**Another great debating win**

It has been a great start for debating at Northcote High School in 2008. The senior team of Kate Jama, Noni Sproule and Cameron Shallard had a great win against Thornbury High School arguing that National Service should be reintroduced. The debate was close fought but in the end the Northcote team were deemed the more successful team on the night. Kate Jama was once again named Best Speaker. Thanks need to go to the Northcote Lions Club, especially Eric Gittins, for not only organising a great night but for their efforts each year to support local schools. As a result of the win Northcote High School received $1,250 to go towards the purchase of new books for the school library.

In other debating news the school teams are nearly finalised for the D.A.V. competition which starts in term two. This year N.H.S. will field eleven teams.

Finally we would like to announce that Shelley Burns Williamson (Year 11) and Katja Novakovic (Year 10) will be representing N.H.S. at the National Schools Constitutional Convention to be held between 29/4 and 1/5 in Canberra. We look forward to hearing from them about their experiences in the nation’s capital.

*Mr Martin Ramsay and Ms Carlene Wilson*

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**The Great Yr 7 BBQ**

A large number of parents, teachers, students and friends attended our Annual Yr BBQ on March 3rd. Thanks to parent group the Northcote Highlights for their assistance and support, and year level Coordinators Ms Lyn Delahunty and Mr Bill Neal for cooking 500 sausages and felafels! The crowd had the chance to hear our famous stage band and singers, about to head off for the first USA Music tour next month (top).

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**Batman continues winning streak**

At the school’s Annual Swimming Carnival held on February 25th, Batman repeated its 2007 performance, narrowly winning the overall aggregate points tally (629) from Plenty (620). A highlight of the day again were the fast times and great level of competition. Congratulations to all participants (see report inside for more details).
Principal’s Report

The events of the past few weeks have certainly reinforced the meaning and importance of being a supportive school community.

Tram Accident and Travel Safety

We were all quite stunned by the painful reality of the tram accident that occurred when one of our Year 7 students was struck by a tram riding to school last Thursday. We are grateful for the safety guard on the tram, the quick response of the driver and the skilled emergency team that released him. We are so relieved to know that our student is recovering from his injuries in hospital surrounded by the love and support of his family and friends. The students who were in the tram at the time of the accident and those who saw it were provided support by our NHS and Regional support staff. The event brought home the importance of our increased efforts this year to work with students, parents, Yarra Trams, City of Darebin, politicians and the community on safety issues related to trams, trains and roads. We must remain diligent in working with our students to ensure they are extremely careful when travelling to and from school and when on public transport. Traffic will always be intense and students can never be too careful. We ask that all families discuss the importance of safe travel practices and the need for extreme caution when travelling.

Together as a community

Our much anticipated annual school community event, the Year 7 Barbeque, was a wonderful success. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the company delightful. It was great to see so many staff, students and family members share in the spirit of the event. Great music by our talented NHS musicians filled the air. Our students introduced their parents to their teachers and to other parents as everyone shared the excitement of the first few weeks of school and camp. Younger brothers and sisters joined in on the fun. Special thanks to our Northcote Highlights, Assistant Principal Kate Morris and Year 7 coordinators, Lynn Delahunty and Bill Neal for helping to create this wonderful annual event.

Students Active in the Community

I had the great pleasure of watching our Year 12 students compete in the finals of the Lions Club interschool debating contest last week. Our students did an outstanding job winning first prize and receiving a $1250 Lions Club donation to our Library. The Lions sitting at my table commented on our students’ clear thinking, passionate delivery and articulation of the issues surrounding national service. It was another evening for our students to shine and display their active learning.

Whole school planning and professional learning

The shortened day last Wednesday allowed all NHS staff (teachers, principal team and support staff) to meet in their Performance & Development teams to clarify their personal and team goals for 2008. All goals are aligned to our NHS Strategic Plan and 2008 Annual Implementation Plan. There is also a focus on assessment strategies and the use of data. The sessions during our Curriculum Day on Friday included project teams’ planning time, presentation of our 2007 VCE data and support strategies for students with learning disabilities.

ACER- VCE Data Staff Training

On Wednesday, 12 March, we will have a slightly shortened day ending at 2:35 so that we can work with Carmel Richardson of ACER to more closely study our VCE data. This professional learning time is critical for continuous improvement as a school. We must examine our results and work to put in place our improvement strategies for 2008. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support. If you would like to attend any of our professional learning sessions, please don’t hesitate to contact me directly.

NHS Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 13 March at 5:30 will be our Annual General Meeting followed by the first School Council meeting of the new School Council. At the AGM, the NHS 2007 Annual Report will be presented. Copies of this report will also be available at the Parent Teacher Meetings.

Interim Reports and Parent Teacher Meetings

Parent Teacher Meetings will be held on Tuesday, 18 March 10am – 8pm. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our school-home communications, we will be mailing home the interim reports this year. We hope this will provide you with some additional time to examine the report and discuss it with your son/daughter. We also hope students will attend the Parent Teacher Meetings with you so the meeting can be a three-way conversation focused on improved student learning and support.

Investing in Schools Construction Begins

After 2 years of external master planning, grant application, funding and tendering, the Investing in Schools Project construction will begin during the holidays. This construction project is multi-faceted and will also include a Council funded garden bed project. Over the next two months, we will see the construction of an outdoor amphitheatre in the bluestone wall by the gym, a large shade structure (not a sail, but a roofed structure) over part of the amphitheatre and new seating, courtyard garden beds and the construction of a curved wall/seat to improve safety for students during canteen deliveries. As with most construction, there will be some disruption of normal foot traffic between the gym and canteen. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we work to improve the external student social and learning spaces and improve safety.

School Council Thanks and Congratulations

Lastly, I want to again congratulate our re-elected School Council member- James Galea and our newly elected members – Karen Large, Dorothy Patrick and Kate Morris. On behalf of our entire school community, I want to express sincere thanks to our outgoing School Council members- Helen Bowman, Zora Marko, Paul Wiseman, Pam Mancell, Craig Price and student representative Emma Boehm. Each Council member has provided important input, guidance and leadership over several years and Northcote High School students, staff and community have benefited greatly.

Gail Davidson Principal
Italian language Lygon Street Excursion

On Friday the 22nd of February, Ms Fattore’s Year 9 Italian class went on an exciting excursion to Lygon Street, Carlton. We visited a place called Co-As-It, an Italian resource centre, where we learnt about the history of Lygon Street, about the Italian migrants that migrated from Italy to Australia as well as the contributions they made to the development of Carlton. We participated in some interactive programs using computers in the CoAsIt classroom.

We then ate lunch at Il Gambero pizzeria. Our group enjoyed a selection of different, delicious pizzas. After lunch we tasted some Italian gelato and explored all the different specialty stores in Lygon Street.

It was an exciting and fun day and we learnt that the Italians have made a wonderful contribution to the history and culture of Melbourne.

Antonella Martucci 9G

NHS Celebrates Chinese New Year!

On Friday the 15th February Northcote High had the pleasure of being visited by HJYS, a local group of professional Lion Dancers, who performed for more than 200 staff and students as part of the school’s Chinese New Year celebrations.

Welcomed by our principal Ms Gail Davidson and cheered on by an enthusiastic crowd packing the gym, the lion dancers gave an energetic and highly enjoyable performance. No doubt one of the highlights of the show was when the lions threw lettuce and lollies into the crowd, representing prosperity and wealth. After performing, the troupe’s leader, Richard Louise, explained the cultural significance of lion dancing in Chinese culture and it’s tradition as part of lunar New Year. Once again, this event has demonstrated the multicultural nature of the Northcote High, and its students’ capacity to appreciate all that the richness of their peers’ cultures have to offer.

Timothy Dobson & Cameron Fairweather, Year 10 Chinese class

NHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, 13th March, 2008, at 5.30 pm
in the Conference Room

AGENDA

Minutes from previous Annual General meeting

Presentation of Northcote High School Annual Report 2007
Parent Teacher Meetings—18th March

On Tuesday 18th March an entire day will be given over to our first Parent Teacher Meetings for the year.

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, and **students are expected to attend interviews with their parents** to discuss the report with their teachers.

The day’s schedule is as follows:

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

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

Reports will be posted home on Thursday March 13th

Please note—several teachers will be absent with camps and International Tours. You will be able to contact them via Year Level Coordinators.

- Ms Schapper and Mr Manousopoulos, in France with the French Cultural Tour
- Ms Morris and Mr Price, in China with the Chinese Cultural Tour
- Mr Beugelaar and Mr Lasslett, at Boho Camp with 7B

Australian History excursion

Last Saturday the Yr 12 Australian History class went to the Melbourne Museum’s Bunjilaka gallery to study the impacts of colonisation on indigenous Australians. Mr Butler set us a detailed task to examine artefacts and consider the perspectives of Aboriginal Australians.

The most interesting question was about how Aboriginal Australians adapted to European cultures while preserving their own culture as much as possible.

At right—Yr 12 Historians Tim Ratcliffe, Kath Larkin, Anthony Gabb and Carma Da Silva at the museum

Mr S. Butler

Forthcoming extension activities

The Australasian Schools Writing Competition

For a number of years, Northcote High School has participated in the Australasian Schools Writing Competition. Our students have demonstrated superior skills in this area, with students always scoring well above the state average. This year, the competition is being held on Thursday 12th June, at the school. It is open to all students from years 7 – 12. and the cost is $12.10. If you would like your child to participate, they will need to collect a permission form from Ms Butera in room 10.

Entries close Friday 2nd May.

Tournament of Minds

Tournament of Minds is a problem solving program for teams of students. It is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting way. Northcote High School will again be participating in this exciting competition and we are looking for interested students in years 7-9. We are also looking for interested students in years 10-12 to act as facilitators. If you would like your child to participate, they need to see Ms Butera in room 10 for a permission form.

Registration closes 21st April.
Metlink Challenge 2008

FLASHBACK 2007! Oscar, Sibon, Tylah and Gabriel won the Year 7-8 division of the statewide Metlink Public Transport Challenge event in June 2007, after qualifying in their zone heat in May. The team, all members of 8G, out-strategized and out-ran tough opposition to win the day! They were presented with prizes by Environment Victoria’s President, Mr Russell Fisher, a former student of NHS (1968-1973).

After our great success in 2007, students interested in competing in the METLINK 2008 Challenge should express interest by seeing Mr Murphy.

The fine print!
Northcote is allowed to field one Yr 7/8 team and one Yr 9/10 team. In the past few years so many NHS students have wanted to compete that a ballot was held to select the two teams. Students need to be in teams of four when they see Mr Murphy, and they should have an idea of a team name. There also must be ONE parent per group who is willing to accompany the group on the day, both in the zone final (mid May) and possible state final (mid June).

It’s preferable that students are used to using public transport, and comfortable with travel in and around the city. Map reading skills on the team are essential! Students may need to run/walk quickly at times. Although last year’s winning team wore NHS school blazers (left above), it’s not necessary to do this and light practical clothing is preferable! Students also sign a waiver giving Metlink permission to take their photos at anytime.

Because of the great demand from NHS students, the two 2007 teams won’t be eligible to compete in 2008.

NHS continues to Cool the Globe

2008 sees Northcote High School continuing its efforts to be more environmentally aware and committed to sustainable practices.

We would like your help in supporting us do this by participating in some of our upcoming events.

Wednesday March 12 is National Ride to School Day

All staff and students are encouraged to participate in this annual event. You are asked to ride, skate, walk or catch public transport to school, rather than being driven.

Saturday March 29 is Earth Hour

Northcote High has signed up to participate in Earth Hour. All staff, students, families and friends are encouraged to turn off their lights on Saturday March 29 for one hour at 8pm to show their support for this world wide campaign that aims to show that action needs to be taken against Global Warming.

Together we can make a difference!
Remodeling our external environment

The area near the entrance to Northcote High School on St. George’s Rd is due for a major remodel and refurbishment, over the Term One school holidays and in the first few weeks of Term Two.

Still sporting the original 1960s asphalt and definitely showing the effects of 40 years of use, the area bounded by the Gym, the canteen and the International students centre will be closed to all traffic from the start of Term 2, while construction is under way. This work is funded by the Federal Government's Investing in Schools project and includes an amphitheatre, seating and shade structure near the gym.

This exciting initiative will completely change one of the main areas of the school, creating a more welcoming and friendly environment.

However, in the meantime, please note the following:

- No access from St. George’s Road to the school will be possible via the “Gym Gates”
- Access to the International Students Centre will be via a new gate to be cut into the fence facing St. George’s Road.
- Access to the Gym will be via the rear Gym doorway, not the front door to the Gym.
- Garden beds in the new court yard area will also be installed, however this will not affect through traffic to D classrooms.
- Demolition will occur over the school holidays, and construction will take six-eight weeks.

NORTHCOTE HIGHLIGHTS

A parent group at your child’s secondary school is a great idea........

Northcote Highlights is a parent social group of Northcote High School. It exists to provide opportunities for parents to come together, as part of the broad school community, and enjoy the benefits of increased interaction and familiarity.

For many years now, the Highlights have organised an amazing program called Diversity in the Kitchen - where parents volunteer to showcase different ethnic cuisine and where everyone gets to sample and enjoy!

Last year the Highlights also organised a great program called Sustainable Homes (in partnership with City of Darebin) – where parents, students and teachers worked with experts and grew their knowledge of practical sustainabilty practices. In 2009 we are keen to grow focus our energies on Greening NHS.

We have an initial 2008 Planning Meeting which is set for Monday 17th March at 5.00pm. This will be held in the staff room. If you are interested in becoming part of the Highlights activity group, please feel free to come along and join the fun!
Year 9 Global Citizenship Award

The Year 9 Global Citizenship Award was launched this week with all students in Year 9 receiving their record booklet. The aim of the Year 9 NHS Global Citizenship award is to develop a culture of student involvement and leadership within the school and wider community, whereby students contribute purposely to society. It is a celebration of the contributions and achievements our Year 9 students make to NHS and the wider community. There are three levels within the award that students may aim for: Bronze, Silver & Gold and students may progressively achieve all three. Successful students will receive their awards at Year 9 assemblies throughout the year. Ms Saillard

Term 1 Sports Update

Term 1 has started well with the school swimming carnival held on the 25th of Feb seeing Batman narrowly beating Plenty in the House competition. Many of our students clocked impressive times and now prepare for our District, Zone and State swimming Carnivals. Some new Year Sevens who displayed ability included Dean斯塔夫卡斯，Ruby Klimek, Gronya, Somerville, Eleanor Eddy, Molly Walsh and Maneesh Patterson. Our established swimmers were all in good form and they put a strong relay team together beating the teachers by 20 metres. We trialled water polo this year which was a great success. Other sporting events has seen us win through to District and Zone final with 6 of our Cricket teams.

Our Senior Boys have won through to the Zone finals in Cricket after beating Brunswick SC – who had previously beaten Melbourne High. Our Year 9 and 10 Girls had a tight final win over Preston Girls. Our senior students have recently played Volleyball and Tennis in District tournaments.

Term 2 sees our Year 7, 8 and 9 students competing in interschool competitions in Tennis, Volleyball, Baseball and Softball and all Year levels then playing Football, Soccer, Netball and Badminton. With all of our Year 7, 8 and 9 students completing Athletic units in Term 1 we look forward to mass participation and some great results at our Annual Athletic Carnival at Coburg on Tuesday 29th of April.

At our first assembly in term 2 we will see the awarding of our School Sporting Blues and Raelene Boyle sports people awards from 2007. We will also recognise and badge our new Sporting Captains for 2008.

Mr. Price, Ms. Young (Sport Directors)
SHORT SCHOOL NOTICES

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAYS NEEDED—2008
Ever considered offering a home to an overseas student studying at Northcote? This can be a rewarding and mutually enjoyable undertaking. Lifetime friendships are created! If you are interested, or think you might be interested, contact Alexandra in our Overseas Student Office on 9488 2334. (Host families receive about $210 per week to host and board an overseas student)

The Premier’s Reading Challenge is running again this year between 30th January and 31st August. It is open to all students in years 7-10. If you would like to register, please see Ms Mancell in the library for the registration form.

WRITING NEWS
On March 3, Year 12 student Noni Sproule had an article on the Prime Minister’s historic apology of February 13 published in The Age. This is an impressive achievement as The Age is very selective about which of the many letters and articles it receives every day, to accept for publication. This was not an assignment set by teachers, but an authentic personal response to an historic event. Noni’s article found an audience because it was both well written and passionate. Ms O’Heare

STUDENT WELLBEING TEAM
● A team of students is organising the Shave for a Cure to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation on Thursday 13th March. This is the third year that we have held this event. Please support it.
● We have begun regular meetings of the Indigenous Students Action Team again for the year. The Aboriginal flag is flying and we are looking at Camp possibilities for Term 3. We welcome new members to the team. Meetings are held each Tuesday, in Room 11. If you are interested in cultural awareness, get involved!
● One of our parents, Cecily Napanangka Granites, grandmother of Shimera and Nikkita in Year 9, had an article in The Age last Friday, recording her own family's memories of when children were removed from their families. We will post both writings near the General Office.
Ms Deborah Pyke    Student Support Coordinator

Dobson's Uniform Shop
Phone No. 94882317 Opening Hours : Tuesday 12.30 - 4.00pm Friday 8.30 - 11.30am

ORDERS
Customers, please note that we will only hold orders aside for 1 week after you have been notified of their arrival, unless alternative arrangements have been made with us. If other customers require 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. For payments, we accept cash, all credit cards and eftpos. Remember, we do not accept cheques, but can do credit card transactions by phone. We also have accounts should you wish to set up one 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 them to the bag. If you want to be paid directly you must supply your BANK ACCOUNT NO. AND THE BSB. We still need skirts, dresses and rugby jumpers.

Community Mail Bag

PLAYERS REQUIRED
The Under 15 team of the Preston Bullants Junior Football Club (part of the Yarra Junior Football League) is seeking players for the 2008 season. Training is held 2 nights per week on Tuesday and Thursday at 5.00pm, commencing Tuesday February 5, 2008. For further details please contact Sal Galofaro (Coach) on 0412223662 or Lesley Langley (Team Manager) on 94705622

FC Melbourne City CA
A new Juniors ONLY football Club is looking for Year 5s, 7s or 8s to join an Under 8s, Under 11s and Under14s Football team. We are seeking boys and girls born between 1993 and 2000.
A FREE introductory football program for boys and girls will be offered over four weeks. Pre Season training sessions will be held at McPherson Field (Mel 29 D11) from 7-8pm every Monday and Wednesday. Alternate training times are also available. For further details please email the Junior Coordinator at: gialloblu@bigpond.com