

WELCOME TO TERM 1!

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Goodbye 2022 and hello 2023!

Nine years ago, on the 3rd February 2014, we welcomed our first group of thirty five Year 9 and 10 students to Ngaruki Gulgul School. So much has changed since then; we have expanded to include Year 11 and 12, welcomed new staff, and added plenty of exciting activities to give students even more opportunities to learn and thrive. But one constant throughout the years is that we are a family and a safe place for our young people to land every day, even when things feel tough!

As we begin the last year of our first decade with new dreams, goals and people, we can reflect on all the great work and support of those who have been and gone (students and staff alike) and balance it with some learnings of our past nine years. For me, NGC started from the idea that 'it takes a village to raise a child'; that a young person needs support around them that goes beyond their home and incorporates their schools, kinship networks and community. Over the years, I have come to expand on this idea with the realisation that in a globalised world, raising healthy children depends on a healthy, thriving society.

So the question becomes, how do we as responsible adults shape the future of our society and bring our young people along with us in this quest? We seem to be in some sort of epidemic of short-term thinking but our collective future demands that we lead and make decisions with long-term vision, have empathy for each other (especially when it comes to our diversity) and foster a commitment to challenging prejudice and greed wherever we find it.

As educators, we have a huge role to play in this shift. At NGC, we strive to do education differently, while working within the mandated syllabuses. We realise how important it is to transform learning from being boring' or anxiety-inducing into something that is inspiring, relevant, fun, challenging and thought-provoking. As we consider how to equip our young people to be active citizens in the world beyond school, we are always thinking about how to embed hope, empathy, ethics and solutionary thinking into everything we do.

I'm truly looking forward to seeing all our young people back on Tuesday 31st January. I can't wait to see you roll up your sleeves to make the most of the opportunities on offer this year!

Andrea, NGC Principal

TERM	START	FINISH
1	Tuesday 31 January	Thursday 6 April
2	Wednesday 26 April	Friday 23 June
3	Monday 17 July	Friday 22 September
4	Monday 9 October	Thursday 14 December



TEACHERS' REPORTS

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Welcome to the new year! I hope our students are well-rested after time with family and friends, and ready for the school term moving forward. I understand Christmas and the holiday period is often a period of new purchases, so this is a good opportunity to remind everyone that phones must be in your pockets and on silent mode (or even better, flight mode) when you're in the classroom. This term, all students will be asked to remove all earphones/earpods when they are moving into class and to save them for break time. If you choose to bring an iPad or your own laptop at school, the same rules will apply. Please keep them in your bag until directed from staff as to when they can be used. We hope this helps everyone to focus on their work and get into the awesome state of 'being in the flow', without the distractions of devices.

Cameron, NGC Deputy Principal

Programs Update

Happy New Year to all our NGC students and families. I wonder how many readers are aware that 2023 will be our 10th year of operation! Our staff will be working hard to try and make it the best one yet. For the upcoming term of Stage 5 Standing Strong sessions, we are planning some extra special wellbeing activities. Sadly, The Holistic Equine is temporarily ceasing its program, but we are excited to welcome back the Top Blokes program. This will help our young fellas make smart choices as they move into adulthood.

Another great addition will be \$mart Money for our Year 12s to show them how to stand financially strong into the future. We greatly appreciate the financial support of local community groups that allows us to offer these important programs. Cultural Education will also be provided via our skilled Indigenous staff. At the end of Term 1, we hope to again offer a heavily-discounted Rewards Day to the Royal Easter Show. Hopefully this reward will provide an extra incentive for our students to maintain positive behaviour and good attendance. Can't wait to get amongst 2023 at NGC!

Rick, Programs Manager and School Chaplain

Case Manager Update

I am so excited to commence Term 1, 2023, and I look forward to working closely with NGC parents and carers to support our students and help them thrive. Please don't hesitate to call me if you need referrals, supports or information for the young people in your care. This year, I will be delivering the Tuning Into Teens Program with Uniting. We will be having regular morning teas with external service providers that can offer support, eg. RYSS (Regional Youth Support Services), Coast Shelter, Relationships Australia and Juvenile Justice. If you are aware of any new services that are available for teenagers, I would love to contact them to arrange a morning tea to help support our families. Also, if you are noticing a particular issue or trend with your young person that is concerning you (eg vaping, cyberbullying etc), please let me know so I can research, bring in external partners or come up with a solution for us to implement together.

Lee T, Case Manager



TEACHERS' REPORTS

English

Stage 5: To start off the new year with a bang, our Stage 5 English classes will be studying Folklore; an all-time favourite unit at NGC. This will take us from the earliest Greek myths right through to modern-day urban legends. Students will learn about mythology, legends, folk, fairy and bush tales and fables.

Year 11: Our Year 11 students will be studying English in the Workplace and will learn how to prepare a cover letter and resume as well as finding out more about employee rights and responsibilities.

Year 12: Our HSC students will continue their study of Texts and Human experiences from Term 4 2022. In addition, we will also start the We Are Australian unit in week 5, which is a study of Australian values and what it means to be Australian. We will also read a novel during this term. I can't wait for us to get started!

Kirk, English Teacher



Science

Stage 5: Stage 5 students can look forward to a term full of Physics World investigations. They will consider how electricity is generated, and the huge role it plays in our modern-day lives, as they learn how to use electrical circuits and devices and create their own working traffic light model. Next, we will explore energy conservation and renewable energy through constructing a whirling water wheel and a model of an energy-efficient home.

Year 11: In Stage 6, Year 11 Preliminary Investigating Science students will carry out first-hand and secondary source investigations that focus on the scientific concepts of cause and effect, observations, hypotheses, and the collection of qualitative and quantitative data. A highlight will be exploring locations across the Central Coast to investigate the quality of water and its effect on plant and animal life.

Year 12: Our HSC Investigating Science students have been working on their first unit, Module 5: Scientific Investigations, which will be completed in the first two weeks of Term 1. Students will then be introduced to the Module 6: Technologies unit. They will investigate the rapid development that new technologies have on enhanced industrial and agricultural processes, medical applications, and communications. Students will explore the dynamic relationship between science and technology, as we discuss how the continuing advancement of science is dependent on new tools and materials being developed.

Janice, Science Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Geography

Stage 5 students finished off 2022 with a bang as they continued to develop their understanding of how environments function. Students engaged with Indigenous perspectives on connection to Country, as well as sustainable land management practices. They also discovered how human-induced environmental change is destructive to many of the world's animal species and ecosystems, with a case study on the palm oil industry. We enjoyed an all-school excursion to Taronga Zoo where students participated in the Tiger exhibit. Stage 5 should also be commended for their involvement in the United Nations Day. They did a fantastic job in raising awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, choosing to explore certain goals while having fun with face painting and dress-ups. You can see their efforts on our NG Central Facebook page!

Jemma, Geography Teacher

History

Our History classes will kick off with a study of Human Rights and Freedoms. This unit will cover the establishment of the United Nations, a close study of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and an exploration of the struggle for rights and freedoms of Aboriginal people here in Australia.

Kirk, History Teacher

Sports Lifestyle and Recreation / PDHPE

Sports Lifestyle and Recreation:

In Term 1, Year 11 will be studying the unit, Games and Sports Application. We will be learning about different rules within certain sports and games and how these impact our experience. Our assessment task will be a practical assessment where students will be able to showcase their sporting skills and how these have developed over the term. In addition to this, we are so lucky to be able to explore the great outdoors together and take part in some fun activities like fishing, going for bush walks and swimming when the weather is warm.

I look forward to an exciting and successful term with all of you, Year 11. Let the games begin!

PDHPE:

In Term 1, Stage 5 PDHPE students will be studying an exciting unit called The Next Chapter. We will be learning how to identify our strengths and improve and develop our character. This will help students to understand what potential careers they are suited to and what they might be interested in pursuing after school. Throughout the term, we will develop our skills in resume writing, practise applying for jobs and work towards personal fitness goals. Our assessment task will focus on how we can advocate for our personal health, safety and fitness, while exploring services within our community that can support us in achieving these outcomes. We will also be taking part in a variety of fun sporting games and activities. I am really looking forward to a fun and exciting term ahead with all our awesome Stage 5 students.

Katya, PDHPE and SLR Teacher

TEACHERS' REPORTS

Photography, Video and Digital Imaging

Our new HSC students have taken to their more advanced PVDI studies with gusto. Last term, we studied the Pop Art movement and the work of pioneer collage artist, Richard Hamilton. Students created a variety of digital media collage works that represented pop culture in today's society. I was very impressed with their creative choices and the symbolism embedded in their work.

Stage 5 and 6 students also engaged in a school photography competition, using an excursion to Taronga Zoo as their focus. They showcased their work in a wonderful exhibition which was enjoyed by young people and staff alike.

Jemma, PVDI Teacher



Automotive

In Term 1, Year 12 will be starting new projects and working on their major works. I encourage everyone to attend on all Auto days and keep on top of your work, as this year will go in the blink of an eye! Year 11 will be learning welding and fabrication techniques that are fundamental to the Automotive industry. Let's challenge ourselves with making consistent progress and maintaining a fast pace as we move through these new units. I look forward to seeing what you create!

Cameron, Automotive Trainer