FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents and Friends,

Presentation Day

Our annual Presentation Day is on Wednesday 14 December in the school hall commencing at 9.30am. All parents are welcome to attend this function.

New Student Leaders

Our student leadership teams for 2012 have recently been finalised. Congratulations to all of our new student leaders. We look forward to working with them over the next 12 months.

2012 Prefects

Rohan Rathod – Captain
Charles Leu – Vice Captain
Nirvan Gelda – Senior Prefect
Jialu Xu – Senior Prefect
Adam Aarons
Armaan Ansari
Daniel Cao
Timothy Chau
Hudson Digby
James Every
Tyler Heesh
Andy Kong
Richard Kong
Matthew Lam
David Li
Treves Li
Raymond Lin
Simon Luk
Artem Paoutov
Mitchell Proctor
Gavin Tam
Brindhan Tharmarajah
Jonathan Yap
Terence Zhu

Summary of Calendar Events in Term 4, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Thu 27 Oct</td>
<td>Falcon Sport Meeting (AGM) 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 28 Oct</td>
<td>Falcon Sport BBQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Fri 4 Nov</td>
<td>Multi Day - Cancer Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>High Resolve Leadership Summit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>9-11 Nov</td>
<td>Year 7 Yearly Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7-10 Nov</td>
<td>Year 10 School Certificate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 9 Nov</td>
<td>Falcon Foundation Meeting 6:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>14-18 Nov</td>
<td>Year 8&amp;9 Yearly Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 10 Work Experience</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tue 15 Nov</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting (AGM) 7:30pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 16 Nov</td>
<td>Auxiliary Meeting (AGM) 9:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mon 21 Nov</td>
<td>School Council Meeting (AGM) 6pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tue 22 Nov</td>
<td>Year 8 ESSA Online Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>23 &amp; 24 Nov</td>
<td>Enrolment Day for Year 7 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 25 Nov</td>
<td>High Resolves Year 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>28 Nov-2 Dec</td>
<td>Year 10 Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Mon 5 Dec</td>
<td>Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 6 Dec</td>
<td>&quot;John Treloar&quot; Gym Dedication</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8 &amp; 9 Dec</td>
<td>Year 12 Study Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Mon 12 Dec</td>
<td>Student Leadership Conference</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wed 14 Dec</td>
<td>Presentation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thu 15 Dec</td>
<td>Class of 2011 Morning tea 11:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fri 16 Dec</td>
<td>Last day of term for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary of Calendar Events in Term 1, 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Fri 27 Jan</td>
<td>Staff Development Day (no students)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Mon 30 Jan</td>
<td>Year 11&amp;12 return 8:50am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 commences 11:30am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tues 31 Jan</td>
<td>Year 8, 9 &amp; 10 return 8:50am</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Our student leadership conference is scheduled for 12 December and will be an all day program. The Charities Committee, Prefects, SRC and the Environment Team will all be represented at the conference to learn about leadership and to conduct strategic planning for the following 12 months.

Crawford Shield 2012

Vern Jackson and his Crawford Shield Steering Committee are working enthusiastically on an organised assault on our southern neighbours from the southern state. Lunchtimes on Thursdays will be extended for team preparation.

2012 is our turn to host the Crawford Shield. We will host up to 100 students and 10 staff from Melbourne High School for four days in late March. We will compete in 12 competitions: tennis, debating, chess, water polo, lawn bowls, table tennis, cricket, basketball, futsal (indoor soccer), athletics, fencing and music.

Parents or Old Boys who can offer expertise in any of these activities would be welcome. Please contact Vern Jackson in the TAS faculty if you can provide any assistance with our preparation.

Students who will be using school facilities later in the day after the end of school are not permitted to remain on the school premises unsupervised. Students are expected to return to school at the time of their meetings. This is particularly the case with the use of the school gymnasium. Students cannot be allowed to play in the gym without a supervising teacher or coach present.

Congratulations

I was very proud to see our school captain, Michael Stocks, have his letter (in support of public schools) to the editor of the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH), published on 28 July. Michael subsequently was contacted by SMH to write an article, which was published in the Weekend Edition of the paper on 17 September. You can read the letter and Michael’s article at the end of this newsletter.

The school’s entry in the 2011 Enviro Inspiro Awards, ‘Biodiversity In Your School’, won a commendation award. Congratulations to teacher, Tanya Hofler, student project leader, Nirvan Gelda, and the team.
Michael Stocks, Year 12, has won the Future Leaders Photography Prize 2011 with this image:

Anandisivam, Matthew Gibbs and Kevin Hu also competed at the State CHS Athletics Carnival in the 100m relay, 14 years.

Edward Lee attended the 2011 Learning for Sustainability Awards of Excellence, representing the school and the NSW SRC. The event was held at the Nirimba Education Precinct on Monday 22 August.

Edward Chang, Elijah Huang and Jason Xiang came 3rd in the Aurecon Bridge Building Competition. Their achievement earned $500 prize for the school.

Oscar Wang was booked to play Chopin’s Nocturne Op. 27, No.2 on Sunday, 14 August 2011 at the Art Gallery of NSW.

The U/18 Norths Basketball Representative Team with Harrison Chen, Year 10, in the team has continued their marvellous record by winning the 2011 NSW Junior State Cup and becoming the 2011 NSW State Junior U/18 champions. The tournament was held in Tamworth from 13 to 14 August 2011. This is a fantastic result for the team as the team also won the Sydney Junior Championship.

Kevin Song from class 7R, achieved another Bronze medal at the 2011 NSW State Age Short Course Championships, 100m Breaststroke on 12-14 August.

Michael Stocks and Max Rigby, School Captain and Vice Captain, were recently invited by Joe Hockey, Shadow Treasurer and Member for North Sydney and Gladys Berijiklian, Minister for Transport and Member for Willoughby, to attend the North Sydney Student Leaders’ Lunch at Parliament House.

The following Year 11 students performed well in the 2010 Australian Mathematics competition: Vinay Halasagi, Jason Lay-Kennedy, Alexander Tong, Chris Tse, Aidan Wong and Andrew Ye. As a result these students will be considered for the National Mathematics Summer School, which will be held in January 2012 at the Australian National University in Canberra.

Adam Aarons, Amartya Bose, Crishna Kumar and Ben Lyon qualified for the CHS State Athletics Carnival in the 17 years relay. Osborne Cai, Bala

2011 NSW State Age Short Course Championships
12-14 August 2011

Tyler Heesh, Year 11, Christopher Fung, Jonathan Lee and Edward Lee, Year 10, and Jacob Masina, Year 9, represented the school at the Northern Sydney Region SRC Conference on 23 August.
Hudson Digby, Year 11, will represent the school at the New South Wales schools state constitutional convention, to be held on 14 November at New South Wales Parliament House.

Ben Siriprayook, Year 9, received a Highly Commended in 2011 Minister’s Award for Excellence in Student Achievement - Community Languages Schools- for his commitment to the study of Thai.

In the UNSW 50th Annual School Mathematics Competition the following results were outstanding: Senior Division, High Distinction, Jason Lay-Kennedy; Distinction, Anthony Chan, Roland Dai, Gavin Tam and Kevin Zhuo; Credit Certificate, Carlin Jiang, Jeffrey Lee, Hubert Wan, Aidan Wong, Adrian Yiu. Junior Division, High Distinction, Tim Huang, Leslie Lay-Kennedy; Credit Certificate, Nelson Chen, Allan Chen, Mehul Gajwani, David Wong and Albert Zhou.

Justin Lee, Year 7, was selected for the NSW team which competed at the Val Nesbitt Trophy and the Australian Under 15 National Badminton Championships in Perth WA during the October holidays. Justin represented NSW in January at the Under 13 Interstate Series in Melbourne where he won the championship.

Amogh Sarda, Year 12, received a $3000 scholarship to attend the Professor Harry Messel Science School in July, held at the University of Sydney, Physics department.

Matthew Hill, Year 11, was selected for the NSW Orienteering Team which competed in the 2011 Australian School Orienteering Championships in areas of Victoria, NSW and ACT during the first week of October.

Tom Craig, Year 10, competed in the National All Schools Hockey competition where NSW came 2nd, losing to Queensland in a close final. Tom had a great tournament and has again been selected for the Australian Schoolboys team (Vice-Captain) which will tour Europe in March 2012.

William Yang, Year 11, has qualified for the NSW CHS Boys Tennis State Carnival at Grafton on 25 - 27 October.

David Gardiner, Year 9, competed in the Combined High Schools State Athletics Championships on Saturday 10 September, representing Sydney North region in the 15 Boys 1500m. David placed a very creditable 5th in a field of 14. NSBHS also had two relay teams competing at the Championships.

Jacob Masina, Year 9, is a silver medallist, in the Language Perfect World Championships 2011. Jacob answered 5,264 questions in French and was ranked in the top 5% in the competition.

William Ko, Year 9, attended the Australian Open Robocup Competition during the September/October holidays, which was held at the University of Tasmania, Hobart. William came 2nd in the national competition, Rescue division, and was awarded Best Rescue of the competition.

Brian Heo, Class of 2011, has been nominated for Encore, for his HSC Drama performance.

Doug Emery, Class of 2010, as a member of the Sydney Youth Orchestra recently performed with opera star, Teddy Tahu Rhodes. Refer to newspaper article at the end of this bulletin.

The following students achieved the NSW/ACT top score in ICAS Mathematics this year: Otto Zhang, Year 8, Jason Xiang, Year 9, David Gardiner, Year 9, Anton Bychov, Year 9 and Allen Chen, Year 10. Their achievements will be recognised at a medal presentation to be held at the University of New South Wales in November.

Kaj Bollerup and Michael Brereton of Year 7 did outstandingly in the national bouldering competition in October; both boys worked incredibly hard. Kaj came 4th and Michael 5th in their age group.

Robyn Hughes

FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPALS

The Class of 2011

Thank you to all the current Year 12 parents and families who attended the Graduation Ceremony and Dinner at the end of Term 3. They were memorable and wonderful events for students, staff and parents. A special thanks to Joy Henderson (Year 11 adviser) and her team of Year 11 parents.
and students for the excellent organisation of the Graduation Dinner.

I have personally learnt a lot from teaching such a diverse, witty and dynamic group of students over the past years. I also feel privileged to have been the Deputy in charge of such an amazing year. I wish the boys the best during the period of their examinations and I hope that they successfully matriculate to the university and course of their choice.

Preparing for Senior Studies

As students approach the senior years, they are expected to start taking more responsibility for their own learning. For many students part of this is a realisation that they need to do their schoolwork for their own sake, to keep options open for their own future – so they start to work for themselves, not just because their teacher or parent says they have to. Other students come to realize that in order to cope with the increased workload in the senior years, they need to work more efficiently at home and in the classroom, small changes like changing who they sit next to can make a big difference to how much work is completed in class.

So for the Year 10 students, the final term this year is important in taking stock of your approach to school and your studies. Do you work well in the classroom? Who do you sit next to? What are your listening and research skills like? Do you have systems in place to manage your homework and assignments? Do you know how to study effectively and have you tried different study techniques?

It seems many students think they will wake up on day 1 of their senior studies and suddenly become a ‘super student’ overnight. This does not happen! Habits take at least a month to change – sometimes longer if they are deeply ingrained.

I advise the Year 10 students to use the last term of school this year to:

• Reflect on how you approach your studies. What do you do well, and what do you need to work on changing? Perhaps choose the top 5 areas to work on and write these on a card and place it somewhere at home where you will see it regularly and be reminded.

• Complete as many units as you can of www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. This site can help you work out where your areas of weakness are and teach you new skills to try in these areas.

• Don’t forget the additional units on the For Students’ tab. In particular, ‘Becoming a Senior Student: Entering Year 11’. This month there is an online Self-Evaluation Quiz, 43 questions that will give you a score and let you know how ready you are for senior studies! This is also a great way to work out where your weaknesses lie.

Our school’s subscription details to www.studyskillshandbook.com.au are:

user name: nsbhs
password: 130results

Coaching for Young Leaders

During 2011, North Sydney Boys High School has had 9 students involved in the Max Potential program sponsored by Norths Sydney Leagues Club, assisted by Paynter Dixon, IGT and ClubsNSW. This is a leadership development program for Year 10 and 11 students from North Sydney Boys High School, North Sydney Girls High School and Bradfield College. Additionally students attending St Aloysius College, Monte St Angelo and North Sydney TAFE have joined the group either through their church group or individually.

Each participating student was paired with a manager or director from one of the sponsors who became their personal coach over a 22 week period. The coaches guided their students as they learnt about 10 MAXIMISERS principles and how to apply them in their daily life. They then applied the principles in different ways, culminating in each student undertaking a community service project over the second half of the program.

An early highlight of the program was the collection of Creative Expressions prepared by the students to summarise their understanding of the MAXIMISERS principles.

The program first prepares young adults for leadership by giving them skills and experience in setting and achieving goals across all aspects of their own lives. It shows the importance of personal leadership and that we are not use to anyone else as a leader until we can exercise leadership in our own lives. By focusing on all aspects of life, the program also showed the importance of balance if one is to achieve authentic success.

By coaching the students through their community service project, the program also exposed participants to positional leadership – leading and coordinating the work of others – at the same time as highlighting the importance of community and community service as part of good citizenship.
At this school we were able to combine some of the projects to form a program to assist junior students at the school. The following students carried out projects aimed at helping junior students at the school in various ways (click on their names for more information):

**Ayush Singh** - Introduction to sporting fun to promote healthy activities for Year 7 students

**Jonathan Lee** - Introducing & promoting SRC and other leadership activities at the school

**Jonathan Tan** - Targeted academic tutoring for Year 7 students

**Michael Liu** - Personal leadership development workshop for Year 7s & 8s

**Nicolas Wales** - Introduction to climbing for sport and fun for Year 7 students

Other projects were:

**Firmin Li** - Built a computer for a child care centre from donated components

**Edward Lee** - Aged care facility visiting program

**Carlin Ngai** - Organising leisure activities in an aged care facility

**Wilson Leung** - Introducing children in a child care facility to music

It was inspiring to attend a final “Showcase” on Friday 21 October where the Personal Leadership Outcomes were publicly celebrated.

Media releases and newspaper articles about the program can be found at the end of this bulletin.

**George Rezcallah - Deputy Principal**

What a great time it has been since the last report. We have had some fantastic assemblies, I have been able to clean out major parts of the school and the uniform revision project is starting to look as if it will be completed before the start of next year.

The Prefect and SRC Investiture and the Graduation Assembly were a great success. I look forward to working with the new prefects and SRC in the coming months. The Student Leadership Conference has been scheduled for 12 December 2011. This is the opportunity for the student leadership team to plan the next 12 months and start working towards some of their goals.

The Year 12 of 2011 was farewelled in great ceremony at the Graduation Assembly. This year’s Year 12 is a fantastic group of young men; they have been a pleasure to have at school. They leave behind a great legacy, which is “study hard and enjoy the ride”. They have been a student body that has enjoyed all aspects of school life and I wish them well in the future.

Yet again I had a great time at the end of term cleaning up around the school. This time the new prefects were my labour force and they worked ever so hard. Ms Moulton, Mr Weiss and Ms Ee worked tirelessly to clean out under the stage in the hall. There were many old props that needed to be removed and many that needed to be rescued. This means with the school holding the musical next year we can access all the old props if we need to use them again.

The prefects and Mr Barraclough also built a new sandstone wall at the front of the school next to the Principal’s Lawn:

The school congratulates the Max Potential participants and expresses its appreciation to Norths, IGT, Paynter Dixon and ClubsNSW for their sponsorship.
This meant that we could level the Principal’s Lawn and sow new grass. The prefects did such a good job that they may be employed to build the new school library. We still have some work to do around the school but that can wait till the end of this term. You will notice, however, that the school has started to change colour, because we have started to paint the school a dark grey. This has given the school a lift, making the school fresh for the ceremonies of 2012.

Finally the new uniform looks like it is ready to go for next year. Some minor adjustments need to be made to the policy and I will be speaking to the P&C about this on 18 October. The Auxiliary has developed a new school summer shirt that does not need to be tucked in and a new jacket for the junior students to wear in cold weather.

This will probably be my final Falcon Bulletin Report as the Relieving Deputy Principal, so it is time for me to thank a few people. Firstly, Mrs Hughes and Mr Rezcallah for their guidance and help through a steep learning curve. Secondly, the staff for their help in many tasks that I have given them. And finally, the students, for without them the school would not be the same place. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with the whole school community; this is a school that continually amazes me in what we can all achieve.

Andrew Mitchell - Relieving Deputy Principal

---

Parents’ & Citizens’ Association meetings were held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month during Term 3. In these meetings the Principal presented a report on major school activities. Guest speakers were invited from school or outside to address the parents. Other issues discussed were Treasurer’s Report, funding requests from school, allocation of funds from parent contributions, Falcon Sport and more.

In Term 3, the guest speakers were from the Information Technology faculty of NSBHS. In the August meeting Ms Donna Machado discussed cyber bullying, using FaceBook securely, and the positive & negative aspects of social media. In the September meeting Mr Yugen Pillay discussed the school intranet and the facilities it has available to the staff and students, library and printing facilities, and the launch of new school website.

The P&C Association organised the P&C Working Bee garden clean up day on 30 July. Though only 14 parents attended, it was a very successful day as parent volunteers efficiently weeded, trimmed, pruned and cleaned up the garden. Thank you to all the parents who helped out on that day.

All parents are encouraged to attend the P&C Association meetings and benefit from the presentations and discussions. The next P&C meeting is on 15 November (Tuesday) which will be also the Annual General Meeting.

Poomahal Kumar - Secretary

---

At our last meeting on 19 October the final tally for the Annual Dinner was announced and we are pleased to let you know that $35,000 was raised on the night which will go towards buying furniture for the new library. I would like to thank all those who made this event so successful - the Auxiliary committee and members, all who volunteered to help in some capacity, all parents who so generously donated prizes and money, and of course a big thank you to all who came along to our ‘99 Not Out’ Fundraising Dinner. I hope you had fun and enjoyed the food, games, and music.

Open Day was held last term and once again the Auxiliary joined forces with the boys in the Charities group to provide refreshment - the day went well and I would like to thank those boys involved, Wendy Dwyer and team for the delicious home cooked goodies and members of the Auxiliary who manned the information stand in the hall as ambassadors for our school and chatted to (in various languages) prospective parents about the many benefits of attending NSBHS.

Life in the Uniform Shop is busy but fruitful with our re-badging and redesigning of the uniform almost complete in time for the centenary. Look out for the smart new casual jacket we are introducing next year for the junior years to keep them warm when a jumper is just not enough!

Other exciting news that was announced by our Principal Robyn Hughes at our October Auxiliary meeting was that the indefatigable Wendy Dwyer has been awarded the 2011 NSW Public School Parent of the Year Award for all her hard work not only in her capacity as Catering Coordinator for the Auxiliary but also for everything else she has a hand in at the school. She regularly helps out on teacher selection panels, sits on the Centenary Committee, headed up the committee this year which organized the Year 12 dinner, and no doubt much more! Well done Wendy!!

---

THE AUXILIARY
The Auxiliary comprises a friendly group of mums (and sometimes dads) who meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month in term time in the Staff Common Room, which is opposite Reception at the school office. Our meetings run from 9.30-11.30am over morning tea and provide an opportunity to chat to other parents in an informal, friendly atmosphere and to find out about what is happening at school from our Principal Robyn Hughes, who gives a report at each monthly meeting. Our next meeting is our AGM on Wednesday 16 November so please come and join us and maybe volunteer for a position on the committee! You will be warmly welcomed.

Kath Morris - President

FALCON SPORT

The Falcon Sport AGM will be held at the school from 6.30pm on Thursday 27 October. All members of the North Sydney Boys community are warmly invited to attend.

The meeting will be an opportunity to learn about what has been happening in 2011 and contribute to plans for 2012. Additional help is always welcome, so if you are interested in assisting with the coordination of any sports then please let a convenor or myself know. The Falcon Sport team are a great bunch and any contribution that you can make will be greatly valued by committee members, the school and, most importantly, the boys!

Falcon Sport BBQ will be held at lunch time on Friday 28 October. All students that have participated in Falcon Sport during 2011 are welcome to attend and collect their free sausage sandwiches.

Barbara Hill - President
0418270476

Falcon Orienteering

For those that cannot possibly miss their regular fix of orienteering, keep an eye on the Garingal Orienteers or Orienteering NSW website for events over the summer months. There will be events on every Wednesday afternoon in parks across Sydney. The Christmas 5 Days carnival is also an ideal way to work off Christmas excesses by sampling some bush orienteering.

If you have not tried orienteering but are interested in giving it a go, the summer events offer a great introduction to the sport. Entrants all participate at their own level and can run or walk either individually or in a group and beginners are always welcome.

Please contact the Convenor if you would like any information about Falcon Orienteering.

2012 registration forms will be available from the school website in the near future.

Congratulations to Matthew Hill who represented NSW at the Australian All Schools Orienteering Championships at the end of September. Matthew was placed 9th in the senior boys age group and helped NSW to be the 2nd placed state overall.

Barbara Hill - Falcon Orienteering Convenor
0418270476

Falcon Football

In the 2011 season the Falcon Football club was represented by 7 junior and 6 senior teams made up of current and former students. In the junior competition we had two teams who won their divisions - the U14As and the U18Bs, and one team who were Gala Day Champions - the U16As. Players from all teams represented the club, and therefore the school, with fair play and good sportsmanship and should be congratulated for their efforts.

Playing Falcon Football is a great way for students to bond outside of school and also provides an opportunity for parents to meet and socialise. Registrations for 2012 will occur early in Term 1 - an email will be sent to current players and notices placed in the Daily Bulletin when registrations open.

Donna Gougousidis - Falcon Football Secretary

Falcon Basketball

Competition 2 for the NSBA Junior Competition has started in late July. We have 15 teams competing this season. Every team is working hard to get to the playoffs in late November.

Currently 4 teams are on top of their divisions - U18 Yellow, U16 Blue, U16 Yellow and U14 White. Six other teams are in the top 4 position and have a good chance to gain a spot in the playoffs.

The Mini Balls Competition 3 has also started on 3 September. U13 Cyan Falcon is in the top 4 teams at the moment. They are trying to secure a Gala Day re-appearance.

Sylvia Hui - Falcon Basketball Convenor
Max Potential media releases prepared by some of the students

Firmin Li

I believe there are some groups of people within the community that lack technology and could do better with it. I have decided to use donated parts from various computer vendors to assemble a computer and donate it to the students involved in the after school care program of North Sydney Community Centre. I will also be donating pre-owned computers kindly given to me by various people from online forums. I hope that my computer will aid the students in their after-school work and research.

Through this community project I have learnt to push through barriers and that success will only happen if you do things you are uncomfortable with. I have also learnt valuable time-management skills and how I can use certain tactics to avoid any margin of error. I have also learnt through this project so far that things don’t always go as planned and having multiple ideas/methods of approach can prevent future occurrences. I have particularly put a focus on being proactive throughout this program as I believe that this will help me most in life.

Wilson Leung’s Musing for the Young - Sparking a Passion for Music to Last a Lifetime

I can’t pin-point for certain what it is which compelled me to accept this program; perhaps it was the opportunistic ring which resonates with the word ‘scholarship’, or perhaps it was an inner desire I felt about wanting to overcome stage fear. One thing which always stood out to me over the course of my entire life is the need to push myself to new boundaries and reach a little further than the limits of what is possible. Max Potential is simply another push forward in my life, a new challenge to be faced, triumphed over and enjoyed.

My Community Service Project involved performing and bringing music to children at a childcare centre. It is based on the idea of creating special fun occasions that children can look forward to during their time spent at the childcare centre. It will also introduce them to the wonderful world of music. I can personally say that music has a place in everything I do and I believe this is the same for everyone, whether it be listening to a Wagner epic in the Opera House or quietly humming your favourite tunes on a bus to pass the time. Where words fail, music speaks. It is easy to see the joy which music grants to all of us, and by introducing the fun of music to the young children of the childcare centre, I hope to spark a passion for music in them which will last a lifetime.

Jonathan Tan’s Older ‘Brothers’ Doing Their Part To Help Their Younger ‘Brothers’

Even students at North Sydney Boys High School, one of the top selective high schools in the state, struggle with some of their topics at school. Year 10 student, Jonathan Tan, has taken the initiative to start up a peer-mentoring program between certain Year 10’s and Year 8’s to help them with their studies.

As part of the personal leadership program, Max Potential, Jonathan started the program as part of a compulsory community service project. However, since then, Jonathan says the program has meant much more to him.

“At the start, I felt like the program was something that I had to do, instead of something that I wanted to do. But now, I feel like I am really giving back to the community and really helping with one of the needs that our school has”.

Beginning on 30th August, 2011, 5 students from Year 8 were identified by the Deputy Principal as “having difficulties” with some of the topics that they were learning at school ranging from Essay
Structure to Algebra. These 5 students were then paired up with a Year 10 who would help them to better comprehend these subjects. On their first session, the students were allowed to simply just talk with their mentors and identify some of the key areas that they would be focusing over the course of the program. The students cited Time Management, something that even adults struggle with, as problems that they would like to work on. At the end of the session, each student was given a Time Management sheet which provided them with schedules for study and helpful hints to allow them to better manage their time.

“I thought the first session was a success, everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and there was a lot of positive feedback from both the students and their mentors.”

The first session did seem to be an instant hit as even one of the mentors wished he had this when he was in Year 8.

“It would have been really useful if this was happening when I was in Year 8...I could have really used some help with all the complicated Maths Formula we were learning.” One of the mentors said.

“I got to learn something new and have some ideas how to organize now” One of the students said.

Leader, Jonathan Tan, hopes the program will continue to run even when he leaves the school.

“I can really see the project being in the school for a very long time...who knows, they might name it “The Jono Program”.

**Leadership: Maximised. By Jonathan Lee**

My community project was a Student Leadership promotion event for year 7 students at my school. The aim of this event was to get the year 7s interested in getting involved in the different student leadership committees. For this event, I got together some representatives from five different committees; Environment Committee, Student Representative Council, Charities Committee and Peer Mediation. I interviewed each representative about his committee to allow the year 7s to see what each of the committees were involved in, what they do and how to get involved. The Year 7s were also introduced to the teachers in charge of each committee.

This successful event took place on Monday 29th August in the Holland Room with a few minor problems along the way which were able to be resolved. The whole year 7 grade attended and enjoyed the event. There was positive feedback from teachers and students who attended.

Through this event, I have learnt how important it is to plan and make arrangements for alternatives in case something does not work out. I learnt to keep in mind that 'the show goes on' and just to continue and find a way around those unexpected events.

Through the MaxPotential program I have been looking at the importance of balancing the different aspects of my life; such as organising my time for school work, socializing and spending time with my family. I have also been working on dividing up major tasks into smaller ‘achievable’ tasks so that these major tasks are completed.
@ school

Poor boy's song inspires student

BOEL ERIKSSON

@ St Aloysius

A NINE-year-old Filipino boy with an amazing voice inspired a St Aloysius student on a recent school trip.

Michael Paton, 16, was in the Philippines on an immersion trip with other students to help build houses in impoverished areas when he heard Gawad "Ai" Kalinga sing.

"He was amazing. He has such a developed voice for a nine-year-old," Michael said.

He wanted to Jiliv in "shocking, shocking conditions."

"But he was able to cross out the negatives by singing," he said.

Michael used that inspiration for his MAX Potential project.

The projects by 15 students, including from North Sydney Girls High School, North Sydney Boys High School, and North Sydney North Shore, will finish in October with participants doing their community projects.

For his project, Michael and a friend will sing to homeless people in Kings Cross.

MAX Potential:
- Max Potential provides one-on-one leadership coaching to students for 22 weeks.
- A workshop run with the help of ClubSWAP, Cricketers, and a community project.
- Max Potential train volunteers from the clubs and the community as personal leadership coaches.

Boys' High School and Monte Sant' Angelo, were showcased at Norths.

Michael played the Coldplay songFix You and spoke about the Philippines trip.

Other projects included poems, YouTube videos, and artworks. Max Potential will finish in October with participants doing their community projects.

For his project, Michael and a friend will sing to homeless people in Kings Cross.

Their design holds weight

@ North Sydney

THREE North Sydney Boys High School students who put their bridge design to the test in a building competition have taken third place.

More than 100 students took part in the Aurecon Bridge Building Competition, held during the first week of August at seven locations in Australia and two in New Zealand.

For the national competition, year 8 and 9 students built a bridge out of balsa wood, string, cardboard and glue.

The bridge which bore the biggest load won.

Edward Chang, Elijah Huang and Jason Xiang won third prize with a bridge that withstood a weight of 6kg.

They received £500 for their school and $200 each.

The winning bridge was designed by Aquinas College, Menai, which had 81kg.

Aurecon organised the competition to coincide with Australian Engineering Week.

@ school

Manicures helping the community

BOEL ERIKSSON

@ North Sydney Girls

GIVING someone a manicure might seem like a small gesture, but it means a great deal to the residents at James Milson Village.

North Sydney Girls' student Megha Kadari and six of her school friends attended the North Sydney retirement village on September 30 to offer free manicures and head massages.

They also gave planted seedlings in the village's garden.

Resident Shirley Westcott, 98, said while her nails were not out regularly, she could not remember the last time they had been painted.

"It's very nice," she said.

"I think it's often nice, ladies like to have their hands look nice."

Hazel Ravens, 92, said she was so pleased with her fancy nails she felt like a princess dancing.

The project was part of Megha's participation in North Sydney League Club's Max Potential youth leadership program.

"It was very worthwhile," Megha said.

Her coach for the 22-week program, North Sydney councillor Kelly Christie, said that the idea of visiting the retirement village.

She attended on the day and said she was met with happiness and humour. "The residents enjoyed the visit and we were made to feel very special," she said.

What other local students did:
- Students from 15 lower north shore schools are part of Max Potential
- Student Aree's Alee's Dwellers is helping community partnership launch for a housing commission building to encourage people to build relationships with their neighbours.
- North Sydney Boys' High School's Rima Lin is building community relationships for the school's project.
- North Sydney Boys' High School's Will Kang is performing and improving music to children at a childcare centre.

Max Potential:
- Provides one-on-one leadership coaching to students for 22 weeks.
- Students do a creative project and a community project.
- A team of volunteers from the clubs and the community as personal leadership coaches.
THE STUDENT
MICHAEL STOCKS

Given the current funding situation of Australia's public schools, it comes as no surprise that parents are becoming disillusioned with a system that has been left behind. Both state and federal governments have fallen prey to inertia and are seemingly unable to restore the faith of parents in Australia's 6000 public schools. The right to a quality free education, a pillar of egalitarianism in our society, is becoming dangerously undermined through a reluctance for structural funding reform.

The level of inequality between certain private schools and their public counterparts is evident when our educational 'funding mix' is compared to other developed nations overseas. An OECD report released on Wednesday ranked us 28th of 31 countries, with Australia directing 14.8 per cent less in total educational funding to public schools when compared to the average for developed nations. While private schools need to receive a degree of government funding, the current situation leaves Australia spending proportionately less on public education and more on private education than almost any other developed country in the world.

While some, such as The Kings School headmaster, Dr Tim Hawkes, decree that a lack of funding for elite private schools will lead to an increase in fees, it appears that current funding levels haven't prevented this from occurring. The Herald reported earlier this year that between 2001-2011 fees at the nation's most expensive schools 'have risen by 100 per cent - against inflation of only 37 per cent,' the unqualified 'across-the-board' policy instituted by the Howard government means that elite schools continue to "double dip" - receiving well above their government funding entitlement, while charging parents increasingly high annual fees which show no signs of slowing down.

There needs to be a redistribution of excessive funding away from the upper echelons of private schools towards lower-fee independent schools as well as public institutions, in order to make both sectors more efficient. While I firmly believe in a parent's choice to choose the education that best suits their child, it is unpalatable that we severely subsidize parents who select their personal choice of school, at the cost of providing an excellent and properly resourced public education system. We need to establish confidence in our public schools as it is a public education system that is the true equaliser. It alone creates equality of opportunity, while preserving the Australian ethos of "fair go" for all.

Michael Stocks is school captain of North Sydney Boys High School.

Why do state school parents want to go private?

Almost half say they would choose an independent school, if not for the fees.

CROWS NEST: Students from near and far got in the groove at Crows Nest last week with the Jazz Music School's Winter Jazz Camp and big band tour rehearsals.

The Jazz Music School, one of only two jazz schools in Australia, held its booked-out Winter Jazz Camp from Wednesday to Friday last week with students ranging between ages nine to 16.

The eager jazz musicians travelled from 30 different schools for the workshop.

"You don't get any dropouts," said Karen Richards, who ran the activities.

"You discover a new way of playing music that they don't get anywhere else."

After the camp, the school was taken over from Saturday to Monday by one of its big bands and the rehearsal for a planned trip to Barbados and USA.

Ms Richards said the 17 students taking part in the trip in January would hopefully get to perform at Disney World in Florida and have gigs booked for every night while in Barbados.

At the end of the big band's trip, they plan to record a CD at a well known New York jazz music studio.

"What we do is very special and attracts some extremely talented musicians," Ms Richards said.

Since the jazz school started four years ago it has grown rapidly. It now hosts 150 regular students in private lessons, two small ensembles and two big bands.

By work experience student
Juan Carreras

Above: Local students Adam Caton, Jono Savery and Nicholas Henderson, left; Tyaan Singh, Anna Laczko and Charlie Kulay at the workshop.
Cellist makes big music with orchestra

KATE CRAWFORD
NEUTRAL BAY: In a coup for a young orchestra, opera star Teddy Tahu Rhodes will perform with the Sydney Youth Orchestra next Thursday.

And musicians such as cellist Douglas Emery, 18, of Neutral Bay, will be providing the backing for Rhodes’ beautiful baritones.

“It’s a fantastic opportunity for the orchestra,” Emery said. “It will also be a challenge as an orchestra must follow the soloist’s musical interpretation and the singer is more free to move, to change the tempo and the orchestra must accommodate that.”

New Zealand-born Russian is presently singing the role of Don Giovanni for Opera Australia. His busy schedule includes a

Top-value teaching
Forgive me, Mr Thomas (Letters, July 27), but as an economics student at what you have labelled an “inefficient public school”, I believe you are grossly mistaken. I have been taught that “efficiency” is obtained when output is maximised while minimising costs. A simple visit to the My School website will reveal that the total amount spent by both parents and the government to educate a student at my public high school in 2009 was $10,754 – or $9773 at Willoughby Girls High School, while a student at Kambara or King’s cost $20,917 and $22,904 respectively.

It seems that public schools can provide a secondary education at less than half the cost of their private counterparts. Now, Mr Thomas, could you please tell me which system is more efficient?

Michael Stocks
School captain
North Sydney Boys High School

Teddy Tahu Rhodes with the SYO:

Where: October 13 at 7pm
Where: Sydney Town Hall
Tickets: $45 and $35 concession
Bookings: mca-bix.com or 1300 305 176

return engagement to the Metropolitan Opera.
At Thursday’s concert, Rhodes will sing Bruch’s soul-searching Four Serious Songs.

Emery and the orchestra, however, have mastered an even bigger challenge for the concert – rehearsing the Strauss masterpiece Thus Spoke Zarathustra.

“Even professional musicians can find this piece a challenge,” Emery said.
“Most people know the music from the film 2001: A Space Odyssey but they only hear it for a minute, while we play it for 30 minutes. It’s a big piece but it is so extraordinary and engaging that all of us are very passionate about playing it.”

Emery, a former pupil of North Sydney Boys High, is studying at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and has been a member of the Sydney Youth Orchestra since last year.

Teen Triple P Seminars
FREE SEMINAR
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
Teen Positive Parenting Program is an evidence-based program for parents and caregivers of teenagers. This program is designed to help you understand your teenager, and learn how to build a positive relationship with them.

A FREE information night for parents of teenagers

Cyber Bullying: Beatings without Bruises

With special guest presenter: Dr Rachael Murrphy