

The Arcadian

THE MAGAZINE OF **NORTHHOLM GRAMMAR**
EDITION 52 | AUTUMN 2023



*Challenging minds.
Creating futures.*

**Northholm
Grammar**

The Arcadian

Edition 52 | Autumn 2023

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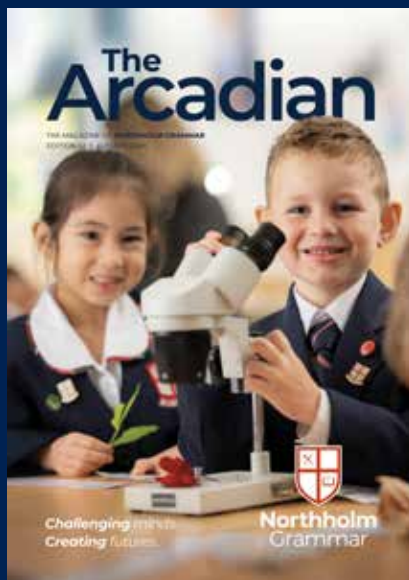
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features



On the cover

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Glitz, glamour and Gatsby

“Learning turns failures or mistakes into opportunities for growth.”

From the Principal

Welcome to our first edition of *The Arcadian* for 2023. This year we celebrate our 40th Anniversary and the foundational vision of Northholm as a small Christian school offering a strong level of individual pastoral care, maintaining high academic standards and a rich Co-Curricular Program that supports the growth of the whole student.

There is no doubt that our world is facing many challenges in a post-pandemic world that are both disruptive and confronting. It has meant that education and schools need to be proactive in better supporting student wellbeing and creating an environment where young people can achieve and thrive in their formative years of growth and development.

Student mental health underlies student experience, which in turn affects resilience and performance. It is an important focus for both parents and schools in contributing to the success of our students. We seek to help and support our students to improve their mental health as part of their student experience at Northholm Grammar, which is no small endeavour.

In best supporting our students, it is important that the foundation of our educational approach entails building the significant 'personal reserves' our young people require and developing their abilities to take care of themselves. There will always be challenges at school including examinations, home learning, sport, arts and leadership commitments, however we need to focus on growing the essential skills and dispositions of our students so they begin to understand what it means to 'care for oneself'.

Self-care is a personalised experience, and what works for one person may not work for another. Just like a restaurant has a menu of choices depending on personal preference, self-care can emerge from a menu of nurturing actions. Let me propose an eight-item menu of self-care activities that will enable students to thrive and flourish, both at school and in life.

1. Define success, set expectations:

Be warned that one cannot measure personal success through others' criteria or expectations. Success in both personal lifestyle (be safe, believe, become, belong) and academic and co-curricular achievements is self-defined. Clear (and evolving) definitions of success determine realistic expectations that replace distress with contentment. Students need to be driven and aspirational, but they also need quality teachers and their parents to guide them on the pathway to excellence. *What do I want?*

2. Ensure that aspirations exceed resources but not by too much:

Aspire for outcomes that require stretching but are reachable and within control. When success is out of reach, one will likely give up; when it is too easy, one likely won't grow. When aspirations become reachable goals and when we meet those goals, our students will have a sense of agency and control of their wellbeing. It is why the foundation of our Character Education Program is based on goal setting and goal striving. *What are my realistic goals?*

3. Take care of body and space:

The most practical advice given for increasing emotional health is to care for one's body (nutrition, exercise, sleep) and space (care for where you live, what you wear, how you manage your priorities). Given realistic expectations (about health and space), means living in a body and space that is physically and psychologically safe. Home learning, examinations, basketball training, drama rehearsals, etc. are all part of the journey, however our ability to prioritise meeting those

commitments and looking after our body is determined by our choices and actions. We need to guide students in developing positive habits regarding exercise, sleep and nutrition. *How well am I respecting my body and space?*

4. Savour distractions: Calculated hobbies and recreational activities are engaging and uplifting for young people: sports, photography, travel, music, movies, fishing, journaling, cooking, board games, and so on. Granting permission for hobbies (without being obsessive) positively distracts and lets the body and mind shelve demands and find joy. *What activities do I enjoy?*

5. Disconnect from technology:

Managing and disconnecting from the technology-obsessed digital world can have profound benefits for students in taking care of body and space. The quick-fix dopamine high from constant digital connection often leads to addictive and unhealthy cycles. This is especially true for students who can spend up to three hours a day on their smartphones. Disconnecting from technology sometimes reminds us of who we are. *How comfortable am I being by myself?*

6. Connect with others: In general, the greatest source of lifetime happiness comes from relationships. Relationships require investments of time to share, serve and, at times, repair. Education is all about building positive relationships. Having best friends at school and outside of school means having someone to share both joys and disappointments, big successes and daily events. When feeling at odds with someone we care about, we repair the relationship with forgiveness and understanding. When feeling unappreciated, we should express gratitude for our blessings. When feeling lonely or isolated, we should be vulnerable by sharing and inviting others into our life. *Whom do I care about, who cares about me?*

7. Foster hope: Replacing helplessness with hopefulness comes from efficacy by knowing that one can accomplish something, optimism by seeing the good, and imagination by exploring new ways to get things done. An attitude of hopefulness appreciates what is right (more than it obsesses about what is wrong) and focuses on the future more than the past. *What gives me hope in the future?*

8. Learn: Instead of hiding from mental health challenges, face them and run into them. Learning means showing resilience by being better each day. Learning requires self-candour by knowing strengths and weaknesses. Learning turns failures or mistakes into opportunities for growth. *What am I learning to improve my mental health?*

Taking care of others starts with self. By personalising your selection from this menu, you might replace the prevalent mental health risks with a sense of personal abundance. Let us continue to work together in harnessing the positive culture at Northholm Grammar based on building a sense of belonging, so students can achieve their full potential and make the right moral and ethical decisions when they leave School with the support and guidance of quality teachers and their parents.

Christopher Bradbury
Principal

Character education innovation in bespoke progra

At Northholm Grammar, we recognised the need for a bespoke program to cater for the personal growth, including the academic growth, of all students at their specific developmental ages for Years 7 to 12. So it is with great pride to announce that in 2023, we have launched our new, internally designed Secondary Years' Character Education Program.

Actioned over the course of the year, the Program is divided into term themes. External presentations from key institutions and leaders in their fields, internal lectures by the Senior Leadership Team and activities carried out in Tutorial lessons are tailored around these themes, and are targeted to the different year levels. In addition, Senior Assemblies and Chapel Services are aligned to the Program to ensure a clear and linear message is communicated and embedded across our student body.

The themes covered this year include:

Term 1 – Decision Making

Term 2 – Scholarship

Term 3 – Respectful Relationships and Resilience

Term 4 – Leadership

The Character Education Program started strongly in Term 1, as students engaged in presentations and activities around Decision Making. Within their Tutorial periods, students have been discussing and refining the goals they determined in the Tutor/Parent/Student Interviews on the first day of term. They have worked on codes of conduct for their House, their Tutorial, for themselves and have designed purpose-built academic and character goals for the term.

Students have heard from members of the Senior Leadership Team on student-projected risk in learning and the effects on self-esteem, the outcomes of procrastination and the consequences of poor decision making. We reviewed and discussed the fear associated with perceived risk when decision making, from the perspectives of students across an array of activities. Furthermore, lessons on The Bystander Effect, from the viewpoint of bullying as well as inclusion, highlighted the importance of learning to find courage in standing up for what is right and not allowing negative behaviours to go uncorrected.

Participants learned about five self-esteem defensive measures offered by well-known educational researcher, Andrew Martin, and the different attitudes they can assume to protect their self-esteem when engaging in an activity or striving for improvement. Conversations in Tutorial classes focused on the benefits of acknowledging and using defensive measures, to push through the barrier of fear towards future success.

Lisa Maltman from The Sleep Connection was brought in to speak with Years 7, 11 and 12 about the decisions they should be making on their sleep health and Senior Constable Lynda Hart of the NSW Police spoke to Secondary Years students about online behaviours and cyber-safety. Senior Constable Hart also gave a special presentation to Years 9 and 10 on Anti-Violence.

Our Program continues in Term 2 with a study and reflection on scholarship and what that means to Northholm Grammar students. Throughout the term, Years 7 and 8 are engaging with Brainstorm Productions on understanding the effects of social interactions on their academic journey. Years 9 and 10 are hearing from Paul Wade on grit, perseverance, teamwork, focus and personal leadership. Meanwhile, Years 10 to 12 will continue to work with Northholm's Head of Student Futures on scholarship and future proofing their education.

We are thrilled with the level of engagement in this Program so far and the consistency of messaging across our School. Students and staff alike are enjoying the rigorous discussions and reflections uncovered in Tutorials and in the classrooms as a result of our Character Education Program.

Andrea van den Bol
Deputy Principal

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“Lessons from The Bystander Effect... highlighted the importance of learning to find courage in standing up for what is right ...”

A culture of scholarship

ACADEMICS

At the heart of every great school is a culture that promotes a love of learning through scholarship. Northholm Grammar should be exceptionally proud of its achievements in the last four years and there is a strong sense of intentionality and determination within our learning community to build on these high standards as we move into the future.

We continue to place emphasis on academic achievement and effort by learning through scholarship and academic growth. A culture of scholarship is designed to encourage intellectual rigour, independent thinking and the ability to value academic study and achievement. Students are challenged and motivated to develop a love of learning so they can harness the intellectual habits that will allow them to be independent and confident.

Cultivating a powerful culture of learning that encourages intellectual rigour, independent thinking and placing a high value on academic study and achievement is central to a high performing school. We aim to challenge our students to move beyond performance learners driven by results, to directed, independent and agile learners. This should not be confused as only seeking to maximise outcomes for high academic achievers or results; on the contrary, it is about more than grades and results. It is about learner efficacy and the intentional promotion of teaching practice to see students reach their best. A culture of scholarship values each learner and the learning environment created so that each student can reach their full potential.

We recognise the importance of developing a student's character: the willingness and ability to learn, to lead and to serve are what enable a life to be both well-lived and worthwhile. We often refer to The Northholm Way which is prioritising academic intentionality with an emphasis on pastoral attentiveness. The relationship between the two is critical to maximising student potential. Academic success requires a strong sense of character and moral aptitude: recognising that resilience, grit, leadership, critical thinking and emotional intelligence lies at the heart of a true education. 'Giving it your best', handling setbacks or adversity and dealing with difficult circumstances is what we seek to produce in every Northholm graduate.

In creating a culture of scholarship at Northholm Grammar, a significant investment has been made into developing teacher practice through the implementation of the Professional Practice and Growth Model. This is a commitment by classroom teachers to grow in excellence, especially in curriculum expertise and pedagogical practice. It involves an annual process of reflection, data-gathering, observations and evaluation of their teaching practice in consultation with a mentor.

The key features, designed to improve student outcomes, is for professional practice to be:

- fundamentally based on promoting high expectations of intellectual rigour
- soundly based on explicit teaching creating a quality learning environment
- informed by data through a coherent structure of formative assessment and deliberate practice
- provides effective feedback for continuous improvement, and
- allows teachers to build strong positive relationships with students.

Northholm is driven by a deep belief that every student is capable of successful learning. A high priority is given to building and maintaining positive and caring relationships between staff, students and parents. There is a strong collegial culture of mutual trust and support among teachers and School leaders. The School actively works to maintain a learning environment that is safe, respectful, tolerant, inclusive and that promotes intellectual rigour. This is at the heart of our focus on scholarship.

Jeremy Whitney
Director of Studies



“Academic success requires a strong sense of character and moral aptitude.”

2022 HSC Excellence

RESULTS

At the end of 2022, Northholm Grammar farewelled our Year 12 graduates and congratulated them for their excellent achievements. Our students met the challenges of the pandemic over the past two years and worked diligently over their final year, aiming to accomplish their personal best.

At Northholm, we believe in a culture of scholarship, which is about encouraging intellectual rigour, independent thinking and valuing academic study and achievement. We value each student individually so that they can reach their potential.

In 2022, Northholm Grammar achieved a ranking of 117 among all schools in New South Wales.

The School and our students celebrated the following significant academic achievements:

- 88% of students gained at least one Band 5 or Band 6 result.
- 46% of students gained at least one Band 6 result.
- All subjects achieved above state average marks.
- Subjects that achieved significantly above state (more than 20%) for Band 6 results include: Chemistry, Drama, English Ext I, English Ext II, Legal Studies, Music I, PDHPE.

- The following students achieved multiple Band 6 results: Holly Behan (3), Caleb Eveniss (2), Amber Garth (4), Sophie Oates (3), Mason Parle (3), Aidan Venegas (3), Connor Wilson (3), Rachel Wong (4).

These achievements would not be possible without the pastoral attentiveness, hard work and support of our staff, parents and community. We are extremely proud of the hard work and efforts of our fine young men and women. We look forward to following their progress as they move into the next phase of their journey.



Top ATAR results



Rachel Wong
98.30



Connor Wilson
96.7



Marson Parle
95.95

Encore



Congratulations to Wade Coltman who achieved an ENCORE Nomination for Music.

Performance in HSC Courses

The performance of each student in each of their HSC courses is indicated in levels, called Bands, from 1 to 6. Bands 5 to 6 are the highest levels. The table below shows some of the HSC courses studied at Northholm in 2022.

Course	% In Bands 5 & 6		Northholm's Top Marks In Each Course
	At Northholm	In State	
Agriculture	30	26	96
Biology	24	27	88
Business Studies	45	34	94
Chemistry	100	33	91
Design and Technology	43	47	83
Drama	86	59	93
English Advanced	74	67	91
English Extension 1	100	93	46
English Extension 2	100	85	46
Geography	75	42	84
Legal Studies	84	41	93
Mathematics Standard	45	29	95
Mathematics Advanced	50	49	89
Mathematics Extension 1	67	74	93
Mathematics Extension 2	100	85	89
Modern History	50	34	88
Music 1	100	69	94
Music 2	100	86	88
PDHPE	100	26	90
Physics	43	41	90
Society and Culture	44	43	89
Visual Arts	71	66	88

HSC Distinguished Achievers

The following students achieved a Band 6 or E4 result in the following subjects, meaning they scored over 90%.

Holly Behan	Business Studies, English Advanced, Legal Studies
Wade Coltman	Music 1
Caleb Eveniss	Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2
Amber Garth	English Advanced, English Extension 1, English Extension 2, Legal Studies
Henry Gierek	Drama
Laura Jones	Personal Development, Health and Physical Education
Shreya Narain	Business Studies
Vanessa Norris	Mathematics Standard 2
Sophie Oates	Drama, Mathematics Standard 2, Music 1
Mason Parle	Agriculture, Business Studies, Legal Studies
William Toohey	Legal Studies
Aidan Venegas	Drama, Legal Studies, Mathematics Standard 2
Eli Whicker	Mathematics Standard 2
Connor Wilson	Chemistry, Mathematics Extension 1
Rachel Wong	Chemistry, English Advanced, Physics
Elouis Wright	Music 1

“These achievements would not be possible without the pastoral attentiveness, hard work and support of our staff, parents and community.”

A strong start

PRIMARY YEARS

During the initial Staff Development Days for 2023, Primary Years staff undertook the first of eight professional learning modules aimed at refining and developing our teaching practice for the benefit of our students. All Kindergarten to Year 6 teachers, as well as the Diverse Learning Team, will participate in this program as the School maintains its vision to focus on the fundamentals – literacy and numeracy.

The Primary Numeracy Project, delivered by Fiona Walker from the NSW Association for Independent Schools, seeks to develop students' numeracy and knowledge of mathematical concepts through an intensive, targeted and intentional teaching and learning program. Mathematics is a broad subject that encompasses numeracy skills and abstract concepts through equations and problems solving tasks.

Northholm undertakes a multifaceted approach to assessment and uses a range of tools to collect data about our students' learning. Students have already undertaken some formative assessments that enable teaching and learning to be personalised and intentional.

Each student from Kindergarten to Year 6 completed a mathematical screening test that will assist staff to gain an insight into their strengths and areas for growth in Mathematics. In turn, the results from the screening tests will tailor learning to each individual student's progress. These screeners will be conducted three times throughout the year, providing a way of monitoring student growth as well as the effectiveness of our Primary Years Mathematics teaching.

At Northholm Grammar, we aim to enrich the learning of each student to cater for individual learning styles and to maximise student achievement. This is achieved through the experiences of

students with Primary Years teachers, the Diverse Learning Team, our Co-Curricular Program and external competitions such as the Australian Problem Solving Maths Olympiad.

Erin Werner
Primary Years Curriculum Coordinator



“... we aim to enrich the learning of each student to cater for individual learning styles and to maximise student achievement.”

Year 4 Zoo Experience

PRIMARY YEARS

In November 2022, Year 4 students got up close with creatures great and small when they participated in the inaugural overnight Taronga Zoo 'ZooSnooz' Experience. The camp was undertaken as part of their learning across a range of Key Learning Areas, including Science and Technology, Personal Development, Health and Physical Education (PDHPE) and Outdoor Education.

The Taronga Zoo event provided many valuable academic and social experiences, which translated into learning opportunities and lasting memories. Students made meaningful connections to their learning about sustainability and preservation of animal habitats both in Australia and overseas.

Throughout the term, their learning pathway has primarily focused on either the Daintree Rainforest or the Bornean Rainforest and the effects that deforestation has on animals and the ecosystem. During the zoo visit, students were able to see animals from these regions first-hand. The experience strengthened learning and allowed them the opportunity to speak with zoologists and ask questions to expand their knowledge. Specifically, students reflected on the harvesting of palm oil in Borneo and the detrimental effects that this had on the Orangutan population and their habitat.

Another aim of this unique event was for students to gain academic and social skills in preparation for

subsequent overnight experiences in later years. In Year 5, students at Northholm Grammar embark on a three-day experience in Bathurst to learn about the Goldrush era as part of Australian history. In Year 6, students begin the year with their Colo River Camp where they are immersed in outdoor education from cooking their own meals, pitching tents, high ropes courses and problem solving activities. Additionally, Year 6 continue their learning in Canberra for a three-day stay in the nation's capital to learn about parliament, Australia's democratic structure and responsibilities.

Erin Werner
Primary Years Curriculum Coordinator



The Year 4 student cohort at Base Camp.



Left to right, Maggie Mileto, Arabella Izzard and Luella Mitchell posing with the giraffes.



Learning about sustainable fishing to assist marine life to flourish.

Primary Years Leadership

PRIMARY YEARS

Leadership is an integral part of a Northholm education. The Year 6 Primary Leadership Team includes our School Captains, House Captains and SRC Chairperson. Each of these students has an important role in supporting the day to day running of the Primary Years Department.

The students demonstrate their leadership skills through responsibility, organisation, communication and leading by example, whilst embodying the School values. In addition, as part of the Kindy Buddy Program, some of the Year 6 students are mentors to the Kindergarten students. The Program supports a smooth transition for children starting School,

promoting a sense of community and belonging. This role fosters leadership, empathy and mentorship skills in Year 6 students.

Year 5 students also have the opportunity to develop their leadership skills by taking on monitor roles to further help the Primary Years Department, such as helping with canteen orders, organising play equipment, computers and library resources.

The voice of our students is vital in developing the Northholm school community. A representative from each class attends a monthly meeting of the Student Representative Council where they share ideas to help improve the School.

In February, we celebrated the appointment of our leaders at the Primary Years Leadership Investiture Service.

Primary Years Captains –
Adrien Batar and Sylvia Dagg

Year 6 House Captains –
Ashleigh Mansell (Capell),
Oliver Bosward (Lincoln),
Grace Ward (Patteson) and
Lavana Taukeiaho (Rowland)

SRC Chairperson –
Advitya Jain

Mary Falvey
Primary Years Wellbeing Coordinator



From left to right. Oliver Bosward, Grace Ward, Sylvia Dagg, Adrien Batar, Lavana Taukeiaho, Ashleigh Mansell, Advitya Jain, Mr Christopher Bradbury.

“The voice of our students is vital in developing the Northholm school community.”



Left to right. Mr Christopher Bradbury, Esmond Ye, Lucinda O'Brien, Isabelle Henderson, Troy Wijaya, Frank Restuccia, Sarah Berthon, Mr Joshua Toth.



Year 8 students Emily Smart (left) and Ally Maclaine at the F1 in Schools State Titles.

Outstanding achievements

In November, we celebrated Northholm Grammar taking out the School Entrepreneurs of 2022 Award at the Generation Entrepreneur Competition. Congratulations to the 'Safety Shadow' team of Year 9 students Anisha Anandh, Isabelle Henderson, Lucinda O'Brien, Ashleigh Sinclair and Troy Wijaya for the amazing win.

The team travelled to the University of New South Wales for the National final, held over two days, competing against 10 teams from NSW, Victoria and Queensland. The teams had to move through various stages of the competition to reach the Final where they were given two crisis statements (threats to respond to) based on the product they had developed across the two previous rounds.

The School Entrepreneur of the Year Competition offers an amazing opportunity for high school students to build entrepreneurial skills, get real world experience and mentoring from experts. A major sponsor for the competition was Finder, an Australian website designed to help people make better financial decisions and the three

judges were from Finder's executive team: one of the co-founders, the CEO and the Head of Program Management. They awarded Northholm the first prize

of \$1,000, Generation Entrepreneur merchandise and the opportunity to meet with the judges in 2023 to discuss possible start-up funding for their idea.

Formula One Success

Year 8 students Ally Maclaine and Emily Smart achieved an exceptional eighth place in the Junior Cadet Class in the F1 in Schools State Titles. The F1 in Schools Program is a multi-disciplined Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) program run in Australia by the Re-Engineering Australia (REA) Foundation.

Held at the Eastern Creek Raceway in November last year, the competition was a culmination of Ally and Emily's months of research into aerodynamics and engineering. They designed their car using a range of computer-aided design programs and manufactured their vehicle using a manufacturing computer

numerical control (CNC) router. In the Cadet Class, the students' car body and aerofoils are required to be made with balsa wood with REA kit wheels. They also had to produce a poster and engineering drawing for assessment by the panel of judges.

Ally and Emily credited their success to the amazing support they received from their families and their ability to stay enthusiastic and motivated. This year, they go on to compete in the Development Class for the 2023 Season, in which their replica F1 racing car may have a 3D printed front aerofoil in addition to the balsa wood body. They must also produce a Portfolio along with a Trade Display and Verbal Presentation. We wish Ally and Emily the best of luck in this year's competition.

Shining Talents

CAPA

Commitment to passion and performance is an essential component of student learning across the year for Creative and Performing Arts students. Come November, the yearlong preparation pays off when students have the opportunity to share their gifts at the CAPA Elective Showcase.

In 2022, we saw shining talent across our Drama, Music and Visual Arts students, with an additional by-invitation exhibition from Year 11 Design and Technology students. The annual CAPA Elective Showcase, the last showcase of the year, presents the creative portfolios and performances of students in Years 9 to 11 to the School and our wider community.

In Drama, our Year 11 students returned to present their group performance *The Billionaire's Club* as part of their contemporary American Theatre studies. Year 10 challenged themselves rigorously this year and, as a final performance, acted scenes from Australian and International Realism plays. Our youngest electives students, Year 9, treated the audience to a round of improvisation skits, leaving everyone wanting more!

Our increasingly talented musicians embraced the skill of composing to develop their understanding of aural analysis using the six concepts of music: Pitch, Duration, Dynamics and Expressive Techniques, Tone Colour, Texture and Structure. Year 11 students, Declan Gunther and Max Fletcher performed an exceptional rendition of *No Time To Die* by Billie Eilish, with both vocals and on the ukulele, and *Yardbird Suite* by Charlie Parker respectively. Year 9 and 10 students performed in

small ensembles, each demonstrating their individual talents with instruments and their collective pursuit to perform professionally as a band.

"... Year 9 treated the audience to a round of improvisation skits, leaving everyone wanting more!"



Left to right. Zane Stolee, Kiralee Bray, Nate Elsley, Alice Hynes, Evangeline Morrison and Mr Daniel Bishop.

Little hands, great things



CAPA

Primary Years Visual Arts Showcase

Northholm Grammar's Primary Years Visual Arts artists continue to grow in confidence and determination as they progress through their years, engaging in art making and art thinking activities that ignite a sense of curiosity and critical thinking, preparing them for their future academic success.

Throughout the year, hype and anticipation is built as each finished artwork gets safely 'archived' away, in preparation for our Primary Years Visual Arts Showcase, held in the final weeks of Term 4, 2022. With the return of the parent community in person, there was no holding back on the details: lights, glitz and glam brought the campus to life as teachers dressed the Primary Years hallway, Primary Library and Primary Art Studio with the culmination of the year's work. The event includes a gallery walk-through hosted by students, artworks orders for Christmas and our always highly anticipated Jackson Pollock art auction!

This year, one of the highlights was the sensational Kindergarten to Year 2 exhibition of bright, colourful and highly experimental artworks that focused on Australian land and oceanic flora and fauna. They also exhibited works that demonstrated ongoing learning about Australian history and artists



such as Peter Cromer, Sidney Nolan and Indigenous artist, Tony Albert.

Year 3 explored the graphic world of line and colour, presenting their mini beast artworks in a range of mediums including Posca Pen drawings and felt fabric sculptures, which challenged students as it required the artists to learn how to read a textile pattern! Year 4 engaged in an in-depth study of Ancient Arts and the concept of an 'artefact'. The artists presented two final artworks: a series of ceramic gold Sun Gods and their own created Hand Artefact, which explored and advanced their material practice.

Year 5 completed a comprehensive study titled Herstory, exploring the history of art and its lack of female representation. Students focused on the artist practice of three strong, well known female artists – Frida Kahlo, Louise Bourgeois and Yayoi Kusama.

On exhibition was the students' experimentation with each artists' practice. Finally, our oldest artists, Year 6, explored Australian culture and the societal issues that artists discuss in contemporary art. Ceramic sculpture avatars comprised of mixing pop culture with traditional culture, referencing deities, cartoons, television characters and the human body.

The Primary Years Visual Arts Showcase is a wonderful event that invites the community to acknowledge that little hands can make great things.

Lauren Barlow
Head of Creative and Performing Arts



Miranda Li playing the harp at the Primary Years Showcase.

Primary Years Music Showcase

The annual Primary Years Music Showcase is a highlight of the music calendar, where every single student from Kindergarten to Year 6 is involved in one or more musical performances. Held in November 2022, family, friends and staff all enjoyed the wide variety of music presented by Northholm students.

There were well known pieces featured by classical composers including Mozart, Rossini and Haydn, through to popular television themes, music from Latin America and even The Beatles. It was the perfect way to wrap up the year of musicmaking. All the students had spent the year working in smaller groups each Tuesday with our highly experienced Music Tutors and would combine the groups later in the week to form large ensembles rehearsing with Mrs Cuza.

The Showcase performance began with Primary Years Choir singing three items. Kindergarten students then sang and played along with xylophones. Years 1 and 2 performed three works with their violins. Years 3 and 4 Band played six pieces and Years 3 to 6 Strings played four items. Years 5 and 6 also combined to form a large band and played three pieces together.

Alongside these ensemble items there were featured soloists, including an outstanding performance from a Year 1 student, Miranda Li, on harp, and a range of other exceptional student soloists performing on piano, violin, cello, saxophone, flute and trombone.

As every student performed, the joy of musicmaking together was evident on their faces. They were especially excited to play for their families and friends.

David Stratton
Coordinator of
Co-Curricular Music



“... a wonderful event that invites the community to acknowledge that little hands can make great things.”

Sherlock (North)Holmes

CAPA

Audiences were taken on a rollicking adventure through the streets of London with one of the world's greatest detectives when Northholm Grammar performed *Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular* in November 2022.

It is always fabulous to see so many of our talented Stage 4 Drama students take the stage each year for the Middle School Drama Production and there was no shortage of keen students last year. Building on the strength of our Year 7 and 8 Drama Club, we saw a large turnout for auditions and an inundation of talented young students bring the antics of the eccentric detective to life.

Directed by Ms Lorna Bretell and Mr Brad Turbott, the sell-out show featured Detective Holmes working alongside the cunning young Wiggins:

On a dare from her fellow street urchins, 14-year-old Wiggins tries to pickpocket a strange old man. Not only is Wiggins unsuccessful, but the old man, who is actually Sherlock Holmes in disguise, manages to take the gold ring that was in Wiggins' pocket and leave behind a note directing her where to go to get it back.

When Wiggins goes to 221B Baker Street to retrieve the ring, she is shocked to find out how much Holmes knows about her based on a quick observation. After Wiggins sees Holmes use the ring to solve a case, Wiggins proposes to work as his assistant. Intrigued by her potential, Holmes agrees to begin training Wiggins on a trial basis, so long as she helps Mrs Hudson with the chores.

"What an incredible show, congratulations to the cast and crew."

Audience member

Wiggins and Holmes must learn to trust each other as Wiggins and her group of street urchins help him solve two dangerous mysteries: The Red Headed League and The Adventure of the Blue Carbuncle.

It was an absolute joy to see all the performance talent on display from our Year 7 and 8 students and this was made even more enjoyable by having so many of our Year 9 to 11 students help out as student directors and stage managers. It is through this vertical structure that we see students take on leadership roles and learn first-hand all the behind-the-scenes work that goes into a theatrical production.

Lauren Barlow
Head of Creative and Performing Arts



CHARACTER

Year 7 and 8 students onstage in *Sherlock Holmes and the First Baker Street Irregular*.



Cast and crew together on stage.



Performers from left to right. Andy Ward, Xavier Combes, Amelia Grindley, Hannah Kok, Pippa Oates, Jiho Yoo, Liam Ward and Levi Dawson.

Andy Ward as Sherlock Holmes.

Oliver's technicolour dream

CAPA

The start of a new school year is always a period of adjustment for students: new classmates, new teachers and new schedules to learn and master. However, for Year 6 student Oliver Bosward, the beginning of 2023 has seen all this and more as he treads the boards of Sydney's Capitol Theatre in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*.

Oliver, in 6N, has been juggling Northholm life alongside his performance demands since the show opened in February. It has been a challenge, but one Oliver has risen to. "I just work hard and enjoy both as much as possible," he says. "It's a great opportunity to be in *Joseph* at night and weekends and with my classmates during the days."

Always embodying the Northholm spirit, Oliver has made sure he also inspires his peers in Lincoln House as their Primary Years Captain – leading them with excellence during carnivals and Inter-House Competitions, even earning a place to represent Northholm in the Hills Zone Swimming Competition due to his outstanding individual performance in the pool.

Oliver can be seen on stage in select performances until the end of the *Joseph* season. And then it is on to his next role, as one of the leads in the Primary Years Production of *Cinderella and Rockafella* which comes to the stage at Northholm in Term 4 this year.

Matthew Garrett
Primary Years Co-Curricular
Coordinator and Year 6 Teacher



Oliver performing live on stage in *Joseph*.



Oliver with Northholm's Coordinator of Co-Curricular Music, David Stratton, who plays the bass in *Joseph*.



Oliver Bosward with *Joseph* star Euan Fistrovic Doidge.

Isabel He swimming for Rowland House.



Rowland leads sports results

SPORT

Northholm staff and students maintain their high commitment to our vibrant sport program with a fantastic start to 2023 in swimming, cross country, aerobics, cricket, basketball and equestrian sports events.

Our first major event, the Annual Inter-House Swimming Carnival, was held at Waves Fitness and Aquatic Centre in Baulkham Hills. The day was packed with great competition from all four Houses and the carnival included the Invitational Event consisting of the fastest eight swimmers for boys and girls across the School. Congratulations to Archer Vogt (Year 10) and Isabel He (Year 9) for taking out the titles in 2023. We celebrated Rowland House as the overall winner of this year's Carnival.



Left to right. Archer Vogt, Oscar He and Isabel He representing Northholm at the HZSA Swimming Carnival.



Northholm's record-breaking Senior Girls relay team. From left to right, Northholm's Rose Harrington, Sylvia Dagg, Ally Park and Grace Ward.



HZSA Swimming Age Champions Rose Harrington and Kaylene Park.

The Hills Zone Sports Association (HZSA) Swimming Carnival held at the Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre (SOPAC) in March was a wonderful day of competition for Primary and Secondary Years students. Northholm Grammar was represented strongly at both carnivals and was awarded the Best Performing School Trophy for the Primary Carnival and Primary Girls Overall Champions, topping off a fabulous day. Primary Years students then qualified for the NSW Combined Independent Schools (CIS) Championships.

Congratulations to E Dagg, Sienna Logan, Grace Ward, Sylvia Dagg, Rose Harrington, Ally Park, Amelia Foster and Kaylene Park; these girls swam both individual events and in relay teams representing Northholm Grammar at the HZSA Carnival. Kaylene Park (Year 5) had a fantastic day in the pool breaking all the HZSA records in the U10 Years Girls age group. She was awarded Age Champion and Rose Harrington (Year 5) was awarded Runner Up Age Champion for her age group. Our Senior Girls relay team also broke the HZSA record with their blistering swim. Kaylene Park qualified for the CIS Team to compete at the state level in the NSW Primary Schools Sports Association (PSSA) in both the 50m Freestyle and 50m Backstroke events.

In the Secondary Years, the Association of Independent Co-Educational Schools (AICES) 2023 Swimming Carnival was well represented by Isabel He, Oscar He

and Archer Vogt. Qualifying for CIS was Archer Vogt (Year 10) in 50m Breaststroke and Isabel He (Year 9) in 50m Backstroke. Congratulations to both students.

The Inter-House Cross Country was held in Week 6 with extensive participation and competition among the four Houses. The winning House was Rowland, which means Rowland has now won two Inter-House sports carnivals with the Athletics Carnival still to come. The top six cross country students qualified for the HZSA Competition in Term 2; we wish our Primary and Secondary athletes the best of luck competing at this event in May at the International Equestrian Centre, Horsley Park.

In Aerobics, Northholm continues its vibrant program with both Primary and Secondary teams entered for the State Qualifiers in June. Our coaches Sarah Walker and Tyler Old lead this program with their energy and enthusiasm as they support and challenge our teams every session.

Praneet Kumaran (Year 6) was selected by the Primary CIS Cricket team to play in the NSW PSSA State Championship in Term 1. Across the four days of competition, Praneet took five wickets and scored 45 runs with CIS winning the Championships.

Northholm Grammar has a long association with the Hills Hornets Basketball Club Competition and as the Summer 2022-2023 season concluded we congratulate our winning U15 Northholm Blazers, coached by Emma Mercieca and U17 Northholm Magic,



Praneet Kumaran competing for the CIS cricket team.



Kindergarten student Cove Watkin representing Capell in the Cross Country.



Northholm Grammar's Cross Country Carnival.



Kayla Ghalloub competing at an Equestrian jumping event.



From left to right. Dallas Liddle, Alyssa Cepak, Amelia Foster and Minnie Pembroke-Birss. Primary Years Equestrian riders.

coached by Nick Mercieca, for their fabulous result in the Grand Finals. Congratulations to U17 Northholm Spirit on their runner up trophy after a fabulous season coached by Olivia Charlton.

The Northholm Equestrian team continues to grow with 30 students now competing for Northholm at a range of events throughout the year. From Primary Years students on their

ponies to our Secondary Years students entering jumping and cross country events, it is a team that celebrates all that Northholm represents as we welcome new riders to the team regularly.

Jamie Stimson
Head of Sport and Coaching

HZSA opportunities

The Hills Zone Sports Association (HZSA) provides a pathway to Combined Independent Schools (CIS) and state representation for Primary and Secondary students of member schools. Students can gain representation in the major carnivals for swimming, cross country and athletics as well as many other representative sports. In addition, gala days, championship days and competitions across a variety of sports provide Primary and Secondary students with the opportunity to play weekly competitive Inter-School sport.

HZSA team sport selections were held in Term 1 for a variety of sports with Northholm students being selected to compete at AICES. Congratulations to the following students for their selections:

- Kai Strickland – Open Boys Basketball
- Taine Cassar – Open Boys Rugby
- Layla Weinberg, Lara Green, Lisa Tusnea and Asha Eveniss – Open Girls Football
- Will Jones – Open Boys Football
- Amber Tesoriero – U15 Girls Touch Football
- Mitchell Tesoriero, Kyle Tesoriero – Open Boys Touch Football
- Harrison Miller – U16 Boys Football.

Northholm entered a wide variety of teams in the weekly HZSA Sports Competition in Semester 1. Our teams include Years 5 and 6 Girls Touch Football, Years 5 and 6 Boys Football, Years 3 and 4 Boys Football and Years 3 and 4 Girls Basketball. In the Secondary Years, Northholm has entered Junior Boys Basketball, Intermediate Boys Basketball, Senior Boys Basketball, Junior Girls Futsal, Junior Boys Football, Intermediate Boys Football, Senior Boys Football, Junior Girls Netball, Intermediate Girls Netball and Senior Girls Netball.

Commitment to community

SERVICE LEARNING

In the last week of Term 4 in 2022, all students embarked on three days of Service Learning within their Houses. Service Learning at Northholm Grammar emphasises the importance of giving back to the community and embodies two of our key pillars, caring for others and self and contributing the community.

Lincoln and Rowland Houses engaged in a set of workshops to examine the nature of homelessness and mental health. Speakers from The Big Issue presented eye-opening facts about how prevalent homelessness has become in society and students had the opportunity to speak with a current employee of the media outlet who was homeless earlier in their life. Throughout these sessions, a range of questions were posed allowing students to develop a deeper understanding of the reasons why people become homeless and the challenges faced daily, in areas such as employment, sanitation and access to food and shelter.

In addition, Rowland House also cooked approximately 100 meals donated to the not-for-profit organisation Fusion, in Hornsby, to help feed the homeless and support those in need. On the final day, Rowland Tutees headed to The Big Issue Education workshop in Redfern to hear from people who have experienced homelessness or disadvantage.

For their Service Learning activities, Patteson and Capell Houses partnered with OzFish and explored different types of fish habitats, why they matter, the environmental issues faced in Australian waterways and learned about the restorative practices that can be implemented. Tutees also conducted a local community clean



Rowland House students prepare meals for Fusion Hornsby.

up and learned about appropriate and ethical fly-fishing practices.

On the final day, both Houses heard from Catherine Knox, the Chair of Hornsby Ku-ring-gai Women's Shelter, who gave students an insight into how the centre provides for women and families facing domestic violence. Students worked together to create hearts for inclusion in donation packs that were gifted to help raise money for the Women's Shelter.

Our annual Service Learning Program is a vital piece in our Character Education Program and we are proud of our students for committing themselves, through the programs provided, to understanding and contributing towards benefitting those less fortunate than themselves.

Andrea van den Bol
Deputy Principal



Above. Levi Dawson and James van Middeldyk testing water as part of their work with OzFish.



Right. Patteson and Capell students working with OzFish.



Year 10 students in front of their dorms in Wildes Meadow.



Students participating in the high ropes course.

Year 10 in the Wildes

CAMPS

This year, Northholm Grammar Year 10 students travelled to Wildes Meadow, Fitzroy Falls to participate in a Leadership Camp led by Optimum Experiences. The goal of this camp was to provide our students with hands-on experience of learning in the outdoors and expand their comfort zones, so the students can grow both individually and as a school community.

From the onset, our students were divided into five tribes and assigned a leader from Optimum, who acted as the sherpa for their leadership journey. Students adopted various roles for each task and were required to take ownership for their group's involvement and ultimately, the success of the challenge. These outdoor tasks focused on developing the fundamentals of teamwork in an

environment that was both physically and mentally challenging. From a high ropes course to an escape room and problem-solving activities, our students soon discovered that clear communication, collaboration and active listening skills were the keys to the team's success.

Every activity concluded with a debrief, where students were encouraged to share their thoughts on the strengths and weaknesses within the group. This process, guided by the tribe's leader, often saw moments of conflict and frustration, but resulted in clarity and a deeper understanding and appreciation of individual strengths every time.

Students were fortunate to learn about First Nations culture and identity, as well as uses for the range of plants and animals within the local land. Drew, from the Gaghungal Murring

team, led our students on a hike to a lookout that oversees Kangaroo Valley and shared a smoking ceremony with us. On the evening of the second night, students were encouraged to participate in a Corroboree and learnt several First Nations dances.

It was refreshing to see our students develop their leadership skills throughout the three days and learn the value of teamwork. These experiences will help shape their next journey and, hopefully, encourage them to continue to expand their comfort zones.

Shane Lockhart
Head of Rowland House and
PDHPE Teacher



Muddy tunnels, magic memories

CAMPS

In March this year, Year 6 students challenged themselves to step outside their comfort zones and build resilience by participating in the Outdoor Education Camp at Somerset Outdoor Learning Centre on the pristine Colo River.

Students had a wonderful time over the three-day experience, undertaking activities including setting up their own tents, kayaking down the beautiful river, high ropes adventures and preparing meals for themselves and their peers. They even got a little taste of life as a ground-burrowing marsupial by dragging themselves through muddy tunnels in the famous wombat hole crawl.

Pushing themselves to achieve more than they thought possible, students developed greater self-confidence and self-reliance. In addition, students supported their peers and cheered them onto success,

leading to the strengthening of existing relationships and the blossoming of new friendships. It was rewarding to see students develop respect and appreciation for each other. They will take these learning experiences with them throughout the rest of the year, as well as some spectacular, lasting memories.



Camp connections at Lake Mac

CAMPS

Northholm Grammar's annual Year 7 three-day camp at Lake Macquarie takes place early in Term 1 every year. It is an integral part of our comprehensive Orientation Program and provides a wonderful opportunity for students to build relationships with each other and with their Heads of Houses.

Featuring a carefully designed Program developed in conjunction with Crusaders' Educational Camps, students enjoyed a wide variety of activities, learnt new skills and faced personal and team challenges. Lake Macquarie provides a superb location for this camp, with the campsite located on the shores of the largest saltwater lake in the southern hemisphere.

Students were split up into House groupings to experience the land and water-based activities over the first two days. Highlights included sailing, archery, abseiling, raft building and giant stand-up paddle boarding. Some experiences were an exciting new challenge for students and it was wonderful to see their smiles as they achieved above their expectations.

During the evenings, students split into two groups with one group taking part in a campfire. Students enjoyed singing, riddles and sharing stories while toasting marshmallows in the flames. The other group enjoyed a Big Night of Fun, where students played a large group game with high levels of energy and amusement. On the final morning, all students were involved in a large physical game of *Stratego* – where players must capture opposing players without being caught themselves, requiring them to plan offensive and defensive strategies.

These experiences foster teamwork and cultivate communication and cooperation between the students. In addition, there is great value in a camp setting in experiencing learning to live together and sharing meals together, as well as sleeping together in the beautiful new bunk rooms. Year 7 students are commended on the wonderful attitude they displayed throughout the three days. Their behaviour and support of each other was outstanding. Heads of Houses look forward to students building on the connections made with fellow classmates throughout the year.

Nicole Lassau-Wray
Head of Capell House and
Mathematics teacher





Northholm's got musical talent

CAMPS

Northholm's annual Music Camp is a vitally important experience for our young musicians to begin their musical year. It provides the perfect opportunity for team building, as various Ensembles work together through new music to build and develop their skills under the direction of an outstanding team of visiting professional musicians and educators.

The three-day camp sets up each Ensemble, including the Symphonic Wind Ensemble, Concert Band, Stage Band, Senior Choir, Primary Years Choir and all small Ensembles with a repertoire that they will continue to develop as each group works towards performances and competitions throughout the year.

The Collaroy Centre provides the perfect environment, with plenty of large and small rehearsal spaces in a beautiful location, featuring stunning

views over Collaroy Beach. 84 students from Years 3 to 12 participated this year and were supervised by six Northholm staff and 14 visiting tutors. Apart from rehearsals for large Ensembles and Choirs, the groups were also broken down into smaller combinations to focus on instrument-specific detail, which was particularly beneficial.

The students especially look forward to *Northholm's Got Talent* – a talent quest held on the Saturday evening where students can perform a musical item, or perhaps do something different to reveal a hidden talent! This may include reciting a favourite poem, performing a dance, or even making the audience roar with laughter through a stand-up comedy routine. This activity is traditionally organised by the Year 12 cohort; in 2023 Year 12 was represented by Declan Gunther and Jack Dawson. As a Northholm tradition, it is also an opportunity for those students to say a musical

'farewell' to the cohort, as it's their last Music Camp.

Students look forward to sharing everything they learned with the Northholm community later in the year when they display their repertoire at one of the many performance opportunities such as the Music Showcase, State Championships, festivals and more.

David Stratton
Coordinator of Co-Curricular Music



"... It provides the perfect opportunity for team building, as various Ensembles work together ..."



Christmas festivities

COMMUNITY EVENTS

To celebrate the end of 2022, we excitedly welcomed families to our Primary Years Christmas performance. The event commenced with a barbecue on the oval followed by a performance from students of *Michaelmas Mouse*, written by Dave Corbett, the traditional Christmas nativity story with a twist.

The show told the tale of a mouse who sets off for an adventure, travelling to Bethlehem to visit family and friends. The story was told through music and speaking parts, with each grade learning one of the songs. The students enjoyed dressing up and working hard to learn their parts. It was a lovely sight, to have all the Primary Years students

on stage together in the Lincoln Centre, beaming with confidence as they sang for their families. The School Choir then led the community in a selection of Christmas Carols.

We're proud of our students coming together to make this community event a success, with every child playing an important role in celebrating the significance and importance of Christmas.

Mary Falvey
Primary Years Wellbeing Coordinator



Left to right. Arabella Izzard and Eloise Dagg as market sellers in *Michaelmas Mouse*.



Mary and Joseph in *Michaelmas Mouse*, played by Grace Ward and Oliver Bosward.



The School Choir leading the Christmas Carols.

Grandparent's Day

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The Primary Years Department were delighted to invite grandparents and family members back onto campus for Grandparent's Day. This event allows Northholm students to showcase a wide and varied program of music, singing, dancing, poetry and public speaking for the entertainment of their family members.

The Year 3 to 6 stars of the Primary Years Production, *Aladdin Trouble*, performed an engaging scene from their play and the Primary Years Aerobics team, following their qualification for the State Championships and competing at the National Championships in the Gold Coast, presented their routine to an amazed audience. In the Lincoln Centre, each year group also prepared and performed a poem, dance or song.

This included Kindergarten students talking about why they love their Grandparents as they displayed their hand-drawn pictures.

Students danced to classic tunes such as *Jailhouse Rock* by Elvis Presley and *The Twist* by Chubby Checker. There were various class poetry recitals, including the winner of the Stage 3 Public Speaking Competition presenting his speech. Grandparents were then invited to visit classrooms, followed by refreshments with their grandchildren in the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA). The day was a wonderful opportunity to share the students' talents, hard work and achievements with the wider community.

Mary Falvey
Primary Years Wellbeing Coordinator



Rose Harrington with her Nana.



Abigael and Ethan McMaster with their Grandmothers.



Winter Rupert with her Grandparents.

Subjects in the spot



Nicole Lassau-Wray

Head of Capell House and Mathematics teacher

Leader in Pastoral Care

Building a culture of lifelong learners, who are keen to understand how and why things work, is one of the most exciting things as a teacher. I love challenging my students to aspire and grow in their problem solving and mathematical ability. But it is working to equip them with knowledge and skills to survive and thrive in life after school that continues to motivate and drive me in my pastoral role.

After earning my Bachelor of Science Degree and Diploma of Education at Macquarie University, I worked for 20 years in the Northern Beaches (Cromer and Northlakes high schools). When I started at Northholm in 2008, my initial role was as a Senior Tutor for Rowland House where I saw first-hand the importance of teaching and educating students to manage their wellbeing to help them reach their full academic potential.

Working closely with students and their families outside the classroom and being able to offer advice led me to pursue a senior leadership role in Pastoral Care. I am now into my third year as Head of House for Capell and the conversations that I have day-in and day-out on the playground, in the library, and in all the many House Assemblies, Chapels, sporting events I attend give me opportunities to connect with and get to know the students in Capell House.

Wellbeing and Character Education programs have never been more important for our students at Northholm. I'm excited to work in partnership with students, parents and the School to encourage students to set high goals, seek out opportunities to grow as individuals and step up

and try the many opportunities that are available to them at our wonderful school.

I particularly enjoy organising and running the House Assemblies with the House Captains each term. They conclude at the end of Term 3 with a final House Assembly to farewell our Year 12 Capellian students as they leave the grounds of Northholm and complete their HSC. Last year it was lovely after the pandemic and lockdowns to finally celebrate in-person with all the students and their friends; to have the opportunity to thank all Year 12 students for all they have done for the House over their time at School. The conversations, thanks and support from the parents and friends was a special moment to be relished.

Over the years, the staff, students and families of Northholm have become part of my extended family. When I started at Northholm, I was fortunate to obtain a maternity leave cover for Mrs Nicole Hearne and following that, Nicole and I job shared as a team for a number of years as we both raised our young families; we were an awesome duo, sharing similar teaching styles and becoming good friends. Now my three beautiful children are a little older, we are all avid travellers and love to spend our breaks holidaying across Australia, as well as in Europe, Canada and the US.

"I love challenging my students to aspire and grow in their problem solving and mathematical ability."

light

Joshua Toth

Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education Coordinator and Economics and Commerce teacher

Growing entrepreneurship

Over 20 years ago, I was considering changing professions. I was working as a Rehabilitation Counsellor, but had started to realise that I could make more of a difference in people's outcomes if I was involved in their development earlier in life. Consulting the Principal from my high school, I made the switch to teaching and took their advice to go down the economics and commerce path; perhaps they saw something in my future I hadn't seen yet.

My first school was Rosebank College at Five Dock, followed by Waverley College and then I was at Barker College, Hornsby for almost 14 years. I started at Northholm last year, drawn by the upward trajectory I could see in online activities and hearing the School leaders speak about growth, accountability and deliberate practice. My teaching philosophy seemed to be aligned with that of the School and the opportunity to coordinate the Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education (EEE) Program was the clincher to make the move.

Many people don't realise that entrepreneurship is not necessarily business or finance orientated – it's just about problem solving! People make thousands of decisions each day; some with greater consequence than others and calculated risk-taking is an important skill to develop. If we can get students to normalise the practice of stretching themselves in an effort to do great things, then hopefully they can see ways to minimise the problems that impede on their ability to achieve.

With direct instruction and deliberate practice, my role as a 'coach' in the learning environment is to develop a love of learning. Eventually, our students will leave us and it's our role to equip them with the skills that will allow them to thrive without our guidance. It's the small instances of students applying their skills in a practical sense that I appreciate the most – when they catch you off guard by saying something like: "Sir, I asked my employer about my pay and they are going to start paying me more" or "My parents and I have set up a savings plan" or "I used my savings to buy some shares".

There are many stakeholders in a student's development and there needs to be clear signals of individual responsibility, as well as a shared responsibility. It is an enormous privilege to be able to take students on a journey of discovery and it is not something I take lightly. Economics and Commerce are subjects that rely on the facilitator to remain up-to-date and very balanced in their approach, within an area that is dynamic and many people have varying opinions of!

Since moving to Northholm, I've even taken my own advice and started my own business, which is new and exciting for me at the moment. My free time is otherwise taken up playing sport (baseball at the moment), running (the longer the better) and spending time with my family.



“With direct instruction and deliberate practice, my role as a ‘coach’ in the learning environment is to develop a love of learning.”

Glitz, glamour and Gatsby

COMMUNITY EVENTS

It may have been wet and windy outside, but inside the party was a raging success at our annual Cocktail Evening in February. Hosted by the Northholm Association, the event welcomed our new families to the Northholm community in grand style.

We give huge thanks to Melissa Greensill who magically transformed the space into a 1920s Gatsby-themed event. We also had a wonderful contingent of parents and carers who helped set up and clean up; we are blessed to have the support and commitment from our families.

Wonderful events like these continue to reiterate that, 40 years since our founding, Northholm Grammar is still a warm and inclusive community where everyone belongs.





Remembering 2 February 1983

FROM THE ARCHIVES

On 2 February 1983, the first students arrived at Northholm Grammar School, having travelled on one of the two buses which serviced the School - one from Castle Hill and the other from Pennant Hills.

The School handbell was rung at 8.25am, signalling the start of school. For the 10 teachers and 125 students (from Year 6 to Year 11), the day began with a short Chapel Service led by the Deputy Headmaster, the Reverend John Bootle, who stood on the verandah of a demountable classroom. Music was played on an organ and students and staff sang hymns.

Following this, students lined up for their class photographs and a whole school photograph, taken in front of the Brick Cottage where the current Founders' Building now stands. Boys were dressed in white shirts, navy shorts and long white socks and girls in makeshift sleeveless dresses.

Five demountable buildings served as classrooms, a Music Room, a Library and a Science Lab. A brick home housed the Headmaster, Mr Ron Chambers and his family, and the attached double garage served as the teachers' staffroom. A quaint little white weatherboard cottage, the original house on 79 Cobah Road, included the Headmaster's office, the administration office and the Canteen. A large stable stood where the Library is now positioned, which was later to be used for School Assemblies. Art lessons took place outside, as did Physical Education and Sport classes.

Mrs Jenny Plüss (Emery)
Head of Operations



Students leaving their first Assembly.



Northholm Grammar School in 1983.



Northholm Grammar teachers posing for their first staff photo.



Northholm Grammar's Year 11 cohort, February 1983.



The White Cottage.



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