Minutes
6pm, August 14, 2012
Staff common room
Chair: Darren Mitchell

ATTENDANCE
Staff: Betty Romeo, Peter Shields, Brett Stone.
Apologies: Donna Huggart, Lyn Wise, Jenny Shay, Ross Moffatt, Michael Manuel, Mark Rolfe.

Welcome and introduction: Darren welcomed parents, the relieving principal, the deputy principal and relieving deputy principal.

Minutes of June's meeting accepted (Glenn Schofield and Kelly Burke).

MATTERS ARISING
The googlegroups address in the school's newsletter has been corrected. Kelly provided Katie with details of the department's next two training sessions in early September for parents wishing to participate in the school's merit selection panel. Katie will endeavour to attend one of these sessions.
Kelly sought clarification from Chris Wilkinson over whether the new workplace health and safety regulations affected parents volunteering at showcase evenings or faculty administration. Chris confirmed parents were covered for liability as long as they were performing duties which would not normally be carried out by a paid member of staff.
P & C membership now stands at 409. The school has a new student, whose father lives in Finland and has applied to become a P & C member. Darren will check with the P & C Federation to see if overseas memberships are acceptable.

CORRESPONDENCE
- Insurance renewal forms
- Information sheet from the DG of Education, Michele Bruniges on Local Schools, Local Decisions.
- Two P & C membership applications.
- Thank you letter and photos from Julie Beck, mother of Eve who received financial assistance from the P & C to travel to London with the NSW State Drama Company.
PRINCIPAL'S REPORT: Betty Romeo

- HSC: It is an important time for Year 12 students, with the HSC performance strand in Dance and Drama already underway and music soon to follow. Teachers and students are busy meeting deadlines. Major Works for Visual Arts, Extension English and Design and Technology are also due very soon.
- The goal-setting interviews for all year 9 and 10 students have been completed for the second semester.
- RUSH VISIT: The visit from Geoffrey Rush and the Young Australian of the Year, Marita Cheng, was an enormous success and made the front page of the Inner West Courier. Rush has sent a letter to the school thanking the principal for the warm welcome he received from students and staff. He described the visit as inspirational. "It was a true pleasure and a personally rewarding tonic," he wrote.
- NHSPA has been chosen as one of the 229 schools leading the way under the government's Empowering Local Schools initiative.

Annual School Report

Achievements: The 21st anniversary celebrations were a highlight of 2011. Other achievements of note included the Dance and Music tour of China, the Expanding Horizons concert in the Sydney Opera House, and students competing in sport, debating, public speaking, the Mock Trial and Tournament of the Minds.

NAPLAN: Year 7 performed above the state average in all areas tested - reading, writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation, numeracy. This reflects the high level of skills the students brought with them from their respective primary schools. Year 9 also consistently performed above the state average in writing, reading, grammar and punctuation, numeracy. Spelling is now being targeted in the English faculty.

School Certificate: 2011 marked the last year of the School Certificate. 58 per cent of students achieved a mark in the top two bands for English, compared to 30 per cent in the state. The pleasing upward trend in Maths was maintained. There were an increasing number of student reaching bands 4 and 5, but the school would still like to see more students attaining a band 6 mark. Teachers are concentrating on bringing band 5 maths students into band 6. Science performed impressively with 47 per cent in the top two bands, compared to 29 per cent in the state. In geography, 40 per cent of students were in the top two bands, compared to 20 per cent in the state. The value added by the school was huge in geography, and also high in history, science and English.

HSC: The 2011 results were the strongest for some time. Two students received Premier's Awards for achieving marks of more than 90 per cent in every subject. 82 students achieved a mark over 90 per cent in at least one subject, earning them a place on the distinguished achievers list. 63 students made the list the previous year. The school added value to all Year 12 students, whether they performed in low, middle or high bands.

Progress on Targets: To decrease partial truancy has decreased by 4 per cent. This target was not met. However, this is partly due to a higher rate of truancy detection by the school, which in the long term will hopefully bring the rate down. Restitution has not proved to be an effective strategy to prevent truancy, as many students failed to attend. The school has put into effect a new system where year advisors meet with students.
students and discuss the issues surrounding their behaviour. If considered necessary, the HT Welfare and deputy principal may become involved and contact parents to discuss the problem. Reducing truancy will remain a target for the school.

Personal Bests: For the HSC, the school focused on high achievers and worked with them, using mentor teachers to negotiate learning plans with the students. The current target for years 9 and 10 is 50 per cent of students achieving a mark of A or B in each subject, to achieve their PB.

The school has implemented a new feedback policy starting with years 11 and 12. Research has shown a close correlation between the quality of feedback given to a student and their future results.

The 2012 NAPLAN results will be out in September. The school will target students whose results suggest they require further support.

Priority Areas: Creativity: The school is always seeking opportunities to showcase creativity in the performing and visual arts. The school is looking and different ways to display work, including online and through lunchtime performances and exhibitions.

Currently there are 1521 performing and creative arts subject places taken by students, and the school aims to increase this to 1597. All students must study at least one performing/creative arts subject but the school is encouraging students to elect two.

The school will look more creative with the addition of murals and the completion of the Studio Theatre foyer refurbishment.

Equity: All students are included and engaged and have increased the level of literacy and numeracy.

The school hopes to increase the number of students on individual learning plans by 50 per cent.

Pastoral care: The pastoral care program is being reviewed this term.

Peer tutoring: There is scope to extend the current after school study program, which connects Year 7 students with Year 10. There is a possibility of adding a lunchtime peer tutoring program.

ENVIRONMENT REPORT: John Caley

The Working Bee will be held next Saturday, with weeding mulching and painting the iron fence facing King Street the priority jobs. Jenni will arrange morning tea. John will put the message out on google groups. Access arrangements to be advised. All parents must sign on for insurance purposes.

PRESIDENTS REPORT: Darren Mitchell

Foyer: The P & C will discuss with the school the possibility of using one of the next showcase evenings to hold a formal launch of the new foyer. It would be ideal if the night chosen coincided with the hospitality students input.

Volunteer grant: The P & C executive discussed what the $4050 volunteer grant could be used for. Outdoor furniture for the Newman Street frontage of the Studio Theatre has been costed at $2300. A microwave, first aid kit and television in the foyer were also suggested along with new gardening equipment for the environment team.

Year 12 cake: Each year it is a tradition the P & C pays for a farewell cake for Year 12. The cost is usually about $1000.

HODs meeting: Darren and Michael SM will attend a meeting with the performing arts heads of departments, the acting principal, and the school’s patron, head of NIDA Lynne Williams on September 4.

National Arts Curriculum: The draft document for a national arts curriculum is open for public discussion. The school will forward its submission to ACARA. The P & C will discuss making its own submission at the next executive meeting.

Presentation Day: Date to be confirmed. It is hoped Lynne Williams will be able to attend this year.
BUILDING REPORT: Terry Bail
Work still to be done includes repairing the ceiling, gyprocking, repainting the foyer and entrance to the toilet area, weatherproofing the stairwell and installing a curtain to the area, and work to the benchtop.
Terry will forward the plans to Kelly to put on the school’s website and also get a costing for new lights.
Most of the work has been carried out off-site to avoid disturbing students, with on-site work to recommence in the September school holidays.
The executive could discuss the school co-contributing to the cost of new foyer furniture at the next meeting with the principal.
Many thanks to Terry for the enormous amount of pro bono work he has done.

FACULTY REPORT: Kelly Burke
No teachers have taken up the offer of administration assistance. Kelly will discuss at the next executive meeting with the principal.

PERFORMING ARTS REPORT
Darren and Michael SM will be attending the HODs meeting on September 4 and report back at the next P & C meeting on September 11.

GENERAL BUSINESS
The department has reconfirmed the new boundaries for school enrolment will apply from next year.
It is understood that the ombudsman is inquiring into the public consultation process the department undertook, at the request of a parents’ group in the area, but this does not involve the P & C.

Meeting close: 7pm
Next meeting: Tuesday, September 11, 6pm.