

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

Volume 85 Issue 13

Celebrating 85 years of education in 2011

16 Aug 2011

WHAT'S COMING UP



Our sister school, Huaibei No1 High School, is due to leave on August 17th

- **16 Aug.** Huaibei farewell BBQ and Concert 4.30+ pm
7.00 pm Strings and Cheese
- **17 Aug: Yr 10-12 PT Meetings**
School dismissed 12.40 pm
- **18 Aug:** Landcare Camp departs (to Sat 20/8)
- **22 Aug:** Yr10 Course Counselling (No Yr 10 classes)
- **26 Aug :** Classics Camp depart (to Sun 28/8)
- **29 Aug:** Yr 9 2012 Info Night 7.00 pm
- **30 Aug:** Yr 9 Course Counselling (No Yr 9 Classes)

Wed Aug 17 1.30-7.30

Years 10-12 Parent Teacher Meetings

Book online through Compass

School Contacts

General Office
9488 2300

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

5th Annual Big Band Boogie



This year's Big Band Boogie showcased the outstanding emerging music talents in our school. The Senior stage band (shown above) is only one of a number of our excellent music groups who performed. We also had several pieces from "Bugsy Malone" performed, as well as a number of VCE students performing solos. This was

yet another outstanding musical evenings. Congratulations to our talented students and hard working music staff led by Peter Lewis and Jackie Brogan. The active support of the parents music group should also be noted—they provided food and drinks to the crowd who filled our Hall.

11th Visit by Huaibei No1 HS



Every year our relationship with Huaibei Number One High School becomes richer and stronger! 11 visits have been exchanged between both schools—perhaps as many as 500 students and teachers have visited each other's schools. It is a wonderful rich experience for both schools—enabling us to see China's tradition and culture as it really is.

This year's delegation is led by Assistant Principal Mr Chen, who was last here in 2006. His visit is a wonderful opportunity to investigate new dimensions of the relationship.

Also with the party this year are teachers Mr Ge, Mr Lin, Ms Song and Ms Shi, and twenty students of Year 10 and 11 levels.

Many thanks to our homestay hosts—the **Gilder, Ruchel, Griffin, Krishnan-D-Souza, Stapmanns, Peterson, Purcival-Cassin, Roseman-Gannon, Blaike, Morris-Dalton, Langford, Poetter, Gartland, Chadwick, Becker, McKenzie, McCole, Toffano, and both Rowan Watson and Henry Watson families!!**

Acting Principal's Report

Enrolments – Challenges in managing the demands of high enrolments

Last month Northcote HS received about 400 applications for places in Year 7, well beyond our capacity to accept – which is about 250. This pressure on enrolments isn't a new issue, but it is certainly becoming a more pronounced issue. Obviously there is an impact on school amenities when student numbers increase and it can also have an impact on things like class size. I think its agreed in the school community that we don't really have the capacity to endlessly add more portable classrooms to our site. All of us working at Northcote HS "feel" the issue in some way or another, and at some point we need to have a discussion about this.

One of the ways we can accurately measure the demographic growth in the area around the school is by looking at primary school data. Of the twelve government primary schools in the area around Northcote HS, all are sustaining their size or growing. In 2011, there were 670 Grade 6 students exiting those twelve schools. In 2016 there will be 890. And of course, these statistics don't tell the full story – as they do not include local Catholic primary schools or children who attend other schools in Melbourne but live close to Northcote HS. So it is safe to assume that Northcote HS will continue to face this level of pressure for enrolments – in fact, it is likely to significantly increase before the end of the decade.

The Department of Education's processes for enrolment are outlined in the "Neighbourhood Schools Policy". The policy guarantees a place in Year 7 to children for whom the school is the closest. The policy then allows schools to enrol any siblings (for whom the school is not closest) and finally applications on "Curriculum grounds." These are the steps all "high demand" schools follow, not just Northcote HS.

The problem for us, is that the formula we have used for the last ten years, of taking all local students, all siblings and a few curriculum claims means we struggle to keep our intake to 250 students. Northcote HS also faces a second layer of pressure in that it services a very large residential area with some significant changes in housing density planned or going on soon (the old St George's Rd Cinema development and the Gadd Street development being just two examples).

I would welcome any thoughts you may have on this issue, as would our Council members I am sure.

Ties with Anhui Province, China

Not only have we enjoyed the company of our sister school, Huaibei No 1 High School this last few days – we have also been preparing for the September Tour of China by our combined party of 50 with Clifton Hill PS.

This is an important first step for Clifton Hill PS, as they embark upon a sister school visit with Huaibei No 1 Primary School – for the first time. Our combined Visa filling in meeting was something else again!! Geoff Warren and Karen Dileo from the Primary School will lead their team.

Special thanks this week

To our homestay hosts families for caring for our **Huaibei** students

To our student **Green Team** for their work raising sustainability issues this last week, with enthusiasm unbounded (see photo below)

Our Musicians – staff, students and parents for this year's wonderful **Big Band Boogie**

Our **Student leadership team** – who worked so hard on Friday at their leadership conference, with Ms Pru Morris' assistance.

And congratulations to our three wonderful Girl's soccer teams! (see page 6)

A reminder – Parent Teacher Meetings for Years 10-12 on Wednesday 17 August

Please make you parent teacher bookings asap – using your Compass login. Thanks to a number of parents for the positive feedback – very much appreciated. We adopted Compass to involve parents more closely in school operations. One of the initiatives it allows is an extremely easy parent booking function.

Please note school ends at 12.40 on Wednesday 17th August. Interviews start at 1.30pm

This newsletter also contains information about Year 7, 8 & 9 Parent Teacher Meetings on September 15. See Page 7.

Mr Nick Murphy
Acting Principal



VCE PE Students visit Bell Primary School

As part of their Unit 2 Physical Education studies students organised and delivered a fun filled hour of games and activities appropriate for Prep students at Bell Primary School on Tuesday 2nd August.

Students had to consider appropriate language, task complexity and adaptability in planning the activities.

Games included Tiggy, Tunnel ball, Simon says, What's the time Mr Wolf?, soccer and football drills.

It was hard to tell who was having the most fun, Northcote High students or the preps!

The prep students had a ball and the majority thought chasing the big kids was the best

Ms Lester



Celebrating Science Week- Rain Reaction

Roughly 220 Year 7 students packed inside the hall to watch the "Rain Reaction" on the 8th of August, and the performance did not disappoint. Jam packed with songs, comedy acts and game shows. Rain reaction was a hit. The idea of the play was based on the character "Wazza", whose dream was to be on a reality TC show. Little did he know, the other character, Amelia, was planning a prank on him by letting him enter game shows but only to sabotage it all by giving him the hardest of questions which he obviously fails. The game show varied from Master Chef to Who wants to be a Millionaire? It was great fun to watch as at least 15 people from year 7 were chosen to do some sort of challenge against Wazza.

The highlight for the year 7 students was when people threw balls at the picture of the Earth, while four students tried to protect it. This was a representation of the Ozone layer and the balls represented harmful sun rays trying to penetrate the Ozone layer. The aim of the production was to educate us on the affects of global warming and to show us various ways and things that we can do to reduce CO₂ emissions. It was fascinating to see the



different methods being developed to produce clean electricity. Overall the presentation was engaging and informative. Protecting the Earth should be our goal, by doing so will help our future generations look after our Earth.

By Lachlan Meadows 7F

NHS Adult Singers & Musicians

Over the past few months a group of parents from Northcote High School have met in the music rooms to make music. If you are interested in being part of an adult music group of the Northcote High community come along with your instrument and give it a try. For more details you can email Brenda on brenda@shorewalker.com.

Year 9, 2012 INFO EVENING 29 August

For current Year 8 students & parents.

Parents are reminded that the Year 9 Information Evening will be held on Monday 29th August, in the School Hall at 7.00 pm for all current Year 8 students and their parents.

A display of Year 9 work with staff on hand to answer any queries will be held in the Global Citizenship Centre from 6:30 pm – 7:00 pm.

Letters will be sent home with students in Week 5 of Term 3.

The general structure of the Year 9 Global Citizenship Program, the elective selection process, the 1:1 computers and the Alpine School program will be outlined at the evening and students will receive their Course Selection Information packs.

It is a very important date on the school calendar for our Year 8 students and we look forward to seeing all our students and their parents at the evening.

Ms Jamieson, Head of Middle Years

Bonjour tout le monde!

On the 26th of July, the year 10 French students of Madame Beattie went to un crêperie, Breizoz on the corner of Gertrude and Brunswick street, to experience the rich French culture and all of its magic. As we walked towards the cosy little crêperie, the smell of the buttery crepes and the sharp tang of the apple cider wafted out of the front door. Upon entering the cosy little nook, we were greeted by the waiters with a friendly “Bonjour!”.

We sat down, looking around at the French books and artwork that created the perfect authentic provincial French atmosphere of a real crêperie. There were several items to choose from off the menu. One galette (savoury) crêpe, one dessert crêpe and complementary non-alcoholic cider. As the waitress took our orders in French, the siz-

zle of the crêpes and the delicate aromas from the kitchen made our mouths water with anticipation.

The students of year 10 French left the crêperie with their stomachs full and satisfied, but most importantly with the experience of speaking and ordering in French.

Au Revoir!

By Rachel Luu year 10

Northcote High Super Chef.

It's coming!!!

This is the third year of the famous cook off at NHS. We have been blown away with the quality of the food presented to our judges.

Get in early! It is open to Year 10 students but only the first 12. Students must get the entry form from Ms Delahunty and return by or before Friday 19th August with their \$12 entry fee as positions are limited. Guest appearance by last year's winner Nickolas Vokolos at the last challenge.

Once again we look forward with eager anticipation to show case the skills of our students at Northcote High School.

Ms Delahunty and Ms Corkery

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES

At NHS we believe that positive relationships between staff, students and parents are the keystone to success. We work hard to build good relationships between all members of our community and in order to help us develop this further, NHS will be implementing a Restorative Practices approach to dealing with behaviour management issues. Education is about relationships, not control, and relationships have inevitable conflict which requires healing. A restorative approach is used in many schools to ensure that when situations occur that lead to a breakdown in relationships, a consistent and fair process is followed to repair and restore the relationship.

While it is an appropriate method to use when dealing with all relationships in a school setting, it is most often used to deal with students who have negatively impacted on the wellbeing of others through inappropriate behaviour. The restorative practices process:

- Fosters awareness in the student of how others have been affected;
- Avoids scolding or lecturing.
- Involves the student actively.
- Separates the deed from the doer.
- Sees every instance of wrongdoing and conflict as an opportunity for learning.

Acknowledges that young peoples' mistakes are inevitable and that we need a way of processing to allow learning to occur

Over the next few weeks, staff will be involved in training in Restorative Practices. David Vinegrad from *Behaviour Matters* will lead the training. All students will be informed about the process during assemblies and towards the end of Term 3 David will return to the school to conduct a Parent Forum, as well as training our student leaders in the approach.

You can find out more by reading:

Wachtel, T., & McCold, P. (2001). Restorative justice in everyday life: Beyond the formal ritual. In H. Strang & J. Braithwaite (Eds.), *Restorative justice and civil society*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Available in pdf on Restorative Practices in Australian Schools

<http://www.vnc.qld.edu.au/rpsite/>

We will keep you informed about the exact date of the Parent Forum. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact Jeannie Jamieson – Head of Middle Years – on 9488 2388

Ms Jeannie Jamieson
Head of Middle Years

NHS Uniform Update

Northcote High School Uniform review update.

After a review process which commenced in 2009 we are pleased to be able to say our 2012, Year 7 students will be wearing our new NHS uniform!

We are presenting the following implementation timeline to School Council for endorsement at their next meeting.

Current Year 7 students will be required to be in the new uniform in 2015.

Current Year 8 students will be required to be in the new uniform in 2014.

Current Year 9, 10, 11 & 12 will not be required to purchase the new uniform unless they are replacing an item and then the full new uniform must be worn.

We are continuing to work with our supplier on final details and we will present these to our school community via a direct mail out to families as soon as they are available

SOCCER GIRLS WIN A TREBLE *By Da Shan*

At the recent Northern Metropolitan Regional Soccer finals our Year 7, 9/10 and 11/12 Girls teams all made the 6-8 team final and all were successful. This showed an amazing strength in our school girls soccer talent pool. Each team had 16 girls playing, making up around 50 girls progressing onto Conference finals in Bendigo in week 6 and 7 of Term 3. We also had boys soccer teams and Netball at 3 levels. We won 3 runner up pennants in these areas.

The next two weeks we have 3 teams out playing Regional Badminton at Reservoir and 3 teams playing regional AFL finals. Our Year 7 students started their new Term 3 sports last Monday with a lot of talent on display in Basketball, Table Tennis, Bat Tennis, Hockey, Lacrosse and Soccer. At lunchtime Mr Hore has started up a mixed Basketball tournament with many teams entered and competing. In the second week of Term 4 we have a Health and Physical education week. We are planning an early morning healthy breakfast and speakers from the AIS. We are looking at Jump Rope for Heart initiative as well. Many other Health and Physical Education initiatives will also be planned in the next few weeks. We have already received many Coles docket donations from students, staff and parents. Please keep them coming – a box for catchment is located in the General Office.



International Student activities



There have been many activities arranged by Ms Lixia Wang and the team for our new International students of Yr 10 and 11 level. At left, the five discos princesses belt it out at Kareoke, while at right, new students from China, Vietnam, Brazil and Italy enjoy a welcome lunch with Ms Morris

Bookings open soon for Years 7-9 Parent Teacher Meetings, Wed September 15.

How to make online bookings from Monday 5 September

A. The Year 7-9 Parent Teacher Meetings are Thursday September 15, 1.30-7.30 pm for Years 10-12

B. The whole school operates periods 1-4, with dismissal at 12.40 pm

C. Bookings will be made online, using Compass School Manager.

How Yrs 7-9 parents can make a booking on Compass after Monday 5 September

1. On the welcome page, after you have logged into Compass, you will find **Parent Teacher Conference**. Click on it to follow the link.
2. Under available events you will see **“Yr 7-9 PTM 15 Sept”** Click on this
3. Up will come two panes. At the top is “My Bookings”, with available spots in green. At the bottom are the names of your son/daughter’s teachers—”Available Staff”

Staff Member	Staff Note	Location
Carlene WILSON (CW)	LITERATURE 3 Teacher	
Carlene WILSON (CW)	LITERATURE 4 Teacher	
Chris MANOUSOPOULOS (CM)	REV HIST 3 Teacher	
Chris MANOUSOPOULOS (CM)	REV HIST 4 Teacher	
Lisa SAILLARD (LS)	GEOGRAPHY 3 Teacher	
Lisa SAILLARD (LS)	GEOGRAPHY 4 Teacher	
Margaret SINCLAIR (MS)	LEGAL STUDIES 3 Teacher	

4. Click on the time you would like to see a teacher, in the top pane. Pull down to find your teachers name. Click the Update button. A green sign at the top will show you its done! It's a good idea to print or copy down your bookings!
5. If you don't have a computer at home, you will be able to contact the office for assistance. Or you can email compass at compass@nhs.vic.edu.au

Bookings for Parent Teacher Meetings on Wednesday August 17 (tomorrow) are still open

Please note that as these bookings have been open since Monday Aug 8, some teachers are heavily booked. Others may be free however.

From Darebin Health

Do you have a student in Year 7 or 10 in 2011?

Darebin Immunisation Service has attended all Secondary schools to offer scheduled immunisation to year 7 and 10 students. Year 7 students were offered Gardasil (girls only) Chickenpox and Hepatitis B vaccine. Year 10 students are recommended to have the Diphtheria, Tetanus, Whooping Cough (brand name Boostrix) booster. The final visit to secondary schools is scheduled for September/October this year.

Please note that the Cervical cancer vaccine is only funded by the government for girls in Year 7, 2011. The 3 dose course of this vaccine will cost \$405 if not commenced in 2011. It is important that your daughter receives her first dose of the vaccine this year to be eligible to complete any doses in 2012.

If you have any queries about your child's immunisation please contact Darebin Immunisation Service on 8470 8562.

ED. MAINT.ALLOWANCE - SEMESTER 2, 2011

If you applied for Education Maintenance Allowance at Northcote High School 1st Semester and have received a payment disregard this notice, your application for the 2nd Semester will automatically be processed.

If you applied at a previous School during 1st Semester you will need to complete another application form at Northcote High School.)

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must be a parent or guardian of a student at Northcote High School. The student must be under sixteen years of age. You must be an eligible beneficiary of a Centrelink pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

You must be eligible for one of the above as at the first day of Term 3 (18th July 2011).

PLEASE NOTE:

Application forms are available from the School office.

- You must have your Pensioner Concession or Health Care Benefit Card with you when you apply, as a photocopy is required in order to lodge your claim.

Applications must be lodged at the School by FRIDAY 6th AUGUST 2011. The Department of Education & Early Childhood Development has instructed that late applications will not be accepted.

Teena Pavlatos Student Support Services Coordinator

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A TUTOR TO GET THE BEST RESULTS YOU CAN?

My name is Sean Gilmartin. After graduating from Northcote High School in 2008 I am currently studying Chemical Engineering at The University of Melbourne.

I have three years experience successfully tutoring high school students in Maths, English and Chemistry subjects at all year levels.

Call or text me on 0438 702 549 or email me at seangilmartin@y7mail.com for information or to book a session