



Government of **Western Australia**  
Country High School Hostels Authority



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## **Narrogin Residential College**

### **College Managers Mid Term Newsletter (Term 2, 2009)**

A good start to term 2, with 4 new student arrivals, in particular we welcome Savauna from Canada all acclimatised for our Narrogin winter. The highlight of this term has been able to get some answers to our internet connection issues and the building excitement of our students who will head off to Singapore at the end of term. Overall, we are awaiting more of the rain. Our gutters received the ultimate test last week with the record deluge, as did our low laying areas around the College. East Narrogin pre primary saw its students having to get on their desks to escape the unexpected run off that poured into their classroom. Overall a good start to the term with plenty of news and information to report.

#### **Internet at the College**

After a lot of ringing around and speaking to a number of Education department IT gurus we are now back on line with all students being able to have access to the internet in their dorms. There will be a gradual upgrade to this service which will provide better security with students needing to login with a user name and password as if at the school. An upgrade of the wireless ariels in the dorms will also be undertaken.

#### **Yourtutor.com**

All students have been provided with a Yourtutor account for real time tutoring between 4 and 10pm each day. This service will allow students to seek tutoring for all years on all subjects during this time. Students login and select their year and subject and are then greeted by a qualified tutor in a secure chat room type set up. Students can upload their work for proof reading or ask questions about a topic or draw mathematical diagrams using the "drawing" facility for the tutor to assist with.

#### **Tutors**

Ms Anna Burrows (Head of Department) has offered to do private one on one tutoring after hours. Specialist in maths and science but may also assist with other academic needs. Call me and I will provide contact details. You will then need to organise and negotiate times and payment. The College will provide transport if required. A second teacher has also answered the call but has yet to finalise details. A number of school staff are offering to provide tutoring during lunch and after school. I have a few students who are taking up this offer at the moment. Students need to communicate with staff their needs also parents can get hold of teachers to see if they can assist.

#### **Singapore Trip 2009.**

This is now well under way with the final preparations with 20 students signed up to attend. Students will depart on the Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> of July and spend 8 days in Singapore, experiencing the hospitality of Dunman High School and taking part in a wide range of activities around Singapore and at the school.

#### **Winter sporting season**

This is well under way with 5 hockey teams and 5 netball teams representing the College each week. In addition to these sports the local football teams are making good use of College students. A local soccer group is in the process of getting set up. They are currently playing social games on Saturday morning at East Narrogin primary school. Students can walk to this venue if they wish to participate.

#### **College Jackets**

These are now available to order in all sizes. Students are well aware of their availability. All they need to do is get a verbal consent from a parent to place an order. The Jackets are track suit tops in navy with red striping and embroidered with the College logo with lettering on the back. They cost \$55 each and are optional.

#### **Staff PD.**

At our last staff meeting held this May we were provided with valuable information and strategies in working with students with Autism. This was provided by Mrs Ray McCall, the Education Support teacher at the school. In general, boarding is seeing more and more enrolments of students with particular special needs. This has required staff to be better equipped in being able to work more successfully with particular student abilities and disabilities.

#### **Student weekend leave**

All parents are asked to make contact with their respective wings to inform staff of leave arrangements (except those who have a permanent leave application). This needs to be done by fax notification using the Leave Application Form (most preferred because we have written consent and notification and all the correct information) by email or by phone. This needs to be done by **Wednesday evening, Thursday morning by 9:00am at the latest.** We ask for it by this time as the Cook places her orders on Thursday morning. Currently we are guessing who may or may not be in, which adds up in dollar value terms when it comes to ordering perishable foods. For example, just 20 students who organise leave after Thursday adds up to a potential 140 meals being over catered for. We understand that not all leave arrangements can be foreseen, however, we need to be able to predict and provide more accurate numbers.

#### **New Driers for the student Laundries**

We have 4 new Speedqueen commercial 10kg gas driers, 2 in the girl's wing and 2 in the boy's wing laundries. This will add significantly to our clothes drying capacity over winter. They have yet to be installed as we are in a que (shortage of Narrogin gas plumbers) however it should not be too far off. The girls will also be getting 3 new clothes line unit's to replace the old ones.

#### **New hot water systems in the Girls Wing.**

Two new instantaneous hot water systems, as with a replacement storage hot water system, have been installed in the girl's wing. This is to replace two old hot water storage systems.

#### **New College Bus**

The College will be provided with a new 34 seater midi coach by the start of June this year. This is courtesy of DE&T. This will replace one of our Rosa 22 seaters which will go to Merredin Residential College. This will provide a valuable transport option for staff as there are luggage bins underneath rather than the need to use a trailer and the ability to seat 12 more students than a Rosa bus.

#### **Refurbishment of the older Girls Wing Dorms.**

My main capital works priority this year will be to commission an architect to draw up plans for the refurbishment of the older dorms in the girls area. This will then enable me to secure capital funding for this project when submission are called for in this next financial year.

#### **Support for our Regional Feeder Schools.**

As of 1<sup>st</sup> July, 10 of our regional primary and district high schools will be offered \$60 sponsorship for student academic, community or sporting prizes or awards. This will not only contribute to recognising such students for their efforts but also maintain our relationship with our regional schools.

#### **H1N1 (Human Swine Flu)**

The Department of Education has provided schools (and CHSHA Colleges) with the measures to take if a student is suspected to have or diagnosed with the H1N1 flu. Students returning from, Mexico, USA, Japan, Panama or Canada are advised to stay at home for 1 week and report (by phone) to a doctor and the school and College if any person develops flu symptoms, a doctor will advise of what medical treatment will be needed. After 7 full days at home and no sign of the flu is present, students will then be able to return to the College. Parents are asked to be vigilant about who they make contact with in regards to those who have visited these countries in recent times or have a high risk of being infected through other means. If a student or staff member is found to be infected with Swine Flu in the school or the College then a partial or full closure of the school for 7 days will be instigated. Parents will be informed by the Principal or the College Manager if this action is to be taken. Other

than this all staff, students and parents are to take the normal precautions to prevent the spread of the normal flu in the College and at school.