PUPIL FREE DAY
FRIDAY MAY 30

Nossal Senior Soccer Butterfly Girls Team
Tuesday May 13, 2014
See page 8

SPECIAL EVENT-Parent & Student Evening with
MICHAEL CARR-GREGG
MONDAY MAY 26

* Must Book by Friday May 23 *
No cost but booking is essential. Book online @:
http://www.trybooking.com/EVSC
See page 7 for more details

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– Year Level Dependant

Parent/Family Survey
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Dear Parents,

NAPLAN and other testing.....

Year 9 students across the country have completed their NAPLAN tests this week, and they will provide us with some interesting data about their relative levels of performance. NAPLAN is a relatively limited resource for us though as it tells us little about the performance of Nossal – other than that we have selected our students well. We can do some limited comparison with the Edutest results, but the NAPLAN test has a limited range and does not actually quantify the highest levels of performance and many of our students top out on their scale; and their true abilities are not measured. In less than a month all students undertaking Unit 3 and 4 VCE studies will be sitting the GAT, and we will be piggybacking the vacancy testing, and the follow up (“value add”) testing for Year 11 Nossal students onto that week as well.

Nossal Entry Tests

Applications for Year 9 2015 close on May 16, and the applications for vacancies into Years 10 and 11 closes on June 4. See the school website for the links.

Berwick Station Safety and Community Perception

I was pleased but embarrassed that the Safety Officers from the railways requested the opportunity to speak with our students about safety at the Berwick station. I was pleased that they were concerned with our safety and willing to follow up and make time to present to the assembly, but embarrassed that they needed to do so as a result of some of our students being unintentionally careless about their impact on other travellers and in some cases deliberately breaking the law and crossing against the bells and gates. This is an issue we have been talking to students about for a long time now, and the railways security officers and inspectors will now begin to assist the students in making the right choices by fining them for not doing so. We have had clear and fair warning and now need to work together to ensure we are obeying the law, staying safe, and acting in an exemplary manner as befitting members of Nossal High School.

Rotary Club Raffle

Last year we were fortunate enough to be invited to participate in the Emerald Rotary Club Community raffle, and I have just ordered books of tickets for this year’s raffle. This is a wonderful community fundraising event organised by Rotary and strongly supported by Ferntree Gully Nissan. The main prize is a car, and ALL proceeds of the tickets sold come directly back to the school; that is, for every $2 ticket sold – the school gets $2. I have requested 400 books (of 10 tickets each = $20 per book) and hope that our students are able to sell them all. I encourage parents to support and assist with this excellent community initiative, and to raise important funds for the school (and hopefully, win a car as well!). Tickets will be distributed shortly.

Nossal Alumni – “The Old Nossalonians”

I am pleased to see that the foundation Year 12 students have established an executive group for the alumni and are soon to start planning events for the group. This will be a very important group for all Nossal students far into the future and I commend the graduates for their interest and initiative. I am also very happy to have met with and spoken to quite a few of our 2013 graduates, and they are universally very happy at university, enjoying the challenges and new experiences and pleasingly, very positive about their time at Nossal and how well prepared they were for the university experience. A number of them will be joining us at different times to help with careers and pathways advice, and to offer mentoring suggestions and support for current students.

Vietnamese Government Visit

We hosted a delegation of visiting Vietnamese Government and school officials this week and they were very impressed by what they saw of Nossal and the way we were creating an adult learning environment. It was a very adult environment when they toured initially as it was a study period for Years 10, 11 and 12, and NAPLAN testing for Year 9 so there were no formal classes running at the time. That in fact made the tour even more impressive as they witnessed groups and individual students scattered around the school deeply engaged in their studies and working independently with minimal teacher input – exactly the sort of environment the students will experience at university. We host regular visits from overseas and receive many offers to reciprocate and offers of sister school relationships. My thanks to the volunteer students who willingly assist on these occasions as interpreters and to the very generous group in the Food Technology room who let the group sample all the food they had just finished preparing. I think this was the hungriest group I have ever hosted, but also one of the most polite as they insisted on washing their dishes before they left. The students are always our best ambassadors and do us proud on these occasions.

Maningrida Cultural Exchange

I am pleased to announce that the Maningrida visit is going ahead and there is a very exciting program planned for our first visit there. Thank you to the parents and students who have committed to this wonderful opportunity, and to Ms Warner and Ms Ansalde for their excellent organisation.
Congratulations to....
Mukesh Sudhakar and Oliver Zhang of Year 11 who achieved third place in the recent University of Melbourne “Code Breaker” Computer Programming competition under the tutelage of Mr Bobby Chattrath.

Farewell to Aaron Houghton
Sadly we farewelled Aaron (Network Manager) last week as he has gained a very exciting promotion into a significant IT role within the Federal government. Aaron played a key role in setting up and maintaining the school IT infrastructure and overseeing the school technical team.

An opportunity for senior students
I received the following email from the Asia Education Foundation recently....

Dear Roger,
I wanted to let you know about an opportunity for your current Year 12 students, particularly those that may be interested in travelling to Asia and extending their learning from your Becoming Asia Literate Grants to Schools (BALGS) project.

Our friends at Young People Without Borders, an initiative from the Foundation for Young Australians, are offering young Australians aged 18 to 20 the opportunity to secure $2,500 scholarships towards volunteer placements in the Asia-Pacific.

YPWB have teamed up with two amazing organisations, Global Vision International and Latitude Global Volunteering, to offer some of the best volunteering placements in India, China, Vietnam, Laos, Fiji, Vanuatu, Nepal and Thailand.

The placements are a wonderful opportunity for students to apply learnings from the classroom and gain valuable lifelong skills whilst also making a meaningful contribution to the world.

Applications for departure in 2015 close 27 June 2014. Please head to ypwb.org.au/startyear to apply or find out more. Students who aren’t 18 by departure in 2015 (e.g. year 11s) can still sign up to the YPWB community and register their interest to be kept up to date on future scholarship opportunities.

Thanks,
Aaron

Aaron O’Shannessy
Manager, International Programs | Asia Education Foundation

Grounds Works
I am pleased to see that the next stage of the grounds works has commenced this week with the filling of the swale drain opposite the basketball courts. This is in preparation for the construction of an 800 seat outdoor amphitheatre and performance space and outdoor classrooms and BBQ area. I ask that students are mindful of the fenced of construction areas as there will be heavy equipment and tracks working there for the next week or two.

Parents and Friends Association
My congratulations and thanks for Cheong Koo (President) and his dedicated PFA team who have just completed their first 12 months and their first AGM. They are actively seeking to organise fundraising and social events to assist the school and build the community. They are targeting the funding of a BBQ complex for the courtyard as their next initiative and there are a number of planned events and activities that I encourage you all to support, including....

- Entertainment books which provide huge discounts for eating out, entertainment and accommodation..... mine paid for itself after I used the first two vouchers last year.
- A Trivia Night is planned for early term 3
- Memorial (branded) bricks are for sale to current and past Year 12 students and staff so you can leave your mark permanently at Nossal.

School Self Evaluation and Review
Every 3 years Government schools undertake an extensive self evaluation and review process before constructing a new strategic plan for the future. I have mentioned this in previous emails and we will be seeking significant input from parents staff and students. The new process that we will be undertaking this year involves the appointment of two “critical friends” s peer reviewers, and I have asked Colin Simpson (Principal of The Victorian College of the Arts Secondary College) and Terry Harrington (Principal of Maffra secondary College) to take on this important role. Following the Self Evaluation and Peer review we will be asked to contract an external reviewer (from a Government accredited list) who will provide objective feedback and advice. This is a new process and the reviewers are generally ex- principals, educational consultants and administrators and university academics. The final part of the process will be the construction of our Strategic Plan which will clearly outline our future directions and targets for improvement and development. Members of the school leadership team have begun collecting data and seeking feedback around key priority and evaluation areas, and I hope to have the self evaluation completed in term 2; the
reviews in term 3 and the Strategic Plan in term 4. Expect to see some more requests for feedback, completion of surveys and possibly focus group participation. Parental and community input is required and highly valued.

Roger Page May 14 2014

Parent Survey:
Thank you to the 55 parents who have completed the online survey. We are now looking for another 750 responses. The survey is designed to provide us with valuable feedback for our school review. If you have not completed it yet, please type the following URL into your internet address bar and take some time to tell us what you think of Nossal High School.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/T8KPWJF

No Mid-Year Exams in 2014:
Throughout 2013 we reviewed our assessment calendar and made the decision that we would no longer hold mid-year examinations. Our thinking was as follows:

- Our students have many opportunities to practise their exam technique over the years at Nossal High School. These include: eduTest examinations, NAPLAN tests, end of year exams from Year 9 – 12, and tests and SACs done under exam conditions.
- We effectively lost two and a half weeks of class time due to the mid-year exam period. One week for revision, one week for classes and the following half-week for exam feedback. We believe the benefits of more class time outweigh the small gains in exam technique.
- The VCE has moved away from mid-year exams, so we would like to give students the opportunity to practise preparing for exams that cover the whole year.

This decision will have some impact on semester-long subjects

- Students in Year 10 completing semester-long units in Semester 1 will sit an end of unit test in class that covers the entire course. Students studying semester-long units in Semester 2 will sit an equivalent test during the end of year exam period.
- Students in Year 9 do not have exams in semester-long elective units.

MID YEAR REVISION LECTURES
There are a range of companies offering revision lectures for students VCE unit 3 & 4. Flyers for these can be found at the VCE noticeboard. If you are interested, search for NEAP, ACCESS, TSSX and others on the internet.

Sue Harrap, Assistant Principal.

Excursion process policy
Excursions provide the opportunity to support and enhance student learning. Nossal students sometimes have the unique opportunity to meet at the venue or even attend an excursion unaccompanied. Currently, we are encountering a number of concerns in relation to excursions.

At present, it is not uncommon for students to;

- Bring permission on the day of the excursion.
- Inform teachers that parents are sending permission via emails.
- Ask parents to phone the school to provide verbal permission.
- Attend the excursion without returning a permission slip.

All of which are not acceptable.

From the 1st June the following conditions will apply,

1. Parental permission notification must occur within school office hours and no later than one school week prior to the
event. (This is also to include any required payment). This will allow final numbers of students attending. This information is vital, as it allows time to consider staffing (both at the excursion and back at school with a provision for any non-attendees. Being informed of final numbers early also provides time to organise transport needs.

2. Interschool sport teams. In the event of a team progressing to the next round, there may be limited notice of the next competition day. Under these circumstances, permission notes must be returned at least three working days prior to the event.

We are considering enabling parents with the opportunity to grant online permission via Compass. Further details will be available soon.

We hope that no student misses the opportunity to attend an excursion due to late or non-submission of permission notices.

Thank you for your support and understanding

Travelling safely on trains

On Monday Luke Martin from Metro trains spoke at the assembly about being safe in and around train stations. Although the majority of our students are safety conscious, each year we are notified of some students who take unnecessary risks like crossing the tacks when the bells are ringing and the gates are down. It is much better to arrive late than to not arrive at all. Think safety!

Recently, a Nossal student was fined travelling on the train without the correct id card. Please note that students are unable to use school issued student id card to purchase a concession fare on public transport. Students must carry a VPT Student Concession Card at all times. Please contact your local station for the Student Concession form application form. A number of Miki Cards have been lost lately. Students are requested to place an identifying mark or initials on the card.

Careers Expo Evening July 23

We are welcoming interested parents to share your career journey with other members of the Nossal Community; covering what steps did you take to get to where your career is today and what is involved in your current role.

Please advise me of your interest via email at: wayne.haworth@nossalhs.vic.edu.au, thank you.

Wayne Haworth, Assistant Principal

Future Course Planning

Ms Jennifer Callahan

Guidelines for Academic Progression (2014)

As Nossal High School is an academic select entry high school the very nature of our students means that they are working at a very high level in all academic subjects. All of our students however, can access an individual learning pathway and choose subjects appropriate to their own strengths and interests. For many students this includes accelerating their studies in one or more subject areas.

We have guidelines in place that students should be aware of in choosing their academic course from year to year.

Progression to Year 10, VCE 1&2 and VCE 3 &4

- Students who wish to progress in a subject should ideally be achieving at C+ or above in all areas of assessment in that subject. Students who are not achieving at this level will review their course during course counselling to ensure that they are in an appropriate pathway.

Acceleration

It is not necessary for students to accelerate their courses to successfully complete their time at Nossal High and their VCE. However if students wish to accelerate they must satisfy the requirements shown below in order to be allowed to accelerate. It is important that students realise that they must maintain a high level of achievement in all subjects in order to stay in an accelerated course.

One Subject

- Students who wish to accelerate in a subject should be achieving at B or above in all areas of assessment in the subject or appropriate subject area. Eg For Philosophy Units 1&2 at year 10, students should achieve at B or above in year 9 Humanities.

Two Subjects

Students who wish to accelerate in more than one subject should be achieving at B+ or higher in the number of
Two Subjects

- Students who wish to accelerate in more than one subject should be achieving at B+ or higher in the number of subjects specified for their current year level in order to show that they are capable of maintaining a consistently high level of achievement. These must include in the subjects they wish to accelerate.

  Year 9  7 subjects
  Year 10  5 subjects
  Year 11  5 subjects

Students will be assessed on what they are currently achieving and those who wish to accelerate must be achieving at the level for acceleration when they choose their courses. Students accelerating in two subjects should maintain B or above in the specified number of subjects for their year level.

There are also guidelines regarding subjects that students must complete in each year level. These will be published for years 10 to 12 in the senior school handbook.

Students should also note that some VCE subjects will not be available for acceleration. These will be published in the senior school handbook for each year.

Intermediate Mathematics

Students entering Nossal High School in year 9 come in with a wide range of mathematical ability and knowledge. They have had different experience of mathematics in years 7 and 8 in both levels and content covered.

Some students have only had the opportunity to study level 8 mathematics while others have been accelerated through to levels 9 and 10 depending on the mathematics programme in their school.

Students’ access to topics has also been varied, again depending on the programme they have studied in years 7 and 8. For example, some students in year 9 have studied statistics and probability in their year 8 studies while others have no experience of this area of mathematics.

Our intermediate mathematics programme is aimed at allowing students transitioning into Nossal High School to identify their own skills and abilities and develop a mathematics pathway that best suits them in their time at Nossal.

Outcomes

All students complete an intermediate year of mathematics.
All students are given the opportunity to work at AusVELs level 9 and/or 10 in each topic area.

Intermediate Mathematics Programme

All students will study a series of mathematics topics, for term 1 these were Statistics and Measurement. All topics will be offered at AusVELs levels 9 and 10.

Students will choose the level at which they work during each topic. They may move up and down between levels 9 and 10 within a topic.

Assessment for each topic will be made at levels 9 and 10 and students will choose the level at which they are assessed.

While we do not advocate acceleration in mathematics, we do have a programme structure that allows students who have demonstrated a high level of ability to access an accelerated programme if they wish.

There are two streams of acceleration in year 10.
  Year 10 Maths Advanced
  Mathematical Methods 1 and 2

Students may access these programmes if they satisfy the following criteria:

Year 10 Maths Advanced
Working in most topics at level 10 or above.
Consistent assessment scores at level 10 at B or above. (70% +)

Mathematical Methods
Working in all topics at level 10 or above.
Consistent assessment scores at level 10 at B+ or above. (78% +)
Consistent assessment scores in all other subject areas, so mathematics is not being prioritised at the expense of other subjects.

Please note: The criteria for access to Mathematical Methods in year 10 is more stringent than our general acceleration policy as there is an alternative acceleration pathway in Year 10 Maths Advanced.
Subject Selection
As our subject selection for 2015 is done in July and August the following criteria will apply to subject selection.
Most students will complete Intermediate Mathematics in 2014 and Year 10 Mathematics in 2015.
Students who have satisfied the criteria for Year 10 Maths Advanced or Mathematical Methods 1 and 2 may by the end of term 2 may choose these subjects in their subject selection. They must continue to satisfy the criteria throughout term 3 and term 4 for this to be their final course for 2015. This will be monitored throughout the year.
Jenny Callahan, Director of Transitions and Pathways

A Signature Event: Nossal Parent and Student Evening
Michael Carr-Gregg is Australia’s leading adolescent psychologist.
Michael will speak to and with parents and students about:
- surviving the pressures and anxiety of VCE
- the pros and cons of students’ online presence
- parenting across the generation gap.

Michael is engaging, entertaining and will change the way you think about adolescence.
It’s a rare privilege to have Michael come to Nossal.
An event not to be missed.
MONDAY 26 MAY, 7:00 TILL 8:30PM
Nossal High School
No cost but booking is essential
Book online @ http://www.trybooking.com/EVSC
Booking is open and only available until Friday 23 May
VISITING LIBRARIAN
On 5th May Carmel Eyre the Head College Librarian from Glen Eira College visited Nossal High School Information Resource Centre to discuss the programs that we are running here and to gather some ideas for their Library.
Carmel was extremely impressed with our Information Resource Centre and its programs. She indicated that our Resource Centre was not only visually attractive but also it has a very welcoming vibe.
The photos below show Carmel in discussion with Kamla Reddy, our Resource Centre Director.

Paper Cuts 2014 – Book trailer and book cover design competition
We are excited to be participating in Paper Cuts 2014, a new Victorian Government competition, to celebrate the importance of reading for literacy development and enjoyment.
To enter the competition, students can choose a book of their choice and create a book trailer (short film) or design a book cover. Shortlisted book covers and trailers will be featured on the Paper Cuts web page.
Book trailers are based on movie trailers and are a fun and exciting way to present a synopsis of a book.
The competition is part of the Victorian Premiers’ Reading Challenge initiative; however students don’t need to be registered to participate.
Your school can win Penguin books and winning students in both categories can also win an iPad.
Visit the competition website for more information about how to enter: www.education.vic.gov.au/papercuts

Junior Girls AFL Team
The girls of the Nossal Junior Girls AFL Team did a great job even though they did not make it to the next round. Our butterfly girls really enjoyed the rough and tumble of AFL football.
Well done girls!
Lee Tilley, Sports/Carnivals Coordinator
**Senior Tennis**

On Friday, May 2nd, our senior boys and girls Tennis teams ventured to Dendy Park, Brighton to represent our school in the Southern Metropolitan Regional Finals. It was a rainy and cold day but the tennis was played in great spirit and all students had a good time regardless of the level of success on the day – despite leaving early and returning late!

The girls team of Gabbie Jiminez, Sadaf Askarayar, Vivian Quach and Natasha Aulia ran into some tough competition including one girl who reportedly played in the Australian Open (junior division). They all played well and enjoyed the challenge. Our match against MacRob was the highlight. The girls were very friendly and the match was so close – we were even on sets but won on games.

The boys team of James Boulton, Darren DeSilva, Abi Ravuri, Nathan Mahoney and Dinesh Aruprakasam managed to make the final after winning their early rounds against Lyndale and Alkira. In the final the standard of tennis was raised to another level and although we won one of the doubles, the boys from Frankston HS proved too strong for us overall in the singles (although I know Darren would want me to report that he was the only player undefeated in singles for the day!!).

I was proud of the way the students represented us and enjoyed chatting with them between sets – they were able to bring me up to speed with everything happening at Nossal!

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**Donations Requested**

**Costumes donations**

Time to clean out the wardrobe? Don’t send your unwanted items to the Salvos, send them to school!

Wanted: Jackets such as men’s suit jackets, ladies blazers

Interesting props – hats, handbags, gloves, ties, scarves etc

Anything that could belong in the 1950s such as full skirts, short cardings, leather jackets, ‘prom’ dresses

Please drop donated items off for Ms Crust and the Drama department at the front office

Many thanks
The inaugural meeting of the Nossal High School Parents and Friends Association [PFA] was exactly one year ago. The School Council gave us $2000 to start, and it has certainly been a successful first year! We have had a second hand book sale, morning teas, a BBQ and the presence of the PFA at information evenings. Other fundraisers were entertainment book sales, and the sale of plants and herbs.

We say thanks to the outgoing committee, and welcome the new committee, comprising many of the same members:

Cheong Koo (President)
Peter Van Diepen (Vice President)
Paula Goldman (Secretary and Publicity)
Trudi Drucker (Treasurer)

Other committee members include: Butler, Lien Luong, Meng Eng, Nellie Fung, Yin Taw, Helen Critchlow, Grace Kamuyu

Now that we are entering into our second year of operation, we want to build on our successful first year. The Nossal High School Parents and Friends Association [Nossal PFA] has a specific mission and objectives.

Our mission is

- to help the school to achieve the best possible educational experience for our students, recognise the contribution of each of the members and enrich the entire Nossal community.

Our objectives are to

- promote friendship and support through social activities;
- provide a forum for communication;
- raise funds to support school programs;
- support teaching staff and the school community

CAN YOU HELP

Do not hesitate to contact us – email and person to contact –

Please remember The Entertainment Book is available online or from Reception of Nossal High School


Support our fundraising by purchasing the Entertainment™ Membership that suits you!

Discover hundreds of valuable up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for many of the best restaurants, arts, attractions, hotels, travel, shopping and much, much more!
Q and A Evening

FREE EVENT

Date: Monday 16 June 2014
Time: 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm
(door open at 7.00 pm for a strict 7.30 pm start)
Where: Cranbourne Golf Club,
South Gippsland Highway,
Cranbourne North
Tea, coffee and refreshments
will be provided. This is an
alcohol-free event.

The evening invites dads and other
significant males (including foster dads,
grandparents, etc) from across Casey to come
together and openly discuss issues relevant
to being a dad with our guest panel. The
discussion will focus on issues that are faced
by expecting and new dads.

Special Guest Host, Sandy Roberts
TV Sports Journalist

GUEST PANEL MEMBERS INCLUDE:

Dave Hughes
Comedian and Media Personality

Jay Laga’alia
‘Play School’ Presenter,
Children’s Entertainer and Actor

Troy Jones
‘Being Dad’ DVD Series and
Founder of ‘Pregnant Pause’

Gregory Nicolau,
Consulting Psychologist and CEO,
Australian Childhood Trauma Group

Randal Newton-John
Executive General Manager,
MensLine Australia

PLACES ARE STRICTLY LIMITED – REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

For more information and to book your place, please contact City of Casey Customer Service on 9705 5200.

If you have a question you would like to ask the panel, please email these before the evening to:
dadsmatter@casey.vic.gov.au

NRS (for the deaf, hearing or speech impaired): 133 677    TIS (Translating and Interpreting Service): 131 450

The Communities for Children Initiative is funded by the Department of Social Services.