

NCS UPDATE

June 2023

Every class, every person, every time.

Excellence is a goal for many institutions and organizations that exist, but it can also be a burden or the result of hard work. Here at NCS, the goal of our high school is to see students display excellence by embracing who God has made them to be and undertaking amazing educational opportunities and creative, fun-filled experiences that help shape them on the path toward becoming who God has intended them to be. But how do we create such an environment? An environment where every student is seen, where every student knows that they are loved and cared for, and where every student can flourish within their unique characteristics and learning styles that each one of us possesses? We do it by setting high standards for teachers, students, and our high school community.

I believe God gave me the words, "Every class, every person, every time!" No matter the teacher, no matter the class, no matter when and where, every student should be able to access high-quality, purposeful opportunities. At the end of 2022, the staff worked together to form standards that are now being implemented across our high school. These standards have provided students with a clear benchmark of what we expect from them, and to this, we have added a "why." Why should students meet these standards? Why should they aspire to excellence? Put simply, it is because they deserve the very best, and they have a part to play in receiving the very best. When every student does the same things in every classroom, we move toward excellence and strive to ensure that every student is seen, heard, and supported in their journey towards the life God has intended for them.

We are almost half way through the year, and we are continuing our focusing on teacher standards to ensure that what we offer to students is consistently of the highest quality in every class, every time. Each staff member brings their unique personality and skill set to their subjects, and together we aim for the same goals.

This journey is both exciting and challenging for teachers as we meet new standards and strive to foster a culture of excellence. Additionally, we have implemented a deliberate plan for pastoral care, which involves teachers and teacher aides checking in with students to see how they are doing. This allows us to make necessary changes to programs or approaches. It has also led to the introduction of lunchtime programs to ensure that every student has something to do and someone to be with. Every individual matters, and everything we do matters. Therefore, in every class, by every person, and every time, we will work towards excellence so that all students can become exactly who God has created them to be.

My prayer is that God would fill us with wisdom, compassion, kindness and patience as we work together to make this High School a place of excellence to the glory of God. For students this prayer reflects the words of Paul who challenged Timothy by saying:

*"Let no one despise you for your youth,
but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12*

Russell MacKenzie
Head of High School



If your child will be absent from school due to illness or any other reason, please inform the office by 9:30am.

You can do this via:

- Audiri app
- email: office@ncs.tas.edu.au
- text: 0466 108 298
- phone: 6331 1922

BUILDING UPDATES

Hi Parents and other Caregivers,

It is not often I write in the newsletter, but I have been known to do so. Today is one of those times. Late last year we updated our Strategic Plan and came up with some building items that we see as helpful, if not essential to learning for students at NCS. Last year we built the junior playground, and this year we have replaced the windows and doors in the 7/8 room and the 5/6 room with safety glass. Most of these items are only possible through the fees and donations we receive from parents and other friends of our school.

As it is tax time, all donations made to our building fund before 30 June 2022 are eligible as a deduction on your personal tax return for the year 2022-2023. I do ask that you consider a donation in order to help pay for the improvements that we hope to complete this year I have listed below:

We have ordered a shade sail on the turf area outside the tech room, as well as four mighty rainproof umbrellas on the deck behind the junior area. This will create a large new outdoor classroom accessible from the two sliding doors in the junior classrooms, as well as extra shade for the students. We applied and received a special government grant to help pay for the shade sails, but this is only a third of the total cost.

We are also planning for new toilets in the juniors by the year end, as well as a glass wall to separate and reduce the sound from the Computer lab into the Library area. There is no government school funding for such small building items, so if you can help out with a tax deductible donations please email Jim Lambie, business@ncs.tas.edu.au.



FUN RUN

On May 19th, we held our annual Fun Run and it was a huge success! All the participants did an amazing job and we couldn't be prouder of them. It was heartwarming to see the older students lending a helping hand to the younger ones, cheering them on, and even participating in the races with them. We want to extend a special thank you to all the staff and parents who helped make this event possible. Your dedication and hard work are greatly appreciated.



SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING CHALLENGE

It's wonderful to hear about the Science Challenge Team's impressive performance in the state finals at Hobart. They represented Newstead Christian School with pride and gave their best effort. Achieving fourth place out of 45 schools is a huge achievement. Congratulations to everyone involved, well done!



K-2 LEARN TO SWIM

Kinder - 2 students have been taking part in a Learn to Swim Program.
Let's see what a few of them have to say about their experience.

I like swimming in a square (laps) - Billie
Super Good! - Max

I enjoy when I get to swim - River

I like freestyle - Tommy



I enjoy using kickboards - Joshua

I love catching rings in the pool - Reese

I like swimming like a mermaid - Imani

I like swimming in the big pool and kicking
my legs - Jaden

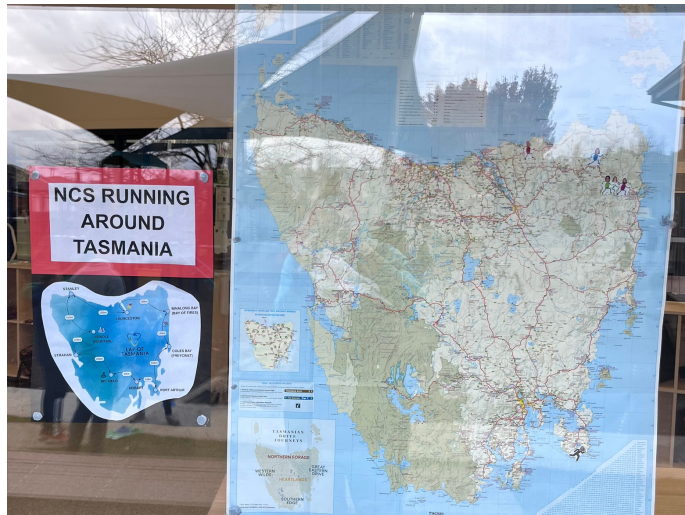
Kicking my legs and putting my face in the
water - Mia

I liked putting my head in the water - Sophia

I like going in the big pool, cause I can jump
in the big pool - Angel



TERRIFIC TASSIE TOUR



During Terms 2, 3 and 4, NCS students have been challenged by Mrs Nugteren to see if they can virtually run around Tasmania, 1835km in total. This activity is developing skills in maths and geography as well as developing students understanding of the benefits of health and physical activity and building their fitness. Students are collecting pop sticks for each lap (around the school grounds), 4 laps equal a kilometre. This helps develop their maths skills and it's a sense of achievement, with every stick counting toward the class total.

Each student in Grade 3-6 has developed the course, walking around with the trundle wheel to design it. After they designed and measured the course, they then came up with personal fitness goals, which will be revised several times throughout the year to see if they have achieved them or need to adjust them.



You may have seen a map in the window in the Primary School, this is showing the track we are going along and where each class is so far. There is a small figure with the teachers faces to show how far each class has gone. Ms Hooley is also on the map showing how far the whole school has gone. She is already made it to the third target, Port Arthur, so we are well on our way to getting around the state.



The students have opportunities throughout the week to do laps, once a week in daily PE, sometimes it is a warmup for PE lessons and then at recess time when Mrs Nugteren is on duty. Some students only run once a week while others take up every opportunity to help their classes move further around the state. Next term, we will add a few extra opportunities when other staff are on duty so that students can run more laps.

Throughout this process we hope students will build on their fitness and enjoy doing some extra physical activity, encourage each other along the journey and achieve their goals, and together we can get around Tasmania.

Mrs Nugteren

RAISING TECH-HEALTHY HUMANS

Hi parents, carers, and grandparents,

Feeling concerned about the impact of technology on kids? Wondering how to establish better screen habits for your primary school-aged children and younger? You're not alone.

Join me for a FREE 3-week tech-parenting course on Zoom, scheduled for June 8th, 15th, and 22nd from 8-9:15pm.

I created this course in March and the feedback was so positive that we decided to offer it again to a wider online audience. Thanks to grant-funding, there's no cost to you!

To find out more and to sign up to go <https://raisinghumans.au/free-parenting-course/>

Make space,

Daniel Sih

TECH-PARENTING COURSE

With Award-Winning Author and TEDx Speaker - Daniel Sih



Thursday 8th, 15th and 22nd June from 8:00pm -9:15 pm
Hosted on Zoom by Wilbur Longbottom from Third Space

COLD & FLU REMINDER

Dear Parent or Guardian:

The cold and flu season is upon us once again. To prevent widespread flu in the school, we recommend that your child stay home from school if experiencing flu or cold symptoms. To decide whether to send your child to school, please consider the following guidelines:

Consider keeping your child at home for an extra day of rest and observation if they have any of the following symptoms:

- Very stuffy or runny nose and/or cough
- Sore throat
- Headache
- Stomach ache

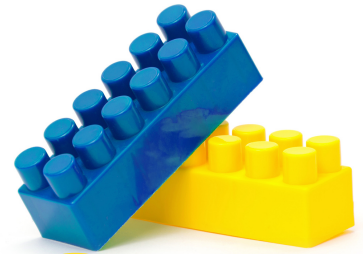
Please keep your child at home for treatment and observation if they have any of these symptoms:

- Fever
- Vomiting
- Diarrhoea
- Chills
- General malaise or feelings of fatigue, discomfort, weakness or muscle aches
- Frequent cough / sneeze

To help prevent the flu and other colds, teach your children good hygiene habits:

- Wash hands frequently
- Do not touch eyes, nose or mouth
- Cover mouth and nose when sneezing or coughing, use a tissue, throw it away and then wash hands. If no tissue, cough or sneeze into elbow, not your hands
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.

Colds are the most contagious during the first 48 hours. A child who has a fever should remain at home until "fever free" for a minimum of 24 hours. Often, when a child awakens with vague complaints (the way colds and flu begin) it is wise to observe your child at home for an hour or two before deciding whether to bring him/her to school. Your child should be well enough to participate in all physical school activities on return to school.



LEGO DONATIONS

High school students are seeking Lego donations to enhance their break times.

It would be appreciated if families could donate Lego that is no longer played with.

Donations can be dropped off at the Front Office.

Your contribution is much appreciated.
Thank you!



**LADIES,
COFFEE & CHAT @
BOATHOUSE COFFEE
LAUNCESTON**

Tuesdays straight after school drop off
All Welcome 💕

SAVE THE DATE - 4th July

Parent/teacher interviews are a valuable tool for both parents and teachers. It provides an opportunity for us to work together to ensure your child has a successful school year.

Parent-teacher interviews are scheduled for Tuesday, July 4th.

K-2: 3:30pm-8pm

Grades 3-6: 1:30pm - 8pm

Grades 7-10: 3:30pm - 8pm

Grade 7-10 interviews may also be scheduled on Wednesday, depending on the number of parents who request to book a time.

A note will be coming home to request a time for your interview.

Volunteers Needed

We are currently seeking volunteers who can drive the school bus for occasional excursions.

The driver would need to have

- heavy vehicle licence
- license to drive a public passenger vehicle
- WWVP

If you are interested or know someone who might be contact the office for more details.



Key Diary Dates

5 June - 9 June and 13 - 14th June

Grades 3-6 Swim Program

6 June

Couch Potato Day

12 June

Public Holiday

16 June

Interschool Cross Country at Geneva Christian College

20 June

Launceston College Open Day

30 June

Reports to go home

4 July

Parent/Teacher Interviews

7 July

Last Day Term 2

PRAYER WALK FOR SCHOOL COMMUNITY

When: Every Tuesday, 2.30pm (during school terms);

Where: Walking around the block, leaving from the Office;

Who: All school parents are invited;

Why: God tells us to;

"Keep on praying."

Newstead Christian School is a child safe organisation that is committed to child safe practices. NCS takes a preventative and proactive stance on child safety issues and has zero tolerance for child abuse.