NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter
March 28, 2006 Volume 80, Issue 4
Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

· 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 Forum
  Year 7-10 Cricket final
· Ap.4-7. 7G Boho Camp
· Ap.4-5. Yr 9 AIM Tests
· Ap.6. Yr. 7&10 immunizations
· Ap.7. “Make a Wish”
  Out of Uniform Day
  Yr 9/10 Volleyball/tennis finals
· Ap.10-13. 7H Boho Camp
· Ap.12. Parent Teacher Meeting Day 10am-8pm
  Yr 7 District Sports & VCE Tennis
· Ap14-17 Easter Break
· Ap.18-21. 7I Boho Camp
· Ap.19-21  Music Camp
· Ap. 24. 7-12 Zone Swimming
· Ap. 25. Anzac Day
  7 pm Information Session
· May 1. Athletics Carnival-Coburg
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

District Swimming Success

Northcote High School again dominated the District swimming finals held at Fitzroy Pool on March 9, with a win overall, wins in Senior and Intermediate Boys events and runners–up to Melbourne Girls SC in Junior, Intermediate and Senior Girls events.

Ben Walton-Healey of Year 11, blitzed the opposition winning all of his 6 individual swimming races and then leading 2 relay teams home for wins. With Ben for inspiration many of our other swimmers also raised great efforts. Northcote entered 73 of the 83 events – winning 27, finishing second in 33 and third in 6.

With most of our team swimming in the relays Northcote entered 15 races winning 6, with 8 seconds and 1 fourth.

Other standout individual performers included 3 wins to Lewin Eddy (Year 10), 2 wins to Dean Camenzulli (Year 11), Jessie Andrew-Rieper (Year 10) and Eve Walton-Healey (name sound familiar – Year 7). Other notable performances included M. Langley of Year 7 with 4 seconds, Cassie Zurek of Year 12 with 3 seconds and Lauren Gilder of Year 7 who won the Open Girls 400m freestyle. Cassidy McDonald (Year 11), Nicholas Rickard (Year 9), Tara Amsterdam-Bagdas (Year 9), Jayden Mastin (Year 8) Lily Potocnik (Year 8) also won Individual races.

District Swimming Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northcote HS 1st</th>
<th>726 points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Melbourne GC</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzroy HS</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick SC</td>
<td>4th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elwood SC</td>
<td>5th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Princes Hill SC</td>
<td>6th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albert Park SC</td>
<td>7th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Many thanks to Ms. Haack, Ms. Bryant and Ms Kulyk for supervising the team and to our student helpers who filled timekeeping and announcing (Noni Sproule) roles.

Most of our swimmers now progress onto the Northern Zone Swimming Carnival at Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre on Monday 24th April. Good luck to them all.

Mr Craig Price

Principal’s Report

I hope you were able to enjoy some of the events and celebrations that made up the Commonwealth Games. It was great to know Northcote High School students and staff were some of the volunteers and spectators that helped support the games, our city, our country and the international spirit and goodwill. The short term 1 was different for all of us, but seemed to be quite positive in allowing our VCE students a 6-week introduction/foundation
followed by 2 weeks during the holidays to organise, focus and commit to a positive and productive academic year.

School Council Election Results

Congratulations to the newly elected parent representatives to School Council – Helen Bowman, James Galea, Wayne Moncur. They will join the other parents, staff, student and community representatives to make up our new School Council. Thanks to all who participated in this important process and to those who nominated.

Major Electrical Upgrade

You may or may not have noted that the school received a major electrical upgrade over the school holidays. It did disrupt our website transmission and staff work over the holidays, but will be a significant step in the expansion of our facilities and our ICT capabilities in the portable area and around the school. We want to continue to provide the best available technology for powerful learning and that requires more power!

Professional Learning Teams

I want to update you on some of the dedicated work our teachers and staff are doing to further enhance the curriculum we offer to your students. During our recent curriculum day and in after school meetings, our staff have been working in their professional learning teams focused on school and state educational priorities including: Interdisciplinary Learning (Thinking processes, ICT, Intel Teach to the Future), Assessment and improved feedback, Collaborative Projects, Community Links, Boys’ Education, NHS Primary School Links, End of year academic transition program, Student Action Teams, La Trobe University Dialogue Project. These professional learning team projects are in addition to their KLA projects and complement the work being done to implement the Victorian Essential Learning Standards. I continue to be impressed by the dedication and professional leadership of our teachers who work tirelessly to provide the best for our students.

NHS 23 Implementation

All students at all year levels have a new 23-minute period 3a on Tuesday for NHS 23. Our new program, NHS 23, barely got started in term 1 given the school opening, photos and curriculum day. In Term 2 we will truly get underway. NHS 23 is part of our ongoing effort to continually improve the comprehensive program and learning opportunities for our students. It is one of several ways we want to work with students to jointly create an environment of respect and achievement and complements our current curriculum and support systems.

The NHS 23 curriculum content has been developed to reflect the year level specific needs of the students. The weekly format and time structure is flexible enough to allow for individual, small group and year level meetings. NHS 23 content will include study support, skill development and pastoral care. It will also be a forum to promote school values, school wide discussions and provide additional opportunities for student leadership. The year level specific theme and learning focus for each year level are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Focus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7 Connecting to School</td>
<td>Transition– Primary to Secondary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 8 Contributing to School</td>
<td>Learning to Learn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 9 Contributing to the world</td>
<td>Considering pathways</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 10 Independent Enquiry</td>
<td>The world of work</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 11 Independent Enquiry</td>
<td>Having Direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yr 12 Independent Enquiry</td>
<td>Achieving Success</td>
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All NHS teachers and administrators are assigned to a home group or will provide specific support for the varied activities. A booklet of student activities developed for the specific year level has been provided and will support each student.

VCE Uniform 2006 and Review

Given the Education & Governance Committee of School Council is completing a VCE Uniform Review this year, the administration and VCE team met with the Student Executive
(Captains, Deputy Captains and Year 11 Executive reps) to discuss the timing of any adjustments/changes to the VCE uniform. It was determined that students would be allowed to wear pants, shorts and skirts other than blue and black for 2006 during the review. We agreed that other acceptable colours would need to be muted or natural colours as part of “neat casual” listed in the diary (not torn, not bright and shorts should be mid thigh or longer.) We recognise that any future major changes need to be made in time for students and parents to plan accordingly. Information will need to go out by November for the following year. The Education and Governance Committee will be distributing a questionnaire as part of the VCE uniform review process with student reports. We need and appreciate your input and support.

**Parent Teacher Meetings on April 12th**

Please mark your calendar for this important meeting day. It is a key time for teachers, students and parents to meet and discuss student progress and ways to support and improve student learning.

Gail Davidson,

Principal

**Senior Girls Cricket team goes so close**

Congratulations to our girls on making the Northern Zone final. With 30 schools in the District it was a great effort to make the final. Playing MacRob. Girls HS we finished 6 wickets for 73 runs. Captain Alex Price - the stand out batter in the game (29 not out and had to retire). In reply MacRob. Girls passed our score with 8 balls to spare. All of our girls played their best with Nikki Reponia 11 runs and 3/12 our best all rounder. Playing on Merri Park the teacher from MacRob commented on the excellent behaviour of our 500 or so spectators at recess.

It was a well appreciated display by all of our students who played and enjoyed the game. *Mr Price*

**St John’s First Aid Camp**

On the weekend of 25th to 26th February, an intrepid bunch of enthusiastic Northcote High School students headed for the wilds of Warburton to the St Johns Ambulance Training Camp. Twenty students and two teachers departed Friday afternoon at 2.30 to arrive at our destination at 4 o’clock.

The group set up their tents and packed away their belongings, all was well with the world. Dinner was served at Seven O’clock and our first session was underway by eight thirty. A brief history of the organisation was done and some basic procedures were coved, writing materials, bandages and workbooks were distributed.

By ten thirty we had finished most of our initial studies and it was time for supper and bed—notice that the word sleep didn’t appear! It has been my observation that young teenagers feel that sleep is not really essential on the first night of a camp, needless to say their were some very tired students the next day.

Saturday was full on, and “the cadets”, as we now called them, had to learn and demonstrate a number of the first aid modules, and learn to march and do drill which is used in some of the St John’s ceremonies.

All was going well until at about two o’clock in the afternoon when a sudden and severe thunderstorm hit. Disaster— we had flooded tents, wet bedding and waterlogged students. After a two hour delay we rescheduled and modify the program and continued to soldier on. Credit must be given to all the students who pulled together and demonstrated real team helping others to fix up the tents and mop out water.
After dinner quality time was spent in studying up on what was learnt, our students set the
example and soon other students from a variety of schools took the lead from our students.
The St. Johns instructor commented on how impressed they were with the campers.

After a damp night and early morning we all arose a little later than we should have. We ate a
quick breakfast and preceded to the last few modules of the course. After morning tea testing
began and Northcote students excelled! Out of fifty Preliminary First Aid (PFA) cadets, fifteen
of those were students from Northcote. Alexandra Brown scored maxim 30/30 and six of the
other students scored 90% or higher. In the larger group of sixty Senior First Aid (SFA) there
were five cadets from our school. Three scored over 90%.

The tradition of excellence continues for our students. Special thanks to Ms. Pip Kelly who is
a new first year teacher at our school, demonstrated her wonderful teaching abilities and
energetic zeal in assisting me in running of this camp.

Ian Mitchell
St. John's Coordinator

Debating and Public Speaking, 2006

It's been a long break but the action is about to start all over again.

This year Northcote High School will have seven teams in the DAV competition. The
competition has been going for 50 years, there are 19 regions and more than 10,00 students
involved in debating around the state.

Thanks to all those students who have expressed an interest in participating, the hard work is
about to begin! In 2006 NHS will have 1 team at Year 11, 2 teams at Year 10 and 4 teams
debating at Year 9. (Two of the Year 9 debating teams are actually Year 8 students so I wish
them extra luck.)

The secret to a positive experience in debating, however, is organisation. Teams need to
research their topic carefully, prepare their arguments on cards and remember to work
together as a team. The teams are as follows

B GRADE, YEAR 11, TEAM 1
Georgia Burns Williamson, Chandra Gamble,
Anthony De Vuono, Emma Boehm

C GRADE, YEAR 10, TEAM 1
Kate Jama, Georgia Fraser, Kathryn Meredith,
Katherine Buzza

C GRADE, YEAR 10, TEAM 2
Noni Sproule, Cameron Shallard, Paris Burford, Brad Hammond, Theodora Christodolou

D GRADE, YEAR 9, TEAM 1
Daniel De Vuono, Noah Solman, Adrian EvagorouClancy Fraser, Ewan Miller, Sarah Williams

D GRADE, YEAR 9, TEAM 2
Ellen Davies, Marissa Butera, Phoebe Shiu

D GRADE, YEAR 9, TEAM 3
Simon Hunt, Varun Khatter, Roy Logue, Kieran

D GRADE, YEAR 9, TEAM 4
Hanan Fayad, Shadya Salloum, Molly Caddy
Nellie Montague, Stephanie Melilli, Nicholas Rickard
Lions Club School Debating Comp 2006

This year, Northcote High School again participated in the annual Northcote Lions Club debating competition. Although we were knocked out by Our Ladys, the school received a cheque for $500 and is looking forward to participating again in 2007. Thanks go to VCE students Emma Boehm, Georgia Burns Williamson and Chandra Gamble who took time out from their busy schedules to represent Northcote High School. Also thanks to Eric Gittins from the Northcote Lions Club for organising the event again this year and to the Northcote Lions Club for their fantastic support of local schools.

Martin Ramsay

Parent Teacher Meetings, Wednesday
April 12

One Wednesday April 12 an entire day will be given over to the first Parent Teacher Meetings.

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

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. 3.30-5.00 pm has been set aside for meetings with parents and students who do not have appointments.

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

10.00 am—12.30 pm. Meetings by Appointment
12.30 pm—1.30 pm. Lunch break
1.30 pm—3.30 pm. Meetings by Appointment
3.30 pm—5.00 pm. Meetings without Appointment
5.00 pm—6.00 pm Dinner Break
6.00 pm—8.00 pm Meetings by Appointment

Interpreters can be booked in advance. Students should see Mr Murphy to arrange this.

Students will receive appointment sheets during the first week of April.

Please note: Because of the short Term One this year, reports will not be available for collection until the day.
Year 9 Achievement Improvement Monitor (AIM)

The AIM tests will be held statewide for year 9 students on Tuesday 4th April and Wednesday 5th April 2006.

The results of the tests provide diagnostic information for parents and teachers about a student’s performance in English and Mathematics. The information is used to support your child’s teaching and learning programs.

Each test will take approximately 45 minutes for students to complete. There are two English and two Mathematics tests over two days.

In June you will receive your child’s personal report. This report tells you how your child is achieving compared to other year 9 students in Victoria.

Your child’s results are confidential to you and the school.

For more information about the AIM tests, please visit the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority’s website at: www.vcaa.vic.edu.au

Term One at the Alpine School

Throughout Term 1, our school was proudly represented at the Alpine School at Dinner Plain by two of our Year 9 students, Rochelle Patten and Cianan Muir. The Indigenous Youth Leadership program at the Alpine School aimed to encourage these young people to be leaders within their community. The students delivered powerful presentations on how the program has developed bonds between indigenous students from all over Victoria and increased their appreciation of their own culture.

This year Northcote High School is to be involved in a cultural awareness sharing program between Thornbury Primary School and our school.

Ms Deborah Pyke
Student Support Services Co-ordinator

Big Band performs at Darebin festival

Northcote High School Big Band performed all Nations Park for the opening of the Darebin Festival on Sunday March 26.

The Band played as the procession of over 200 people wound its way down from the top of the hill to the main stage area. It is a credit to the players to be able to perform so well so early in the year. We also invited a “local” (Federal MP Martin Ferguson, back row, second from left) to join the band for a number.

Invitation to join our Parent Group- The Northcote Highlights

If you would like to be first to know about the HIGHLIGHTS of the NHS social calendar, you can now join our email distribution list.

Dropping into the school office can be difficult for many parents and actually receiving the notices intended to reach home does not always happen! Receiving up to the minute
information about what's going on will offer you the advance notice of our social events and the opportunity to meet other families from Northcote High.

To join the list please email pearse.doris.m@edumail.vic.gov.au with the word HIGHLIGHTS as the subject.

Year 10 ‘ Healthy, Fit and Wise’ Juice Bar

As part of the year 10 ‘Health, Fit and Wise’ course, our students are creating fresh fruit and vegie juices. These action packed cups of nutrients are on sale at the C Block during Wednesday lunchtime.

They are 100% fruit and or vegies!

So why not try a Tropical Splash, which is a mixture mango pineapple, apples and oranges.

Pictured at right are Shannyn, Bree and Pandora, operating the juice bar.

School Camps Update

Year 7 BOHO

The school is once again in the middle of its highly successful Year 7 Boho Camp program.

Form groups 7A to 7E have already returned from their adventure and 7F will be leaving on Tuesday 28th March. The last form will be there in the week after the Easter long weekend. The activities the students have embarked upon include: canoeing, hiking, archery, swimming and cooking their own meals. They are also the first Year 7 students to use the new kitchen facilities.

OTHER CAMPS FOR 2006

In Term 4 there will be the Boho Program for all Year 8 students. We will also have the Snow Camp in August (Years 9, 10 & 11). There may also be an interstate camp for Year 9 & 10 and Wilson’s Promontory Camp (Years 9 – 12), if there is sufficient interest.

Details will be published as they become available.

Mr. R. Griffiths
Camps Coordinator

Premier’s Reading Challenge

Northcote High School will once more be taking part in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. This year students in years 7-9 need to read 15 books by 30th August. Ten of those books must be from the recommended list, the other 5 to be approved by the library staff. The list has expanded on the one available last year.

It is up to the students themselves to complete the challenge and record their details on line. A parent consent form is available from the site. This gives permission for a child's name to be entered in the challenge and printed on a certificate. There is a second section consenting to the child's name being published in the Sunday Age.

Any queries please contact Ms Fahey in the library, or go to www.sofweb.vic.edu.au/vicprc

Ms Fahey, Premier's Reading Challenge Coordinator
Assessment and Reporting Policy

A reminder of the school’s policy regarding assessment and reporting. Northcote High School has a Work Required Assessment policy. This means that:

• Each student must submit all set work to receive a “satisfactory’ for each subject’s end of semester report.

• Each subject has determined a number of work requirements that cover the areas of study done in that subject.

• Even if only one piece of work for one work requirement is not submitted or completed, it may result in a ‘Not Satisfactory’ for the related work requirement and for the subject for the semester.

In addition particular pieces of work will be graded for level of achievement

All students should have received a work program and list of due date from their teachers.

As a parent / guardian you can use the due dates to monitor the work your child should be doing.

Important dates for semester one 2006

Year 7, 8 & 9
End of semester / formal assessment period date - Friday June 2nd. All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Year 10
End of semester / formal assessment period date - Friday May 26th. All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Year 11
End of unit / formal assessment period date – Tuesday May 30th . All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Year 12
End of unit / formal assessment period date – Friday June 2nd. All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date.

Years 7 to 10 NHS LATE WORK POLICY

Rationale/Purpose

• To assist students to understand and work to the concept of punctuality and deadlines with submission of their school work.

• To provide consistency of expectation in the treatment of all students

• To provide guidelines for consistent teacher handling of late work

Extensions without penalty

If there are extenuating circumstances (eg illness) making it difficult for work to be completed by the due date, students may ask their teacher for an extension. Parent notes will be considered in evaluating an application for an extension. The extended time given is left to the teacher’s discretion.

Extended Absence
If a student is absent for an extended period of time with parental permission and completely misses an Assessment Task, they shall receive NA (Not Assessed) and a full explanation will be given in the report.

Implementation

If work is not submitted by the due date, then the following will occur:

• Student will have the opportunity to redeem but will lose marks for work submitted unless an extension is agreed to.

• A student will lose a minimum of 10% of his/her total awarded grade per week or part thereof that the work is submitted late, down to a pass mark of 50%. Student work must be of a satisfactory standard to receive a pass mark.

• The student is not entitled to detailed corrections or teacher comments.

• Any late work must be submitted by the end of semester date to be accepted.

Amazing Race Update

Thanks to the many students who volunteered to be involved. Due to having 60 names listed, we have reluctantly decided to start off limiting the program to Yr 9 and 10 students only. Teams of 4 students need to see Mr. Murphy AGAIN this week to finalise details. Also see the website: http://www.publictransportchallenge.com.au

New Caledonia French Language Tour Update

Don’t forget that this Friday, March 31, is the deadline to pay the deposit and give in the registration forms to the General Office. If you still need details or have questions, see Ms Schapper in Room 16.

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

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.

FREE PARENTING ADOLESCENTS EDUCATION SESSION

This 5 week workshop run by Anglicare Victoria will be an opportunity to improve your relationship with your teenager. Special attention is given to improving communication, drug and alcohol issues and dealing with aggressive behaviour. For more information and to register contact Valentina Mencevski or Gary Webb at Anglicare Preston.

Dates: Thursdays 6, 13, 20, 27 April & 4 May 2006
Time 1.30 – 3.30pm
Cost: Free
Venue: Preston Family Services, 239 Murray Rd, Preston Ph: 9478 9499

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN PLAYING HOCKEY THIS YEAR

Melbourne University Hockey Club has 4 junior teams - Under 11, Under 13, Under 15 and Under 17. New players (with or without experience) for all teams are invited to come and try hockey. If you are interested in playing hockey you are welcome to come along to get an introduction to the club and game, to learn some skills and have fun. Training is on Wednesday nights from March 8 (6-7pm U11 & U13; 7-8pm U15 & U17) at the Melbourne University Hockey Ground – in the middle of the athletics track at Melbourne University (Melway 43 G3)
Bring a mouthguard, shinguards and stick if you have them - we can arrange these for you if you don't have them. For enquiries and further information: Liz Mulconry – 0438 174 927 or email muhcjunior@gmail.com

HELP US HELP YOU WITH EDUCATING YOUR CHILD ABOUT SAFE GAMBLING.

Gambler’s Help Northern is putting together a brochure to help parents and children with education about safe gambling, but we need your help to do it. We invite you to join the parent’s focus group, and share thoughts and ideas about gambling, and how to talk with your child. Please contact Amy from Gambler’s Help Northern on 9350 8106 or 1300 133 445 to join, or for more details.

Music Camp reminder: For students of Intermediate Band and Intermediate Strings

The full payment of $220 and all permission forms must be returned by the 1st Fri of Term 2 (March 31)
Thanks. Ms Newton

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!!!