School Contacts Details

General office
9488 2300

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Student Absence line
9488 2330

Student Absence email
absence@nhs.vic.edu.au

Website
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Email
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newsletter@nhs.vic.edu.au

Address
St. Georges Road,
Northcote, 3070

School Diary this month

School Diary

- Dec 1. Report Writing Day (no School for students)
  7 pm—Information evening for Yr 7 2006 parents in the school Hall
- Dec 2. Yr 11 Report Collection & Course Confirmation
- Dec 5. Yr 10 Reports Collection & Course Confirmation
- Dec 6. Transition Day Yr 7, 2006
- Dec 7. Yr 9 Course Confirmation
- Dec 9. “Brave faces” Competition (Lunchtime)
- Dec 12-16. Wilson’s Prom Camp
- Dec 14–16. Activities program
- Dec 19. Yr 7-9 Reports distributed
  (no classes for students)
- Dec 20. course confirmation and counseling for some students
  (no classes for students)
- Dec 21. Last day of school for teachers (no classes for students)
  2006
- Jan 31. School starts Yrs 7.11& 12
- Feb 1. School starts Yrs 8,9 &10
Main headline story: Class of 2005 Graduate

On Monday November 21, the 160 or so Yr 12 students of the class of 2005 attended a graduation ceremony at The Centre, Ivanhoe, in front of a packed audience of 400 parents and friends. The guests of honour were the Hon. Mary Delahunty; Minister for the Arts and MLA for Northcote, Dr. Bob Brownlee; Professor and Head of Chemistry at LaTrobe University, and Mr John Butera; first Deputy Chief Parliamentary Council, Premiers Department (and School Council President).

Musical entertainment was provided by the NHS Sax Quartet and Rania Fayad, Michelle Owen and Zoe Retzepoglou provided vocal items. After speeches by Ms Delahunty and Ms Davidson, subject prizes and certificates were awarded and commemorative medals presented to each student. The two school captains of 2005 also gave speeches farewelling the school.

Yr 8 Boy’s Tennis—State finals

On Monday the 21st of November the year 8 boy’s tennis team ventured to Boroondara Tennis Club for the state finals.

The weather was hot and sunny and the action was plentiful as the boys took on Buckley Park in the first round robin match. The skill level was high as the boys dominated winning 5 matches (sets) to 1.

The second round saw a tight struggle against Bairnsdale. Both teams won 2 singles matches and it was only 1 game the difference before the doubles. The doubles pairs managed to get one win from two making it 3 sets all and would you believe it 25 games all – a tie.

The third round was an easier one against Benalla, the team won all of the matches and all they needed was for Bairnsdale to lose one set to guarantee an entry into the final. Bairnsdale won 4 sets to 2, meaning on aggregate Northcote went through to the grand final against Box Hill.

The final was against a very strong school in Box Hill (Tennis School). The boys from Northcote fought as hard as they could but Box Hill overpowered them and won all 6 matches.

Our team consisted of Alex Bennett, Harry Free, George Delaportas and Michael Carniato. They didn’t give up all day and should be extremely proud of themselves to be such a competitive team, pipped at the post by a Tennis School team.

Mr Martin
Coach

Principal’s Letter

Term 4 is always an amazing mix of endings and new beginnings.
Last week we held our Year 12 graduation and the Year 12 Formal. Both evenings were great celebrations for our students and their families, our staff and for our school. Over their 6 years at NHS, the Class of 2005 have grown academically and personally, as individuals and as a group of young adults now ready to enter the adult world. We are proud of their efforts and wish them all the best in their future.

The new beginnings start this week as our Year 10 students participate in a VCE Orientation and our Future Year 7 Parents Information Evening is held prior to the excitement of the Transition Day for students on December 6th. We look forward to working closely with our students and our parents through these transitions to ensure they are supported during these important times.

In addition to the 2006 planning and preparation for VCE and Year 7 transition, our teachers are also developing curriculum and activities for a new 23-minute Whole School weekly meeting time to be implemented in 2006. Given that we have now fully implemented our electronic roll in every class every period, we have received feedback from teachers, students and some parents on the limited effectiveness of our 5-minute roll call period. We have also wanted to implement a regular meeting session to allow for more Year Level Assemblies run by our student leaders, more discussion time on school projects and time to present Year Level specific curriculum activities (e.g. transition for Year 7, organisation/goal setting in the middle years, academic/career planning in VCE). We have teams of teachers working at each year level developing the program, curriculum and structure and will provide more specific information in our next newsletter.

I also want to bring your attention to some initiatives/projects being coordinated with our School Council committees.

- **Canteen** - At our last School Council meeting, it was decided that we would take over the running of the school Canteen in 2006. A motion was passed that included the Finance Committee management structure and operational guidelines. The goal will be to provide quality food and healthy choices at reasonable prices. (Please see the advertisement seeking applicants for Canteen Manager and Canteen Assistants.)

- **Uniform and Camps** - The Education and Governance Committee will be establishing a Uniform Review group and will also be presenting a two year Camps Plan to assist students and parents in their planning for camps and international trips.

- **Lockers Update** - We are having design documents completed for a new locker bay area to be constructed in Term 1 and will incorporate additional locker areas into our new reconfiguration of portables as part of our Leading Schools Project. This year, with the helpful cooperation of some of our students in sharing a locker, we were able to assign a locker to all students who wanted one. I would anticipate that we would do the same at the beginning of 2006 until the new locker bay is completed. Over the next two years through multiple projects, we will be able to reduce the number of lockers currently in the corridors of the buildings and increase the total number of lockers.

_Gail Davidson_

_Principal_
Off to the National Convention

On 29-31 March 2006, Georgia Fraser and Kate Jama of Yr 9 will be representing our school and state at the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra.

The two students are part of the contingent of 25 from Victorian schools, and were chosen on the merit of their essays regarding issues that are important to all Australians.

The students airfares and accommodation are paid for by the Convention organisers. They will have the pleasure of meeting various federal politicians.

“I am looking forward to discussing the new IR laws with some of them” said Georgia “and I’m looking forward to expressing my views on a few things too!!” added Kate.

We congratulate them on their success.

2006 China Trip Update

NEXT MEETING 8TH DECEMBER

We have received deposit payments from almost 20 students and expect a few more in the next couple of days, so the trip is ready to go next September. There is still space, however, for a few more students to participate in the excursion. A meeting for those students and parents who have committed to the trip will take place in Room 1 at the school on Wednesday, 8th December at 6.30pm.

This meeting will detail the next steps in the process of preparing for the trip, including passport, visa, insurance and medical issues. Letters will also be sent to the families of those students who have so far committed to the trip.

If there are any students who are still interested in taking part in the excursion, who are studying any humanities subjects in 2006 or Mandarin, please feel free to attend the meeting or contact myself on 9488 2309 or email: pg@nhs.vic.edu.au for further information.

Mr Paul Gilby
Coordinator

Second Hand Book Sale—12 December

We will be able to conduct the Second-Hand Book Sales again this year and they will be held at the following time.

The Second-Hand Book Sale
Monday 12th Dec.
10.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m.
Room L1 (in the Library Building)

Lists of books that can be sold and other relevant information will be available for students to collect as from Monday 28th November.
Books offered for sale should be handed in on Tuesday 6th Dec and Wednesday 7th Dec.

**A REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE:** Anyone who is able to assist on Friday 9th Dec. to help set up, and especially on Monday 12th Dec (the day of the sales) is asked to contact Mr. Coleman at the school 9488 2321. Mr. Coleman will be available to organize the sales, but we need a group of parents who are able to lend a hand on these two days to help get everything arranged.

**A FURTHER REMINDER** – There are still some books that were not sold last year held in storage here at the school. Students wishing to collect these should see Mr. Coleman or Ms Pyke at the Student Support Services Office by the end of this week. Students should bring a list of books they wish to collect.

We will not be able to continue storing books due to space difficulties, so any books not collected will have to be disposed of.

## Special offer on compost bins & worm farms

Composting and worm farming is easy, it reduces the amount of waste going to landfill and creates a fantastic resource for your garden. Compost and worm castings add organic matter and nutrients to the soil, which in turn increase its water holding capacity and reduce water usage. They also help your plants stay healthy and grow faster and stronger. About half the waste going into most people’s rubbish bins is organic, and could be composted or worm farmed.

Darebin Council would like to make it easy for you to compost and worm farm by providing affordable compost bins $22 each and worm farms $44 each. **This price includes FREE delivery in Darebin and ends on 14 December 2005.**

So, if you are not yet composting or worm farming complete one of the order forms (right) and return it to Darebin Council with a cheque or money order, or call 8470 8888 to have an order form sent out to you. You can also visit one of Darebin’s Customer Service centres in Preston, Northcote, Northland and Reservoir and pick one up.

If you are already an avid composter/worm farmer, why not take advantage of this special offer to get a neighbour, friend or family member started. Compost bins and worm farms make an excellent gift, good for the garden and good for the environment!

Don’t forget to put the name of your school on the top of your order form. Once 20 compost bins or worm farms have been purchased by your school community, your school will receive a free compost bin or indigenous (locally native) plant voucher.

## From the Office

*Please note– the office will not be accepting EFTPOS or credit card transactions on 21/12/2005*

### Uniform Review Committee - Years 11 & 12

The Education & Governance Committee of School Council will be conducting a review of the Uniform policy for Years 11 & 12. During this review input will be sought from students, teachers and parents. If, as a parent, you would like to either be involved in the review committee or if you simply wish to express an opinion, please contact Mr Murphy at school on 9488 2300 or via email nm@nhs.vic.edu.au.

Zora Marko, Chairperson of the Review Committee
Positions vacant— NHS Canteen

Canteen Manager (Full Time)
2 Casual Assistants (20 Hours/week)
1 Casual Assistant (15 hours/week)
AWARD WAGES (SSO)

Written applications to the Principal by Tuesday 6 December 2005
please call 9488 2301 for further information

International Day of Action on Climate Change. December 3, 12.00 noon, Albert Park Lake, Grebe Picnic Area, (St. Kilda end) Aughie Drive. Car Free Event. Isn’t it about time all the people who are concerned about climate change got together and did something? Well, here’s your chance….! www.walkagainstwarming.org/

DOBSON'S UNIFORM SHOP

YEAR 10 STUDENTS: PICK UP YOUR VCE POLOS NOW or they will be returned to stock.
ALSO, if you are wanting a second-hand hand VCE polo to have as a ‘spare’ we have plenty at around $20.
Year 10 girls: If you are wanting VCE embroidered on your pullovers bring them into the uniform shop over the next few weeks. The cost will approx.$12.
We are still accepting good, clean uniform items for second-hand sales. However we are overstocked with VCE polos at present. No more of these PLEASE. We need skirts, dresses, pullovers, jackets and white polos in the smaller sizes.

OPENING HOURS
TUES  12:30 - 4PM
FRI      8:30 - 11:30AM

Your School Council

PARENTS: John Butera (President)
Email: John.Butera@dpc.vic.gov.au
Charles Caddy
Con Dinopoulos (Co-opted)
James Galea
Brenda Gilmartin (Vice-president)
Zora Marko
Wayne Moncur
Graham Moore (Treasurer)
Paul Wiseman (Co-opted)

STAFF:
Gail Davidson (Executive Officer)
Dianne Frost
Pam Mancell
Craig Price
Wayne Roberts

SRC:
Menekse Kar