Showcase: The Summer Series
The highlight of term 4 once again promises to be our Showcase concert series. This semester, we are trialling a new look program, The Summer Series.

Tuesday 12 November
- Opening Night: a multi venue concert experience with performances at St Georges Hall, the Studio Theatre and outdoors

Thursday 14 November
- Summer At St Georges: a night of music ensembles and individual performances

Tuesday 19 and Wednesday 20 November
- Summer At the Studio. Two nights of senior drama companies

Thursday 21 November
- Summer At the Studio. A night of music featuring Year 9 Showcase Elective performances and Year 11 Soloists

Week 9 (3-6 Dec)
- Summer At the Seymour. Three spectacular nights to close the season. One night of dance (Tuesday 3rd), one night of drama and music (Thursday 5th), and the finale of dance, drama and music (Friday 6th)
Tickets for school-based shows are available online through our school website. Tickets for the final week are currently on sale and must be purchased directly through the Seymour Centre box office, phone 9351 7940 or their website www.seymourcentre.com.au. We look forward to celebrating the talents of our students and I hope to see you at many of these special events.

**Presentation Day**
The Seymour Centre is also the venue for this year’s Presentation Day, to be held on Thursday 12 December. We moved to this venue so that the whole school is able to attend as well as giving the event a more formal, “special event” quality. More information will be posted home as we get closer to the date.

**Change to P&C November Meeting**
The Showcase Opening Night will commence at the special time of 6pm on Tuesday 12 November. This has necessitated a change in date for this month’s P&C meeting. The meeting will now be a week later than usual at 6pm on Tuesday 19th November. Thank you to the P&C executive for making this change and I look forward to seeing you at the meeting.

**A Unique Student achievement**
It’s not every day that you get the opportunity to perform for royalty, but that’s exactly what happened for Year 11 student Kelsi Boyden last month. Kelsi was chosen to perform the National Anthem at the Premier’s Reading Challenge Presentation Ceremony, which was attended by the Crown Prince Frederick and Princess Mary of Denmark.

**Staff Changes**
I’d like to welcome Kirk Thomas to the school who is our new Head Teacher of English. He comes to us with six years experience as a Head Teacher, most recently at Sydney Secondary College, Balmain. I know Kirk is very excited to be here and will make a great contribution to the school.

Finally, I’d like to thank Betty Romeo for the wonderful job she did as relieving Principal for the first three weeks of term. Betty enjoyed her time back at NHSPA and is looking forward to returning from maternity leave next year.

Stephen Gray
Principal
Welcome back to term 4

Year 12 began the HSC examinations on 14th October which continues through until 6th November. I would like to extend my best wishes to all students and hope to see Year 12 on Wednesday 13th November at the sign-out BBQ to celebrate the end of the HSC and their school life.

Year 11 has started HSC studies this term and all students have received the assessment booklets and calendar for 2013/14. It is extremely important that students read the contents of the booklet and are aware of their assessment commitments and the processes to follow in regard to illness/misadventure or applying for an extension. Parent support and encouragement is most important and it is recommended that you are aware of the assessment information contained in the package. The acknowledgment of receipt of the assessment documents is to be signed by student and parent and returned to Year Advisers, Ms Choucair or Mr Tomasek.

Reports for students in Year 11 were issued on 30th October during a meeting with their Curriculum Advisers. Students by now may be in a position to decide their pattern of study in the HSC year. It is advised not to make a hasty decision if unsure and instead, maintain 12 units until later in the term or even next year. Some students have already made decisions to drop a course. Once the documentation has been completed students will be issued with updated timetables and will be invited to the library or learning centre to work independently during study periods. All Year 11 students are expected to be at school for the entire school day.

Year 10 are currently completing the final assessment tasks this month. These tasks and the other tasks described in the assessment booklet that have been completed throughout the year contribute towards their Record of School Achievement (RoSA). It is important all tasks have been completed to at least a satisfactory standard and if any N determination letters have been issued, the tasks described in the letters must be completed and redeemed. Classes for Year 10 will continue up until the end of the school year and students are expected to attend all lessons. In class, they will complete their Year 10 courses, the mandatory “All my own work” modules and follow programs designed to develop skills in preparation for senior schooling.

Years 7, 8 and 9 are currently studying for their final assessment tasks for the year. It is important they develop a study plan and are well prepared for these tasks. The afternoon study centre is open in the Library every Monday and Wednesday afternoons until 5pm if students need support and advice from teachers.

Preparations for the 2014 timetable are well underway with students in Years 7, 8 and 10 finalising their choices for elective courses. If your child is considering changing their pattern of course study, a supporting letter from a parent is necessary.

Rehearsals for the Schools Spectacular and our Showcase Summer Series are also well underway. Many of our students are participating in these events and managing assessment tasks and examinations too. It is a credit to those students who display enormous commitment and dedication to their academic studies and creative arts. Congratulations to all students and staff for their outstanding contributions to these events.
The opening night of the Showcase Summer Series will be on Tuesday 12th November. It promises to be an extravaganza with an Art exhibition and Music and Dance performances in St Georges Hall, Drama performances in Studio Theatre and Drama and Music performances in the outdoors. The Showcase Hospitality students, under the guidance of Sophie Favelle will be serving delicious savouries and a variety of cakes during the outdoors performances.

The Showcase season continues on 14th November with a Music night in St Georges Hall, two nights of Drama in the Studio Theatre on 19th and 20th November and a night of music soloists and Showcase elective performances on 21st November. Our season culminates with the Dance Showcase, a Drama and Music Showcase and the Showcase Finale Concert to be held at the Seymour Centre on 3rd, 5th and 6th December. Tickets are on sale on line.

In December, Year 11 2014 Orientation Day is to be held on 2nd, Year 7 2014 Orientation Day on 4th and Presentation Day on 12th.

If you have any curriculum, welfare or other matters you wish to discuss with me do not hesitate to call. See you at the Showcase evenings.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal
Welcome back to our final school term for 2013. The term began with our Year 12 students successfully commencing their HSC written examinations. All the students have appeared prepared and have approached each exam in a positive manner. We wish them all the very best of luck over this very important time and we are looking forward to some outstanding results over the coming weeks. I would like to thank the parents of our Year 12 students for the support they have offered their children over this challenging year. I am aware and appreciate that parenting during the HSC year is often a stressful and difficult task. I would also like to reflect on the effort and dedication displayed by every teacher who taught a Year 12 class in 2013. Teachers undertake the HSC every year with their students and I would like to thank our Year 12 teachers for the guidance and support they have provided each of the students in their classes during this HSC year. This group of Year 12 students have been respectful and hardworking and it has been my absolute pleasure to work with them throughout this year. I would also like to thank Dave Cole and Jennifa Dwyer for their continued commitment and dedication to the Year 12 cohort of 2013. We welcome all Year 12 students back to school for their "sign out barbeque" on Wednesday 13th November, a letter has been sent home with details of this event.

Semester 2 Showcase Concerts
Term 4 is traditionally very busy for our school particularly because we host our final showcase season for the year. This year our Semester 2 Showcase season has a new look. ‘The Summer Series’ commences with a multi-venue concert on the Opening night, Tuesday 12th November. Performances during the first two weeks of the season will be held at school in St. George’s Hall and the Studio theatre. The final week of the showcase season will include three nights of performances at the Seymour Centre with the Finale concert on Friday 6th December.

The program for the “Summer Series” is outstanding and I would like to recognise the commitment and professionalism of the performing arts staff, who continue to work so tirelessly at this time of year to ensure that our students have such performance opportunities.

I would like to also recognise and thank our P&C who offer continued support during the showcase season and the technical crew under the leadership of David Ferguson who work behind the scenes each day and night to maintain a very professional production. I am looking forward to seeing parents and students at our concerts over the coming weeks. The booking sheets for the concerts in Weeks 6 and 7 are accessible via our school website and tickets for the final week concerts can be booked via the Seymour Centre Box Office.

Peer Support Leaders Camp
60 Year 9 students travelled to “The Tops” conference centre at Stanwell Tops to participate in the Peer Support Training on Monday 21st October-Wednesday 23rd October. The students were highly engaged and motivated over the three days and their behaviour was impeccable. The trainers and camp personnel both commented on how impressed they were with our students and recognised the leadership potential evident amongst the students. All the teachers who attended the camp also agreed that the quality of peer support leaders this year was outstanding. The final list of peer support leaders for 2014 will be announced soon and I am confident that the transition of our 2014 Year 7 students will certainly be enhanced as a result of the peer support program and the quality of the peer leaders running this program. A very big thank you must go to Adrian Shipp and Jeremy Atkinson for their organisation of this initiative and to Zelko Janusic and Elly Reynolds for attending the camp over its duration.
Year 11 transition into HSC Courses
Year 11 students have made the important transition into their HSC courses from the start of this term. All students were issued with the HSC assessment booklet and calendar for 2013/14. I would highly recommend that students and their parents become familiar with the senior assessment policy and examine the assessment schedules and requirements for each of their courses. All students are expected to be at school on time each day and remain at school until the end of the day. Permission will not be granted at this stage for students to arrive late or leave early. It is also expected that Year 11 as the school leaders, wear the appropriate school uniform and embrace the serious work ethic required of senior students. The term ends for Year 11 with an assessment week and it is strongly recommended that the preparation for this important week start from now, with a regular program of revision of the course content covered each lesson.

Year 11 students were issued with their end of preliminary course reports on Wednesday 30th October. Students met with their curriculum advisors and at this meeting reports were distributed and goals for the HSC year were discussed and set.

Orientation Days
Later this term we will have the opportunity to welcome to the school our entire Year 7 cohort for 2014 on Wednesday 4th December. Preparations for this day are underway and I would like to congratulate both Brenton Fletcher for his appointment as the Year 7 Advisor and Elly Reynolds to the Assistant Year 7 Advisor roles for 2014. We are very much looking forward to working with both Brenton and Elly over the coming weeks and years.

Our new intake of audition students for Year 11 2014 will have their orientation day on Monday 2nd December. It is always a pleasure to meet the parents, carers and students who have chosen Newtown High School of the Performing Arts and I would like to officially welcome them all to our vibrant school community.

Assessment Tasks
This time of the term is a busy assessment period for all of our students. Many students have already completed key assessment tasks in all subjects. The student grades that appear in their semester 2 reports reflect the outcomes assessed in these tasks and for our Year 9 and 10 students will meet with their curriculum advisors later in the term to review their progress and personal best targets set in semester 1. Semester 2 reports will be sent home at the end of this term.

Digital Education Revolution-Laptops for Learning
As you may be aware the DER Laptop Program will discontinue from next year. We are currently looking at implementing the Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) program as a way of continuing the 1:1 computer to student ratio. BYOD is a technology model where students bring their own device to school for the purpose of learning. Mobile devices are part of 21st century living and integral to learning 21st century skills, such as communication, creativity and collaboration. The BYOD model has recently been adopted by a number of schools across NSW and is also commonly being used worldwide. Further information will be provided once the BYOD model and policy are finalised.
**Student Achievements**

During the past school vacation three students from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts, Olivia Regueira-Garcia Year 10, Andrew Brophy Year 9 and Cole Scott-Curwood Year 8 have been performing in an Australian Theatre for Young People (ATYP) production called Quay to the City. This production involved a walking tour to six venues around The Rocks area where dramatisations of what was happening in this area over the past 170 years were performed. The production ran for 15 performances over 2 1/2 weeks to sell out houses most performances. Well done to these students.

We look forward to a very successful and positive last term of learning and activity for everyone in our community. I hope to see many parents over the next few weeks as we enter into our busy showcase period. As always I welcome the opportunity to discuss any of the events mentioned in this correspondence with you and I am also available to assist our Years 8, 10 and 12 parents with any specific welfare or school matters.

Nilaufer Rajwar

Relieving Deputy Principal
The next P&C Meeting will be held on **Tuesday 19 November** at 6pm in the school common room. Please note this is a rescheduled meeting, falling on the third Tuesday of the month instead of the second, to accommodate Showcase. Year 8 advisor Adrian Shipp will present a report on the Year 8 mini iPad pilot program and discuss the options for classroom technology in 2014. Everyone is invited to come along, meet other parents and play an active role in the school community.

**SPRING SHOWCASE SEASON**
Year 7 parent Denis Dumlao is the new keeper of the parent roster for Showcase seasons. On each Showcase evening the P&C makes refreshments available to parents and guests before the show and during the interval, serving coffee, tea, drinks and snacks. We also need donations of baked goods to sell on the night.

The dates for the Spring Showcase season at the Studio Theatre are as follows:
- Tuesday 12th November 6:00 pm
- Thursday 14th November 7:00 pm
- Tuesday 19th November 7:00 pm
- Wednesday 20th November 7:00 pm
- Thursday 21st November 7:00 pm

Parents helping out will need to arrive about 45 minutes before show time to set up. Four parents are required for each night. Please email Denis on ddumlao@bigpond.net.au or give him a call on 0404 336 647 if there is any way you can help.

**FACULTY GRANTS**
The P&C has approved 10 grants totalling approximately $35,000 for non-creative arts faculties in the interests of fostering academic excellence at NHSPA. Grants for specific projects have been approved for the following faculties:
- English
- Science
- Maths
- HSIE
- Library
- Languages
- PDHPE
- Welfare
- Learning Centre
- TAS.

The grants will be administered via the school in the coming weeks or early in Term 1 of 2014, depending on each project’s timing. We look forward to receiving feedback on the value added to each faculty as a result of these grants.

**BUILDING SUB-COMMITTEE ASSISTANCE**
The Studio Theatre foyer work is almost complete and many thanks go to Terry Bail for his ongoing dedication to this project. However, there are many exciting new building projects in the pipeline and the P&C Building Sub-Committee is in urgent need of parents who can bring handyman/woman and small project management skills to the team. If you think you may have something to offer, message Terry at terry@archology.com.au, call him on 0425 324 688 or come along to our next P & C meeting on 19 November and introduce yourself.

**NHSPA School Website** - follow the link below:
http://web1.newtown-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/

The school website has a calendar and also links for the P&C, contacts, minutes etc.

**Parent Email Network (Google Groups)**
We encourage all parents to subscribe to our parent email network. This is a great way to receive information from the P&C and stay in touch with other parents (including getting questions answered and sharing information). To subscribe send a blank email to:

nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com

There is a Google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website.

**NHSPA Parents Contact Message Board**
Follow this link for posting requests and ads for second hand uniform, instruments and equipment etc. http://nhspasecondhand.proboards.com/index.cgi?
Year 9 Peer Support Camp

61 Year 9 students were selected to attend the annual Peer Support Training Camp which was held at the TOPS Conference Centre in Stanwell Park. This gave students an opportunity to learn about their own leadership skills and challenge themselves in adventure activities that pushed students out of their comfort zone.

All students behaved themselves in an exemplary manner. I was constantly told by workers, members of the public and presenters about the students positive attitude. It was very pleasing to see all students working together during the activities and supporting each other through the challenging tasks.

I would like to thank Mr Atkinson, Ms Reynolds and Mr Janusic who helped organise and run this successful camp.

Wheelchair Basketball Excursion

On the last day of Term 3 both 7A and 7H attended a wheelchair basketball match that was held between Australia and New Zealand. This was an excellent opportunity to take some of the new students out of the school to experience a unique sport and to have an understanding of athletes with disabilities. The students were very vocal in supporting the Australian team and cheered to every exciting clash when the players came together.

The year 7 students were supported by some year 10 students who also attended the event. It is great to see joint year groups come together to improve the bonds between students at Newtown. All students should be congratulated on their behaviour and representation of the school.

A big thank you must go to Mr Byrne and Ms Spirovksa who helped organise and run this exciting event for our students.

Adrian Shipp
Relieving Head Teacher of Welfare
Year 12 Music students have now completed their HSC practical and written examinations.

Congratulations also to the entire Year 12 group for their hard work throughout the year. It was great to see many students supporting Music Ensembles right throughout the year including the annual Prom Concert at the end of Term 3 in St Georges Hall.

The ‘Prom ‘ concert showcased large ensemble work as well as featuring composition and performance work from broad range of Year 12 students including Eamon Feeney, Olivia Arnold, Tom McKeever-Ford, Hayden Sip, Ben Schmiga, Milan Monk, Oliver Shermacher, Jack Midworth, Alex Jasprizza, Harriet Cronley, Georgia Melville, Thomas Edwards, Annabel Vici, Fabian Caley, Brenden James and Patrick Danao.

Other Musical achievements include Oliver Shermacher (Clarinet) and Milan Monk (Vibraphone) receiving Encore Nominations for Exemplary HSC Performances and Patrick Danao (Percussion) who has won a scholarship to the University of Adelaide ‘Elder Conservatorium of Music’ Jazz Department for 2014.

Congratulations also to Calum Newton Year 12 2013 (Guitar) who was the winner of this year's Triple J national ‘Unearthed’ competition. As part of his prize ‘San Sisco’ staged a Concert at St Georges Hall for the whole school featuring Calum’s band ‘Lunatics on Pogo Stickes’ as well as a performance.

Congratulations also to Hannah Robinson, Year 12 2013 who was a runner up in the Triple J ‘Unearthed Competition. Look out for Hannah’s performance at the Newtown Festival on Sunday 10th November.

The Newtown HSPA Sax Quartet, with students ranging from Year 8 to Year 10, performed for the annual Haematology Research Fundraiser at Concord Hospital. Newtown HSPA has been involved in supporting this very worthwhile charity for several years.

The ‘Junior Percussion Ensemble’ and ‘Year 10 Jazz Ensemble’ represented Newtown HSPA at the recent ‘Australis’ and ‘Bennelong’ Festivals held at the Sydney Opera House. Thanks to Chris Miller for organising and accompanying those groups over two nights.

Our ‘Summer Series’ will commence on the 12th November and continue until 6th December. This is a new construction of the second Semester concert series. Below is an outline of Dates and Ensembles and please note the different venues and starting times for each concert.
12th November 6 pm St Georges Hall
String Ensemble
Green Choir
Junior Choir
Year 7 Vocal Ensemble
Percussion WOMP

14th November 7pm St Georges Hall
Orchestra
Concert Band
Vocal Ensemble 8/9 Boyd
Vocal Ensemble 9/10 Condack
Vocal Ensemble Year 11 Dixon
Senior Percussion Ensemble
Sax Quartet
Selected Music 2, Year 10 Ext Soloists

21st November 7pm Studio Theatre
Showcase Elective Create your Own Musical
Year 11 Music 1 Soloists

Thursday 5th December 7:30 Seymour Centre
Symphonic Wind Ensemble
Jazz Orchestra
Junior Jazz Ensemble

Friday 6th December 7:30 pm Seymour Centre
Small Orchestra and Combined Choirs

Looking forward to a busy, creative and productive Term 4.

Gemma Thomas
Head Teacher Music
English at NHSPA

It gives me great pleasure to write my first Faculty News Article for the NHSPA Newsletter in my role as Head Teacher English at the school. Lots of exciting things have taken place during the first 4 weeks of this term! These highlights are a testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the staff and students at this school.

HSC English Examinations took place several weeks ago, and by all accounts, students have performed admirably. Examinations followed a rigorous program of revision that included holiday study sessions with English Teachers here at the school. I take this opportunity to publicly thank the English staff for giving up their holidays to assist students in their examination preparation. We anticipate some excellent HSC results in the coming weeks!

On the Debating front, our Year 7 team have achieved outstanding success! In week 2, they defeated Lucas Heights Community School in the Quarter Finals. They are now set to compete in the Semi-Finals against Caringbah High School later this term. The team of Ava Kalinauskas, Finn Koslowski, Esme Durkan and Maeve Ireland Jones have worked extremely hard, strengthening their ability to rebut, to form a convincing team-line, and structure a cohesive team argument. I thank Miss Leotta and Ms Hoddinott for coaching the team to success!

As I write this report, the new Year 12 are busily preparing for their first Assessment Task for the HSC course. They will be completing their Area of Study Speech in Week 10. Students are encouraged to begin preparing for this task now, ensuring that they find a suitable related text on Belonging!

Thank you to all for their commitment to English, and their support of the humanities here at the school.

Kirk Thomas
Head Teacher English
Dear Parents/Caregivers,

On Monday 9th of December 2013, Year 9 will have the opportunity to attend a one day 'Surf School' at Long Reef Beach on the Northern Beaches. The surf camp will enable students to develop knowledge and skills related to surf safety, surf education, surfboard riding and body boarding tailored to their individual ability.

Students will participate in a Sydney Surf School three hour surf education program. The program is supervised and instructed by qualified instructors allowing students to develop a new skill of surfboard riding and learn specific safety techniques within the surf and beach area. The program is run in conjunction with Surfing Australia’s Safe Surfing Program and the NSW Education Department Risk Assessment guidelines. Students will participate in 3 x 45 minute structured activities focusing on surf awareness, body surfing and surfboard riding.

Year 9 will travel to and from their venue by bus with their supervising teachers, leaving the school at 8.30am and returning to school by 3.00pm.

The cost of the excursion is $50 and students will get their notes early in Week 7 with all the details.

We hope to have another great day of learning and having fun,

Bran Lazendic
Head Teacher PDHPE & Sport
On August 18th 2013, the sun rose on another beautiful day in Sydney, as children woke with excitement, knowing that they were about to embark on a journey of a life time! It was snow season and a few lucky students from Newtown High School of the Performing Arts were about to start their week long adventure in the wonderland known as Thredbo.

The children arrived at school at 8am on the Sunday morning; their excitement grew when they saw they would be travelling on a double decker bus. Emotions were high and all around were children farewelling their parents with hugs and kisses. They clambered onto the buses and were eager to get on the road. The engine roared and so did the children as they said goodbye. The trip was long but after 7 hours and a few stops, they reached Jindabyne. Once they had gotten their ski hire and cabin rooms, the children settled in their rooms at Vika’s Ski lodge, as it felt like their new home. That night they snuggled into bed as they would soon wake to start their long week of skiing.

Despite the early awakening at 5:45am, everyone was eager to get down to the slopes! Vika’s offered a range of breakfast to fill their stomachs with the energy and nutrition needed for the day. As they came round the corner and into Thredbo, the children screamed with joy as they saw the snow fields. It was a vast, swirling wonderland of sparkling white pleasure. It filled their senses with cascading fluffy pillows of excitement and comfort, as they had never felt before. The students met their instructors in groups of their abilities. They started on the simple ‘Friday Flat’ and moved up the mountain throughout the week.

As the week went by, their skills increased, and so did the bruises on their bodies! The lessons were informative, the free skiing was fun, the food was delicious (but expensive) and friendships between years began to blossom. The beginners started going down mountains with confidence, and the advance students were accomplishing jumps and tricks. Snow fell throughout the week, and some student managed to fall and hurt themselves!

When the children realised that it was their last day skiing they were devastated, as they would have to wait another year to return to the wonderland, Thredbo. As they boarded the bus, their faces turned from glee to sorrow. The only thing they had to look forward to was the stop for dinner at McDonalds. When the bus finally arrived at McDonalds the children were happy for a moment as they knew cheeseburgers, apple pies and mc flurries were awaiting them. Miss Reynolds went against her healthy diet views and finally gave in and bought some dinner, in the hope that she would find a straw, she managed to spill all the straws in the straw dispenser onto the floor.

When the marvellous double-decker bus arrived in Newtown children sprung to life, they could not contain their happiness as they were reunited with their family and got to go home and have a well-earned, good night sleep in their own beds, dreaming about ski camp in the next year to come!

Stephanie Jaunzemis & Olivia Gordon
YEAR 9 STUDENTS