NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text Only Newsletter

27 March, 2007 Volume 81, Issue 5

Celebrating 80 years of education in 2006

Diary

Mar 27. 7G Boho camp departs (to Frid Mar 30)
    USA Space Camp departs (to Ap 9)
    7-10 Zone Boys Cricket
Mar 28. 7-10 Zone Girls Cricket
    Ride 2 School Out of Uniform Day
Mar 29. Parent Teacher Meetings
    (all day 10-8 pm)
    No classes for students

Mar 30. Last day of school. School ends at 2pm

Ap. 16. First day Term 2
Ap. 17. 7H Boho camp departs (to Frid. Ap. 20)
Ap. 23. Yr 7 athletics trail
Ap. 24. Yr 7,10, 11, 12
    immunizations

Ap. 25. ANZAC Day holidayy

Ap. 26. School AGM, 5.30 pm
Ap. 30. Athletics carnival

May 1. 7I Boho camp departs (to May 4)
    7.00pm Music Concert. Preston Town Hall

May 2. Open Day.
    School dismissed 12.40pm
NHS wins Zone swimming again!

Students have been entering teams, training and attending a range of sporting competitions over the past 2 weeks. Over 300 hundred students have represented the school recently in interschool sporting events.

Our Swimming team had great success at Richmond Pool winning the overall aggregate.

Points were
- **Northcote High School 660 points**
- Melbourne Girls 470
- Melbourne Boys High 364
- Elwood SC 314
- Fitzroy HS 261
- Princes Hill SC 251
- Brunswick SC 165

We had 9 students who won individual events. Lewin Eddy (4 wins), Eve Walton-Healey (2 wins), Lily Potocnik (2 wins) and Will Green (2 wins) were multiple winners. Our Year 12 school captains Ben Walton Healey and Cassie Zurek should be mentioned for swimming and winning in multiple events and also inspiring the team over the past 6 years.

Most of our swimming team now swim at a twilight meeting (4.00pm) at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre the first Thursday back in Term 2.

Mr. Price

Parent Teacher Meetings March 29th

One Thursday March 29th an entire day will be given over to the first Parent Teacher Meetings.

The day's interviews will commence at 10.00 am, and conclude at 8.00 pm. An appointment system will operate as currently, with staff taking breaks for meals at various times. 3.30-5.00 pm has been set aside for meetings with parents and students who do not have appointments.

Classes will not run on the day, but students are expected to attend interviews with their parents to discuss the report with their teachers.

- **10.00 am—12.30 pm. Meetings by Appointment**
- **12.30 pm—1.30 pm. Lunch break**
- **1.30 pm—3.30 pm. Meetings by Appointment**
- **3.30 pm—5.00 pm. Meetings without Appointment**
- **5.00 pm—6.00 pm Dinner Break**
- **6.00 pm—8.00 pm Meetings by Appointment**

Interpreters can be booked in advance. Students should see Mr Murphy to arrange this.

Students can collect reports from Coordinators from Wednesday morning, provided they have a note from parents.
Principal’s Report

In the last newsletter, I shared that as a school we were embarking on a new model to support all staff performance and development. This year, our entire staff (principals, teachers and support staff) has formed Performance and Development Groups to develop, share and reflect on our professional practices, our professional goals and targets and how they support our NHS school improvement goals and student growth and learning. We have begun to work within our 4 year strategic plan with clearly identified goals for student learning, student engagement and well being, student transitions and pathways. But as I told the staff, any words stated or written can be cheap and meaningless. As the principal of Northcote High School, I want to sincerely express to you that our NHS staff are working hard to make our goals and targets truly meaningful, real and measurable steps toward improvement. There is an expanded energy and combined commitment to the important role we play in guiding and supporting our students- your sons and daughters.

If our focus remains clearly on student learning, then we must remain clearly focused on teaching as our most critical activity as a school and ensure that we are nurturing effective teaching practices and the continual improvement of our professional skills. Research has repeatedly shown and reconfirmed what we have known – good teaching is an essential and critical variable in the success rate of students. Over and over again, the quality of the teaching makes a difference. It is also the quality of a school’s sense of community and the awareness that the entire school community (teachers, office staff, canteen staff, support staff, principals and parents) is essential to creating a supportive and caring environment that supports learning.

We also want to remember that while we want to “take care” of a person’s needs, we must remember that ultimately people need to develop the capacity and resilience to take care of themselves. That is the deeper learning part of our mission. Our ongoing discussions must include issues of self-reliance and how it can be embedded in our curriculum, our student programs, our teacher professional development and our school decision processes. At the first official School Council meeting of our new School Council, we approved the important documents that have been developed over the past year and will assist us in our school self monitoring and planning in 2007 and beyond. We approved our NHS Four Year Strategic Plan for 2007-2010, our Annual Implementation Plan for 2007 and tabled the 2006 Annual Report that will be presented at the NHS School Council Annual General Meeting on 26 April at 5:30pm. I want to express to the parents of NHS, that these are practical working documents of meaning and careful commitment to improving our programs and support for each and every student of NHS.

Just as we will gather on Thursday at Parent Teacher Meetings so that students, teachers and parents can discuss the progress each student has made and ways in which they can improve their learning, so too do we as a school need to monitor our school’s progress and ways in which we can improve.

Finally, I want to share that on Friday I heard our new Minister for Education, the Hon. John Lenders, speak about how we as schools need to find new ways of communicating to parents and our community in plain English without the educational jargon. With the new Victorian Essential Learning Standards being fully introduced this year, we face the significant challenge of wanting to support our students and parents in the transition to the new VELS language and the new reporting system. I want to remind parents that we will be holding another parent information forum at our upcoming Parent Teacher Night at 6-6:30 pm in library to explain and discuss the new standards and the new reporting system. I do hope you are able to join us. If not, please don’t hesitate to contact us at any time with any questions you may have or let us know how we can make more clear any communications we have with you as parents and family members.

Thanks for your ongoing involvement and support.
Gail Davidson
Principal
School Council Members 2007
Brenda Gilmartin
Catriona Pavey
Con Dinopolous
Craig Price
Dianne Frost
Gail Davidson
Helen Bowman
James Galea
John Butera
Kate Morris
Pam Mancell
Paul Wiseman
Robyn Sinclair
Wayne Moncur
Wayne Roberts
Zora Marko

Next Council Meetings
Education & Governance, Wednesday April 18th
Buildings, Thursday April 19th
Finance, Monday April 23rd
Council AGM, Thursday April 26th, 5.30 pm
(All Welcome)
Full Council Meeting, Thursday April 26th, 6.00 pm

Bringing science to the Community

Professor Carl Schiesser’s presentation on “Free Radical Chemistry” on Wednesday 14th March was well received by both the students and the parents of Northcote High School, as illustrated by the following comments:
“It was very helpful to get a grasp of how the chemistry we learn in school can be applied in real life situations.” James (Year 12)

“It was interesting to see a professional’s opinion on Chemistry and its uses in society.” Zac (Year 12)
“The talk was an insight into the many different areas of chemistry, ones that I’d never considered. It was a very interesting presentation by Prof Schiesser.”
Emma (Year 12)
“It was very fascinating to see how “Free Radicals” affect modern lifestyles.”
Sheila (Year 12)
“I found Prof. Schiesser’s presentation very informative, especially the information regarding the effects of free radicals in modern society. Well done, can’t wait for the next one!” Janette (Parent)

“Prof Schiesser’s talk inspired me to continue on with chemistry”. Adam (Year 12)

“It was fantastic and he presented in a way that allowed everyone to have an understanding of “Free Radical Chemistry.” Sarah (Year 11)
“Professor Carl Schiesser gave a fascinating and amusing introduction to ‘free radicals’ as they relate to all our lives. Prior to the evening I was concerned that I would not understand a single word but in fact I surprised myself and had a thoroughly good time. I appreciated the chance to speak to Carl afterwards and ask questions that I was too shy to ask in front of VCE science students! I found him to be approachable and a very good communicator. I left
The evening looking forward to the next one”. Jane (Parent).

The next “Twilight” session will be occurring late in Term 2. Keep your eyes peeled!

Ms. Soula Bennett

Camps Update

YEAR 9 & 10 TASMANIAN TOUR
6 days
Sunday 14th May to Friday 20th May. (TBC)
Highlights include: Spirit of Tasmania, Marakoopa Cave, Bonorong Wildlife Park, Cadbury’s Chocolate Factory, Mt Field National Park, Port Arthur, including the Ghost Tour at night and harbour cruise around The Isle of the Dead, and Cataract Gorge in Launceston.
Cost $595 based on 44 students, this may change.

YEAR 9 TO 12 SNOW CAMP
3 days 2 nights
Sunday 26th August to Tuesday 28th August.
Venue: Alzburg Resort Mansfield with skiing and snowboarding at Mt Buller.
Cost $560 for skiing, $590 for snowboarding
This cost is based on 55 students and may change.
For further information on both camps collect the expression of interest form from Mr. Griffiths in C Block. To book a place, return the form with a deposit to the General Office. More details are available on the forms.

Mr. R. Griffiths
Camps Coordinator

Sports updates

DISTRICT SUCCESS!
Competing against 8 other schools in our local district competitions we had great success, winning 12 of the 24 competitions we competed in. We returned to the winners circle in Baseball and Softball.
District sporting winners over the past fortnight have included
Cricket 7 Boys, 7 Girls, 9/10 Boys, 9/10 Girls. 11/12 Girls
Volleyball 7 Boys
Baseball and Softball 7 Boys and 8 Girls
Tennis 7 Boys, 8 Girls, 8 Boys, 9/10 Girls
Well done to all these teams with Cricket playing this week in Zone finals. All other teams will play off in weeks 2-3 in Term 2 or in Term 4 2007. We are entering Golf and European Handball teams in early term 2. School Athletics will also start in early Term 2 so training over the holidays is important for our budding Athletes.

INTERMEDIATE TENNIS
On Friday 16th March our 9&10 boys and girls tennis teams competed at Booandarra Courts. A wet morning (yes…wet!) saw question marks looming over the possibility of a washout. But in this drought we are experiencing the precipitation was short lived and the game went on.
Our Boys Intermediate team consisting of Alex Bennett, Andrew Timos, Harrison Free, Liam Kelly, Khiang Trinh and Jayden Mastin played some great tennis against 3 other teams to finish a very close second for the day.
Our Girls Intermediate team was split for the competition. A difficult but wise move for Northcote. One team consisting of Tricia Asibal, Dorothy Drakopoulos, Maddie Fyffe and Bronwyn Humphreys supported our second team to no end!
Overall it was the second Northcote Girls who came away victors for the overall day.
Congratulations to Georgia Hammond, Stephanie Harding, Tennile Thomas and Ivona Lonac for their efforts and success!
Yr. 7 & 8 SOFTBALL
The second wet day for the year and it happens to be another sport day! Tuesday was wet under foot and a little over head….the game went on. With only one of our opposition showing it was going to be a tough match for Northcote against Mill Park. After a slow start, down 0 – 3 going into the second innings it was a great come back for the underdogs to come through winners. Congratulations to our Northcote girls who supported each other, played fairly and represented the school positively. Final scores Northcote 13, Mill Park 12. Well done to all 13 girls in the team; Rachel Schopf, Helena Ncholls, Karina Roberts, Selma Viden, Megan King, Sarah Paleologous, Tylah Burton, Sibon Curulli-Maillard, Jean Katrina Delos Reyes, Sally Liu, Anita Nicholls, Sarah Ma Lang and Lilly Do.

LUNCHTIME SPORTS
Term One Lunchtime Sport got off to a terrific start with the Year 7 Diamond Cricket Competition on Monday and Tuesday lunchtimes. Despite having to re arrange the playing schedule to accommodate for interschool sport team practices, the competition has been well supported by all participants. The grand final will be played early in term 2. Check the lunchtime sport noticeboard in the gym foyer for further updates! Wednesday lunchtimes the Year 8/9 Mixed Basketball Competition has been running with 6 teams entered. “The Suns” captained by George Drakopoulos of 8H are already through to the final with the other semi being played this week. A big thanks to our sports captain, Megan Conboy, for her outstanding reefing throughout the tournament.

Thursday is Girls Day in the gym with a range of activities on offer such as a social game of badminton, indoor soccer, skipping and basketball to name a few. All female students are welcome.

Upcoming events include a VCE basketball tournament, Yr 10 Basketball tournament and the weight room being opened for eligible senior students. Don’t forget you can borrow sports equipment at lunchtime through the GTR entrance. Any suggestions or queries don’t hesitate to speak to Ms Young or Ms Lester in the gym office.

Out of Uniform Day– Ride 2 School Day

Wednesday 28th of March
will be an Out of Uniform Day to celebrate Northcote High School’s participation in the Ride2School Day Program.
Students are asked to ride, walk, skate, or catch public transport to school on this day rather than be driven in cars.
A gold coin collection will be taken on the day for those students who come out of uniform.
Money raised on the day will be directed towards two projects – improving the school’s bike parking facilities and a donation to the Heart Foundation.
Remember to ride safely – Think Helmet, Think Ahead!

Liz Lenthall
Equal Opportunity Coordinator

Biology at Werribee Zoo

March 19th saw 62 Year 11 Biology students travel to Werribee Open Range Zoo with their teachers Ms Butera, Ms Neilson and Ms Saillard. Students headed out on the Safari tour through the zoos grassy plains and saw an amazing array of animals including rhino, giraffe, zebra and antelope living together on the open savanna. A visit to the education centre saw students investigating a variety of different animal skulls and scats. A great day!!!
Year 10 District Cricket Comp

Northcote 42 runs defeated Mill Park 5 runs
Northcote 72 runs defeated Thornbury 48 runs
Northcote 110 runs defeated Banksia 10

Northcote’s shark like devouring of Regional Zone arch rival Mill Park was overshadowed by a lacklustre performance against district minnow Banksia.

Northcote progressed to the zone final thanks to some world shattering batting form Cheyne Evans (24 off one over) and Jack Simcoe (2 massive sixes). James McGee also contributed with some “Gilchrist” like hits despite being incorrectly adjudged caught behind in his first innings. While Cameron Burgess’ first batting display was not up to his usual standards he proved masterful with ball – producing a wicket maiden. Northcote speedsters of Jumeau, Turner and Watkins hammered the opposing batsmen but all need to tighten their line and length in the next match. Northcote captain, Zac Watkins showed his leadership qualities and his all round capabilities as did Mitchell McWhinney who batted, bowled and wicket kept superbly. Greg Maratos also demonstrated why he is an excellent all round cricketer.

Fielding was also a highlight and the sure hands of Jack Dalton, who caught a “rain maker”, clinched the match against Mill Park. Nathan Jumeau took several catches in the deep, but the most amazing, marvellous catch of the day was when James McGee, caught a ball running, tumbling backwards, in mid air, in one hand, in wet conditions.

Nevertheless, some serious soul searching will have to be done to make it to the next level as Northcote lost its way in the last match against an undermanned Banksia.

Captains Corner by Zac Watkins

On the 15th June the Year 9/10 boys cricket team went to Donath Reserve to play in the District Cricket Competition. Northcote played 3 games against Mill Park Secondary College, then Thornbury High School, and Banksia Secondary College. All the boys agreed that the first game would be the hardest, and with the weather not looking to good, we weren’t even sure if we would get a game.

The rain stopped, I lost the toss and Mill Park put us into bat.

We got a good start but constantly losing wickets didn’t help our cause (10 runs deducted for every wicket lost – “Super 12 rules”) With a couple of solid partnerships at the end of the innings we ended up with a total of 92 take away 50 runs from lost wickets, so 42.

With our opening bowlers keeping things tight, they made 35 runs take away 30 for lost wickets. Quite a convincing win!

Our second game against Thornbury we won easily, with solid batting performances from Mitchell McWhinney and David Newell. Backed up by some excellent bowling and fielding, we ended up winning that game 74 runs to Thornbury -48. A great diving catch was also taken by James McGee.

Our final game against Banksia was a big hitting game. Cheyne Evans really set the game alight hitting 24 off one over with four 4’s and a six in one over. A solid performance was put in by all batting pairs and Banksia had to chase 111 for victory.

With tight bowling early on from Cameron taking 3 wickets in the first over, that really set us up for the win. However, we did slack off and this allowed Banksia to make 70 runs (but take away 80 for wickets).

All in all a great performance from all the boys and we now play Mill Park’s Year 9 team next Friday at the home of District Cricket – Donath Reserve (still in magnificent condition as always) Thanks to Mr Thomas and Ms Chada for taking us. Well done boys.

Thanks to Mr Thomas and Ms Chada for taking us. Well done boys.
Debating Update

LIONS CLUB COMPETITION
The Lions Club debating competition was held again this year for N.H.S. and other local schools, including Santa Maria, Our Lady and Thornbury S.C.. Santa Maria took the top honours again but N.H.S. accounted well for itself despite being knocked out of the competition by Santa Maria in the first round. N.H.S. received a cheque for $500 which will be given to the school library. Thanks to the Northcote Lions Club for their continuing support and for giving our students such a great opportunity to participate in these debates. And thanks to Emma Boehm, Georgia Burns Williamson and Elliot Wall, all Year 12 students, for representing N.H.S. in such a fine manner.

D.A.V. COMPETITION 2007
After a rather slow start to the year it looks like we have our teams finalised for the 2007 Debaters’ Association of Victoria competition. This year N.H.S. will field eight teams from Years 8 to Year 12. The teams are as follows;
A GRADE, TEAM 1: Emma Boehm, Georgia Burns Williamson and Elliot Wall.
B GRADE, TEAM 1: Noni Sproule, Cameron Shallard, Megan Conboy and Stephanie Moncur.
C GRADE, TEAM 1: Nick Polidoras, Daniel De Vuono, Noah Solman, Adrian Evagorou and Varun Khatter.
C GRADE, TEAM 2: Shadya Salloum, Molly Caddy, Qing Ya Yao, Angela Tsatalis and Tianning Zhang.
D GRADE, TEAM 1: Ellen Davies, Marissa Butera, Phoebe Shiu and Lisa Lam.
D GRADE, TEAM 2: Dinesh De Abrew, Roy Logue, Kevin Cheung and Jordan Cole.
D GRADE, TEAM 3: Ruby Han, Katja Novakovic, Ai-Thi Ngo, Mara Mathieson and Mary Ioannidis.

These debates are a great opportunity for students to develop research skills, public speaking skills and a sense of commitment to both their team and to the school. We wish the teams well in their first debates on Thursday March 22nd. The topics are as follows:
A Grade “That we should give parents vouchers to send their children to private schools”
B Grade “That Australia should aim for zero population growth”
C Grade “That we should have performance pay for teachers”
D Grade “That we should greatly increase the price of water”

Martin Ramsay and Carlene Wilson:
Debating Coordinators

World’s Greatest Shave

On Friday 16th March, Northcote High School again participated in one of Australia’s biggest fundraising events, The Leukaemia Foundation’s ”Shave For A Cure.” Following on from last years event, a dedicated group of Year 8 & 10 students met regularly to organise the day, visit classrooms to encourage everyone to join in and set up the hall on the day. Whilst we had a number of very brave students and staff who opted for the “number 2” blade, the most popular option was the hair colouring. With pink definitely being the colour of the day! The event was a great success with $353 being raised to directly assist families who have to relocate to be close to their loved ones whilst they undergo treatment.
A special thanks to Kerry, who generously gave up her time to “shave”, Ms Lenthall ,Ms Pyke all the helpers on the day and of course everyone who donated to such a worthy cause.

Krissy Health Promotion Nurse
Thinking about war in Iraq – John Langmore Presentation

VCE International Students are about to embark on a detailed study of the Iraq war. To prepare them for this study, former senior UN official and Federal Politician, John Langmore spoke to students about the war. John recently published a book entitled *Dealing with America* and shared his expertise with students.

John reminded the audience of the key events leading up to the war, including the UNs refusal to adopt US recommendations on Iraq in 2002. He also covered a wide range of issues relating to US unilateralism, pre-emptive strikes the UN & UN reform and different perspectives on ending the war in Iraq. John explained that in the end, the UN hasn’t the resources (financial or military) to manage significant conflict and that it is up to member states like Australia to turn things around.

Students asked many thoughtful and considered questions, demonstrating a keen interest in human rights in particular.

COLLINGWOOD SWIMMING CLUB

*Enjoy Swimming? Want some More Action?*

**JOIN US!!**

CSC is a community based club. Our intention is to promote and encourage swimming for healthy recreation and competition within the community. We also provide swimming coaching, training, social, Club, interclub and regional competitions. There are also opportunities for members to compete in individual and team competitions sanctioned by Swimming Victoria. Most of our swimmers are between 8 and 16 years old. About half are girls. Older swimmers are welcome.

**Competition**

While competition is not our main focus our swimmers are very competitive at interclub and district levels of competition.

Serious swimmers are encouraged to speak to our coach, Tony La Posta, about joining the swim squad based at the Fitzroy pool. Several past and present club members compete at the state level and a couple at the national level.

**Want More information?**

Contact any of the following people

Cliff Rundle President 9388 0137 H
Tony La Posta Coach 9205-5522 W
Jenny Thompson Registrar 9484-2782 H

**Join us!!**

Yr 9 Permission forms—

**Performance 17th April**

**Important Notice to all Year 9 Students and Parents**

On Tuesday 17th April as part of NHS 23 Brainstorm Productions will present Verbal Combat, a play about bullying and harassment. The performance makes it clear to students that certain behaviour (such as excluding people, spreading rumours and sending unwanted text messages or emails) is in fact bullying. Please return this permission slip and payment of $4.50 in a sealed envelope to school on Monday 16th April first day of Term 2.

Year Level Co-ordinators Mr. Ramsay and Ms. Archer will collect it from you on Monday.
morning in class.

Community Mail Bag

HOMESTAYS REQUIRED—MAKE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS FOR A LIFETIME!

NHS is always on the lookout for NHS families willing to host one of our International students. Room and board paid is appx $210 per week. A great way to make lasting friendships with someone from overseas.

Contact our International Students office on 9488 2334 for more information.

World Education Program (WEP) Student Exchange Information Evenings
Tuesdays 7.30—9.30pm at TWO alternative locations
27 March, 1 May, 29 May, 26 June at Kingston Arts Centre 979 Nepean Hwy Moorabin
6 March, 24 July, Hawthorn Library Centre, 584 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn

REWARD FOR MISSING I-POD
A reward is offered for any formation leading to the recovery of an i-pod missing from a student’s bag in the Canteen last week. The i-pod contains important files in addition to music and videos. The i-pod can be returned to the Office with no questions asked. Please call 0417-013-439 with information.

Bored with the Lygon Street experience?

Spaces are still available for the Italy September 2007 tour.

Join the Italian tour and experience the sights of Rome, Florence, Pisa, Milan and Venice.

For more details see Ms Fattore or Ms Anderton on Thursday 29th March (during Parent Teacher Meetings) for an information pack and more details.
Footy legend Tom Hafey visits NHS

Before the day of the speech, about 95% of year 12 students, including myself, had never heard of Tom Hafey. He coached before our time, but as a Richmond supporter, I was reasonably ashamed that I had never heard of the fifth most successful coach in AFL/VFL history, who has coached Richmond, Geelong, Collingwood and Sydney. Our lack of knowledge however didn’t change the enthusiasm and warmth with which we welcomed the 75 year old to our school.

Tom spoke for about an hour, but had everyone on the edge of their seats. He inspired our year level with many important messages such as “Do your best, not his best or her best, be the best YOU can be”.

He motivated us with his infectious positive attitude and had such an incredible impact that most students asked for autographs, some got business cards, and others got, well, HUGS. The Tom Hafey visit was a great success and incredibly helpful for all those involved. Even though the day began with 95% of people not knowing who he was, it ended with 95% of the girls claiming that “I love Tom Hafey”.

Jacob Erlandson

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BECOME AN *AWESOME DANCER*

STYLES ON OFFER INCLUDE

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JAZZ
BALLET

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT VIKKI ELLEN

Mobile 0401 740 051
Email awesomedancer@bigpond.com
Guides Hall, Wingrove St Fairfield
Ages – 3 years to Adults