February) This assessment is in the form of an Oral Presentation and will be assessed by an external assessor employed by Nossal High School and assisted by senior English teaching staff. This is a huge logistical endeavour and we ask parents to assist us by ensuring your son/daughter is at school each day during this period. The students have been timetabled throughout the week and will be given 24 hours’ notice of their time slot via NEO. Assessment will continue on Wednesday afternoon and after school each day until approximately 4.30 p.m. All students are expected to be available and assessment times are not able to be altered.

Many thanks
Year 12 English Staff

Science

Two Nossal Students Attend the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF)

During 2013, Callum Evans and Lily Charman applied for the National Youth Science Forum, both being lucky enough to be selected from the thousands of other applicants across the nation. Lily attended Session B in Perth, and Callum attended Session C in Canberra.

Lily Charman:
I attended Session B in Perth from the 6th-18th of January 2014. The program began upbeat, energetic and enthusiastic, and never let up. Our first few days were a mixture of getting to know people, seeing the sights of Perth, and the opening ceremony, at which former chief scientist of Western Australia, Lyn Beazley spoke, along with Professor Jo Ward of Curtin University.

Following the opening ceremony, we began our laboratory visits. These were conducted in our interest groups, mine was Florey, a biomedicine group. Our first visit was to the pathology laboratory at a major Perth Hospital. We were able to see many diseased, removed and preserved organs, use high power microscopes to look at healthy and unhealthy tissue samples, attend a pathology lecture, and use facilities such as the digital pathology lab. Another laboratory visit was to the sleep centre of the University of Western Australia, where we learnt in detail about the science of sleep, and discussed many sleep disorders at length before one of our group, wired and monitored, slept in one of the monitoring stations while the rest of the group watched the monitor closely for physical movements and brain waves alerting us to what stage of sleep he was in. Possibly the most enjoyable laboratory visit was the CTEC, the surgical training facility for medical students and physicians at the University of Western Australia, where we were given the opportunity to attempt keyhole surgery, suturing, endoscopy, surgical techniques and hygiene stations, practising on special models for surgical training. This program gave us a wonderful insight into different careers and opportunities in the medical field.

While the program was science focussed, we also attended seminars on public speaking, body language and successful interviews, being asked to complete both impromptu and prepared speeches on scientific topics. I spoke on mammalian characteristics for my impromptu speech, and cardiac bioprinting for my prepared speech.

The National Youth Science Forum is a fantastic program, with many opportunities for secondary students to experience opportunities and careers as a scientist in many different fields, and is an unforgettable experience: the opportunities we had, and the people we met. I would recommend to anyone interested in science as a career.
Callum Evans:

On Monday the 20th January, 2014 I had the opportunity to attend the NYSF, Session C in Canberra for two weeks with another 150 year 11 students from all over Australia. These two weeks were some of the most amazing of my life where I had the opportunity to visit some of Canberra’s best laboratories. We were able to attempt hands on work, in leading scientific fields including fibre optics, microchips and Australia’s largest supercomputer.

As well as the lab visits I had the opportunity to listen to some of Australia’s and the world’s best scientists including a video conference with scientists working at CERN in Geneva.

It was not all science though, throughout the two weeks there was also personal development including information about university and beyond, mock job interviews and lectures on the future of science.

It was an amazing 12 days: and I learnt so much from it, and made so many great friends from all over Australia, as well as some international students who attended the forum.
"Biology Olympiad Summer School"

In January 2014, Fiona Chon and I went to the Biology Olympiad Summer School at Monash University in Clayton. It was an intensive program designed to select a team of four to go to Bali to participate in the International Biology Olympiad. This team will represent Australia in the 2014 Olympiad, battling it out against biology students from all over the world. The program covered first year university biology in the timespan of two weeks. The work we did was very challenging, but it was a great experience. We got along well with all the other students and the content was very interesting. Whether or not either of us make the team, we will both be content with the worthwhile experience we had at the summer school. We would strongly recommend taking up the opportunity to join the Australian Science Olympiad program if ever given the chance.

Written by Kim Long Le of Year 12

Languages

Ms Kellen Wakeman

Welcome to our French Language Assistant

This week Nossal is welcoming our very first French Language Assistant, Marjorie Antoine. Ms Antoine is a university student originally from the South of France, who will be with us for the whole year as part of a Government-funded program to support the teaching and learning of languages in schools. She will be at Nossal five days, and John Monash Science School three days, per fortnight, working with students both inside and out of class, sharing her knowledge of French culture, modelling correct pronunciation, doing oral practice with students and helping to find, modify and create authentic resources. She will be working in particular with the VCE level students, but will be a regular part of all French classes this year. She will also take part in classes in other subjects, and co-curricular activities. If you see Ms Antoine around, make her feel at home, and say ‘hello’ – if French of course!

Detailed information on our Japanese Language Assistant, Ms. Emu Mizoe from Gifu, who will also be with us for twelve months, will be provided in the next newsletter.

Student Wellbeing

Mr Leigh Candy

Every member of the Nossal staff is concerned with student wellbeing. Some of the staff—tute teachers, house leaders, and mentors—are more directly concerned day to day with students’ wellbeing concerns.

Then there’s a small core team whose roles are totally about student wellbeing. Ms Leanne Ansalde is Director of Wellbeing; Leigh Candy is Student Wellbeing Counsellor; Lee Tilley, who is new to Nossal in 2014, assists them with counselling and co-curricular activities. Ms Linda Rackham is Careers Advisor.

This newsletter will feature wellbeing information and updates through the year and parents will soon be able to access wellbeing resources specific to our students through the school’s website.

Parents with particular concerns about their son’s or daughter’s social or emotional wellbeing should call the wellbeing counsellor on 8762 4614 or 0477 332 308.

My First Impressions - By Year 9 students

In my first week at Nossal, I have enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends. So far everyone that I’ve met was really nice and pleasant. My favourite subject so far has been P.E. and Sports around the World. Although I haven’t even spent a week here, I’m excited for the rest of the year to come. 9Q

During this week, I have enjoyed making new friends and going to P.E., photography and architecture. In P.E. we played fun games like mat sliding and scarecrow tiggy, and in our main classes like maths and humanities we learnt to work in open plan places with large groups of people. Jacqueline 9R
Wow! I’ve finished a week at Nossal. It’s been a lot different than I expected, but it was also way more impressive than I imagined. All the students and teachers are nice and very approachable. Everyone seems very friendly, even those in older year levels, who are normally very scary. I like the open learning system here. It seems to be better equipped for our needs. I’ve been able to make friends quickly and have got to know many other people as well. I think Nossal is way better for me than my old school and I can’t think of anywhere else I’d rather my first week of year 9 at. I am looking forward to my next 4 years at Nossal and all the opportunities that come with it. Manuisha V 9S

At Nossal this week, I have enjoyed getting to know my class and making some new friends. My favourite class so far has definitely been P.E. and Maths. We played lots of different games in P.E. like matball and dodgeball. I like being around people who think similarly to me and one of the best things is getting to wear sports uniform up to 3 times a week! The first week of Nossal has been a pleasure. From friendly students to touch screen computers, it has exposed me to a new environment overall. I have been a lot more confident and my ability to express myself boldly has surely increased. However my social skills are lagging behind compared to many of my friends which hopefully time will fix. I also want to keep myself more aware of social media. Hopefully, as I get more settled into Nossal all my ongoing problems will be conquered! 9T

At Nossal I’ve enjoyed making friends and meeting new people, the new learning spaces and being a part of this friendly and welcoming atmosphere. I’ve enjoyed all my subjects so far, such as architecture. The teachers are very intelligent and very skilled. Nossal has been amazing in this past week and I hope it continues to be a great year. Karina, 9S

Nossal has been different. Well completely different. The classrooms, the teachers, and the learning techniques. Nossal gives you more freedom. It makes you feel like you’re not being controlled. It actually does make us feel like it is actual adult learning centre. The teachers are really kind and are open to help. Subjects from what I have seen are okay I guess but it is still school. Would have to say that P.E. is the best though. 1T

At Nossal this week, I have enjoyed making new friends, meeting new people in a new environment. Teachers are awesome at this school and they make subjects really interesting to learn. There are also new subjects like Architecture and Photography that I haven’t learnt before at my previous school. I am looking forward to the next few years at Nossal, and I hope that I have a good time over here. 9T

My first week of Nossal has been very enjoyable. The atmosphere, friends and teachers support and encourage you to be your best. Getting lockers, diaries and tute groups were exciting. I am looking forward to camps getting to know new people and learning new things. Being in Nossal is a great, exciting time.

Nossal has been a brand new, yet friendly environment. As a year 9 student, the first week of school was extremely fun. I didn’t know many people in my class but soon became friends with them. I enjoy being at Nossal, having classes here, especially architecture. Nossal’s sport uniform is very comfortable and I love wearing it. Teachers at Nossal are intelligent and caring. I like the adult environment here too. I hope year 9 will be a fantastic year.

The first week of Nossal has been a pleasure. From friendly students to touch screen computers, it has exposed me to a new environment overall. I have been a lot more confident and my ability to express myself boldly has surely increased. However my social skills are lagging behind compared to many of my friends which hopefully time will fix. I also want to keep myself more aware of social media. Hopefully, as I get more settled into Nossal all my ongoing problems will be conquered! 9S

In the first week of Nossal I was interested at how different Nossal High School was compared to other schools. I liked how all the teachers were friendly and helpful. The students were also very friendly and it was interesting how Nossal offered a variety of different subjects. What I have enjoyed is meeting new people and making new friends and also getting to do subjects I have never done before. 9S.

I have enjoyed meeting new friends and most of the classes at Nossal while I have been here. It has been challenging, even though I have enjoyed it. The people I have met are really interesting and nice. Shea 9S

My first week of Nossal has been very enjoyable. The community is extremely friendly and the open style learning makes a relief compared to the confined classroom design. However with rewards there are always challenges, like adopting the school design and work. Overall the first week of Nossal has been extremely enjoyable and I hope it continues like it.

My first week at Nossal has been very different. I have enjoyed architecture and P.E. because it’s fun and it can be difficult. I have made heaps of new friends and I am slowly finding my way around. Mikayla C 9R
Hello Parents, families and students,

Please remember it is vital we have the most up to date information in our files. If you have changed your address, phone number, email address, any medical details, please notify the Administration Department as soon as possible with written consent for the changes.

If you require a new Asthma Management Plan or an Anaphylaxis Management Plan, please open the links below.


Thank you, Administration Team

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**Student Accident Insurance**

We wish to remind you that the Department does not provide accident insurance for students. Parents and guardians are responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including transport costs. These costs may be recoverable where an injury is caused by the negligence (carelessness) of the Department, a school council or their employees or volunteers.

Student accident policies are available from some commercial insurers. These cover a range of medical expenses not covered by Medicare or private health insurers.

Reasonably low insurance policies are available from commercial insurers.

The Department cannot advise parents/guardians on whether to purchase a student accident policy or which policy to purchase. It is recommended that you seek assistance in this matter with your insurance broker or find a suitable personal accident insurer in the Yellow Pages or on the internet. We strongly recommend that all students have Ambulance Cover in the event of an accident.
Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA):

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided by the Victorian Government to lower-income families to help with education-related costs.

If you have a child under 16, and you hold a valid Health Care Card, Pension Card, or are a temporary foster parent, you may be eligible to receive the EMA. The allowance is paid in two instalments, one in March and one in August.

The payment is intended to assist with education-related costs such as, uniforms, excursions, textbooks, and stationery. You can elect to have your EMA paid in one of the following ways:

- Paid by direct deposit (Electronic Funds Transfer) into your own nominated bank account; or
- Paid to the school to be held as credit which you can use towards education expenses; or
- Paid by cheque which will be posted to the school for collection.

In 2014, the annual EMA amount per student is:

- $200 for prep students
- $150 for students in years 1 – 8.
- $200 for year 7 students
- $250 for students in year 8 – until age 16*

* A prorata amount is payable for students turning 10 in 2014.

How to Apply: Contact the school office to obtain an EMA application form.

Closing Date: You need to obtain an EMA application form from the school office and return by 28 February 2014.