Year 7 Camp 2010

Our 250 Year 7 students enjoyed a number of intensive activities at Adanac camp at Yarra Junction. Team building and bonding activities included raft building and canoeing—without falling in, something Emma and Penelope (above) achieved with great ease.

Chinese Culture Day

For this year’s Chinese New Year festival celebration, strenuous efforts were made by our fellow NHS staff and students to organise a Chinese Culture Day on Wednesday 24th February. The event was angled for the appreciation of China’s unique culture. Held in the gym, nine activity stalls ranged from ‘pin the tail on the tiger’ to ‘dressing up in traditional Chinese clothing’ as well as the exceptional performance—lion dancing. The whole affair was indeed a roaring success with over 300 students, teachers and participants being involved. Participants had the option to render their names in Chinese characters, whilst others chose to further their skills with chopsticks—attempting to pick up as many red beans as possible. Chinese-New-Year music played in the background. The wonderful success of the day yet again proved how well everyone in Northcote High School comes together for events celebrating diversity, such as this.

The occasion was truly a team effort. Many thanks to all the contributors, teachers and students and especially Ms. Wang for the organisation of this grand celebration. Happy Chinese New Year everyone!

Jacky Kwok 10B
Principal’s Report

The first weeks of school have been busy for both our students and staff with the Year 7 camps at Yarra Glen being a highlight and a great opportunity for students to expand and consolidate their friendships and to build strong relationships with their key teachers. Chinese New Year has also been a highlight celebrating with our international students and a Chinese Cultural Day welcomed in the Year of the Lion with a fabulous lunchtime lion dance display. Our Intermediate and Senior bands have workedshop with the RAAF band and James Morison and are sounding fantastic as they prepare for their China Tour later in the year. At this early stage of the year has This time last year the NHS community was working hard raising money to support the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal these events certainly reinforce the meaning and importance of supportive communities.

In the next newsletter we will be advertising a NHS Community Forum - a joint parent and school lead discussion focussed on engaging with our community and community involvement – we look forward to seeing you there.

Safe Travel
Many of our families will know our school council has been working with Fiona Richardson, Yarra Trams and the Department of Transport to secure the upgrading of the trams stops directly accessed by NHS students. But safe public transport use is often directly related to decisions of the individual; in this case our students and your children. This year we continue to discuss with our students issues regarding safe use of public transport particularly safely accessing the tram stops outside the school via the pedestrian crossings and entering/exiting the trams and trains safely and courteously. We are also continuing our communication with Yarra Trams, Vic Roads, City of Darebin, politicians and the community on safety issues related to trams, trains and roads. We must remain diligent in working with our students to ensure they are extremely careful when travelling to and from school and when on public transport. Traffic will always be intense and students can never be too careful. We ask that all families discuss the importance of safe travel practices and the need for extreme caution when travelling.

Together as a community – Year 7 BBQ
Our much anticipated annual school community event, the Year 7 BBQ, was again a wonderful success. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the company delightful. It is always fabulous to see so many staff, students and family members share in the spirit of the event. Great music by our talented NHS musicians and their leader Peter Lewis filled the air. Our students introduced their parents to their teachers and to their new friends and friends - everyone shared the excitement of the first few weeks of school. Younger and older brothers and sisters joined in on the fun. Special thanks to our Northcote Highlights, Year 7 Coordinators, Lynn Delahunty. Cathy Lester and Nhan Do, Year 7 Pastoral Care Teachers, Assistant Principals Nick Murphy, Jocelyn Hill, Kevin Hoole, our Year Level Captains and parent support for creating this wonderful annual event.

Students Active in the Community - Debating
Congratulations to our Year 12 students – Marissa Butera, Phoebe Shiu and Varun Khatner who will be competing in the final of the Lions Club Inter-school debating contest this week. They will be competing against Thornbury High School, thank you to Mr Martin Ramsay and Ms Carlene Wilson for their work mentoring and coaching our debaters.

Interim Reports and Parent Teacher Meetings
Parent Teacher Meetings will be held on Thursday 18 March (A – K) and Monday 22nd (L – Z) March 1.30pm – 7.30pm. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our school-home communications, we will be launching an Online Interview Booking System stay posted for further information, your passwords and instructional information will be mailed home as will the Interim Reports. We hope this will provide you with some additional time to examine and discuss the report with your son/daughter. It is very important the interviews are a three way conversation focused on improved student learning and support, between teachers, students and parents, therefore we request that students attend the Parent Teacher Meetings with you. Construction Projects
this week sees the long awaited beginning of the hall refurbishment – if only these walls could talk! Ex students are always keen to visit the hall and recall their memories of awards, assemblies and concerts. The refurbishment includes extensive underpinning of the foundations, expansion of the stage, two multiuse small spaces - instrumental music and small group learning, purpose built drama storage and props space and upgraded sound and multimedia. This is essentially a School Council funded project and one that is much needed for our school community.

As with most construction there will be disruption to the use of the hall for Term1. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we work to improve our learning spaces within the school.

NHS Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 25 March at 5:30pm will be our Annual General Meeting followed by the first School Council meeting of the new School Council. At the AGM, the NHS 2009 Annual Report will be presented. Copies of this report will also be available at the Parent Teacher Meetings and on our website.

School Council Elections and Thanks
Lastly, I would like to encourage all parents to vote in the School Council Elections. This week you will receive a voting slip in the mail, please read the instructions carefully and return your completed voting slip by Tuesday 09 March 2010.

On behalf of our entire school community, I want to express my sincere thanks to our outgoing School Council member Arthur Secoulidis. Arthur has provided valuable input, guidance and leadership over the past 3 years, particularly with his perspectives on Building and Grounds Committee and community standards. The Northcote High School students, staff and community have benefited greatly from his input.

Kate Morris
Principal
Assessment and Reporting News

Northcote High School has an Assessment policy that promotes quality learning in class and at home. This means that:

- Each student must submit all required 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.
- Students must complete all work requirements. 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 subject 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 2010

Year 7, 8, 9 and 12
End of semester / formal assessment period date - Friday June 5th

Year 10 and 11
End of semester / formal assessment period date – Friday May 28th
All student work for the semester must be submitted by this date

Year 10 examination period from Tuesday June 1st to Friday June 4th

Year 11 examination period from Friday May 28th to Thursday June 3rd

Our visitors from Singapore

A little about us

We are educators from Singapore completing a 1-year full-time Masters in Education. Part of our programme includes a 10-week stint in Melbourne. During this time, we attended classes at the University of Melbourne and a 2-week school placement in NHS. We hope to gain insights to how schools in Victoria function and exchange ideas with fellow educators.

Our impressions of NHS

One of the first things that struck us is the warm hospitality extended by everyone. We really appreciate the staff's willingness and openness in sharing their experiences. We are touched by the school's efforts in immersing us in the school life and culture.

The students are a delightful bunch, impressing us with their confidence, spontaneity and respect for one another. In class, they are highly engaged in the learning and open to different perspectives. The students' curiosity about things around them and passion to learn are simply infectious! This is no doubt due to the dedicated team of teachers who bring out the best in them by encouraging them to keep trying and learning.

All in all, this has been an enriching and memorable experience for all of us. Thank you!

May NHS continue the great work they are doing and soar to greater heights!

Cindy, June, Lenny & Linda. Singapore

USE OF A STUDENT’S PREFERRED NAME - SCHOOL REPORTS

In order to ensure accuracy and consistency, all student reports will now use the student's legal name. If you have indicated an alternate or preferred name, this will remain on the DEECD school records system for our reference, information and use in face to face contact.

If you have any further questions or concerns please feel free to contact Kate Morris – Principal - 9488 2300
Careers and Pathways Update

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

- Year 10 students MUST prioritise finding their work experience placement as a matter of urgency. Many employers have already accepted work experience students and the number of employers willing and able to offer work experience is reducing rapidly. Students must return Work Experience Offer of Placement Forms to the Careers Office before the deadline of Monday 15 March 2010. The forms should be returned as soon as possible as additional Work Experience Arrangement Forms have to be completed in order to confirm and finalise work experience placements.

CAREER EXPOS, SEMINARS and WORKSHOPS

- The Age VCE and Careers Expo 2010 will be held Friday 23 April to Sunday 25 April 2010, at Caulfield Racecourse. The Expo features 150 exhibitions and 115 seminars on VCE subjects, tertiary courses, careers and study advice. For details visit: www.education.theage.com.au or read the free Expo Visitor Guide in The Age on Monday 19 April 2010.

- The National Careers and Employment Expo will be held Friday 21 to Saturday 22 May 2010, at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre. For details visit: www.eocexpo.com.au

- RMIT University is offering a free Get Real Experience 2010 School Holiday Program Tuesday 15 June to Friday 09 July 2010, designed to give students in Years 10, 11 and 12 real experience and insight into the world of science, engineering, the environment, and health and medical sciences. Students experience campus life, engage in hands-on workshops, explore aspects of science for a day. For details and to register visit: www.rmit.edu.au/seh/experience or contact Clare Russell – ph:9925 3699, email: clare.russell@rmit.edu.au

- Australian Automotive Week Careers Seminars will be held on Monday 22 March 2010 as part of the Australian Automotive Week which runs from Saturday 20 March to Tuesday 23 March 2010, at the Melbourne Convention & Exhibition Centre. Seminar speakers will discuss topics including apprenticeships, automotive engineering, and automotive design. Australian Automotive Week will showcase latest technical developments and innovation by Australian automotive manufacturers. For details contact Thao Pham: 9829 1111 or email info@motorshow.com.au

- The University of Melbourne Meet Melbourne 2010 program enables students and parents to take a closer look at the study options available at the University of Melbourne. Information sessions will be held in various locations throughout Victoria over the coming months. To find out about:
  - Courses and career information including the Melbourne Model study options and pathways
  - Entry requirements and how to apply
  - Scholarships and course costs
  - Transition and Orientation programs
  - Further events and programs for future students

Visit: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/meetmelbourne to find an upcoming session or contact 1800 801 662 (toll free within Australia).

- The University of Melbourne offers a Veterinary Science Open Day 2010 on Sunday 21 March 2010, 10.00am – 3.00pm, at the University of Melbourne Veterinary Hospital, 250 Princes Highway, Werribee, Victoria. For more information: (03) 8344 7844 or visit: www.vet.unimelb.edu.au/openday

- Years 10 – 12 students and parents can explore the University of Melbourne for a day at Access All Areas on Friday 09 April 2010, from 9.00am – 2.00pm. Access All Areas is free and especially designed for Year 10 – 12 Victorian, interstate and international students and their families, allowing them on-campus to gain a personal insight into the University. The program allows students to gather information that is tailored to them. Registration: Places are limited, so parents and students are encouraged to register early to secure a place. For further information and to register (from 01 March) visit: www.futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/events/vic

Ms C. Martin.
Careers and Pathways Coordinator
Camps Update

We once again have a hectic program of camps in 2010, below are the local camps being run by the school. International Camps will be advertised separately.

Upcoming Camps

Students need to look in the daily bulletin & Newsletter for details of the following. Note: there is no guarantee that all these camps will run.

Term 1: International Students Year 11 Camp at Boho South
Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th March

Term 2: Year 9 Roses Gap Camp
Monday 3rd – Friday 7th May
Camp Organisers: Ms. Saillard, Ms. Lenthall, Ms. Green
NOTE: Permission forms are due to the office by Friday 5th March.

Term 3: Year 9 – 12 Snow Camp 30 students
Monday 2nd – Friday 6th August
4 full days on the snow, cost about $950 (TBC) will be less for students with own equipment or lift passes.
Camp Organisers: Mr. Xuereb & Ms Grinzi

Year 9 – 11 Tasmanian Tour – 40 students
Monday 30th August – Friday 3rd September
Cost TBC
Organisers: Ms Cappelli & Mr. Lasslett

Year 9 Landcare Camp Boho – 25 students, 3 days
Thursday 19th – Saturday 21th August
Camp Organiser: Ms Wyatt

Term 3 & 4—Year 8 Boho Camps – students attend in form groups for four days for the last two weeks of Term 3 and almost every week of Term 4.

Activities include an overnight hike, swimming, bowling, and canoeing (one group will horse ride as they canoed in Year 7).

Permission forms will be issued to all Year 8 students at the start of Term 2 with all forms to be returned by 11th June. The allocation of form groups to dates will then occur and notification will be early in Term 3. Payments can be made at the office now and are due by the end of Term 3 unless the camp occurs before this date.

Year 9 – 12 Wilson’s Promontory
20 - 24 students
Monday 6th – Friday 10th December, Cost $180, TBC
Organiser: Ms Wray

Mr. R. Griffiths
Camps Coordinator
7F History Excursion to Melbourne Museum.

On the 23rd of February 2010, 7F and 7G went on an excursion to the Melbourne Museum with the teachers Ms Saillard, Ms Eng, Ms Lenny and Ms Linda to study Archaeology. At 9:00 am the children from 7F and 7G went to the tram stop to catch the tram to the Carlton Gardens. Once we got there, we got a brief introduction about the museum. When we entered the museum we all had a chance to look around with our teachers. The places we went and saw were the human bodies, dinosaur, sea, animals and creature enclosures. After that there was recess and played at the park in the Carlton Gardens. Then we had an activity session with museum staff where we learnt about Little Lonsdale region and the artifacts that were recovered from the dig. After lunch we went into IMAX and saw a movie on Ancient Greece. It was fantastic! Thank you to all the teachers for the excursion. We all had an excellent time together.

Kallie Karamanlidis 7F

NHS-Melb Uni Collaborate on Italian

This semester Years 10, 11 and 12 students of Italian will be participating in an exciting collaborative project with first year Italian students from The University of Melbourne. The project will see students working in groups of 2 or 3 to design a Wiki on one of the 20 regions of Italy.

A Wiki is a collaborative webpage which can be authored by more than one person. Wiki pages can incorporate text, image and multimedia. The most famous example is Wikipedia. This tool is ideal for promoting collaborative work between students, particularly if they are not located together.

We hope that this project between Northcote High School and The University of Melbourne will provide quality learning opportunities and resources for both cohorts of students.

As a first step to getting the project started Northcote High students will visit Melbourne University on Wednesday the 10th of March during Periods 1 to 6. Whilst at the university students will meet with their partners and begin the process of producing the Wiki. This project is a Work Requirement for all students in Semester One.

Ms Adele Fattore

Exploring Greece in April 2011!

Arrangements are now in place for the tour of Greece! The exciting itinerary has highlights like Athens and the Acropolis Museum, Delphi and a drive along the Achaia coast, Thessaloniki including a visit to a local school and the lovely islands of Mykonos and Santorini.

Ms O’Hehir and Ms Wilson will be leading the trip in the April holidays of 2011 (please note the change of date). Students studying Greek, Classics and History will particularly benefit from the tour but any interested students are welcome!

An information meeting will be held on Monday March 15 at 6.30pm in the GCC at Northcote High School. A detailed itinerary and full pricing will be available at the information evening. Initial expressions of interest will be asked for at that time.

For any further information please contact

Ms O’Hehir or Ms Wilson
Da Shan’s Sporting Update

Term one has started smoothly with our Senior Boys winning the District Cricket final against Mill Park SC. They will now play Melbourne High on Thursday 11th March on a turf pitch.

Parents/carers are alerted to the process of VCE students playing in Sporting teams or attending school carnivals. Students must fill in a BLUE form which they get signed by all their teachers of their missed classes. This must also be signed by their parent/s/carer/s and their Year Level Coordinator. We want students to participate in extra curricula activities but be responsible for any work missed. Please ensure you have seen and signed a BLUE participation sheet if your student is participating in any extra curricula activity resulting in them missing classes.

Our Year 7 boys and Year 8 Girls Cricketers have been training hard and showing excellent form as they approach their district games. Our Year 7 Volleyball students are showing enthusiasm with 25 students turning up for 8.00am training. On going to print we are participating at our Annual school swimming carnival at Northcote YMCA.

Next Tuesday March 9 we go to Fitzroy pool to compete in our Sectional swimming meeting. We have just completed updating our Sports honour boards with the best selected student, the recipient of school sporting colours, (see below) in each sport for 2009. Many students take great pride in getting their names up on these boards – they along with our selected all-round Sports stars will be presented with medals and/or trophies at a school assembly.

School Sporting Colours 2009

“School Sporting Colours” are the traditional way of acknowledging the best all rounder in a particular sport. They are called Colours because in traditional British schooling it entitled the student to wear a different blazer or tie. Northcote is one of the few schools to continue the practice of placing the students name on an honour board in traditional gold leaf lettering.

Athletics  
Zoe McWhinney (Yr 10)  
(Hat-trick)

Baseball  
Luke Rigby (Yr 10)

Basketball  
George Drakopoulos (Yr 11)

Cross Country  
Bronwyn Humphrys (Yr 12)  
(Hat-trick)

Cricket  
Garrett Mc Donagh (Yr 8)

Football  
James McGee (Yr 12)

Hockey  
Jack Blades (Yr 11)

Netball  
Phoebe Godfrey (Yr 11)

Soccer  
Caitlin Friend (Yr 11)

Softball  
Sarah Ma-Lang (Yr 10)

Squash  
Maryanne Lanoue (Yr 8)

Swimming  
Tori Rusciano (Yr 8)

Table Tennis  
Liam Haveckin (Yr 10)

Tennis  
Baris Kilic (Yr 11)

Volleyball  
Fedele Dennaoui (Yr 10)

Bronwyn Humphrys and Zoe McWhinney—3 time school colour winners this year.

Push Over will feature over 40 Australian indie rock, hardcore and hip hop acts across four stages! The festival is a wonderful opportunity for young people to access live music in an affordable and safe setting. Live acts include: 50 Lions, Big Scary, Break Even, Built on Secrets, Carpathian, City Escape, Coby Grant, Dash & Will, Heroes for Hire, Horrorshow, I Explode Like, In Trenches, Kisschasy, Lovers Grave, Regular John, Satellite Supercollider, The Mission In Motion, The Sundance Kids, Urthboy, Wherewolves, Yacht Club Djs, Young Heretics, Yves Klein Blue and more! The Push It! hip hop arena, presented by Oz Hip Hop, will feature MC and 3-on-3 Breakin Battles. The festival runs Sunday 7 March, 12midday til 8pm @ The Abbotsford Convent, 1 St Heliers Street, Abbotsford. Tickets are $30 + bf presale from www.moshtix.com.au, www.oztix.com.au & Ticketek 132 849 or $40 at door if not sold out. On sale now! Push Over is an All Ages, Fully supervised, Drug, Alcohol & Smoke-Free Event. For more info head to www.thepush.com.au / www.myspace.com/thepushinc, call (03) 9380 1277 or email push@thepush.com.au
Short School Notices

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
A reminder—Ballot Papers were posted home on Monday 1st March. Parents must return these to the school by Tuesday 9th March 2010, 4pm.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTION – PARENT MEMBER CATERGORY CANDIDATES
NIGEL D’SOUZA
SUSAN HEALEY
ASHLEE JAMES
HELEN LOCKART
DOROTHY PATRICK
CLOSING DATE FOR RETURN OF BALLOTS: Tuesday 9th March 2010

RIDE, WALK, PUBLIC TRANSPORT TO SCHOOL DAY
Wednesday 17 March
• Wear something GREEN…..Gold coin donation $$$$$
• Pancake breakfast
• Prizes to win
• Lunchtime fun - Music on the deck and Staff v Student Netball

Year 7 BBQ, 2010
Every year we host the Yr 7 Parents, Students and Teachers BBQ. This year it was on Monday March 1, and approximately 400 parents and students turned up for a pleasant evening of fine food (we provided the sausages and falafel) and music.

Thanks to our musicians, parent volunteers and supporting parents.

2010 Kwong Lee Dow Scholars
Northcote has 4 students who have been selected as University of Melbourne Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars for 2010 - Bianca Le, John Mitsios, Charles Cornwallis and Izaak Martin-Stevenson.

The Kwong Lee Dow Scholarships are offered to students throughout the state, and provides mentoring and support through the senior year of schooling. The University apologised that it did not have room for another 7 outstanding candidates from Northcote High School.

The school congratulates these students.
Community notices

Would you like to play SOCCER this season?
Alphington Junior Football Club Under 13 Boys Team is looking for new players to join a core of talented, experienced & enthusiastic players for the 2010 season. Pre-season training has only just begun - so come along now and have a run with the team while there are still some places available. Some previous soccer experience is highly desirable. You will also need to be born on or after 1st January 1997 to be eligible for this age group. To find out more please contact either the Coach (Nick Michalopoulos 0404 896 639) or the Manager (Andrew Donald 0409 869 086).

Complimentary Family Passes to VCE Success Seminar For Yr 9/10/11 students.
Get set for 2010 by attending an upcoming 90 minute VCE Success Seminar. Learn the secrets top performers used to excel in VCE. Limited seats. www.VCEsuccess.com.au/free Or call (03) 9531 0531

Have you ever wondered how computer games and 3D movies like Shrek are made?
Learn the latest in 3D Animation and Games Design on a Bubble Dome School Holiday workshop this April. Other courses in Architecture, Fashion Design, Movie Making and Ultra Games Development are on offer at a venue near you. For students aged 6 to 17 years. Tel: 1800 11 55 62 or Email: info@bubbledome.com or Visit: www.bubbledome.com

Class Clowns 2010
Class Clowns is the Melbourne International Comedy Festival’s national comedy competition for young people at high school aged between 14-17 or in Years 9 -12.

At a Class Clown gig, students who have prepared up to 5 minutes of stand-up, comedy, a group sketch, musical parody, or something else in between, participate in a rehearsal with a professional, practising comedian, before presenting their act at a real, live, public performance.

The performance is judged – and the winners of these local heats go forward into state finals, and the winners of each state are flown to Melbourne in September to perform at the National Grand.

The Grand Final winner receives $1000 cash for their school and a $1000 budget to buy themselves something nice too! To download a registration form for a Class Clown heat, head online to classclowns.com.au or speak with Ms. Barbara.

NO TRICKS JUST TREATS
Specialising in fruit cakes. Special occasion cakes, biscuits, and other treats
Runner up in Royal Melbourne Show VAS Secondary Schools Fruit Cake class State Final 2009
Numerous other awards in competition cookery
Member of the Cake Decorator’s Association of Victoria
For orders, contact Ryan Fisher (10B) on 0425 200 552

From the classroom this week...

This week Martin Ditmann and Elizabeth Russo were lucky enough to taste replica World War One Army “Iron rations”, as part of their study of VCE Twentieth Century History. “I was reassured when Mr Murphy said the bully beef didn’t have much pork in it,” said Martin.
Elizabeth added that while tasty, eating bully beef and hard tack (hard biscuits) for eight months while being shot at in a trench at Gallipoli could be tiresome.