



NYNGAN HIGH SCHOOL

INNOVATION, EXCELLENCE, OPPORTUNITIES & SUCCESS

MONDAY 12TH DECEMBER, 2011

TERM 4 WEEK 10

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DATE/EVENTS

UP COMING DATES

12th December

Presentation Night 7.00pm
Palais Theatre

13th December

Year 10 Formal Assembly
9.30am School Gymnasium

16th December

Last Day of School

SCHOOL RESUMES
FOR Years 7, 11 and 12
on Monday 6th February,
2012, and also Year 10
Peer Support Leaders

and for Years 8, 9, 10 on
Tuesday 7th February,
2012

OPENING CEREMONY OF THE ARTHUR HALL VC WAY



Principal Mr Chad Bliss, Nyngan High students

&

Her Excellency the Governor of NSW, Professor Marie Bashir

From left to right: Chad Bliss, Sophie White, Malachi Dutschke, Luke Wye, James White, Her Excellency Governor NSW - Professor Marie Bashir, Tegan Douglas, Emily Bandi, Ebony Blake and Jarrod Blake at the opening ceremony of the Arthur Hall VC Way in Coolabah.

From the Principal

Dear Parents and Members of our School Community

Welcome to the final newsletter for 2011. What a year we have had. I have been truly humbled by the success that we have achieved as a school and so proud of the many individual performances across so many areas of education.

We began the year by welcoming a number of new staff to our school. Mrs Hunt, Mr Hunt, Miss Hamilton, Ms Ireland, Mrs Carter, Mrs Underwood and Mrs Swift. We also welcomed staff throughout the year including Mrs Holmes, Mrs Crowley, Mr and Mrs Bockos, Mr Bangura, Ms Weldon, Mr Jeffery and Mrs Jayne Walsh. We also farewelled Mrs Colwell, Miss Mander Jones and Mrs Denise McCarthy who retired after 34 wonderful years with Nyngan High School.

This year we have had a focus on a number of priority areas. Literacy, Numeracy, Aboriginal Education, Technology, Teacher Quality, Creative and Performing Arts, Sport, Academic achievement and High expectations.

We have continued to introduce changes as a way to move forward and improve the education and social outcomes of all of our students.

Academically we have had some tremendous success. Two students (Tom Waterhouse and Luke Wye) began in the regional virtual selective school xsel, Zara Hoare, Caitlyn Willcockson, Emerson Alderson and Bethany Young were selected to participate in the IXTEND gifted and talented program, our school introduced enrichment classes for gifted students and opportunity classes for students who required additional support. We had some fantastic results in NAPLAN and we continue to move our students' at above state average growth across a number of aspects of literacy and numeracy. We have participated in a range of academic competitions including Mathematics and English competitions along with the State Science and Engineering Challenge. A number of our HSC students have received offers of early entry to University and we have been involved in using and running senior Physics through a blended learning model including the use of video conferencing for students at our school and in Cobar. Our School Certificate results were released late last week and many of our students have performed exceptionally well.

We have also continued to succeed across a range of sporting arenas. Student representation in regional and state swimming, athletics, cricket, lawn bowls, netball, rugby league, soccer, basketball and touch football to name but a few. We participated in many local and regional sporting competitions and continued to achieve success through the dedication of our students and our staff.

We introduced a Creative and Performing Arts Program into the school under the leadership of Mrs Hunt and Miss Roots.

In just one short year we have had student representation in Dance and drama camps, participated in the Schools Spectacular, opened the Regional Launch of Education week, formed a number of new bands within the school including our school band "rewind" and concert and instrumental band, participated in the Vibe Alive music festival, the Moorambilla arts festival, produced a musical involving students from across all of our partner primary schools, performed in a number of community events and had students selected for the state Drama team.

We finally took ownership of two state of the art trade training centres in Hospitality and Metals and Engineering and finished off our capital works programs in Science and school refurbishment. We have a school that would rival many private and government schools across Australia and it is our community and our students who will receive the benefits of such a wonderful investment by the community of Nyngan and the State and Federal Governments.

In 2011, we continued to develop our teaching staff with a focus on teacher quality and providing access to the very best educational opportunities for our students each and every day. We will continue to make this a focus in 2012 and beyond. It is my belief that we have the capacity to offer every student the best educational experiences in Western NSW and beyond and it is the focus of everything that we do. Your children are why we are here and it is the support of our parent and community body which makes Nyngan High School such a special place to work.

We continued to offer students the chance to attend leadership camps and school cultural exchanges. Our Year 7 students and Year 10 peer support leaders spent a week in Burrendong, our SRC representatives travelled to Wambangalang to participate in leadership workshops, our Year 11 students participated in the Crossroads program at Lake Keepit and six lucky students had the trip of a lifetime to China as part of our sister school exchange in Tongling. We were also fortunate enough to host our Chinese friends in November this year and show them just how lucky we are to have what we have in Nyngan.

We place a great deal of time and effort into supporting the welfare of all of our students and continued to teach our students the values and ethos of our school. I have the highest expectations of students and staff and will continue to do so for as long as our community wants me to lead this amazing school. Our staff are the backbone to every one of the outstanding programs that we offer. We all sacrifice time with our family for the benefit of our students. It is why we chose to enter one of the most rewarding careers in the world. The difference we make to your children each and day is what we are here for. Sometimes the differences are small and may take a long time to be recognised and other times they are enormous and happen very quickly.

I would like to make particular mention of my wonderful wife, Christie and my children Hayden, Taylah and Alysah. My family support me and our school and are very understanding and supportive people. They often spend a lot of time at home without me and understand that I, like all of my colleagues have chosen to help the students of Nyngan High School achieve the very best education outcomes that they can.

The staff at Nyngan High School are some of the most collegial and hard working professionals I have ever had the pleasure of working with. They work long days, weekends and school holidays to ensure that your children are the beneficiaries of a quality learning and educational environment. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of the staff at Nyngan High School from our cleaners to our office staff, general assistant and Ag assistant, to our canteen manager, teaching staff, executive staff and senior executive staff. Without the dedication that you have for our school and our town, we would not be moving forward at the rate we continue to.

Two other groups that I would like to pay particular mention to are our P&C and our AECG. The P&C are some of the strongest supporters of our school. Under the leadership of Mrs Stephanie Waterhouse, the P&C work tirelessly to raise much needed funds for our school and become involved in many aspects of our school life. The P&C continue to work closely with myself and our staff to ensure that we fulfil our obligation to our students.

The AECG are the parent and community body supporting our Aboriginal students and programs. I have thoroughly enjoyed working closely with the AECG under the guidance of Mrs Karen Hawley and Mrs Marea Johnson. We have worked hard in 2011 to improve the educational opportunities of all of our students and both the P&C and AECG have been fundamental to ensuring that this was able to occur.

Thank you to all members of both groups for your passion towards our students and for your commitment to continual improvement of our school.

In 2011 we will say goodbye to two staff who have been with us for a number of years. Mr Cavanagh has decided that after six years at Nyngan High School it is time to try something a little different. Mr Cavanagh will be moving to Bingara Central School in 2012. I would like to thank Mr Cavanagh for the passion and dedication he has provided to our entire school community over the past six years. He will be greatly missed. I wish Mr Cavanagh all the very best as he embarks on a new adventure in his life.

Mrs Wendy Wass has also been in our school in a casual and temporary role for the past 15 years. Mrs Wass has made a decision to retire at the end of 2011 and spend more time on her farm.

Mrs Wass has made so many differences to the lives of countless students through her advice and commitment to our school. I wish Mrs Wass every success as she begins the next chapter of her life outside of the classroom.

Miss Candice Roots will also be saying goodbye to Nyngan after four years in our community. Miss Roots has grown immensely over the past four years to the point where she was in charge of establishing the creative and performing arts programs in our school this year as the relieving head teacher of CAPA. Miss roots will be returning to her family town of Glenbrook and will continue to change the lives of students a little closer to home.

Ms Kerin Stead has been with our school in a variety of rolls over the past 3 years. Ms Stead was in charge of all of our sporting successes in 2011 and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms Stead and wish her well as she moves back to Newcastle to finally spend some time with her fiancée.

Miss Tara Jane Ireland will be leaving us to take up a permanent appointment at Redbend College in Forbes. Miss Ireland has worked extremely hard throughout the year and I wish her every success as she embarks on a new adventure.

Miss Vanessa Nagy has been with our school for the past two years in the temporary relief scheme teacher position. This is a difficult position to fulfil as these teachers need to have a thorough knowledge of all aspects of each key learning area and are often called upon to teach out of their specialist faculty area. I wish Miss Nagy all the very best as she moves to the South Coast of NSW.

Mrs Stephanie Carter has been a member of our staff for the past 12 months. Mrs Carter as you would be aware came to us from the NSW Police Service and returned to teaching after a 12 year break. Mrs Carter has done an outstanding job in 2012 and I wish her all the very best as she embarks on the next part of her working career.

Finally, Mrs Jayne Jackson will say goodbye to Nyngan High School after serving as the Canteen operator for the past 10 years. Jayne has always been prepared to support our school with catering and offering a varied and healthy canteen menu for our staff and students. I wish Jayne all the very best for the future.

I would also like to thank Mrs Leonie Montgomery who certainly will not be leaving us in 2012 but will return to her substantive role as HT Science. Mrs Montgomery has done a tremendous job as the Deputy Principal National Partnerships in 2011 and I am sure her expertise and knowledge of our school and her passion for all things Science will continue for many years to come.

Mrs Montgomery, thank you for the wonderful job you did this year and I look forward to working closely with you in 2012 and beyond.

In 2012 we will welcome some new staff and see some old faces again. Miss Hailee Byrne will be replacing Miss Roots in the Visual Arts department, Miss Sami Dunk will move into the PDHPE faculty, Miss Malee Lipman returns to us as the substantive Hospitality teacher, Miss Alyssa Coursey and Miss Tiarna Stafford will fill the roles of the TRS teachers, Mrs Noelene Walsh will relieve in the role as Careers Advisor for the beginning of 2012 and Mrs Angie Bush will fill the relieving HT English/HSIE role until the position is advertised.

In the SASS department we will welcome Mrs Kyri Martin who has been appointed to the school in a permanent full time capacity and comes to us from Nyngan Public School and Mrs Del Woods has been appointed to the Public school for 3 days per week. Mrs Woods will work with us in Hospitality on Tuesday and Thursday and will be at the primary school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

It has been an absolute pleasure leading Nyngan High School in 2011 and I look forward to continuing to do the same in 2012 and beyond.

I am humbled every day I wake up and come to work in such a great community who cares for all of our kids as if they were their own.

We will continue to build our school and offer a holistic educational experience for our staff and students. I wish you a safe and happy Christmas and a very happy New Year period.

Thank you for your support in 2011.

Peer Support Training

Last Thursday and Friday eighteen of our Year 9 students participated in Peer Support training with Mrs Hamblin and Mr Parker. These students will be the leaders who look after our incoming Year 7 students in 2012. I had the pleasure of seeing these students working extremely hard on Friday afternoon and I am sure they will do a wonderful job in 2012.

Arthur Hall VC Way

On Thursday, I had the pleasure of accompanying eight of our school leaders to Coolabah to take part in the opening of the Arthur Hall VC Way in memory of Corporal Arthur Hall VC. This was a moving ceremony officiated by Her Excellency, the Governor of NSW Professor Marie Bashir.

James White, Malachi Dutschke, Ebony Blake, Jarrod Blake, Tegan Douglas, Sophie White, Luke Wye and Emily Bandi had the pleasure of meeting the Governor and spending about 15 minutes speaking with Her Excellency about Nyngan and growing up in NSW today. It was a fantastic experience for all of our representatives and I am sure that they will remember the day for many years to come.

Community Carols

Congratulations to the students who participated in the Community Carols on Sunday evening. It was a fantastic night. A big thankyou to Mrs Hunt and Mr Murphy for your leadership of our school band. Mrs Hunt has continued to support our music program whilst Mrs Swift has been on Maternity leave.

Presentation Evening

A reminder that our Presentation Evening will begin at 7pm sharp at the Palais theatre this evening. There is no allocated seating so may I suggest you don't leave it to the last minute to attend.

Canteen

There will be no school canteen in operation on Thursday and Friday of this week. Students will need to ensure that they bring a packed lunch. Jane Jackson has an urgent appointment that she has to attend.

Industrial Action

The NSW Teachers' Federation has organised industrial stop-work action for 2 hours on Thursday 15th December 2011. While normal lessons will not be possible between 8.40am and 10.50am there will be adequate minimal supervision available for any student who attends school on the day. Canteen facilities will not be available to students on the day. All students are expected to be at school at 10.50am for a roll call in the quadrangle followed by activities for the rest of the day. I apologise for any inconvenience that this may cause to our parents. For further enquiries please contact the school on 68321004.

Year 10 Farewell

Last week Year 10 celebrated their time at Nyngan High School with a school disco and an afternoon tea at the Riverside Caravan Park. The students looked wonderful in their formal attire. The Year 10 Graduation Ceremony will be held at 9.30am on Tuesday 13th December in the school hall. I would like to invite all parents and family members to attend this special occasion.

Summer School

Last week Mrs Underwood took four Year 9 students to the University of Newcastle for a week of activities about preparing for senior schooling. Briana Wardman, Emma Beetson, Abbi-Lee Parry and Shannon Quinton had a wonderful time and were fantastic ambassadors for our school. Congratulations and well done.

This week Nelson Salter has travelled to the University of Newcastle to take part in the same program. I am sure that Nelson will learn just as much as the girls did last week.

With my warmest regards,

Chad Bliss

Principal

From the Deputy Principal

Platinum Excursion

Last Monday, Mrs Montgomery and I had the great pleasure of accompanying those students who had achieved Platinum level through our Merit System on a Rewards Day. We began the morning by boarding a large coach and voting on a movie to watch on the way to Dubbo. We were entertained by the movie Hairspray which was enjoyed by all. We arrived at Dubbo Ten Pin Bowl and the students found shoes that fitted and split into teams of friends to enjoy two games of bowling. The owner played loud boppy music for the students to dance along to while they were playing. The loudest response came when the Grease Megamix was played, of course! James White was the player of the day, and everyone seemed to have a great time.

We went to Orana Mall to have some free time buying lunch and doing a little bit of Christmas shopping. Some of the boys who preferred not to shop, instead chose to eat a frozen drink followed by something hot and burnt their mouths! On the way home we watched High School Musical 3 and several students had a well earned sleep. The bus driver commented on how well behaved our students were and they were PERFECT! This was a wonderful day and the students were a pleasure to take on the excursion. Thanks to Mrs Walsh for her great organisation of the day.

The Results

Each lane played two games.

The winners of the individual lane games were:

Sophie White, Matthew Frankham, Dylan Chadburne, Nelson Salter, Dane Casey, Cooper Barrow, Patrick Walsh, Tim Lewis, Jackson Barrow, James White, Luke Wye, Zoe Angove and Zali Wherrit. Students who gained 'strikes' in the first round were:

Nelson Salter, Jacob, James White, Oliver Hoare, Zoe Angove, Zara Hoare with many students gaining strikes and spares throughout the games.

The highest scores for the morning were:

James White - 232

Jackson Barrow – 226

Zali Wherrit – 219

Matthew Frankham – 188

Patrick Walsh – 185

Day VIEW Club Performance

This week, our Year 9 Music students were invited to perform as the lunchtime entertainment for Day VIEW Club. Chloe Dunn, Sophie White and Nelson Salter performed three songs for the ladies, including two popular modern pieces and one Christmas song. The ladies thoroughly enjoyed all of the pieces, but in particular they enjoyed "Jingle Bell Rock" which was a lesson learnt for our students on how to select pieces to cater appropriately for an audience. The students were surprised to see the ladies bopping and singing along as they sang. The students were given gifts of appreciation and raced back to school to begin the next part of their hectic schedules. These students have been involved in an enormous number of performances and they are a credit to themselves, their families and Nyngan High School, and are to be congratulated for their efforts.

Nyngan Community Carols

On Sunday evening, our students once again performed as part of Nyngan Community Carols in the Town Hall. Our singers Sophie White and Chloe Dunn, guitarist Caleb Dutschke and drummer Malachi Dutschke performed with all of the group pieces and were featured in two Nyngan High School items "Last Christmas" and "Jingle Bell Rock". The students were a welcome addition to the ensemble pieces and their feature items were enjoyed by the happy crowd in the audience. The students can now say first hand that they have experienced what it takes to keep performing now matter what...even if you can't see the music and you forget the words! These students are to be congratulated on their commitment to our school. Thank you to Michael Dutschke, Noelene Walsh, Richard Milligan, Angie White, Ryan Heggie, Kingsley Hunt, Malachi Dutschke, Caleb Dutschke, Chloe Dunn and Sophie White for their assistance in transporting, setting up and packing up our equipment. Your assistance is vital and appreciated.

Summer Fire Safety

Summer has officially started and with it comes the increased risk of bush and house fires. If you live in a bushfire prone area, ensure you have taken the necessary steps to protect your property and family from fire. Download a fact sheet:

www.fire.nsw.gov.au/gallery/files/pdf/factsheets/02_bushfire_prep.pdf

It is now law that caravans and campervans be fitted with working smoke alarms. Check LPG gas bottles for leaks as this is how many barbecue fires start.

Many more tips on how to enjoy a fire-free summer are on the Fire and Rescue NSW website: www.fire.nsw.gov.au

Remember in the event of a house or bushfire always dial 000. If your mobile phone is out of range, dial 112.

Orientation Information

Following 40 days of Year 6 students attending Nyngan High School as part of our Transition Program, it has been decided that there is not a need to hold an Orientation Day. The Year 6 students already feel very comfortable in the high school environment.

During the holidays, have a look at the great information on the School A to Z website about starting high school and what to expect in the senior years. You'll find a wealth of tips and hints about moving up to high school, including a vodcast you can watch together at: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/starting-year-7>

You can also download a handy high school checklist at: www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/highschool/index.php

Bookpacks/resources – Nyngan Newsagency

Parents of Yr 7 2012 students are invited to attend a Parent Meeting at 9am on Monday February 6 in the School Library.

Help Yourself and Others

Young adulthood is an exciting time, but it can also be a time of emotional confusion and stress.

The Reachout website, www.reachout.com, has information on everything from family relationships, bullying, sexuality, to drugs and alcohol, grief and loss. There's also a helpline and live chat help.

Reachout has an internship program for students who are interested in working in the social services sector. Flexible intern opportunities include the areas of marketing, IT, psychology, multimedia and more. Email nikki@inspire.org.au if you're interested.

Also check out the 'get involved' page for more ways young people 14-25 can help others: <http://au.reachout.com/get-involved>

What a Year!

This brings to a close the school year for 2011. Thank you to the students, staff and parents of Nyngan High School who have made this such a wonderful place to work. My family and I are very grateful for the support we have received in moving into a new town and are all very pleased to have developed some fantastic friends. I wish everyone a happy, safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year and look forward to working with you all again in 2012.

Kind Regards,

Nicole Hunt

Deputy Principal

Girl's Choice University week

This year, four Nyngan High school students were accepted to attend the annual Girls Choice University program, Emma Beetson, Abbi-Lee Parry, Briana Wardman and Shannon Doyle were accompanied by Mrs Underwood to Newcastle University. Miss Underwood devotedly lived with and followed the girls around the campus, as they experienced many different facets of University life. The Girls' Choices Summer School is for female students in Year 9 and is designed to help build upon their potential to study maths and science subjects in Years 11 and 12.

The week began with a lecture titled 'Reach for the Stars', and a rare glimpse of Moon rocks which were on loan to Newcastle University from NASA. The rocks are the only ones outside of the United States of America. It was a privilege to hold such rare and valuable objects whilst also being aware of the two burly security guards who accompanied the rocks.

The First day ended with a challenge to create wearable art out of recycled materials. Each dorm of girls had to create a garment for a fashion show and nominate a model and a speaker from the group to present their artwork. After many deliberations Shannon Doyle graciously accepted the challenge as model and Briana bravely stepped forward to offer her skills as a presenter for the group. Both girls exceeded their own expectations of themselves and successfully fulfilled their role in the show. Tired and exhausted we went to bed eagerly anticipating the following days. Tuesday began with DNA testing and a Crime Scene investigation which was resolved by the girls in the Science laboratory. The girls followed the same procedure used by forensic scientists to uncover the identity of a suspect, from skin found under the victim's fingernails.

The day ended with dinner at the Aboriginal building called 'Wollotuka'. After a sausage sizzle the girls were entertained with traditional Aboriginal dances. The girls enjoyed the dances; they were passed down through many generations and hold deep cultural significance for the dancers and his family. The dancers were lively, creative and humorous as well as giving the girls at the program their first sight of a boy for a few days which became a performance in itself.

The Girls Choice program offers students the opportunity to be exposed to subjects, which they may not have heard of, thought that they were interested in or even capable of. Abby-Lee Parry volunteered to have an ultrasound performed on her during the Physiotherapy lecture, the girls enjoyed the Chemical Engineering lecture, experimenting with the outcome of aerated sand and making Hydrogen propelled cars.

There were opportunities explored off campus as well. A tour of Port Waratah Coal, an RTA road construction tour and a return to nature with animal life drawing and sightseeing at Blackbutt reserve. An opportunity to explore the beach was not going to be missed by the Nyngan girls and when others retreated to the bus because of high winds, bluebottles and rain, our girls enthusiastically embraced the opportunity to naturally exfoliate their feet by running in the water and sand.

The week ended with a Girls only disco, exceeding their expectations and declaring that they had an "awesome time at the best ever disco Miss."

The Girls Choices program catered for many different requirements from Science, Mathematics, Self-Esteem, Self-Defence, goal setting and socialising skills. The Nyngan girls contributed and benefited from the program in many different and individual ways. They proudly represented Nyngan High School, Abby-Lee telling every lecturer that they were from Nyngan. It was an absolute privilege to be involved in the Girls Choices programs for 2011 and watch the growth of our students who continue to strive and develop into independent learners and successful young adults.

