NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter
23 May, 2006 Volume 80, Issue 8
Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

- May 24. VCE District Sports
- May 25. Yr 9/10 District Sports
  Yr 9 Swat Vac Period 1 & 2 Late Start Period 3
- May 26. Period 1 & 2 Yr 9
  English Exam
  End of Yr 10 Assessment
- May 29. Period 1&2 Yr 9 Maths Exam
- May 30 End of Yr 11 Assessment
- May 31-June 6 Yr 10 & 11 Exams
- June 2 Yr 7,8,9 & 12 End of Assessment
- June 5. Some VCAA Exams
- June 6. Some VCAA Exams
- June 7. GAT for all students undertaking Unit 3&4 subjects.
  Report Writing Day.
  No Classes
- June 8-16. Yr 10 Work Experience
- June 9. Yr 7 District Sport
- June 12. Queens Birthday Holiday
- June 15. English Competition
  June 16. Yr 11 & 12 Reports distributed. Last day of Term 2
  School Ends at 2.00 pm

Back to School for John Cain

Former student and State Premier John Cain visited the school on Back to
School Day on Tuesday May 9th. He is photographed here with Grade 6
students of Preston Primary School, who were visiting Northcote as part of a
transition event, together with students from Westgarth PS and Thornbury PS.
Intermediate Music Camp

60 students from the Intermediate Band and Intermediate Strings spent three days at FernGully Lodge in Healesville. The Camp involved lots of music rehearsal as well as other fun activities. One of the highlights of the camp was the whistle hunt in which the students had to find 6 staff in the bush in the dark (at night). It was hard to hear the whistles for all the screaming. The camp was great fun except for Mr Lewis blowing the trumpet in the room to wake us up each morning. There was lots of music practice and the groups certainly improved.

Principal’s Report

Any parent, teacher or student knows that over the course of those amazing six years of high school, each student passes through several stages of development and learning, from the first day of high school through to graduation. We know each stage and transition is not an event, but a continuous ongoing personal growth made up of life and learning experiences.

Leading Schools Fund Project and Understanding Year 9 Students

As we announced last year, we have embarked on our Leading Schools Fund Project with a focus on Year 9 that will build from and connect to our current programs. This semester we are putting into place the facilities design and the teaching learning support and leadership.

You will see the physical facilities changes over the next 6 months starting in a few weeks as portables are replaced and others reconfigured in Term 4 into a Year 9 Global Citizenship Centre. But, perhaps more importantly, our teachers are also building. They will continue to build their teaching skills and knowledge about working with Year 9 students at a critical stage of development.

For many years now, our teachers have been leaders in Middle Years pedagogy that has reflected current research and best practice. Our Teaching and Learning Charter has been a commitment by our teachers to excellence in teaching classroom practices. Just as a student’s learning is continuous, so are our teachers’ learning and our learning as a school and a community.

I want to share from the recently released Department paper, Understanding Year 9 Students: A Theoretical Perspective including national and international research and reflections that continue to inform and confirm our work with our Year 9 students.

Year 9 students:

- Experience profound physical, social, emotional and intellectual changes
- Are unique in educational needs
- With educational aspirations or plans tend to complete Year 12
Brain research suggests that adolescence is a critical stage for development... (i.e. ability to control impulses, calm emotions... allow reasoned, logical and rational decision making.)

Student’s motivation and engagement is influenced by tasks, context and classroom matters which have significant impact on learning outcomes.

**Teaching and learning practices:**

- Should be challenging, integrative and exploratory
- Where students can relate to meaningful life events, experiences and questions that are of concern to them

Our LSF Year 9 team of teachers will focus new and creative energy in the areas of essential questions, assessment for learning, and collaborative student projects with community and global links in a way to improve and link learning for our students.

**New Report Cards for NHS in 2007**

Finally, I want to comment that several of our local primary schools are piloting the new report cards. We have opted to wait until next year to implement this new reporting system. We believe that we will be able to better implement the reporting system if we allow the extra time to fully incorporate the curriculum and assessment changes currently taking place both at NHS and in Victoria.

*Gail Davidson, Principal*

**More Sporting Successes**

**2006- Our Year in District Athletics!**

Over the past few years we have competed strongly at the District level but usually finished second to Lalor, the most successful school in 2005. This year after winning the overall District and Zone swimming aggregates our students set about winning the District Athletics Aggregate. Even though our Senior Girls and Boys teams finished second and third respectively, our Juniors (Year 7 and 8) and Intermediates (Years 9 and 10) all won their Individual Aggregates. For the first time in many years Northcote won the overall aggregate beating Lalor over the line. Points scores were

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>School</th>
<th>Place</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northcote HS</td>
<td>1st</td>
<td>1005 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lalor SC</td>
<td>2nd</td>
<td>926 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Epping SC</td>
<td>3rd</td>
<td>689 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Merrilands C</td>
<td>4th</td>
<td>607 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peter Lalor SC</td>
<td>5th</td>
<td>511 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitzroy HS</td>
<td>6th</td>
<td>450 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunswick SC</td>
<td>7th</td>
<td>316 points</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We continued our good form at the Zone Athletics on Thursday 18th May against the 30 competing schools.
Students who win at this elite level are invited to the State Athletic Carnival at Olympic Park on Monday 30th October. Some of our winners included Alex Price of Year 12 – Discus (her fourth state invitation), Alex Fusca of Year 8 – his second year in High Jump and Nate Van – Dore of Year 7 in Long Jump. Several other students won events but we are waiting for confirmation.

Four of our relay runners ran great races to win the U14 Boys race only to be disqualified on a technicality. They will have to try and learn from their mistake and try again in 2007.

**Senior Girls AFL Football – We win at last!**

I’m not sure what is happening in 2006 but our teams keep reaching for higher levels and achieving them.

Over the past 6 years we have fallen to Mill Park in the finals of Girls football. 2006 seems to be our year with a convincing final win over Mill Park.

In our first game we started slowly against Reservoir before winning 4-2 to 2-2 Alex Price, Brooke Livock, Dialla Fayad and Rita Mankowska all scored goals.

We then watched Mill Park beat Reservoir 6-5 to 4-5. We listed the best players from Mill Park and set our plans to rotate some of our strongest players onto them. We were really pumped when we ran onto the ground and started quickly. In the first 5 minutes we shocked Mill Park with 3 straight goals. Our girls were hunting in packs and teaming really well together. Mill Park was never allowed to get any flow going as we tackled and chased them with determined endeavour. Final scores were great as shown - Northcote 6 goals 9 behinds (45 points) defeated Mill Park 1 goal 4 behinds (10 points).

Coby Bialas, Polly Koeleman, Brooke Livock and Dialla Fayad were our main goal kickers. Winning is even more rewarding when students have played and developed together over several years before finally tasting success. The pride and happiness of all the girls was a pleasure to be involved with.

Some of our Junior Athletes below

**STOP PRES! Senior District Badminton**

Stop Press: Congratulations to our Girls District Badminton team who won this competition on Friday May 19th. Our boys finished a close second—both teams had trained before school for the last two months.

**A Music Concert to remember**

*Thursday May 11 saw out biggest music concert to date, with over 200 students performing to a packed Preston Town Hall. Hosted by the very laid-back Ms Venesha Wray, parents, students and staff were treated to an outstanding evening’s entertainment. Well done to all our hard working Music staff, and good luck to Mr Lewis, who has begun six weeks Long Service leave—some of it with our friends at Huaibei Number One High School.*
From our special Music Correspondant

Preston City Hall hosted a most outstanding display of talented musicians from Yr 7 -12 on Thursday 11th of May. The Northcote High School Semester One Musical Extravaganza attracted a record audience (almost capacity crowd!) who were entertained for over two hours of musical delight!

The Choir were on fire, along with the Percussion Ensemble that never missed a beat. Both Senior and Junior Stage Bands rocked the house with their toe-tapping, dancing-in-the-aisles tunes. Junior Band made their debut performance and played enthusiasm and skill. Intermediate Band were so gargantuan that they barely fitted on the stage, and had a sound to match. Senior Concert Band opened the concert and set the standard very high. Our five VCE Solo Performance students displayed fantastic individual talent, with their contrasting performances from Bach to The Beatles, and the Guitar Ensemble was enjoyed by all. Intermediate Strings serenaded the audience with a salty sea shanty, whilst Senior Strings hosted a hoe-down, complete with costumes. Congratulations to all the hard-working performers involved in the evening.

You rock!

NOTE: The PARENT MUSIC GROUP will meet on Thursday, 25th May, at 7:30 in the Music Room. New members are very welcome.

Reminder -End of Semester 1, Dates 7 –10

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 is not submitted or completed, it may result in a ‘Not Satisfactory’ for the related work requirement and for the semester.

Teachers have provided students with a list of work requirements at the start of the semester which outlined the number of tasks students are expected to complete and when these tasks need to be submitted. Students should have clear understanding of the work that needs to be completed in the last few weeks of the semester. Students should approach their teachers to ensure that all required work has been submitted.

Any concerns about workload or progress should be directed in the first instance to the teacher concerned. The school’s policy statement on Work Required Assessment is available on request.

The end of semester dates for Semester One 2006 are:

Year 10 - Friday May 26th
Year 7 - 9 Friday June 2nd
Diversity in the Kitchen

This was the 2nd time I had gone to Diversity in the Kitchen. And once again I had a great time. You don't often get the chance to learn about Mexican food, let alone eat it. When I saw the notice saying "Mexican food", I rang a friend of mine who is from Mexico and invited her along. We thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon, helping with the food preparation, and listening to the cook, Stephanie, talk about her experiences in Mexican kitchens. Later, when we sat down to eat all the delicious food, my friend gave the food her stamp of approval.

A big thankyou to the Northcote Highlights for all the work they do to run these sessions and especially to Dura and our Cook for the Day, Stephanie.

Meg Rouse

Proposed Study Tour of Italy 2007

Northcote High School will be offering students of Italian the opportunity to travel to Italy in September 2007.

The 14 day trip will include five days of intensive Italian language classes in Florence, tours of Rome and Venice as well as a school visit and home-stay component in the northern Italian city of Udine.

We are currently receiving costing for this trip and more details will be available shortly.

Ms Adele Fattore

LOTE Coordinator

Councillor Barbara speaks to the Year 12 Geography Class.

On Thursday the 18th of May, Annabel Barbara of the Yarra Council gladly accepted our invitation to speak to the Year 12 Geography class. Amongst topics of discussion were the management strategies and future sustainability of Brunswick Street. As part of our Unit 3 studies, the class took a trip to the retail strip to assess land use and survey those on the street. The collection of this data helps us analyse why people use the retail resource, their means of transport and various other questions to gain a general profile of Brunswick Street. Ms. Barbara gave an excellent insight from a council perspective which gave the class a more sound understanding of the different aspects
involved such as the issue of parking or permits for late-night trading of entertainment venues. Other hot topics that have arisen and surround the local shopping precinct are complex with a variation of views on controversial subjects such as graffiti, pollution, noise and traffic which Cr Barbara helped in simplifying and discussed the implementation of future policies to alleviate the sensitivity of issues such as these.

It was an experience that I myself and all involved in the discussion found very interesting and enjoyable. Both the Counsellor and the class made excellent points which Ms. Barbara can take back to the council for consideration. From her visit, our class can now use the information she exchanged to make a comparison to other local retail precincts also studied, allowing a different insight to the extensive world of Geography.

By Dijana Derkacz 12D

Eleonora addresses National Convention

Eleonora Bertsa of Year 11 represented all Australian secondary school students at a Federal forum in Canberra to launch a new DVD “Tackling Depression in Schools” on Thursday May 11. Eleonora addressed an audience of 50 to 100 members of parliament, health professionals and beyondblue board of management.

She also spoke about Northcote High School’s involvement in the production of the DVD and participation in the beyondblue project.

Eleonora has been involved with beyondblue since 2003 when Northcote High School was approached by beyondblue to participate in a three year survey relating to mental health issues and teenage depression.

Eleonora Bertsa at left, with beyondblue Chairperson Jeff Kennett and NHS Social Worker Rob Mason

Dragon Boat Excursion

On 10th of May, the Yr7 Chinese Mandarin class went to the Dragon Boat Festival excursion at the Chinese Museum in China Town. Students attended lots of activities and had lots of fun on the day. Students watched the performance about the Dragon Boat Festival and learnt how to make Zongzi(sticky dumpling)-one of the Dragon Boat Festival foods. They also attended the Chinese tea ceremony and had Yum Cha lunch at King Bo restaurant.
A Northside Story—Production Report
2nd August - Preview for Primary Students

3rd to 5th August

Northcote Town Hall

Building upon the success of recent Rock Eistedfodd endeavours, Northcote High School is undertaking the construction and performance of a theatrical production, A Northside Story. Performed in the Northcote Town Hall on the 2nd to the 5th of August, it aims to showcase the school’s performing talents, develop stronger links to the local and broader communities, and interpret key moments of the school, the suburb and our nation’s rich history.

It was 80 years ago that Northcote District High School opened on St. Georges Rd, taking on its first students two years later. As we celebrate this anniversary we believe it was a pertinent time to commemorate our diverse community.

The show illustrates the tale of several young students and their examination of Northcote’s diverse history. From a time beginning when the Wurendjeri people first saw strange creatures lift their boats out of the Yarra River to lug them beyond Dights Falls to continue upstream, to stories from the Jaga Jaga Brothers, (famously ill-translated by the surveyor, Hoddle as Jika Jika), to the 1846 death of Billibellary, the Elder of the Yarra Tribe. It will examine the opening of Merri Creek School (or Yarra Aboriginal Mission) on the banks of the Yarra River and Merri Creek junction, Charles McCarthy’s Melbourne Retreat for the Cure for Inebriates on a 32-acre block now largely occupied by Northcote High School and The Yarra Bend Lunatic Asylum. From the proclamation of Northcote as a city to the opening of Northcote Picture Theatre in 1912, A Northside Story will compete with the opening night splendour of the Miss Northcote Competition of 1928, with its inaugural winner receiving ‘Gramophones, cakes and cash’!

The 1940’s, 50’s & 60’s saw the arrival of the new European migration; a time that brought the Mediterranean to High Street, enriching the area the Northcote we know today. Within this era, on one afternoon all classes were called into the stuffy school hall to watch the Americans beat the Russians in the scramble to the land on the moon, changing the world for those boys on a grainy black & white television: “One small step for man…” - And ABC Television recorded the school election process during the late 50’s with a very young John Cain Jr. triumphant with his “Square deal with labour…” Finally, culminating in the dawn of the present day: the sun rises on Rucker’s Hill and Northcote’s people define themselves as, quite simply, We are what we love…

The theatre piece draws on different performing and dancing styles that reflect the changing fashions of our community. In addition, it utilises pre-recorded imagery, both stills and video footage. It comprises a cast of 80 performers and the input of 30 back-stage, costuming and visual design students. A Northside Story is not to be missed.

Mr. Alex Madden
Community Planting & BBQ May 28

Develop local volunteer skills in wetlands & weed control
Wetland & weed awareness
Sunday, 28th May 10am-1pm

Celebrate the wetland’s sixth ‘birthday’ at a Community Planting and BBQ
Sunday, 4th June 10am-1pm

Merri Park Wetland
Sumner Ave – Winifred St Northcote, Melway 30 C8

Wear sturdy shoes and gloves. Free BBQ, vegetarian and Halal provided
Organised by Merri Creek Management Committee & Friends of Merri Creek
in partnership with Landcare Australia & Citipower

For further information contact: Brian or Megan at MCMC  9380 8199

Year 9 Exam arrangements

The Year 9 English and Maths exams are fast approaching!

When:
The English exam will be on Friday the 26th of May during Periods One and Two.
The Maths exam will be on Monday the 29th of May during Periods One and Two.
The Science exam will be done during class time week beginning 29th May and other exams as advised.

Where:
9A, B, C, D, E & F will be in the Hall
9G- will be in L.1, 9H- will be in L.2, 9I- will be in L.4

Classes will run as normal after recess on both days

Equipment required
Students may bring a dictionary and pens for the English exam.

Students must bring a scientific calculator and pens and will be allowed an A4 summary sheet with examples and formulas.

Absences
The General office must be notified of a student’s absence on the day of an exam. Arrangements will be made for a student to sit an exam due to illness on Friday 2nd of June.
Swat Vac – Period 1&2 Thursday 25th May
On Thursday 25th of May, all Year 9 students have Period 1 & 2 at home as preparation time or “Swat Vac”. They should be at school before the start of Period 3 (11.00 am). If you need assistance minding your son or daughter at that time, please contact the Yr 9 Coordinators at school.

Debating Update

Once again Northcote high had a successful night of debating. With all of the debates being within a margin of two or three points and with three out of our six teams winning their debates! Year Ten students had their first experience of an ‘Advised’ topic where they had only an hour to prepare after learning of the topic of the debate. Ms Wilson came along for support and once again there were many family members to cheer on our young debaters! Once again we would like to thank all those who come out to support the debaters at their debates.

Noni Sproule

Homestays, Homestays!

From Huabei Number One High School.
Mid August 2006

Our dear friends at our Chinese sister school have advised us of their planned visit in August.

20 students from Huabei Number One High School will visit us for one week in about mid– August, a week or so after our Japanese visitors have left (See previous editions of the newsletter) First choice for Northcote host families will be given to students who will be travelling to China in September. Its expected however, that there will be additional volunteers needed to homestay our Chinese visitors. Our Chinese visitors are usually very proficient in English. (Note: As Huabei is our sister school, a payment to host families in China and Australia is not made)

From Honjo High School, Japan (first week in August 2006)

Activity plans are progressing for our visitors from Honjo High School. There are still several places available to host a student—a most rewarding experience for all. If you are registered as interested, thankyou!

If you would like to register, please contact Mr Murphy at school
Community Mail Bag

SUPPORT FOR VCE STUDENTS—THE SENIOR STUDENT SUPPORT CENTRE
The Senior Student Support Centre is at 257 Collins Street, Melbourne. It provides resources and contacts for students wanting extra help. They provide full lists of VCE SUBJECT TUTORS who are registered teachers and have Police checks. The phone number is 9650 1998

KEYS PLEASE DRIVER EDUCATION
Darebin Libraries will be running two “Keys Please” sessions in May and June. “Keys Please” is a drivers education program aimed at parents and learner drivers and are run by specially trained VIC ROADS staff. The first session is scheduled for Date: Wednesday 17 May, Venue: Preston Library, 266 Gower Street, Preston Time: 7-8.30pm Bookings: Can be made by simply calling 1300 655 355
The second session is scheduled for Date: Wednesday 14 June, Venue: Northcote Library Separation St, Northcote Time: 7-8.30pm. Bookings: Can be made by simply calling 1300 655 355

FREE SEMINAR TICKETS FOR THE FIRST 30 FAMILIES
Mental Blank is conducting a one-hour VCE Success Seminar on "The Secrets of VCE Exam Success". The seminar will cover: 1) The 5 most important study strategies that students should know for exams… but might not have time to learn at school. 2) Why most students waste 5,600 hours studying and how they can avoid doing so. 3) Why most students experience mental blanks in exams… and how to prevent this from occurring. 4) How to overcome procrastination, get organised, get inspired and produce brilliant exam results.

The seminar normally costs $49/family however our school has been given complimentary passes for the first 30 families
DATES & TIMES
Saturdays (May 27, June 3, June 10) at 11am or 2pm; or, Sundays (May 28, June 4, June 11) at 2pm or 4pm.
VENUE
Arrow on Swanston, 488 Swanston St, Carlton (near Victoria St). Plenty of parking near the venue, 5 minutes walk from Melbourne Central Station.

HOW TO BOOK
If you book online at www.MentalBlank.com/seminar with code NNHS you will receive a free electronic report, "Proven Strategies for VCE Success" Or call 1300 MENTAL (1300 636 825) with the same code. Sessions book out so be quick

WORK OPPORTUNITY—LENARD’S VICTORIA GARDENS
A business at Victoria Gardens in Richmond (Lenard’s, which is a fresh chicken franchise) is looking for 2-3 casual staff aged between 15 and 18 for
after school and weekend work. Availability during the coming school holidays is ideal.

Duties will include serving, product make up and cleaning. Full training will be provided. Applicants will preferably have have good maths skills, be well spoken and have initiative. It is preferred that interested students visit the store with a resume or a brief written statement about their interests, previous work history etc, and ask for Matthew Wall (Franchisee). Matthew can be contact on 9421 0111, but we would prefer applicants visit the store so Matthew can speak with them (as face to face communication is a major part of the position).

SHORT SCHOOL NOTICES

VCE BIOLOGY BOOKS FOR SALE
VCE Biology books (Units 3 & 4) that have hardly been used are for sale at $20.00 each. Ring Carol 9470.1625

CARE ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT
All students are reminded to be courteous to smaller primary aged students and the elderly while on crowded trams. Its easy to forget that older and younger people are often less agile than us.

PARENT MUSIC GROUP
Thursday, 25th May, at 7:30 in the Music Room. New members are very welcome.

VEA’s THANKS TO NHS
Georgia Dunn, Lillian Coventry, Eleonora Bertsa, Courtney Zlatic, James Manning and Linh Trin all volunteered to appear in the Vox Pop segments of Video Education Australasia’s series on Identity and Feelings, an ESL student’s guide, last term. The school was sent a copy of the 3 disk set, which although set in an imaginary Australian school, was largely filmed at Northcote High School. Producer Michael Boland asked for his thanks to be passed on to the school community.