Yr 10 Advanced Science visit the lab.

Year 10 Advanced Science students visited Melbourne University and La-trobe University laboratory facilities and experienced exciting hands on ses-sions. This experience allowed stu-dents to connect there knowledge and understanding about DNA and genet-ics to various scientific studies. Stu-dents were also introduced to the as-pcts and applications of biotechnology. They looked at techniques used in develop-ing genetically modified crops.

Thank you to the staff and organiser of the sessions Marie Thorpe from the Mol-ecular Plant Breeding CRC at the Victo-rian AgriBiosciences Centre.

Mr George Georgiadis

...While VCE History visit the NGV

Ms Buckle’s Year 10 VCE Twentieth Century History students had a special experience in mid May, a visit to the National Gallery of Victoria’s rarely seen Print Room, to observe modernist European art of the 1920s and 1930s.

This was a great privilege, as the Print Room is usually only available for Yr 12 and tertiary students. Works of art by Georg Grosz and Paul Klee were studied as part of an assignment.

Thanks to Ms Buckle and the NGV Edu-cation Staff for arranging this.
Principal’s Report

Community is strengthened by people coming together – sharing, learning, working, supporting one another. This can be seen at NHS with and between students, staff, parents and our community.

Diversity in the Kitchen
At our last NHS Highlights' Diversity in the Kitchen, we had over 25 parents gathered to learn from and with Ms. Zakira Oudijama as she prepared delicious dishes combining tastes from Algeria, France and Syria. There were recipes, stories, learning, laughing and the simple joy of sharing a meal together.

Parenting Workshop
This month, NHS Highlights will be sponsoring a Parent Workshop: Understanding Adolescence on Tuesday, June 5th. Once again, it is an opportunity to come together to hear, learn, discuss and support one another in our most important role as parents.

Sustainability Community Links & Planning Meeting
On Tuesday, 29 May, we have invited some key community members to discuss their current community sustainability projects and explore ways that NHS can link with them and also use those projects to inform our NHS school wide action plan. We will look at the links between our school initiatives (Community Water Grant Project – Darebin Green Precinct, our Captains Council/SRC planned Environment Week, our staff NHS Green and several curriculum/classroom projects) with our community leaders’ initiatives (Federal Sustainable Schools Initiative, Watermark Australia, Sustainable Street, Energy Bulletin, Environment Shop, Green Canary and more). We are planning to hold 4-5 Sustainable Homes workshops for our community in semester 2, supported by the City of Darebin, as we work to become a community hub for such environmental learning forums supporting individual and community action.

Merri Park Litter Strategy Working Group
Last week, we hosted a meeting of the Merri Park Litter Strategy Working Group led by the Merri Creek Management Committee and the City of Darebin with NHS, the baseball and community groups using the park and program/project managers from the City of Darebin. We have implemented many strategies in the past few years and are looking to work more closely together to care for our Merri Park.

University Links
We have had several university partnership activities with visiting elite scientists in the Tall Poppy Program running workshops for our Year 9-12 students, with visiting speakers from Deakin University and University of Melbourne running International Politics speakers forums at school and a film production crew documenting our Science Program and the impact of the In 2 Science Peer Mentoring for students in Years 7-10. We have established a new partnership with University of Melbourne that allows one of our Year 11 Chemistry students to participate in research and shadow Professor Carl Schiesser at his ARC Centre of Excellence for Free Radical Chemistry.

In addition, our teachers recently presented at the Values Education Conference as part of the La Trobe University Dialogue Project panel. It is also my pleasure and honour to have been invited to present the toast to the Gown at the University of Melbourne's Town and Gown Dinner this month. Our university partnerships are an important part adding strength to our NHS learning community.

Students - active learners and building community
As we work to support and encourage student participation and leadership at several levels across the school, we can see our students active in their learning and also in building community. It was wonderful to see the recent Year 9 Assembly- completely student organised and presented. Also, our staff meeting included a presentation by our Indigenous Student Action Team reporting on the Barmah Camp and this month’s School Council meeting started with a presentation by some of our International Students. At our recent Music Concert, one of our Music Captains acted as conductor for one of our junior bands, our Captains Council and SRC are working on communication across our school and planning Environment Week and Sports Captains are working to expand participation and have initiated a review of the sport uniform. We have a group of science students who will present on water pollution and our local ecosystem to our staff at this week’s Curriculum Workshops and they will then present at the “Kids Teaching Kids” Youth Conference at the MCG next week.

Community is also “place”. Lastly, I want to report that our Year 9 Learning Centre – the Global Citizenship Centre construction is moving along well and appears to be on target for opening in Term 3. Within our curriculum, our students are finding their place in our school, our community and our world. In addition, the surveys and soil tests have been completed as we start our Investing in Schools Project that will include the construction of an outside amphitheatre, shade structure and seating between our canteen and gym area. These projects create social and learning places for our students and our school community. At NHS, it is being together, sharing together, working together and learning together.

Gail Davidson, Principal
Yr 11 & 12 Drama ensemble performances

The creative development and presentation of 2007’s Year 11 and 12 Drama ensemble performances took place on May 18th. NHS Drama students performed and presented inventive insightful and creative ensemble performances. These focused on teenagers of today, how teenagers were in the 1950s and how they will be in 2050.

The plays effectively engaged an enormous and fantastic audience - who were able to relate to the issues raised by the ensembles. Each play was a reflective piece on the life of a teenager.

There were four ensembles who were: 1) Esther, Mona, Jackie, Brooke, 2) Elenora, Basil, Dean, Sophie, 3) Dean, Leigh, Aled, and Matt 4) Nathaniel & Michael

Well done!
Your theatre correspondent Mona Dornaika, Yr 12F

International students Boho Camp

27 Year 11 International students attended our first ever International Students Camp. This exciting experience of Aussie bush life was a first for many of our students.

Although very familiar to most of our students who have been to Boho in Year 7 and Year 8, for most of our international students this was their first experience of the Australian countryside. Brand new experiences included horse riding, canoeing (and falling out of the canoe), eating around the open fire, meeting Australian farming families, seeing Australian animals in the wild (a Koala crossing the road!).

The experience of being away from home and part of a large group who cook and care for each other for a number of days is also new. Magnificent breakfasts, lunches and dinners were the order of the day. There was still some time for study too! But it was the magnificent southern sky, visible so clearly at night and away from city lights, that really took our students breath away. Thanks to Ms L. Wang, Ms Morris, Mr Lasslett, Ms Cappelli and Ms Williams for all their work and good humour, and Mr Tao, who held the fort at school.

Senior students driving to school

Many of our VCE students have attained their Vic Roads Driver Licence in recent months and are now driving to and from school. We would like to remind students and parents of the school policy and the responsibilities associated with this new found independence.

Firstly, we trust that they will drive with absolute care and not endanger themselves and others.

Secondly, they are not permitted to park on the school grounds

and finally they are not to take other students with them as passengers. We trust parents and students will understand the importance of our students following this policy.

Students who do drive to school are asked to register their names and car details at the VCE Office immediately.

The VCE Team
Planning Overseas Tours for 2008

Northcote runs an extensive language and cultural tour program and with the year underway we are well advanced in planning our tour program for 2008.

Generally, our overseas tours work to a well established cycle—a trip to China every year, to Italy every second year, to France/New Caledonia every alternate year. There are also overseas Music tours every second year, alternating with an interstate music tour. In addition, there are occasional special tours, such as the 2007 NASA Space Camp and the 2004 Student Games in Greece.

Here is where our planning is at present:

**CHINESE CULTURAL & SPORT TOUR TO CHINA 2008**

Planning has just begun for the 2008 student tour of China, during the Term One holidays.

An Information night for parents & students for the 2008 will be held on Wednesday June 13th 6.00pm in Room A1 (Art Centre) to give details.

This outstanding package includes homestay at our sister school for 3-4 nights, a day or two of classes in our Chinese sister school in Huaibei, the chance to play sport with Chinese students, visits to the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, the Ming Tombs, the Terracotta Warriors and much more! The tour travels from Shanghai, Huaibei, X‘ian, to Beijing. This is a marvellous way to improve your Chinese!

**FRENCH LANGUAGE TOUR 2008**

An information night was held last week, with a full house in attendance! If you have not received information about this exciting trip, see Ms. Schapper (mk@nhs.vic.edu.au) or Mr. Manousopoulos. The tour is planned for Term One holidays. To secure a place, a $500 deposit to be made payable to Northcote High School and paid into the office, together with full name and telephone number, by Tuesday 19 June.

**USA MUSIC TOUR 2008**

In early term two, 2008 the Senior Concert Band and Stage Band will travel to the USA to perform in the Western Concert Bands Festival in Stockton California. In addition the group will perform at Disneyland for 2 days and at other east coast locations. They will also home-stay at Del Oro HS where Ms Davidson was previously Principal. This trip is well advanced in planning—for more details, see Mr Lewis.

**ITALY LANGUAGE TOUR 2007**

Planned and approved for September this year, the students going on this wonderful trip though Italy with homestay at our sister school in Bari will soon be issued tickets.

*Please note that all interstate and overseas tours run by Northcote High School are subject to School Council and Department of Education approval. Before approval is given, they are examined closely and discussed in Council’s Education & Governance subcommittee.*

**Northcote Highlights Present: Understanding Adolescence**

Our forthcoming workshop will discuss practical tips and strategies designed to support positive relationships and general parenting skills.

**Presenters:**
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

Gold coin donation

**Inquiries:**
Mary Crooks NHS Highlights 9489 5296
croksie247@hotmail.com

Kate Morris NHS 9488 2300
morris.kate.l@edumail.vic.gov.au
NHS Classical Music Concert

Featuring Antony Field (Guitar)
NHS Senior & Intermediate ensembles

Wednesday June 20, 7.30 pm
Melba Hall, Melbourne University

Adults $15.00 Concession $10.00 Family (2A 2C) $40.00

This is a fantastic opportunity to hear a world class performer at a bargain price. Melba Hall has allocated seating and seats will be allocated on a first come first served basis. There is limited seating (approx 270 places) so buy your tickets early.

(The classical nature of the music may make this concert unsuitable for younger children)

Ticket will be sold from the music office and the ticket will be your receipt.
NOTE: Tickets are NOT AVAILABLE from the general office

Antony Field (Classical Guitar)

Antony's performances on the classical guitar are renowned for dynamic energy. He demonstrates an artful mastery of the instrument.

Antony has been head of Classical Guitar at the Victorian College of the Arts since 1998. Anthony has won consecutive prizes in the Shell Darwin International Guitar competitions. This led to his first solo CD (nominated for an ARIA (formerly Festival/Walsingham) in 1997. Antony has also recorded soprano Merlyn Quaife and for composer Michael Atkinson.

Antony's adaptivity and interest in many types of music is evident in diversity of the projects he has undertaken. Anthony has toured Australia and has played in most major guitar Festivals in Australia as well as being invited to play in Scotland, Slovakia, Germany and the Czech Republic. Until recently Antony was a member of the highly successful guitar quartet “Saffire” and recorded the Albums Saffire & Nostalgica with the ABC

Aviva wins Chinese language award

The CLTAV (Chinese Language Teachers' Association of Victoria) 2007 Chinese Speaking (Hanyuqiao) Competition was held on Friday night, 11 May at Balwyn High School.

A total of thirty-three students from 13 schools took part in the contest. This year Northcote High was represented by Year 11 second language student Aviva Kidd, who was one of only two state school students competing in her category. Cheered on by her mother, Leslie and myself, Aviva received a merit award for her efforts.

Next year we hope to enter even more students into the Chinese Speaking Competition to test the Chinese-speaking skills of Northcote's pupils.

Chinese teacher Emily Wang
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Seasons for Growth

Change and loss are issues that affect all of us at some stage in our lives. At Northcote High School we recognise that when change occur in families through death, separation, divorce or related circumstances, young people may benefit from learning how to manage these changes effectively. We are therefore offering a very successful education program called Seasons for Growth. This program is facilitated in small groups and is based on research that highlights the importance of social support and the need to practise new skills to cope effectively with change and loss. The program focuses on issues such as self-esteem, managing feelings, problem solving, decision-making, effective communication and support networks.

Seasons for Growth runs for eight weeks and each weekly session is 40-50 minutes. The program concludes with a “celebration” session. Later in the year the group will have the opportunity to meet for two further sessions to build on their earlier learning.

Seasons for Growth will commence at the beginning of Term Three and will be facilitated by Ms Costanzo – one of the Student Welfare Coordinators at NHS and Krissy Bergin – NHS's School Nurse. If you think your son or daughter would benefit from this program we would encourage you to talk to him/her about this.

In order to register interest in participating in this program please contact either Ms Costanzo or Krissy directly for further information concerning the program.

Krissy Bergin
School Nurse

School Production Update

The largest cast and crew Northcote High School has ever put together is getting ready to go on stage. Rhyme & Reason will be performed from the 8th - 12th of August at the Northcote Town Hall.

Not only do we have more students performing in this show, they have also been instrumental in planning the show. The script is a reflection of student voice and ideas. A creative working team meets each Friday to discuss the show and its direction. The costumes, sets and props have been designed by our students. This show is truly unique.

We have some amazing choreographers on board this year, teaching our students a variety of dance styles – such as tango and hip-hop. Our main cast is having specialised voice coaching from the VCA in the coming weeks. The production band is rehearsing a brand new list of songs, as are our talented singers. The back-stage crew will begin building our sets and sewing costumes in the coming weeks. It’s shaping up to be another fantastic show!

We need help with the following:

- Sewing costumes
- Locating the following props:
  Mobile Phones (don’t need to work), Briefcases, A couch
- Front of house staff on performance nights

If you can help out with any aspects of the show, please contact Jody Neilson at the school.

Finally, DVD copies of last years’ production, A Northside Story are on sale now from the general office for $10.
Term Three Sports Bag

The last 2 weeks has seen many Sporting events including Senior District Sport and Zone Athletics. Recently retired teacher Mr. John Heyworth was a surprise spectator watching and running the line at the Senior District Soccer. John had taught, coached and worked with most of these players over the past 5 years so the reunion was touching. John enjoyed watching the Senior Girls storm to a 7-1 final win and the boys have a 7-1 win and a 3-3 draw against Reservoir. The girls coached by George Georgiadis now play in the Zone finals on Wednesday 27th June. Our Senior Badminton teams coached by Ms. Lixia Wang and consisting of a mix of overseas and local students had great District success. The girls finished second and our boys won the competition now training for a Zone competition also on Wednesday 27th June. On going to print our overseas students have challenged our teachers to a Basketball match. Other Senior District Sporting results included our Girls and Boys being runners up in Football and our Netball team finishing third.

On the Athletic arena, 50 of our students attended the Northern Zone Athletic finals at Meadowglen on the 17th May. After the first hour the rain began to fall and got heavier making many events too dangerous to continue. Many of our students were still placed in their events. The stars of our team included Zoe McWhinney of 7D who dominated the Long and Triple jump events. Her jumps running into heavy rain on a wet approach made her winning results even more amazing. Her measurements were only 2 and 3 cm short of breaking both the Zone records. One of these records has stood since 1966. Chris Aggelou of 8G also produced an amazing triple jump result winning his event. The remaining 70 percent of uncompleted Northern Zone events will be rescheduled to Thursday 26th July in Term 3. Zoe and Chris are already through to the State Athletics finals on Tuesday 23rd of October at Olympic Park Melbourne.

In a different sport Vedran Sabic of Year 11 has been a catalyst in coaching and training students in European Handball. His knowledge and enthusiasm led to us entering a team in the Victorian Schools competition. Finishing an exciting third in a large field was complemented by Marc Higginson of 11F being invited to train as part of the Victorian squad. Marc like Vedran has played Basketball for many years winning the State final in Year 7. Now Marc could expand his sporting talents into State Handball.

Dobson’s Uniform Shop

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If other customers are requiring that item it will be sold to them. 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 the moment, as we have plenty. We do require winter pullovers, rugby jumpers and skirts however.