

# WELCOME TO TERM 1!

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



The start of a new school year is always ripe with possibility, and I am excited for 2024 to be full of peace, love, harmony and learning lots of exciting things. It's also going to be a significant year for our NGC community as we celebrate our 10th anniversary. Yes, it's been a whole decade since we opened our doors to 35 young people who needed an alternative to mainstream education! Stay tuned for more news about a special celebration to mark this milestone. At this stage, we are thinking it will be on a Friday in May.

It has been incredibly rewarding to work with our young people - and our incredible staff, of course - to build something from the ground up that truly meets their needs, develops their skills, knowledge and confidence, and opens up a whole new world of opportunity for what their lives can look like. There is no more inspiring feeling that when past students drop by to share what they have achieved after leaving NGC and the ways in which they feel profoundly different because of walking through our gates and finding belonging here.

At our school, we have the privilege of insight into the lives and perspectives of our young people and of being part of their journey as they grow, change and challenge themselves. I recently listened to a fantastic talk by Yaamin Chowdhury on the teenage brain (you can find it on YouTube). In it, he speaks about how too many adults say that teenage brains are broken, but rather, they are incredibly beautiful. He describes how this period of adolescence is like 'going to a city you've never been to' and while you might keep taking 'wrong' turns here and there, this is how you find your bearings, explore the opportunities, risks and ideas that surround you and ultimately become a person with a strong sense of self and purpose. As educators, family members or supporters of young people, we can help to clear the fog of adversity, uncertainty and impulsiveness so that they can navigate these new places with more confidence and clarity.

With warm regards and wishes for an active and courageous New Year,

Andrea, NGC Principal

## 2024 Term Start and End Dates

TERM	START	FINISH
1	Tuesday 30 January	Friday 12 April
2	Monday 29 April	Friday 28 June
3	Monday 22 July	Friday 27 September
4	Monday 14 October	Thursday 12 December

## Term 1 Dates for the Diary

Parent Teacher Evening	Tuesday 12th March
Rewards Excursion to the Easter Show	Thursday 28th March



# TEACHERS' REPORTS

## Deputy Principal Update

Just like that, another fantastic year has ended, and another one has begun! Well done to all students who completed Stage 5 and are now transitioning into Stage 6, and to those students who will be completing their HSC. I would also like to thank all the staff for their hard work over the past year. Their enthusiasm, expertise and commitment will undoubtedly make the coming twelve months fulfilling and enriching for all our young people.

To our new and existing students, welcome to 2024! As you'll read in this newsletter, your NGC teachers have lots of exciting new projects and units in the pipeline for you. I look forward to seeing you all around the school and working to your full potential. We are here to support you with your schoolwork, assessments and wellbeing throughout this year.

**Cameron, Deputy Principal**

## Programs Update

2024 is upon us! It has been super cool to see some of our young people utilising the school gym facilities during the break, making the positive choice to train VS. "bum around" all holidays. Big thanks must go to Brad H and Lee T for creating and driving this outreach program, which they have called Boxin4Health. These legends have given up significant chunks of their own school holidays to support our students and provide a positive outlet for their energy. Stay tuned for more Boxin4Health training opportunities when school returns!

Our Term 1 Standing Strong program for Stage 5 students will include two new programs: the innovative Agent-C social and media education workshops, and a new Connecting Cultural Pathways program for First Nations students.

This year we will rightfully celebrate and reflect on 10 years of NG Central School. As an NG OG, I am amazed and proud of what we've achieved in the past decade. But I am also conscious that this probably means very little to our new students: they will assess us on how we "turn up" and relate to them as individuals, day in and day out. The challenge of meeting each individual where they're at, and supporting them to achieve education and life goals, is what has kept our staff inspired since 2014.

**Rick, Programs Manager**

## Parent Portal Update

Happy 2024 everyone! Thank you to everyone who signed up for the Parent Portal in 2023. 50% of you logged in and used the Portal last year, and I'm hoping for even more users in 2024!

The Parent Portal keeps you up to date on attendance records, timetables, parent and teacher nights and other school and community events. It's also where you can find important documents such as newsletters and excursion permission slips and communicate directly with your young person's teachers.

In order to register for the Parent Portal, you'll need a family access key. If you don't already have a family access key, please e-mail [sentral@ngc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sentral@ngc.nsw.edu.au) to receive your unique code. This will link you to the school and your young person's information. Note: For any new students commencing in 2024, an e-mail will be sent to your registered e-mail address containing the information you need to get registered and logged on.

Should you experience difficulties or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me on [sentral@ngc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:sentral@ngc.nsw.edu.au) for assistance. I also look forward to hearing from you about your experience with our Parent Portal, and any feedback will be gratefully received!

**Vidar, Business Manager**

# TEACHERS' REPORTS

## English

**Stage 5 English:** 2023 was definitely a fun year, but 2024 brings in a whole new syllabus and new programs of study for our Stage 5 English students. I can't wait to get started! We will begin the year with Documenting Our World, which is a study of documentaries and writing. Students will study the film The Cove. They will learn how to critically respond to these kinds of texts and analyse how documentary-makers use a range of techniques to influence how viewers interpret events, individuals, groups and cultures. Students will write a review on The Cove for their assessment. Throughout the rest of the year, we will be looking at picture books, poetry and science fiction.

**Preliminary English:** Year 11 will begin the year with the Achieving Through English unit, which focuses on English in the context of our workplaces and wider communities. For their assessment, students will create a cover letter and resume that they will be able to use to obtain employment once they finish school. Students will also learn about unions, employee rights and responsibilities, superannuation, workplace communication and interview etiquette. I hope all students will find the information we learn this term to be useful as they prepare to transition into the world of work!

**HSC English:** Students have already started their study of HSC English Studies in Term 4 of 2023. We started with the unit, Texts and Human Experiences, with a focus on analysing the film Billy Elliot. Students have been preparing both short responses and extended responses in which they apply what they have learned in the movie to other texts (most notably music that they identify with). Throughout the rest of the year, we will study what it means to be Australian, music, and teen movies. I look forward to a very enjoyable year with Year 12!

**Kirk, English Teacher**

## Geography

During our first term, we will be looking at human wellbeing and how varying factors can positively or negatively affect this on both an individual and community level. Within this unit, students will be asked a variety of key inquiry questions that will guide their research and help them determine what makes human wellbeing a geographical issue. They will explore these concepts using Australian and global examples and will investigate and compare different initiatives that can bolster human wellbeing.

**Kat, Geography Teacher**

## History

In preparation for a new syllabus in 2025, students will be learning new programs of study in History throughout 2024. Movement of Peoples is the first unit of study that students will undertake. We will learn about the founding of Australia as a colony and the impact of colonisation on the land and First Nations people. Students will complete a research task on either a slave, a convict or a free settler. I am very excited about this new unit, and I hope all students will find it interesting.

**Kirk, History Teacher**

## TEACHERS' REPORTS

### Science

**Stage 5:** The first unit our Stage 5 students will be investigating in 2024 is Force and Motion. They will engage in a variety of experiences with hands-on materials and will make devices that can be used to demonstrate the concepts of Force and Motion in action. In their second unit, students will study various forms of energy, and explore energy transfers and transformations. Through practical investigation, they will develop their understanding of the 'conservation of energy' principle.

These units will provide learning experiences where students engage in science with a 'hands on – heads on – hearts on' approach. They will be actively manipulating materials and conducting investigations, making connections and reflecting on their findings, and acknowledging the importance of understanding the world around us through science.

**Preliminary Investigating Science:** In Stage 6, Year 11 Preliminary Investigating Science students will carry out first-hand and secondary source investigations to test water quality and its impact on plant and animal life in key locations across the Central Coast. They will make detailed and accurate observations, determine variables, formulate testable scientific hypotheses, and collect qualitative and quantitative data. By considering the influence their primary and secondary data has on their scientific investigations, students will further develop their understanding of questioning and working together in the pursuit of truth.

**HSC Investigating Science:** Our HSC Investigating Science students have been working on their first unit, Module 5: Scientific Investigations. Following its completion in the first two weeks of Term 1, students will then be introduced to the Module 6 Technologies unit. They will investigate the impact of rapid technological development on industrial and agricultural processes, medical applications, and communications. Students will also explore the dynamic relationship between science and technology, where the continuing advancement of science is dependent on the development of new tools and materials.

We are looking forward to a great year, full of practical work and interesting investigations. Students are encouraged to attend regularly so that they don't miss out on the wonderful learning experiences on offer.

**Janice, Science Teacher**



### Photography, Videography and Digital Imaging

Welcome to 2024! I am looking forward to introducing Year 11 to the art of Photography and Video. In Term 1, students will begin to build on their knowledge and skills in using a digital SLR camera through employing an array of camera angles and techniques. They will investigate how artworks and their meanings can be analysed and understood through the Conceptual Frames. This will involve studying the work of artists such as our local Central Coast photographer, Ken Duncan and Aboriginal digital artist, Wayne Quilliam.

Finally, students will be introduced to the art of enhancing and manipulating their images with the post-production software Adobe Photoshop Elements. It will be an exciting term for Year 11 and I can't wait to see everyone's creations!

**Patty, PVDI Teacher**

## TEACHERS' REPORTS

### Mathematics

**Stage 5:** During our first term, we will be looking at financial mathematics. Within this unit, students will build their financial literacy by learning how to calculate tax from their pay, how to understand and manage loans, and making money using the power of compound interest. This unit will provide the necessary skills young people need to handle money as they begin to enter the workforce and develop their independence.

**Year 11:** During this first term, students will be introduced to the concept of working numerically and why and where mathematics plays a foundational role within our lives and societies. This unit explores how numeracy is connected to money, sport, data and practical work like construction, as well as being essential to completing everyday tasks like going to the shops or designing a garden bed for your backyard.

**Year 12:** During this term, students will explore how numeracy relates to concepts of location, time, temperature, space and design. Within this unit, students will have an opportunity to work on a project that brings together all these ideas and challenges them to create a holiday trip on a budget and within time constraints. To accomplish this task, students will need to utilise their knowledge of time, location and temperature to create the ideal holiday conditions. They will also be given the opportunity to put their spatial and creative skills to the test by designing their own dream house that is both functional and stylish.

**Kat, Mathematics Teacher**

### Stage 5 PDHPE

In 2024, our Stage 5 PDHPE students will complete a unit on 'Party Behaviours'. We will focus on learning skills that can help young people effectively manage complex situations where their own or others' safety and wellbeing may be negatively impacted. This will include analysing the different cultural norms, external influences and everyday scenarios that affect the decisions we make and risks we take, formulating safety plans, and practising responses to use in emergencies or when they may be experiencing peer pressure to engage in unhealthy or unsafe behaviours.

Stage 5 will also undertake a unit on Invasion Games, where they will be assessed on their ability to assist and lead others during a physical activity. As well as physical movement skills like ball possession and executing successful shots, we will also be focusing on decision-making, problem-solving and communication.

### Sports, Lifestyle and Recreation

**Year 11:** From Week 1 – 8 of the term, Year 11 students will be studying Module 6 - Games and Sports Applications 1. They will learn about offensive and defensive strategies and skills and how these can be applied in performance environments, aspects of team play and individual VS team responsibilities. During Week 9 and 10, we will commence our Outdoor Recreation unit, which will focus on the skills and knowledge needed to navigate in the wilderness, interpret weather, deliver first aid, plan trips and campsite set-ups, and prioritise safety in all activities.

**Year 12:** For the first two weeks of Term 1, Year 12 will be completing their Module 1: Resistance Training, which will involve developing strength and muscular contraction of major skeletal muscles. Students will then build on their new-found knowledge to add different training methods, further resistance programming and calisthenics to their repertoire. To finish off this unit, students will learn facts and fallacies about protein and other nutritional supplements.

From Week 3 onwards, Year 12 will begin a new module called 'Healthy Lifestyles' in which they will learn about the factors that influence our lifestyles and wellbeing. This will include physical activity, nutrition, drug use and a variety of other relevant health issues for young people.

**Mike, PDHPE and SLR Teacher**