Our creativity shines again!

Friday October 15 saw our 2010 Cabaret—a wonderful celebration of all things creative! Congratulations to Ms Neilson and all performers for a wonderful night’s entertainment, including the very final performance of the Senior Stage Band as it now is. Senior music students had been sadly farewelled a few nights before at the final Senior Music concert for 2010.
Our first ever Yr 7 Maths Comp Winners!

At the end of last term Northcote High School's Yr 7 Maths team won the statewide Maths Games, after fierce competition with a number of high fee private schools. This is Carlo Piccolo-Cody's report. He is far too polite to list the numerous private schools we defeated.

Last term, on Monday 6th of September, two teams of four students from Year 7 travelled to Overnewton College, and competed in the 'Year 7 Statewide Mathematics Games Day'.

We arrived early to school and took a long ride (in a maxi taxi) to Overnewton College. When we arrived, we joined over 30 other school teams, who were also taking part.

In the first part of the competition, we received a booklet, with 25 questions. They were quite challenging (example below), but we managed to get through them all. After this round, my team, 7D, was leading by 20 points.

We had a quick break before getting on with the next round.

The second round was a bit different. We started with one question, which we had to try to answer. Then someone had to run up to the checker's table, to see if it was right. If so, you go to the next question, if not, go back and try again. After this round, 7D had dropped to second place, trailing Overnewton College by 9 points.

We took a break for lunch, and came back for the last few rounds.

In the third round, we had to attempt to follow difficult instructions, to make origami. Some didn't turn out so well, but we managed to get maximum points. After this round, 7D was back on top by a small margin.

The last round was a couple of maths games against another school. We won most of the games, and we were hoping we had won.

The awards ceremony was exciting, not knowing what the end result would be. And, for the first time in anyone's memory, Northcote High School won the Maths Games Day! (And beat all the private schools!) We were so excited!

For winning, we each received: a medal and trophy (pictured) and a bag full of stuff, including a calculator pencil case and a Rubik's Revolution. We were so happy with our prizes and we still couldn't believe we'd won.

We exited the building and waited for the taxi, but unfortunately, the taxi did not come for more than an hour, and we were stuck in the cold, and eventually rain, for a long time.

All in all, the day was great fun and it was the best experience.

Carlo Piccolo-Cody, 7D

Example:

A teacher gave two students one number (between one and ten) each. She told them their numbers were consecutive, but they didn't know each other's numbers.

First student: I don't know your number.
Second student: I don't know your number either.
First student: Now I know.

What are their numbers? (There are four possible solutions)

Don’t forget the arrangements for Monday 1st November

Except for VCE Unit 3/4 Exams, there are no school classes this day. School recommences at the usual time on Wednesday 3rd November.
State Constitutional Convention report

From our Special Correspondent Ruby Bell, Yr 11

On Monday the 11th of October five students from NHS set off to Parliament House to attend the State Schools Constitutional Convention. These students were myself, Charles Cornwallis, Luke Dakis-Corcoran, Martin Ditmann and Azra Susic. We had all been involved in the regional convention held here at NHS and were all very excited to attend this one.

After arriving at Parliament at 8:30am, we were seated in the lower house along with 104 other students from government, catholic and independent schools from around Victoria.

We were welcomed by the Deputy Speaker Parliament of Victoria, Ms Ann Barker MP, Member for Oakleigh. The topic was introduced by Mr Steve Herbert MP, Member for Eltham, Parliamentary Secretary for Education.

The topic was “that population growth is good for Australia”

The keynote speaker was Dr. Bob Birrell, who provided a general overview on population growth on a state and national level. After that we heard from Mr Matthew Guy, Liberal MP, Member for Northern Metropolitan, Shadow Minister for Planning; who spoke about population growth from an urban perspective.

Ms Jaala Pulford, Labor MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Regional and Rural Development, Industry and Trade; addressed population issues from a regional perspective.

After that there was question time, where the speakers heard questions from the students. Matthew Guy in particular offered excellent responses.

After spending time in our discussion groups, we returned to the house to participate in a soap box. Many diverse issues were raised by the students on population growth and its effects on Australia. We held a vote, with the majority voting that population growth is good for Australia.

At the end of the day, our own Luke Dakis-Corcoran gave a speech on the National Convention held in Canberra, which he has attended twice.

During the day we were lucky enough to meet Ted Baillieu, Leader of State Opposition. We also met Manny Kingsley, who taught here at NHS in the 1970’s, and Tim Delaney, who left NHS in 2008.

All in all it was a highly enjoyable, intellectually stimulating day and I encourage all of next year’s year tens and elevens to apply for it.

Ms Ruby Bell

Extreme Science Awards—Sheree Bergman

On Thursday 14th October Sheree Bergman was presented with her prize from ATSE by Rod Dunstan. Sheree entered an essay writing competition after attending the Extreme Science Experience in May. Sheree won an all expenses paid trip to the 2011 Clunies Ross Awards and Extreme Science Experience in Brisbane.

The Extreme Science Experience (ESE) is part of the annual ATSE Clunies Ross Awards. The Awards recognise Australians who have achieved outstanding success in the commercial application of science and technology. The ATSE Clunies Ross Award commenced in 1991. Past winners include Dr Fiona Wood, inventor of spray-on-skin; Professor Graeme Clark, inventor of the bionic ear; and Nobel Laureate Dr Barry Marshall, who discovered the bacteria that cause stomach ulcers.

The day following the Awards, about 400 Year 10 students join with the Award winners for the Extreme Science Experience, a day of science activities, including question and answer sessions and “hands on” workshops led by the Award winners.
Da Shan’s Sports Bag

Health and PE Week

The last week (11th-15th October) has officially been Health and PE week in Victorian schools. To celebrate this important occasion the school put on events each day. They were

Monday – State waterpolo captain Rowena Webster talking to our VCE PE students. 32 of our staff began wearing Pedometers for the week - to measure their activity each day. A 10,000 step/day target was recommended. All of our Year 7 students beginning a term House sporting competition to celebrate our Commonwealth Games participation.

Tuesday lunchtime – Staff recreational Table tennis and Badminton matches. Year 8 students participating in Mental Health awareness week with material distributed in NHS 23.

Wednesday - Basketballer Lenard Copeland (ex Melbourne Tigers/Andrew Gaze fame) playing in the gym in a Local and overseas student versus staff match. In front of 300 spectators, Lenard led the return of the slam dunk and alley-oop (derived from the French term allez hop!, the cry of a circus acrobat about to leap). The staff had a narrow 42-23 points win. Thanks Lenard!

Thursday - School captain Ben Malandra ran a martial arts class for VCE students which was well received and attended by VCE students. A theme of staying safe in the post examination celebrations was emphasised.

Friday lunchtime – Saw coach and player Jean Katrina Delos Reyes of Year 10 running a Girls Basketball session in preparation for the upcoming Zone finals where our Year 8 Girls will be represented.

Sporting dates coming up

Tuesday 19th October State Athletics – Olympic Park City. Congratulation to the following students (who won at 3 lead in levels) representing NHS and competing

Year 7 – Kate Bongiovanni-Hodges (400M, 1500M), Georgia McCole (800M), Caitlin Lattanzio (1500M walk), Maggie Gilder (High Jump)

Year 8 - Beth Barbour (1500M walk), Ben McDonald (400M), Abraham Cameron (Long Jump), Sarina Rayner (Discus) Year 10 – Current State VSSSA champion Zoe McWhinney (Long, Triple, High), Mike Matters (800M), Jean Katrina Delos-Reyes(Long Jump)

Year 12 – Australian representative Bronwyn Humphrys (1500M, 3000M), James McGee(Hurdles)

Friday 22nd October – District Year 9/10 Futsal (Reservoir)

Monday 25th October - Year 9/10 Zone Hockey (Essendon) Basketball and Table tennis (Coburg)

Wednesday 27th October - Year 8 Zone Hockey (Essendon) Basketball and Table tennis (Coburg)

Thursday 28th October - Year 7 Zone Hockey (Essendon)

Star runner Bronwyn Humphrys

Bronwyn tops off a great school career. We farewell Bronwyn Humphry’s of Year 12 after being a State elite athlete in Cross Country, Athletics, AFL football and Soccer over the past 6 years. She has been an inspiration to our younger aspiring athletes and recently was on stage at our school assemblies. She has also been a NHS Sporting House captain. Bronwyn was recently selected in the Australian cross country team which competed in Slovenia – Europe. Her comments on her experiences and run are captured below

“The run was absolutely life changing. I can safely say my life will never be the same again. I thoroughly loved the 4.5km run up the rocky Slovenian mountain with a vertical ascent of 430 meters. Ending up 13th in the world, I believe I could’ve finished in the top 10 if I wasn’t forced to walk during the start when the track was too narrow to overtake slow runners. Regardless, I was ecstatic as I had no expectations of myself, only going to enjoy the experience. The whole trip was just amazing and the Australian team were awesome. It was cool participating in the opening ceremony march and stuff as well. I’m sure I will never forget this life changing experience.”
Chemistry Challenge

During the September holidays two Year 11 Chemistry students Jordan King and Oscar Dowling attended a 2 day workshop at Monash University. 90 Talented students from 53 Schools across Victoria attended the university. They participated in Lab sessions, tutorials and lectures on a range of topics including Physiology, Pharmacology and Medicinal Chemistry. The students were broken into smaller groups and worked directly with current students and PhD students to create a moisturiser. The students were briefed on skin structure and then set the challenge of creating their own with the most benefits. This is the 4th Year Northcote High School students have been selected to attend and it’s a thoroughly enjoyable couple of days for students interested in the pursuit of Biochemical Sciences beyond VCE.

At the Chinese Elderly Citizens Centre

On the 10th of September the two Chinese classes of Year 9 attended an excursion to the Elderly Citizens Centre in Parkville. There were a variety of performances, which had been practised for over two weeks. Both classes put time and effort in to produce a great performance for the elderly. It included Chinese poetry, musical pieces, Chinese singing and a modern pop dance. The elders were delighted to see us perform and surprised us with a performance of their own. They sang a song for us, which we enjoyed very much and sang along with them. It was great to feel the ambience of the centre as they applauded our performances and thanked us with a tour of their home. Overall, it was great to be in a Chinese environment and a fun day for all involved.

By Lena 9D and Julia 9F
Below are the highlights from the students' view:

Seeing the elderly people really enjoy our singing and other performances.

The tour of the (elderly) home was fun and interesting.

The TV show that was playing while we were eating recess was interesting. It was fun trying to work out what they were saying and what was going on. I really enjoyed the whole experience.

R.C

Singing with the elderly was enjoyable. It was a heart warming experience to see them smile.

My favourite aspect of the excursion was watching the other performances

Anon

When we sang for the elderly people the poem we did was interesting and I learnt how culturally blessed we are in Australia

Kane Taylor

I learnt that within the elderly home, there was no room 4. This is because 4 in Chinese sounds like the word "death", therefore it is unlucky.

I learnt that it is a great feeling to know that you have entertained the elderly and made them smile. I like how everything at the elderly centre was organised and planned for the day. Also, I liked how everybody got along well, and that the carers looked after the elderly well.

Polly

My favourite aspect of the excursion was- hugging the Chinese old lady!!!

Julius Meltzer

My favourite aspect of the excursion was talking to the elderly people

Phi-Hung
NHS is developing a new 4 year strategic plan which will shape the future direction of the school.

As part of this process, the school has undertaken a detailed school review.

A forum was held in May for parents and carers to obtain a community perspective about the direction of the school. This forum was followed by an online survey.

A second community forum is being presented by the Parent Engagement Group of NHS.

This forum will:

- Discuss the findings from the May Forum and the online survey
- Discuss the findings of the School Review
- Seek input from parents and carers into the future direction of the school.

For more information about the Forum please contact:

- Nigel D'Souza [krishnan_dsouza@bigpond.com] or 9489 2543
- Paula Jorgensen [paulathethehub@optusnet.com.au] or 0418 978 916

We invite all NHS parents and carers to come along to get informed, meet other parents and help shape the future of NHS!

When: Tuesday November 30 2010
Time: 7:15 -9:15 (prompt start)
Location: NHS Global Citizenship Centre
RSVP: info@nhs.vic.gov.au

Light refreshments will be available from 6.45 pm
New recruit leaves staff to victory!

Staff/Student Basketball matches are extremely popular at NHS. Students love playing their teachers and many come to cheer them on. To celebrate Health and PE week at Northcote, the staff recruited a special guest, former Melbourne Tigers star, Lanard Copeland.

The wet weather forced the game to be played inside the Gym, where a capacity crowd gathered to see the action. Copeland was a dominant player, all over the court. Although well into his 40’s, his athleticism was still prominent as he demonstrated with a slam dunk, which brought the house down. At 198cm tall, he was too hard to handle for the year 11 and 12 students. He also set many staff up with scoring opportunities. The massive crowd in the gym didn’t stop cheering the whole game. George Drakopolous, Gabriel Anagnostakis and James Lucas tried hard for the students. However, the final scores were Staff- 44, Students- 23.

Our New Super-stop has arrived!

At the time of writing, our new tram super-stop is nearing completion!

The new platform will allow access to most trams at floor level, and provides more space for our students.

As with all new things, strange setups can sometimes be a little confusing!! Parents are asked to discuss safety on the new super-stop, as teachers will at school.
NHS Student Wellbeing Team along with the Sports Faculty are pleased to announce that we have been successful in our application to participate in the Northern Metropolitan Region School Focused Youth Service regional Mental Health Project.

NHS will be representing the Yarra/Darebin areas in this project. We will receive up to $13 000 in funding to implement a positive mental health program for next year’s Year 8 level. In conjunction with SFYS, the Martial Arts Therapy organisation and with evaluation from Swinburne University we look forward to implementing this worthwhile initiative in 2011.

The Student Wellbeing Team

Major Wellbeing funding 2011 announced

Shannon and Stephen, two of our trainees (in office and IT respectively) were nominated as Apprentices of the year by Apprenticeship Plus at special award ceremonies held last week at the Darebin Arts and Entertainment Centre.

Shannon won the award for her category (Business Admin in Education), against a big field of applicants working in a range of workplaces. Steven, who finishes next year, was nominated for an award as well.

Shannon and Stephen did not attend NHS as students, but their success is an important reminder that there are many pathways to success.