



From the Principal:

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Class of 2009

This week is the final week for our Year 12's; the Class of 2009. I congratulate every student who has persevered to make it through to the conclusion of secondary schooling. Thirteen years is a significant period of a person's life and more so because it encompasses the developmental period from early childhood through to young adulthood. Kids grow up in the school years. The best illustration of the dramatic changes that take place in the photo montage that Mrs Eynaud shows on Presentation Evening, which shows the changes from babyhood through to the glamorous shots of our VCE students taken at their Valedictory Dinner.

The media love to highlight the silly behaviour of some Yr 12's at this time of the year, but my experience of the final day celebrations here at Northside has been very positive. I love the fact that the VCE's make it a fun day for all students, and I can cope if they want to take the mickey out of me or the teachers – just for one day!

The final assembly is always a great time of affirmation and, surprisingly, love for the senior students as they leave to prepare for exams and a life after school. This love is expressed in many ways: study bags presented by the preps to their big friends, full of funny and practical gifts to encourage study; prayers from students and teachers; a song highlighting the quirks and escapades of the Year 12's composed by Mrs Eynaud, and sung by the teachers. The simple warm, encouraging care of our unique school. Please join us in congratulating our Yr 12's and wishing them God's peace and focus for the coming examination period.

You may not be aware that our Operations manager, Darren (Pim) Iape has been in hospital during the last week with a severe infection. He has recovered and is back at work, thank God. In the meantime, you can now see the progress on the VCE Centre. I have included a

computer generated picture of the school when the various projects are completed – how amazing does it look!

Open Day

We had a steady stream of visitors to the College on Wednesday. It was particularly good

to be able to take Mr. Ken Ellery, past Principal of the College (1984-87) for a tour. As you can imagine, he could hardly recognise the campus! He was able to tell me about those early days and he was genuinely delighted to see the wonderful facilities and resources we now have, which were just a dream 22 years ago. It was a great reminder to me that the work we do today is built on the foundation laid by faithful, visionary men and women in the past. It makes me wonder what this place will look like in 20 years time. I might just come and visit!

Stephen Leslie

