

# Newsletter **NBSC**



## Embracing 'visible learning'



described in his earlier book *Visible Learning*.

It makes sense that as teachers, we should be able to identify a change in our students. However not just any change is really good enough. After all, as students grow and develop they will naturally change without any intervention. Hattie also notes that everything teachers do will have some impact, so noting a change may not be enough. Some questions then come to mind.

Can we notice a change in our students across NBSC? Is it the same for all students or only some? Should we expect a bigger change? Have we raised the expectations of student

**F**or teaching and learning to be effective it is logical to expect that there will be a noticeable change in our students. This is the basis of the work of Professor John Hattie as

described in his earlier book *Visible Learning*.

Possibly Professor Hattie's work again can influence how we respond.

This notion will be the basis of the Term 3 College Professional Learning Day later this year.

As we all come together, the focus of the day will be squarely on teaching and learning using Hattie's research to focus our thinking.

Already having attended training with Professor Hattie, a team of teachers from across the NBSC have been weighing up possibilities.

The team are being led by Renata Grudic (Head teacher Teaching and learning) to consider the key teaching practices that would ensure consistently great teaching and learning in classrooms across the NBSC. Well worth considering as together we deliver in excess of 6000 lessons each week

## Autumn 2017 In this issue...

- > Foreign delegations visit our college on educational fact-finding tours.
- > Primary Enrichment and Challenge Program students dissect sheep's brains at our Cromer Campus laboratories
- > Design, Make, Innovate students present their projects at Balgowlah Boys Campus
- > College sport continues to thrive and flourish

to our NBSC students!

We are looking to collectively strengthen the approaches that we take, to hone the teaching that makes a visible difference to stu-

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dent achievement, and to do more of it so we can clearly see the impact.

The excitement of this day will no doubt build as the approach is developed and possibilities are explored.

Further details will be provided later in Term 2 when the planning is finalised.

Please enjoy this latest newsletter as we celebrate the successes of our

students and teachers across NBSC in Term 1 2017.

**Neil Worsley**  
College Principal



*Welcome to Ms Anne-Catherine Lyon, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture (Canton Vaud), delegates and our international students from Switzerland!*

# DUTCH & SWISS DELEGATIONS!



BY **RENATA GRUDIC**  
NBSC Head Teacher  
(Teaching & Learning)

LEAP'ing into our campuses and celebrating our international connections with two delegations from the Netherlands and Switzerland recently.

**F**irst, our Dutch visitors...Early Term 1, ten principals from the Netherlands visited our College as part of the NSW-based Leading Educators Around the Planet (LEAP) program. This program provides executive leaders with the opportunity to connect with international colleagues and systems for the purpose of improving the teaching and learning at the school base. College Principal Neil Worsley visited Finland as part of the same program.

The Dutch Principals visit focused on the implementation of visible learning at NBSC. Visible learning is a research-proven approach developed by Professor John Hattie, who appeared in the recent ABC television series "Revolution High School".

The delegation was able to observe the early stages of implementation of Visible Learning at NBSC Cromer Campus and commented on the overwhelming positive energy within the school from both teachers and students. They were particularly impressed with the implementation of learning goals and success criteria occurring in classrooms.

At NBSC Freshwater Senior Campus they participated in professional learning and discussion based on ALARM (A Learning & Responding Matrix). They were extremely impressed the results achieved by using this scaffold as part of regular teaching practice.

And now our Swiss visitors...Ms Anne-Catherine Lyon, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, Canton Vaud, Switzerland visited NBSC in April with a delegation, including the Director -General. Canton Vaud is on the Lake of Geneva and the capital is Lausanne.

The Minister and delegation were greeted by College Principal Neil Worsley at NBSC Freshwater Sen-

ior Campus. The delegation were provided with an introduction to the College structure and a tour of the campus.

Swiss scholarship students from our College as well as Kuringah High School and Davidson High School had the opportunity to meet the Minister and discuss their educational experiences in our schools.

Both delegations gained an understanding of the College - as an organisation aligned to positive psychology which continuously strives for best practice in educational programs and initiatives, as well enhancing the wellbeing of our students and staff.

The Dutch principals were highly impressed with how our College collaborates to deliver exceptional curriculum choice and quality to our students and how college teachers work together implementing consistent, teaching and learning practices.

The Swiss team included Ms Anne-Catherine Lyon, Minister of Education, Youth and Culture, Canton Vaud; Mr Séverin Bez, General Director of Post-mandatory Education (DGEP), Mr Pierre Fantys Responsible for administrative and strategic missions, Mrs Fabienne Cuénoud Furrer International Project Manager-Bilingual Maturity Project.



# PRIMARY ENRICHMENT AND CHALLENGE PROGRAM

# BRAIN DISSECTION



*ABOVE: Year 6 students dissecting and labelling a sheep's brain at NBSC Cromer Campus.*



BY **LORNA CURTIS**  
PECP Coordinator

It is wonderful to see new friendships developing as the students get to know each other in our PECP class.

**W**e emphasise the importance of encouraging each other throughout the program so that each student

is able to take risks and participate in challenges in a nurturing environment. This is very important for the collaborative learning style of our workshops. The students are all very enthusiastic and well organised. We are off to a great start.

This year our first two workshops were entitled 'Learning to Learn'. One part of this learning is based on developing an understanding of the mammalian brain structure.

In the science laboratories at both Cromer and Freshwater Senior Campuses, students worked in pairs to dissect a sheep's brain. They researched the vocabulary and functions of different parts of the brain and amongst other things identified the two hemispheres, the cerebellum, cerebrum, corpus callosum pituitary gland and brain stem.

It was an extremely interesting work-

shop and students found the dissection fascinating. This is a challenging workshop for many and I was impressed by the mature way that students approached the dissection.

A popular question from the students was 'Is the brain more important than the heart?' ... hmmm ... I wonder...? ...what do you think? ...

All students reflected on their learning as well as posed questions for further research.

The PECP would not be possible without the support and flexibility of NBSC staff. I am very appreciative of them sharing their resources with us and progressing the primary children's learning in their subject of expertise. This particular workshop was enhanced by the contributions made by Science staff at both campuses.





“ I have developed a MUCH better understanding of the mammalian brain structure.”  
EMILIA

“ I have also discovered some of the functions of the brain including the medulla oblongata and the cerebellum.”  
SAM and PIPPA

*Away from the science laboratories, students focussed for just five minutes on creative writing using the 'brain' as a stimulus.*

### **SIMILES**

My brain is like a kangaroo, constantly hopping from thought to thought.

**TOBY**

My brain is like a pulsing red flower, ready to bloom at any time.

**KATE**



My brain is a crab.

Hard on the outside,  
soft on the inside.

My brain is water.

It goes with the flow.

My brain is a goldfish.

It has a short memory.  
My brain is a cat.

It is too curious and accidentally  
loses one of its nine lives.

**BETHANY**







My brain is a book just for me. I read something new every day. It holds my talents and secrets, my fears and hopes and dreams. It swims in a sea of knowledge, filling my thoughts with dance and unicorns. No one will read it, it is mine forever and no one can change that.

ALINA (aged 10)

## ***METAPHORS***

The brain is a library filled to the brim with thoughts and knowledge.

AARON

My brain is shaped like numbers and symbols. It plays cricket all day long.

SAM



The brain is a sour lemon waiting to be squeezed.

The brain is a blob of squelchy disgusting mud.

The brain is the mess no one wanted to clean up.

The brain is a warlord planning the next attack.

The brain is a star watching our every move.

FREDERICK





# NBSC DMI EXPO PRESENTATIONS



BY **NIKKI DOYLE**  
DMI Coordinator

Design Make Innovate (DMI) is a Design and Technology project involving 510 students.

**D**MI is a collaborative project involving both primary and secondary students from NBSC and the NBLA. Over 100 Year 9 students from NBSC Balgowlah Boys and Mackellar Girls Campuses mentored 400 primary students throughout this project. The Year 4, 5 and 6 students were from Harbord, Manly Vale and Manly West Public Schools.

Primary students worked in groups of 4 - 5 students to design and make a product using Caine's Arcade as an inspirational starting point. NBSC

Year 9 students mentored the primary groups in the new Design Thinking process and the preparation of the associated portfolio. The DMI project culminated with an Expo held at the NBSC Balgowlah Boys Campus. The best student works from each of the Primary Schools were showcased at the Expo. A panel of judges assessed the projects and selected an 'Outstanding Achievement Award' for each Primary School. Parents and visitors voted for a 'People's Choice Award' for each school. Certificates

were awarded during the presentation ceremony at NBSC Balgowlah Boys Campus for these special awards. Certificates were also presented to all students who participated in the project at their own school.

NBSC year 9 mentors were highly praised for their leadership qualities throughout Design Make Innovate.

Thank you to Nikki Doyle and Vicki Busse, NBSC Project Officers, who coordinated this year's program.









# NBSC SPORTS UPDATE



BY **ASHLEY MATHIESON**  
NBSC Sport Coordinator

Summer's over, the football season has started and thoughts now turn to winter pursuits including boarding and skiing.

## SNOWSPORTS

**T**his year, during the first week of the July school holidays, the 2017 Travelplan Ski Northern NSW Interschools Snowsports Championships are scheduled to run at Perisher Valley.

The event, hosted by NSW Interschools, has a variety of races and events for primary and high school students across a range of divisions in Alpine and Cross Country Skiing, Snowboarding and Slopestyle disciplines. Successful qualifiers can then progress through to the Subaru NSW State Interschools Championships, also at Perisher Valley in late August, and the Subaru Australian Interschools Championships at Mount Buller, mid-September.

Northern Beaches Secondary College is again entering a team in the Championships and is welcoming new members. Last year the team continued to evolve with a new group of Year 7s joining and a similar number of Year 12's graduating from High School to move onto the next chapter in their lives. NBSC Snowsports team members are invited from all five NBSC Campuses. Our 2016 team was again very successful, placing 3rd overall in the Secondary Co-Ed Division - this excellent result on the back of a 3rd in skiing and 2nd in snowboarding. The feedback from our new team members after the Championships was extremely positive with com-



ABOVE: Joey Stegall (Balgowlah Boys) who competed in Div 3 Alpine and SkiX.

petitors, parents and officials all having mountains of fun, all eagerly looking forward to this year's event. If you enjoy skiing or boarding and would like to try racing why not join the NBSC Snowsports team? Just wax up your skis or board and head down to Perisher Valley with us this July. Win or lose you're bound to make new friends and have plenty of fun.

Inquiries about the upcoming events, our team, or joining our mailing list can be directed to Mark at [mark@markpurkiss.com](mailto:mark@markpurkiss.com)/ Mobile: 0439-439-731, or Ashley at [ashley.mathieson@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:ashley.mathieson@det.nsw.edu.au)/ Mobile: 0417-175-282. You can also visit the NSW Interschools website <http://nswinterschools.com.au> and like us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/155495511467801/>

A School Co-ordinators meeting is scheduled for early May and all of the important registration details provided by the Event organisers will be presented at a NBSC Snowsports information session being held in the Freshwater Campus Auditorium at 7 pm on Monday 15th May. This will provide one month to finalise entries in time for the 19th June close.

While July is still a few months away, accommodation is limited

and fills fast for school holidays. Interested families should be looking at making their bookings now. The Northern NSW Championship dates are Tue 4th to Sat 8th July.



Rugby League player Lewis Brown visiting NBSC Freshwater Campus.

## RUGBY LEAGUE

Lewis Brown, current member of the Manly Sea Eagles visited NBSC Freshwater Campus recently as part of the NRL's Community Carnival to pass on some advice on training programs, nutrition, life as an elite athlete and some possible sports pathway options available to the students when they complete their schooling.

## RUGBY UNION

The NSW Waratahs played a recent trial game against the Highlander's



at Brookvale Oval. We were lucky enough to get invited to play in a curtain raiser 7s game against rugby powerhouses' St Augustine's. James Blanch from NBSC Manly put together a strong team made up of boys from NBSC Cromer, NBSC Manly, NBSC Freshwater & NBSC Balgowlah. Our NBSC boys were leading with a only a few seconds remaining on the clock, only to see Saints score under the posts to snatch victory. A great experience for our boys, made all the more special when Michael Hooper, Waratahs captain and current Wallabies flanker came to watch on the sidelines, as we ran around in a full Manly Marlins strip, which off cause is his club side. Thanks to James Forsyth for the donation of the Manly Marlins gear and Remy Lowe, NBSC Freshwater year 12, for keeping us all hydrated with the running of the water.



Still on Rugby, it was a pleasure to receive a phone call from Graham Hodge a few weeks back saying that his son, Reece Hodge, NBSC Manly Class of 2012 and current Wallabies Centre wanted to visit his former campus and present them his Wallabies jersey, thanking them for years of support and understanding during his schooling, while he juggled the balance of elite sport and study. Reece, now living in Melbourne, where he plays for the Rebels in the Super Rugby Competition was in town for a few days in early March, after a match in New Zealand. He spoke with the current Year 12s about his time at NBSC Manly Campus, his life after school and how he managed to achieve a top TER Score, despite balancing a heavy playing load during his final years of study. Reece then presented Rory Adams, a keen Rugby player himself from NBSC Manly, with his number 12 Australian Jumper. Rory returned the favour by presenting Reece with his NBSC Rugby Jumper from his school playing days in 2012. Both jumpers will be seen displayed proudly in the offices of NBSC Manly shortly.



Reece Hodge, from the Class of 2012, visits NBSC Manly Campus to award the jersey.

## BLUES AWARDS

In early February, the Sydney North Sports Association held their "Blues Awards" for 2016. Of the 34 Blues recipients, 9 were NBSC students, with all 5 campuses represented. They were: NBSC Balgowlah - Harry Tanswell (Hockey) and Kyle Martin (AFL) NBSC Mackellar - Pihuka Duff (now NBSC Freshwater - Touch Football) & Katie Castles (Basketball) NBSC Freshwater - Ally Green (Football) & Sophie Harding (Football) NBSC Manly - Tessa Constantine (Athletics) & Anna Goodman (Squash) NBSC Cromer - Sophie McGovern (Athletics) At the conclusion of the night, Sydney

North awarded 3 major trophies, in which NBSC students received 2 of these. Pihuka Duff received a \$500 Premier Sporting Challenge Scholarship awarded to the best female athlete still at school, to be contributed towards her sporting endeavours and the major award was the Presidents Award, which was awarded to the most outstanding Sydney North athlete in 2016 across all sports. This was awarded to Ally Green from NBSC Freshwater for her achievements in Football, which saw her represent the Young Matildas. We wish Ally all the best in her sporting achievements now her schooling has been completed.







Scenes from  
the college

**PSC DAY**

**Thursday 23 March**

