Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

- Ap.10-13. 7H Boho Camp
- **Ap.12. Parent Teacher Meeting Day 10am-8pm**
  Yr 7 District Sports & VCE Tennis
- Ap. 13. Shortened day. School ends at 2.00 pm
- Ap14-17 Easter Break
- Ap.19-21 Music Camp
- Ap. 24. 7-12 Zone Swimming
- Ap. 25. Anzac Day
- **Ap. 26. Open Day 2-7pm. 7 pm Information Session**
- Ap. 27. VSSSA Swimming
- May 1. Athletics Carnival-Coburg
- May 4. School Assemblies
- May 5. Yarrambat Golf
- May 6. ACE (Select Entry) Program testing for Yr 7, 2007
- May 8. District Athletics-Meadowglen
- May 9. Tasmania Tour (to May 13)
  Grade 6 Transition Day
- May 11. 7.00pm NHS Music Concert—Preston Town Hall
  May 13. Diversity in the Kitchen

School Contacts
Melbourne Scholarship winner

Lakshmi Sinnappan, who completed an outstanding VCE at Northcote in 2005, has been awarded a University of Melbourne Scholarship by the Dean of Commerce, to support her tertiary studies in 2006.

The school congratulates Lakshimi on her outstanding efforts, and wishes her well for the future.

Canberra Conference event

Following on from the participation by Northcote High School students in both a regional and the State Constitutional Convention in 2005, two Year 10 students Georgia Fraser and Kate Jama were successful in their applications to attend the National Constitutional Convention in Canberra, March 2006. Along with students from all around Australia, Georgia and Kate debated whether there should be fixed terms for parliament. The debate looked at many sides of the various arguments for two days until a referendum was held and a communiqué put together for Julie Bishop, the Minister for Education, Science and Training. All meetings were held in old Parliament House and students were given tours of the High Court, new Parliament House as well as attending a Prime Minister’s reception. The two photographs show Georgia Fraser and Kate Jama together with Michael Long who was visiting Canberra and Martin Ferguson the Federal member for Batman. Students also visited the tent embassy on the lawns of old Parliament House and listened to some passionate words from Matilda House, a Ngannawal Elder, who welcomed them to Canberra on behalf of the traditional owners.

Mr. M. Ramsay

100% Cricket Success – Our best year ever!

It has been a phenomenal year for Northcote High in District Cricket. In our school District we have played some fantastic Cricket to win through to the Northern Zone with all of our teams. Our 4 girls’ teams and 4 boys’ teams have played through Super Twelve games and 30 over finals and all of these teams have won. This is a rare occurrence which should be celebrated. It also acknowledges the high Cricket ability of our present school student population and the strong community competitions which many of the students participate in.

The hard work through Sport Education, lunch time training and the Indoor Cricket competitions we played in Term 4 2005 have also assisted in our success. Mention must also
be made of the seven teachers who have been training, coaching and umpiring all of these teams. Good luck to all of these teams as they play off in the Zone finals over the next two days.

Mr Craig Price

NORTHCOTE HS DEFEATED MILL PARK SC IN YEAR 8 CENTRAL DISTRICT CRICKET FINAL

Northcote HS Year 8 Cricket team are Central District Champions after defeating Mill Park SC in a low scoring encounter at Blake Reserve last Monday.

After being sent into bat in ideal conditions, Northcote struggled early losing Captain David Newell and Vice Captain Greg Maratos before the score had reached ten. It was left to number 3 James Potiphar (15) to steady the innings whilst wickets tumbled around him. Potiphar’s partnership with the hard-hitting James McGee (17), Northcote got the score moving towards a competitive total.

A middle order collapse once again raised thoughts of a less than competitive score, but some intelligent batting by top-scorer Kurt Marotta (18) helped Northcote recover late and scramble to 94 all out in the 31st over. Optimism was low after this performance - with the bowlers needing to dig deep and the fielders needing to be at the top of their game to ensure a Northcote victory.

With new ball in hand, James McGee (3-11 off 6 overs) and Adrit Sherifi (3-16 off 5 overs) set about demolishing the Mill Park top order – leaving them in tatters at 6 for 18. Everything fell into place for Northcote in the field, with Kurt Marotta (3-6 off 4 overs) rounding off a great all round performance. Mill Park limped to all out 51.

Northcote HS now plays in the Northern Zone Metropolitan Semi Finals at Blake Reserve on Tuesday 11th April.

Mr Michael James

NORTHCOTE HS DEFEATED MILL PARK SC IN YR 10 DISTRICT CRICKET FINAL

Northcote High School defeated Mill Park Secondary College in a most uncompromising confrontation where reflexes, technique and courage were tested on a flat “green” surface. Northcote High School captain Daniel Wakim won the toss and batted on an overcast day that could help swing bowling. However, opening bat Chris Polidoras made short work of the Mill Park bowling attack smashing his way to 50 not out. He received good support from Sam Baker and Oliver Gordon, who hit 2 massive sixes over midwicket, and Jack Dalton who steadily saw out the innings.

In pursuit of a daunting 185 runs Mill Park was given a torrid time by the local Northcote pacemen and the feeling grew that Mill Park was about to be put through its paces. Dylan Temple opened the bowling with Oliver Gordon and Dylan sent the stumps flying in his first over. Dylan produced a devastating 5 over spell of 3 for 17. The match was put in no doubt when Mitchell Papas and Vedran Sabic took sensational catches to dismiss the danger men of the Mill Park team. Domenic Westcott kept brilliantly and accepted two difficult edges off the bowling of Sam Baker.

The match also highlighted the mastery of flight, turn and variety of spin bowling by Daniel Wakim.

All members of the team contributed selflessly to the result a tribute to the leadership group.

Man of the Match: Chris Polidoras.

Results: NHS 9 / 185 defeated MPSC All Out / 103.

Batting: C. Polidoras 69, O. Gordon 21, J. Dalton no 21, S. Baker 15

Mr Geoff Thomas

Also see Mr Heyworth’s Cricket column on Page 7

International Education Week

Senior students in the International program met the Governor, Mr John Landy, Minister for Education, Ms Lynn Kosky, and Melbourne Mayor John So at the formal launch of International Education Week at Government house last week. Northcote High School received high praise and very positive feedback from Education Department officials following the lead story with our students in the Education Age on March 27th. The launch was one of Mr Landy’s final public functions as Governor.

Trying very hard to be ‘Green’

We encourage all Foods students to bring containers to take home food that they produce at school. that is, if they haven’t already eaten it!

A lunch box, ice cream container or a plastic container is ideal as not only does it protect the product but it can be taken home washed and reused. Often we need to sell plastic bags for the students to use but this is not ideal.

An estimated 6.67 billion or 36,700 tonnes of plastic bags are disposed of in landfill sites throughout Australia each year. Australians dump 4000 recyclable plastic bags into landfills every minute or 230,000 every hour.

We also encourage our students to wash dishes in a sink full of hot water rather than with running water as a tap left running can waste up to 17 litres of water a minute. We feel these are very important environmental issues that we can encourage our students to be aware of, and put in place practices which will help our future generation.

Parent Teacher Meetings, Wednesday April 12

A last minute reminder!

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

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 have all received appointment sheets.

Because of the short Term One this year and a change to our printing deadlines, reports will not be available for collection until the day. We appreciate your understanding

**Please note:**

**Thursday April 13th is a short day, finishing at 2.00 pm before the Easter break.**

**School resumes at 9.00 am on Tuesday 18th April**

**Senior year’s Update**

After a very short first term, our senior students are quickly settling back into the long term ahead. We anticipate Term 2, (12 weeks), will be an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate the strong work ethic which is necessary for optimal academic success, with very little disruption occurring to classroom learning.

Our new weekly study support program, NHS 23, is assisting students in the areas of time management, organisational skills and study habits. We see this as complementing existing classroom practices in these areas, and we know the potential benefits the acquisition of these skills brings to the students’ achievements.

The VCE Study Centre has undergone some organisational changes in 2006. We are aiming to provide an environment conducive to learning and reinforcing our school vision for a culture of achievement and respect. Students have the opportunity to use the VCE Study Centre or Library in their non-timetabled study periods.

2006 has seen positive changes and expansion to our student leadership structure. We congratulate all students who have nominated, and those who have been elected to positions of leadership. They are an excellent forum for all students to access in voicing their thoughts and concerns on school related issues.

We have included a copy of the school’s statement outlining our views on student participation in extra curricular activities during their Senior School Years (see Page 4). We encourage parents to read this statement and if we can be of assistance to students / parents in finding the balance, please contact us.

The strong correlation between student achievement and attendance rates has long been recognised. All Year Level Coordinators have been working hard with all their students and parents, to reinforce and support students in this area. Parents of our Year 10 students should have received a letter last week, outlining our VCE Promotion Policy. Reply slips are due back to coordinators by April 21st.

Our Year 10 students have been working with Ms Anderton in organising their work experience placements which will occur after their exams towards the end of this term. These placements are an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience in one of their pathway interests.

Year 11 Coordinators have been busy working with a small group of students who were promoted to VCE on a contract agreement. The outcomes were very positive, although it was
interesting to note that two of the students requested to remain on contract, as the monitoring provided them with further support!

Our students who are undertaking a VCE Unit 3 study (some 300 students) will undertake the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Wednesday June 7th. The GAT is an increasingly important tool that the VCAA is using in their moderation and special provision processes. The structure and content of the GAT is part of our NHS 23 curriculum and students are prepared for the 3 hour test. In addition students undertaking Unit 3 Physics, Biology, Accounting, Psychology & Chemistry will sit a VCAA exam in the same week.

Our first Parent/ Teacher Interview Day is scheduled for Wednesday April 12th, 10am to 8pm. Interim Reports will be available for collection on the day and students are encouraged to attend with their parents. Students have been given interview sheets and asked to schedule times suitable for parents to come and talk to class teachers and discuss the progress of their son or daughter. We are looking forward to the opportunity to provide additional feedback to students and parents.

A VCE Uniform Review is occurring in 2006. As part of this review, parent and student input will be sought by the Review Group, before recommendations are taken to School Council. Parent surveys will be available on Parent / Teacher Interview Day and we encourage you to participate.

We congratulate one of our 2005 Year 12 students, Lakshmi Sinnappan, who has been awarded a Melbourne University Scholarship for 2006, and is studying for a Batchelor of Commerce. Lakshimi received her award at the Faculty of Economics and Commerce Dean’s Awards Ceremony on April 6th.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Senior School Team

Experience Senior Learning

Northcote High School is proud of the expansive learning opportunities it can provide to students. Through a rich and varied curriculum, students are offered a wide range of subjects, electives and a comprehensive extra-curricular and co-curricular program. This includes such programs as Sport, Music, School Production, Tournament of the Minds, Camps, Excursions and Overseas Trips, Community Projects and Youth Leadership. These Co-curricular and Extra-curricular programs create experiential learning opportunities that allow our students to “learn by doing” and are a valued part of our total comprehensive curriculum program.

It is important we remind students and parents that the overall demands on a student need to be balanced. We believe that monitoring and moderation is critical in terms of developing the balance between a student’s classroom demands and outside-the-classroom demands. These outside demands often include employment, sporting and leisure commitments in addition to the extra curricular activities organised at school.

In VCE efficient time management is essential for positive student outcomes. We want to partner with you to support your student’s success and the VCE team is available for students and parents to discuss your individual student’s schedule and overall plan. We recognise that the correct balance between study, employment and leisure is different for each student.

The school has an established procedure for students to follow when engaging in extra curricular activities during school time, which minimises any interruption to classroom learning. This is outlined in the VCE Student Handbook which is distributed to students at the commencement of the school year.

The Senior School Team
Lili and Julie go to University.

Lili Lasic and Julie Ly (Yr 12 2005) were among the 93% of Northcote High School students to receive a round 1 offer through VTAC. Both girls are pursuing their first preference course of Beauty Therapy at Victoria University, City campus. Entry to this course is by pre-selection test and interview, with only one in three of its students coming directly from Yr 12. Congratulations to both girls on this outstanding achievement!

Over 77% of NHS Yr 12 2005 students received a VTAC offer for a course in one of their top 3 preferences, with an increase in students opting for study at university level. Management and Commerce remains the most sort after course area, followed closely by engineering and related Technologies and the Society and Culture.

NHS Debating update

As you will know from a previous newsletter, Northcote High School now has seven teams in the Debaters Association of Victoria competition. We have one team at Year 11, two teams at Year 10 and four teams at Year 9. Round one was held on Tuesday the 28th of March and five of the seven N.H.S. teams were successful. All of the teams at Year 9 won by the amazing margin of one point! The adjudicators must have been using a synchronized marking system. Congratulations to all teams, team captains and those speakers who won best speaker. The next round is on Tuesday, May 2nd and while I am on long service, Ms Wilson will be meeting with students each Friday at 1 pm in room 7 to help prepare their arguments. Good luck and see you all in term three.

Mr. Martin Ramsay
Debating Coordinator

International delegations visit

Northcote entertained two separate delegations from the People’s Republic of China last week.

Below: A Management delegation from Chongqing province touring the school.

Right Top: Captains Lachie Tranter and Jing Wang entertain the Director of Hefei Education Department. Hefei is the capital of Anhui Province, with whom our school and the City of Darebin have important ties. Right Lower: This Senior delegation, accompanied by Education Department officials, were fascinated to see Mr Madden’s English class practising public speaking outdoors.

From our Parent group - The Northcote Highlights

We are currently planning our next "Diversity in the Kitchen" for Saturday 13th May and 21st October. We will let you know the details in further newsletters but put those dates in your diary.

A new "Soiree" event is also being planned for mid-year to take advantage of the great talent of many our parents.

If you are musically minded and wouldn't mind donating some time to entertain fellow parents at a social event, please let us know by calling Annie on 9481 7232 or annpentelow@bigpond.com.
And 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.

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

**More Commonwealth stars !**

Kiri Dale of Yr 12 and Hannah Mathieson of Yr 11 (at right) were selected to work as volunteers at the Commonwealth Games Aquatics events and were amongst the few volunteers to work in the ‘field of play’ (i.e. on pool deck) with the actual swimming competitors. They underwent training in order to carry out their duties as members of the team and were on duty all morning sessions (trials) and most evening sessions (finals).

**Italian Excursion to the Grand Prix**

This year the Australian Grand Prix Corporation invited school groups to participate in an educational program called RACE (Real Academic Cars Experience)– targeting the Middle Years of schooling and Year 9 in particular.

Northcote High School students, as well as many schools throughout the state, were given free admission to the Grand Prix on Friday 31st of March to experience first-hand the workings of the Formula 1 event. Our group saw the world famous Italian Ferrari team at work and we participated in a host of on-circuit activities and attractions. Included in these activities were some organised by the Transport Accident Corporation (TAC) reinforcing the issue of safe driving and road safety to students.

*Ms Adele Fattore*

**Harmony Day—March 21st**

Harmony Day is an opportunity for all Australians to get to know each other better, share our culture and say ‘no’ to racism. Harmony Day celebrates Australia’s proud achievements as a diverse and harmonious nation.

National Harmony Day occurred over the school holidays on March 21, however at Northcote High School we celebrated this day on Tuesday 4th April. Our year 7 students participated in discussions and activities in their Human Relations classes over the last two weeks, developing their awareness and understanding of the importance of cultural diversity in school and the wider community.

During the NHS23 block, year 7 students were provided with an orange ribbon, Harmony Day stickers and an orange helium filled balloon for the official balloon releasing ceremony, to which 200 balloons were released in unison.

**Mr. Heyworth’s Cricket Column**

*Year 7 Match Report Date: Tuesday 28th March, 2006 Venue: Blake Park, East Preston*

In favourable weather conditions, Northcote High School year 7 junior cricket team competed in the Central District Round Robin against Thornbury Secondary College, Lakeside and Banksia, respectively.
**Game 1:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Thornbury Secondary College**

With only 2 practice sessions prior to the Super 12 Cricket competition Northcote made 65 runs for the loss of five wickets. Mitchell Cross, 7A, Mundell Thomas, 7E, top scored in the batting for their two overs and James Bettinotti, Harry Dwan, 7B, Mitchell Cross, 7A, Luke Dalvean, 7B and Luke Koulaxizellis, 7E, were the wicket takers. Thornbury could only manage thirty seven runs for the loss of six wickets giving Northcote a comfortable 38 run victory.

**Game 2:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Lakeside Secondary College**

Profiting from the previous game experience, Northcote batted well against Lakeside making seventy nine runs for the loss of one wicket. Harry Dwan, 7B, and James Bettinotti top scored with seventeen runs for their two overs. Lakeside made 56 runs and lost five wickets and were truly out played in this match. Wicket takers for this game were Lewis Baker, 7B, Steven Hinkley, 7B, Luke Koulaxizellis, 7E, Dean Macriyiannis, 7B and Joel Simmons, 7E.

**Game 3:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Banksia Secondary College**

Northcote really excelled in the final game protecting their wicket count and scored one hundred and nine runs for the loss of seven wickets. This was a comprehensive victory. Each of the following bowlers took a wicket James Bettinotti, Dean Macriyiannis, Mundell Thomas, Luke Dalvean, Nicholas Shoesmith, 7A, Mitchell Cross and Lewis Baker, 7A.

The cricket coaches, Mr Lamb and Mr Heyworth would like to thank the ear 7 cricket team for their on field performance and the way they played their matches in the true spirit of the game.

The Year 7 cricket team now play on April 3rd in the final of the Central District League against Mill Park who will no doubt field a strong side and be formidable opposition. The winners go through to the Northern Zone finals.

**Year 7 Cricket Coaches, Mr. Heyworth and Mr. Lamb.**

**Year 8 Match Report Date: Wednesday 29th March, 2006 Venue: Blake Park, East Preston**

In hot and humid conditions, Northcote High School’s Year 8 junior cricket team competed in the round robin against Merrilands Secondary College, Thornbury Darebin and Banksia Secondary College, respectively.

**Game 1:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Merrilands Secondary College**

Northcote High School, led by captain David Newell, 8E, made eighty one runs for the loss of four wickets. In reply, Merrilands lost ten wickets for seventy three runs, giving Northcote a convincing 68 run advantage. Grigoris Marato, 8A, and James McGee, 8E, were top scorers in the batting making 23 runs off two overs, whilst Matthew Cowell, 8H, Adrit Sherifi, 8A, and Ryan Cuell, 8F, each took 2 wickets in their single over of bowling. This was a very confident start from a well disciplined side who were keen to succeed.

**Game 2:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Thornbury Secondary College**

In the second game, Northcote batted with confidence and made one hundred and thirty three runs for the loss of one wicket. This formidable total was too daunting for Thornbury who, in reply, could only manage seventy three runs for the loss of three wickets. Adrit Sherifi, 8A, James McGee, 8E, and Eamonn Scott, 8C, were the wicket takers.

**Game 3:** Result - **Northcote High School Defeated Banksia Secondary College**

The third game against Banksia proved that Northcote’s strong batting line up was too strong for the opposition. Northcote made one hundred and six runs for the loss of 2 wickets. Matthew Cowel, 8H, and Ryan Cuell, 8F, top scored making twenty three runs off two overs. Kurt Marotta, 8B, Varun Khattar, 8E, and Ryan Cuell, 8F, all took two wickets in their single over. This was a convincing win, and gave the side victory on the day.
I would like to thank all team members for an outstanding performance in this competition and congratulate them on their success in reaching the Central District Final to be played on April 3rd against Mill Park. Thanks should also be made to Mr Price who supported this venture and dealt with the administrative aspects of the competition and the three students Chris Polidoras, Oliver Charles and Dominic Westcott who helped umpire during the day.

Lockers Update

This year, locker assignments were all completed in the first few weeks of school. All students who requested lockers were allocated one. We appreciated the patience and understanding as we continue to implement our plan to relieve our locker situation (sharing of some lockers). As you know, as we have grown in student numbers over the past few years we have needed to use all of the available internal spaces in our buildings as locker areas. Thus, additional expansion to locker numbers has had to include the planning for the construction of new locker areas attached to or beyond the current buildings.

For 2006, School Council has allocated the funding and we are in the process of having a new locker area designed by an architect and built this year. In addition, new locker areas will be included in the Leading Schools Project construction and in the redeveloped portable area adjoining.

Gail Davidson, Principal

Community Mail Bag

FREE PARENTING PROGRAM
The Victorian Parenting Centre is offering a free 6 week program for all parents of adolescents aged 10-14 years. The ABCD program represents ideas and strategies shown to be helpful to families during the early teen years. It aims to help parents build stronger relationships with their adolescent and teaches strategies designed to prevent adolescent risk taking in the future. The program will be conducted in the local community and will be offered during the day and in the evening over 6 consecutive weeks. Please see www.vicparenting.com.au or call the Victorian Parenting Centre on 98660 3500 for more information about ABCD Parenting Program

STUDENT EXCHANGE AUSTRALIA SCHOLARSHIPS
Student Exchange Australia offers a total of 35 scholarships valued at over $112,000 each year: 24 Language Scholarships - valued at $3,500 each, 9 Creative Arts Scholarships - valued between $1,500 and $3,500 each, 2 International Affairs Scholarships - valued at $3,500 each. The scholarships can be used toward a Student Exchange Australia year or semester program.
See http://studentexchange.org.au/scholarships/

DAREBIN BLUE LIGHT DISCOS
Darebin Blue Light discos are held on the following dates at the Preston Town Hall, in Gower Street, Preston on April 28, May 26, June 30, July 28, August 25, October 6, November 3, December 1. The Disco runs from 6.30-9.30 pm and is for 10-14 year olds. Entry is $5.00 and refreshments are for sale in the hall. Volunteer Police and St. John Ambulance supervise the event in an informal atmosphere. A "no smoking" policy applies in the Hall. Children are expected to remain in the Hall until collected by a parent or guardian. For further details contact Sgt Diane Wilson on 8851 1111.

LEARN THE SONGS YOU WANT TO PLAY!
Michael Young is a local guitar and piano teacher with over 8 years teaching experience. He aims to make learning music an enjoyable and rewarding experience for students of all ages.
Phone Michael on 9481 3214 or 0403 066 817
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