Welcome Back to 2015

It feels like we have been back for quite a while now, and there have been a number of significant events in the past two weeks.

We have made a number of changes to the way the school operates this year – some as a result of our School Review in 2014, and some as a result of our progressive development and evolution of structures, processes and programs.

We trialed a different start to the year with an additional planning day for teachers at the start rather than during the latter part of the year; a staggered start for the students with the Year 12 cohort welcoming and inducting the new Year 9 cohort following the Foundation Assembly on their first day; and an “Induction Week” for Year 9 where they were introduced to the Nossal culture and ethos, and challenged to think differently about their education and how they (we) will be approaching their studies in their time with us.

This is an extract of my Foundation Assembly message to the Year 9 and 12 students……

“At Nossal we ask our students to “Embrace the Challenge” – to step outside their comfort zone, to push themselves, and us. We hope to model this as an organisation by continually learning, evaluating and refining our programs so that we can deliver the best possible education.”

Butterfly Effect Cover Designer

Congratulations Yulia Liu

The designer of the 2014 Butterfly Effect cover is Yulia Liu. Yulia designed the cover as part of her Year 9 Visual Communication and Design Course last year. She was required to develop six concept pieces and then choose one to develop to its final stage. Yulia’s cover was chosen over a number of exceptional submissions. We are looking forward to seeing what our students come up with for our 2015 Butterfly Effect cover!

Save the Dates!

- Tuesday February 17, 2015
  School Pix
  Whole school Photo day

- Friday February 20, 2015
  Strategic Planning Day
  Students not required at school on this day

- Thursday February 26, 2015
  House Swimming Carnival
  All students required to attend

- Monday March 9, 2015
  Labour Day Public Holiday
  Students not required at school on this day

- Tuesday March 24, 2015
  House Athletics Carnival
  All students required to attend

For more information regarding Nossal events, see page 2 or visit the ’Coming Events’ tab on our webpage.
principal news continued...

outcomes. In 2014 the school went through a comprehensive whole school review and you will see a number of significant changes being implemented throughout the year as a result of this, as we continually strive to deliver effective 21st century learning experiences for our very special student cohort.

The symbolism of our Year 12 group (those completing their educational journey with us), being introduced alongside the new Year 9 group sends a strong message about our community and how we wish to operate as a school. In some schools the Year 12s are the apex predators, the ruling elite – at Nossal they are the ultimate role models and they help set, hold and model the Nossal ethos and culture for subsequent generations. The Year 9 cohort is our future, and right from the start I encourage and expect you to take an active role in building/growing and improving our school. Student voice is very important at Nossal – nearly every teacher here has been interviewed and appointed by a panel that contained two students; many of the structures, traditions and events have been created, suggested and organised by the students, and while I think we do this reasonably well – I’m sure we can, and should do more.

You are at Nossal because you deserve to be. Everyone here has earned their place through hard work, commitment, talent and grit. There are few other schools where this is the case. You cannot buy a place at Nossal. Your obligation now is...
to honour the Nossal name, to honour this rare privilege, by being highly successful, but being highly successful is not just getting a big ATAR score, all of you here can do that. Being successful is much broader and more personal, and will vary significantly from student to student. You will hear us talk to you often about success, about the future and about your and our expectations of your educational experience with us. I do not want you to be passive recipients in this process – I want you to challenge yourselves and to challenge us. You have some of the best and most highly committed teachers in the state, and some of the best and most highly committed students. (and parents of course) That gives you a significant advantage – but only if you take it. Everyone here in the room today is part of your support group. The facilities, buildings and all these people are only here for one purpose, and that is to ensure that each one of you is highly successful in the long term. Getting good results in Year 12 is an important part of that journey and I have said before it is a bit like a marathon (it’s not a sprint) – you need to be well prepared, well supported, resilient, committed and capable if you want to be running in the front of the pack – but there is no finish line – Year 12 is a stage – not the end. If you get to that stage well prepared, healthy, happy and well equipped you are much more likely to succeed in the next stage, university … and beyond.

At Year 9 you will have the opportunity to take on a breadth of experiences – we don’t want you to just get good marks – education and life is much broader than that – so is success. We will offer, encourage and expect you to be involved in many things and to be successful across a broad spectrum.

The other thing I wish to strongly reinforce with you all, particularly the Year 12s is that you can’t do it alone. It is much easier to be successful, and much more rewarding if you do it as part of a group – part of our community. If you help and support others they will help and support you. Schools are much more effective, more successful and much more fun, when people work together – and results improve considerably when this is the case.

Welcome to the following new staff members...

- Mr Sam Allen – Humanities
- Mr Kerwyn Alley – Chemistry/Science
- Ms Jessica Ball – Maths
- Ms Emma Geyer – English and Leading Teacher – Careers/Pathways & Transitions
- Mr Eric Jiang – Piano
- Ms Iqbal Kaur – Maths
- Ms Vaishali Kentish – French
- Ms Lucy Kutrolli – Health & PE
- Ms Leeann Lees – Science Laboratory Technician
- Mt Tien Ho Ng – Maths
- Ms Chantelle Pumphrey – Health & PE (+ Sports Coordination)
- Ms Julia Stoppa – Music Coordinator
- Mr Joe Wilson – English

….and a special congratulations to Mr Kerwyn Alley and his wife - their first child was born on Tuesday (a very big start to the year)!
Nossal Alumni

We were very proud of our graduating class of 2014 who achieved excellent results, and who are now enjoying the last few weeks of their long break before University commences in March. There have been a steady trickle of ex-students dropping in to visit, and we were honoured by the presence of 20 of the highest achievers at our first full school assembly last week. They have been offered places at Universities from right around Australia and we have a growing alumni group at ANU in Canberra and James Cook University in Queensland. Monash and Melbourne Universities are the most popular, with 135 students receiving first round offers to Monash (across all Victorian campuses). We will be hosting their first “reunion” shortly, and the “Old Nossalonians” have now potentially doubled their size. I look forward to catching up with them all at these events, or for formal and informal visits throughout the year.

Nossal PFA

Our dedicated band of Parents and Friends held their first meeting last week and are looking forward to welcoming new parent members, particularly new Year 9 parents, and I encourage you all to get involved with them and either join the committee or simply participate in some of their activities and events. They do a wonderful job in supporting and improving the school in many different ways, and are a very happy and welcoming group.

Please Help

We have been planning and designing significant and much needed grounds works, as well as building extension and re-design works. We were hoping to have started the actual building by now, but have been very disappointed by some of the ridiculously expensive quotes we have received. As such, we are thinking we are better to sub-contract the works ourselves. If any parents are involved in the building or landscaping industry, and might be able to assist with sub-contracting; more realistic quotations; or sourcing of materials, we ask that they please contact Mr Wayne Haworth or Mr Jason Bell at the school.

School Council Elections

We will shortly be calling for nominations for School Council from parents and staff. Please consider taking on this vital role. Details and nomination forms will be sent out shortly. Refer to page 8 for timeline.

Coming Events

A very busy term lies ahead, with information nights for VCE, Duke of Edinburgh, Year 9; student leadership elections; the VCE Surf Camp; Year 12 Camp; Year 9 Camps; WOTOPERA; the House Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and parent student teacher conferences at the end of the term.

Badges (Leadership) Assembly; School Tour & Morning Tea

I invite Year 9 parents to join us at the school for the Student Badges assembly on Monday March 2 at 9.00am in the gym. This will be followed at 10.00am by a light morning tea hosted by members of the PFA and the Principal; and a tour of the school with the Principal. All parents are welcome to attend the morning tea and tour. It is a great opportunity to meet other Nossalon parents, and the PFA; to learn more about the school and to see it in operation. Nossal is different to most schools, and seeing and hearing how and why we do things the way we do them can be very helpful in understanding what your children experience each day. It is also very impressive I think (although I may be a little biased). You will receive an invitation via email – please RSVP for catering and seating purposes.
Driving Through Monash

Please be aware of the speed limits and road rules, and our students when dropping off your children at school. Monash Security are concerned about people speeding and not giving way at the roundabout or on the Shared Zones. They have asked that we alert everyone to this issue as police are likely to be patrolling and issuing fines in the next week or two.

The Victorian School of Languages

The Victorian School of Languages has opened a new centre at Berwick Secondary College this year – offering classes in Hindi, Chinese and Spanish on Saturday mornings. (see link below)

Roger Page

Dear Parent/Dear Student

Please note that the Victorian School of Languages (VSL) has opened its enrolment online at https://www.vsl.vic.edu.au/Enrol/Default.aspx for the year 2015. Our centres offer over 55 languages, with 35 of those at Dandenong, Hampton Park and nearby Berwick. We are a government organisation, which means low fees but professional teaching. On Saturdays (9am – 12.20pm) we provide the opportunity to study languages, ranging from Arabic to Turkish and Albanian to Romanian, that your day school is unable supply. With reports and parent-teacher interviews you will be assured direct feedback and with our VCE classes the student is able to enhance their studies and hopefully their scores!

In case you have further queries find us online or contact our South East office in Dandenong 97919289 – Thank you for your interest - Your VSL-Team @ South East!!!!!

Assistant Principal News - Ms Sue Harrap

Welcome Back to School

I would like to extend a warm welcome to students and families as we begin the school year in 2015. It is great to see familiar faces and begin to recognise some of the new faces who have joined us for the first time. We have had an incredibly smooth start to the year.

On the two days prior to the Foundation Assembly on Friday 30th, staff participated in professional learning together. We began the year with a visioning exercise in preparation for the development of our Strategic Plan, which asked staff to imagine the skills and attributes we would like our graduates to possess. The consistent views of staff, the common themes and the focus on the whole person, with little mention of academic success was affirming. Throughout Term One, we will need to conduct similar sessions with a sample of our parents and students to determine your vision and marry them together. We also examined our core values and the ways in which we will work to develop a whole school approach to wellbeing. On Thursday 29th staff were involved in team planning to ensure that team-teaching and subjects with multiple classes, have a well-coordinated learning experience for students. Staff made comment that one of the best forms of professional learning they have is when they have time to work together in teams.
Assistant Principal News Continued...

The first week culminated in our Foundation Assembly where we had the pleasure of welcoming our new students from Years 9-11, new staff and we also celebrated the 2015 Year 12s. As always, it was an honour to have Sir Gus as our guest and for him to share his words of wisdom, and shake that hand of every student and staff member. It was also delightful to see Sir Gus signing autographs and posing for photos with students and staff. We also wish to thank the many parents who attend the Assembly and morning tea; it was lovely to catch up with you. I am already starting to recognise familiar faces amongst the new Year 9 parent group. We really appreciate your continued engagement with the school at our significant events.

The Year 10 – 12 students were quickly back into the swing of things with the resumption of normal classes. Their teachers have been enthusiastically checking the holiday homework and outlining the year ahead for them. The Year 9s enthusiastically participated in their Induction Week (iWeek) last week under the leadership of Ms Catherine Loel. Catherine organised a busy week for the students, with the aim of introducing the Year 9s to the ideas, behaviours and practices that make us unique – What is it that defines us as Nossalonians? We looked at the following broad themes:

- Developing close relationships with their peers, other students and teachers through shared experiences
- a focus on learning and challenging oneself to grow
- the adult learning environment
- what it is to be an ethical scholar
- the Five Minds for the Future (Gardner 2008)
- maintaining health, wellbeing and balance in your life
- participation in a Nossal excursion to model our practice of fostering independence.

Finally, on Friday of iWeek the Year 9s began their ‘normal’ classes. We know that the work we have done with students throughout iWeek will prepare them to adapt to, and thrive at Nossal as quickly as possible. Congratulations to the students for their outstanding participation, thank you to the Year 10 Peer Mentors for their assistance, and a big thank you to Mrs Catherine Loel and the staff for making iWeek so successful.

In the coming newsletters I will write about our assessment practice, our focus on learning (not just achievement), and our new reporting system and process.

Ms Sue Harrap

Assistant Principal News - Mr Wayne Haworth

A very warm welcome to all members of the Nossal Community for 2015. From my observations it has been a smooth start to the year across all year levels. I have really enjoyed meeting new students and watching them make connections and build friendships. I would like to express my appreciation to the senior students who have not only welcomed, but acted as mentors for the newer younger students. The new vertical Tutorial structure and the Whole School Nossal Time Program is further supporting students to build connections, not only with peers from their year level but also with students from other levels. On Thursday evening, I enjoyed meeting new families at the Year 9 Meet and Greet.
The year commenced with our annual Foundation Assembly. Sir Gustav Nossal welcomed all new students and staff, as well as presenting the Year 12 students with their badges. My sincere thanks our School Captains Sanjiv and Natasha, and Vice Captains Ellie and Nathan for their assistance as MC’s. Thank you also to Qi Wei Wang and Esha Zhang supported with wonderful musical performances.

The co-curricular program has commenced with the lunchtime Aikido club and WOT Opera. These are only two of the activities available to students, with many more to come in the next few weeks.

The whole school Photo day will take place on Tuesday 17th February. All students are reminded that on this day full academic uniform must be worn. Students who have Physical Education practical classes are also required to wear academic uniform and to bring a change of footwear.

Continuing our partnership with Tooradin Flying School, Nossal students again have the opportunity to go flying, with the aim of reaching a level to receive their pilot's licence. Our annual Aviation information evening will be held on Tuesday 3rd March at 7pm in the Meath Auditorium. Student and parents who would like to find out more are most welcome.

Mr Haworth

Save this date!

Dan Haesler is an international keynote speaker, teacher, writer & consultant. Described as engaging, thought provoking and someone who pushes the boundaries; Dan has appeared alongside some of the world’s most well-known educational thinkers including Sir Ken Robinson and TED Talk Prize Winner, Sugata Mitra. In 2015 he will be appearing on the same program as His Holiness the Dalai Lama. Dan works with a diverse range of people and organisations as well as featuring in and writing for the mainstream media. In his role as a consultant, Dan has worked with state government departments, not-for-profit organisations, regional education offices, professional associations and individual schools.

Are Our Best Intentions in the Best Interests of our Students?

As parents we all want what’s best for our children. But what if what we’re doing is actually holding our children back? What if our very best intentions aren’t necessarily in the best interests for our offspring? In this talk, Dan Haesler will explore parenting strategies that will help you to help your child create the necessary mindset and skillset for life in the 21st Century.

Date: Wednesday April 15, 2015 at 7:30pm
Venue: Nossal High School

More information coming soon!
ENGLISH NEWS

YEAR 12 ENGLISH ORAL PRESENTATIONS – ADVANCE NOTICE

All Year 12 English students will complete their first assessment during Week 5 (beginning Monday 2nd March). 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.

MRS ELIZABETH MORGAN
YEAR 12 ENGLISH CONVENOR on behalf of the Year 12 English team

IMPORTANT – Student Access Hours

While I am pleased that many of our students stay back late after school to study together or individually, I ask that they vacate the school buildings before 6.00 pm please (unless there is a special event on, or they have made other arrangements).

If staying after 5.00 pm – please exit the building via the main (automatic) front doors rather than leaving other exit doors unsecured.

Please note that students are effectively only under staff supervision at Nossal between the hours of 8.00am and 4.00 pm when teaching staff are on duty.

While the school may be open outside those hours, contract cleaners may be the only people in attendance, before 8.00am and after 6.00 pm, so students should not be on the premises outside those hours unless prior arrangements have been made.

Mr Page

Nossal High School 2015 School Council Elections
Notification of election timeline

Monday 23 February: Nominations Open Parent Category – 3 Vacancies
DET Staff Category – 1 Vacancy

Wednesday 04 March 4.00pm Nominations Close
Validation of Nominations
Decision if Ballot is required

Wednesday 11 March Ballot Opens (If required)

Wednesday 18 March Ballot Closes

Friday 20 March Declaration of Poll

Tuesday 24 March First School Council Meeting after Poll
Australia Day Celebrations
Government House Invitation

Congratulations to Larissa Schulz, now in Year 12, who was invited to a reception with the Governor of Victoria on Australia Day in recognition of her outstanding 50 in Unit 3/4 Psychology in 2014.

Supervisors for VCAA exams 2015 and beyond

Would you like to help out with supervising the externally assessed VCAA exams in 2015? VCAA exam supervisors are paid to complete this task and this is a rewarding way to be involved in the program at Nossal High School.

Supervisors for VCAA exams cannot be any of the following:

• Closely related to, or associated with, any student undertaking a VCE Unit 3 and 4 study in 2015 at Nossal High School

• Teaching any student a VCE Unit 3 and 4 study in 2015

• Tutoring a student in a VCE Unit 3 and 4 study at Nossal High School

• Closely related to or associated with any person engaged in teaching, tutoring or coaching students undertaking a VCE Unit 3 and 4 subject in 2015, or any person engaged in organising or checking GAT or VCE examination materials at Nossal High School.

Note:
Closely related to or associated with students includes: children, via relatives/relationships by marriage or de facto or by other living arrangements, friends, neighbours, business or community associates, tutoring or teaching relationships.

If you would like to discuss this further or would like to volunteer to supervise VCAA exams, please contact Katherine Warriner on katherine.warriner@nossalhs.vic.edu.au

Please pass this on to friends or family who may be interested in taking up this opportunity.
Nossal Garden
Year 9 Humanities

Ms Warner and Mrs Engler’s Humanities Classes, 9 Q and R, spent the day learning about the vegetables in the garden, and weeding out the non-vegetables! They learned about school and community gardens and the importance of self-sustaining gardening.

They had heaps of fun too, putting their study into action!!!!

Shelley Warner

Foundation Assembly Photos

Sir Gus individually welcomes every new student & staff member to Nossal

Our 2015 School Captains host their first assembly of many

School Council Presidents, Dr Alan Lachman adresses the assembly

Year 12s about to receive their Year 12 badges
Follow @CFAAlerts on Twitter
Go to facebook.com/CFAAlerts
Download the FireReady app
Visit emergency.vic.gov.au
Listen to local radio
Stay aware of your surroundings
Telephone for a warning.
In an emergency, do not rely just on your
in 30 languages)
and watch the video (its
emergency.vic.gov.au

For more information about the system, visit

The action given in the alert
is adults are not around, encourage them to follow
such as a relief or teacher.
the message to a responsible adult they know;
encourage them to stay calm and slow or repeat
the message on the personal mobile.
If they receive a warning message on the home
system,

Talk to your child about the Emergency Alert

Example Text Alert

EMERGENCY WARNING FROM CFA
From: +61 444 444 444

Emergency Alert. Be warned. Be informed.

+61 444 444 444

All telephone warnings come from the official number:

• where you can get more information.
• what you should do if notified
• about the emergency and where it is
• which emergency service sent the message. eg CFA

The warning message will tell you:

The service is free and you do not need to register.

Example

area of mobile coverage may receive a text
a mobile phone that is switched on and in an
with "Emergency, Emergency", and
receive a recorded voice message that begins
a home phone with the warning area may

Warning system:

When the emergency services use the telephone
Emergency.

• when you are travelling with your mobile near an
• when your home or school is near an emergency
• reach you:
• registered and the actual location of your mobile to
system. If the address where your phone is
Emergency Alert is the national telephone warning

voice message to your home phone.
may choose to warn you by text to your mobile or a
major emergency near you, the emergency services

If there is a bushfire, road, severe storm or other
Are you interested in a career in the Health Industry?
This is an opportunity for you to hear from professionals in different areas within the Hospital Community.
You will hear about:

* The path taken by surgeons to obtain their specialist skills
* Nursing
* Administration
* Environmental, Catering & Orderly Opportunities
* Other opportunities within the Health Industry.

The Valley Private Hospital is pleased to present a new SCHOOLS HEALTH INFORMATION PROGRAM

Our Schools Health program was developed to reflect our core values and promote awareness of the variety of employment and specialty services available within the Health Industry.

We believe that health matters and by encouraging students to follow their passion will assist in continuing the high standards of our Australian Health Professionals.

This information night will give you an insight on the type of study required, the time frame of study, some interesting facts and stories which will give you a first hand indication of what may be required of you in your chosen career.

A rare opportunity for you to receive an up close and personal information session with our guest speakers with Q & A time.

Date: Wednesday 4th March 2015
Time: 6.30 pm
Place: Nazareth College (Auditorium)
Manning Drive
Noble Park

Bookings are essential through your school Careers Teacher.
RSVP by Wednesday 25th February

Seats are limited to 50 students per school plus 1 parent or Guardian per student

COMPETITION WINNERS WILL BE ANNOUNCED ON THIS NIGHT

** The Materials provided and any opinions expressed are for general purposes only. For Further Career Information please speak with your Career/Pathways Coordinator.**
Friends of Cranbourne Libraries Inc.

BARGAIN BOOKSALE

Great books for the whole family from 50¢ to $5!

Saturday 14 February
8.30am - 2.00pm
Cranbourne Library

Conference Rooms,
Casey Indoor Leisure Complex
65 Berwick-Cranbourne Road
Melway: 134 B6

Enter through Casey Radio
doors on the main carpark
next to Cranbourne Library.
GP Clinic & Student Health Service on
Monash University campus

Dr Tony Atkins          Dr Anna Dowling          Dr Annie Wells
Dr George Zaharias      Dr Tom Shashian         Dr Ahmed Sharif

Same day appointments and new patients welcome

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76 Clyde Road, Berwick

Clinic hours Mon, Tues & Thurs 8.30am to 8.30pm
Wed & Fri 8.30am to 5.30pm

For appointments: Ph 9796 1500

Download app or Book online at www.berwickhealthcare.com.au any time, day or night.