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NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL Newsletter

Volume 84 Issue 14 Celebrating 85 years of education in 2011 24 August 2010

School Diary

- Aug 26 Region Constitutional Convention
- Sept 2-4: South Street Music Comp
- Sept 7 Yr 7-10 Parent Teacher Meetings, 1.30-5.50 Classes end at 12.40 pm
- Sept 7-10 8J Camp to Boho
- Sept 10 Yr 8 District Sports
- Sept 11 Teachers from NHS & Clifton Hill PS depart for China
- Sept 14-17 8A Camp to Boho
- Sept 14 Yr 7 Sports Day
- Sept 15-17: VCE Unit 3&4 Pract. Exams
- Sept 17 Last Day of Term 3

Term 4

- Oct 4: First Day of Term 4 VCAA Oral&Perf Exams start
- Oct 5-8: 8H Camp to Boho
- Oct 12-15: 8I Camp to Boho
- Oct 13: Senior Music Concert
- Oct 15: Cabaret at NHS!
- Oct 19-22: 8F Camp to Boho
- Oct 19: AM:Yr 12 Breakfast PM: Yr 12 Graduation ceremony
- Oct 21: Public Speaking Comp for Grade 6

11th annual visit by sister school

2010 sees the 11th annual visit by our Chinese sister school—25 students and teachers arrived for a week of intensive social and classroom activities. Thanks to the Cassar, Abbey, Gilder, Westcott, Stapmanns, Krishna-D'Souza, Smutanyi, Purcival-Cassin, McWhinney, Thomas, Mackie, Eggleston, Ostrogny, Gartland, Watson, Helme-King, Venables and Deasey families for their support and assistance, and the many other families who volunteered. The relationship has thrived because of the ongoing efforts and goodwill of our entire school community.

A major initiative this year was the involvement of Clifton Hill PS, who will join Huaibei No. 1 Model Primary School in a sister school friendship based on ours, and with whom we will travel to Huaibei in the future (as of Sept 2011)

Another first—into AFL Girls State final

Our Senior Girls won the state AFL football semi-finals on Friday Aug 13 (shown above) and were state runners-up in the finals last week. It was tough game against seasoned players from Hallam Senior Secondary. The girls played extremely well and their effort is another sporting first for NHS. See Da Shan’s report on Page 6.
Visitors from China

Top left- 21 teachers from Beijing visited NHS on Friday August 13, for intensive study of the school and approaches to teaching English. Thanks to all who made them so welcome. At right, two students from Huaibei come face to face with a Kangaroo, the day after arriving from Shanghai! The world is indeed a small place!

7 winners of Education Dept trip to China!

Even though winter has not yet passed, the early spring breeze has blown into the school-yards at Northcote High School. Seven Yr 10 students who currently study Chinese have been chosen to be a part of the Department of Education Study Tour to China. The study tour program only chooses twenty Year 10 students. Within the twenty chosen from government schools state-wide, seven are from Northcote High School!!!

The in-country program is organized and funded by the Office of the Chinese Language Council International (HANBAN). Each participating student will only be required to contribute travel insurance cost. The study tour program provides an in-country immersion opportunity for Year 10 students of Chinese language who are committed to continue their Chinese language study at VCE level. The program also provides students with language and cultural experience including Chinese language lessons and participation in some classes with Chinese students. We are sure the students will enjoy a range of cultural activities whilst in China.

The seven students are:

Aydin Akayali,
Sosalida Cheung,
Ryan Donaghey,
Isabella D'Souza,
Andrew Steen,
Alice Tang,
& Sherly Wijaya

Shown above—This week with our special visitors from our sister school, Huaibei Number One High School, delegation leader Mr Tang was invited by Ms Morris and Mr Murphy as a V.I.P to distribute the formal notification documents, on behalf of HANBAN, to the seven students, at the whole school staff meeting on Thursday 19th of August.
The 2nd Annual NHS Super Chef Competition!

The first week began with 13 nervous contestants from Year 10. The tension was huge! Each student was given the recipe for Choux Pastry the week before, to enable them to practise. As we know these require skill. They were also able to bring in any extra ingredients on the day. The standard of the finished products astounded the three judges, making the decision to select the 6 that were leaving the kitchen even more difficult. Next week the 7 contestants will compete in the Mystery Box challenge.

Below and at right– Chefs at work.
Right bottom– 9A boys run a stall outside the Comp

7-10 Parent– Student - Teacher Meetings

Coming up soon for parents of Years 7-10 students:

Yr 7-10 Parent, Student, Teacher Meetings on Tuesday September 7.
(1.30-5.50 pm)
The school works until 12.40 this day, periods 1-4 only.

Each student’s family will receive a unique code by mail, which will allow parents to log in and start the booking process. The booking log-in starts about a week before the meeting, the system is accessed via a link on the front page of the NHS website.

Interpreters can be booked by contacting Mr Murphy. At the moment Vietnamese, Mandarin and Cantonese interpreters

Strings, Wine and Cheese night

The school library is not accustomed to loud noises or sounds of music, but on Thursday the 5th of August, the NHS Senior Strings and special guests Princes Hill SC Strings gathered in the library for a night of entertaining music, great wine and an assortment of cheese, crackers and cupcakes. Family, friends and teachers had the opportunity to listen to the talented musicians perform classic, rock and folk pieces, from Bartok, Handel and even Jeff Buckley in an intimate and calm atmosphere. Both ensembles have been practicing very hard on their music and this was a great chance to showcase their repertoire in a stress free environment. Money raised from the food and wine sales allowed us to get $500 closer to our new tuba! Many thanks to the Parent Music Committee, Ms. Wray and Mr. DeMarte for organising this annual event.

By Biance Le
2011 Science Week Celebrations

The 2011 Science Fair

On Thursday 19th August, as part of the National Science Week, we held a Science Fair in the hall at lunchtime. The students had about 5 weeks to prepare for the Science Fair and the projects on display showed the hard work and thought that the students put into their work. We invited Rod Fawns and Jacinta Duncan from the University of Melbourne to judge the event and teamed them up with Phoebe Shiu and James Bullen, two of our VCE Science students. They were impressed with originality of the projects and the scientific theory presented in them. The students were judged in year levels and although it was incredibly difficult to choose just one winner from each year level, we did it! Dana Louey, Shellie Wells, Kate Bongiovanni-Hodges and Millie Fuller from Year 7 presented a wonderful investigation into how antiseptics affected bacterial growth on skin. Molly Hunt, Alex Vollebergh, Charlotte Perloza and Oscar Luca from Year 8 constructed a huge Rube Goldberg machine, which modelled energy transformations. Oenone Elliott-Hobbs, Ruby Klimek and Lachlan Helme-King from Year 9 constructed a rocket, whose explosions during takeoff clearly impressed the judges. The “Peoples Choice Award” went to Sheree Bergmann of Year 10, who investigated bacterial growth around the home (it was both interesting a little scary). Congratulations to our winners and thankyou to the other 35 groups that presented work on Thursday.

Wipeout!! on 11th August

To commence celebrating National Science all year 7 students attended a performance called ‘Wipeout’. This performance took the students ten years into the future to a Live8 inspired awareness concert called ‘Wipeout’! The musical parodies the celebrity-led concerts that have raised money and awareness of many problems in our world – but this time focusing on the disappearance of our planet’s biodiversity and what could have led to it. Through educational songs and the performances students were allowed to explore and imagine could have happened to the world in that time. Imagining fanciful innovations like solar-powered robocitizens and New Guinean age reducing creams, and also likely environmental problems that may occur such as, the destruction of the Great Barrier Reef, the extinction of many species, including bees, the desperate need to find renewable energy sources, and the continuing spread of deforestation. Wipeout took its inspiration from the 2010 National Science Week theme of ‘Australia’s Biodiversity’ – what contributes to it and what is destroying it, focusing on the issue of extinction.
2011 Science Week Celebrations

Yr 11 Chem at Hartung Youth lecture

On Monday 16th August Y11 Chemistry students attended the Hartung Youth Lecture as part of National Science week.

This year’s lecture entitled ‘Carbon Dioxide - Earth, Air, Fire and Water’ was presented by Peter Tregloan who is an Associate Professor in Chemistry at The University of Melbourne and has had a long standing engagement with the use of technology in teaching and learning. His lecture on Carbon Dioxide was enthusiastically presented and was engaging throughout. The Hartung Lectures are traditionally ‘demonstration’ lectures, focusing as much on making and observing chemistry happen as much as the development of our ideas about ‘why’ the molecular world works the way it does. Peter selected some experiments that were beyond what can be carried in schools with the key objective being to encourage students’ interest in science. He provided a view of the world through ‘chemical eyes’ – that matter is made up of atoms and molecules and that it is the nature of these and the interactions between them that give rise to the macroscopic world we see around us.

The lecture used live macro video projection to show the experiments with CO₂ in all its physical states. Students also had the chance to use remote personal response systems to provide feedback and answers to questions during the lecture to monitor prior knowledge and what was understood from the lecture.

This lecture highlighted to students how Carbon dioxide is a minor but vital constituent of the Earth’s atmosphere. It is critical in setting the conditions we need for our own body’s biochemistry to work. It is at the centre of society’s debate about the effects of human activity on our climate. It also has a role as an important ‘green’ industrial solvent. The lecture introduced and consolidated some key concepts from the Year 11 Chemistry syllabus and discussed the essential role of scientific literacy in society. Why chemistry is a central science. Why big problems are difficult. Why basic science matters were just some questions that were answered.

Ms Melody Gabriel, Science Coordinator

4th Annual Neurofactor Competition

Now in its glorious fourth year, our annual science & book quiz, Neurofactor, had brains cells popping this week as NHS celebrates National Science Week and Book Week.

Every year Science and Library staff work together with students, to celebrate the joys of science and reading.

Three cheers for our winning team Carlo Picolo Cody (7D), Alistair Watson (7D) and Jackson Hall (7J), and our brave runners up Emmanuel Marakis (8B), Louie Papageorgieiu (8B) and Nikola Surdoski (8A).
Da Shan’s Sports update

The last 2 weeks has seen a large number of our sporting teams out competing. Some of our major achievements and wins included the following

Our Senior Girls AFL team defeating Maribynong SC, Ballarat HS and Mildura SC in their 3 games at the State semi final stage. They then finished runners up to Hallam SSC in the State Grand final. Ursula Hughson, Tennile Thomas, Caitlin Friend, Erin Gogerly, Lauren Gilder, Caitlyn Dowie, Ashlea Andrews and Georgia Hammond won official and coach/parents best player awards. An outstanding effort!

Our Year 7 Boys and 8 Girls winning the Zone Soccer final.

· Our Year 8 Boys winning the Zone Football final.

· Our Year 7 and 8 Girls and Boys fielding 7 development Indoor Hockey teams and our 2 weekend Lacrosse teams led by Tim Dobson finishing their season.

· Our Year 9/10 Boys winning the District Basketball and Tabletennis tournaments.

· Our Year 9/10 Girls winning the District Hockey and Tabletennis tournaments.

Our Year 8 Girls being line runners at the National Soccer championships with Ms. Young.

Locally we had 3 lunchtimes of Badminton matches between our International and local students. 11 staff also participated playing our International students. Richard and Lixia Wang and Kun Qian were instrumental in the organisation for this event.

Over the last 2 weeks we have had 15 students acting as coaches and officials and 9 teachers coaching teams. We have large numbers of parents and ex students attending many of our games. Yarra Valley Hockey club has offered the use of their facilities and a coach to support the development of our new Year 7 Hockey teams.

One of our students - Bridie Murphy of 8A is off to Delhi in India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. If you watch any Netball at the Commonwealth Games look out for Bridie. See special report below:

Da Shan

Bridie at the Delhi Games!

NHS parent Lindy Murphy and her daughter Bridie Murphy of 8A are off to Delhi in India at the 2010 Commonwealth Games. Bridie who will live with a traditional Indian family during the games will work as a Netball official/ball girl and her mother as a technical delegate.

Ball Girl duties include:

- Assisting teams as they arrive and depart the venue with the transfer of luggage and equipment
- Carrying player bags to the team benches before the match
- Setting up the team ice baths
- Keeping the field of play signage around the court in place during the game, should it be dislodged by a player or ball
- Returning the ball to players should it leave the field of play
- Wiping perspiration from the court during injury times

Bridie is the only international (non Indian) working as a sport specific volunteer on the netball competition and will be easy to pick on TV, being the only strawberry blonde child on the field of play!!
High Resolves Update

Over the last week, the Year 8s have been having our second session in the High Resolves program. This session was based on learning about Justice. We started off by thinking about Justice. What is it? And can inequality be fair and just?

After discussing these questions we moved onto playing some games in our groups of 6-ish. The year 10 Facilitators supervised these games. The first game was about fairness. We split into pairs (one person was green, the other was gold) and each pair got 20c. In the first round, green split the money into two piles and chose which pile he/she got to keep and which was given to gold. In the second round, gold split and chose. However, in the third round, green split the money and gold chose the pile, and in the fourth round, gold split the money and green chose the pile. The aim of the game was to get as much money as possible. Obviously, as Dean (the representative from High Resolves) pointed out, the third and fourth rounds were much more fair.

But the second was totally different. In our pairs, we got a laminated card that told each of us which roles we were playing. For example, a card might say, ‘Green is rich, Gold is poor’, or ‘Green is living in poverty in Africa, Gold is living in poverty in Australia’. We then had to argue our case for why we should get the $100 that was up for grabs, and the other pairs would have to decide who got the money. This showed us that equality can indeed be fair.

Those games acted as an introduction to the program.

Throughout the day we did some more activities and had more talks about justice and equality, but there are two activities that stood out most to me. The first was the Great Banquet. As we came in from our recess break, we all got given little ‘tickets’- laminated cards with a class, a name and a story on it. For example, one might say ‘Upper Class, Julie’ and then have a life story about ‘Julie’- explaining where they live and why they are rich. The upper class went on stage and got served a three course meal on table clothed table. The middle class went on stage and sat in a circle of chairs and ate a fake cheese and lettuce sandwich and a refillable cup of water. The last class was the lower class. I was a part of the lower class. The lower class sat on the floor with a sheet of pita bread and a non-refillable cup of water. We may not have had much of a lunch, but we had a lot of spirit- we were very loud! And let me tell you- my stomach was rumbling afterwards. It was almost impossible to imagine that so many people (I think it was 1/6 people in the world who suffer from chronic hunger) felt this feeling every minute!

The second activity I really remember was watching a segment of the movie ‘In a Child’s Eyes’. We watched as they interviewed a 9-year old Indian girl as she described her day- she had no furniture and she had to look after her three younger siblings and she got very little schooling and food. The part that stunned me the most was when she said “I want to wait till I’m older to get married, maybe 12”, because it just shocked me that she thought that was a reasonable age to get married at! We compared her life to ours and the main similarity was that she had huge aspirations- she wanted to be a doctor, or an astronaut! I learnt a lot from that exercise. As a conclusion, we played a game called Ultimate Rock Paper Scissors, and Dean said that we were the loudest group he had ever led- even louder than a group of 600 he once led! I was yelling so loud that I lost my voice for a few days- Northcote kids sure have spirit...

We then investigated four different charities and shared which one we thought was the best. Everyone had a different choice, which was really cool. We then had a similar conversation to the one at the beginning, and it astounded me how much we had all changed. I think we all had a much better understanding of Justice and Equality, and that’s why I believe that the High Resolves program is truly helpful and amazing to us year 8 kids, which is why I signed up for the year 9 program too. And I’m really looking forward to it!

By Molly Hunt 8E

Year 9 Mock Election

On Thursday 5 Year 9 Commerce/Govt/Law classes participated in a mock federal election during our Thursday double. Students watched a series of video clips of political ads and send-ups in the breakout space, then Himani Khattan, Peter Davies and Alex Tomisch impersonated party leaders Gillard, Abbott and Brown. They fielded questions from ‘journalists’. Then the Yr 9s returned to their classrooms to vote on very official looking green House of Representatives ballots. Class members acted as polling booth officials and scrutineers.

Then all five classes assembled in the tally room (the breakout space, staffed by Paul Gilby and student volunteers), to see on the big screen how each class had voted and to watch the final distribution of preferences.

The electorate split ALP/GRN but Martin Ferguson ultimately withstood a strong challenge from Greens candidate Alex Bhatal, winning narrowly on preferences. One class voted heavily Liberal.

Teachers were impressed with the high quality of student engagement in the exercise and the tiny number of informal votes. The Year 9 voting pattern resembled the results from polling booths in the south of the electorate in 2007.

Dr. Fraser
**Camps Update Terms 3 & 4**

**YEAR 8 BOHO SOUTH TERM 3 & 4**

All students who have not yet returned their permission forms have now received a reminder letter.

Students may still return forms this term. Final payment for all Year 8 camps is Friday 3rd September.

The camp dates are (note: if there are any changes parents will be notified in writing):

**Term 3**

8J  Tuesday 7th – Friday 10th September
8A  Tuesday 14th – Friday 17th September

**Term 4**

8H  Tuesday 5th – Friday 8th October
8I  Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th October
8F  Tuesday 19th – Friday 22nd October
8E  Tuesday 26th – Friday 29th October
8C  Tuesday 9th – Friday 12th November
8B  Tuesday 16th – Friday 19th November
8D  Tuesday 23rd – Friday 26th November
8G  Tuesday 30th November – Friday 3rd December

**YEAR 9-12 HIKING CAMP AT WILSON’S PROMONTORY**

5 days, 4 nights

Monday 6th – Friday 10th December

Twenty students from Years 9 to 11 will travel to Wilson’s Promontory National Park for five days. It will include a night at Tidal River and three nights on the overnight hikes. Expression of interest forms are available from Mr. Griffiths in the GCC staffroom.

*Mr. R. Griffiths Camps Coordinator*

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**Our Ms Pav. leads the Maths Olympics Day**

The 2010 Schools Maths Olympics is a game-like math competition. It is a state wide competition between many schools and colleges. It is also one of the University of Melbourne OpenDay activities held in Department of Mathematics and Statistics. Unfortunately, on the day we couldn’t take any photos during the actual activities, due to the large numbers of people, and we were not allowed to move after the game commenced!!

Many thanks to our senior Maths teacher Ms Pavlatos and Ms Kun Qian who accompanied the students to the competition.
Debating news

After winning all five debates and finishing on top of their respective ladders in the Ivanhoe region, Northcote High School B and C grade debating teams went on to the state finals play offs.

Numerous schools from across the state gathered here at NSH to compete.

The B grade team, consisting of myself, Charles Cornwallis, Luke Dakis-Corcoran and Hamish Ramsay debated against the Academy of Mary Immaculate. The topic was that we should use public humiliation to punish juvenile criminals. We were negative and won by a staggering 7 points!!

The C grade team, consisting of Alexei Ymer-Welsby, Nicoletta Marakis, Mike Matters, Lucy Fosky and Carmen Wiseman, debated against Ballarat High School. The NHS team won by a very healthy 4 points.

Both NHS teams will be going on to the Octo-finals, Held at St. Michael’s Grammar on August 25, although Lucy and Carmen have already departed for intense French study for the remainder of the year.

Debating Correspondent, Ms Ruby Bell, Yr 11.

Another Chess success for NHS

Following on from our astounding success at the Banyule competition a few weeks ago, we have claimed another much-deserved round of silver medals at the Moonee Valley competition last week. Eight members of our chess team managed to claim victory against eight different teams in the seventy-strong competition.

The event, held at Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School, gave Northcote players another great chance to practise their skills honed in the Games Room in Upper B Block. Special mentions must go out to Eddy Wang and Andrew Zhang who claimed second and third at the competition, facing difficult competition from Penleigh and Essendon Grammar.

We are now getting ready for the Victorian State Finals, where we hope to repeat our 2008 top-five success.

Our chess participants this year: Myles Collins, Nicolas Dart, Chris De-maria, Caspian Dezfouli, Martin Ditmann, Josh Fink, Kelvin Li, Eddy Wang, Andrew Zhang and Fu Zhu.

Chess Correspondent Martin Ditmann, Yr 10

WEST PRESTON CRICKET CLUB is inviting all boys, girls and Parents to participate in the 2010/11 Cricket Season.

We will be holding a Registration/Information Day is being held on Sunday 5th September from 11am @ Sullivan Reserve, Blake Street, Preston (Mel Ref 19 D9).

Come down and meet a few new people. A BBQ will be Provided with beverages available.

Any Inquiries please contact - ANDREW PHELPS 0434 191 233  REBECCA LASZLO 0433 968 038  REGAN PHELPS 0402 202 919

Adult Musicians

If you are interested in being part of an (adult) music group of the Northcote High community our next session will be on 31 August in the music rooms. All standards welcome: perhaps you are a proficient player or perhaps you haven’t learnt an instrument since you were at school yourself and would like to start playing again. No special talent necessary; just an instrument and some enthusiasm about playing in a group. If you are interested in finding out more contact Brenda Walker at brenda@shorewalker.com or on 0438 196 522, or Jennifer Bowen at jennifer.bowen@bigpond.com
Taoist Tai Chi Society of Australia

New Beginner Classes starting in Brunswick and Coburg End Aug / Early Sept

Reduce stress! Rejuvenate your mind and body! Increase strength and flexibility!
Learn the benefits of tai chi for health and well-being in a supportive environment

For Class locations and times please call 0432 765 458
Or visit www.taoist.org.au

Information Session
Work Readiness & Life Skills at TAFE for 2011

Students, Parents/Advocates, Teachers are invited to join us at the NMIT Work Education Centre

Information Presentation Evening
The Work Education Centre is the leader in training people with special, individual learning needs.

Date: Thursday 26 August 2010
Time: 6.00pm – 7.30pm
Where: NMIT Building K
Room K106 Theatrette
St Georges Road
Preston 3072 (see map overleaf)

Light refreshments will be provided after presentation. Please call to reserve your place on 9269 8390

For further information you can contact: Julie Lew, Kathy Kondalas

NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL

“EARLY BIRD” Book Offer

The History of The Northcote High School

At a Discount price $35.00
The book will retail for $45

If you are interested in ordering your copy of the book please see
Lillian Gelevski at the General Office for more details or call on 9488-2332