Diary

- Feb 28. School Photos
- Feb 28– Mar 3. 7D Boho Camp
- Mar 1. VCE Parent Forum
- Mar 7. Curriculum day. No school for students
- Mar 7-10. 7E Boho Camp
- Mar 10. Last Day Term 1. School ends at 2.00 pm
- Mar 27. First day Term 2
- Mar 28-31 7F Boho Camp
- Mar 28. Yr 7 Cricket
- Mar 30. Yr9/10 Cricket
- Mar 31. Yr. 8 Cricket
- Ap.3. Harmony Day
  Year 7-10 Cricket final
- Ap.4-7. 7G Boho Camp
- Ap.4-5. Yr 9 AIM Tests
- Ap.6. Yr. 7 immunizations
- Ap.7. Yr 9/10 Volleyball/tennis finals
- Ap.10-13 7H Boho Camp
  10am-8pm

School Contacts

General Office—9488 2300
Fax—9488 2399
Student Absence line—9488 2330
Student Absence email—absence@nhs.vic.edu.au
School Website—www.nhs.vic.edu.au
School Email—info@nhs.vic.edu.au
Postal Address—St. Georges Road, Northcote, 3070
High level of tertiary pathways

An extraordinary 93% of Northcote’s 2005 VCE cohort received a first round tertiary offer. Overall, a very high proportion (85%) headed on to further study after completing Yr 12 at Northcote High School. At the end of the Tertiary offers process, the breakdown of pathways overall was

- University Studies in Victoria: 50.2%
- TAFE studies in Victoria: 30.0%
- Other Tertiary in Australia: 5.5%
- Working: 7.0%
- Travelling: 2.0%
- Seeking employment: 2.5%
- Unknown: 2.5%

The breakdown of tertiary courses was

- RMIT University: 20.1%
- University of Melbourne: 11.2%
- La Trobe University: 10.7%
- Victoria University: 8.2%
- Monash University: 4.7%
- Swinburne University: 1.7%
- Deakin University: 0.6%
- RMIT TAFE: 10%
- NMIT: 10%
- William Angliss: 5.3%
- Victoria University TAFE: 3.5%
- Swinburne University TAFE: 2.9%
- Kangan Batman TAFE: 2.9%
- Other providers: 6.5%

Lizzie heads to the games

Lizzie Doidge of Year 12 is one of a small group of Melbourne students set to perform in the opening and closing ceremonies of the Commonwealth Games this March. Lizzie has spent much of January and February practicing with about 50 other specialist performers practicing at the Games Event HQ in far off Laverton! Well done Lizzie!

Italian visitors arrive

6 students and two teachers from the Romanazzi Institute, Bari, Italy, arrived for a one week language and cultural visit on Monday 20 February. Many thanks to the Belante, Porcarro and Wiseman families who hosted the students for the week. Activities included visits to the Zoo and Vic Market and classroom observation. The students will return with warm memories of their visit to Australia, and the generosity of our staff, students and their families. They leave on Tuesday 28th.
Principal’s Report

We have had a strong start to our school year and are well and truly underway. With such a short term, I want to update you on a number of items.

**School Council Election** – Your ballot papers have been mailed to you. I do hope you participate in this important process. The number of nominations and expressions of interest in co-option is an excellent reflection of our strong parent and community involvement.

**Boho Project Development** – Following on from the Project Launch last year, our Boho South and Northcote High School Community Project committee met to establish a working timeline for this year. If you are interested in assisting with this project to develop Boho to a year round facility, please contact Mary Crooks, Anne Thorogood or me.

**Leading Schools Project** – We have met with our LSF architect to establish the footprint for our project. We will be focusing on Year 9 in our Global Citizenship Centre. Leading Teachers, Kevin Hoole and Soula Bennett are working with our teachers in the critical development of the project’s curriculum, pedagogy and community links.

**Lockers** – The new locker area will be constructed on the wall of B Block and will be part of a redevelopment of that area for students.

**Portable Area** – Our new replacement portable has been the first step of change in our portable area that has also included the removal of the fencing between the main campus and the portables and an upgrade to new black fencing. Over the next two years we will combine several projects to improve these learning facilities and adjoining external areas for students.

**Electrical Upgrade** – You may also notice the construction of a new electrical switch room at the front of the school. Additional electrical work will take place over the school holidays. This is part of a major electrical upgrade to support our current, new and soon to be improved facilities.

**VCE Study Centre** – The new furniture has arrived to support student study within the VCE Study Centre. Students have already begun to take advantage of this important area dedicated to their concentrated study.

**Student Study Support** – Last week a student shared some of his new year study strategies. He told me he had removed all of his games off of his computer so that his computer was just for study. I commended him for his proactive decision. I encourage parents to have such discussions with their students (especially their VCE students) on ways to support serious study at home and at school.

**Life Habits** – We have been working with students on the life rules and life habits of good attendance, punctuality and preparation including being in full uniform. Just as with any job, we must attend on time and in proper dress, we want to ensure our students attend on time in proper uniform. We appreciate your support. Proper Year 7-10 uniform includes **black** shoes.

**Uniform Review** – The Education and Governance Committee of School Council has commenced a review of our school uniform (VCE and general). This review complements our efforts to ensure our students are in proper uniform. The Review committee includes parent, staff and student representatives and will be seeking parent, staff and student input. Any recommended adjustments or changes would need to be finalised by the end of term 2 in order to be able to inform, prepare and implement in 2007.

**Year 7 Barbeque** – This year’s Year 7 Family BarBQ was a great evening for students, staff and parents. It was a truly wonderful NHS community event. Thanks to all who attended and special thanks to the Highlights parents and staff who organised it.

**Parent Teacher Meetings Next Term** – Please mark your calendar. Our Parent Teacher Meetings will be held in Week 3 of next term on Wednesday, 12 April all day (10am – 8pm).
Finally, at our first staff meeting and at our school assemblies, I shared that in 2006 our focus is on **ALL...Achievement... Learning... Linking:**

**Achievement**
- Building and strengthening our school wide culture of achievement...with high expectations for all at all levels
- Middle Years: Leading Schools Project, Success for Boys, End of Year academic transition programs
- Senior Years: Yr 10-12 Rigour, VCE data analysis, End of Year academic transition programs, study of student pathways

**Learning**
- Building and strengthening our positive learning environment
- Student Learning – Victorian Essential Learning Standards, Assessment practices that support learning
- Professional Learning – Teacher Performance & Development systems
- School Learning – School self assessment and four year strategic plan

**Linking**
- Building and strengthening our school as a supportive community
- School wide – NHS 23, Student Leadership, Parent Teacher Meetings and communications
- Community - Student community projects, Networks/Cluster programs with primary schools, University Links including the Dialogue Project

*Gail Davidson, Principal*

**Yr 12 Parent Forum– 1st March**

As the new school year is underway, we are looking forward to a very productive and enjoyable year for our VCE students in 2006.

It is vital that parents, in partnership with the school, encourage and help their children to achieve the best possible outcomes for themselves. Some students seem to naturally possess the necessary characteristics for academic success, others need more guidance and encouragement. As a school we foster development of these qualities but the only way we can ensure their acquisition is when the school and family work together.

Letters have been sent home with students in week 3 of Term 1. Please complete the reply slip and return it to the school.

The general structure of our Year 12 program, assessment and calculation of students’ ENTER score, career advice and pathway options, our expectations of our students and how we can work together to support our students, will be outlined at the evening.

If you have any specific areas you would like addressed please indicate these on your reply slip.

We look forward to meeting you on the evening,

*The VCE Team*
New Caledonia Trip briefing

Information Session, French Language trip to New Caledonia, 2006

6.00-7.00 pm Thursday March 2, NHS Arts Centre, Music Centre Room A1

Northcote High School is currently preparing a French language and cultural tour of New Caledonia through GET Educational Tours. The tour is scheduled for departure on Tuesday September 12, returning Tuesday September 19, 2006.

A one hour information session is to be held at the school on Thursday March 2nd, at 6.00 pm, for interested parents and students.

Tour Leader Ms Schapper will chair discussion about the program; also there will be Mr Murphy to outline projected costings (currently estimated at under $2500 per student) and Ms Emma Tabone, a representative from GET tours will also be on hand to answer other questions.

All interested parents and students are very welcome to attend.

Ms Schapper

In 2003 I travelled to the picturesque New Caledonia, along with nine other French language students of varying ages. It was one of the most memorable and fun trips I have ever experienced. We travelled to a beautiful island just off Noumea called “Amidee” and spent a whole day snorkelling and lazing on the white sand, climbing to the top of Amidee lighthouse and eating beautiful local food. It’s the best thing I ever did and I can’t wait to go back there.

Ely Piper, Year 12

Intermediate Music Camp Update

Wed 19th – Fri 20th April (Term 2, Week 4) Cost: $220. Ferngully Lodge Healesville

For all students involved in
• Intermediate Band
• Intermediate Strings
• Year 8 – 10 students of Guitar Ensemble

Due dates: Friday 3rd March Deposit $50 and all permission forms
Friday 31st March (Term 2 Week 1) Final Payment

The Music Camp is an exciting opportunity for the students to prepare for upcoming performances and to further develop the students’ musical skills in a fun, social atmosphere. It is a wonderful way of extending their playing skills and musical experience.

Forms are available from the Music Department and the General Office. Please return all forms and money to the General Office.

Enquiries to: Mr Lewis, Mrs Rassool, Ms Wray.

MET Public Transport Challenge 2006

Three Northcote high school teams dominated the MET’s AMAZING RACE event last year!

Now 8 NHS students have the chance to join the event this year. See Mr Murphy as soon as possible if you are interested.
The race takes students across much of Melbourne by public transport, to pick up clues and visit checkpoints.

- You need to be in Years 8, 9 or 10
- You need to be free for Heat 1 (April 28) or Heat 3 (May 19), as we are not yet sure which event we are in and for the final
- You must wear full school uniform on the day
- It's a good idea if you are an expert at quickly reading a map and a tram timetable!!
- You need to be willing to speak to the media or be photographed (parents permission required)

All NHS student teams are accompanied by an adult.

NB: If the 8 places for NHS are oversubscribed, a lottery will be held to determine the 8 representatives.

**Staying safe, to and from school**

Every year we remind NHS students about staying safe on the way to and from school, especially between Merri station and the school.

There have been some incidents over the years where adult male offenders have exposed themselves to school students in the inner Melbourne area. Northcote High School works closely with local Police and other schools to help coordinate a response. Please always immediately inform us of an incident that has occurred.

We have observed three typical patterns of behaviour by these offenders, although there may be others too.

One type of offender will talk on the phone in their car, or do something unremarkable like measuring the back fence of a house or loading a car, but at the same time expose themselves. Sometimes they won’t even look at or speak directly to the students passing by. It’s all meant to shock and confuse the student.

A second type of offender we have noticed is someone who will engage the student in conversation, and will make inappropriate comments to them about how they look. They sometimes start a conversation by asking for directions to some place nearby.

A third type of offender will use the back bluestone laneways of the area as a cover and escape route, and will deliberately find a group walking by who they can “flash” to. They sometimes call out to get the attention of passing students.

Most of these men go to considerable effort to avoid being seen by other adults. Its worth remembering the following:

- Don’t walk down the old bluestone laneways between Merri Railway station and the school.
- Always walk to and from school with friends.
- Generally, don’t stop to talk to someone you don’t know. If you have to talk, keep walking as you do.
- If an incident occurs where a man is acting strangely or is exposing himself, tell the school immediately. The Police should be told by families if it occurs on the way home.
- If you feel unsafe about anything, move away quickly.
- Making as much noise as possible can often deter an offender.
- You can ring the Police on 000 at any time.

Please talk to your son or daughter about this issue. If you would like the school to talk to your son or daughter further about this, please contact the school.
Plenty wins Swimming Sports

In fine and mild conditions, 550 students turned up for our Annual Swimming Carnival on February 27th. The novelty events, face painting and the bombing/diving were all very popular. Plenty House were the victors on the day and the students fielded 2 teams who beat the teachers in the relays. Some of the stars in the pool included our regulars – Eddy, Rickard, Potocnik, Gunner, Amsterdam-Bagdas, Andrew-Reipers, Miller, Dalton, Burnham and Mastin. Some new great swimmers in year 7 saw Eve Walton-Healey of 7D and Lauren Gilder of 7F fighting out most of the Year 7 Girls races in lighting times. Mark Langley of 7F dominated the Year 7 boys’ races. We look forward to fielding a strong team to compete in the District Swimming at Fitzroy Pool on Thursday 9th March.

Mr C.Price (Sports Coordinator)

SCHOOL COUNCIL CANDIDATES
STATEMENTS

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL COUNCIL
ELECTIONS 2006:

Nominations for School Council closed on Friday, 17th February, 2006 and the five nominations received are displayed in the foyer of the General Office. Ballot papers and nominee statements were mailed on Friday, 24th February and are list below.

Our School Council election is very important and we urge all parents to vote. Voting closes on Friday, 3rd March at 4.00 pm and the results will be declared on Monday, 6th March, 2006.

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS (5 Candidates for 3 positions listed in alphabetical order)

HELEN BOWMAN

My name is Helen Bowman and through my long association with Northcote High School (my son started in 1991 and my daughter is now in year 10), I know that its great strengths are its remarkable teaching staff and the school’s emphasis on supporting the students to become good and engaged citizens.

My background is primarily in organisational management. I’ve successfully run a number of organisations- however my interest in being on School Council stems from a wish to support the school in its primary role of providing our children with the best possible education. I am passionate about the importance of ensuring that all children are encouraged to develop both their abilities and a life-long love of learning.

I am also really keen to be an effective voice for parents and if elected will do my best to make myself available to parents and represent, to the best of my ability, their concerns.

JAMES GALEA

My name is James Galea. I am a parent with two boys at Northcote High School. After completing a degree in Chemistry in the early 80’s and soon after graduating, I began work as an Industrial Chemist for an abrasive manufacturing company performing Quality Assurance and Research & Development. I remained in this position until 1988 when I took up a position with a private Catholic school teaching Electronics, Chemistry and System. During this time I completed two Graduate Diploma Courses in Management Information Systems and Computer Programming.

I am currently on the Northcote High School Council and on the Building Sub-committee. During the last two years of my appointment to the Council, a number of major changes have been in progress in terms of building and grounds. Under the leadership of the Council and through the initiatives of the Principal, Gail Davidson and the Building Committee we are beginning to see results of the strategic planning that began about the time I joined the Council. As an active member of the Council and the Building Sub-committee, I would like to continue on School Council. I would like to contribute further in aiding the Council and the Building Sub-committee reach its objective and many challenges that face the School during this period of change.
ZORA MARKO

I am a mother of two children, a daughter who is 13 years old and a son who is 9 years old. I have worked in a number of positions in a Trade Union for the last 20 years.

I have been a School Council member of my children’s primary school, Pender’s Grove, for 9 years. For the last 5 years I have been the School Council President.

I have been a member of the NHS School Council for the last two years. Whilst on the Council I have participated on the Curriculum Committee, Chaired the Education and Governance Committee and am in the process of helping establish the Uniform Committee.

I am a keen supporter of the Public Education system and chose to send my child to Northcote High School because I believed that this school and a public education would give my child the best schooling. I believe that regardless of means that every child deserves the best standard of education, both academically and socially.

I wish to continue to offer my experience, time and skills to the school by participating on the School Council to help represent parents at this essential forum.

WAYNE MONCUR

I am seeking your endorsement to fill one of the parent positions on School Council. For those of the school community who haven’t met me, I am a single parent with a daughter who is currently in year 10. I have a Bachelor Degree in Business Studies, I am a member of the CPA Australia (Accounting Society) but I have spent the last 26 years working in the ICT Industry. I have worked at most levels within the computing industry and am currently working as a contractor/consultant in the Oil Industry. I am a member of the Australian Computer Society (ACS) and am currently the Chairman of the Victorian Branch and ACS National Council member. I was a member of my daughter’s primary School Council for seven years and have been a member of the current Northcote High School Council for the last two years. During my period on Council I have been a member of the Finance Committee as well as played an active part in School Council discussions.

The last couple of years have seen a significant change in the operations of the school and the improvement in the financial position of the school. The Council has had a significant part in these improvements and I have found that being involved in these changes has been a great opportunity to get a good understanding of how the school leadership team and council can work together to achieve great outcomes. I have been a strong supporter of Boho and am pleased that the Fund raising campaign has been launched to move Boho from a under utilised and under developed resource of the school to the prominent position in the school teaching program that it could become.

Another improvement is communications from the school to parents with the delivery of newsletters via email and access to other information on the Web Site but more can be achieved and not everyone has ready access to the internet so more needs to be done in this area.

I would like to see the further involvement of parents in the school life. The Northcote Highlights and the fund raising group for the Music area are great examples of how parents can get involved but further opportunities and avenues need to be encouraged to allow a greater participation of parents.

I would encourage every parent to vote, obviously I would like you to vote for me but please be involved, it is your school as much as your children’s school.

CATRIONA PAVEY

I am a full time mother of two boys. In the past, I worked in various positions within the banking industry including five years as a Branch Accountant for Westpac Bank.

I have always been committed to being involved in my children’s education, commencing with kindergarten where I was on the committee for the Gower Street Kindergarten. This was followed by an eight-year tenure on the School Council of Pender’s Grove Primary School. During this time I held the positions of Treasurer and Vice President. I was also a member of the Finance Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee and was very involved with fundraising for the school. The School Council appointed me to be on the selection panel for the Vice Principal’s position.

I am particularly interested in the issues surrounding the formative middle years of secondary education. Whilst acknowledging that Northcote High School is already an eminent school, if elected to School Council I will actively work towards improving community and parental involvement in the school.
Owning our own canteen!!

Northcote High School now finally operates its own canteen. After several years of discussion, School Council advertised for a new Canteen Manager last year, and this February sees its first term of operation.

Not only is this a great way to assure the school community of consistent food quality, it also enables us to keep prices lower, and ensure food served relates to the whole school program where possible.

Attached to this newsletter is this Term’s price list.

Japanese delegation visit

On Thursday a visiting delegation from Kisarazu Sohgoh Senior High School in Japan visited Northcote, to gain insights into our teaching and learning practices and observe our organisation for July’s visit by Honjo High School. Kisarazu Sohgoh SHS is searching for a Melbourne school that will offer a comparable experience to ours.

Thanks to our Japanese speaking School Captain, Lachie Tranter and Sakura Miyagawa for helping with the visit.

Community Mail Bag

LEGAL STUDIES TUTORING By 4th year Law/Arts Student

$18 - per hour call Dave: 9384-2114 or 0400-125-834 [Police check supplied to NHS]

Youth Dental Program-North Yarra Community Health

The Youth Dental program provides regular dental care for concession card holders and their dependants in Year 9-12 and for school leavers under 18 years of age. Care is provided at local community dental clinics. North Yarra Community Health has employed a Dental therapist in our dental clinic. Her name is Jill and she is working on Thursdays and Fridays from 9 am—6 pm. There is no wait list for this service. To make an appointment ring 9411 3505 or drop into 75 Brunswick Street, Fitzroy.

Fitzroy Junior Football Club.– AFL footy in 2006– February 26ths registration day

Fitzroy Junior Football Club encourages male and female students of all ages and experience to play footy this season. Come along to the registration day BBQ on Sunday February 26th between 10am and 2pm at the community rooms, beside the historic grandstand of Brunswick Street Oval, North Fitzroy (Melways 2C, C2) see www.fitzroyjuniorfc.com.au for more information and membership forms. Contact David Ryan 0414911 375

Student Exchange Australia Free information Evening, March 2

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: March 2, 7.30-9.00 pm
World Education Program (WEP) Student Exchanges and hosting

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN EXPERIENCING ANOTHER CULTURE? HOST AN INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE STUDENT! In July this year, students will be arriving from countries such as Italy, Belgium, Brazil, and Germany. These students are looking for welcoming host families interested in experiencing another culture as well as sharing their own Australian way of life. World Education Program (WEP) Australia, a registered, non-profit secondary exchange organisation is looking for volunteer families who would like to host a 15-18 year old girl or boy for 2-3, 5, 10 or 11 months.

If you are interested please phone 1300 884 733 or email info@wep.org.au.

DOBSON'S UNIFORM SHOP

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

VCE STUDENTS
Year 11 girls: please drop your jumpers off at the uniform shop ASAP if you require us to have VCE embroidered on it.

We have plenty of secondhand VCE polos, jumpers, and rugby tops for sale.

ORDERS
In the event we are unable to contact you by phone regarding an order can you please look out for your name on the notice-board outside the uniform shop. Remember we can only hold aside your order for 1 week after you have been notified to collect it, unless other arrangements have been made.

STUDENTS - REMEMBER WE HAVE SCHOOL TIES
FOR SALE, VERY TRENDY FOR BOTH GIRLS AND GUYS!!!

Shop number 9488-2317
Nor@Dobsons.com.au

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