

The Parkway

NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

“Remis Velisque”



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May, 2012

Parkway Number 4



**Healthy Schools Healthy Futures Team report at 4.45 followed by
P&C Meeting.**

**Monday, May 7, 2012 at 5.30pm in Room 2
ALL WELCOME.**

English Faculty Report

A busy term behind us and a busy term ahead!! This term will see half-yearly assessment grading, GATS creative writing opportunities, Debating and Public Speaking competitions, The Newcastle Herald Newspaper Competition, Year 12 Study Days and excursions!



Book Marking is a valued tool for assessment in English. We believe that students need to be able to organise and record their class work in order to value the work they do and in order for them to prepare for assessment tasks. While Year 9 and 10 students incorporate ICT elements into their daily lessons with their school laptops, it is also a requirement that they keep an up-to-date work book for English only. A copy of our Faculty Book Marking Policy can be found on the school's website and English Moodle pages or in your student's workbook.

Year 12 is officially half-way through their English course, with Trial HSC Examinations only two short months away. Students should have organised a revision schedule by now. Resources to assist their study can be found on the Year 12 English Moodle and by practising past HSC English papers, which can be found on the Board of Studies website. One of the **best** tips for productive revision is for students to submit practice plans and essays to their teachers for feedback. The Advanced English Study Day, on 1st of June will also be an invaluable revision forum for these students.

Year 11 has made a positive and responsible transition to senior English. We have already had a large number of students change English courses, particularly from Standard English to English Studies. If you are interested in getting Preliminary or HSC level English and have no interest in gaining an ATAR, then this is the perfect course for you. Our current Year 11 classes have experienced a range of guest speakers, preparing resumes and the all-important cover letter. They have prepared for, and undergone, mock job interviews. However, changing courses for Term 2 needs to be done now! If you are interested in changing to English Studies but are unsure if this is the right course for you, see your English teacher or Ms McNeilly for further information.

Extension 2 English

... One of the more challenging courses in the HSC is Extension 2 English. Newcastle High currently has four very dedicated and diligent senior candidates labouring away at their individual Major Work projects. Students can choose from any number of formats for their major work, including film and radio scripts, critical analyses and of course the perennial favourite, the short story. This is a very challenging text type as it requires concentrated effort to condense almost every literary “cappuccino” sized literary convention into an “espresso ristretto” sized package.

Bridget Baird-Peddie is writing a *time-shifting short story* dealing with identity. Her evocations of 1920s London are compellingly realised!

Tori Bedingfield’s original short story is anchored by one of the most original concepts we’ve encountered here in the Faculty...*using a human memory’s perspective as a main voice* in the interaction between character and narrative.

Lucy Kallinis’ work straddles both *traditional story telling methods and the more modern multimedia fashion of the late teen-adult market picture book*. In Lucy’s work, the written story is complemented by the inclusion of artefacts, maps, letters in envelopes, hidden photographs, swatches of material and other tactile objects. The only thing missing, it seems, is a page where we have to find Wally!

Merryana Salem is investigating the possibility of *modern myth creation* via a television script centred on the character of **Dr Who**, and fusing this with the Dr’s own self-revelatory analysis...complex stuff indeed.



Any student interested in Extension 2 English should contact the English Faculty for more information. If you are in Year 9, then watch out for the Year 10 Extension English Elective for next year!

Year 12 Standard English Excursion

The Shoe-Horn Sonata is a prescribed text for this year's HSC students. Twenty-five students, accompanied by Mr Hewitt and Mrs Myers, travelled to The Fig Tree Theatre in Sydney to see a live performance. Students remarked that watching the performance greatly enhanced their understanding of the play and allowed for a deeper insight into how the range of techniques used by the director enhanced the storyline.



Josie Jordan commented that she found the play “really engaging” and that she now felt more confident in her ability to discuss the various techniques used to tell the story. Eleanor Hughes said she felt a “different connection to the characters” after seeing the play on stage and now has a fresh perspective of their plight.

Year 10 Maitland Gaol Excursion

Once again, our Year 10 students have enjoyed an educational and cultural experience with the annual trip to Maitland Gaol. The tour is conducted by former inmates who explain the history of this maximum security facility and how they survived in the state's penal system. There are plenty of stories about the regimented and restrictive world that is life behind bars.

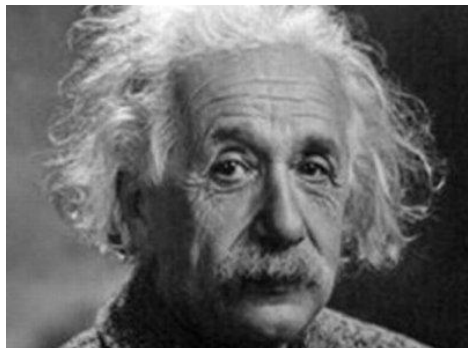
Students were able to view the cramped and primitive conditions of the cells and to see the sterile environment behind the high sandstone walls. Of particular interest were the cages for inmates in protective custody. Many were reminded of the cages at a zoo. In addition to this, students heard about the brutal reality of prison life and the many escape attempts. The story of the two inmates who climbed through an air-vent to escape, then tried to outrun the police by stealing bicycles was very funny, while also showing the desperation that some of the inmates felt.

The excursion was organised as an enhancement to our Crime and Punishment module and it provided a rich learning experience for the students. As is usual with these outings, we were very pleased by the conduct of the students and their high level of interest in the day's activities.



Year 7 Gifted and Talented (GATS)

Both Year 7 Tyrrell and Scott classes have been given the opportunity to extend their learning through a variety of tasks designed to meet the needs of GAT students. Their independent projects for Term 1 included a study of a person who has made a



significant, positive contribution to society. Nelson Mandela, Nikola Tesla, Albert Einstein, Fiona Wood and Amelia Earhart were some of the interesting people that students chose to investigate. Many chose to report back to the class using various computer programs to enhance their delivery such as PowerPoint, Movie Maker and Prezi cloud based presentation software that allows words and pictures to be presented via a whiteboard or projector). This term students will be asked to

submit a portfolio of short stories that will extend their creative writing skills and challenge their abilities to write engaging stories for different audiences.

Junior Debating News



Newcastle High School has entered the Premier's Challenge Debating Competition and will compete in the first round against Swansea High School next term.

Throughout first term, debating volunteers were repeatedly canvassed at morning assemblies and we were lucky enough to have a number of enthusiastic Year 7 students give up their recess and lunch time breaks, to plan and prepare a team strategy for their first debating challenge. While it was disappointing that not enough students from the other junior years came forward to warrant entering another team in the Premier's Challenge, the Year 7 representatives were certainly keen and diligent enough to be worthy ambassadors for the school. Eight students battled it out for a place on the representative side with the topic; 'Companies should be banned from advertising junk food'. Year 7 Parkway watched the debate and overwhelming agreed when a resounding win was awarded to the negative case.

Lyndal Mountford, Maisie Owens, Emily Rogers, Amelia Dickson and Regina Kamanda were then chosen to represent Newcastle High School in the Premier's Challenge next term. Congratulations girls!

Public Speaking

Our public speakers are off to a flying start, with successes at both junior and senior level in the district finals of the Rostrum Voice of Youth. Lydia Corcoran Eagleton will be competing in the regional finals of the junior division in early May, while Alissa Lucas and Sarah Bugbird will both compete in the senior regional finals, also in May. This will be followed a day later by their first appearance in the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Awards.

Four of our members will be travelling to Muswellbrook on the first weekend of Term 2 to compete in the Rotary Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA). Renae Burgess and Sarah Bugbird won the Peace Prize last year and they are keen to repeat their success. This year they will be representing Israel, which is a challenge that both girls have embraced with enthusiasm. Lydia Corcoran Eagleton and George Diplarou are thrilled to be embarking on their first MUNA experience and they are working hard to represent Cyprus. This weekend event requires in-depth study of the country represented and the issues that will be debated by the Assembly. The students have to be well informed on all current issues of international significance so that they can debate the resolutions in an informed and confident manner. It is very difficult but our students always rise to the challenge and we are sure that they will do so again this year.

Our early success is a testament to the hard work and dedication shown by the team. They train every week and always represent the school with distinction. No doubt this year will see them go from strength to strength.

Newcastle Times – News for the Community

The Newcastle Herald Newspaper Competition is running again this year and the English faculty is recruiting members for this year's Editing Committee. Check out last year's entry on the school's website! Students will participate in researching, creating and editing original news articles on a range of topics to create a two-page spread including photographs, cartoons and advertisements. The students will also be attending a Printing Press tour and engaging in workshops to create a unique entry for 2012. The entry will be published in the Newcastle Herald in September and will be judged against schools across the hunter region for the secondary schools division. The newspaper will be available to buy at the local Newsagency later this year.

Miss J Melehan and Mr E. Villari

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

10 May	SCHOOL ATHLETICS CARNIVAL- ALL STUDENTS TO ATTEND
15, 16, 17 May	NAPLAN TESTS - YEARS 7 AND 9
26 May	Fun-O-Rama

TERM DATES

Term 2 ends	29 June
Term 3 - students return	17 July
Term 3 ends	21 September
Term 4 - students return	8 October
Term 4 ends	19 December

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

It was wonderful to see the students return to school for the commencement of Term 2 on Tuesday. It was a very special day as the school commemorated Anzac day with a special assembly. The assembly was very capably run by Senior Prefect Tom Duck and prefect KeiraLee Sarapik. It was a lovely sunny afternoon and the students responded magnificently to this solemn occasion.

Over the holidays the school was the scene of much building activity. B Block was completely reroofed. This will prevent the leaks that have disrupted much of the teaching in the past. Two solar units were installed to generate power for this block. The showers in the PE change rooms, along with the hot water in the canteen, are now solar powered. The Print Room was relocated to the Library to allow the former print room to be reconfigured as a classroom.

Although no work has commenced on the canteen upgrade the plans have been finalised and the tenders accepted. Work is due to commence any day. The canteen has moved temporarily to the Staff House. Due to space limitations and restricted facilities the canteen is operating on a restricted menu. The students have adapted well to this change. The canteen is still serving breakfast as well as lunch and morning tea. The food the canteen is selling is cheaper than local commercial outlets and the money raised remains in the school. I was very appreciative of the efforts of Year 12 during the last week of Term 1 when they ran a number of special catering days to meet the hunger needs of the school while the canteen moved. The students were able to raise some funds to support their farewell.

The Positive Behaviour for Learning program has been given a tremendous boost with a \$3,000 donation from Newcastle Coal Infrastructure Group, NCIG. The school is very grateful for this level of community sponsorship. Thank you NCIG.

Ms Jennifer Starrett has been appointed as the new School Administration Manager. I would like to thank Ms Roslyn Newey for her work and effort over the long time that she has been relieving in this position and I look forward to welcoming Ms Starrett to Newcastle High School.

Art Express, a display of exemplary work from last year's HSC Visual Art students, opens at the Newcastle Regional Gallery this weekend. One of our ex-students, Kassie Bangle, has her work in this prestigious exhibition. If you have any interest in visual arts or student achievement, make some time to see this exhibition.

A number of key events are coming up soon. The school Athletics Carnival is scheduled for Thursday 10th May. This event is a highlight of the school calendar and all students are expected to attend and be part of this day. The swimming carnival is for competitors only, so this sporting event allows all students to be involved and show some school spirit.

On Saturday 12th May non- local Year 6 students seeking placement at NHS will have an opportunity to come and visit the school and have a meeting with key staff.

The week of 14th-18th May is NAPLAN week. More details are included further in the bulletin, but if you have a student in either Year 7 or 9 please read this carefully. If you have any concerns regarding NAPLAN please contact Mr Southward, DP or Mrs Hines, the HT in charge of NAPLAN.

Sunday 20th May is the next gardening group day. This group meets at 9.00am at the Smith Street gates and works in the grounds for about 2 to 3 hours. The gardens have really started to take shape with all the rain over summer. You don't need a green thumb to be part of this small but hard working group.

The Fun-O-Rama that the SRC and P&C are organising is going to be held on Saturday 26th May. Please mark this day in your calendar and come along and support the many stall holders and the school.

The Healthy Schools Healthy Futures project team have been gathering data from students and parents and are now ready to start to share this data with the school community. The HSHF team will be present their findings on Monday 7th May at 4.45pm before the start of the next P&C meeting. All parents are welcome to this presentation even if you don't stay for the P&C meeting and I am hopeful that all executive positions will be filled during this meeting.

Year 12 students now have their half yearly reports and I intend to start interviewing them from next week. This interview gives me the opportunity to speak with each student and clarify their post-school goals and gather some valuable feedback from the students. All students should now have a copy of the interview scaffold.

This week the school will be supporting the annual fundraising campaign by Stewart House. Stewart House provides health care and a holiday to over 1,800 kids from NSW public schools each year and is funded by the students and teachers of NSW public schools. Students will be issued with a fund raising envelope and will be asked to put a gold coin in and return it to school.

It has been drawn to my attention that some students and parents are organising a private function for a number of Year 10 students at the end of the year. This function has nothing to do with Newcastle High School and no association can be made between the school and the function. Parents who allow their students to attend this function need to discuss supervision etc with the organisers. No school staff will be attending this function. Newcastle High School marks the completion of school at the end of Year 12.

As you can see a very busy term is already off and flying.

Mark Hewitt
Principal

Bullying. No way! - Antibullying Day 16th March

It doesn't matter whether it's physical, psychological or even cyber, bullying is a concern that our school takes very seriously and is working to address.

National Anti-bullying Day was Friday 16th March. The school recognised this day by discussing it on the morning assembly. Year 7 Welfare classes during the week also had dedicated lessons about bullying. Students are encouraged to report bullying to their classroom teacher or Year Advisor as a first point of contact. Students can also make a Bullying Notification (yellow form) that can be obtained from the Head Teacher Welfare's office or their Year Adviser.

If you suspect your child is being bullied, you should talk with your child. If you are concerned you can make an appointment with their Year Adviser or the Head Teacher Welfare to discuss your concerns. It is also important to encourage your child to report bullying behaviours to a trusted adult at school as quickly as possible after an incident of bullying. Bullying thrives in a culture of secrecy, so telling the school is very important.

Some signs of bullying might include:

- Loss of confidence
- Changes in eating or sleeping habits, possibly bedwetting
- Health problems such as headaches or stomach aches
- Unhappiness or mood swings with sudden temper tantrums
- Reluctance to go to school and changes in academic performance.

What you can do:

- Talk with your child about school and keep the lines of communication open so children are more likely to confide in you.
- Encourage your child to feel okay to ask others for help and to keep their own safety in mind.
- Ensure your child knows how to report bullying and to ask you for help when needed.
- Report the incident to a teacher. Don't try to sort out the situation yourself.
- Make sure you are modelling healthy behaviours to your child, especially in relation to conflict resolution and anger management.
- Help protect your child from harassment and cyber-bullying by closely monitoring internet use and installing free internet filters.

For more information and ideas to understand and deal with bullying, visit the *Bullying. No way!* website www.bullyingnoway.com.au.

For immediate help, children and young people can phone the Kids HelpLine (1800 551 1800) or visit the Kids HelpLine website at www.kidshelpline.com.au

Luna Park Excursion





30/4/12

Dear Parents/Caregivers

HEALTHY SCHOOLS, HEALTHY FUTURES – COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

Newcastle High School has been selected to be involved in the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures research program. The aim of Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures is to examine the effectiveness of a resilience intervention in reducing young people's tobacco, alcohol and other drug use.

The Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures program would like to work with the Newcastle High School community to build the sustainable capacity of the school to address students' resilience. As the needs and services available to schools differ, the strategies to be implemented as part of Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures will also differ.

To ensure the needs of the Newcastle High School are addressed, it is important to involve a range of school staff, parents/caregivers and community members in the program. As such, you are invited to attend the upcoming Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Community Planning Workshop. The aim of the workshop is to inform the whole school community about the Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures program and to gain school community input into potential strategies that may increase student resilience.

The workshop is to be held at Newcastle High School, Parkway Drive, Hamilton, 2303, on Thursday, May 31, 2012. Please RSVP to Taya Wedesweiler via taya.wedesweiler1@det.nsw.edu.au or phone 0407217381 by Thursday, 24 May, 2012 for catering purposes.

Your participation and contribution to the planning workshop will be valuable in ensuring the strategies implemented will contribute to the resilience of students at Newcastle High School.

If you require any further information please contact Program Manager Megan Freund at Hunter New England Population Health on 49246374.

Sincerely

Mark Hewitt
Principal
Newcastle High School

Taya Wedesweiler
School Project Officer
Healthy Schools, Healthy Futures Program



NAPLAN 2012

The NAPLAN test will be conducted on the following days:

<u>Year 7</u>	Tuesday	15 May (Pds 2&3)	Language Conventions (45 minutes)
			Writing (40 minutes)
	Wednesday	16 May (Pd 1)	Reading (65 minutes)
	Thursday	17 May (Pds 1&2)	Numeracy Calculator (40 minutes) Non-calculator (40 minutes)
<u>Year 9</u>	Tuesday	15 May (Pds 2&3)	Language Conventions (45 minutes)
			Writing (40 minutes)
	Wednesday	16 May (Pd 1)	Reading (65 minutes)
	Thursday	17 May (Pds 2&3)	Numeracy Calculator (40 minutes) Non-calculator (40 minutes)

Students will need to bring a calculator on Thursday 17 May.

For further information refer to the Parent letter sent home with students or go to the ACARA website

www.nap.edu.au

Newcastle High contact Karen Hines on 4969 3177

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at:

http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html

<http://www.naplanforparentsnsu.com.au>

NATIONAL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM – LITERACY AND NUMERACY 2012

In May 2012 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 in all government and non-government schools. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy learning of students in all Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child's level of achievement. Each student's level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student's right to privacy is maintained.

The tests will be conducted across Australia for all students from 15-17 May 2012.

TUESDAY 15 MAY	WEDNESDAY 16 MAY	THURSDAY 17 MAY
Language Conventions (Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar) Writing	Reading	Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern: Chance and data; Measurement and Space)

In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Year 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 18 May – A 'catch-up' day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- They are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- They have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Special provisions which reflect the student's normal level of support in the classroom will be provided. Large print, Braille and black and white versions of the tests are available for students with vision impairment.

Access to special provisions and exemption from the tests must be discussed with your school's learning support team and the school Principal, and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents and carers in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests you must sign a parent/carers consent form. Consent forms are available at your school.

Please make an appointment with Mrs Hines, HT Admin Students if you would like further information about your child's participation in NAPLAN.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

NAMATJIRA PLAY

Back in March, around twenty Newcastle High students from Years 7 to 10 were involved in an excursion to the Civic Theatre in Newcastle to see an emotional, spiritual and at times humorous play about the life and times of one Australia's most celebrated artists, Albert Namatjira.

Newcastle High School students joined other schools in the region and took part in the matinee performance which has so far has been seen by thousands of students across the state.

The grandchildren of Albert Namatjira – who are third generation watercolour artists - transformed the stage with a huge 'living landscape' of their country and re-telling the story of his life. Lenie Namatjira, Albert's granddaughter, and Selma Coulthard, Albert's niece, used chalk to illustrate the desert landscape on a large backdrop during the performance.

This play forms part of an important Indigenous cultural program at our school.



NAMATJIRA - By Scott Rankin.

A Big *hart* production created with the Namatjira Family.

Albert Namatjira was one of the first indigenous Australians to gain citizenship. His watercolour paintings were important in depicting his culture's beliefs and landscape. His artwork introduced many to the exquisite beauty and rich vibrant colours of our central desert heartland. Albert's life as depicted in this play highlighted some of his personal triumphs and struggles and exposed many to the injustices against Aboriginal people. This play is a testament to his life as an artist and as a person. His legacy helped contribute to long overdue changes for his people.

NAMATJIRA ARTIST'S WORKSHOP

One of our Year 11 students, Kyle Branch, attended an exclusive Watercolour Masterclass with Lenie Namatjira, Albert's granddaughter and Albert's niece, Selma Coulthard at Newcastle Regional Art Gallery as part of the Namatjira Project.

The workshop and exhibition coincides with Big hART's show *Namatjira*. The Namatjira artists bring communities and individuals together, sharing skills and promoting cultural exchange in our schools.



This was a wonderful opportunity for Kyle to be invited to represent our school as the numbers for the workshop were strictly limited to only 12 students at the gallery.



The Watercolour Masterclass was a rare opportunity for students to paint alongside Lenie and Selma- learning, absorbing and practising their approach towards using watercolour. Prior to the workshop, students were invited to a morning tea in the gallery to hear more about his work.

National Year of Reading 2012

Welcome to a new school year. This is the National Year of Reading and to celebrate, there is a host of literary-related events and competitions happening right around Australia. For an events calendar and more information go to: www.love2read.org.au. Why not make a late New Year resolution to read more yourself? And if you have younger children and don't already read regularly to them, set aside some quality time to help instil a love of books and reading.

STLA Report:



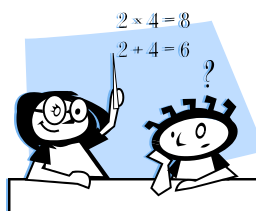
Reading Tutor Program

Each year the Reading Tutor Program assists students on an individual basis to increase their reading, writing and spelling ability. Student improvement can be directly correlated with the amount of practise that the student puts into their homework.

Seventy five students from Year 7 through to Year 12 are currently receiving assistance from the Reading Tutor Program either on a weekly or fortnightly basis to increase their spelling, reading and writing ability.

Each student has homework to complete on a daily basis. This homework is vitally important to their improvement in literacy and needs to be brought in for each tutoring session with the book that they are currently reading.

Should you wish to find out more, please contact me on 0249 693177 during school hours.



Maths Tutor Program

Recently we have begun some maths tutoring to help address the challenges that some students experience in mathematics. Students attend on a fortnightly basis to work on a one-on-one basis with their own tutor.

Students are given homework to take home and complete on a daily practice. Please ensure that your child completes this homework and returns it for their next tutoring session.

We currently have more students wanting assistance than tutors and need some more volunteers to assist them. If you can help, please contact me on 0249 693177 during school hours or by email melinda.ferguson@det.nsw.edu.au.

Ms Melinda Ferguson
STLA



Volunteer Reading/Maths Tutors for Term 2, 2012

The Reading Tutor Program commences on Thursday 26th April for Term 2. We will be tutoring students individually on a Wednesday, Thursday and Friday morning for one period each student per fortnight.

We are looking for new tutors to assist our students. Are you available on a Wednesday, Thursday and/or Friday morning on a **regular** basis to assist students with their Reading, Spelling and Writing and/or Maths?

All Programs are individualised for each student and are supervised by myself (Support Teacher Learning).

No experience is necessary.

On the job training provided.

Job satisfaction guaranteed.

Plus, tea/coffee & social outlet supplied.

Please contact myself, Ms Melinda Ferguson on 0249693177, by email melinda.ferguson@det.nsw.edu.au or leave a message at the front office.



Special Examination Provisions:

Students planning on sitting for the **Higher School Certificate** this year are eligible to apply for special provisions (now called Disability Examination Provisions) if they have: a learning difficulty, physical disability, illness, hearing impairment, vision impairment, psychological, pregnancy or other reason that prevents them from sitting the exam without special provisions. Special provisions may include separate supervision, extra time, extra time to rest, a reader, a writer, diabetic provisions, special paper requirements, special equipment, medication, hearing provisions, etc. The Board of Studies NSW requires that Special Examination Provisions Applications for the Higher School Certificate **be in by the end of Term 1, 2012.** The application process is lengthy and may require numerous tests; doctors/specialists support letters, teacher support, etc. depending on the reason for the application.

Students need to see Ms M Ferguson, Support Teacher Learning Assistance as soon as possible to begin this application process.

Further information can be obtained on www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au

Regards

Ms M Ferguson



The Uniform Shop
0434 626 009

Uniform Shop business hours during school terms are:

Tuesday 8.00am – 10.00am

Thursday 8.00am – 10.00am

The uniform shop can be contacted outside of business hours by email - newcastlehigh@alinta.com.au.

Payments can be made direct to Alinta Apparel on the day of purchase. Alinta will take payments in the form of cash, credit card, or debit credit card.

P&C Update

Thank you to all the parents who have volunteered for executive positions and also to everybody who attends the P&C meetings. The P&C make a great contribution to the school in the way of fundraising and bringing about changes that make NHS an even better school. So far this year the P&C have assisted the Year 7 Parent Teacher BBQ, the Gardening Group and the Parent Teacher evenings. This month we are very excited to be involved in FUN-O-RAMA to be held at the school on Saturday 26th May. We will be looking for volunteers to help run the BBQ and Cake Stall and need donations of cakes for the day (cupcakes are great!) Our next meeting will be on Monday 7th May at 5.30pm. If you can't make the meeting but would still like to be involved in FUN-O-RAMA or any of our other activities, please contact me at renesmith@bigpond.com

Rene Smith
Vice President

The Royal Easter Show

On the last day of Term 2 the Food and Textiles department took up the challenge of taking a bus load of very excited Year 10,11 and 12 students to the Royal Easter Show. We were surprised by the fact that so many of these students had previously not been so it was a new experience for them. We all had a great day out with many sights seen, foods tasted and the excitement of rides. The behaviour of the students representing the school was impeccable; it was a pleasure to be part of their day. Following are some comments from the students who went.

Ms Queenan/Mrs Ellis

"We all walked through the gates as quickly as we could for me all I saw was a big strange place I'd never been before. The first thing my two friends and I did was attempt to find the food and textile exhibitions. This was probably the hardest thing we did all day though we only managed to find the textiles one. It was full of hats, dresses, bags and shoes. Then we went for the ride starting with the quiet dodgem cars, working up to the heart stopping free fall and finishing with the dizzy kite flyer. By the time we were finished on rides it was lunch time so we bought hot food and went to sit in the main arena where we watched the stunt riders. We purchased show bags just before we came home."

"On Thursday the 5th of April a groups of students from the FATTS department of Newcastle High School were lucky enough to get the opportunity to visit The Royal Easter Show. There were many things to see and do, some being looking at fashion stalls, tasting gourmet food, going on the rides and visiting all the livestock. This was an exciting and new experience for most students who went. Everyone really enjoyed the day and greatly appreciated the time and efforts the teachers put into organising this wonderful excursion. We hope we are able to do this again in the future."

Georgia Bear / Aemelia McComb

ROYAL EASTER SHOW!!!

"Royal Easter Show was one of the best experiences I have ever had; I mean there were lots of cool rides, great showbags, interesting pavilions and some fashion parades. The rides were really awesome as I screamed my lungs out in most of them. The fashion parades were really good and inspirational! Going to this show was a great idea; I had lots of fun with my friends on this day!!!" by Bhargavi.S.



“On the 5th April, we attended the Sydney Royal Easter Show with a mixture of years 10, 11 and 12 students. The bus left at 7am for the long trip to Sydney. The bus driver did get a bit lost but we finally got there 😊

When we arrived, we saw the massive crowd of people inside. We visited all the different domes including the fresh food dome, the animals, fashion, finishing up with the showbags.

Time for the rides!! We went on lots of fun but scary rides like the haunted house, the Mega Drop, the Cliffhanger, the Dodgem cars, the Pirate’s Revenge, the Sling Shot and the Ferris Wheel.

We then went to watch some talent in the shows like the wood chopping event and the Better Homes and Gardens cooking challenge. We saw some great cake decorating and the Woolworths rural produce displays.

On the way home after a great day of eating lots, mixed with spinning rides, one boy couldn’t hold it any longer.... much to everyone on the bus’s disgust. Don’t worry, half an hour later he was finishing off his showbag and fairy floss!

Thanks to Mrs Ellis and Mrs Queenan for organising and taking us on a great day!

Woo hoo!”

By Brooke and Ebony

Snapshots from The
Royal Easter Show





Prefects Page

Introducing the Vice Captains

The Vice Captains for 2012 are Alissa Lucas and Kaine Mills. These students aid and assist the school captains in their day to day responsibilities within the school and during other important public duties. Both students work tirelessly in this effort.

Alissa, an accomplished public speaker, is hoping to study Medicine in 2013. Alissa likes to get involved in everything and her favourite memories of N.H.S are Japan and snow trips along with everything she has represented the school with. Her vivacious nature has enabled her to compete in various public speaking, debating and United Nations competitions.

Kaine is studying English, Mathematics, Music, Physics and Chemistry with a view to studying Science at Newcastle University in 2013. Over the past 5 years he has represented N.H.S in sport and music. Kaine, an adept and entertaining guitar player, can often be found strumming a riff during break times. His fondest memory is his trip to China in 2010. During this time he got to visit many well known sights in China as well as attend their schools and mix with the students attending these institutions.



Our Senior Prefect

Thomas Duck is our Senior Prefect for 2012. Tom, a Year 11 student, is currently studying Advanced English, Extension Maths, Geography, Ancient History, Physics and Chemistry. He is aiming to study Physiotherapy at Newcastle University when he leaves school. On weekends Tom plays Hockey and has represented NSW in this capacity. Tom was involved in the SRC during junior school and he is currently very actively involved in the upcoming school fete, Fun-o-Rama. Tom has said that his best memories of high school so far are the friends he has made and the activities he has been involved in. Tom chose to attend NHS due to its central location to transport and other facilities; its teachers, the wide range of subjects offered and the opportunities that the school provides its students to get involved in various internal and external opportunities.



The School Captains and Prefects recently organised the annual Easter Egg Hunt and Staff Raffle. Lindy Kellaway from English was lucky enough to win first prize, which was a gigantic chocolate Easter egg. The Easter Egg Hunt was well attended and the students really enjoyed the scramble to find the eggs.

One of our prefects got involved in the World's Greatest Shave. Amba McGuiness, who is normally adorned with beautiful, thick, auburn tresses, made an unselfish decision to part with these for charity. At a fundraising event in Stockton her locks were auctioned off one by one. One plait was sold for \$500. She managed to raise almost \$3000 for cancer.



Leukaemia Foundation

**WORLD'S
GREATEST
SHAVE**

Lest we Forget

On April 24th NHS took time out to honour our past and present ex-servicemen and women. Tom Duck and Keira Lee Serapik addressed the assembly about the significance of Anzac Day. They made poignant reference to a young man that won the Victoria Cross in 1917. He won the medal for valour and courage under fire. This man, Clarence Smith-Jefferies, was only 23 when he died. As a young man he was a student of NHS. A memorial to celebrate his life and actions can be found in the school foyer. Please make an effort to have a look at this one day.



FREE WORKSHOPS FOR PARENT AND SUPERVISORS OF LEARNER DRIVERS

Young drivers are three times more likely to be involved in casualty crashes. That's why the Road and Maritime Services has introduced a new licensing scheme, with more supervised driving practice for learner drivers.

To help parents and supervisors of learner drivers, The City of Newcastle has set up a FREE 2 hour workshop for parents and supervisors, to offer practical advice on how to help learner drivers become safer drivers.

This FREE workshop will be held on Tuesday 8 May 2012 at The Adamstown Club from 5.30 – 7.30pm.

Early bookings are essential, so parents and supervisors are urged to phone (02) 4974 2667 or 0411 873 684 to reserve their places now.

TERM 2 2012 as at 14/3/12

WK	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SAT	SUN
1 B	23/4 SSD Yr12 Hospitality Work Placement	24/4 Year Assemblies	25/4 ANZAC DAY HOLIDAY	26/4	27/4	28/4	29/4
2 A	30/4 Parent Bulletin	1/5	2/5 Yr 11 Myuna Bay Zone X-Country Carnival - Blackbutt	3/5 Yr 11 Myuna Bay	4/5 Yr 11 Myuna Bay	5/5	6/5
3 B	7/5 Yr11 Metals Work Placement P & C	8/5 SRC W/shop - City Library	9/5 Year Assemblies	10/5 School Athletics Carnival	11/5 Hunter Region Cross Country	12/5	13/5
4 A	14/5	15/5 NAPLAN – Yr7 & 9 – Language & Writing	16/5 NAPLAN – Yr 7 & 9 – Reading	17/5 NAPLAN – Yr 7 & 9 - Numeracy	18/5 NAPLAN Career & Training Expo	19/5 Career & Train Expo	20/5
5 B	21/5 Yr 9 Jindabyne	22/5 Yr 9 Jindabyne UNSW Computer	23/5 Yr 9 Jindabyne	24/5 Yr 9 Jindabyne	25/5 Yr 9 Jindabyne Yr 11 Welfare Day	26/5 SSS Festiv al	27/5
6 A	28/5 School Athletics Carnival Back-up Parent Bulletin	29/5 Yr 7 & Yr 10 - 2 nd Vaccinations	30/5 Year Assemblies	31/5	1/6 English HSC Exc – Newcastle Town Hall	2/6 Reconc iliation Week	3/6 Reconc iliation Week
7 B	4/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period Yr11 Metals Work Placement P & C	5/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period Zone Athletics Carnival - Glendale	6/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period UNSW Science Test	7/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period	8/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period Yr 10 Welfare Day	9/6	10/6
8 A	11/6 QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY	12/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period Prefect Elections	13/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period	14/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period	15/6 Yr 12 Blockout Period	16/6	17/6
9 B	18/6 HSC Trials Commences Yr11 Retail Work Placement UNSW Writing Test	19/6 UNSW Spelling Test	20/6 Merit Assemblies	21/6	22/6 Merit Ceremony	23/6	24/6
10 A	25/6 Parent Bulletin NAIDOC Week Celebrations	26/6	27/6 Uni Newcastle Teachers' Day	28/6	29/6 HSC Trials over	30/6	1/7

Article from the Sydney Morning Herald April 16, 2012

A LESSON FOR PARENTS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

"One of the most disturbing parts of the current discussion of schools is the growing assumption that public schools are woefully underfunded and inadequate.

This perception is often fuelled by a well-meaning media, wanting to bring attention to inequity in education. But the unfortunate result is that parents think, "It would be great to send the kids to the local school, but I'm not going to make my child a sacrificial lamb on the altar of public education." So they send their child to a private school, Catholic or otherwise, assuming they will receive a superior service.

When one of my kids went to an elite, very expensive private school, I was shocked. The standard of education was average, to say the least.

Advertisement: Story continues below

The level they were teaching at in year 7 was below the level at which our local comprehensive public primary school was teaching in year 6.

Because I work at the other end of the education system, I am not too worried by what happens in early high school. There is, after all, a long way to go.

But after two years of watching the implementation of educational decisions that seemed nothing short of incompetent, I had had enough. I went to our local public school to arrange a transfer.

The deputy principal was like manna from heaven - professional, straightforward and competent, like every other public school teacher I have since dealt with.

I am sure there are bad teachers in the public system, just like there are bad employees in any large organisation, but at the four public primary and high schools my kids have attended, I have not met a single one.

A consistent insinuation in school funding discussions is that private schools, being able to choose their own staff, have better quality teachers.

But what I saw in the private system were some teachers who I suspected had been chosen for their commitment to the school's religious values, which did not translate into good teaching. Enforcing the "values" and "standards" of the school certainly took up an inordinate amount of time and energy, at the expense of real academic achievement.

Ironically, given the current enthusiasm for values in private schools, one of the best things about escaping the private system was liberation from this mantra. We need schools to teach our children the curriculum, not to raise them. When it comes to teaching them right from wrong, dressing appropriately, using social media safely, or making sure they are not running off the rails, that is our job. We make mistakes, but like the vast majority of parents, we manage.

At the private school we were inundated with newsletters about drugs and mental health, the perils of Facebook and mobile phones. Most of it was sensible and well-meaning, but it fostered the impression that the only thing standing between

teenagers and the slippery slope into drug addiction and oblivion was the wisdom of the independent school.

In reality, thousands of teenagers make it into adulthood every year, socially and morally functional, without their parents having spent tens of thousands of dollars on school fees. As a university lecturer, I have taught hundreds of them.

If parents think they can isolate their children from others with problem behaviours by sending them to a private school, then they've never been to a private school. In the affluent suburb where I grew up, the troubled teenagers had two identifying characteristics: drugs or alcohol and private schooling.

Of course it wasn't their schools' fault they had drug or alcohol problems; if it was anyone's, it was their parents' - parents who were much freer with their money than their time. But just as a private school cannot take the blame for kids who use drugs or alcohol, it cannot take credit for those who do not. The credit belongs to the child and their family. The same goes for public schools.

People have begun to have wildly unrealistic ideas about the effect of schools, both negative and positive. A child's family and the characteristics they were born with are much more significant predictors of success than a school. The stellar results of selective public schools, which draw their staff from exactly the same pool as non-selective government schools, are proof of that.

If a child comes from a deeply dysfunctional home, no school - private or public - can fix that. They can respond professionally and sensitively, and seek assistance where appropriate, but if the child does not excel, it does not mean that the school is an educational failure. To hold a high school maths teacher or even a principal responsible for the serious difficulties that some children are in by age 16 is as irrational as it is unfair.

In contrast, if a child comes from a family that is coping or thriving, with parents who value education, they are probably going to be fine no matter where they go to school.

Well-intended as it may be, our current obsession with the challenges of public schooling runs the risk of permanently damaging our very good secular public education system. It is a system that remains superior to the private system in many ways.

Focusing on the public system's challenges, while ignoring its manifold successes, will make the discussion of the alleged demise of public education a self-fulfilling prophecy."

Cathy Sherry is a senior lecturer in law at the University of NSW.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/opinion/society-and-culture/lesson-for-parents-in-public-schools-20120415-1x1bq.html#ixzz1tUntDUgt>

Media Release 7 March 2012 **Community helping each other**

A joint project between JobQuest and SIDS and Kids Hunter Region is making a real difference to the Community

Job Quest and SIDS and Kids Hunter Region are working together to benefit the local community. Students enrolled in the Youth Connections program with JobQuest, along with assistance from the Mayfield Men's Shed are beautifying the garden areas at the SIDS And Kids Hunter Region Drop-in Centre at Hamilton.

Three young men from a from Newcastle High School tend to the gardens for three hours each week and work with Stan from the Mayfield Men's Shed. The project will be conducted over several weeks and will make a much needed difference to the garden area of the SIDS and Kids Hunter Region Drop-in Centre.

JobQuest is funded by the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), and their aim is to help disadvantaged members of the community to be resourceful, independent and self-reliant, and be connected with the general community. Youth Connections is a program that is aimed at helping young people aged 11 to 19 years old by providing projects and one-on-one assistance and support, so that they can make a smooth transition into further education and training.

The project will assist the young men to develop positive relationships with the community. They will gain experience and skills in working as a team, communication and working to deadlines. Regular contact from Youth Connections staff will be maintained to follow up on the activities and outcomes being achieved. Personal one-on-one assistance from Youth Connections staff will also help identify strengths, and goals the young men want to achieve.

"It is a wonderful opportunity for two local charities to help each other. I know our clients will be very happy to see a new garden and will provide a much more welcoming entrance to the Drop in Centre," said Helen Rawsthorne, Regional Manager of SIDS and Kids Hunter Region.

SIDS and Kids Hunter Region is a not for profit organisation that supports families who experience the death of their baby or young child during pregnancy, birth, infancy and childhood. This includes miscarriage, stillbirth, neonatal death, SIDS, sudden onset illness and accidents. This support is provided through the provision of bereavement support, education, advocacy and the promotion of research.

SIDS and Kids Hunter Region also provides community education services for parents, health professionals, students and others in the community on reducing the risks of SIDS and Safe Sleeping Environment.

For more information please contact:

Helen Rawsthorne
Regional Manager
SIDS and Kids Hunter Region
helenrawsthorne@sidsandkids.org
Ph: 4969 3171
www.sidsandkids.org/hunter

Lisa Berry
Consultant
JobQuest
lisa@jobquest.org.au
Ph: 4960 9024
www.jobquest.com.au



NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

FUN & DRAMA FESTIVAL



Saturday 26th May - 10am to 2pm

Entertainment, Rides, Stalls, Food, Festivities

Entry - Gold coin donation

Ride pass \$12 pre paid or \$15 on the day

Showcasing student's & the community's talents

Stalls available at \$25

**For more info Tara Allington
Newcastle High on 4969 3177**



ON RAIN, HAIL OR SHINE



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Our garments perform best when the care instructions (displayed inside the individual garments) are followed. We strongly recommend that you do not bleach or drip dry your garments, hang them promptly after washing, and always use colour safe detergents.

RETURNS POLICY

Alinta Apparel offers a 12 month warranty on all garments, and will repair or replace garments that display **manufacturing faults** (not general wear and tear), however, you will need to show your sales receipt for that garment.

Please try all garments for sizing BEFORE washing, as washed garments cannot be exchanged or refunded.

Uniform Shop staff cannot give approval for exchanges/refunds on faulty garments – all items need to be returned to Head Office for the Quality Control department to assess.

Garments to be assessed must be clean, and should be taken to the Uniform Shop, where they will be forwarded immediately to Alinta Apparel Head Office. A replacement garment cannot be offered in the interim (due to Health and Safety regulations).

If you wish to contact the Uniform Shop about returns outside of opening hours, you can send an email, or leave a phone message (both are checked regularly).

TIMELINE FOR RETURNS

The timeline below is offered as a guide only, and does not account for weekends or public holidays. Some repairs may exceed the time shown below, and others may be quicker.

DAY 1	DAY 2/3	DAY 4	DAY 7
Garment taken to Uniform Shop by Customer Sent to Head Office for assessment by Uniform Shop	Garment received at Head Office Garment assessed for replacement, repair, etc	REPLACEMENT: Customer & Uniform Shop advised REPAIR: Garment sent for repair (allow 3 days)	Repair received back at Head Office & posted back to Customer (allow 2/3 days for postage)

Uniform price list & online shopping available at:

www.alintaapparel.com.au

HOST FAMILIES WANTED

To host International Students

- ✈ English must be the main language spoken in the home.
- ✈ Homes must have good transport access to local schools.
- ✈ Short and long term placements, students aged 15 years and over.
- ✈ Remuneration is \$220 per week (furnished room/2 meals per day, 3 on weekends).
- ✈ For more information and to apply please visit our website or call.

Oz Homestay www.ozhomestay.com.au Tel: 9702 5565

Have your say about after hour's medical services in the local area

Have the ever needed medical care after hours? If so the Hunter Urban Medicare Local would like to hear from you.

Hunter Urban Medicare Local (formerly GP Access) is seeking public and professional input regarding After Hours medical provisions in your neighbourhood.

“Parents can have their say via an online survey http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/access_after_hours or through attendance at public meetings to be set up throughout the Hunter and the Port Stephens area” says Simon Gould, Project Manager – After Hours.

“It is critical for people to relay their experiences and provide input as part of this consultation process in order to meet the After Hours primary medical needs in each area.”

Hunter Urban Medicare Local is consulting with GPs, community groups, aged care providers, hospital Emergency Departments as well as their own GP Access After Hours service in order to collect all relevant data required to inform future planning and infrastructure.

For further information please contact:

Scott White – Communications Manager 0437 478 138 or 4926 0559

Click here to add your input via our online survey : http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/access_after_hours

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Newcastle City Library **MON 7 MAY** **4PM – 5PM**



Coastal Valleys Region Girl Guides invite you to
Come and Play in May!

At your local Guide meeting
For girls aged 6-18 years



Guides enjoy adventure, games, camping, outdoors, cooking, craft and more

Contact District Leader on: 49532690

To join us FREE during may at

...Hamilton South.....Guide Hall at Thomas
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Or contact coastalvalleysgirlguides@live.com.au to find out more

The appearance of advertising in our bulletin does not indicate Newcastle High school's support or endorsement.