Welcome to 200 New Yr 7s
200 new Year 7 students commenced school on Tuesday January 31st. It was a great opportunity to explore the school, meet their teachers and make new friends.

A reminder to all students and parents—of the Yr 7 BBQ on February 20th. All of our staff look forward to meeting you.

2005 VCE Results released
2005’s VCE results were released on Monday December 12, 2005. For Northcote High School, these were again very strong results with a VCE completion rate of 98%.

This year, for the fourth consecutive year, there was again a perfect study score of 50—this time achieved in English by Asha Ioculari. The Boy’s Dux for 2005 was Yun-Jiao Chen, who achieved an ENTER score of 97.30. The Girls Dux went to Ki Shiu, who received an ENTER of 99.40.

Again, a high number of “A+” study scores (scores over 40) was achieved—almost 40 in total across the cohort doing at least one Yr 12 subject. Congratulations to students, staff and long suffering parents!

Tertiary offers
The VCE group of 2005 pursued a wide range of courses at tertiary level. At the time of writing, 92% had received a first round offer of tertiary placement.

RMIT University 34 offers
Uni. of Melbourne 19
La Trobe University 18
Victoria University 14
Monash University 8
Deakin University 1
Swinburne Uni. 3
Aust. Catholic Uni. 2
RMIT TAFE 16
NMIT TAFE 16
VUT TAFE 5
Wm Angliss TAFE 8
Swinburne TAFE 5

Kangan Batman TAFE 3
Other Tertiary 11
Total (offers to date) 163
These figures do not include all VCE students, some of whom are still awaiting an offer (there are five more rounds to go), or who went directly to employment or an apprenticeship, or who applied for a Tertiary Place outside Victoria.

The statistics again illustrate the very strong correlation between student interest and the tertiary course they choose, clearly a result of extensive counselling over the final three years of schooling. Congratulations to all our students, their families and our staff.

Principal’s Welcome

Dear Parents and Students,

“Welcome Back to School!”

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to school. I want to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and to their families. You are now a part of the wonderful Northcote High School Community! This is our 80th anniversary year. We celebrate our rich traditions and past students and look forward to our bright future to be created by our current and future students!

This is a very exciting time of the year for students and for parents. As a student, you may be looking forward to new experiences, new classes, new friends and setting new personal goals as you move to the next year level. As parents, we see our student grow in age, size and maturity. In high school, we see them develop as young adults and independent thinkers who begin to apply their academic preparation to their own personal pathway.

Class of 2005

For our VCE class of 2005, the past few weeks have brought the first round offers that provide another step down those pathways. We congratulate them on the outstanding list of first round offers (see Tertiary Pathways Report). On behalf of our NHS community, I also want to extend special congratulations to our Girls’ Dux- Ki Shiu, Boys’ Dux- Yun-Jiao Chen and to Asha Ioculari for receiving a perfect study score of 50 in English. Congratulations and best wishes to all of the members of the Class of 2005!

2006 – Achievement, Learning, Linking

Northcote High School has a strong tradition of academic excellence. We strive to create an environment of respect and achievement where ALL students can learn and become confident participants in society. We want to expand the ways in which we work with students and parents to support and further develop such a culture of achievement. This year that will include: expanding our Parent Teacher Conference Days, reconfiguring the VCE Centre to support a dedicated study atmosphere and introducing a weekly session, NHS 23, to facilitate year level specific learning activities and to promote student study, leadership and involvement.

We will also be working on our school improvement projects that are designed to grow and strengthen our programs. These projects include: Our Leading Schools Project – embarking on our 3 year project leading to the development of a Global Citizenship Centre and Academies for Active Global Citizenship; Success for Boys Initiative – supporting teacher professional development in best practice strategies that directly support the needs of boys; Innovation & Excellence Cluster – continuing our work with our local primary schools to develop our students’ leadership skills and promote student action teams; VCE Achievement – working with ACER to closely analyse our VCE data as part of our ongoing efforts to support high achievement in VCE; Dialogue Project – working with La Trobe University as part of a project designed to promote and support interaction and dialogue between members of our community.

In addition, as part of our Department accountability and our improvement and planning cycle, we will complete a school self-assessment and review in semester 1 and then develop a four-year strategic plan in semester 2. Parents and School Council members will be involved in this process. If you would like to be a member of one of the working groups, please contact Nick Murphy.

School Council Thanks and Call for Nominations

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of our School Council members for their dedicated leadership
throughout the year. I also need to call for nominations for our new School Council. With the extremely short Term 1 due to the Commonwealth Games, we will have an adjusted timeline for our School Council elections. In this newsletter, there is a timeline of the key dates and information on the nomination process. If you have questions, please don’t hesitate to contact School Council President John Butera or me.

Communication, Punctuality, Uniform and Good Attendance

As we further develop our strong school-parent partnerships, we need your input and feedback on our key communication tools - our newsletter, website, parent-teacher conference days, coordinator contacts and student reports. Good communication and working together closely will add critical support for your student’s success. We join with you in having high expectations for your student and working to ensure your student gets off to a great start. Our Year 7 students will start each day at 8:50 with a special pastoral care session and all students will start Period 1 promptly at 9am. Our electronic roll marking will be taken in each period. We greatly appreciate your support with punctuality, uniform and good attendance.

Finally, I want to again welcome you back to school. Northcote High School is a vibrant and dynamic place, alive with positive energy and learning. We are so glad you are a part of our school community. We look forward with you to a great year at NHS in 2006.

Gail Davidson
Principal

Arrangements for Lockers 2006

Years 7s

Lockers will be allocated within the first week of the new school year. The school provides the combination locks.

Year 8s

Lockers will be allocated within the second week of the new school year.
New locks $10

Years 9, 10, 11 and 12

Lists will go up on notice boards in VCE Centre and will remain on the notice boards for the first 3 weeks of 2006.
Pairs or three’s will go in the ballot (if a ballot is necessary for students in Years 9 & 10).

Lockers will be allocated by way of names on diagrams above the lockers.
Most of year 9 (Art Block)
Most of Year 10 (Lower B Block and Main Building)
Year 11 (Atrium, Lower B Block)
Year 12 (Atrium and VCE Centre)

Some lockers are kept aside for students with special consideration. If needed, please present a letter or current medical certificate to Mr. Erlandsen.

For Years 9-12, an annual rental fee of $20 applies and should be given to Mr. Erlandsen (Lockers Coordinator)
Second hand locks$5

Mr. Chris Erlandsen
Coordinator
Our practices on the use of student images

In the Newsletter, Ripples and similar publications mostly for in-school circulation

At Northcote High School we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in this newsletter. As you would have seen, we use photographs of students and sometimes examples of their own work in this newsletter. We also use photographs and examples of their work in the school magazine Ripples, at the end of the year.

A text only version of the newsletter is put on our website. Thus the photos seen here in this newsletter are only available in the printed version or 'hard copy'. (This makes the electronic version of the newsletter a little dull!)

On the School website

Small group photographs of students involved in school activities and excursions are also on our website, although here we do not identify these students by name, age or form group. Where larger scale photos are used (such as on the front of our homepage) or where the student could be easily identified, the school will seek parental consent before placing information and/or photographs on the website.

At Special Events

Unless special arrangements have been made, we allow parents to record school performances, as this creates a memento that can be shared with other family members. Video or audio recording is permitted at school under a copyright licence paid by the Department of Education (DET) on behalf of all Government schools (AMCOS/ARIA license).

The only exception to this rule can be live performances, where use of flash photography may be prohibited, as it might disturb/temporarily blind those on stage.

In the Media

We sometimes invite local press and state media to school events and they are expected to follow DET and school policy on the publication of photographs of students. When a press story is about an individual or small group achievement, the school will seek parental consent before approving or passing on information and/or photographs.

Honjo High School asks to visit—again!!

Our friends at Honjo High School, Japan, have asked to visit us again at the end of July 2006. This third visit will be from July 28–August 5, 2006.

Because of the enormous publicity and popularity of their previous two trips to our school, their 2006 Australian visit is heavily subscribed, with 24 students likely to attend.

Homestays needed

We again need families willing to host our Japanese visitors. Is it difficult? No!! Many Northcote families are pleasantly surprised by how easy it all is.

Jessie Jorre of Yr 8 says:

"I was in Year 7 last year. My mum and I decided to have two girls from Japan to stay. Mai and Aki acted like they were big sisters to me. We all taught each other our languages and about the different cultures. We took them to Luna Park and the beach. They loved Smorgy's restaurant. They taught me their Japanese basketball tricks and we all made fantastic Sushi together. When they left, they were both crying. It was a real pleasure to have them."

Interested? Contact Mr Murphy: nm@nhs.vic.edu.au or by phone 9488 2300

Note: Families receive $200 per student hosted.
Council Elections 2006

Because of the shortened Term One this year, our school must ensure that the School Council election process is concluded by Friday 10 March 2006.

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years, but like most government schools we will work to the following timeline. There are 3 parent and 2 staff positions available.

Monday 30 January: Term 1, 2006 commences
Friday 10 February: Call for nominations
Friday 17 February: Nominations close. Display list of candidates, nominator and seconder outside School Office
Friday 24 February: Distribution of ballot papers by mail
Friday 3 March: Close of ballot at 4.00 pm.
Monday 6 March: Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
Tuesday 7 March: From this date the new council is able to meet.

If you are interested in being a member of School Council, please contact the Principal.

Debating 2006

2005 was a great year for debating at Northcote High School. We had two Year 9 and one Year 10 team in the Debaters Association of Victoria competition as well as a senior team in the Lions Debating Competition (run by the Northcote Lions Club). In 2006, we would like to see even more teams involved. It is a great opportunity for students to develop their English language skills as well as being part of a team. All students at Years 9 - 12 are invited to express an interest. No previous experience is necessary. Teams are put together at each year level with each team needing four members. I will explain the roles of the various speakers and the rules of debating and after each debate, the judges, who are provided by the D.A.V. association, will give each speaker feedback. The debates are held in the evenings at Ivanhoe Girls Grammar and there are five debates held throughout semester one. Parents are encouraged to attend the debates so that they can support the team as well as observing the skills of the various teams. If a team is able to win five out of five debates they go into the regional and state finals. If you are interested please see Mr Ramsay.

Looking at www.nhs.vic.edu.au

Parents! Tired of finding the fortnightly newsletter scrunched up at the bottom of the school bag?
Don't really know when the next parent teacher meeting is?
Want to know when the next overseas trip is planned?

Its all here at
www.nhs.vic.edu.au

You can use our website to access
- The latest newsletter (text only version),
· See all the school dates,
· See the timetable
· And work out who you need to contact at school,
As well as a host of other things!
The web site is regularly updated, the front page (top right) every 4 weeks!

Like to see something else on the website? We’d love to hear from you!

An introduction to our Sport program

Northcote High School is a leading school in the North of Melbourne when it comes to sport. In 2005 we had teams and individuals compete at State level in Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Tennis, Badminton and Squash.

General Information

Mr. Price and Mr. Mameghan are the Coordinators of Sport at Northcote High School for 2006. Students at Northcote do 2 periods per week of Physical Education in Years 7-10 and 2 periods per week of Sport Education in Years 7-9.

The school also runs a school Swimming Carnival (compulsory attendance for all Year 7-10 students) which will be held on Monday 27th Feb at Northcote pool (Victoria Rd.) and an Athletics Carnival which will be held at Coburg on Monday 1st May.

Students are placed in and compete in traditional school Houses. The houses are Merri (Yellow), Batman (Red), Plenty (Green) and Sumner (Blue).

The school also sends teams to the Cross Country in Bendigo on Thursday 8th June.

Students in Years 7 and 8 do a selected sport for a whole Term. These sports are

Term 1
Volleyball - gym
Boys Tennis - Northcote
Girls Tennis - Fitzroy
Boys Baseball
Girls Softball
Girls Cricket
Boys Cricket

Term 2
Netball
Boys Soccer
Girls Soccer
Boys Football
Girls Football
Badminton

Term 3

Squash
Boys/Girls Table tennis Boys/Girls Basketball
Boys Hockey
Girls Hockey
(Hockey leads to Indoor and Outdoor competitions)
Rugby

Term 4

Tennis
Basketball
Lacrosse
Hockey
Soccer
Cricket (Soccer 7 Cricket lead to Indoor competitions)

At the end of each Term we compete in our local district in the above sports.
Our local district is called the Central district. Central district schools include
Northcote HS, Reservoir, Mill Park, Thornbury Darebin, Preston Girls,
Banksia, Northland, Lakeside and Merrilands. Winners here progress to the
Northern Zone and then to the VSSSA State finals.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 students will be participating in the above sports in Term 1. These will
start on Monday 7th Feb. They do sport on a Monday afternoon. They are
expected to wear the correct School Sports uniform when doing Sport and
Physical education. In the warmer months a hat and a bottle of water is
highly recommended.

All year 7 students will attend Northcote pool on Monday afternoon the 13th
Feb during Sport Education to trial swimming and novelty events for the
swimming carnival on Monday the 27th Feb. The novelty events are held in a
shallow pool supervised by the Physical Education staff and 2 pool lifeguards.
Events like Wading and Kickboard are ideal for non swimmers. Everyone can
participate.

A permission form to cover both—

The trial swimming afternoon( Mon.13th Feb) and the
All day Swimming Carnival (Mon 27th Feb)
both at Northcote pool...

will be sent home with a total overall charge of $12. This covers hired
buses for both days, pool entry, sole school reserved pool use and also the
hiring of pool lifeguards.
Permission forms and money will need to be returned to the school Office by Thursday 9th Feb. Any sporting queries can be directed to Mr. Price or Mr. Mameghan.

**Changes to Parent Teacher Meetings**

Over the last two years, School Council, parents and staff members have provided useful feedback about our parent teacher meetings. As a result, the school is making more time available to parents and students to meet teachers.

From this year, an entire day will be given over to the first Parent Teacher Night, on **Wednesday, April 12**.

The day’s interviews will commence at 10.00 am, and conclude at 8.00 pm. An appointment system will operate as currently, with staff taking breaks for meals at various times (to be advertised).

Classes will not run on the day, but students are expected to attend interviews with their parents to discuss the report with their teachers.

**First Parent Teacher Meetings for 2006**

**Wednesday April 12**

- All day meeting program (times TBA)
- Appointment system
- Interpreters available
- Students attend with families to discuss progress

**NHS Open Day, 26th April 2006**

Do you have friends and neighbours who want to know more about Northcote High School?

Every year Northcote welcomes some 400-500 primary school parents and students at its Annual Open Day. In 2006 this will be held on **Wednesday April 26th, from 2-6.45 pm.**

A parent information session will be held at 7.00 pm.

The Open Day is designed for Grade 5 and 6 students and their parents, but of course, all prospective primary school parents are welcome.

Further information will be posted directly to Primary Schools. But in the meantime, please spread the word!!
NHS—Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

It could be Northcote High School in 2006, except the grainy quality of the photo and the swimming costumes speak of another time. When this photo was taken.

- World War One was a recent bitter memory, having ended only 8 years before
- Phar Lap was only a few months old
- and Essendon City Council was considering banning the Charleston dance!

Photographed in 1926, these are five students from the Department of Education’s newest school–Northcote High School, probably enjoying their first school excursion. Thanks to Allie Dawe for the photo.

Dobson’s uniform Shop

OPENING HOURS  TUESDAY  12:30 - 4:00
                  FRIDAY        8:30 -11:30

We are open throughout the school term, but not on curriculum days and public holidays.

We sell good, CLEAN secondhand uniform items on commission. The seller receives 70% of the selling price, which depends on condition of items. 24% goes to NHS student support services.

To avoid problems with lost property parents are reminded to clearly name their children's clothing, especially SPRAY JACKETS!!

ORDERS: Orders are generally expected to be collected within 1 WEEK of your being notified. We also list students names on the noticeboard outside the uniform shop, on the first floor of the main building, so please check regularly if expecting an order. Items not collected within the week will be returned to stock,
VCE STUDENTS: WE ARE STILL HOLDING A NUMBER OF VCE POLOS ORDERED IN 2005. THESE WILL BE RETURNED TO STOCK AT THE END OF FIRST WEEK BACK IF NOT COLLECTED.

Northcote High School Uniform Shop
St Georges Rd
Northcote
9488-2317
Nor@Dobsons.com.au

Community Mail Bag

Student Exchange Australia Free information Evening, February 9

Student Exchange Australia is a not for profit organisation which is registered with all state and territory departments of education. They have arranged a free information evening for families to learn more about becoming an exchange student and the various scholarship options that are available.
Place: Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, 380 William Street/489 Elizabeth Street Melbourne.
Date: February 9
Time: 7.30-9.00 pm  For more information: www.studentexchange.org.au. Phone 1300 135 331

Children's Performing Company of Australia Auditions, February 14.

Founded in 1984, the CPCA is holding auditions for placements in their performing arts course. All CPCA auditions are cost and obligation free. No experience is necessary for their fun, non-threatening auditions. The CPCA provides innovative high quality training in two streams of the performing arts; the Young Australian Broadway Chorus (YABC) and the Victorian Youth Theatre (VYT). Auditions are held between 11-16 February at various Melbourne centres. On Tuesday 14th February auditions are held at Essendon Kellor College, Essendon  For more information:www.cpca.com.au. Phone 9384 1644

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE - SEMESTER 1, 2006.

Applications must be lodged at the School by FRIDAY 28TH FEBRUARY 2006. The Department of Education, Employment & Training has instructed that late applications will not be accepted.

Letters and application form were mailed to all families today. Forms are also available from the General Office.
Ms Deborah Pyke, Student Services Coordinator

From the Business Manager

The Education Department has introduced a new finance package to schools and as a result the procedure takes longer than before.
So as not to clog up the office with people waiting for receipts, envelopes will be provided to students to make payments. Students can then pick up receipts at the end of the day.
Ms Roberta Basaggio
Watch Channel 31 Tuesdays at 9.00 pm!

Watch out for the work of our own Mr Peter Staubli and Mr Bob Olson on “NU Country TV”. Learn the secrets of cooking with chiles in “My NU Kitchen”. 60,000 viewers can’t be wrong!!