NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter
31 October, 2006 Volume 80, Issue 18
Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary
Oct 31-Nov 3. 8D Boho Camp
Nov 1. Yr 9/10 District Indoor Cricket/Soccer
Nov 3. Yr 11 End of Semester
**Nov 6. No School for students**
Nov 7. Melb. Cup holiday
   **No School for students**
Nov 8. Yr 11 Exams Commence (to Nov 14)
Nov. 14. 8 E Boho Camp (to Nov 17)
Nov 15. Yr 10 end of Semester
Nov 20. Yr 10 Exams commence (to Nov 24)
   Yr 12 Graduation
Nov 21. 8D Boho Camp (to Nov 24)
Nov 23. Yr 7 Literacy testing. Yr 12 Formal
Nov 27. Junior Music Concert
   (note change of date)
Nov 30. intermediate Band Excursion
Dec 1. Yr 7 Indoor Cricket/Soccer

VCE students sit down to exams

At 9.00 am on Friday October 27th,
almost 200 Northcote Yr 12 students finally entered the Hall *(right)* and sat down to
the VCE English and ESL papers, bringing to a finale six years of secondary school
and the intensive 34 weeks of Year 12 study.

The exams run for the next four weeks.
Tahmina awarded Holland Scholarship

Tahmina Wardak of Year 12 has been awarded a prestigious Holland Foundation scholarship for university studies. Tahmina was invited to speak at the Foundation’s Gala Dinner on 20th October. She is shown at right, with Gail Davidson, Grant Holland and Dr Tony Pastore, ex-NHS student and member of the Holland Foundation.

The Great Grade 6 Debate

The annual Northcote High School Year 6 Public Speaking competition was held on Thursday 19th of October and again it was great to see and hear the speeches by the students. This year the topic was You Don’t Have to Get a Gold medal to be a Winner. Congratulations to all of the speakers from Alphington P.S., Brunswick East P.S., North Fitzroy P.S., Merri Creek P.S., Newlands P.S., Northcote P.S. and Westgarth P.S.. The final was a wonderful opportunity to see the hard work put in by teachers and students and it was great to see some parents in the audience. The winners were 1st: Alexei Ymer-Welsby (Northcote P.S.), 2nd: Leia Leventis (Westgarth P.S.) and 3rd: Dash Del-Din Price (Westgarth P.S.).

Finally, thank you to the Year 10 debating students who were our judges for the big day; Noni Sproule, Kate Jama, Hannah Gilbert, Theodora Christodolou and Cameron Shallard. Thanks also to Tylah Burton of Year 7 who welcomed the speakers on the big day.

Tylah came 2nd in this competition in 2005 and Hannah Gilbert came 2nd in 2002. Both were students at Newlands Primary School.

Martin Ramsay Public Speaking/Debating Co-ordinator

Space Camp 2007 Update


The school is now accepting further payment in 2 instalments of $1500 at the following dates:

1st instalment by Friday 10th of November 2006 and the 2nd instalment by Friday 1st of December 2006.

The balance of $1550 must be paid by Friday 17th of February 2007.

If there are difficulties please contact Ms Neilson to discuss how we can help. Just a reminder that the current full cost of $5500, will cover all airfares, travel insurance, meals, accommodation, tuition and activities while at the Advanced Space Academy in Huntsville Alabama, all bus transfers, motel accommodation (including breakfasts and dinners) in Orlando, entry into Kennedy Space Centre and “Up Close” tour, EPCOT and Disney MGM.

Ms. Nielson has secured a lucrative BBQ – sausage sizzle at the Northlands Bunnings store as our major Fundraising Initiative! This will be occurring on Sunday 4th of February 2007. A roster will be formulated where all parents and the students attending the Space Camp will be required to assist on the day and in the organisation of the BBQ prior to the day ie. Obtaining sausages, bread, rolls, etc.

If you know of any local businesses that can either donate or supply us with...
the above items at cost price, please let Ms. Nielson know via email. 
Ms Neilson’s contact email address is in@nhs.vic.edu.au

Northcote Group A Schools Celebration day

On Thursday 19th October the Northcote Group A Cluster schools – Alphington Primary School, Baltara School, Northcote High School, Northcote Primary School, Thornbury Primary School, Victorian School of Languages and Westgarth Primary School - came together as a “Community of Learners” to celebrate their students’ and teachers’ work.

The Cluster was formed in 2005 and the schools all participated in a joint Curriculum Day where teachers were able to share their classroom ideas and approaches to learning as well as resources. Also in 2005 students and teachers from the Cluster schools were involved in a program run by the Northern Metropolitan Region that demonstrated Student Action Teams and the use of the PDSA model (Plan, Do, Study & Act) to form and develop action teams. The Cluster embraced this model. The Cluster Celebration Day was organised as an opportunity to bring the Cluster schools together and showcase the work of students and teachers to the school communities while simultaneously providing the opportunity for teachers to continue to link into other schools, teams and projects.

Teachers from all the Cluster schools met at the Northcote Town Hall and were able to enjoy some fabulous food (catered by Baltara School), talk to colleagues and to look at students’ work. The Honourable Mary Delahunty MP, our guest speaker, addressed staff about the benefits of links created within Clusters for all learners, including teachers, students and parents.

From 4.45pm until 7.45pm students from each of the Cluster schools were scheduled to present their interactive displays. The students’ presentations were inspirational and fully demonstrated their efforts in forming action teams and achieving excellent outcomes.

Everyone was able to better appreciate the benefits of students and teachers working together as part of a community and many want to participate in Cluster activities in the future.

Everyone who helped put together this huge event must be congratulated for their teamwork, goodwill and passion.

Sincerest thanks go to the Cluster Liaison Team – Jane Archer, Ross Bennie, Rosy Costa, Jeanie Faure, Lisa Marsden, Catherine Newton, Maree Usher and Tanya Wiggins who worked so well together and in conjunction with the Cluster Educators- Mahe Castles and Kate Copping- to bring this day of celebration together.

Special thanks to the Management Team, Kathleen Appleford, Grace Conway, Gail Davidson, Jane Greig-Hancock, Gale Jurkiw, Lynne Mackie, Pandora Petrovska, Wendy Tottenham and Kerrie Williams for their ongoing support for the celebration day and for all the Cluster based initiatives.

Mahe Castles & Kate Copping
Cluster Educators.

Your music Wine Order!
The Music Program Wine Fundraiser
Thank you to everyone who has ordered wine already. If you have not placed your order please do so very soon as orders close on Friday 10 November! Take advantage of this great opportunity to stock up on excellent wines at fantastic prices and help our Music Department purchase new musical instruments and equipment! Reds and whites to suit all tastes and budgets. Stock up for Christmas!
The order form is available to download from the school website.
Orders are to be returned to the General Office by 3.00 pm Friday 10 November.
Your wine should be available for collection between Friday 24 & Sunday 26 November.
All people who order 6 bottles or more will be entered into the draw for a $50 gift voucher from Prospect Wines. The winner will be able to buy more of the wine they like most!

Activities Week Reminder

Activity selections are filling fast!

Activities week is held on Wednesday 13th, Thursday 14th, and Friday 15th of December and is part of the school program at NHS for all year 7’s, 8’s and 9’s. Remember it is on a first to pay will go basis, meaning that students who are interested in any activity in or out of the school must pay the required money to the front office as soon as possible. Payment means confirmation.

All students must complete an Activity Program Form and Permission slip by circling one activity only for each day. A parent/guardian needs to sign the form and the completed form is to be returned with payment to the front office.

If your child is not attending one of the days for any reason this must be indicated in a note signed by a parent or guardian. This will be counted as an approved absence.

Select carefully as each activity has limited places each day.

Mr Adam Bell
End of Year Activities Co-ordinator.

Yr 8 boys Table Tennis to State Finals

The Year 8 Table Tennis Team contested the Zone Finals at the Sports and Aquatic Centre last Tuesday and returned to school with the championship pennant. The team faced the daunting task of meeting traditional rivals Brunswick Secondary College in the opening match. However, the boys were determined to get a good result against the team that defeated them during the Zone Finals of 2005. Team captain, Marco Xiao, rose to the occasion and produced an inspiring 3 set win in the opening match. The rubber was eventually won by Northcote 3 - 2. Easier wins against St Helena and Lalor North then followed. The boys are now looking forward to contesting the State Finals. Congratulations!
Michael Galea gets his Bronze wings

Michael Galea is a member of Keilor District Model Aircraft Society. Last Wednesday Michael was awarded his Bronze Wings Status. During the course of his training to fly model aeroplanes Michael level of proficiency to demonstrate safe flying and familiarity with aviation principals was tested by a recognised instructor and thus was permitted to fly solo.

What make Michael stand out from the rest is that he is one of the youngest in the State (and Australia) to do this AND obtain his Bronze wings in the same day. Usually it take 6 month to a year for the average student to achieve their Bronze wings once they are declared solo.

Bronze wings is a national and international recognised level of proficiency within the MAAA (Model Aeronautical Association of Australia and) and FIA (Federation Aeronautical International) respectively. Michael has a MAAA and FAI licence and is legible to compete in state and national competitions. All this and only just turned 13. Incidentally Michael competed for the first time in a intra state comp at Ballarat and came in 9th place.

Middle Years News

Class lists for 2007
The selection process for Year Level Captains in 2007 has commenced. Selected student leaders will be attending the National Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne in November.

DE&T Digital Portfolio Pilot Project: Students in 9B will produce a Digital Portfolio that allows them to reflect on; My World (Self), Our World (Environment, Biotechnology, and Nanotechnology), Future World (Webquest focus on Future Careers in Science). The 2007 Year 9 Teacher Team for the Leading Schools Fund Project is excitedly planning and preparing for the Global Citizenship Centre.

Year Level Coordinators are currently reviewing class groups for 2007 by using feedback from classroom teachers, curriculum needs (LOTE choices/Music etc) and the individual needs of students. If parents have any questions they can contact their child’s current Year Level Coordinators.

Ms. S. Bennett
Head of Middle Years
Zone Basketball victory for Year 7

Northcote HS Year 7 Boys Basketball team are the Northern Zone Metro Champions after a tightly contested Final at the Coburg Basketball Stadium last Wednesday. After breezing through the Central District competition, Northcote squared off against Elwood in game 1 of the Zone Final. In a tight first half, Northcote trailed Elwood by 6 points – with much optimism about what the second half had in store. Both teams traded baskets early, with Elwood eventually gaining a double figure advantage that Northcote was unable to overcome. Not an ideal start to the day – a loss in game 1 in a round robin competition normally means only a miracle could save Northcote’s chances of a state finals berth. Miracles do happen...don’t they?

Game 2 was against a very competitive Montmorency team that boasted several players of intimidating stature. Northcote took control early in the first half and at one stage lead by 20 points minutes into the second half. Northcote took complete control of both offence and defence, running out easy winners in a physical game. Bowed heads turned into smiles as the possibility of a miracle was still on the cards.

Coach Marc Higginson crunched the numbers and came up with the equation: win by at least 50 points against Whittlesea and hope that Montmorency upsets an in form Elwood and Northcote would make the VSSSA Finals. Easy!

Whittlesea struggled all day and Northcote were out to continue that form. The boys dominated for the entire game, lifting their defensive intensity, which caused many Whittlesea turnovers. Northcote’s superior running and polished finishing was a highlight as piece one of the puzzle fell into place with a 65-point victory.

Meanwhile, Elwood and Montmorency were engaged in a tight battle that held Northcote’s fate. In an unbelievable turn of events, Montmorency caused a huge boilover and defeated Elwood by 5 points. This left three teams tied on 2 wins each – percentage was to determine the winner and state representative. The convenor had his calculator out to determine the result as the teams eagerly awaited the final results. Coach Higginson’s Maths were spot as Northcote advanced to the VSSSA Finals on percentage.

Northcote HS now plays in the VSSSA State Finals at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre (MSAC) on Tuesday 28th November. Good luck boys!!!

Team Members: Dion Patten, Calvin Petty, Michael White, Dan Fayle, George Drakopoulos, Gabriel Anagnostakis, Josh Martin, Chris Aggelou, John Nikolakoudis

Mr Michael James, Coach

Mr Price’s Sports Update

Sporting Success and History in the Making
Making a state final in any field of education or life is always difficult especially in Sport. Students at Northcote continue to break new ground with students continuing to win through to this elite level. In 2006 we have had students compete at State Swimming(Eve Walton- Healey Gold medal), Athletics(Nate Van Dore – Gold Medal), Cross Country( Bronwyn Humphreys). We have also had 13 teams represent the school at State level. This has been by far our best State representation in the past 30 years – we are talking living memory or current history here! This success has come continually in each term over sports such as Football, Soccer, Squash,
Badminton, Golf, Tennis, Tabletennis and Basketball. Much of this success has been the result of both increased student ability and willingness to train and strive for improved team performance. Over 40 staff of Northcote High School across most faculties have given up time to train and coach our teams. This has happened both in timetabled Sport Education and out of school hours. Special mention must also go to the students mainly from Year 10 who have led, coached and trained many of our junior teams.

**Athletics**  
Two weeks ago at the State Athletics Alex Price (Year 12), Alex Fusca (Year 8) and Nate Van-Dore (Year 7) competed in Discus, High Jump and Long Jump. Alex Price finished 4th and has been a Zone and State representative in a range of sports over her 6 years at Northcote. Her leadership and domination of girls sport will be missed at Northcote. Nate Van-Dore showed fantastic determination spraining his ankle on his first long jump. On his third jump despite the pain he leapt over 5 metres to win the GOLD MEDAL. Well done Nate – the best Year 7 boy in Victorian State Secondary Schools for Long Jump.

**Tabletennis**  
Marco Xiao of Year 8 is following in his sisters footsteps – Annie Xiao of Year 10 who won a Gold medal in the doubles at the National titles several weeks ago. Marco led his year 8 team to a strong Zone win. They now play off in State finals later in the year. Mr. Manousopoulos was a proud coach on his return.

**Basketball**  
Our Year 7 Boys Basketball team played at the Zone level - after losing their first game by 10 points they continued to improve over the day. They entered their final game needing to win by 50 points to make the State final. With Dion Patten leading the score chase and coaches – Mr James and Year 10 student Mark Higginson calling the changes we managed to just edge ahead on percentage. All the boys appreciated the benefits of live percentages as the parallel 3rd round game scores oscillated. A slightly better percentage saw us heading to the state finals in November.

**Squash**  
With Ms. Lester and Ms. Hutchens running our Year 7 and 8 Squash teams through terms 3 and 4 in Sport Education we were always a chance to do well at the Zone level of competition. Once again we tasted success with 3 of our four junior teams winning through to State finals. Our Year 7 Girls who finished second may well also be invited to the State tournament. Ms. Lester our leading coach has played Pennant Squash and has enriched our students with elite coaching and game strategies. She has also hired elite players to coach and recruit our students who want to take up the sport seriously.

**Hockey**  
Our Year 9 and 10 boys coached by Mr. Mitchell finished a great second to Melbourne High. Our year 7 and 8 boys who have played little competitive Hockey gained some great experience winning at District level. Although they were beaten in their 3 games at the Zone level many are wanting to join clubs and take up the sport. Our Year 7 and 8 Girls coached by Ms. Kelly and Ms. Butera have trained hard and almost won at the Zone level. They won 2 games and drew their third game losing narrowly on goal difference. They were so close to making the State finals. A possible invitation is still possible – if not 2007 could be their year? Students Sarah Adolph, Katie Hurst and Jack Moorhouse have given up endless hours in coaching our junior teams.

*Mr Craig Price, Director of Sport*
Short School Notices

2006 CHRISTMAS CAROLS IN ALL NATIONS PARK—16 DECEMBER
A reminder about Carols in All Nations Park. This year the City of Darebin will also run a Christmas Market from 6-10pm in addition to the traditional procession, community choir and guest soloists.

MELBOURNE THEATRE COMPANY JANUARY 2007 SUMMER SCHOOL
MTC is running 4 week long course in January 2007. These include courses for those aged 5-8, 9-12, 13-15 and prospective VCE students. Each course is presented by teaching artists who have outstanding expertise in the theatre industry and arts education.
Contact MTC Education Phone: 9684 4508 Email: education@mtc.com.au Web: www.mtc.com.au

INTERNATIONAL HOMESTAYS NEEDED!!!
Earn $180-$210 per week caring for International student—AND develop a relationship with a student from another country that can last a lifetime!! Our International Students Office needs LONG TERM homestays.
Contact Mr James Yao or Ms Lixia Wang on 9488 2334 for more information.

VIDEO EDUCATION AUSTRALASIA (VEA) SAY THANKS TO NHS!!
VEA, an independent production company that makes short programs for the training and international market, have often used NHS as a “background setting”. Our school has been in three of their productions this year. After the last day of filming, Producer Shannon Sleath wrote I just wanted to say a very big thank you for letting us (Video Education Australasia) shoot at your school again on Wednesday. The basketball team and the referee, Marc Higginson, were all eager, professional and responsive and it was a pleasure to work with them. Also a big thanks to Mr Craig Price, who helped us a lot on the day.

PARENT INFO SESSION CONTACTS
Last Monday night the Student Support Services Team organised a Parent Information Session which discussed the issue of managing adolescents who partake in partying and binge drinking. Below are the contact numbers for some of the other organisations that were discussed during the evening:
Youth Substance Abuse Service (YSAS). Ph: 9418 1020 This is a 24 hour telephone service which provides information and counseling to young people or their families
Parentline Ph: 13 22 89
This service is available 7 days per week between the following hours – Monday to Friday 8 am till midnight; Weekends 10am till 10pm. www.parentline.vic.gov.au
Thank you once again to the parents who were present on the evening and to the following guest speakers:
Jo Steendham, Youth Resource Officer for Darebin.
Information on the Party Safe Program that she spoke about can be accessed from their website and registration forms can also be downloaded from their website. www.police.vic.gov.au/content.asp?Document_ID=1895

Pauline Wright, Manager of Clinical Services at Turning Point Alcohol
and Drug Centre
www.turningpoint.org.au
Kylie Burke, Facilitator of the ABCD Parenting Program
www.parentingrc.org.au