Our honoured guest and namesake, Sir Gustav Nossal individually greets each of our new students and the Class of 2016 at Foundation Assembly to kick off the new year!

SAVE THE DATES!

Tuesday February 9
Repeat VCE Information Night
Meath Auditorium at 7pm
Tickets are essential
www.trybooking.com/KGFL

Wednesday February 10
Whole School Photos
All student to wear full academic uniform
More information on page 9

Thursday February 18 & 19
Pink Stumps Day
Staff v Student

Thursday February 18
New Student Parent Meet & Greet
(Invitations emailed on Fri Feb 5)

Principal’s Desk - Mr Roger Page

Dear Parents,

Welcome to 2016 and the first Nossal News for the year. We have made some changes to streamline things a little and Ms Harrap, Mr Butler and myself will take it in turns to write the “Principal’s Desk” article each fortnight so we can reduce the volume a bit and save doubling up.

The school year is well underway following our traditional Foundation Assembly on January 28 where Sir Gus presented badges to new students and staff, and the Year 12 class of 2016. When the class of 2016 graduates, we will have well and truly reached maturity as a school as they are the last of the “Foundation” cohorts, being the group that made Nossal a complete school of 800 when they joined us as Year 9 students in 2013.

We welcomed the Year 10 and 11 students on Friday 29, and classes have fully resumed this week, although the Year 9 cohort have been undertaking a special “iWeek” (Induction Week) program which concluded on February 4. This was
WHAT IS COMING UP AT NOSSAL...

2016

February
8 SRC Elections
9 Repeat VCE Information Night
10 School Photos
15 Fareshare Excursion
School Photo - follow up day
16 GRIP Leadership Day at Melbourne Convention Centre
18 Pink Stumps Day #1
New Student Meet & Greet - Parents and Staff 7pm
19 Pink Stumps Day #2
22 Inter Sport - Cricket, Tennis & Volleyball
23 House Swimming Carnival
24-26 Yr12 Lord Somers Camp
29 Inter Sport - Basketball
Snr Sport - Volleyball, Tennis & Baseball
Debating Training

March
2-4 VCE PE 1/2 Surf Camp
8 International Women's Day
8-11 Yr9 Roses Gap Camp (group 1)
15-18 Yr9 Roses Gap Camp (group 2)
22 House Athletics Carnival
23-24 Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

SCHOOL TERM DATES

2016
Term 1
MAR 24 - Term 1 finishes

Term 2
APR 11 - JUN 24
(Student classes resume Tues April 12)

Term 3
JUL 11 - SEP 16

Term 4
OCT 3 - DEC 20

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Principal News Continued...

2016 School Captains - Kiran Rajackal and Charis Yang

a highly successful program devised by Ms Loel in 2015 and we believe will better prepare the students for a successful transition into Nossal, give them a much greater understanding of the school culture, ethos and our classroom pedagogy.

New staff

We welcome a small number of “new” faces this year……

• Ms Yvonne Sly – French
• Mr Clint Hammill – Art (Ms Cilia on leave for the first few weeks)
• Mr Jacob Martin – Science Lab Tech.
• Ms Barbara Kerr – Woodwind
• Ms Joanne Heaton – Woodwind
• Mr Leonardo Intelangelo – Guitar

….and returning from 12 months leave…..

• Ms Jenny Callahan – Maths
• Mr Michael McQuaid – English
• Mr Loi Tran – Maths

Class of 2016 students - waiting to be presented with their Year 12 badges
2015 VCE Results

Let me remind you of how we finished the year in 2015 – our graduating class of 2015 did us very proud and achieved excellent VCE results.

- 58.5% of students achieved an ATAR of 90+
- The Median ATAR was 91.8; the Highest 99.85 (Qi Wei Wang - Dux)
- Number of students who achieved over 99 – 14
- Median study score was 36
- Number of “perfect” study scores of 50 was 15.

Very impressive work from the class of 2015 and their teachers and families. These results triggered feature articles in *The Age* and *Herald Sun* as we were the 3rd highest achieving government school just behind Melbourne High School and MacRob who again topped the state (congratulations to Dr Meath and her team) and we had moved significantly up the rankings.

This is the most important part for me – we have been showing a steady improvement across the board (not just in our VCE results, but across most measures we take) and this is exactly what should be happening. We should be learning and improving and getting better at what we do as a school. Just as we ask of our students, we are a learning organisation too and our job is to get better at what we do, and our learnings are all about how we can best do that. All Nossal staff undergo a performance and development process and make annual plans to learn; to improve what they do and to assist their students to be even more successful. Our teachers are all learners – learning does not stop.

At their first assembly I asked the 2016 Year 12’s to improve on last year’s results …not so we can beat out Melbourne HS and MacRob, but so we can continue to learn, grow and improve - and we should be able to do it. Each cohort of Nossal students has performed slightly better on the entry test than the previous group; each graduating VCE class has performed slightly better than the previous ones, and that is a trend I would like to see continuing. But please do not misunderstand my point here – our students can’t all get ATARs of 99.95. It is not about the score, it is about the improvement and the learning, and the best possible result we could achieve would be if each of our students achieved their personal best. They can’t all be the Dux but they can and should

VCE Information Night

This coming Tuesday, February 9 at 7:00pm
Admission with ticket only - tickets available from
www.trybooking.com/KGFL
(This is a repeat of the information session on Thurs Feb 4)
Principal News Continued...

do their best, and with your continued support we will help them to achieve that. This is one of our school improvement goals in our Strategic Plan.

There will be a number of changes this year to help us continue on our improvement trajectory - the building project is almost complete; we are making modifications to rooms and offices to provide more effective teaching, breakout and counselling spaces; we will open the Nossal fitness centre this term; and the oval is complete, we’re now allowing the grass to sprout and consolidate before we can use it, hopefully sometime in Term 2. Unfortunately the additional walls we have been installing inside the main building are behind schedule and we are still waiting on the sliding doors and glazing so we can improve the classroom dynamics and free up the timetable in the larger learning spaces. We should be able to start moving our fitness equipment and table tennis tables into the Fitness centre next week.

University Offers

All 2015 graduates have received first round university offers – most into their first and second preferences and there has been a steady trickle of very happy (now ex) students dropping in to share their joy with us. They still have a few weeks of break to go before university resumes and we wish them well for the next stage of their educational journey. We remind them that the school is still here to support and assist them where we can, and that we hope to now see them as active members of the alumni - The Old Nossalonians.

We have had our first prestigious international offer this year too – with one of the graduates from 2015 being offered a place into an Engineering Degree at Cambridge University in England, (and there may be more to come).

Education State

I hope all parents are aware of the work that has been taking place to create new direction and improvements in State Education in Victoria under the current government. Unlike some of the “initiatives” that have been introduced in recent years I am pleased to say that this is a much more coherent, practical, challenging, and far reaching program that has been well researched and targets the “whole child” and the broader system.

Please refer to http://www.education.vic.gov.au/Documents/about/educationstate/targets.pdf and the associated links for details about the broad targets and direction the government is taking. It also, for the first time in my memory, incorporates health and wellbeing, equity and support, and targets areas of embedded disadvantage as part of the framework. It is an ambitious and challenging approach that mirrors the direction Nossal has been taking and will affirm, support and challenge us further. Under our new Annual Implementation Plan, that spells out our school targets and directions for 2016 under this framework, our key areas of focus this year are to -

• Develop a whole school pedagogical model with a focus on formative assessment
• Develop a culture of Growth Mindset that underpins our whole school pedagogical model, assessment and reporting practices, and whole school approach to wellbeing.
• Develop a means for more formally recognising participation and contribution to co-curricular, leadership and community service activities.
• Develop a whole school approach to wellbeing (both staff and students)
• Seek comprehensive feedback to ensure adequate resourcing of structures and processes to support key initiatives around team teaching, formative assessment, performance and development, Whole School Approach to Wellbeing, and digital delivery.

Fresh faces of the Class of 2019
Lockers and Padlocks

I really like that many Nossal students feel that the school is a safe and trusted adult environment and leave their lockers unsecured and their (often expensive) personal possessions (laptops, phones) lying around…. and it is generally safe to do so. I am always gratified and humbled by the supportive, empathic and honest actions of our students and we enjoy an environment where we have no need to lock things away, limit access, or exclude students from the school facilities. HOWEVER – we don’t want to be tempting fate and there have been items go missing in the past – hopefully lost or mislaid rather than stolen, but we don’t know for sure.

Under DET guidelines the School Padlock is included under “optional” on the booklist, but it is not optional. My strong preference is for all students to purchase a Nossal supplied lock (if they have not already done so). These locks are available at the front office at a reduced cost; they are high quality, secure and durable and should last forever. They are combination locks with a Master Key override that our Facilities Manager has. That way, if there is an issue with the lock or the combination is forgotten Jason is able to easily open it for the students without having to destroy it. These locks have been selected for their quality, ease of use and security and the school presentation is much improved with closed lockers and a uniformity of padlock. If you have not already done so please purchase (and use) a Nossal lock.

Roger Page

NEST News

Late last year we asked Year 9 and 10 students to submit an application for one of three Sustainable Energy Student Fellowships. The fellowships were kindly made available to us by Dr Badwal, a parent of a Nossal student and a scientist at the CSIRO with an interest in developing young scientists, specifically in the field of Sustainable Energy.

Each fellowship comes with a $500 grant for an individual student, or group of up to three students, to investigate a research project of their choice. The focus of the project is to be a locally based problem surrounding sustainability and energy technology. As part of the award, students will attend a conference relevant to their project, provide an update on their progress via the Nossal Environmental Sustainability Team (NEST) page on the Nossal High School website and prepare a final report and presentation of their findings for the school community.

At the whole school assembly on Friday January 29, we were pleased to award fellowships to Yani Radu, Aditya Gaddgil who submitted individual applications and Hayden Radford and Khanh Nguyen, who will be working as a team.

We look forward to seeing how their projects develop.

Mrs Jessica Ball
Sustainability Coordinator
Nossal’s Top Designer

I am delighted to inform you that Vignesh Murugan (Year 12 2015) has been selected for VCE Systems Engineering in this year’s Top Designs exhibition as part of the VCE Season of Excellence 2016.

Top Designs

Friday 18 March – Sunday 10 July 2016 at the Melbourne Museum, Carlton

Please find full lists of the students exhibiting their works under Top Designs ‘Exhibitor List’ at www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/topdesigns.

Top Designs is part of the VCE Season of Excellence managed by Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority. A number of associated education programs are offered in conjunction with exhibition viewing and screenings.

I hope people are able to attend the exhibition to acknowledge the outstanding achievement of Vignesh and the other featured students – it is a very impressive showcase and is well worth a visit even if there wasn’t a Nossal student presence.


Roger Page

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Nossal’s Sport Stars

Star Cricketer

Damien Gamage of Year 11 was selected for the U16 State Cricket Competition for the South District, in the Southern Pioneers Team.

They competed in the JW Dowling Shield Competition the week of 18-22 January. Damien was selected as a fast bowler.

His team did not make it through to the finals but he thoroughly enjoyed the experience and learnt from the high calibre competition.

Star Manager

Our own Ms Lucy Kutroli was selected as the Team Manager for the 2015/2016 Victorian U13 Girls Indoor Hockey State Team.

The U13 Girls went on to win the National Championship in Illawarra NSW in January!

Congratulations to Ms Kutroli and the Victorian Hockey team.

In full flight - Damian Gamage, fast bowler
Wellbeing News

Breakfast Club

As you are aware Nossal High School is fortunate to be in a position to offer our students the opportunity to use our Breakfast Club daily.

Many of our students who travel from all over Melbourne use this program as well as students who are not fortunate to have breakfast provided.

The breakfast club is not a funded program and relies on parent and community donations.

We currently provide students with the choice of cereal, toast and spreads, tea and coffee.

Unfortunately Kellogg's are no longer in a position to donate cereal to our program, therefore we are looking for donations to ensure these items can be purchased.

If you or your family are in a position to either donate cereal, spreads or make a financial donation this would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the office for more details.

Uniform & Book Donations

Donations of uniform and school text books are also of much use to the school. Both for Nossal families that are struggling to purchase all the required resources and for students who are not in full school uniform and need to borrow the appropriate clothing for a day.

Thank you

Mrs Leanne Ansalde
Director of House

IRC News

Literature Circle Book Club at Nossal High School

The IRC will resume the Literature Circle Book Club meetings every third week on Tuesdays. The first meeting will take place on Tuesday February 16 during lunch break in the IRC. We invite students, staff, parents and local community members to join the club. If you are interested in attending please contact the IRC Director Mrs Kamla Reddy on 0402436849 or through email: Kamla.reddy@nossalhs.vic.edu.au

Book Club meets every 3 weeks on Tuesdays in the IRC.

Kamla Reddy
Director of Information Resource Centre

The Nossal Literature Circle Book Club is a truly community embracing group
School Captain’s News

yLead’s 2016 Australian Student Leadership Conference

On January 23, Kiran Rajackal, Charis Yang, Stacey Loizou, Thomas Velican and I had the opportunity to attend yLead’s three day residential leadership conference at Melbourne University’s St. Hilda’s College.

Upon arrival, we were greeted by the friendly yLead team, who immediately encouraged us all to dance and before we knew it all 95 of us were up on our feet doing the grape vine, the whip and the nae nae and other dance moves that shall not be spoken of. We had the absolute pleasure of meeting some of the finest student leaders all over the State and also from Tasmania, who were extremely humble and had beaming personalities.

Together we embarked on a three day journey which involved inspiring and entertaining guest speakers, activities that helped fortify our leadership skills and most importantly the opportunity to form strong bonds with fellow student leaders. On the first day we were asked to pick our squads and squad mentor. I along with Thomas and nine other students selected the bubbly Laura as our mentor, and together we formed a squad who I’d come to know as my yLead family for the next three days. As a group we participated in multiple activities which helped strengthen our team work, delegation and overall leadership skills.

Squads were also given unique secret missions which included dances, songs, a banner, drama performances and a fundraiser, all of which were presented at the closing ceremony in front of teachers and family. yLead also put on a funky retro disco night where we all had the opportunity to dress up in retro attire and bond with rest of the students.

On the third and final day, all five of us had the opportunity to come together and discuss our plans for Nossal in 2016 and we were all able to create solid foundations for various ideas and projects. All in all it was a truly rewarding experience as it allowed us to develop our leadership skills, meet some amazing people and it was a great way to kick off the 2016 school year. :-)

Maatharan Maheswaran, OS7

2016 School Captains and Vice Captains during Foundation Assembly on the first day of term 1 2016

Kirin, Charis, Thomas, Stacey & Maheswaran - NHS Student Leadership representatives at the yLead Australian Student Leadership Conference

Funky Retro Disco Night at the yLead Leadership Conference
School Photo Day 2016

**Our annual school photo day is on Wednesday 10th February.**

School Photos are an important official record and therefore all students will be photographed regardless of whether families intend purchasing the photo packs provided by Aussie School Photos.

Students are to come in their complete Academic Uniform.

*See Pages xxiv and xxv of your School Diary for clarification.

Note: If student has PE/Sport on this day please attend in your academic uniform and bring your sport uniform in another bag to change, as required.

Please read very carefully the additional information titled: ‘How to order School Photos’.

Please contact the General Office Ph. 8762 4600 with any queries.

Ms Jane Petty

How to order School Photos

Aussie School Photos take multiple images of each student on photo day to provide you with more choice and greater value.

Order forms and envelopes were distributed to students during **Tutorial on Friday January 29**.

**There are 3 methods available when ordering photo packs:**

1. **Place your order on-line prior to photo day** using the unique WEB LOG-ON CODE printed on your prepayment order form. Complete details on back of order forms if ordered for more than one sibling and have each child hand it to our photographer on photo day.

2. **You can complete the pre payment order form**. Include your cash, cheque or credit card payment in the envelope and have your child hand it to our photographer on photo day.

3. **You can choose to wait for 5 working days to go on-line to VIEW the images and CREATE a package to suit. Please tick the ‘order later on-line’ box on order form and hand to our photographer on photo day.** Orders must be placed within 14 days of photo day to avoid postage charges.

4. If you do not wish to purchase photos, please tick ‘**not buying photos**’ under pack selection and have your child hand envelope to our photographer on photo day.

5. **SIBLING PHOTOS will be taken on a pre paid basis.** Please collect a pre pay order/form from school office. Order should be handed to photographer on the day by your eldest child at time scheduled for sibling photos.


All queries should be directed to the photos@schoolphoto.com.au  
Customer Service: Tel: 97076655.

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Drama Club News

Nossal Musical for 2016 is “The Wiz”

**Performance dates: Jun 16, 17, 18 at 7pm**

**Rehearsals: afterschool Thursdays and Friday lunch times**

For more information email: Samantha.Crust@nossalhs.vic.edu.au
Approaches to Learning at Nossal

Learning and Progress

Last week on Friday, I spoke to the Year 9s to introduce them to the way we think about learning here at Nossal. The emphasis is not on what score a child receives on a test or assessment, but on the learning progress they make.

Naturally, here at Nossal, we must present the students with more complex learning experiences than they may have seen previously, (almost all of the Year 9s said they found the work given to them at their previous schools easy), and this notion of feeling challenged may be foreign to them. Increased challenge will mean that they cannot expect to achieve marks in the 90-100% range. If they are consistently achieving those marks, then we are not doing our jobs properly, we are not challenging them enough – we are not stretching them well enough.

I also talked about how marks do not define one’s intelligence, nor do marks on their own tell us much about the knowledge, skills, application and understandings a child has.

At the end of the assembly the Year 9s asked Ms Harrap if she could do the same presentation with parents. We are planning ways to do so at the Parents of New Students Meet and Greet Evening on Thursday February 18.

Assessment

At Nossal High School we believe assessment is used to assist learning.

There are two main forms of assessment we use; each has a purpose, and one is no more valuable than the other; both are important and valuable.

Formative assessment: This is assessment that happens on an ongoing basis. It provides feedback to the teacher (and to students) about how students are coping with concepts and/or skills and allows the teacher to adjust their teaching to meet the needs of individual students. This type of assessment is vitally important. It is more like ‘responsive teaching’ than the traditional notion of assessment. Some examples of formative assessment teachers will use, include:

- Practice or draft work that students submit to the teacher for comment eg. Essays or reports
- Using a traffic light at the back of the diary to indicate the level of understanding (red: not going so well, yellow: OK but a little unsure, green: I understand/I can do it).
- Providing only written comments on assessment tasks rather than a grade
- Peer-assessment
- Self-assessment
- Mind or concept maps and many other techniques

This sort of assessment shows the teacher how and what students are learning, and is more about the progress made than achievement or performance.

Summative Assessment: This is something like an end of unit/topic test, a written report, or a poster report. It measures how much a student can demonstrate they understood throughout a unit or topic. It measures achievement. Often these assessments will have marks on them, but teachers may at times, also just provide comments on their own.

Nossal Benchmark:

When grades are given to students we consistently use the following benchmark

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>% Scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A+</td>
<td>92-100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>84-91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>76-83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>68-75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>60-67</td>
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<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>52-59</td>
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<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>44-51</td>
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<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>36-43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E+</td>
<td>28-35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E</td>
<td>20-27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note this has been designed to be consistent with VCE.
Reporting:

In 2016 we have:

- four full reports per year towards the end of each term
- no graded assessments are shown on reports
- teachers and students make ratings in each subject on five foundations to learning: knowledge, skills, participation, reflection and study habits

The reports will:

- include an indicator for student progress over time in Terms 2, 3, 4
- utilise a graphical representation to better cater for our families with a non-English speaking background

These reports will be supplemented by:

- 2 x parent student teacher conferences, one at the beginning of Term 2 (because Term 1 is so short) and one at the end of Term 3
- career action plans and co-curricular and leadership involvement records are also included

Parents and students are invited to make contact with the class teacher, tutorial teacher or House leader if they wish to discuss their child’s progress at other times throughout the year.

Sue Harrap
Assistant Principal

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Parents & Friends Association News

The PFA would like to welcome back all staff, students and families after the holidays. We hope you all had the chance to have a break over the festive period. On Wednesday 3rd of February the PFA had it first meeting of the year, and we were delighted to welcome new members to our school community. There is much to look forward to in the new year, including social events which will be announced in the coming months and our Second-Hand Uniform Shop based above the front office, which is open the morning of the first Monday of every month.

The PFA will be holding a social morning tea on the 7th of March during the Second-Hand Uniform Sale, and we invite all the school community to attend with the promise of a school tour by the school executive.

We encourage all within Nossal’s community to think about joining in with the PFA, as the AGM is quickly approaching in May.

Meetings are held at 7pm in the Jean Russell Centre at Nossal High School the first Wednesday of each month.

Peter Van Diepen
PFA President

Next PFA Meeting:
Wed March 2 at 7pm
Advice regarding the employment of English Tutors for Nossal High School Students

While Nossal High School respects the right of parents to hire tutors to assist their students, our best advice is that students first make full use of the resources made available to them at school. This includes active engagement during class time, the submission of regular practice pieces to their classroom teacher and regular consultation with their teacher to receive individual feedback. Students who rely on a tutor as an alternative to active learning while at school are unlikely to succeed at the highest level despite the additional investment of time and money.

Qualities of Good English Tutor

✓ Is a practising English teacher
  o N.B. Recent high school graduates may not have an understanding of the new study design
✓ Is highly knowledgeable regarding the new study design
✓ Is highly knowledgeable regarding the texts studied at Nossal
✓ Will work with only one student or very small group at a time (no more than three students at any one time)
✓ Will offer additional constructive feedback to extend upon the classroom teacher’s advice
✓ Meets the needs of the student rather than offering pre-planned/generic lessons
✓ Would be willing to contact the classroom teacher to clarify aspects of the course/expectations of students at Nossal if necessary
✓ Does not set homework (the student should focus on the work set by their teacher)
✓ Does not grade work previously corrected by the teacher
✓ Does not schedule tutoring sessions during:
  o School hours
  o Wednesday afternoons before 5.30 p.m. (Used for SAC completion)
  o Thursday afternoons before 6.00 p.m. (used as alternative SAC time)
✓ Does not offer incorrect and inappropriate advice such as:
  o Pre-learn and regurgitate essays
  o Leave the best points of an essay until the end
  o The exam will definitely/will definitely not contain………
  o Misinterpretation of the texts
  o Incorporate sophisticated vocabulary into writing which the student does not understand or use correctly

Nossal High School does not actively endorse any individual or tutoring company, and provides these guidelines to assist with decision making about the need for such a service. Please consult with your child’s English teacher in the first instance should you have any concerns or require advice about their progress or performance.
Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Essay Competition

Two Nossal students earned Bronze Awards in the International Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Essay Competition. Congratulations to Julia Kim and Qiao Si Tee, both in Year 11 in 2015.

Overall, the competition received more than 13,000 entries from over 600 schools in 49 Commonwealth countries and territories, and therefore to achieve an award is very special.

The Royal Commonwealth Society in Victoria held a Cocktail Reception/Local Awards and Information 2016 night, to acknowledge the achievements of the over 20 Gold/Silver and Bronze International awards in the Senior and Junior categories.

In addition, Local Prize Awards were presented to outstanding students in each of the Categories.

In May 2015, I entered Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Essay. For me, the opportunity struck me as a chance to let my voice be heard. The theme of the competition was “Young Commonwealth”, which highlights the importance of teenagers’ participation in shaping the world we live in. There was four topics given for the senior participant (aged 14-18) and I chose to write on “In 2030, you will no longer be young. What changes would you like to see in the world in 15 years’ time?”

This year is the 70th year since division of Korea occurred due to the Korean War. Thus, I decided to illustrate the grief and destitution caused by the Korean War, and my yearning for peaceful reunification of Korea. My short story has reiterated my grandmother’s life events, some important dialogues extracted from my diary. My grandmother, whose family is separated due to the war, has her parents and sisters in the North and she lives in South. Although the distance between her home and where her family lives is closer than the distance between Melbourne and Sydney, she cannot visit it due to complex reasons. In the short story, I have responded to the prompt by portraying my heart’s desire to reunite Korea and thus being able to fulfill my grandmother’s birthday wish to meet her family again and express her love to them.

The Queen Elizabeth Commonwealth Essay was a great opportunity for me as it enabled me to consider my role as a “Young Commonwealth” and most importantly, provided me a chance to voice my thoughts. I am grateful for Commonwealth and Nossal High School for introducing me to this invigorating experience.

Julia Kim, 0A4

Qiao Si Tee, 0A4
AICHI- VICTORIA Sister State Relationship

Teacher exchange program and ongoing connections.

Having just returned (in December 2015) from four weeks on Teacher Exchange at Toyohashi Higashi High School in Aichi Japan; an exciting and challenging opportunity, I wanted to let you know how it came to be and what new opportunities it opens up for our students at Nossal.

In March last year, Physics teacher, Mr Yousuke Kaneko, from Jishukan Senior High School in Aichi Prefecture arrived to spend 10 days with us at Nossal. He was hosted by our Chemistry teacher Mrs Amanda Graystone and attended Physics, Chemistry and Japanese classes along with a range of school activities. He spent his last day attending the Nossal athletics carnival at Casey Fields.

During his visit, a delegation from the Victorian Department of Premier and Cabinet and the Aichi Prefecture Local Government and International Affairs Division spoke with our Principal Mr Roger Page, Mr Kaneko and representatives of our Japanese Department and student body about the proposed ongoing teacher exchange program, about exchange and sister school opportunities and the 35th Anniversary of Sister City relationship.

Out of these conversations, the Aichi-Victoria Teacher Exchange program was developed. Nossal High School provided the feedback to secure a Japanese-English Teaching Exchange Program for 6 teachers from Victoria and 6 from Aichi Prefecture (our Sister State).

Additionally, due to this connection, Nossal High School became involved in the planning of the 35th Anniversary Celebrations of the Sister State Relationship. Nossal students, Jake Piddington and Alan Weng were chosen to provide the music for the Government representatives and the 300 guests.

In July, Misato Tozuka (Mimi) arrived at Nossal to begin the first stage of the program. I hosted her in my home and she became a part of my family. For me, I could not have asked for a more rewarding professional development experience.

During the course of the five weeks from late July to the end of August, I had the opportunity to work collaboratively with Mimi on the development of the detailed study area of the Year 12 Japanese course. With the help and support of Mr Rohan Bramley, Mimi and I created a range of resources and activities for the Year 12 students. Mimi spent time one on one with each Year 12 student over the course of the five weeks and enhanced the student’s learning and resources in areas of modern Japanese culture. All of these resources are now available not only on NEO but can now be shared
with other Victorian Schools to enhance their detailed study course and resource bank.

Mimi and I also worked together on strengthening our own language and teaching skills in the target language. We shared strategies and approaches and made comparisons and evaluations of our courses. We both presented our Detailed Study unit and our reflections at the Aichi Victoria Education forum.

We were honoured to be involved in the Aichi-Victoria Delegation visit to Nossal and the 35th Anniversary celebrations at the Sofitel where Jake Piddington and Alan Weng performed for a captivated Aichi and Victoria audience. Jake and Alan have featured in a number of publications both in Victoria and Japan.

It was a joy to end Mimi’s week by also celebrating a visit from our Sister School Chosei Senior High School and allow Mimi the opportunity to share in the range of exciting activities over her final week at Nossal.

In November 2015 I had the opportunity to visit to Mimi’s School in Aichi- Toyohashi Higashi High School for a 4 week Japanese immersion stay. I taught Year 10, 11 and 12 English classes. I was also lucky to be involved in the after school clubs, Tea Ceremony, Flower Arrangement and Japanese Archery-Kyuudo. I was hosted by Mimi’s family and again became a part of her family for the time I was there and we still Facetime each other and keep up online so I can say ‘hi’ to my Japanese Mama and Papa and Little Sisters. My Japanese improved immensely and it was such a joy to be part of Japanese School life. I also spent time with Board of Education staff at Aichi and had a number of opportunities to travel on weekends and meet with the other delegates and my contacts at Chosei Senior High School. I am excited to be teaching VCE 1&2 this year and to be able to use my Japanese in class for the benefit of our students.

So where to now?

Later this month all 6 teachers will meet again with the Victorian Education Department and discuss the next steps in teacher exchange and the creation of Sister Schools. These relationships open up opportunities for visits during school tours and short and long term exchange opportunities for students.

In September this year the Nossal Japan Study Tour will visit Toyohashi Higashi High School for their Annual Sports Day and the Storm Festival at night. While in Nagoya we will visit the Aichi Board of Education and continue our networking with the aim to develop hosting and exchange opportunities for students.

The Japan Tour is from September 9 to 28 and involves 18 Year 10 and 11 students. We will also spend a week with host families at Chosei Senior High School. This Tour is a biannual event for Year 10 and 11 students of Japanese. It is also open to Year 12 students.

I thank the school community for its continuing support of this exciting program.

We look forward to developing our ties to Aichi and securing a range of opportunities for Nossal students.

Ms Shelley Warner
Japanese Teacher
Between them, Williams and Mathers have more than 230 years of experience fitting the feet of Australian school children, whether they’re beginning their first year or entering their last. Our long successful history is thanks to consistently challenging our approach to providing the best school shoes, including our commitment in 2016 to further improve our footwear range and in-store fitting services.

This has seen us:

• Develop new styles in conjunction with a team of Australia’s leading podiatrists
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   - Secures the ankle & orthotics for controlled motion & movement and reduced irritation.

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With the same level of importance we place on fitting the school shoes of over 200,000 children every year, we believe in the significance of supporting the school environment they spend so much time in.

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Simply let us know you’re interested, and we’ll provide you with a barcode unique to your school for you to publish in your school newsletter or other communications. When parents bring this barcode in to one of our Williams or Mathers stores, we will donate 5% of the price paid to your school for every pair of school shoes they purchase.

Dates

Program runs from 1 December 2015 to 29 February 2016.

Purchases will be collated and payment made directly to the school by 31 March 2016.

Barcode can be published in school newsletters and online from 1 November 2015.

Things to note

Only approved participating schools prior to program commencement will be eligible for donations. Only approved school shoes as designated in store will be eligible.

The barcode must be scanned at the time of purchase for the donation to be registered.

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