

## Upcoming Events

*School Photos*

*25th February*

*AGM*

*1st March*

*Pupil Free Day*

*2nd March*

*Harmony Week*

*15th-21st March*

*Good Friday*

*2nd April*

*Easter Monday*

*5th April*

*End of term*

*9th April*

# Nightcliff Middle School Newsletter

## Principal's Report

Term 1 Week 3 2021

Welcome back to the new school year. I hope that everyone enjoyed their break and are ready for another fantastic year. I am pleased to say that once again we have had a substantial increase in enrolments this year. Last year our enrolment fluctuated around 370 students and this year it has increased to almost 400. We now need to focus on attendance. Families can support this by ensuring students arrive on time (8.10am) and notify the school of any absences.

I would like to welcome to our staff Ms Sabrina Katras (Year 8), Ms. Kristilee Boutillier (Year 7), Mr Dominic Fecteau (Year 8), Mr. Liam Sheen (Year 8), Mr. John Studnicky (Year 8), Mr. Lachlan Hogg (Year 8) and Ms. Caoimhe Dorrian (Music). I would also like to welcome back from leave Ms. Dominique Foreman (Counsellor), Mr. Reg Rose (Year 7) and Mrs. Inger Palmer in the Front Office.

The start of the new year is a good time to remind ourselves of our school values, Care, Acceptance Respect, Responsibility and Success. Casuarina Shopping Square is a venue that a number of our students transit through and come in contact with students from other schools and members of the public. Occasionally this will result in negative interactions. There is an expectation that our students are not involved in these negative interactions and uphold our school values.

Nightcliff Middle School aims to be the leading provider in middle school education programs and we endeavour to provide our students with the very best facilities and cutting edge resources. Thank you to all the parents who have already paid the voluntary contribution. You can pay this any time throughout the year or speak to the front office staff to set up a payment scheme.

It was great to see so many parents at the meet and greet evening on Wednesday. I would also like to extend an invitation to the first School Council meeting of the year and **AGM on Monday, 1 March from 5.30pm** in the Staffroom.

Kind Regards



Marty Isaksen

Principal

## Year 7

At Nightcliff Middle School we recognise that the process of transitioning into middle school isn't over just because students walk in the door. With this in mind, students engaged in a day of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL) activities. These activities were designed to help students continue developing relationships with their peers as well as their teachers and other staff members around the school. Students asked questions and gave feedback which will be used in the ongoing delivery of our SEL program.



### **SRC @ Nightcliff Middle School**

Student voice is important to us!

If you are interested in how the school runs, events, fundraising, student publications and community events, then come and see what we are all about.

Everyone is welcome!

Anyone interested in joining the Nightcliff Middle Student Representative Council (SRC) should see Miss Shannon in the year 7 area, or email:

[erin.shannon@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:erin.shannon@education.nt.gov.au)

My name is Dominic Fecteau and I very excited to be joining the Nightcliff Middle School community as the Senior Teacher for Year 8. I moved to Darwin from Alice Springs as my wife and I were desperate to be closer to the ocean! I have been in the Territory for 10 years now, working in remote communities before Alice Springs. I am originally from a small town in Victoria called Maryborough.

I love working in schools – my passion is helping create positive classroom environments for all students to learn at their best. I am a bit of a technology geek, having been in IT before my teaching career. I am also a big sports fan, especially AFL where I follow the Bombers (which has been tough the last few years!)

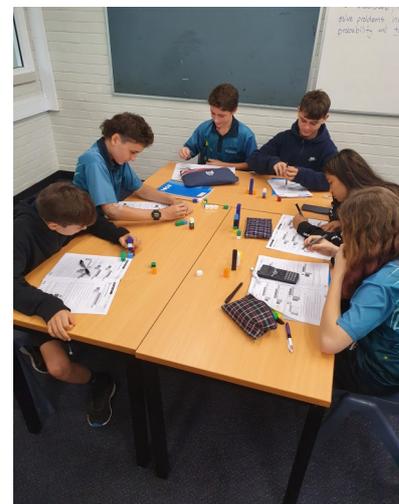
I look forward to meeting everyone in the school community and working together to achieve some fantastic things!



## Year 8

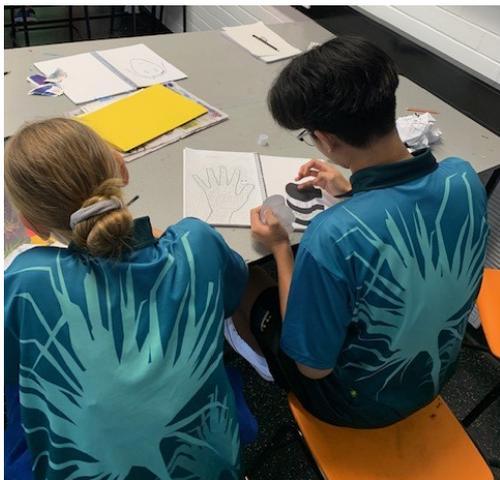
The Year 8 team has hit the ground running in 2021! We have welcomed some new students and teachers, and have got stuck straight into our learning. There has been some great collaborative learning, (see photos below). Maths students have been working on two way tables and probability. In Humanities students have been discussing Viking society, lifestyles and raiding. In Science students constructed some model cells using playdough and other slimy materials.

Dominic Fecteau



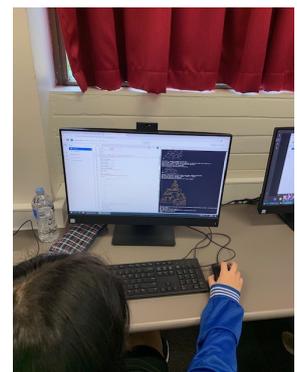
## Year 9

It was good to welcome everyone back to school. We have a few changes in staff with Mr. Collins, Mr. Tumuls, Mrs. Staggs, Ms. Jackson, Mr. Rose, Mr. Siciliano and Mr. Hogg all teaching in year 9 along with Ms. Lamb, Ms. Lenny and Ms. Kuhl. Students have settled and soon realised there is much to do this year. The VET course started last week and already the students completed their first project, a metal key ring to take home. It was good to see their smiling faces at the end of the day. Our students are also keen to complete their community service component of their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Certificate and many are staying behind after school to assist teachers. These courses are a great way for students to acquire new skills and enables them to gain credit points towards their HSC.



## STEM

The 2021 school year sees the beginning of STEM electives at Nightcliff Middle School. We will be partnering with CS in Schools to pilot a digital technology program immersing the students in Coding. Our year 9 STEM class will be the first in the Northern Territory to participate in this computer science program. The Australian Curriculum aligned course is designed with lessons two hours a week. The students learn to code in Python, one of the most popular coding languages in the world, with assessment tasks that are designing Python coded games and simulations. With an industry-based tutor, Nicholas Lamanna, teaching both teacher and students twice a week virtually, it is certainly a new and creative experience for all involved.



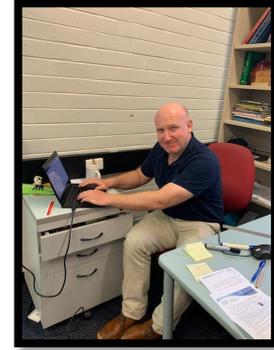
## New Staff



Ms Caoimhe Dorrian  
Music



Mr John Studnicky  
Year 8



Mr Liam Sheen  
Year 8



Mr Lachlan Hogg  
Year 8



Ms Kristilee Boutillier  
Year 8



Ms Sabrina Katras  
Year 8

## **NMS Debating Needs You!**

Debating will be starting in week five term one!

Debating NT is a fun way to improve your speaking and persuasive language skills, and to represent your school – competing against other schools in the Darwin region.

Come and try it out. Be part of the team and meet new friends!

Our first session will be an introduction/training afternoon at Casuarina Senior College from **4-5pm on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February.**

Please see Miss Shannon for details, or email [erin.shannon@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:erin.shannon@education.nt.gov.au)

## Australian Mathematics Competition

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) is a 75 minute, problem-solving competition, The Computational and Algorithmic Thinking (CAT) competition is a one hour problem solving competition designed to encourage student curiosity and promote multiple modes of thinking.

Sitting dates of the competition:

**CAT — 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2021**

**AMC— 5<sup>th</sup> August 2021.**

The cost will be \$6.50 per competition or \$10 to complete both.

Should you or your child/ren be interested in participating, please pay at the Front Office by the **23rd February 2021.**

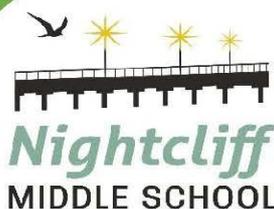
Ms Lenny

Y9 Mathematics Teacher

## Clontarf

Clontarf would like to welcome Shaun Wilson to the Nightcliff Middle Academy. Shaun comes in with a wealth of knowledge in the Community Services field having previously worked at headspace and at Taminmin College as the Home Liaison Officer.

Self-proclaimed health enthusiast, and in my spare time I enjoy walking my Great Dane Sharzee (maybe she's the one walking me) and I play football for the mighty Nightcliff Tigers!! My dream holiday destination (\$\$\$ and COVID weren't barriers) I would choose the Maldives for all the sandy beaches & luxury resorts, or walk the Inca trail in South America.



## Nightcliff Middle School Annual General Meeting

Monday 1 March 2021.

A 5.30pm start in the staffroom.

Everyone is welcome!

Any enquiries, please call

Marty Isaksen on

8983 7677

## Reminder:

A reminder, if your child has a medical condition e.g. Asthma, Allergies, Heart conditions etc., we require a Health Care Plan and corresponding paperwork to be filled out by your doctor and/or the caregivers of the child.

These care plans are updated every 12 months to ensure the safety of your child whilst attending school. If you need any further information, please feel free to contact me at [louise.harvey@nt.gov.au](mailto:louise.harvey@nt.gov.au)

## Students Absent from School

If your child is going to be away from school we ask that parents notify the school for the time they will be absent.

Please call 89837677, text message to 0410 856 534  
or email : [admin.nightms@education.nt.gov.au](mailto:admin.nightms@education.nt.gov.au)

### Medical certificate for absences from school of three days or more

Updates to the Attendance and Participation policy, and the Attendance Recording and Reporting guidelines, have been made to clarify that schools must advise parents they need to provide a medical certificate, where their child is absent from school for a period exceeding three days.

The Attendance and Participation policy and guidelines are available on the [Department of Education policies website](#). For more information on enrolment and attendance, contact:

8944 9273 or [sat.det@nt.gov.au](mailto:sat.det@nt.gov.au)

**We accept  
BasicsCard**



**We are now accepting BasicsCard.**





(08) 8983 7677  
admin.nightms@ntschoools.net  
Nightcliff Road, Nightcliff, NT  
[www.nightcliffmiddle.nt.edu.au](http://www.nightcliffmiddle.nt.edu.au)

Dear families and carers

To ensure that all students can learn in a safe and supported environment at Nightcliff Middle School, we have a strong focus on school wide positive behaviour. We have high expectations of our students and expect our students to show respectful behaviour – both within the school and out in the wider community as reflected in our school values of **Care, Acceptance, Respect, Responsibility and Success**.

We spoke with the students at assembly on Wednesday, when engaging with the wider community and particularly when wearing our Nightcliff Middle School uniform, we expect them to be demonstrating our values. This includes when representing our school at sporting or community events, or attending places such as Casuarina Square.

I appreciate your support in discussing this with your child.

Kind regards,

Marty Isaksen  
Principal