From the Principal’s Desk

We are looking forward to sharing Presentation Night on Tuesday 9 December with students, parents, staff and community, when a wide array of awards will be presented to students for their efforts, achievements and contributions. I am so proud of all our students and so grateful for the tremendous support they get from teachers, family and the community as they grow and learn.

As this is our final newsletter I would like to take this opportunity to publically thank the members of the Nhulunbuy High School Council, especially our Chairperson Tracy Graham, and the parents who invest their time to support the school and advise us on a wide range of important school matters throughout the year. I encourage every parent to consider being involved in School Council, in 2015.

I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of all staff at the school, who have worked so hard throughout the year to ensure our students get every opportunity to access quality teaching and learning. Their dedication to our students and their energy and optimism throughout what has been a very challenging year is inspirational.

4 December 2014

DIARY DATES

Tuesday 9 December
Presentation Night

Wednesday 10 December to Thursday 11 December
Wellbeing Activities

Friday 12 December
LAST DAY AT POOL

2015 DATES

Tuesday 27 January
Student Free Day

Wednesday 28 January
School Resumes
Many thanks also to the Parent Committee who worked so hard on the Year 12 Formal last week. What a lovely night it was, and what a great photo we have as a memory, printed again in this newsletter. Over the next couple of weeks the students’ final results will be revealed, and decisions will be made about their futures. In farewelling them we wish them the best, whatever their future holds.

We sadly farewell a number of staff who are moving on. Thanks and best wishes to Michelle Benn, Donna Davies and Lyle Passfield who have been with us over the last semester and who worked hard to support our students. Good luck also to Karen McMahon, and Maria Slatter who have provided excellent service to many students and families, particularly those with special needs over a number of years. Cassie Duykers, who has been an enthusiastic classroom teacher at the school for a number of years in a range of subject areas, and renown for her many initiatives eg. Toadsbusters, BushBlitz and the Edugrow project (featured in this newsletter), has also decided it’s time to move on. We are acutely aware of the difference these staff make in the lives of the students day and day out, and say Thanks.

Last but not least we also bid farewell to ‘long termer’ Jodie Beauchamp, whose sustained contributions to the education and wellbeing of our students spans many years, in a number of teaching and leadership roles. Jodie is an outstanding educator, who recently accepted the award “Secondary Teacher of Year” for the Arnhem Region, presented to her among colleagues, at the recent World Teachers Day celebrations. Our school is the poorer with you leaving Jodie, but Thank You for your contributions, and good luck to you and your family, in your new adventures.

We realise that many families are moving on from Nhulunbuy over the break. If you are one of them, please know that we wish you and your family all the best and hope you find new friends, new opportunities and much happiness in the future. If you can let us know your intentions, please do as it will go a long way to help us organise our programs and staffing for the 2015 school year.

For those of you lucky enough to be staying, we look forward to reconnecting in late January. Please note office opening details in this newsletter.
Merry Christmas everyone!
Sabina Smith Principal

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Final Day Celebrations! NO UNIFORM REQUIRED!

As the year draws to a close, I am just touching base with parents to provide some information in regard to school programs for the remainder of the term. Please be assured that teaching and learning programs continue as normal until Wednesday next week.

On Wednesday and Thursday we have a modified program for all students, which has a focus on Wellbeing and includes a range of fun Christmas activities. This is followed by our whole school party at the pool on Friday until 1pm, marking the end of the year. More information is included on the last page of this newsletter.
Middle School News

School Wide Positive Behaviour

This term a School Wide Positive Behaviour Committee was formed to analyse how effective our current plans are working and where improvements could be made for the future. The committee has worked to gain feedback from students through surveys and formal and informal discussions. Additionally senior teachers have been into homerooms to have discussions around wellbeing. The senior teachers have also been supporting staff to develop and display classroom agreements and behaviour plans.

One key activity has been a School Wide Battle Ball Competition that has run in Term 4 on Friday lunchtime in the gym. There will be a grand final in Week 9 and the winners will be rewarded with a prize. This competition has attracted the interest of many of the students in the school and the team work, inclusiveness and encouragement from everybody, staff and students, has been fantastic.

Reports

During Week 10, parents will receive the final school reports for this year for their child. These reports have taken on a slightly new format, and details what the student has been able to demonstrate by the end of their learning journey in that subject.

In Health and Physical Education, Home Economics and Design and Technologies, the ‘Achievement Standard’ covers two years of learning, and as a result, your child may only be assessed against specific components of the achievement standard. In other learning areas, the entire achievement standard has been assessed over the course of the year.

If you have any questions about the new format, please contact Heather McGee at heather.mcgee@ntschools.net.

DENTIST

We have a dental therapist back in town. A free service for children at school under 18
Ring 89870425
Senior School News

Congratulations to our Year 12 students who have now completed their final year of schooling – we wish each and every one of you every success for the future. The Year 12s organised a very successful and highly entertaining last day – “Muck Up Day” – on Friday 31 October – the teacher tombstones were a highlight. The whole school assembly recognised the contribution, work and efforts of the Year 12s. Our newly-elected student leaders for 2015 – Alexander Parfitt and Tayla Edwards – also paid tribute to the students. Students then spent the next few weeks sitting external exams, completing SACE assessment folios and VET certificate competencies. Finally the assessment tasks were over and the Senior Formal arrived. What a night!!! Mature and confident young adults crossed the carpet in a celebration of years of hard work and a glimpse of the possibilities for the future.

The Year 11 students completed their assessment block in Week 8 and we are pleased to announce that all Year 11 English and Mathematics Results have been confirmed, meaning that all Year 11 students have successfully completed the credits of the compulsory course requirements for their Senior Certificate. The remaining credits for the Certificate are composed of both Stage 1 (Year 11) and Stage 2 (Year 12) subjects in particular combinations and patterns. If you were unable to attend the Senior School Information Evening or require additional clarification on course requirements or subject choices and pathways, please contact the Front Office on 89870844 to organise an appointment time with Karen Hill (AP), Jodie Beauchamp (ST1-Senior Years) or Donna Davies (Careers Counsellor) in the coming week.

The Year 10 students are working toward final completion of their program. The students have made subject selections for next year and the timetable for 2015 is complete with some room for changes. If you would like to discuss student choices, pathways and certificate completion requirements, please contact the Front Office staff on 89870844.

We now look forward to the final week of school with upcoming highlights such as our Week 10 Assembly with Principal Awards, Presentation Night acknowledging student accomplishments across the year of 2014, Activities Days celebrating Well-being and a Final Farewell at the Pool on Friday 12 December.

On a personal note it is with significant sadness, trepidation and optimism that I say a fond farewell to the community of Nhulunbuy High School. I have worked at NHS for 16 years and am extremely proud of the school and its accomplishments over the years. This school provides a level of individualised and personal instruction cemented through caring and personal relationships that are unique to our community. I wish NHS and its students and staff every success over the coming years.

Jodie Beauchamp
Edugrow Awards

The development of the NHS Veggie Patch has inspired both staff and students to engage and reflect on their own knowledge and understanding of the benefits of growing produce. From individuals understanding the biodiversity that exists within the garden to awakening new taste buds as students consume the produce when they pass the garden, the garden has provided new knowledge and understanding.

Students from across the school have been involved in the concept, design, development, construction, planting, maintenance and productivity. They have used their geometric reasoning and 2D skills in Mathematics (Yr 10 and Special Education Centre (SEC)) to design the style of garden that would allow for maximum garden bed placement, researched local nurseries for produce recommendations, estimated and then calculated the area and volume of soil required for the garden beds. Year 10, manually sifted all the soil and filled the garden beds whilst Year 7, Year 8, SEC, Cultural Centre and Year 10, planted seeds and included herbs in every bed to repel insects, so that no poison is used in the garden. It is organic and sustainable, and the whole school delighted in both the growth and produce on a daily basis.

Has it been this easy? No, but rewarding! An idea that began 3 years ago is now alive and thriving. It has had the challenges of sourcing materials (we love our generous community), placement (where best to put it), man power (great work everyone), time (there is never enough) and regulations (we all live with these). Most rewarding is to witness the incorporation of the garden as a hands on learning tool. There have been Art classes drawing, designing and building, Mathematics classes measuring, estimating and calculating, Senior VET Hospitality purchasing and delivering gourmet delights, senior Engineering Students designing and installing and community members requesting produce orders. That’s wonderful!!
The hardest and most valuable team members for the garden by far have to be the chickens. The generators of compost and produce, the consumers of squished lunches and bird chewed tomatoes and the creators of both enjoyment and learning.

The garden has enabled learning about biodiversity and the relationships between organisms. “Don’t squash the grub, we need to feed the yabby”.

Where to next?
- To increase the number of garden beds for even more produce and student involvement.
- To continue to engage students and foster ownership of their garden, expand their knowledge and skills.
- To install a water reticulation system to improve and conserve our water usage. Slowly but surely the dream is becoming a reality.

THE JUDGES CITATIONS
CATEGORY FOUR:
Schools with more than 150 students who started their gardens from scratch early in 2014 or at the beginning of Term 2

Nhulunbuy High School
The judges were very impressed by the inclusive, whole of school efforts and great community partnerships.

“Congratulations on creating a really productive garden at the heart of your school, with the Men at Work team at its centre working with the whole school. Lots of hard work, great curriculum links and a large number of teachers involved. Well done Men at Work on your journals and EduGrow powerpoint presentation.”

THE WINNER IS:
In FIRST place in a ‘category of their own’ – having done an outstanding job to come in the top 3 schools overall is: NHULUNBUY HIGH SCHOOL

Nhulunbuy’s great school team approach has also seen them win the Special Theme Award for “Best School Garden Team and integration of the garden with other school programs.

Congratulations Everyone and ESPECIALLY the Men at Work Crew.
R U OK?

September 11th was R U OK? Day – a day dedicated to encouraging all people to **regularly** and **meaningfully** ask 'are you ok?' to support those struggling with life.

Nhulunbuy High students participated in an exercise that demonstrates the steps of asking someone “R U OK?”

You don’t have to be an expert to support someone going through a tough time. You just need to be able to listen to their concerns without judgment and take the time to follow up with them.

For more information on how to ask “R U OK?” check out the website [https://www.ruokday.com/](https://www.ruokday.com/)

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2015 Student Planning

In order to facilitate our 2015 planning, we ask parents/guardians to advise the school as soon as possible if your child will **not be returning** to Nhulunbuy High School. Please call the Front Office on 8987 0844 or email nhulunbuy.high@ntschools.net.
Student Representative Committee

SRC Planning Day

On 24 September, the Student Representative Council (SRC) participated in team-building, planning, and evaluation day. We discussed the role of the SRC, our achievements over the past year, and what we could do better.

Principal Ms Smith talked about how she views the SRC as an important vehicle for communication between students and teachers, and her desire to have the SRC provide her with advice on what works, what doesn't work, and what could be done better to engage students in learning.

Mr Adams spoke with us about strengthening relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and we hope to continue these actions in 2015 and beyond.

Our achievements so far this year...
- Represented NHS at the Garma Festival’s Youth Forum
- Represented NHS at Anzac Day ceremonies
- Held two school socials and strengthened relationships with Yirrkala School and NCC
- Hosted an end-of-term water fight for National Youth Week
- Hosted Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea and raised funds for the Cancer Council
- Ran a BBQ for Mr Middleton and his minions’ annual Games Day
- Installed extra seating around the school
- Hosted two assemblies per term
- Bought two fridges to store student lunches
- Held a “Jeans for Genes Day” and raised money for Children’s Medical Research Institute
- Suggested a reward system for wearing uniforms
Secondary School Tax File Number Program

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

In the meantime if you require any further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.

Yolŋu Mätha Excursion to Dhälinybuy

A group of 18 NHS students recently participated in an overnight excursion to the Community of Dhälinybuy.

A convoy of 4WD’s escorted by Tara Canobie, Lawrence Walker, Gus Graham and Dave Mitchell left on Thursday 21 November. Arriving at the Community we were met by our hosts for the two days.

Mr Gurruman Marika and Garama, together with visiting teachers, Ruth and Cara, invited both groups of children into the classroom. Gurruman conducted a language and Gurrutu lesson that everyone enjoyed.

It was after lunch, when all the djamarrkulli joined in the impromptu bungul, that the ice really broke. We had a great time and it was wonderful to see so many happy faces and to make new friends. Thanks to everyone involved who made it possible.
All That Glitters was the theme for last Saturday’s Year 12 Formal and, my goodness, our Year 12 students certainly glittered and glimmered and gleamed! An incredible night was had by all and our Year 12’s looked incredibly grown-up and polished and more than ready to face the new world that has just been opened up to them.

We looked on, with a tear in our eyes, as our Year 12’s made their way through the arch and down the red carpet, surrounded by their friends, family and hundreds of twinkling little fairy lights. It truly was a sight to behold!

We wish the class of 2014 all our very best and we look forward to seeing where life’s journey takes them. Many thanks to the illustrious parent committee for all their time and effort; it really was a magical evening and the Year 12’s were very fortunate to have had such a strong and dedicated committee working so hard to make their night as magnificent as it was.

And indeed, many thanks to everyone - friends, family, sponsors, teachers and support staff - for supporting our Year 12’s and for making the night one to remember.
FINAL DAY
During Week 10, students will take part in a number of team building and social activities. On Wednesday and Thursday, students will select a variety of activities that are based around the Mind Matters Framework that our school has adopted.

Students will participate in one activity on each social, emotional, mental, physical and spiritual health. In addition, there will be an activity that students will take part in on the first day that involves all members of their year group.

On the last day of school, students will conclude the school year with activities at the Town Pool. Students will need to arrive at school at the normal time of 8:10am, and will walk to the pool after homeroom. Students will be dismissed from the pool at 1:00pm. A sausage sizzle and popper will be provided for each student.

LOST AND FOUND
All students please check the lost and found box at the Front Office. There are many items including bathers and a watch. Staff may ask you to describe the item.

MEDICATION
If you have any medication at the Front Office please collect as it will be discarded at the end of term. New medication dispense forms will be required for first aid staff in Term 1 2015.