Metlink’s Amazing Race 2007

On Friday 11th May, 8 intrepid NHS students and two long suffering parents participated in the Public Transport Challenge run by Metlink and Environment Victoria. The challenge involved teams of four trying to get to as many of the 27 checkpoints around the northern suburbs as they could in the four hours allowed to answer questions about the site. The 9/10 team, made up of Nellie Montague, Sophie Freeman, Kate Datson and Lucy MacKinnon started off on the train to Preston market; thus begun our day of running, sprinting, mapping and eating our way around Melbourne. All in all I think we went on; 2 trains, 5 buses and 3 trams. We met up with the 7/8 team along the way and shared stories and nothing else! We had been provided with snack packs which were quite yummy and included lolly snakes. The 9/10 team amassed a huge 600 points while the 7/8 team scored a ginormous 620 points. The 7/8 team made up of Sibon Curulli-Maillard, Tylah Burton, Oscar Dowling and Gabriel Afif came second in their division after having a few deductions for wrong answers, but sadly the 9/10 team just missed out on a finals place. Big thanks to Joan Datson and Brylee Cucanic, our parent supervisors.

Nellie Montague

Outstanding Music Concert

At 7.30 on May 1st, 220 Northcote students and 450 parents and friends packed the Preston Town Hall for our first music concert for 2007. An outstanding evening of music and a great tribute to our hard working music students!

The concert was also a first for NHS,— when the Captain of Music, Kate Jama, conducted the Intermediate Band, playing a piece by Offenbach.

Our next concert is June 20th, featuring International classical guitarist Antony Field. The location will be Melba Hall, Uni of Melbourne. More details shortly.
Year 9 Update

2007 has seen the commencement of Northcote High School’s Leading Schools Fund Project. The goals of this new program are to:

- Provide classroom organisation and teaching and learning practices that are responsive to the diverse learning, social and emotional needs of young adolescents.
- Provide a distinct physical environment dedicated to Year 9.
- Provide opportunities for students to participate in special events or programs that are of substantial interest and/or challenge to them.
- Provide learning opportunities that support students to engage with adults from their community.

Term 2 continues to see many exciting developments with our Year 9 program in the above areas, as outlined below.

Teachers at Work Conference:

Year 9 teachers from six Key Learning Areas (KLA’s) attended the ‘Teachers at Work’ conference this week with teachers from throughout the country and overseas. They participated in a two day workshop with Dr Jay McTighe on designing curriculum, instruction and assessment focused on improving student understanding. These ideas will help to shape the new curriculum initiatives at Year 9.

Year 9B History Excursion “The Changing Face of Melbourne” (at right)

Students in 9B left the classroom for the afternoon last Friday (4th May) and travelled to central Melbourne to collect photos for their next history assignment. Starting at the MCG, the class, accompanied by Mr Mameghan and Ms Morris, walked along the Yarra through Birrarung Marr and Banana Alley to the Aquarium and former ships’ turning basin, taking photos as they went. The photos will be incorporated into a Photo story presentation, which will document the changes to the appearance of locations in Melbourne.

Global Citizenship Centre Progress

Work is continuing to progress well with the construction of the New Year 9 Centre. The entire area now has been roofed and flooring has been placed in the area between the classrooms. This has begun to give the area the feel of a single learning space. Work has now started on the refit of the classrooms to have them ready for classes for Term 3, 2007.

City Centre Experience

All students in 9B & 9C will trial this innovative program in the last week of Term 2. The City Centre Experience aims to assist students to conduct social research, engage in problem solving tasks and to present their research findings on matters that are of interest and importance to their community. These presentations will form part of their work in English and will occur in Term 3.

Students in these forms are reminded that the following should have been returned to their English teachers by Friday 11th of May 2007. Please ensure that this has been done.

- City Centre Parental Permission form
- Fitness First form

Ms. Saillard

Your 2007 School Council

PARENTS:
Helen Bowman  
Dianne Frost (Vice President)  
James Galea  
Wayne Moncur, (Treasurer)  
Arthur Secoulidis

STAFF:
Brenda Gilmartin  
Pam Mancell  
Craig Price  
Wayne Roberts (Assistant Treasurer)

CO-OPTED REPRESENTATIVES
John Butera, President  
Email: John.Butera@dpc.vic.gov.au  
Zora Marko  
Paul Wiseman  
Con Dinopoulous (non voting)  
Catriona Pavey (non voting)

Gail Davidson, (Principal)  
Executive Officer  
Robyn Sinclair,  
Minute Secretary (non member)

Forthcoming Council Meetings

May 17th Buildings Comm. 4.30 pm  
May 21st Finance Comm. 5.00 pm  
May 23rd Ed & Gov Comm. 5.00 pm  
May 24th School Council 6.00 pm
Students Moved by Shrine Pilgrimage

On Sunday (the 29th of April), a small group of VCE humanities students, lead by Mr. Delany and Mr. Mameghan attended the 61st anniversary Pilgrimage to Shrine of Remembrance of the 57/60th Battalion Association. On the steps of the Shrine, we met war veterans from WWII, who remember dearly their days of childhood, many of them attending Northcote High School, growing up in the Northcote/Preston area.

We proceeded into the shrine, for a ceremony of remembrance, in which we reflected on the lives lost from both battalions, during both World Wars, and the reasons as to why these men fought and lost their lives, reflecting also on the reasons of war and violence in society today. We lay our wreath and payed our respects, and were honoured to receive a certificate verifying our adoption, as a school, of ‘an ex-serviceman battalion’. The ceremony included hymns, the cheery battalion theme song, the playing of the Last Post and one minute’s silence. There was also a read

ing of the Commemoration of the Fallen which in which all victims of war the families left behind were remembered. Mr. Delany's favourite line in this Commemoration was - “In Memory - Of the poets who have left their unsung songs, and did the deeds that shall make other songs...”.

Cassie Zurek

St. John Cadets Parade

On Tuesday 8th May, our St. John Division had its first parade for the year. At the parade, cadets attended in full uniform (hats and all) and were presented with their Level 1 or 2 First Aid Certificates. Tim Duncan, Regent Superintendent was present to hand out the certificates. Well done to the cadets who received these awards and thank you to parents and staff who attended.

At right, Laura Pearse receives her first Aid Certificate from Superintendent Tim Duncan (also a former NHS student)

Stephanie Moncur

GTAC Excursion

On Wednesday, 9th of May, myself and seven other year ten advanced science students traveled to University High School to participate in Genetech, an educational genetics workshop. Attending Genetech was a multitude of other schools including Edenhope, Galvin Park, Pascoe Vale Girls and Broadmeadows Secondary, just to name a few.

The workshop was held in University High's GTAC, Gene Technology Access Centre. GTAC, funded by the government, was designed to give Victorian schoolchildren an in depth look at genetics and involve them in practical work to aid their understanding.

During the workshop we participated in pracs, group discussions and listened to guest speakers. The first prac involved learning about Cystic Fibrosis and undertaking tests to identify affected patients. The second was about antigens and antibodies relating to snake bites. Discussion topics covered ethics in relation to genetic testing and different social group's views. The guest speakers were insightful and I think we all learned a lot. Genetech was a heap of fun and I would encourage everyone to go next year!

On behalf of all the attending Northcote students, I would like to thank Ms. Main for taking us and making the day so much fun.

Miki Novak.
Term 3 Sports Bag

The past 2 weeks has been busy with many sporting events taking place. Highlights included 9 students swimming at the State Swimming Carnival with Eve Walton-Healey winning a Gold medal in the Under 14 50 metre backstroke event. The School Athletic Carnival held at Coburg on the 30th April saw over 500 students participating in an array of track, field and novelty events. Going into the relays Batman House had a narrow lead. After the relays Sunner House had overtaken them to win the day. This year any students who missed out on a Relay run were rounded up and challenged the teachers in an 8x50m relay. This was a fun way to finish the Carnival and any mention of the teachers win is unnecessary. On the following Monday 70 students went to Meadowglen to represent Northcote at the District Athletics (below right). Most students either won or were placed in their events with our junior students dominating the day. Northcote won Pennants in Junior Girls and Boys and Intermediate boys. The Northern Zone Athletics is being held this Thursday.

Our Senior students competed in our local District tournaments last Friday in Football, Basketball and Badminton and made the final 2 in every sport. The finals were all close hard fought affairs with our only win coming in the Boys Badminton. Our Badminton teams were composed of many International students attending Northcote High School and supervised with new coach Ms.Wang. Our Senior students complete their District commitments this Wednesday competing in Soccer and Netball. It is exciting that all of our Soccer games will be held at the Darebin International venue in Thornbury. No mud on us this year. Our Senior Girls led by Sport captain Sarah Adolph have progressed through to the Northern Zone in Hockey.

Our Year 7 students started their winter sports last Monday training in Football, Netball, Soccer and Badminton. They will take on other schools late in Term 2.

This week sees our 2006 sporting stars celebrated at assemblies with medals and trophies. Names have been added to the honour boards in the school corridors. The annual sponsored Raelene Boyle trophies are a yearly highlight.

Senior Basketball reports

On Friday may 4th Northcote sent our best VCE basketballers to play against the district schools at Mill Park. The day promised to be successful with previous years suggesting Northcote could take away both the Boys and Girls flags.

A great start to both teams winning their pool to enter the Final undefeated.

Both the boys and the girls then met the dreaded Mill Park in the final. As promised both matches were very strong showing some great talent. Unfortunately, Mill Park got the better of both teams. Second place for the day. All players should be really proud of the way they played in both effort and sportsmanship. Well done!

Ms Young, Mr Price
Debating Update

Round two of the D.A.V. debating competition was held on Wednesday May 9th and it was a wonderful night for N.H.S. students. Seven of the eight teams were successful and won their debates.

(Team members and families can look up the team positions on the ladders on the D.A.V. website.) To those students who are posting notes and information on the blog keep up the good work. To those students who are wondering what the next topics are and whether they are affirmative or negative please look at the blog!

Congratulations go to the A Grade team for their first win and again to all of the Year 9 D Grade teams for winning their debates. The C Grade Year 10 teams were also successful. And to the B Grade Year 11 team, good luck next time! Again thank you to parents for your support in taking students to and from the debates and for those who took up the opportunity to sit in on the debates. I am sure you were impressed by the preparation and teamwork shown by the students. I am sure you were also impressed the new school blazers some of the teams chose to wear. These are proving almost as popular as the new badges. The next round is on 30th of May and the topics are as follows

A Grade: Secret Topic
B Grade: Secret Topic
C Grade: Advised Topic Health
D Grade: That the Victorian government should not fund major sporting events

Martin Ramsay and Carlene Wilson
Debating coordinators

Nanotechnology-Gold but not as we know it

Many thanks to David Piper, a PhD students from La Trobe University who has been delivering Nanotechnology session at Northcote High School. David and two ex Northcote High students spent Friday 11th May with two of our year 11 classes allowing them to access material and experiments that ordinarily they would not be able to.

David showed the students how to change the colour of Gold. The students did this by reducing the Gold to Nano particle size. This is part of the new VCE Chemistry study design, and our students were fortunate to be able to access such innovative and up to date technology. This worthwhile interactive project was funded by the ARC nanotechnology network.

Ms. M. Gabriel

Scenes from our Athletics Carnival
Senior Years Update

After a short first term, our senior students are quickly settling back into the term ahead. We anticipate Term 2, (11 weeks), will be an excellent opportunity for students to consolidate the strong work ethic which is necessary for optimal academic success, with very little disruption occurring to classroom learning.

Our weekly study support program, NHS 23, is assisting students in the areas of time management, organisational skills and study habits. We see this as complementing existing classroom practices in these areas, and we know the potential benefits the acquisition of these skills brings to the students’ achievements.

The VCE Study Centre is available to students from 7.30 am to 5.30 pm each day. We are aiming to provide an environment conducive to learning and reinforcing our school vision for a culture of achievement and respect. Students have the opportunity to use the VCE Study Centre or Library in their non-timetabled study periods.

2006 saw positive changes and expansion to our student leadership structure. We congratulate all students who have nominated, and those who have been elected to positions of leadership in 2007. They are an excellent forum for all students to access in voicing their thoughts and concerns on school related issues.

We have included a copy of the school’s statement outlining our views on student participation in extra curricular activities during their Senior School Years as preparation for the School Production has commenced and many senior students will be involved. We encourage parents to read this statement and if we can be of assistance to students / parents in finding the balance, please contact us.

The strong correlation between student achievement and attendance rates has long been recognised. All Year Level Coordinators have been working hard with all their students and parents, to reinforce and support students in this area. Parents of our Year 10 students should have received a letter last week, outlining our VCE Promotion Policy. Reply slips are due back to coordinators.

Our Year 10 students have been working with Ms Anderson in organising their work experience placements which will occur after their exams towards the end of this term. These placements are an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience in one of their pathway interests.

Year 11 Coordinators have been busy working with a small group of students who were promoted to VCE on a contract agreement. Results of their review have been positive and support plans adjusted where necessary.

Our School Captains are in the process of selecting a commemorative Year 12 windcheater which will be available for students to purchase this term.

Our students who are undertaking a VCE Unit 3 study (some 300 students) will undertake the General Achievement Test (GAT) on Thursday June 14th. The GAT is an increasingly important tool that the VCAA is using in their moderation and special provision processes. The structure and content of the GAT is part of our NHS 23 curriculum and students are prepared for the 3 hour test. In addition students undertaking Unit 3 Physics, Biology, Accounting, Psychology & Chemistry will sit a VCAA exam in the same week.

If you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact us.

Senior School Team

Experiencing Learning and Finding the Balance

Northcote High School is proud of the expansive learning opportunities it can provide to students. Through a rich and varied curriculum, students are offered a wide range of subjects, electives and a comprehensive extra-curricular and co-curricular program. This includes such programs as Sport, Music, School Production, Tournament of the Minds, Camps, Excursions and Overseas Trips, Community Projects and Youth Leadership. These Co-curricular and Extra-curricular programs create experiential learning opportunities that allow our students to “learn by doing” and are a valued part of our total comprehensive curriculum program.

It is important we remind students and parents that the overall demands on a student need to be balanced. We believe that monitoring and moderation is critical in terms of developing the balance between a student’s classroom demands and outside-the-classroom demands. These outside demands often include employment, sporting and leisure commitments in addition to the extra-curricular activities organised at school.

In VCE efficient time management is essential for positive student outcomes. We want to partner with you to support your student’s success and the VCE team is available for students and parents to discuss your individual student’s schedule and overall plan. We recognise that the correct balance between study, employment and leisure is different for each student.

The school has an established procedure for students to follow when engaging in extra curricular activities during school time, which minimises any interruption to classroom learning. This is outlined in the VCE Student Handbook which is distributed to students at the commencement of the school year.

Ms. Hill

Change to Yr 9 Exam arrangements for this Semester only.

An Exam day was originally scheduled for late May, for Yr 9 students to get experience in Maths and English exam approaches. Because of the building program and shortage of classrooms, however, for this Semester only Yr 9 English and Maths exams will be completed in class time.
Craig's Organics
Fresh Market Produce Delivered Weekly

✓ Market fresh and certified organic or biodynamic.
✓ Free delivery.
✓ Mixed box or Itemized box.
✓ Hand picked fruit and vegetables.

What ways can I order?

A. Mixed Box: $40.00 OR $60.00
   This box is made up by us.
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When do I receive my order?
All deliveries are made on THURSDAYS.

Contact for further details:

Telephone: 0419 337 230. Email: craigpev@bigpond.com
UNDERSTANDING ADOLESCENCE

The workshop will discuss practical tips and strategies to support positive relationships and general parenting skills:

- Coping with alcohol, tobacco and drugs
- Mental health issues
- Communicating effectively with young people
- Resolving conflict
- Connectedness - parents, family, peers and school
- The VCE Years
- Boys Issues

Presenter: Michelle Bihary  Director - Delta Centre
Debbie Lewis   Counsellor and Teacher

When: Tuesday 05 June 2007
Time: 7.00pm for 7.30pm start
Location: NHS Library

We are seeking your input to the workshop agenda, particularly identifying the key challenges you are facing……. What issues are coming up for you and your children / family?

Please email or phone us with your ideas:

Mary Crooks  NHS Highlights  9489 5296  crooksie247@hotmail.com
Kate Morris  NHS  9488 2300  morris.kate.l@edumail.vic.gov.au

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Northcote Highlights Workshop - Understanding Adolescence

NAME: ________________________________________________

CHILD'S NAME: __________________________________________

NUMBER ATTENDING: _________

I would like to be on the NHS Highlights contact and email list:
Email: ___________________________________________________
Support for students at NHS

With VCE exams looming it seems timely to give a reminder that the Student Wellbeing Team are ready and available for all and any students who need a bit of back up.

When stress levels are building or when we are struggling to deal with life or loss, the chance to talk through our thoughts and feelings can provide some much needed relief.

SWC’s Deborah Pyke, Anna Costanza, Donal Uahwatanasakul; EO rep, Liz Lenthall; Social Worker, Rob Mason, Psychologist, Andrew Mann and Nurse, Krissy Bergin are available through-out the week.

Don’t get stuck feeling alone and struggling. Call in to our room any time, or call us on 9489 2321 to arrange a time to talk to someone.

Community Mail Bag

HOMESTAYS REQUIRED—MAKE INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS FOR A LIFETIME!
NHS is always on the look out 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

Looking for part time work?
Westgarth Pharmacy is looking for a sales assistant to work from 4-7 Monday to Friday. If you are interested please drop a resume in to Elise at 62 High St Northcote (near Westgarth St) ph 9481 3807

14th Annual Victorian Teacher of the Year Awards
The Annual Herald Sun Victorian Teacher of the Year Awards are on again. Nomination forms are available from the general office.

CITYSIDE SPORTS NETBALL – CLIFTON HILL
Teams and Individual Players required for Sunday Afternoon Junior Netball starting in May. Game times range from 11am to 3pm with age groups of Under 10, 12, 14, 16 and 18. For more details or to register please go to www.citysidesports.com or you can contact our office on 0414-233-822.

Dobson’s Uniform Shop

OPENING HOURS Phone: 9488 2317
TUESDAY  12.30 - 4PM
FRIDAY    8.30 - 11.30AM

ORDERS: CUSTOMERS PLEASE NOTE THAT WE WILL HOLD ORDERS ASIDE FOR 1 WEEK ONLY AFTER YOU HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THEIR ARRIVAL, UNLESS ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE WITH US. IF WE HAVE BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL IN PHONING YOU THEN PLEASE CHECK THE NOTICE BOARD OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL SHOP FOR YOUR NAME.

REMEMBER: WE DO NOT ACCEPT CHEQUES BUT CAN DO CREDIT CARD TRANSACTIONS BY PHONE IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO SEND CASH WITH YOUR CHILD. WE ALSO HAVE ACCOUNTS SHOULD YOU WISH TO SET ONE UP WITH US.

SECONDHAND UNIFORMS:
MAY BE DROPPED OFF AT THE GENERAL OFFICE IF WE ARE CLOSED BUT PLEASE FILL OUT THE 2 FORMS THEY WILL PROVIDE AND ATTACH TO THE BAG. IF YOU WANT TO BE PAID DIRECTLY YOU MUST SUPPLY YOUR BANK ACCOUNT NUMBER AND BSB. PLEASE NO MORE TROUSERS AT THIS STAGE WE HAVE PLENTY. WE DO REQUIRE WINTER PULLOVERS, RUGBY JUMPERS AND SKIRTS HOWEVER.