**Principal’s Desk - Ms Sue Harrap**

Warm greetings to the school community,

It is hard to believe we are at the end of Week 4 of the school year, and that there are only 5 weeks remaining before the Term 1 holidays; I suspect time must be flying because it is such a busy term; the busy-ness has of course been exacerbated by the drama and inconvenience surrounding the hoax bomb issue.

I hope all of our new students are settling in and finding their feet, and that returning students are well and truly back into the swing of things.

**Bomb Hoax**

Thank you to everyone for their support and feedback about recent bomb hoaxes and subsequent evacuation and lock-down involving Nossal. Mr Page has been
## WHAT IS COMING UP AT NOSSAL...

### February
- 22: Inter Sport - Cricket, Tennis & Volleyball
  - Debating Training
  - School Council Nominations open
- 23: House Swimming Carnival
- 24-26: Yr12 Lord Somers Camp
- 29: Inter Sport - Basketball
  - Snr Sport - Volleyball, Tennis & Baseball
  - School Council Nominations close

### March
- 2: PFA Meeting at 7pm
- 2-4: VCE PE 1/2 Surf Camp
  - 3rd OzCLO Competition
- 8: International Women's Day
- 8-11: Yr9 Roses Gap Camp (Garuda/Pegasus)
- 9: District Swimming Sport
- 14: Labour Day Public Holiday
- 15-18: Yr9 Roses Gap Camp (Griffin/Phoenix)
- 21: Student Leadership photo day
  - Aviation Club Information Night at 7pm
- 22: House Athletics Carnival
  - School Council Meetings
- 23: Biology 1 and 2 - excursion to Cranbourne
  - Inter and Snr Sport - Softball
  - PST Conference bookings open & Reports released
- 24: Term 2 Concludes - 2:30pm finish

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### SCHOOL TERM DATES 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>MAR 24 - Term 1 finishes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Term 2</td>
<td>APR 11 - JUN 24 (Student classes resume Tues April 12)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 3</td>
<td>JUL 11 - SEP 16</td>
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<tr>
<td>Term 4</td>
<td>OCT 3 - DEC 20</td>
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### Principal’s Desk Continued...

Communicating with senior police and there is a large international operation in place to catch the culprits. There is no suggestion that Nossal is actually involved beyond the spoofing of our school phone number. The hoax calls to schools in Australia and internationally have continued, although the media has been asked not to report on specific instances. We are aware that some schools have had a second bomb threat and we remain prepared should Nossal receive further threatening calls. We are reviewing and revising our emergency and evacuation procedures and will continue to seek to improve our processes as a result of the feedback received.

A reminder to all parents that Nossal approved locks must be fitted to lockers on the advice of police (see previous newsletter for details), and a reminder to all students about the importance of signing in and signing out and being present when the roll is marked.

### Pathways are not always linear...

Last week I had a phone call from Krishna Srilakshamanan (2014 Graduate) to inform me that he had accepted an offer to study medicine at the University of Newcastle after first

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### Nossal News Advertising Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Cost</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Full Page</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Half Page</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
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<td>Quarter Page</td>
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Rates are per fortnightly edition

Advertisements published in Nossal News in no way constitute an endorsement of a product or service by Nossal High School.

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Pink Stumps Day Fun - Mr Leigh Jose at the crease

Krishna with fellow graduate Michael, at the 2015 Alumni Cocktail Party
beginning his tertiary studies in 2015 in psychology at Monash, Clayton. This offer illustrates a few important points:

• there are multiple ways to gain entry into the career pathways you’re passionate about
• that persistence, flexibility and networks can help to achieve goals, and
• that Nossal students are brave enough to move out of home and travel beyond Melbourne to seek what they want.

It serves as an excellent example of why students should not lose hope if they ‘miss out’ on the offer they were hoping for at the end of Year 12.

You may also be surprised to hear about the number of students who have changed courses and/or institutions at the end of their first, second and third years of study. It is very hard for many students to truly know what they are passionate about, or to have the experience in the area of study, therefore they have limited information to base their decision-making on. It is OK to change your mind.

Alumni

Our Alumni of Old Nossalonians continue to work with and for the school in ways that we had never really anticipated. Last week during the bomb hoax fiasco, their offers of support through cards and messages, their mobilisation to assist directing traffic during the evacuation and their moderation of Facebook posts was remarkable and of great benefit to the Community. They are also taking the time to visit the Year 12 Camp in Week 6 to maintain a connection with the current cohort, outline to them what the Alumni can offer in terms of services and support including study assistance, perspective about coping with Year 12 and managing wellbeing. We sincerely thank them for their contribution.

School Photos

Thank you to our Daily Organiser, Jane Petty and Aussie School Photos for the smooth and efficient way photos day was managed on Wednesday February 10. Our students looked stunning in their academic uniform and I am confident parents and students will be happy with the final products. (The staff scrubbed up pretty well too!). The Year 12 Graduation photo and House photos, as well as catching up with anyone who was absent on the first day took place on Monday February 15. We have another day scheduled for students holding leadership positions to be photographed on Monday March 21; academic uniform will be required for these students on this day also.

Outgoing School Council

Our final meeting for the 2015 School Council will be held on Tuesday February 23. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all of the community members involved in Council for their work and dedication to the school (listed below). Their input, communication and advocacy for the school is highly valued.

Drama Club News

Nossal Musical for 2016 is “The Wiz”
Performance dates: Jun 16, 17, 18 at 7pm
Tickets on sale soon!!!!
Rehearsals: after school Thursdays and Friday lunch times
For more information email: Samantha.Crust@nossalhs.vic.edu.au
Nossal News

Principal’s Desk Continued...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2015 School Council</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alan Lachman President (Parent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ishani Bhomick (Parent)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Page Principal</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Executive Officer DET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mel Nicholson (DET</td>
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<tr>
<td>Representative)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sanjiv Ganesan School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Captain (Co-opted Members)</td>
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<td>Gayl Shute Business Manager</td>
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<td>(Ex Officio)</td>
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2016 School Council

Nominations for new members of the 2016 School Council will open on Tuesday February, 22. There are a number of vacancies open to parents and staff, including:

- 1 x 1 year Parent vacancy
- 3 x 2 year Parent vacancies
- 2 x 2 year Staff vacancies

We also welcome the two new School Captains, Charis Yang and Kiran Rajackal.

The commitment required of School Council members is:

- attendance at eight School Council meetings per year (7.00 – 7.30 pm Dinner served, 7.30 – 9.00 pm Meeting)
- participation in one of the sub-committees which run from 6.00 -7.00 pm on the night of the School Council meeting

Student Leadership

Like most schools, Nossal High School is a busy place with many varied and great opportunities for students to be involved in programs and activities. Such prospects bring with them the chance for students to develop personal qualities of confidence, leadership and teamwork, all attributes that will be of significant value in the future.

Congratulations to those young people who have sought to take on leadership roles and whether you have been selected for the position or not. Your decision to nominate yourself, is a great one for you personally. Applying to be a leader announces the personal confidence you have in yourself, indicating that you believe you can make a difference for yourself and others. It is a statement of commitment to the service of your group and your community. Well done and thank you for your nominations!

Unfortunately we cannot all be captains, and therefore in our own way, even without the badge, a person can still be a leader among friends and peers. Ray Kroc, the visionary businessman who worked with the McDonald Brothers to develop their small fast food outlet into the world wide McDonald’s Restaurant organisation, said “The quality of a leader is reflected in the standards they set for themselves.” What standards have you set for yourself?
yourself? People will gladly follow others who, amongst other things are honest, humble, respectful, and caring. How do you think others view you as a leader? Are you the sort of person others freely follow because of your values?

Every one of us has the ability to be a leader and every one of us needs time and opportunities to develop our leadership qualities. In the coming weeks students will have such opportunities to both recognise others as well as extend and develop their own talents. Next week is the annual Nossal High School Swimming Carnival followed by the first of a number of camps with the Year 12 students going to Somers. In the following week some students will participate in debating training, while others will take part in Inter-School Sport, or the Year 10 Elevate Study Skills program; another group will head off for the Year 11 Physical Education Surf camp. During the same period, as a school we will come together to recognise our selected leaders with the presentation of their badges at a whole school assembly on Tuesday 1 March.

Yes, Nossal is a very busy place with many opportunities available for students to excel. Students are encouraged to watch NEO and listen to announcements during Tutorial so that they can gain maximum benefit from the many potential leadership avenues available to them.

Recent elections for the Student Representative Council (SRC) and House Captains and most other positions have taken place. The table above outlines the recipients.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GRIFFIN HOUSE CAPTAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Yathusa Krishnamoorthy</td>
<td>Alan Damen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Vasu Kashyap</td>
<td>Aria Sunga</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Abdul Mohammed</td>
<td>Grace Archer</td>
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<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Timothy Fung</td>
<td>Elizabeth Le</td>
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<th>GRIFFIN MUSIC CAPTAINS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jae Yong Lee</td>
<td>Minhyung Bae</td>
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<th>GARUDA HOUSE CAPTAINS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Qiao Si Tee</td>
<td>Colleen Tran</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Madeleine Tran</td>
<td>Kevin Ma</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Jefttin Lam</td>
<td>Ramudi Kariyawasam</td>
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<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Avichal Arya</td>
<td>Leah Nathan</td>
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<th>GARUDA MUSIC CAPTAINS</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yong See Foo</td>
<td>Reuben Thomas</td>
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<th>PEGASUS HOUSE CAPTAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Irish Satuito</td>
<td>Erik Serrano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Chan-Gyu (Chany) Lee</td>
<td>Simone Fernandes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Brielle Frichithavong</td>
<td>Bill Shen</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>Sam Mathew</td>
<td>Maya Shukla</td>
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<th>PEGASUS MUSIC CAPTAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathy Nguyen</td>
<td>Maatharan Maheswaran</td>
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<tr>
<th>PHOENIX HOUSE CAPTAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 12</td>
<td>Rashmi Wijekoon</td>
<td>Safin Choudhury</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Mina Fahmy</td>
<td>Jason Hoang</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 10</td>
<td>Susan Park</td>
<td>Josh Larkins</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Year 9</td>
<td>David Buela</td>
<td>Anna Huynh</td>
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<th>PHOENIX MUSIC CAPTAINS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christine Barcial</td>
<td>Lachie Boldt</td>
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of the leadership positions to date. Congratulations to those who have been voted into roles by their peers.

The YLead Australian Student Leadership Conference Organising Team wrote about our student representatives:

“We were really impressed with the calibre of students in attendance this year and look forward to witnessing their leadership journey throughout 2016 and beyond.”

### Principal’s Desk Continued...

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Year 12</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year 11</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year 10</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Year 9</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>OTHER STUDENT LEADERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>School Captains</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Art Leaders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Breakfast Leaders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Cultural Liaison Leader</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Debating Captains</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Drama Captain</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Environment leaders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ICT/AV Leader</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>AV Deputy</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>IRC Leader</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Wellbeing Leaders</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>School Music Captains</strong></td>
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### Building Works

The building works continue at pace (although we would like it to be faster than it is). The glass dividing walls splitting the groups of three classrooms into a single and double room will be operational next week. The Fitness Centre will soon have the equipment moved in and we will make arrangements for student use. At the back end of the school where offices, study spaces, a general classroom and the 3D technology room are being added, work is still on schedule. We anticipate that we will move in for the start of Term 2. The oval has been seeded and we are hoping rapid growth of the turf and some finishing grounds works to be completed over the coming months; the rain this week will help. We appreciate the patience of staff and students; we know that the additions to the school will add significant benefit to the daily lives of all members of the school community.

### Top Achievers from 2015 Assembly

On Tuesday 16 February we celebrated the success of our 2015 graduates with an assembly to acknowledge the highest achieving students (We would like to
acknowledge them all, but our assembly would run all morning. We had 30 of the 2015 graduates join us and each was presented to the school community. As they were presented we announced their ATAR, the university course they accepted a position into, and the involvement they had in the broader school and co-curricular program. It is no surprise to any of us that our most successful students are involved in more than just study. They maintained involvement in the music and sporting programs, they took on leadership positions, and they contribute to the school community. We hold this assembly to provide further evidence to students that success depends on having balance in your life. This fact is particularly pertinent as more and more universities are using interviews AND ATARs to help them select students.

Diba and Nelson spoke eloquently and inspirationally about their time at Nossal and ways to Embrace the Challenge.

A big thank you to Ms Katherine Warriner for her organisation of the assembly and for her ongoing support and guidance to our VCE students.

New Student Meet and Greet Evening

Thank you to the parents and students who attended the New Student Meet and Greet Evening on Thursday 18 February. It was lovely to see so many faces and get to know parents and students a little better.

We tried a different format this year, starting with a smaller gathering of families in Tutorial Groups. The intention of this was for parents to meet each other, and the other students in the group with their child, and for them to meet the Tutorial Teachers and the House Leaders. We aim (where possible) for the Tutorial Teachers to remain constant throughout your child’s time at the school. They will be the first point of contact for you if there is an issue you need support with, and they also monitor your child’s daily attendance. We hope that by meeting the Tutorial Teacher and House Leaders parents will feel more comfortable contacting teachers and as a consequence feel more connected to the school.

Following the Meet and Greet part of the evening we held some information sessions for parents in the gymnasium. Mr Roger Page welcomed everyone, Mr Keith Butler gave an update on the building and grounds works, Ms Catherine Loel outlined information regarding the Rose Gap Camp, and I spent some time talking about the way we approach learning at the school. The students (who had already heard all of this) were entertained by a film in the Meath Auditorium supervised by the Leading Teachers: Ms Katherine Warriner and Ms Emma Geyer. A big thank you goes out to all the staff involved on the evening, particularly the Tutorial Teachers, House Leaders and Leading Teachers.

Pink Stumps Day(s)

Our (now) annual Pink Stumps Day celebration and fundraising event was held this week on Thursday and Friday. I have to confess feeling a bit disappointed that my recovery from hip surgery meant I could not play in the staff vs student cricket match, (I don’t think the staff were disappointed though, since my non-participation did mean we managed to make a few more runs than last year). I did however, pull on the umpire’s hat on the Thursday (thankfully the lack of DRS did not hamper my decision-making). It is always a lot of fun when the students and staff compete in sporting and other events (like quizzes). Our naturally competitive spirits and sense of good fun are on display for the enjoyment of the whole school. Students and staff donned pink attire for a gold coin donation and the fabulous Berwick Rotary Club cooked a BBQ for us, which also contributed to the fundraising. A big thank you to Mr Hamilton and the Physical Education and Health team for their leadership of the day. Much fun was had by all.
Principal’s Desk Continued...

Swimming Carnival

We are looking forward to our first House Carnival for 2016 with the annual Swimming Sports held at the Doveton Pool in the Park on Tuesday February 23. This is a compulsory event for all students whether they compete or not, and attendance (or otherwise) at the event appears on students’ school reports. If your child is a non-swimmer, there are novelty events and other fun things students can participate in to get wet, which is particularly nice if it is a hot day. One of the most heart-warming things we witness each year is students who are not confident swimmers being cheered on by their House (and the whole school) for having a go, just so they can add a point to their House tally.

This is the perfect opportunity to show House spirit and come dressed up in your House colours. Mr Butler and I have been asked to judge the following items on the day, which will be added to the House points tally used to decide the winner:

1. Best House Posters/ Banners
2. Best House Chant
3. Best Dress Up
4. Best Team Spirit

Students may wear their PE Uniform if they are not dressed up in House colours. We depart Nossal by bus first thing in the morning and return in time for a normal end of day finish. Students may bring their own lunch or purchase items from the Pool Canteen or from the stalls run by our Environmental and Sustainability Team, NEST. Parents are most welcome to pop in for a visit during the day.

Nossal in the News

Late last year, a well renown educational resource for teacher professional learning, ACER’s Teacher Magazine contacted the school after hearing about our innovative approach to reporting. The reporter had seen the video that Tracey Mackin (Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy) and I had made to explain our reports to the school community, and wanted to find out more about our practice. On the last days of school in 2015 Tracey and I were interviewed and this week the article was published. The ‘Twitter-iverse’ is even discussing the article. We have included a copy of it at the back of this newsletter, and there are links on our Twitter and Facebook pages. A big congratulations must be extended to the whole school community – the staff, students and parents; these reports were designed after broad consultation and discussion of needs and ideas. Everyone has played a part in the success of our reporting system.

Acting Principal

Roger is away for the week February 22 – 26 on a tour of Japan with several other school and DET representatives. The tour is hosted by the Japan Foundation and involves nineteen principals from around Australia on a cultural, good-will visit to create strong educational links between Australia and Japan. This has eventuated through our links with the Victoria – Aichi Provence partnership. I will be Acting Principal for the week, so I encourage everyone to be on their best behaviour!

That’s all for this fortnight.

Ms Sue Harrap
Assistant Principal
Student Leadership News

On Friday February 5, 26 Nossal leaders attended the Selective Entry Network Student Leader’s Conference at The MacRobertson Girl’s High School. It was a wonderful event that gave our senior leaders an opportunity to meet their counterparts from MacRob, Melbourne High and Suzanne Cory and be inspired by all the great initiatives that they lead.

We were lucky to be given the opportunity to listen to Nhan My Nguyen, a former SRC President at MacRob and Daniel Tran, a former SRC Vice President at Melbourne High. Through their experience, these two speakers gave us valuable insight into what it means in practice to be a leader at a select entry school and how to best manage leadership, VCE and our own wellbeing.

Overall, the conference was a fantastic experience and we are very thankful to MacRob for hosting and organising such an incredible day. All of us have walked away with many new friends, fabulous ideas and a greater motivation to work hard in our positions of leadership this year.

Charis, Kiran, Stacey & Reuben
2016 School Captains

Chess Team News

A few hours before the opening of Speech Night 2015, Nossal High School reached the podium of national prestige. In a tiny enclosed room, a small yet select handful of elite Nossal students were racking their brains and exchanging swift, brutal blows to their opponents at the grand Queen’s College, Melbourne University. Was it a boxing match? No, it was not. Was it a national-level martial arts tournament? No, it was not. It was a silent battle of wits, strategy, and tactics; a battle distinguished across the globe as the renowned game of Chess.

From November 30 to December 1 2015, the Nossal Chess Team participated in the ChessKids National Inter-school Chess Championships 2015. After back-to-back success in the District and State Championships, the team that comprised Matthew Bullen, Matthew Harker, Gabriel Ho, Joyee Koay, and Ridley Scott, set their sights on the National Championship.

Formidable chess teams from across the nation gathered into the minuscule wooden chamber to determine the might of the nation. By the end of the challenging two-day Championship, the Nossal Chess Team had created a legacy for future cohorts to follow, claiming a well-fought prestigious rank of 3rd place in the Nationals.

The individual player scores for the team were: Matthew Bullen (5/7), Ridley Scott (5/7), Gabriel Ho (3.5/7), Joyee Koay (2.5/7), and Matthew Harker (2/7).

As the new season of 2016 springs forth, a new Nossal Chess team will blossom. Will this year’s team bring home another striking victory just moments before the dawn of Speech Night? Who knows? But one fact still remains. In Nossal Chess we trust.

Gabriel Ho
Chess Captain 2016
IRC News

Literature Circle Book Club

The first meeting of the Literature Circle Book Club for 2016 took place on Tuesday February 16 during lunch break in the IRC. A total of 16 members which included students, staff and community members participated and engaged in some very interesting book discussion.

The IRC encourages parents and community members to join this very interesting reading club. If interested then please contact the IRC Director, Mrs Kamla Reddy on 0402436849 or by email: Kamla.reddy@nossalhs.vic.edu.au

These photos show the members deep in discussion.

Kamla Reddy
Director of Information Resource Centre

Parents & Friends Association News

The PFA would like to thank both the current and new members for joining us at our first meeting which was held on February 3. We seem to have no trouble gaining new people and retaining existing members; which is great to see. Our next meeting will be on March 2, so if you missed the last meeting please don’t miss the chance to come to this one. We hope you all experienced an enjoyable start to the new school year, and the PFA looks forward to playing an active role in upcoming school events.

The Second-Hand Uniform Shop was open on the first Monday of February and will open again on Monday March 7. On the same day we will hold a Morning Tea, so please come and join us to have a chat and/or pick up a bargain from the Uniform Shop. As a special bonus to all who attend the morning tea a school tour will be provided by the school Executive Team.

We encourage all within Nossal’s community to consider joining and supporting our school’s Parents and Friends Association, 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.

Don’t forget to join us on our Facebook page to keep up to date with what the PFA have coming up in 2016!
https://www.facebook.com/Nossal-PFA-1519316505027842/

Peter Van Diepen
PFA President

Next PFA Meeting:
Wed March 2 at 7pm
Career Planning at Nossal

Careers Newsletter

Did you know there is a Careers newsletter published fortnightly on the Careers website?

This newsletter can be found on the Nossal High School Careers Website. There is a link to this page on the school's website Home Page, shown here:

There will also be a direct link from most editions of Nossal News. The first edition of the Careers newsletter for 2016 has information on the following:

- Tuckwell Scholarship – Australian National University
- Quality Indicators for Learning and Teaching (QILT)
- Science & Information Technology at Victoria University
- 2016 Go4IT Work Experience Program
- Medical Program Update for Bond University
- News from William Angliss Institute
  - Bachelor of Food Studies
- Bachelor of Resort and Hotel Management
- Study Environment & Sustainability at ANU
- Careers in Event Planning
- Bachelor of Global Studies Seminar at Monash University
- New course at JMC Academy - Digital Design
- News from EducationUSA
  - Upcoming Events in Melbourne
  - EducationUSA YouTube Channel
  - Financing Study in the States
- U.S. College Fair – Studying in the USA

There is also lots of other useful information and resources available from the Careers website, please take the time to visit there soon.

Nossal High Careers Facebook Page

We also have a Careers Facebook page – again please have a look and 'like' the page to see regular articles of interest and keep up to date with what's happening in Careers and Pathways, don't forget to also 'like' the individual articles you find useful. This helps us to build a better targeted set of information.

NHS Careers Links

Webpage - [http://nossahlscareers.com](http://nossahlscareers.com)


Facebook Page - [https://www.facebook.com/Nossal-High-School-Careers-607998605962698/](https://www.facebook.com/Nossal-High-School-Careers-607998605962698/)
A Message From The Attendance Office

EVERY DAY COUNTS

We all want a great education for our children and the building blocks of a great education begin with our children attending school every day.

Daily school attendance is important for young people to succeed in education and to ensure they don't fall behind both socially and developmentally.

Research shows that it is important for habits to be developed at an early age and regular attendance will provide our children with better health outcomes, employment opportunities and higher incomes throughout their lives. Regular attendance at school will enable students to develop skills and attitudes such as punctuality, organisation and discipline when they enter the work force.

Going to school every day is the single most important part of your child’s education.

If for any reason your child must miss school, inform the school as early as possible by contacting the Absence Hotline on 8762 4625 or email absence@nossalhs.vic.edu.au. For long term absences it is also suggested that you speak with your child’s teachers and find out what work your child needs to complete to keep up to date.

Remember,

EVERY DAY COUNTS – ATTEND TODAY, ACHIEVE FOR A LIFETIME

Please note: There are special requirements for VCE absences and these are outlined in the VCE Handbook.

Nossal Parents and Friends Association

Second Hand Uniform Shop

Monday 7th March 2016

8.30am - 9.30am

Jean Russell Centre Reception (Upstairs)

School Flannel Blazer
Wool Blend Jumper
Boys Pleated Trousers
Winter Skirt
Boys Long Sleeve Shirt
Girls Long Sleeve Blouse
Winter Sports Uniform

Summer Dress
Boys Pleated Front Short
Striped Short Sleeve Shirt
Summer Sports Uniform
School Backpack

50% OFF!
School Council Elections – Information for Parents

School Council Elections 2016

What is a school council and what does it do?
All government schools in Victoria have a school council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a school within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a school council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the school provides for its students.

Who is on the school council?
There are three possible categories of membership:

- **A mandated elected Parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DET) employees can be Parent members at their child’s school as long as they are not employed at the school.

- **A mandated elected DET employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of school council. The principal of the school is automatically one of these members.

- **An optional Community member category.** Its members are appointed by a decision of the council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DET employees are not eligible to be Community members.

The term of office for all members is two years. Half the members must retire each year, creating vacancies for the annual school council elections.

Why is Parent membership so important?
Parents on school councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the school.

Those parents who become active on a school council find their involvement satisfying in itself and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved?
The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in Term 1 each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant.

In view of this, you might seriously consider standing for election as a member of the school council or encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on school council?
No. What you do need is an interest in your child’s school and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the school’s future.

What do you need to do to stand for election?
The principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement of Term 1 each year. All school council elections must be completed by the end of March.

If you decide to stand for election, you can arrange for someone to nominate you as a candidate or you can nominate yourself in the Parent category.

DET employees whose child is enrolled in a school in which they are not employed are eligible to nominate as parents for the school council where their child is enrolled.

Once the nomination form is completed, return it to the principal within the time stated on the notice of election. You will receive a Nomination Form Receipt in the mail following the receipt of your completed nomination.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on council, a ballot will be conducted during the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember
- Ask at the school for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do
- Consider standing for election to council this year
- Be sure to vote in the elections.

Contact the principal’s assistant for further information.

**NOMINATIONS ARE CALLED FOR PARENT MEMBERS OF THE NOSSAL HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL.**

**NOMINATIONS OPEN:** MONDAY FEBRUARY 22 AT 9.00AM

**NOMINATIONS CLOSE:** MONDAY FEBRUARY 29 AT 4.00PM
Outdoor adventure for all ages!

Bush & Beach Trail Rides

SCHOOL HOLIDAY PROGRAM
KIDS PROGRAM 6-12
TEEN PROGRAM 13-17
LESSONS

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Removing grades from student reports

The traditional A to E report card is a thing of the past at Nossal High School, where grades have been removed to give more targeted and useful feedback to students and parents.

Summative, end of semester reports have been replaced with updates at the end of each term focusing on cumulative progress, advice on next steps and future learning strategies.

The school, on the Berwick campus of Melbourne's Monash University, made the change at the start of 2015 following consultations with parents, students and teachers.

'[We found] that as soon as we put a grade on anything the feedback about how to improve learning seems to be ignored, which is what [Professor] Dylan Wiliam has shown in his research,' Assistant Principal Sue Harrap tells Teacher.

Wiliam, Emeritus Professor of Educational Assessment at the Institute of Education, University of London, has encouraged schools to provide useful, meaningful information to parent communities about their child's learning, rather than simplistic grades.

Nossal High School previously used the standard education department recommendation for student reporting. Schools are now free to develop their own system, based on community need.

Commenting on the school's old reporting system, Harrap says it was difficult for staff to be specific and the feedback from parents and students was that there was too much 'eduspeak'.

'The teachers felt like they weren't doing the reports justice, the parents didn't feel like they knew much about what their children were doing and it was summative.'

Tracey Mackin, Director of Curriculum and Pedagogy, adds: 'Quite early on we latched onto the recognition that if any report is going to have any value for students across multiple year levels ... it needs to be focused and specific enough to prompt questions, and to get the student talking to the teacher, or their parents, about what they might need to support their future [learning].

'The grades tended to be attached to specific tasks or types of tasks. So, your ability to write up a prac report, or something like that, which was a bit too granular in terms of thinking how you're developing as a learner. It also gave the warped impression really that the only thing that matters is your ability to get through a test - which is not the only thing we value at the school.'
The new reports are graphical and focus on five criteria: knowledge, skills, participation, reflection and study habits. They also include information on the student's attendance, participation in school events, co-curricular and leadership programs and career action plans.

'We don't ask the teachers to put millions of comments on there, we try and keep it focused because it's a shorter term goal. It's not about trying to get [the student] through to when they're 25, it's about what can you do over the course of the next term that will improve what's going on,' Mackin explains.

Staff have worked in collaboration to create six comment banks. 'What that has done is provided the opportunity for staff to have dialogue about what they're expecting of students and what that looks like,' Harrap notes. 'They've created the comment banks collectively and they can't alter them during the reporting process. So that whole discussion, development of ideas and consistency of approaches comes out of the dialogue in preparing the comment banks.'

The switch to the new system has followed a sustained, whole school staff focus on formative and descriptive assessment practice. 'We thought, if that practice is working really well and encouraging students to progress then our reporting system - and we've gone on to subsequently align our awards system with this - should naturally follow from that, because it's sending a consistent message.'

Keen to offer as much information to parents as possible, the school produced a 30 minute information video for parents explaining the changes and the research behind the decision. 'More and more as we go on we are tending to present students as well as parents with the grounding for our decisions,' Mackin says.

'As a school, we have, from the very beginning, been really focused on making sure that if we're going to adopt a practice, if we're going to make some sort of change, that there is good foundation for that and we are confident it's going to have a positive outcome for the students, not just changing for the sake of it.'

She says one of the motivating factors for moving to the system is building student self-esteem.

'We have a lot of kids who have been performing kind of effortlessly at the top of their class ... and then they [come to this school] and (we use the term "contrast effect") all of a sudden they're being compared to kids who are at least as good as them and there's a good proportion who are better than them in any given field. And so, their self-esteem takes a battering actually in the first year quite often.

'That's actually one of the other motivators for us moving to this system, to make sure that we get the attention off the notion of ranking ... and get the focus onto your learning: you are the one who needs to improve, you are the one with your own learning journey - what do you need to do that will make a difference?'

The removal of grades only applies to the reporting system. '... because we're a senior school there's some tension around the VCE because you have to be so thoroughly focused exactly on ranking. And so, we're never going to live in a world where we can eliminate marks and grades all together from the students' lives - they do need to care [about final grades].'

One year on from the change, the school is planning a full review with parents, staff and students this term, but the reaction so far from all parties has been overwhelmingly positive.

'We have been amazed at how smooth the transition has been, and how committed the staff have been, and how much acceptance we've received from the parent and student communities,' Harrap reflects. 'We thought we would get some kickback [to removing grades from reports] and we were ready ... we had our research there to justify our decisions.

'But, I'm not exaggerating, we've had five enquiries via email or phone about it and ... the parents have been seemingly perfectly happy after the discussions that we've had and the explanations. And there's been widespread acceptance.

'I guess the key to our success has been broad consultation and listening, developing models in response to that feedback and sharing it again, then refining.'

Jo Earp

Jo Earp is the editor of Teacher.
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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.