February 21, 2014

Year 12 Lord SomersCamp

Page 8

Gustav Nossal at our Foundation Assembly

Page 2

Sir Gustav Nossal at our Foundation Assembly

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Feb 21  Notice of School Council Election and nomination call
Feb 25  Year 11 Economics Market Excursion
Feb 25  Year 10&11 Information Night
         7pm Lecture Theatre
Feb 28  School Council closing date for nominations
Mar 04  Year 9 Meet and greet and information night
         7PM Lecture Theatre
Mar 07  School Council ballot papers prepared & distributed
Mar 11-14 Year 9 Orientation Camp
         Alexandra Adventure Park MNOP
Mar 18-21 Year 9 Orientation Camp
         Alexandra Adventure Park QRST
Mar 19  School Council close of ballot
Mar 21  School Council declaration of poll

2014 SCHOOL TERM DATES

Term 1    January 29- April 4
Term 2    April 22– June 27
Term 3    July 14– September 19
Term 4    Oct 6– Yr lvl dependant

FOUNDATION ASSEMBLY

Page 2

YEAR 9 ENTRY APPLICATIONS FOR 2015

Page 3

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

Pages 4 & 5

YEAR 9 INFORMATION NIGHT- MEET AND GREET, DUKE OF EDINBURGH AND CAMP

Page 6

COURSE FINALISATION FOR 2014

Page 7

Gustav Nossal Boulevard, Monash University, 100 Clyde Road, Berwick VIC 3806
PO.Box 1036, Narre Warren VIC 3805
Phone: 03 8762 4600   Email: nossal.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au
www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au
Dear Parents,

Foundation Assembly

We celebrated our 5th Foundation assembly this week with the traditional personal greeting and badge presentations from Sir Gustav Nossal. Sir Gus does a remarkable job in personally engaging with each individual student and staff member, and he has personally and warmly welcomed every Nossal student and staff member to the school each year since its inception. We were fortunate to have his wife Lyn join us, along with a number of parents and other special guests from Monash University, the City of Casey, the Berwick RSL, School Council, my wife Margaret, and a number of ex-students from the 2013 graduating class – Ashley, Michaela and previous School Captains Shirlene, Lachy, Aswin and Michelle. As usual Sir Gus signed several hundred autographs and posed for numerous photos – he is exceptionally generous with his time. His obvious joy and enthusiasm for our school and the students is wonderful to see. We are indeed fortunate to be associated with such a prominent and influential Australian statesman, who is a wonderful and inspirational role model to us all. It is also very nice to see our students appreciating and feting a truly great scientist, rather than the sometimes questionable popular “celebrities” from the sporting or entertainment arenas.

Innovation and Integrity in Business

I was approached last year by a business consultant who wanted to include Nossal in a new project that he was developing. We hosted a visit from his first tour group this week. I was flattered that he thought we were worth including in the tour since his group was touring and meeting with some very big name businesses who were operating in innovative ways, and who were also exhibiting a significant social conscience. During the week long program, he took senior executives from a range of organisations on a tour of businesses for an in depth look at what they were doing and how they were operating. They visited – South West Airlines, Thank You Water, Nossal High School, World Vision, The Bendigo and Adelaide Banks, Red Balloon and Zambrero Restaurants in Melbourne, Bendigo and Sydney. They spent a full morning with me, and spoke to a panel of our current and some previous students.

This is what they had to say about Nossal High School in their brochure....

Nossal High School –

A home grown best practice model changing the paradigm of secondary education.

A ‘one of its kind’ state secondary school designed around an Adult Learning Environment, Appreciative Enquiry and Collaborative Engagement. A walk through the corridors and open learning environment at Nossal High School is like witnessing everything you hoped for in your years of secondary education, but never thought possible. Now it is, and the students who are graduating from Nossal on to tertiary education are in hot demand from our leading businesses and corporations, for very good reasons. They bring with them an attitude of enquiry and application nurtured amongst a culture of mutual trust and respect that will be the difference that makes the difference in our workplaces of tomorrow.

It was an impressive program and I hope to join one of the tours myself in the future. I have contact details if any parents would like to know more about this program.

I was also most impressed (as always) by the eloquence, passion and intelligence of our students (and ex-students) who were asked some very probing and challenging questions about their experiences at Nossal and in education generally. I have often said that our students are our best advertisements and I usually leave parent tour groups alone with random students at the conclusion of a tour so they can hear what the students have to say about their experiences without any influence from me, so it was instructive and very gratifying for me to sit in on a similar session and hear what the students had to say. In chatting with the ex-students afterwards I was pleased to hear them say that they were very impressed with what the current Year 12 student leaders had to say and that they were confident they would very successfully build on the Nossal culture that they had helped to establish.

Co-Curricular Programs

Under the guidance of Mr Leigh Candy and Mr Lee Tilley we are expanding our range of co-curricular programs and the students will have the opportunity this week to sign up for a diverse range of clubs, activities, and events – some “one of,” some ongoing – some during school hours and some out of school hours. Pleasingly some of these have been instigated and will be run by the students and I encourage all students to become actively involved as participants or as organisers and would be very happy to see even more student organised programs occurring.

Adult Learning Environment

The student leaders were challenging me last week on what the meaning of this term is, as I bandy it around quite frequently, and they were not convinced that everyone had the same understanding of, or appreciation for what I thought it meant. I think they are correct in their assertions and we will spend some time this year seeking to clarify that and to work with the students to ensure that they feel they have a strong voice that is heard. I believe that this is the case at Nossal, but am always happy to be challenged on this; to improve and learn. As a starting point, I will meet formally with the student leaders on a more regular basis so that we ensure
maximum effective communication and shared understandings.

In simplistic terms, some of the elements that I believe make Nossal a bit special, and are what I consider to be elements of an adult learning environment are embodied in things like:

- No bells
- Few closed off or locked spaces (few doors)
- Open access for students to nearly all areas of the school at all times
- Open access to staff (including Principal team) at nearly all times (directly, electronically)
- Boiling/chilled water; microwaves; kitchen facilities throughout
- Lounges, couches, break out rooms
- Few rules; restorative practices
- Study periods; minimal supervision
- Monash access
- Unsupervised use of facilities and equipment
- Mobile phone and computer/internet access
- Real student input (SRC; elected representatives; full voting members of school council; student participation on teacher selection panels; student run events and activities)

And less tangible things like:

- Mutual respect; positive relationships; trust
- Tolerance of difference, support, encouragement, empathy, understanding, appreciation
- Openness, inquiring, challenging, questioning, striving
- Fun, humour, celebration, acknowledgment, success
- Teamwork, collaboration, collegiality, friendship

These are some of the things I see and feel at Nossal and I think are important and hope that we can cultivate and nurture as essential elements of the school ethos and culture.

Year 12 Camp

I had the pleasure of spending an evening with the Year 12 group at the Lord Somers Camp last week. The students appeared to have had a most enjoyable time, participating in some interesting challenges and activities, and most importantly established stronger bonds with their peers and teachers in preparation for their very busy, hectic and challenging final year of schooling.

My thanks to all involved – in particular to Ms Soltys for her leadership and organisation.

PFA

My thanks to the members of the PFA (Parents and Friends Association) who hosted a morning tea for parents before the Foundation Assembly. They did a remarkable job as always and produced their now expected huge amount of delicious food. Ms Harrap and I took interested parents on a tour of the school so they could see it in operation and so we could explain the design and structures, and the different environment, pedagogy and atmosphere that we have created. I encourage all parents to take a tour so you have an understanding of how we operate. It is different to many other schools, and our staff and students are used to regular tour groups and visitors and are very happy to interact with them and share their impressions and experiences.

We are currently running regular weekly tours on Friday mornings from 9.30 – 10.30 am.

Please ring the office to book a place.

Places for 2015

Applications to sit the entry exam for Year 9 entry for 2015 are now open – see the school website for details and links to the application forms.

In June we will be running an entry test to create a waiting list for potential vacancies into Years 10 and 11 in 2015. The date and details are yet to be finalised and will be published on the school website when available.

School Council

As the term of the current school council draws to a close I call for parent and staff nominations for positions on School Council. There will be 5 parent vacancies to fill and 3 staff vacancies.

Should the number of nominations exceed the number of positions an election will be held.

Please see attached details.
Dear Parents,

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.

Nossal High School will have 5 parent vacancies and 3 DEECD staff vacancies 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 Friday, February 28th. 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.

Roger Page
Principal

School Council Elections 2014

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
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....


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**Schedule 4: Notice of Election and Call for Nomination**

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of

NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL

Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4.00 pm on 28/02/2014

The ballot will close at 4.00 pm on 19/03/2014

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY</th>
<th>TERM OF OFFICE</th>
<th>NUMBER OF POSITIONS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2014 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2015</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

Roger Page  
Principal
Team teaching at Nossal High School

The classroom geography and educational philosophy of Nossal High School is predicated on the notion that we learn and teach best in teams. “We are greater than the sum of our parts” when we all work together. All of the teachers and students at this school came here with full knowledge that they were entering an environment were open, transparent, collaboration is the norm, not the exception. This may be so, but when students first arrive at Nossal High School, or when they are first placed in a team teaching situation, it may be difficult for them to adjust to.

Students in Year 9 sometimes say “I am in a class of seventy five students, I feel lost”. It is important to note, that these large classes are made up of three classes and have three teachers. It is true, it may take some extra time for students to feel known and understood when they are in a group seventy five. We recognise that and do activities with students to get to know them more quickly, and we hope that students will adjust quickly and see that the benefits of team teaching outweigh these initial concerns.

It may also be difficult for students to adjust to the amount of self-control required of them when they are in a large group; when students are in a bigger group, it is easier to be anonymous and less accountable. We ask students to make sure that they are attentive and working on the appropriate things; working in this way and exerting self-control is part of what we mean when we talk about an adult learning environment.

These are two of things students initially find difficult about being team taught, but we usually find that by the end of Term 1 they have settled in and adjusted. Please do not be alarmed if your child is struggling with these things.

Some of the positive things they will experience through team teaching are:

- Experiencing more than one perspective and explanation from different teachers
- Having more than one teacher as a resource for help
- Trusting relationships with more staff across the school
- Teachers building on each other’s knowledge and expertise
- Having a broader cross section of peers to work with, develop relationships with, hear ideas from and share ideas with, and therefore a greater chance to find like-minded peers and develop positive relationships with more students.
- The ability to flexibly group students to cater to their different needs – this might mean extension for those who require it and further assistance for others.
- Development of skills valued by employers, for example team-work, ability to work in open plan environments, robust and confident discussion skills.

If your child needs extra support to adjust to their new school, or to being team taught, please speak with or email their Tutorial Teacher; let someone know so that we can smooth the transition as much as possible.

Installation of a Sound field System

Over the next few weeks we are having an additional resource installed throughout many areas of the school. We have been able to purchase the Sound field System under the DEECD’s Building Access Fund. The Sound field System is a tool that is primarily designed to assist members of our community who are hearing impaired, however experts suggest this will assist all students. The Sound field System compresses soundwaves so that sound and voices are clearer. Teachers will wear small lapel microphones allowing sound to be clear regardless of the distance the student sits from the teacher.

Year 9 Meet and Greet and information evening

A reminder to all parents of students in Year 9, on the evening of March 4th 6-8pm will invite you to take part in our Meet and Greet. On this evening parents will have chance to meet Tutorial teachers and other parents. The PFA will be in attendance serving tea and coffee and light snacks. At 7pm information about the Year 9 Camp to Alexandra Adventure Resort and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Program will be presented. I hope that you can join us for this event.

Wayne Haworth
An important message to all members of the Nossal Community

19th February 2014

Dear Parents,

We would like to ask for your co-operation in an important matter.

One of the students at our school is receiving medical treatment, which puts them at risk if they develop chicken pox or measles. The risk for this child can be reduced by receiving a special injection as soon as possible after coming in contact with these illnesses.

It is very important therefore, that you let us know immediately if your child develops chicken pox or measles, so that the child at risk receives the protective injection at the earliest opportunity. This protection lasts for a few weeks only, and must be repeated every time they come into contact with the illnesses.

Your child is at no risk whatsoever from this situation. However, the health and wellbeing of one of his/her classmates does depend on your help and co-operation.

Kind Regards,
Wayne Haworth
Assistant Principal

VCE News

Course Finalisation for 2014

Courses are now finalised for semester one and students should be concentrating on achieving their best in the subjects they are enrolled in. While we expect that most students will now stay in their courses for the remainder of 2014, there may be a small number who wish to change at mid-year. There will be one round of subject change requests in late May. This will be advertised through the Newsletter and Student Bulletins closer to the time.

I would also like to draw your attention to our guidelines for Academic Progression which are printed on page 6 of the Senior School Handbook and will be communicated to year 9 students at assembly midway through term one. In summary students must be achieving at prescribed levels to accelerate their studies at Nossal High School. Students who wish to accelerate should familiarise themselves with the guidelines to avoid disappointment later in the year.

Jenny Callahan - Director or Transitions and Pathways

Information Resource Centre

LITERATURE CIRCLE/BOOK CLUB AT NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL

Over the last couple of years the Information Resource Centre has been running successful lunch time activities involving both students as well as staff. One such very successful activity was the Literature Circle/Book Club which met at least once every two to three weeks during lunch breaks. 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 are 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.
Year 12 Lord Somers Camp

Ms Joanna Soltys

From the 10th to 12th February 2014 198 students and 20 staff attended the Year 12 camp at the Lord Somers Camp. We were very fortunate to have wonderful weather for all three days. Students and staff alike enjoyed the wide variety of activities offered including a presentation on ‘success without stress’, stand up paddle boarding, surfing, canoeing, initiatives, screen printing, beach walking and rogaining. It was great to see the students challenging themselves and attempting all the activities offered. Thanks again to the wonderful staff who volunteered to attend.

Senior Boys Cricket

Mr Ian Pegram

Senior Boy’s cricket

On Thursday 6th of February the boy’s cricket team travelled to Sweeney Reserve in Narre Warren to face Kambrya Secondary College. On a very warm day we bowled first and after 20 overs we had restricted Kambrya to a competitive score of 80 runs. We bowled tightly and had some fine individual performances including Vinod who took 3 wickets with his wise and accurate leg spin.

The task seemed to be attainable if we batted to our potential and didn't play too attackingly. Brayden had other ideas. From the first ball he hooked powerfully for 4 runs. The second ball was a wide which also went to the boundary, thus giving us a run rate of 9 runs per legal delivery at that time.

So much for building an innings. The trend continued from there and we passed Kambrya after just 7 overs. The boys from Kambrya wanted to continue and full credit to them for the fantastic sportsmanship and good spirit they played the game in.

It was a fantastic day and our boys represented the school exceptionally well. Our next game will be against Gleneagles Secondary College, next Friday.

Ian Pegram
Senior Cricket Coach
**Student Wellbeing**

**Getting enough sleep**

One of the keys to good physical and mental wellbeing for young people is good and adequate sleep. Sleep should never be fitted into the time left over after everything else in a student’s life. Sleep should be the first thing factored into a student’s daily routine. And the more routine sleep is, the better.

- Adolescents should sleep about nine hours a night.
- Getting up at the same time each day, including weekends, is more important than going to sleep at the same time each night.
- Sleep is best done in a room that is quiet, dark and cool.

The great modern enemy of good sleep is e-devices and screens—television, iPods, tablets and smartphones. More on that next time.

Wellbeing now features prominently on the Nossal website. The Wellbeing Note on Sleep can be found there @ [http://nossalhs.vic.edu.au/nossal-life/wellbeing](http://nossalhs.vic.edu.au/nossal-life/wellbeing)

**Administration Team**

**CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE 2014**

Attention families who have a current Public Transport Conveyance Allowance Claim lodged. This is for families who were eligible to claim in 2012 and now fall within the ‘grandfathering clause’ of the Conveyance Allowance Policy.

Please note under the Department of Education & Early Childhood Development (DEECD) Conveyance Allowance Policy, no new applications can be accepted. Nossal High School now falls within the Urban Growth Boundary and therefore new families are ineligible to make a claim.

For those families who are eligible under the Grandfathering Clause:

- Please provide a copy of your Proof of Purchase for Public Transport (listed below) to the school office by no later than Wednesday 5th March. If we do not receive your proof of purchase, the school will be unable to lodge your 2014 Conveyance Allowance claim.
- Current claims with changed method of transport (eg. was public transport now being driven) must also advise the office and complete a new application.
- Change of address under the Grandfathering clause will deem your claim ineligible.
Proof of purchase:
- Myki Pass - Ticket: weekly, monthly, annual
- Victorian Student Pass – Half-yearly ticket
- Victorian Student Pass – Yearly ticket
- Myki Money – Receipt from vendor or online purchase account (if purchased online please print off invoice/receipt at time of purchase or provide copy of bank transaction)

Further information can be found on the DEECD website: [www.education.vic.gov.au](http://www.education.vic.gov.au)
Or please contact Robyn Jackson via email robyn.jackson@nossalhs.vic.edu.au

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE 2014

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must be:

- a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and
- an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPi) pensioner or be a foster parent.
- the holder of a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card
- meet the eligibility criteria as at 28 January 2014 (instalment 1) and 14 July 2014 (instalment two).

Due date: Friday 28 February 2014.

Please ensure copy of Health Care Card or Pension Card is attached.
No late claim form lodgements can be accepted.