It’s Exam Season at NHS!

It is an exciting time for our Year 12 students as their schooling draws to a close. They are well into the first week of their VCAA exams and we are extremely pleased with their efforts and commitment to date. They will look forward to the release of their results on Friday 16th December. They will then be carefully considering their post school options and eagerly awaiting tertiary offers with the 1st round occurring on the 16th January 2012.

They celebrated the successful completion of Year 12 classes at their Graduation Ceremony on Friday 21st October at Wilson Hall, the University of Melbourne, where Ms Padmini Sebastian, a Director of The Melbourne Immigration Museum, was the Valedictory Speaker. They will further celebrate the conclusion of their exams at their Formal which is at The Centre, Ivanhoe on Wednesday 23rd November at 7pm.

Our Year 11 students are approaching their exams and have been busy working with their teachers to ensure the best possible outcomes in their studies. They will return on Monday 5th December to confirm their 2012 Year 12 subjects. They will be given time arrangements for that day and they will also be given preparation work to complete over the summer holidays for each of their subjects, to ensure a smooth transition to Year 12 in 2012.

Year 10 students will complete their exams during the week of 21st to 25th November and they will then commence Work Experience on Monday 28th through to 2nd December. They will then return to NHS on Wednesday 7th December to receive confirmation of their 2012 subjects and then attend a VCE Orientation Program on December 8th & 9th in preparation for their VCE in 2012.

Our current Year 9 students will attend 2012 Course Confirmation day on Wednesday 14th December. They will receive a letter outlining the time to attend on that day.

WHAT’S COMING UP

- 7-9 Nov: Yr9 I, C & F City School experience
- 8 Nov: Year 12 exams continue
- 8-11 Nov: 8G Camp
- 9-11 Nov: Yr9 E, A & H City School experience
- 9 Nov: High Resolves Summit—Yr9&10 HR students
- 14 Nov: Flute Concert
- 15-18 Nov: 8I camp
- 18 Nov: Year 10 and Year 11 Exams commence (Year 10 exams conclude on Fri 25th, Nov. Year 11 exams conclude on Tues 29th, Nov.)
- 14 Nov: Flute Concert
- 19 Nov (Sat): ‘World Challenge’ Borneo Camp departs
- 21 Nov: Junior Music Concert

School Council Dates

- 7 Dec: Education and Governance committee-6pm
- 8 Dec: Environment and Sustainability committee-4.30pm
- 9 Dec: Community Engagement—6pm
- 9 Dec: Finance Committee-8.30am
- 15 Dec: School Council-6pm

2012 CHINA TOUR!

Parent Information Evening

6pm, TONIGHT, Main Building.

Beijing ~ Huaibei ~ Hong Kong ~ Shanghai … Terracotta Warriors, the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Homestay in Huaibei, Sister School, Ancient Cities, Great Food, Once-in-a-lifetime Cultural Experiences, Amazing People!

Taking expressions of interest NOW.

If you are interested in the exciting tour of China and homestaying in Huaibei with our wonderful Sister School please express your interest to Assistant Principal, Mr Sean Butler by Wednesday 9th, November.

butler.sean.c@edumail.vic.gov.au
Principal’s Address to the Graduating Class of 2011

The following is an extract from the address by Northcote High School Principal, Ms Kate Morris, to students at the recent graduation ceremony held for our year 12 students at the University of Melbourne.

It is my great pleasure to address the Northcote High School Class of 2011.

Last weekend I was in Readings buying a book for the son of a friend of mine…. As I was flicking through the fabulous range of children’s books, I came across one of my favourites Dr Seuss – Oh, The Places You’ll Go – Seuss and I decided to reacquaint… and the class of 2011 flashed through my mind….. Stay posted as to why Seuss so resonated with me….

Tonight we are here to celebrate Northcote High Schools 87th graduating class, your achievements, your learning, your contribution to our community, the accolades you have received and the experiences you have lived over the past 13 years of your schooling.

Tonight, we also reflect on the values of our school - where we strive for students to be active learners who contribute purposefully and are involved in our community.

We are here to celebrate The Places You’ve Been….

Tonight, I would particularly like to highlight the attributes that have defined the Class of 2011.

What stands out - is what you stand for… your ability to influence and challenge each other, and generate community debate through your focus on ‘real’ issues. This characteristic, coupled with a positive solutions-based focus has defined you as a class.

Your political concerns have been mirrored federally as our parliamentarians and community struggle to find common ground and understanding regarding the implementation of a national carbon reduction strategy. At Northcote High School we understand the enormity of this issue and the necessity for ALL of us to take action now! You have taken action – you have demonstrated your commitment to making a difference in our community and beyond.

Your contribution to environmental sustainability at Northcote High School has been significant, with initiatives such as Green Week, Environmental Forums - connecting ideas with community action - clean ups and tree planting and the adoption of Green Procurement Guidelines, all resulting in real reductions in our waste, energy and water usage and an active biodiversity strategy. These will remain at NHS well beyond your graduation and for this we thank you.

The NHS Class of 2011:

Are people who have gained a ‘voice’ and ‘platform’ for matters highlighted by your year group and contributed to robust debate and decisions, making Northcote High School a more relevant place, with a greater focus on innovative learning, social interaction and achievement of your goals.

You are people who are focussed on ideas, and finding avenues to express these ideas through dialogue and ultimately through creating student lead forums and actions that have become part of our culture.

You are people who have shown an unerring commitment to ensuring students can and do contribute in real ways to the day to day running of our school.

As a class you have lived the values of Northcote High School. You have been truly active, involved learners ready to make a difference.

We know each year level, each graduating class is different.

When I asked members of your class, your teachers, your Year Level Program Leaders to describe you they would laugh and smile and enthusiastically talk about you. They were quick to highlight that the individuals make the collective and your group certainly has made their mark.

Your teachers remember you as ‘a delightful, bright Year 7 group – absolutely ready to go’ - you confidently walked into our school…. It’s a confidence you have retained over the last six years. It’s an attitude that we have seen in your hard work and focus especially this year.

Your Program Leaders reminded me about the productive workspace the VCE Centre has been this year. About your ability to work together to design hoodies, plan and print a magazine, organise social events and other school activities and still have time to socialise, to work and to be motivated, successful students across your subject areas!

Over the past 6 years in our classrooms and beyond you have been

- Experimenting, calculating, writing, thinking, designing, creating, performing, discussing, collaborating - You have lived the word TEAM

- You have starring in the sporting arena winning district, zone and state championships

- You have performed, so brilliantly as musicians and singers at Primary schools, interstate and across the globe…..

- You have debated and competed in public speaking, language competitions, chess and public transports challenges, winning many prestigious awards

- You have led constitutional conventions and youth exchanges

- You have challenged our thinking around social justice – raising money and raising awareness, stimulating debate and growing understanding.

- You have connected with community through FReeZA, and Cultural and Sexual Diversity Forums. You have influenced policy and funding of youth action in the Darebin Area and beyond.

- You have whipped up a storm in culinary challenges, planned and implemented celebrations for students by students, Changed the World at lunchtime, recess, before school and afterschool.

- You have expressed yourself through the visual and performing arts and technology with your work being showcased at our annual Art, technology and Media show, you have starred in Rhyme and Reason, Cabaret, Pirates of Penzance and Bugsy Malone.

- You have workshopped with elite scientists and academics, you have field tripped, and City Centred, Bo- hoed, skied, snow boarded, surfed, bushwalked, sea kayaked, rock climbed and toured to the Gold Coast, Roses Gap, China, Italy, France, United States and beyond.

The Class of 2011 has lived our school motto Meliora Sequamur ….. “You have found a better path.”

You are the kind of people who will go places……
Tonight we celebrate you... The places you have been and through....
understandings that will you will dip into as you travel to and through.... The Places You’ll Go

Last year, I spoke with the graduating class about social networking and FACEBOOK.... Facebook was launched in the class of 2010s first year at NHS – they were the pioneers of Facebook – you are at home there and that’s why I am sure you are familiar with the legacy of the late Steve Jobs, a man with Places To Go... immortalised through the creation of the Apple Mac computer, pixar film, the ipod, iphone, ipad to name a few.....

At his 2005 Stanford Graduation address, Jobs said:

“When I was 17 I read a quote that went something like this:

“if you live each day as if it were your last, some day you’ll most certainly be right” since then... I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself... ‘if today were the last day of my life would I want to do what I am about to do today?’ and whenever the answer was ‘no’ for too many days in a row, I knew I needed to change something.

He went on to say....Your time is limited.... and I add - you have places to go....

Don’t let the noise of others drown out your own inner voice. And most importantly have the courage to follow your heart and intuition.... Everything else is secondary.”

Jobs lived by this philosophy.... He always had places to go....

He formed a huge multi-national company. Made an incredible fortune, donated millions and is a household name. Those are the places some of you might go....

He was an innovator, an inventor, a creator. Someone who changed the way we work and play.

Jobs life though wasn’t without hurdles – publically or privately. The man was no saint. Like all of us he had successes and failures; qualities and faults. He made choices along that journey; but he was clear about the places he wanted to go.....

When the doors of the Wilson Hall open tonight and you exit as graduates of Northcote High School - there is a wide world open to you.

Where is it that you will go?....

The message at its core – listen to your inner voice and follow your head and heart.

Your integration into our global world is guaranteed. You have embraced the concept of becoming global citizens with gusto.

You are a political group – a politically diverse one at that! And in this diversity, the values of tolerance, respect and understanding that have remained paramount...you have actioned the words of John F Kennedy in his famous line:

“what unites us is far greater than what divides us....”

What has united the class of 2011 is looking after the people and world around you. The friendships you have formed have sustained you so far and they will continue to do so. Look around you, the people beside you are people you may still call friends 50 years from now.

These wonderful places you are headed to – you are not going there alone. For the past 18 years your mums and dads, aunts and uncles, grandparents, siblings........have been right beside you - every step. They won’t stop now.

The other people who’ve stood beside you, are also sitting here tonight. The people who have corrected your essays, written your reports, phoned your parents, confiscated your phone and ipod. Yes, your teachers have been there from the first day you stepped into NHS and I know how proud they are now seeing you begin the next part of your journey.

The challenge for each of you will be how you harness your current interests as you move into the big wide world beyond your time at Northcote High School. I have no doubt you will rise to this challenge, continuing the ‘edginess’ to your politics, continuing to embrace diversity and continuing to follow your ‘heads and hearts’....!

Tonight we celebrate you all

On behalf of our School Council and community – staff, students and families - I want to congratulate each of you, each member of the class of 2011, on what you have accomplished and thank you for what you have given to all of us at NHS.

Remember

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday

Remember

To keep finding your own voice and creating your own path

Remember

Keep asking what is possible....

As you now step into the world - we know the world will be better for it.....

How many people have said to you over the past 6 years – “wow - how you have changed....”

You have grown physically and in your thinking
You have learned from your family, your teachers, each other and you’ve learned from your mistakes
You have learned about the world you live in and your have learned how to move into that world.

Your teachers and your family have witnessed you change and now witness your graduation. The Class of 2011 - The 87th class to graduate from Northcote High School.

“You have brains in your head
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself
Any direction you choose
You’re on your own. And you know what you know
And you are the ONE who’ll decide where to go.”

(Dr. Seuss, Oh, The Places You’ll go. Random House. 1990.)
**Arrangements for December 2011—end of school year**

Continuing a long tradition, Northcote rounds off the year with an engaging activities program that includes activities at school, in the local area and farther afield. This is also the period for course confirmation where senior students confirm the subjects they are allocated to for 2012. In previous years families have been invited to attend a report collection day where students could also return library books, collect certificates and pay outstanding. While our new online reporting system has made report collection redundant, families are still invited to attend on Wednesday 21st at the times indicated to collect items and pay outstanding accounts.

**Other dates to keep in mind for senior years students:**

Year 10 Work Experience -> Monday 28th, Nov—Friday 2nd, Dec.

Year 11 -> 12 Course Confirmation—**Monday 5th, Dec.**

Year 10 -> 11 Course Confirmation—**Wed 7th, Dec.**

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<tr>
<th>Monday 12th Dec</th>
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<th>Wednesday 14th</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012 Year 11 &amp; 12 Summer Task Collection</td>
<td>Grade 6 transition day</td>
<td>Year 9 Graduation 10AM—2PM</td>
<td>Activities Program—Alternative program operates (no scheduled classes)</td>
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<td>Year 9 Course Confirmation day (alternative Yr9 program operates)</td>
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<td>Book Swap / Sale</td>
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<tr>
<td>Activities Program—Alternative program operates (no scheduled classes)</td>
<td>Activities Program—Alternative program operates (no scheduled classes)</td>
<td>Pack and Ripples collection day</td>
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<td>Final date to return library books and pay outstanding subject levies or fees: Yr7 9-10am: Yr8 10-11am: Yr9:11am-12.</td>
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**BOOK SWAP... 13 Dec**

In order to assist families the school will be facilitating a 2nd Hand Book Swap / Sale. This is a wonderful opportunity to save on the cost of new books and to help the environment by recycling perfectly reusable items. In a book swap students and their families will purchase directly from one another with the school providing rooms as a venue. The school will issue a guide price for books in very good condition which will be listed at 50% of the price of a new book. Seller and buyer can negotiate a price for books that are above or below very good condition.

**Buyers should be sure that they are purchasing the current editions and version of texts as listed on the book list.**

A list of texts available to be sold / bought is available from the school web site [http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/index.php?id=6](http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/index.php?id=6) Other ways to buy or sell 2nd books are through 2nd hand book shops specialising in school texts, or dealing directly with other families.

**Please note** the school will hold no money on this evening and will be unable to provide change.

**2012 Student Course Selection, Timetable and Home Groups.**

We have now determined our 2012 timetable blocking grid for 2012. Students will have their subjects / electives confirmed and communicated on the dates listed below:

**Year 11 to 12** December 5th - **Year 10 to 11** December 7th - **Year 9 to 10** December 13th - **Year 8 to 9** November 21st

For the very small number of students for whom there is an issue in relation to a subject clash or a subject not running, we will be contacting them over the next 2 weeks to arrange further counselling and selection. Parents will be encouraged to be involved in any additional counselling required.

Year Level Program Leaders and Sub School Heads will be determining 2012 Home Groups over the coming weeks for our current Year 7 & 8 students. Occasionally changes are required for a variety of reasons both social and academic. They will be contacting families of students concerned when this is necessary and parent and student feedback / input will be an important factor in decisions to make changes.
In2Science Program

7D Visit to the Tiegs Museum

For the past few weeks, Year 7 students have been learning about Classification. Our class, 7D, has been lucky enough to have had Sharon Woon Sim in our class for the past 10 weeks. Sharon was our Peer Mentor from the University of Melbourne ‘In2Science’ program.

With our Classification unit finishing, Sharon very kindly invited our class to the Tiegs Museum (Zoology) at the University of Melbourne. This was a very unique and special experience and allowed us to see the practice behind the theory of classification and to explore this topic in further depth and detail.

Once we arrived at the University, we met Fallon Mody, another student who had been there for 8 years. She knew the University very well and guided us to the Tiegs Museum which had models, skeletons, fossils and preserved animals. This was excellent for our learning because we saw clearly, face to face, what we had been learning. No other Year 7 class had this opportunity, we were very privileged.

Throughout the Museum, there were many different species from many different countries, different eras and years. You could see bones, organs and skin to get an understanding of how their bodies work.

We were then given a tour around the University. The whole University was huge, each subject having its own building. The architecture and facilities were very impressive. The University was excellent; there were programs for so many occupations.

7D really enjoyed their day at the University. Thanks to Sharon Woon Sim, Fallon Mody and Ms Emmanuel.

Matthew Thomas 7D

French Trip 2012: les réunions commencent!

Tuesday 8 November, Room 17, 3.40. M Manousopoulos et Madame Schapper are looking forward to seeing you all there, as we begin our weekly meetings, (réunions). Bring a notebook, or better still, something that is going to be your diary when we are in France next year. Chris Manousopoulos & Mink Schapper.

Lost Property...

A year 9 student has lost a men’s white-gold necklace with a cross. The piece has significant sentimental value to the owner. If you find the item please contact Mr Nick Murphy.

UNDER 15, 16 & 17 AUSTRALIAN RULES FOOTBALL PLAYERS REQUIRED

Preston Bullants Junior Football Club (part of the Yarra Junior Football League) is seeking players for 2012 season for the Under 15, 16 & 17 age groups (must be 14 to 16 years of age on January 1, 2012). Pre-Season training will commence in November 2011. A Club Sports bag will be provided to all new players upon registration. For full details please contact Dean Hayes on 0409 918 097, email pbfjadmin@optusnet.com.au or the web prestonbullantsjfc.com.au
Northcote H.S. Junior & Intermediate Music Concert

Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
(Cnr Bell St & St Georges Rd)

Monday Nov 21 - 7.30pm Start

Tickets available NOW from Darebin A&EC
Box office or by phone 8470 8283

Northcote High School Adult Singers Group
Our singing group has had a good response and we are looking for more people to join us. Everyone is welcome and we would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested. The group is led by Stephen Sharpe who is a parent of students at the school and among many other things a songwriter and music teacher, and has directed other community choirs.

For more details you can email Brenda on brenda@shorewalker.com or ring 0438 196 522.
2011 has been a year full of highlights and great performances. Term 3 was a particularly busy time with the very successful production of Bugsy Malone followed by the Big Band Boogie and Strings, Wine & Cheese performances. Quickly followed by the Melbourne Bands Festival and Royal South Street Competitions in Ballarat. The NHS Junior Band was awarded 1st Place in the Novice Band Section. It is a wonderful accolade for the band and the school as bands from the best music schools all compete at South Street.

The end of the term saw the Big Band perform at the Yarra Edge Festival and a combined concert with our Intermediate groups and Kirwin HS from Townsville.

On the first Tuesday of the holidays the Big Band performed to a full house at Dizzy’s Jazz club in Richmond.

A big thank you to all our music parents who support the program and their children by attending our many music events.

Great Performances

Junior & Intermediate Music Concert
Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre
Monday Nov 21 7.30pm Start
Tickets Ph: 8470 8283
Tickets are available through Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre box office.

Proposed Changes for 2012
Details of all changes will be given to parents in the Instrumental Music handbook that will be issued at the start of term next year. Changes being considered include:

Increased home practice requirements
Mainly for players in their 2nd & 3rd year of playing. (2nd yr—30m 3rd yr—40m per day)

Four Concert Bands
At this stage we are planning to run 4 concert bands next year. Yr 7 Band / Interband Red / Interband Blue / Senior Band We hope that the smaller size will allow students to engage better with the group and improve their standard.

Senior Uniform
Senior Uniform will remain “all black” and students will be issued a NHS music shirt upon promotion to senior ensembles with no additional cost. Music jackets have previously also been issued. (Generally in relation to a tour) Jackets are not worn in performance and from next year will not be issued free of charge. On tours and leading up to concerts students can wear the NHS jacket or PURCHASE a music jacket for $40.00

Note: No Increase for 2012

2012 Music Fees

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<tr>
<th>Tuition</th>
<th>$350.00</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ensemble</td>
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<tr>
<td>Inst Hire</td>
<td>$250.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCE Surf</td>
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NHS Junior Band

1st Place
Royal South Street Eisteddfod
Novice Band Section
Congratulations to all the students who performed at Sth Street or Melbourne Bands Festival. All our groups did a fantastic job.

Inter Music Tour
A tour to Alexandra and the Lake Eildon Area is being planned for the Intermediate Band. This will give them the opportunity to perform the material they have been rehearsing. Keep an eye out for the notices and please return them as soon as possible.

December 5—7

Students who successfully complete their instrumental assessment this year are encouraged to continue with their instrument in 2012. Students should carefully note the new daily practice requirements for 2012. Music is a large commitment and requires organisation and discipline.

The decision to continue or not does not need to be made until the 2nd week of school next year. At that time you will receive further information regarding the 2012 music program and will complete a music enrolment form.

If you are hiring a NHS instrument you may hold this over the holidays.

Great Performances

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Congratulations to Flora Carbo, of Year 8 who has been awarded a place in the National Youth Jazz Academy.

Flora is one of only 15 students Australia wide, up to the age of 21, who participated in a professional workshop and rehearsal program as part of The Wangaratta Festival of Jazz. Flora had the opportunity to work with leading musicians and educators, and performed in a feature concert on Cup Eve at the Wangaratta Performing Arts Centre. She is seen here with saxophone legend Lachlan Davidson, and on the main stage with drummer, John Morrison.

Cleopatra’s Feast comes to Northcote Courtesy of Year 8 Artists.

Here we see Messers Drinan and Botsman hanging an artwork produced by Northcote Students. The new home of the mural is on the north facing walkway near the main building locker bay.

The artwork, inspired by year 8 students’ visit to the Gallery is a composite of individual panels produced by students in response to the original.

Tate Volitakis recalls the trip to the gallery here: “We took a bus to the NGV. Our guide took us to great painting such as the Cleopatra. We talked about how painting can show stories and we talked about remaking and imitating the paintings. Then we used fine liners and watercolour to make our own paintings. I drew a futuristic car and the background of Cleopatra’s banquet. We looked through lots of magazines for inspiration. ... It was a great excursion and I would love to go back there in the future.”