Principal’s Report

The last month continues to be particularly busy for everyone at the school. Showcase concerts, Presentation Day, two Orientation Days, reports, Year 7 swim school, HSC assessment tasks, and School Certificate presentations are just some of the activities occurring in the school.

Showcase

Once again it has been a real pleasure to experience the outstanding talents of our students. The series culminated this week with our 20th Anniversary Finale at the Seymour Centre which was an opportunity to celebrate a fabulous year of performance. It has been great to see so many of you attend this season and I know you support me in thanking and congratulating all involved.

Schools Spectacular

Last week, I had the great fortune to attend this year’s Schools Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre. Once again, I was in awe of the talents of all of the students involved. I was particularly impressed by the level of sophistication shown in the performances of our dance, music and drama students. It is no coincidence that many of these outstanding segments were directed, devised and/or choreographed by our talented staff. Well done to all involved.

Presentation Day

Presentation Day will be held next Thursday 9th December at the Seymour Centre and will be a wonderful opportunity to celebrate individual and school achievements from 2010. Many thanks to the team of staff who formed this year’s organising committee and I look forward to seeing you there.

Orientation Days

We also take the opportunity this month to welcome our new students for 2011 and their families at two Orientation Days. On Friday 3rd December our new Year 11 students join us, followed by the new Year 7 on Tuesday 7th. Again, these events are successful because of the support of the staff and P&C volunteers.

School Certificate

School Certificates will be distributed to all Year 10 students on Friday 10th December in a small presentation (students only) in the school library. I look forward to sharing with you some outstanding results in the first newsletter of 2011.

21st Anniversary Year

2011 is a year of celebration as we mark 21 years of outstanding public education at Newtown High School of the Performing Arts. A number of events will be held throughout the year to mark the occasion. The first of which will be held on Friday 4th March. This informal event will be an opportunity to celebrate, in a fair-like atmosphere, with student performances and numerous stalls and fun activities. We will provide more information to you early next year.

Finally, as the year comes to a close, I thank you again for the way you have supported me and the school this year. I continue to be amazed by the talents and commitment of students, teachers and parents and feel very privileged to lead such a school.

I wish you all an enjoyable and relaxing holiday season and look forward to working with you in 2011.

Stephen Gray
Principal

A reminder that school resumes for Years 7, 11 and 12 on Monday 31 January, and Years 8, 9 and 10 on Tuesday 1 February.
It's the last month of 2010 already and the school continues along its busy course until 17th December. Our Showcase season culminates with a Dance Showcase and a Mixed Showcase Finale Concert at the Seymour Centre on 30th November and 1st December. The entire Showcase season, extending over the last four weeks has been highly entertaining with very professional performances and I am looking forward to the final two performances. I extend my congratulations to our student performers, the technical production team, staff and parent volunteers for their contributions in making our concerts such a success.

Year 11 will be busy studying for several assessments scheduled for 10th to 15th December.

Year 10 will finish their junior schooling on 10th December when they receive the School Certificate. Students are expected to attend until that date and are currently working on skills that will prepare them for the senior school. Part of their work involves completing a mandatory set of modules from the Board of Studies titled 'All My Own Work'. The students intending to study the HSC Preliminary have selected their courses for 2011. Our new students starting next year will attend an Orientation Day on 3rd December where information about the school and their course pattern of study will be distributed. Years 8 and 9 2011 have also chosen their electives and most students will study the electives of first choice. In some cases, students have been advised to choose again as some elective classes either did not run or the class size had reached maximum. Any written request for a change to your child’s pattern of study will be considered in the first few weeks of 2011.

The Year 7 Orientation Day will be held on 7th December where the Student Advisers Adrian Shipp and Diane Aynsley will be introduced. They have organised the day to inform our new Year 7 students of school organisation.

The annual Presentation day will be at the Seymour Centre on 9th December to celebrate the achievements of our wonderful students.

Finally, I would like to wish all members of our school community a safe, relaxing holiday and look forward to working with you again in 2011.

Peter Shields
Deputy Principal

The 2010 school year is very quickly drawing to a close, as too is our semester 2 showcase program. Again the quality and standard of each of the evening performances has been outstanding. I would like to recognise the commitment and professionalism of our performing arts staff, who continue to work so tirelessly at this time of year to ensure our students, have such performance opportunities. The highlight for me from this season was the production of 'Blackrock', directed by Ned Manning and performed so brilliantly by Year 11 students on the magnificent stage in St Georges Hall. I would like to thank him for the work he put into staging such a wonderful piece of theatre for our community to enjoy.

I would like to also recognise and thank our P&C who offer continued support during the showcase season by running the front of house and to Ms Diane Aynsley and her Year 9 Showcase Hospitality students who provided quality catering and service on two occasions throughout this season. I am now looking forward to our Seymour Centre concerts commencing with the Dance concert on Tuesday 30th November and the 20th Anniversary concert following on Wednesday 1st December. Both of these nights will be a wonderful conclusion to our performing arts calendar year.

The end of term 4 is also our semester 2 reporting period. Year 11 have already been issued with their preliminary course reports on Wednesday 10th November. The Years 7-9 reports will be sent home to parents by the end of term late in week 10. All junior report subjects are graded from A-E with individual teacher comments for each subject. If parents/carers have any questions regarding the reports please contact the Head Teacher responsible for that subject for clarification.

Year 9 will also reconnect with their focus groups that were formed at the end of the semester 1 reporting period to review the goals and targets that were set at that time. Their reports will be discussed on Wednesday 8th December and the running order for these interviews will be communicated to the students shortly. It is hoped that many of the goals set by the students will be realised in their yearly reports.

The Year 10 reports and School Certificate documentation will be issued to the students on their official last day of school Friday 10th December. We are looking forward to receiving
some outstanding results from this cohort. To the Year 10 students who are not returning back next year, I would like to take this opportunity to officially farewell you and wish you good luck with all your future endeavours.

During Week 8 we had the opportunity to welcome to the school our new intake of audition students for Year 11 2011 and our entire Year 7 cohort for 2011 over the two Orientation Days. 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 you all to our vibrant school. Each year our school community anxiously awaits the arrival of our new students who always reenergise our school with a new influx of creative energy and enthusiasm. We welcome you all and look forward to getting to know you in the New Year.

The last week of term 4 is also an assessment week for our Year 11 students. Year 11 have made their transition into the HSC course and over the last few weeks of this term many students have faced first assessment tasks for their HSC courses. Year 11 are not expected to be at school during Week 10, however all students must familiarise themselves with the timetable for assessments and ensure that they arrive at school in time for each of their scheduled tasks in full school uniform. I have been very impressed with how seriously most of the Year 11 students have taken their first assessment tasks and their preparation for the upcoming assessment week. I would like to see this momentum continue into the New Year and I am confident that this group of senior students will continue to excel and make us all very proud.

Presentation Day is one of the final whole school events for 2010. This will be held at the Seymour Centre on Thursday 9th December. I am looking forward to formally celebrating the achievements to the 2010 academic year. I would also like to recognise the work of the Presentation Day team under the leadership of Ula George and David Cole, who have been very busy preparing and organising this special school event.

The last day of school for students is Wednesday 15th December, as the staff will be participating in two school development days on Thursday 16th December and Friday 17th December. Finally I would like to wish our school community a very happy and safe festive season and relaxing break. I am looking forward to working with you all again in the New Year for the 2011 school year.

Betty Romeo
Deputy Principal

DANCE DEPARTMENT

Term 4 has been an extremely busy and successful one for both staff and students of the Dance Department. Our staff and students were once again heavily involved in the Schools Spectacular and I congratulate the students on their outstanding behaviour and performances, they really were great ambassadors for our school.

Some of our Technical Company students were also involved as Alley Stage Crew for the Schools Spectacular and they too worked extremely well and found it to be a rewarding experience.

Showcase at the Seymour Centre concluded our Performance season for 2010 and yet again our students performed brilliantly. I thank them for their dedication, hard work and commitment to their Company and Ensembles.

Congratulations must also be extended to our Year 12 students of 2010. We have received 34 nominations for Callback, which showcases exemplary work from the HSC.

A reminder now to all to ensure that all fees—Company/Ensemble membership, Costume levy (for showcase and schools spectacular) and Co-curricular Ballet fees have been paid. Could all students please return all costumes if not done so already.

2011 will see the return of Leisa Munns and Louise Roumanos to the Dance Department and I will not be returning, as I will be on Maternity Leave.

We wish you all a Happy and Safe Holiday Season and look forward to another busy and successful year ahead.

Alison McKellar
and the Dance Department
P&C News

P&C Renewal and Opportunity
For many P&C executive members and helpers, 2010 will see their children depart NHSPA. Therefore we are inviting other interested parents to take the opportunity to get a closer look at how this amazing school ticks, contribute to the school community and enhance your own NHSPA experience. The AGM is in March 2011 when executive positions will be filled. If you would like to know more then please contact Donna Huggart (P&C Vice President) on 041 631 755 or donna_huggart@hotmail.com

2011 P&C Voluntary Fundraising Contribution (VFC):
Payment of the VFC for next year will be part of the general payment of fees at the start of the year. So the VRC will appear on the fee sheet you receive for your child. The suggested amount for 2011 is $250 per family. So if you have more than one child at the school you just make one payment on one fee sheet. The VFC is tax deductible.

Spending priorities for VFC funds next year will be continuing support of Master Classes for Dance, Music, Drama, Visual Arts and Technical Company. Plus upgrading of the Studio Theatre Foyer. The P&C looks forward to increased support from NHSPA families in 2011.

1st P&C Meeting in 2011
Tuesday 15th February, 6pm in the Staff Common Room. Normally P&C meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month but due to the later commencement of Term 1 we will move the first meeting of the year to the 3rd Tuesday to give everyone a little extra time to settle in.

Semester 2 Showcase
Thank you to all those parents who volunteered to be on the roster and baked goodies for Showcase Front of House. Big thanks to Bettina Pearson for her efficient coordination of the roster and keeping up the supply of drinks etc.

The P&C also sends sincere congratulations and thanks to the teachers and students involved in bringing wonderful performances to the audience night after night during the Showcase season. It’s so exciting to see the great dedication, collaboration and passion from the performers, directors, design and technical support and those working in other capacities behind the scenes. Well done to all.

Helpers for 21st Anniversary Celebration
On Friday 4th March 2011, the school community will hold an event to celebrate NHSPA’s 21st Anniversary. This will replace the World Earth Festival previously held around this time. The P&C Welcome BBQ for new families will also be held later the same day. So again the P&C will need the help of parents leading up to the event and on the day to help coordinate the BBQ, Juice stall, other food stalls and the sale of tokens. Please email Donna Huggart if you will be able to help at donna_huggart@hotmail.com.

Subscribe to Google Groups
Subscribe to our parent email network by sending an email to:
   nhspa+subscribe@googlegroups.com
There is a google groups fact sheet on the P&C page of the school website or for other queries please contact Edi Condcack (econdack@iinet.net.au).
From The Head Teacher Welfare

PD/H/PE:
Our annual Year 7 swim school will be held in the last three days of school, Monday 14th to Wednesday 16th December at Victoria Park pool (please note change of venue from Enmore pool). The following skills will be included in the program: resuscitation, stroke correction and survival skills. All students need to bring: swimmers, towel, sun protection, lunch and hydration; and they must be at school by 8.50am and in full PE uniform. Permission notes need to be returned asap to the PE Dept and we look forward to all Year 7 students participating, as this is always an extremely worthwhile event. A big thankyou to the following teachers who will be supervising: Ms Bivona (who has organised the whole event as well), Mr Lazendic, Mr Connery, Mrs Cormack-Parker, Ms Ellis, Mr Atkinson, Mr Woolley, Mr Shipp, Ms Chouchair and Mr McSullea.

Learning Support:
Mr Benson and Ms Willoughby will be leaving the Learning Support team after nearly five years. I would like to thank them both very much for all the hard work, dedication and commitment to improving the achievement of our students that they have shown over the years. They will both be greatly missed. A special mention to Mr Benson for all his input into running Special Provisions so efficiently and effectively in that time. We welcome Mr Woolley as the Support Teacher-Learning Assistance as of next year. He and Mr Benson have already been working on the transition of our new Year 7 students with the analysis of STEMS (provided by primary schools) and SMART (Literacy & Numeracy results and progress) statistical data. These are diagnostic tools for teachers, which incorporate value added data to give a more holistic view of the student. This information helps us to ascertain the learning support needs to 2011.

Welfare:
The Peer Support Leadership Training Day was facilitated by Mr Sloane last week, with the 40 students selected recently on the camp in attendance. The program addressed the following areas: What peer support means and how it works, leadership styles, facilitation, instruction giving, group management and planning peer support lessons; finishing with a discussion and evaluation session. Our leaders for 2011 certainly rose to the challenges presented to them across the course of the day and will make excellent leaders for our new Year 7 students. A big thankyou to Mr Sloane for all his input and dedication to the training of the students.

The current and outgoing Year 10 Peer Support Leaders were issued with their Participation/Leadership Certificates at a Year 7 meeting last week. It was also an opportunity for the leaders and their Year 7 groups to get together one last time to say thanks and farewell. This group of Year 10 leaders did a great job across the course of 2010 and many will continue to lead the school community into the future in different capacities. Well done!

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members of our school community a safe and happy holiday season.

Ms Wilkinson

Disclaimer
The school accepts no responsibility with regard to advertisements placed in the Newsletter
ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Peter Skrzynecki Visit

Students studying the poetry of Peter Skrzynecki for the 2011 HSC were privileged to hear him discussing his life and poetry recently in the library.

Peter gave the students rare insights into the prescribed poetry and made many useful comments into the Area of Study Belonging. It was pleasing to see the students busily taking notes and engaging with their work. The students deserve congratulations for their diligence.

Assessment for 2011 HSC

The content of the above talk will be very useful for the students as they prepare for their oral assessment task in Weeks 9 and 10. Students have been asked to discuss a quote and relate it to their prescribed text and their self selected texts. The set texts include the film Strictly Ballroom, the non fiction Romulus, My Father and the Skrzynecki poems. Best wishes to all students as they prepare for this important assessment.

Texts Needed

It would be appreciated if parents could assist their children to return any texts issued from the English Faculty. We understand that some of our books may get buried and misplaced in your home ... If you find them, could you please return them to us.

Staff Changes

2011 will see some changes to the English staff; Ms Ellis is taking 12 months leave and we wish her all the very best and look forward to her return in 2010. Her place will be shared by Ms Butterworth and Ms Haesch. We warmly welcome Ms Haesch to the faculty. Mr Benson, who has been an integral member of our faculty for many years is moving up to Drama and we thank him for his hard work in English. Ms Gledhill will return from leave and we thank Ms Finsterer for her work this term. Ms Hoddinott will not be teaching any English in 2011 and we also thank her for her work in recent years. English will welcome a new appointment to the school but as yet his/her details are not known.

Holiday Wishes

Finally we wish all members of the school’s community a very safe and restful summer break. We thank you for your support over the course of 2010 and look forward to again working with your children at this very fine school in 2011.

Michael Fischer
Head Teacher English