March 21, 2014

Year 9 Orientation camp
Alexandra Adventure Resort, Halls Gap
First camp Mar 11-14 MNOP
Second Camp Mar 18-21 QRST

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 Ivl dependant

Music Camp
Page 2
Interim Reports
Page 2
Parent Teacher Student Interviews
Page 3
Information Resource Centre
Page 5

Gustav Nossal Boulevard, Monash University, 100 Clyde Road, Berwick VIC 3806
P.O.Box 1036, Narre Warren VIC 3805
Phone: 03 8762 4600 Email: nossal.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au

www.nossalhs.vic.edu.au
Dear Parents,

**Year 9 Camps – Alexandra Adventure Park**

I had the pleasure of spending the night and part of the days at the first Year 9 camp last week, and Ms Harrap and Mr Haworth will be visiting the second camp this week. The students (and staff) were having a great time with the many challenging and fun activities the campsite offers. They were certainly a lively (and loud) group... although I am assuming they slowed down a little later in the week. The camp is undergoing a long term refurbishment and some of the spaces are still a work in progress, but they had excellent activities, plenty of food and good weather. The location was pleasant – surrounded by farms – and while it does not have the spectacular Grampians scenery or wildlife, it was a very different environment for many of our students. Mr Witt and Mr Clark did share their room with a couple of small bats, but I believe the bats departed quickly once Mr Clark started snoring and have not been sighted since. The camps are a very important part of our Nossal program, allowing students and staff to interact and bond in a different environment. The relationships they form as a result make their academic experiences and their participation in the whole school program more effective and more powerful, so I was very pleased to see that nearly all Year 9 students were in attendance. Particular thanks to Ms Veale and Ms Loel for their leadership and organisation, and to all participating staff for the extra responsibility and reduced sleep they took on during the week.

**Music Camp – Phillip Island**

My thanks to Mr Stella, Mr Cole, Ms Rainey and Mr Mustafa who took our first Music camp to Phillip Island recently. Members of the string, concert, and jazz ensembles were in attendance and they spent three days working intensively on their musical pieces. When I visited on the Wednesday evening they had spent over 6 hours rehearsing and then happily presented a few pieces for me after tea. They were very impressive; the additional rehearsal having an obvious effect, and as always I was amazed by the passion and talents of our student (and staff). After this the students staged a talent quest where (surprise, surprise) a number of musical items were presented, revealing other talents and differing musical tastes. It was very impressive. The group were staying at “The Wave” hostel in Newhaven, and I’m sure the residents on the other floors of the complex would have been bemused and much entertained by the orchestral music drifting up from the ground floor during the day and by the cool jazz emanating from the balcony in the evening.

**Joint Curriculum Day**

Last Thursday Nossal hosted the second ever joint curriculum day for the Selective Schools Network. Over 400 staff from Nossal, Melbourne High, MacRob and Suzanne Cory spent the day at Nossal working with keynote speakers Michael Carr-Gregg (resilience and wellbeing) and Erica McWilliam (creativity, engagement and assessment). The staff spent time with their counterparts discussing common issues and approaches, and planning for further linking and sharing. We have much to learn from each other and the four selective schools share many unique characteristics and challenges that are different to those of mainstream schools. As each of us is also unique in our configuration, approach and culture, we can learn much from our similarities and from our differences. The day was highly successful and brilliantly organised by Ms Harrap and her team. The 2015 day will be held at Melbourne High School.

**Interim Reports**

Parents will receive their interim reports shortly and we will be holding formal parent teacher interviews on April 3 and 4. Due to the number of parents who will be in attendance, we have to limit the interview times to meet demand, so please try to book your appointments early and we will endeavour to ensure that everyone sticks to their timeframes. If you require more time or unable to gain an appointment at a suitable time, please ring or email the teacher concerned and they will be able to make another time or respond via other means. If you have specific concerns or questions about our child’s progress or performance in a class, or have feedback for the school or teachers, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time; do not wait for parent teacher interviews or for something to become a problem before speaking with us. Classes finish on Thursday 3rd April at 1:20pm. There are no classes on Thursday afternoon or Friday, however students are also also encouraged to attend parent-teacher interviews.

**Buildings and Grounds Development**

Parents should be aware that we are currently undertaking some significant grounds and facilities works at the school, and they are proceeding as planned, but at a slower overall pace than we had anticipated. For new parents, the school sits on 6.6 hectares of land, right in the middle of Monash. The paddocks and opens spaces that surround the school are Monash land and are currently leased out to a farmer who variously runs cattle or cuts hay from the site. To the north of the school, behind the factories and the railway line is part of the Nossal site and we are in the process of developing an oval and sporting grounds there. The large mounds of dirt that are being brought in are the preparation for the oval and some significant landscaping around the school. We are creating a large earth mound to the rear of the school to provide a windbreak; this will be planted with shrubs and grasses so it will be aesthetically pleasing as well as functional. The vegetable garden and orchard will be expanded; we are planning a frog pond and possibly a water feature as part of a Japanese themed garden to the south of the school buildings, and a number of outdoor classrooms and teaching spaces. We have planned to create a large BBQ area and additional seating within the courtyard area, and an 800 seat amphitheatre for outdoor performances and assemblies. We have plans for an additional sports space to house a gymnasium/weight room and a table tennis area which I hope to have completed this year. During the Easter holidays we will be modifying some of the office spaces in the main
building to make better use of the limited spaces we have available to us. We are also currently considering the addition of some rooms to ease demand on the music spaces, create some additional office spaces and a larger VCE study and careers precinct. This will be expensive and we are currently undertaking some budgetary prioritisation to determine the most cost effective way to proceed. I hope to have the oval and weight room completed this year, and the amphitheatre and some of the outdoor classroom spaces. The building extensions may have to be progressively staged in the longer term depending on finances. It is unlikely that we will see any additional funding from the government for this so will be relying on locally raised funds and voluntary contributions from parents to help us with the further development of the school.

Roger Page

School Council Elections

At the close of the poll and following the counting of votes, I am pleased to announce that the new School Council representatives will be...

Parents...
- Ms Ishani Bhowmick
- Dr Rozanne Blok
- Ms Priya Palkar
- Dr Helen Grimmett

DEECD Staff
- Ms Mel Nicholson
- Ms Katherine Warriner
- Ms Amanda Wriedt

My thanks to all who stood for election and to all who voted.

Congratulations and welcome to the successful representatives. The first meeting of the new council will take place on Monday March 31 where we will co-opt the community members, elect office bearers, and set the standing orders.

Roger Page

Assistant Principal News

Parent, teacher, student interviews

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, our Term One parent teacher interviews will be held on Thursday 3rd April from 2.30pm to 8.00pm and Friday 4th April from 9am until 1.00pm. This is a wonderful opportunity for students (and parents) to receive direct feedback on achievements but also obtaining suggestions about the things to focus to improve learning on next term. For our Year 10 students and parents, Mr Barry Darnell will be available to distribute and analyse the Morrisby Report results. Barry’s presentations will take place in the Meath Auditorium on Thursday at either 4pm or 7pm and then also on Friday at 11am. As usual appointments for Parent teacher interviews will fill fast. If you are unable to obtain an appointment and you wish to contact a specific teacher, please email nossal.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au attention Jane Petty (Parent/Teacher interviews). Bookings for Parent teacher interviews need to be made by online. Information regarding log on details and Interim Report will be mailed to parents on Tuesday 25th March and close at 10am Thursday 3rd April.

Car Pooling

A number of parents have approached me lately and have indicated that they would like to make connections with other parents with possibility of car pooling. If you regularly drive your child to Nossal and would be willing to assist others, I would like to hear from you. Please remember to indicate the suburb in which you live. Your involvement would be greatly appreciated. To express your interest, please email me at wayne.haworth@nossalhs.vic.edu.au Thank you.

Working Bee

Our Term One working Bee will be held on Saturday 29th March from 9am til 1pm. We will be working on gardens, weeding, mulching and mowing. If you have a few hours to spare, your assistance would be greatly appreciated. Wheel barrows, rakes, brush cutters and hedge trimmers would be of great use on the day. Hope to see you there.
Year 9 Camp

It was great to hear that the Year 9 students had such a wonderful time on camp. These experiences often create lasting memories as well as friendships. Thank you to the many staff involved for sacrificing time away from their own families in order to make this camp a truly memorable one. A special thanks to Ms Shelley Veale and Ms Catherine Loel for their organisation and leadership.

City of Casey Student Leaders Forum

Last week, I had the privilege of attending the City of Casey Student Leaders Forum along with our School Captains Jynx and Tash and Vice Captains Will and Dimithi. We had the pleasure of hearing from some very impressive and inspiring young people. At times the media do not portray young people in a good light, however, I was suitably impressed by the work of young citizens in the City of Casey. Remember to follow your dreams. Some of the world’s greatest inventions started out as small ideas. You can make a difference!

Mr Wayne Haworth

Parent and Visitor Parking

Due to the safety concerns of our students, staff and visitors, new signs have been installed directly in front of the school. At student drop off and pick up times, we are asking parents and carers to please adhere to our new parking signs informing of the “No Standing, NO Stopping and No Parking” zones of our school. For the safety of all, please adhere to these regulations.

Mr Jason Bell, Facilities Manager
COMMUNITY MEMBERS PARTICIPATE IN LITERATURE CIRCLE BOOK CLUB AT NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL

The first meeting of the Literature Circle Book Club, this year organised by the Information Resource Centre took place on Tuesday 18th March, during the lunch break in the IRC. It was very encouraging to see a number of community members particularly from Woodlands Park participating in the club together with the staff and students of our school.

Some very exciting discussion took place on a wide range of books being read. Our students found it quite interesting to note the various perspectives of each member on people, places, views, values and issues and they were very appreciative of the IRC’s effort in trying to involve the community in order to further enhance their knowledge about the world we live in through books.

The club hopes to meet once every three weeks and the membership of community members is expected to increase.

The photos below show the members deep in discussion about books they have read.

Raft building on year 9 Alexandra camp, shortly before the raft broke up and they ended up in the dam.
Camp was the best week so far for many of the new Year Nines at Nossal. Flying through the air on the kiwi swing or conquering a fear of heights on the High Ropes were highlights for some, getting soaked to the bone and covered in mud after a great time canoeing or building rafts was what others preferred. For many the night-time activities were the best part though. They ranged from sitting quietly and watching a movie, to running around with friends playing sports. Camp ended with a bang with two things we definitely all enjoyed; the campfire blazed outside a lively disco with booming music and lots of laughter, and a brilliant laser skirmish out on a paddock scattered with obstacles. It most definitely was an amazing start to our four years at Nossal, filled with fun and brought everyone so much closer.

By Cheryl Wong, Thuy Vy Nguyen and Lauren Richardson