



Government of Western Australia
Country High School Hostels Authority



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Narrogin Residential College

College Managers Mid Term Newsletter (Term 3, 2009)

Welcome to the term 3 Manager's newsletter.

P & C Meetings

The next College P&C meeting will be on Friday 25th September at 1:30pm (last day of term). New members are more than welcome. A P&C Raffle fundraising meeting will be held on Friday September 4th (next closed weekend) Existing and new members are asked to attend to specifically discuss raffle business.

Singapore Trip 2009. Spaces available.

Our trip to Singapore which was due to depart in July had to be postponed due to the Singapore Education Department placing quarantine restrictions on visiting groups. We are now due to depart on September 26th and return on Sunday 4th of October (1st week of the school holidays). Unfortunately due to the change of dates 3 students and 1 staff member are no longer able to go so we are desperately looking at filling these positions. **If you are interested in having your child take up a position please get back to me ASAP.**

Swine Flu

The College has had its fair share of the flu. Staff and Students have been affected. So far we have only had 4 students who have tested positive to Swine flu. Students presenting themselves to staff with flu like symptoms have been placed in our sick bays and briefly monitored before making a call to send them home. Staff are having to make a judgement, which is not always a straight forward decision, on differentiating between, those with normal colds or just a headache and those who have the flu. As we are not doctors we have erred on the side of caution and placed them in sick bay, take their temperature and then monitor. If their temperature is normal with no changes and they do not show other symptoms, we allow them to stay. If they have a temperature and a flu like symptom, we will ask parents to collect them. Thankyou to all those parents who have made the trip out to the College to collect their child. I know that this can be inconvenient and appreciate the cooperation during this difficult period. Signs have been put up around the College and I have spoken to every student about the need to practice good health and hygiene habits. Staff have also been disinfecting door handles, phones and surfaces daily.

Tutors

From the last week of term 2 to the end of week 3, we have had a casual Tutor provide students with her time for two evenings a week. She has had to return to university so is no longer with us. I have a relief S&E teacher staying at the College for the term. She will take over as of 13/8 and will provide two evenings a week of tutoring for any of our students who need it. Also, a reminder that a number of school staff are offering to provide tutoring during lunch and after school. I have a few students who have taken up this offer. Students need to communicate with staff their needs also parents can get hold of teachers to see if they can assist. On line, real time, tutoring is also available to all students free of charge, 5 days a week.

Dorm Heating

First of all I would like to apologise to those parents and students who have had little to no heating in their dorms. We have repaired 2 dorms, Junior boys and Senior boys. Intermediate boys should have also been fixed but the "new" part broke down as soon as it was installed. This Friday 21st will see the Intermediate and Senior girls being fixed by Hearth House in Bunbury, as they have been waiting for an imported part to arrive. This will see all 4 dorms being heated. There is still more work to be done to the flues and ducting as these are the incorrect sizes and materials. Head office will look at what can be recovered from the contractors who installed the original items but they are already debating who's at fault. The architect, the contractor, the manufacturer and so on! Year 10 girl's dorm heating has seen the need to replace the motor and fan. Again parts are required and they are not off the shelf items. I only have one trades person who is familiar with these commercial heating systems and he is doing this as quickly as he can. The year 10 students have been offered 4 different options to

move to alternative heated spare dorms, but they have opted to stay put for now. Students without heating have been given permission to bring in oil heaters in the interim. Fan / blower / element heaters are strictly forbidden as they are a fire risk. Affected students have also been allowed to study in the heated board room or recreation room but as yet we have had no takers.

College Jackets

We have approximately 60 students looking smart and proud in their new NRC College jackets. They look really good with a second order in place for interested students. The jackets cost \$55 and are an optional purchase, but are functional day wear for students and great for wearing when representing the College.

Year 12 Leavers Jackets

These have been designed and are ready for ordering. Students wishing to purchase a jacket must pay for them up front as we were left with three jackets from last year that were not collected or paid for. This saw the College being out of pocket by \$150.

New College Bus Arrives

If you have not been to the College recently you will not have seen our new 35 seat midi coach. This is a brand new \$165,000 bus provided to us by the Education Department. We are the only College to be provided with such a bus and it has already come in handy to take larger groups out and about.

Refurbishment of the older Girls Wing Dorms.

Approval has been given to do a full refurbishment of the 2 storey, Whitford / Walker dorm in the girl's wing. These dorms are long due for an overhaul with plans to provide new furniture, fittings, carpet, new partitioning making larger rooms and new heating and cooling. The cost will be significant with funding coming from head office. An architect will be commissioned to draw up the plans.

Activities and Recreation

Numerous activities have been on offer over this and last term. Overnight camps to Albany and Merredin have taken place. We had only a few takers for the abseiling so had to cancel this and have replaced this with a Bunbury Roller skating trip. We have played the Agricultural College in football and the girls formed the Powder Puff team and played on the same night. A zoo trip is planned along with a year group trip to the Super Trucks and go-carting. On Saturday the 29th we will have about 25 students in the City to Surf overnight camp. The College will pay for the registration of each student and students will contribute to the budget accommodation. In addition to this we have had our Chinese theme night, Christmas in July dinner and Grandparents Day Luncheon. Our main event for this term will be the **NRC's Got Talent evening. This will be on Tuesday 9th September.** If you're in town you are welcome to join the audience or participate (we can all play the spoons). On **Sunday, September the 6th (Closed Weekend return day) we will be having a Fathers Day BBQ** sausage sizzle for any returning students and Dads (and mums). So an evening meal will be provided on this day at 5:45pm and finishing at 6:30pm.

College Open Day Number 2.

This will be a weekend Open Day on Sunday 23rd of August starting at **9:30am 1st Guided Tour, 10:15 Morning Tea in our dining room, 11:00am 2nd Guided Tour, 11:45am Close.** This is basically aimed at interested parents and students to take a look around and speak to staff and to myself. If you know of any interested people can you please pass on this invitation.

Transporting of Students.

I would like to take this time to highlight our policy on providing transport for our students. All medical, school commitments, College sporting, activity and business transport needs will be catered for by the College. Non essential appointments such as hairdresser, beauticians, part-time jobs or additional outside sporting commitments are the responsibility of the parents. Occasionally a student can get a lift to these events if it coincides with a scheduled Duty Driving trip, which there are already many trips, the students know this, however, we will not make a purposeful trip for these or similar events. One-off requests have been made to me or Senior Staff for non essential needs and this is acceptable. Saturdays and Wednesdays (additional days for older students) are the best time to make these appointments. Outside of these times will require students to walk to and from town to meet these needs as they comfortably do each Saturday and Wednesday.

Lolly Pops in the Boys Wing (Lollypopgate)

Yes you read correctly. Coles has had bags of Lolly Pops on sale and the Boys have taken to these in their thousands, literally. I have had to ban these for now as we (and the cleaners) are finding them stuck to everything. Carpet, walls (yes walls) court yards and now they have been throwing them at each other resulting in a broken window. So if your son brings home a large bag of pops, you will know why.