As we reach the last few weeks of the term it is timely to remind everyone of our high expectations regarding school attendance and behaviour. Behaviour expectations do not change as we approach the Christmas break. At this time of the year all students are aware of the school policies and procedures so there are no excuses for failing to follow them. Consequences will apply to those students who choose not to follow these agreed processes. Truancy, lateness to class, swearing and non-compliance with teacher direction are not acceptable behaviour at any time within the school year. This is a place of learning and this type of disruptive behaviour interrupts learning for the individual student and also other students. Parents and carers are encouraged to speak with their child about appropriate behaviour and school expectations.

All students are expected to be in attendance at school until the last day of the school year. Programs of instruction and assessment will be running right to the last day of term. Please value your child’s education and ensure that they attend school every day. Regular attendance at school gives students the best opportunity to perform to the best of their academic ability. Depending on which year level a student is in, the finish dates will vary. Please check when the school year will finish for each year level.

- Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 finish school on Friday 9 December 2016.
- Students in Year 10 finish on Friday 25 November 2016. Some students will be required for the Summer School or Master Classes. Parents of students involved in these activities will receive information about the finish dates.
- Students in Year 11 finish on Friday 25 November 2016.
- Students in Year 12 finish on Friday 18 November 2016.

**JANET YOUNG**  
**PRINCIPAL**  

**YEAR 10 YEAR LEVEL COORDINATOR**

Welcome back to the Year 10 cohort who have a short eight week term before they finish the year. I have come back from leave and was excited when asked to take on the role of Year-Coordinator as I had heard good things from staff about the year 10 group.

Moving around a variety of classes I have noted the hard work being done by the students to ensure they get the best results before heading to Year 11 and the final two years of senior schooling.

My task as Year-Coordinator is to assist students to ensure the school/life balance remains positive. If students require assistance with any matter or parents would like to discuss any issue related to school concerns, I can be contacted by phoning the school on 49247888.

**KELLY MCGUIRE**  
**YEAR 10 COORDINATOR/HPE TEACHER**
**HOD TEACHING AND LEARNING**

**Writing Improvement at North Rocky High well underway …**

Writing is a major school priority for NRSHS in 2016 and 2017. We have introduced the Collins Writing Program (2007) which is about improving student performance through actively thinking and purposefully writing across the curriculum. This has involved a step by step process of practising different types of writing, term by term.

As parents, you may be wondering how you can help. Collins (2007) recommends that parents become aware of the five types of writing tasks and realise that sometimes, writing tasks do not have to be perfect. For example:

- **Type 1** tasks are marked very simply – did the student do it or not? Type 1 tasks are not designed to be stories or essays. They are simply ways to guarantee that your child is thinking about a topic.
- **Type 2** tasks require students to answer a specific question correctly. We judge the content, not the writing quality. They are designed to be completed quickly and to promote thought.
- **Type 3 and Type 4** writing tasks are designed to produce ideas and to develop writing skills. They use focus correcting, which is based on the belief that student writing improves more quickly when the student works to improve a few writing problems at a time.
- **Type 5** writing tasks are when we take an earlier piece of writing and polish it to be of publishable quality, free from all errors.

The different types of writing are being practised across all year levels and in all subject areas. Every Wednesday, the whole school participates in **Writing Wednesday**, with all students performing Type 3 Writing at the same time. Feedback from teachers is that they are beginning to see improvement in their students’ writing and in their assessment pieces.

Collins (2007) offers these suggestions to parents when it comes to supporting the Writing Program:

> **Be a helper and an encourager, not a critic.** Provide a quiet place to write with good lighting and a dictionary. Talk about the writing tasks and help your child brainstorm many ideas. If you’re asked to read your child’s writing, read it out loud. Ask if it sounds right. You’ll be surprised at how many of their own mistakes they will be able to hear.

If you would like any further information about the Writing Improvement Plan at NRSHS, please do not hesitate to give me a call on (07) 247888 or email ldonohue@eq.edu.au

**LISA DONOHUE**

**HEAD OF DEPARTMENT – TEACHER AND LEARNING**

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**YEAR 11 AND YEAR 12 EXAM BLOCK**

Year 12 exam block will be held from Monday, 7 November to Friday, 11 November. Year 11 exam block will be held from Wednesday, 16 November to Tuesday, 22 November. All students have been issued an individualised exam schedule. A master copy of the exam schedule can be access on the school website under the tab ‘Calendar and News’.

https://nthrckshs.eq.edu.au/

Students are only required to attend school for their scheduled exams. Students who attend school-based traineeships/ apprenticeships, TAFE or other alternate courses must attend their scheduled exams and make other arrangements with their outside provider re catching up on the time missed at work, TAFE, etc.

Full school uniform must be worn. If students are absent for an exam, they will be required to provide a medical certificate. If students are late for an exam, they will be admitted to the room, however no additional time will be allowed. Normal classes will resume for Year 12 on Monday, 14 November and Year 11 on Wednesday, 23 November. If you have concerns regarding the block exams, please contact the school or your child’s teacher.

Year 11 students who are OP eligible will be sitting a QCS Practice test on Wednesday, 23 November and Thursday, 24 November. It is **COMPULSORY** for all OP eligible students and non-op eligible students who have been attending QCS lessons to attend these sessions.

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**YEAR 10 EXAM BLOCK**

To help prepare Year 10 students for Senior, we will be trialing an exam block session for the students. The exams will commence on Monday, 24 November and conclude Wednesday, 26 November. Exams will run for two periods – Periods 1 and 2; Periods 3 and 4. Period 5 will be normal timetabled classes.

Every student will be allocated two lessons for each of their subjects. English and maths exams will be held in the PAC as a large group. All other subjects have the option of using their block time for a scheduled exam or to complete assignments. If students have completed their assessment, then they will be doing alternate work during this time. No student will have a spare session during the block exam. Students are expected to attend school all day and attend all of their sessions. If a student is absent from an exam, they will be able to complete their exam on Thursday or Friday. If you have any questions regarding the exam block, please contact Cynthia O’Sullivan.

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**2017 QMEA AMBASSADORS**

Congratulations to Sarah Coker and Felicity Finlayson who have been selected as QMEA (Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy) Ambassadors for 2017. Sarah and Felicity were successful after a rigorous judging process and are two of the 20 QMEA Ambassadors selected from across the state.
The students selected to be QMEA Ambassadors attend a 3-day QMEA Student Ambassador Camp in Brisbane at the end of Year 11. The ambassadors participate in a number of activities across a twelve month period that will increase their understanding of the resources sector, provide unparalleled opportunities for networking with other students and industry representatives as well as developing leadership skills.

SCHOOLIES INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Parents play an important role in preparing their teens for end-of-year celebrations. Schools should encourage parents to follow the Schoolies Info for Parents Facebook page for resources about how to prepare and keep their child safe over Schoolies.

CYNTHIA O’SULLIVAN
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

PUBLIC TRANSPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR SENIOR FORMALS

Under the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994, the operator of a public passenger service is required to hold Operator Accreditation (OA) and drivers are required to hold Driver Authorisation (DA).

If you would like to hire a vehicle to transport you to a school formal, it’s important to ensure the operator and driver are properly accredited. The passenger transport industry in Queensland provides transport services for special events using vehicle licenced and accredited as limousines or special purpose limousines and buses accredited as charter vehicles.

A key objective of the legislation governing limousine and other passenger transport services is to promote the safety of persons using these services.

To find out more, contact your nearest TransLink passenger transport office, visit the TMR website, or call 13 QGOV (13 74 68).


POLICE NEWS

Unlocked homes and cars cause property crime to increase – Have you secured your house and car?

On Tuesday October 18, Acting Assistant Commissioner Bruce McNab launched a strategy ‘Property Security Partnership’ that will focus on reducing the amount of reported property crime in the Capricornia District.

The Capricornia District sustained increases across all major property offences in 2015/16 compared to the previous year.

These offences involved burglaries to homes, stealing vehicles or stealing from cars. Items stolen included mobile phones, laptops, wallets and cash. In almost every case the home or vehicle was unlocked at the time of the offence.

It also involved offenders stealing bank cards and using the pay wave function to buy goods.

Police are wanting the community to focus on security in and around the home, and this can be achieved through establishing strategies and developing new habits to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of a crime.

How to avoid becoming a victim to an opportunistic offence?

- Ensure that your vehicle is locked when you are not using it. This includes when your vehicle is parked in the driveway, carport, or garage.
- Do not leave valuables in your vehicle when you are not using it. This may include car/house keys, wallets, GPS devices, money, handbags, computers, or mobile phones.
- Get into the habit every time you return home, to place your car keys, handbag, wallet, mobile phone and personal items in a cupboard or a safe place that is out of sight and is unknown to other people.
- Ensure that your house is visible to your neighbours and passers-by so that any thieves can be observed. This may mean trimming back trees and shrubs.
- Security lighting can be installed around the perimeter of your property, including over entry ways, along your driveway and the back of the house, revealing any possible hiding places for thieves.
- Ensure that when you leave the house it is secured. This will make it more difficult for opportunistic offenders to gain access to your property.
- Have CCTV systems installed in your home. This can be a deterrent for opportunistic offenders and will be able to assist police with investigations if an offence was to occur.

Unlocked cars

Police want to remind the community that it is an offence not to secure your vehicle when you are not using it. The penalty for failing to secure your vehicle is a $48 infringement. Police do not want to issue members of the community with
infringement notices for this offence, and would much rather work in partnership with the community by implementing strategies to prevent property crime from occurring.

2017 ERGON ENERGY APPRENTICE CAMPAIGN

It is that time of year again: the School Dental Van is now at the school. If you wish for your child to be seen, then please ensure your child has returned their consent forms for a dental check-up. If you did not receive a form, then please collect one from the dental van situated near the basketball courts off Simpson Street.

You can contact the Dental Van on 0409 574 276 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, between 8am – 4.30pm.

A good link about the effects of sugar is:

Self care:

- Twice daily tooth brushing with a fluoride toothpaste and a soft toothbrush will help protect against tooth decay.
- To have a healthy smile, maintain a healthy diet by drinking plenty of tap water, limiting sugary foods and drinks and by choosing healthy snacks like fruits, vegetables and cheese.
- Drink fluoridated water if it is available to help strengthen your teeth.

• Regular dental check-ups and care are important for oral health.

Diet:

- Foods and drinks that contain high levels of added and natural sugar contribute to tooth decay.
- The more often sugary foods and drinks are eaten the more likely you are to experience tooth decay.

P&C

The next P&C meeting will be held Monday 28 November at 5:30pm in the Administration Building. All welcome.

CHECK OUT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

North Rocky now has a P & C Facebook page. Have a look and see what’s happening and keep up-to-date with the latest events.

https://www.facebook.com/NRHSPC/posts/1424798930880182

DATE CLAIMERS

These dates are subject to change and will be updated throughout 2016:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE CLAIMERS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TERM 4</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 7 Nov – Fri 11 Nov Year 12 Exam Block</td>
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<td>Tues 15 Nov Year 12 Day Red Food Day</td>
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<td>Wed 16 Nov – Tues 22 Nov Year 11 Exam Block</td>
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<td>Wed 16 Nov Annual Awards Night</td>
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<td>Thurs 17 Nov Graduation for Year 12s Formal for Year 12s</td>
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<td>Fri 18 Nov Last Day for Year 12s</td>
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<td>Fri 25 Nov Last Day for Year 11s and 10s</td>
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<td>Mon 28 Nov – Thurs 8 Dec Summer School and Master Class for Year 10</td>
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<td>Mon 28 Nov P&amp;C General Meeting 5:30pm Admin Building</td>
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<td>Tues 29 Nov Year 7 2017 Transition Day</td>
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<td>Mon 5 Dec – Fri 9 Dec Last Week Activities Year 7, 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>Thurs 8 Dec Rewards Day Year 7, 8 &amp; 9</td>
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<td>Fri 9 Dec Last School Day 2016</td>
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IMMUNISATION SCHOOL CLINICS

<table>
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<th>Round 3</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Vaccine</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 – 24/10/16</td>
<td>HPV (3rd dose)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Year 8 – 25/10/16</td>
<td>Plus any students requiring catch-up vaccinations</td>
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT OZCARE ON 4937 4200.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

ART CLASSES

Art classes are currently being run at the Art house on East St for children aged 5 – 16.

**When:** Wednesday – Friday 4 – 5 pm.
Saturday and Sundays 10 – 12pm and 2 – 4pm

All equipment is provided including paints, brushes, canvases as well as sketch pads and pencils.

All done in air conditioned comfort.

Prices are $15 for after school and $25 for weekend classes.

**Please contact:** Sandy – 0428 565 783 or Tau – 0403 983 623

Get fit for FREE!

Free, weekly, 5km timed run/walk for all ages and abilities.

Start/Finish: Rockhampton Botanical Gardens (near playground)

2. Print out your unique barcode
3. Turn up with your barcode, run or walk and have fun!

Don’t want to run or walk? Why not help others by volunteering?

BEGINNING
19TH MARCH

www.parkrun.com.au