Strengthening the friendship

Our intrepid delegation of 14 students and three staff to China returned last week from their two week stimulating yet exhausting intensive tour of China. The highlight as always, was the four days spent in Huaibei, homestaying and enjoying activities at our sister school, Huaibei No. 1 High School. This marks our 12th exchange since 1999. See full report inside.

Exploring Paris and Normandy

18 French trippers spent 2 weeks in France: a week in Paris where the students managed to fit in 9 hours of French language learning amongst visiting: Eiffel Tower, Galeries Lafayette, Notre Dame, the Louvre, Sacre Coeur, Moulin Rouge, Champs Elysees, Tuileries Gardens, Arc de Triomphe, a tour along the River Seine and a day trip to Versailles. Our other week was based in Normandy where we were in very welcoming homestays from the local College for 4 days, and visited Honfleur, Etretat and Rouen, then moved on to Mont St Michel, Bayeux, the Normandy Embarkement Beaches and Caen, then back to Paris and home! We all became very fit, loved the baguettes, crepes and gaufres, took stacks of photos, became fluent French speakers (well, we all improved) and made new friends. A VERY full 2 weeks!

Ms Schapper

Preparing for California

Our Concert band and Senior stage band are packing for a 14 day tour of California, performing at the US Western Bands Concert, Disneyland and Del Oro High School. Taking 45 students overseas is no easy task, yet Ms Davidson, Mr Lewis and the instrumental staff have volunteered for the task. One of their performances will be able to be watched on the Del Oro High
Principal’s Report

At NHS, we are committed to our vision of creating an environment of respect and achievement where all students can learn and be **confident participants in society**.

**Active Learning on Display**

We work hard to be intentional as we develop programs and learning opportunities that allow our students to grow, learn and build their confidence as learners. A key component to this is creating multiple contexts for students to interact and apply their knowledge and skills. Such learning can be vividly "seen":

- In the range and richness of the learning activities described in each newsletter. Remember, past newsletters can be accessed on our website.
- On our website. I encourage you to visit the Student Activities section as it is regularly updated with learning activities and events at all year levels.
- Each week as touring visitors “see” our students engaged and “feel” the positive learning atmosphere as they walk down the halls of NHS.
- When we open our doors to our community on **OPEN Day April 16**. This is also a great opportunity for current parents to view the quality and diversity of programs available at NHS that so reflect the different stages of learning.

**Community Contributions**

As a community of learners, we also want to ensure we contribute to our broader community in multiple ways. Our students have been meeting as part of the 2020 Schools Summit, serving as school and country ambassadors to China, France and the USA, working on the Making Poverty History project and toward their World Challenge project in Vietnam later this year, speaking in Chinese to State and Regional leaders at the *Engaging with China* Seminar and planning this year’s *Changing the World at Luncheon* Forums. In 2008, our Year 9 Leading Schools Fund Project team has introduced the Global Citizenship Award for all Year 9 students and during Week 2 of this term they will work closely with 150 Year 9 students at their Rose’s Gap Camp.

**Selected to participate in Australia 2020 Summit**

I am also a member of our community of learners and have been given the great honour and privilege of being one of the 1000 Australians who will participate in the **Australia 2020 Summit** in Canberra on 19-20 April. I will be a part of the 100 participants from across Australia discussing “The Productivity Agenda (education, skills, training, science and innovation)”. I assure you I will carry with me our NHS school community’s ongoing commitment, discussions, ideas and efforts on how to best support student learning, teaching excellence/innovation and the important nurturing of partnerships that strengthen us as learners and as a local/global community.

**Tram and Road Safety**

Working within our community, last week I met with our local Member for Northcote, Fiona Richardson, and we have set up a meeting with Yarra Trams and Vic Roads to develop additional safety measures for the convergence of people, cars and trams at the front of our school. It is an example of a community issue requiring a joint effort.

**External Environment Improvements**

You will have seen and read about the construction taking place in the gym/canteen area and the courtyard. This is a jointly funded project combining our Federal Government Investing in Schools Funding and NHS Building Funds to improve the external social and learning areas and also improve student safety during deliveries.

**Acting Principal and Acting Assistant Principal**

I want parents to be aware of the fact that Kate Morris will be Acting Principal during Weeks 2 and 3 of this term while I am in the USA and at the 2020 Summit. Soula Bennett will be the Acting Assistant Principal in Term 2 for Wayne Roberts.

**Farewell Concert**

Finally, I want to invite all families to the Farewell Concert by our NHS Bands and Choirs prior to their departure on their USA Tour. Our students have been preparing for over a year for this tour and the Farewell Concert will be our opportunity to enjoy their international performance at home. Thanks to Peter Lewis and his Music Staff Team for all of their planning and preparation.

Gail Davidson
Principal
Harmony Day ends Term 1

It’s been a tradition at Northcote High School to celebrate harmony day with a balloon ceremony and BBQ for all Year 7s. Some blessed cool weather on our last day of Term 1 saw all 215 Year 7s releasing 215 orange balloons under the capable leadership of Year Level coordinator Ms Delahunty (Mr Neal being in Germany at the time). A great end of first term at school!

Keeping busy over Term One holidays!

School doesn’t really stop over the holidays! For many students and staff, it all rolls on regardless!

During the holiday a number of classes run extra sessions, including Ms Butera’s Yr 12 Biology class (at right), who met in the middle of the holidays.

At the same time—building and landscaping work has proceeded apace (see report over), while Tony and his cleaning crew prepared the school for Term 2.

Reporting back to Australia at the start of May were 35 exhausted students and staff from trips to China and France, while 45 Music students practised for the USA Music tour, departing shortly.

The STELR Project

The STELR project is an initiative of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (ATSE). This project aims to teach the core principles of Physics, Chemistry and Biology while increasing student awareness of the use of renewable energy. Our Year 10 Advance Science students will be participating in this project during term 2.

*Photo of installation of solar panel and wind turbine on the roof of the school.*

Alan Finkel (Chancellor of Monash University, STELR steering committee), Peter Pentland (STELR Project Manager), Soula Bennett (Acting Assistant Principal), Matt Lyons (Energy Matters), John McDonald (In2Science Peer Mentoring Program Manager).
Senior Cricket Team Victory

Northcote High defeated Viewbank SC in a thrilling one day match. Daniel Wakim, Northcote High skipper, won the toss and elected to bowl, acutely aware of our “Indian summer”.

Viewbank batted well scoring 174 off 30 overs. Julian Turner and Sam baker open the bowling attack for Northcote and Viewbank were 1 for 63 for 10 overs. A Julian Turner left arm cutter took leg stump to dismiss the opening batsman.

The introduction of Chris Polidoras turned the match, taking 3 for 21. Daniel Wakim’s wiley spin also dazzled the Viewbank batsman.

Excellent wicket keeping by Dom Westcott also made it difficult for the Viewbank batsmen. Cheyne Evans cleaned up the tail with 3 for 20 and Mitchell Mcwhinney also chipped in with a handy wicket.

Northcote’s innings was in disarray when Dylan Temple was run out cheaply. Nevertheless, Sam Baker made amends with a grinding 48 runs. Wakim steadied the innings with 36. Zac Watkins and Julian Turner made “mince meat”, of the Viewbank bowlers and, in a tense finish, James Ralph hit the winning runs.

Score sheet

Northcote bowler figures

<table>
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<th>Figures</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sam Baker</td>
<td>0/34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Turner</td>
<td>1/37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Polidoras</td>
<td>3/21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheyne Evans</td>
<td>3/20</td>
</tr>
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<td>Zac Watkins</td>
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Northcote batting figures

<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Mitchell Pappas</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dylan Temple</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sam Baker</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel Wakim</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zac Watkins</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Polidoras</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Julian Turner</td>
<td>not out 72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James Ralph</td>
<td>not out 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sundries</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>Total</td>
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Cupcake Walk (Award) for VCE Students

On the 6th of March Zoe Thallas, Shadya Salloum, Angela Tsatalis and Molly Caddy entered the Annual schools cook-off cupcake competition at the William Angliss Institute. Around 15 other schools also entered the competition. Before the judging, we had some professionals in the food industry talk to us about courses at the William Angliss Institute. We were also given a tour of the institute which was very interesting.

We then participated in the cupcake cook-off. Using the skills that Ms Delahunty had taught us in Patisserie and some of our own secret ingredients we cooked up some very delightful cupcakes that the judges were particular interested.

After lunch, it was time for the award ceremony. There were 2 prizes to be won, best individual cupcake and best class effort. Best class effort was won by Northcote High! The prize we won includes a baking skills workshop, a confectionary skill workshop, morning tea and lunch at one of the institute’s workshops with the judges. Overall, the competition was fun and a worthwhile experience. We would like to thank Ms Delahunty who gave us plenty of support and tasted our trial cupcakes.

Molly Caddy, Shayda Salloum, Zoe Thallas, Angela Tsatalis
China Tour Report Edited by Da Chan

What a great trip focussing on 3 major cities in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai and our school visit in Huaibei. The fourteen students who attended ranged from Years 8-12 and all mixed in very well. Sights such as the Terracotta warriors, The Great Wall, The citied wall of Xian, Hua mountains, The Forbidden City, The Temple of Heaven and the Summer Palace kept everyone attentive. The 3 day homestay and school experience in Huaibei was the highlight of the trip for most students who lived with a Chinese family, attended Chinese classes and explored this great city with people of their own age. Some of the condensed comments by the students about the trip included:

James Ralph (12) – on his second trip The change Beijing has undergone for the Olympics is amazing.

Chris Radford (9) I loved climbing to the top of The Great Wall – the amazing sights and it was snowing. Letting off crackers was another highlight.

Joey Vlahos-Gori (9) I was surprised how many people wanted photos of and with us. It was interesting with my homestay to see how people my age live in China.

Daniel White (12) The long and extensive history of China and how much it is valued. The amazing landscape and scenery in the Hua mountains. (Daniel; apparently learning martial arts, below right)

Angela Shaw (9) The last day I spent with my homestay and her friends was the best day ever. Loved Nanjing Rd in Shanghai and bike riding in Xian.

Xin Tan (12) The huge numbers of cars, bikes and traffic yet I didn’t see one car crash in 2 weeks. Shopping and bartering was fun.

James Phan (12) Xian was my favourite city and you could barter for anything including icecreams and water.

Max Nicholson (8) The homestays was a definite highlight and for the whole 2 weeks people followed us around. I clapped the loudest at the acrobatic show.

Alison Stewart (9) I was surprised on arrival when we entered the city of Shanghai how modern it was – the night cruise on the Bund was lots of fun.

Eve Walton – Healey (9) Riding on the Xian wall was cool. Hua mountains was awesome. Laughing with and at Mr. Price kept me amused. (Eve with new friend, top right)

Sean Gilmartin (12) It helped me grow up as a person as it gave me experiences and the confidence that I can communicate and survive in many situations. Singing a solo in front of 60 Chinese students was tough.

Marshall Clarke (12) Xian was my favourite city and experiencing fun and true Chinese culture with my homestay family was memorable.

Mark Langley (9) Huaibei homestay – It was fun doing things that you wouldn’t normally do and making so many new friends. Snowing on the Great Wall made it a great experience.

Zara Van Twest Smith (8) The wishing Temple was memorable. The whole trip was amazing. I had the best time in my life!!!

Teachers comments

Ms. Morris – Representing Northcote High school and the recognised significance of the educational, cultural and language value of the relationship between the two schools. It is a goldmine

Mr Price (Da Chan) – The hospitality in Huaibei, the opportunity to experience China and all of the NHS and Chinese students were awesome.

Ms. Pan (Alexandra—still in China) – Her interpreting skills, positive attitude and total involvement was sensational.
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 partially 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.

Please note the following arrangements apply until further notice for Term Two

- 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.

At right; D block and the Gym entrance under construction

NHS @ 2020 Schools Summit

What will Australia be like in 2020? This was the question that some Year 11 and Year 9 students discussed at a school summit in the lead up to the National Youth Summit forum which in turn leads up to the Australia 2020 Summit itself.

During the holidays Nick Rickard, Sophie Freeman, Jenna Walker and Azra Susic met with Ms Bennett and Mr Ramsay to tackle the topic of how will technology affect the development of communities and how the members of communities relate to each other? Next term students plan to debate whether technology will save or enslave us.

Sophie Freeman
HMAS Sydney remembered

The loss of HMAS Sydney in November 1941 caused great upset at Northcote High School, as five former students had served on the ship. Four ex students were lost when the ship was sunk with all hands in combat with the German ship Kormoran, off the Western Australia coast. The five former students who died in service on HMAS Sydney were

- Warrant Officer Alan Kidd attended Northcote High School from its first year, 1926. He became a teacher at the School before joining the Navy and serving in the Mediterranean. He died of pneumonia in Alexandria, Egypt, after a nine week illness. He would have been 28 years of age.

The four former students who were killed in HMAS Sydney's last battle in November 1941 were;

- Victor Nathaniel Barclay, 23, Supply Assistant;
- Emmanuel Robert Thomas Duncan, 23, Supply Assistant;
- Glenbervie Edwin Forsyth, 23, Electrical Artificer and
- Ronald George Singleton Smith, 20, Engine Room Artificer.

The authors of the forthcoming school history have been surprised that so many former students were associated with the famous ship and would be very keen to obtain more information from friends or relatives.

Prime Minister Kevin Rudd spoke for all Australians when he said he hoped the discovery of the wreck of the Sydney would bring closure for the families of the war-ship’s crew.

Coburg Teen Gym—Cos you can!

Coburg Leisure Centre
Phone: 9354 3504
Web: coburgleisurecentre.com.au
Email coburglc@belgravialeisure.com.au

Coburg Leisure Centre's Teen Gym is offering a wide variety of supervised and personalised training options for teenagers aged 13 to 15: A step forward in health and independence, in their own way.

- Improve Cardio Vascular Fitness
- Healthier Habits
- Improved Confidence
- Improve Body Tone
- Improve Self Esteem
- Supervised Social Interaction

**Terms & Conditions**

- Gym footwear must be adhered to at all times
- Clothing must be suitable
- Refer to the Member Information Pack for a detailed listing of rules, etiquette and member responsibilities.

**Direct Debit**

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**Term**

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<td>$515.00</td>
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Sporting Round Up for Term 2

A special mention must be made of our Senior Boys Cricket team who have won all of their games in Term 1 and now play the Country champions in late Term 3. Our swimming team dominated their District meet in Term 1 with a strong win (452 points) over Melbourne Boys High (314), Melbourne Girls (368), Prince Hill (286), Elwood (282) and Fitzroy (235). Our Junior Boys and Intermediate Girls won Pennants for their superior totals. Our 50 strong team with new NHS swimming caps now head to MSAC on the 10th of April to tackle the best swimmers in Melbourne.

Term 2 is the big term for sport with VCE students completing all of their District sports, many junior summer finals being finalised and the big team sports like Football, Soccer and Netball being played. Add in Zone Swimming, Athletics, Golf and Cross Country and you can see what I mean. Dates will be listed in all upcoming newsletters. Dates in the next month include

- Thurs 10th April - Zone Swimming - MSAC
- Fri 11th April - Years 9/10 Tennis/Volleyball
- Tues 15th April - Year 8 Tennis, Volleyball, Baseball and Softball
- Fri 18th April - Year 7 Tennis, Volleyball, Baseball and Softball
- Tues 29th April - School Athletic Carnival at Coburg – With 7D on camp this week I will trial them and compare results from the carnival

Sport Directors Mr. Price/Ms. Young

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)

SHORT TERM HOMESTAYS FOR 1 WEEK IN SEPTEMBER –SISTER SCHOOL VISIT
Are you interested in hosting a students from our sister school Huaibei One High School for one week late in Term Three, 2008? Their tours occur every year and the homestay experience is a highlight of the trip here. Many NHS families have done this and long term relationships have been made. Contact Mr Murphy for more information or if you are interested. (As Huaibei No 1 High School is a sister School, homestay payments do not apply)

NHS ANNUAL REPORT 2007
Northcote high School's 2007 Annual Report is available online. Go to www.nhs.vic.edu.au, then go to the School Council option and follow the prompt under “Council documents”. You will need Adobe Acrobat to read the report. For comparison, the 2006 Annual Report is also there. Hard copies of the 2007 Annual Report are also available from the General office.

2009 YR 7 ACE PROGRAM ENTRY
Our ACE program enters its 12th year of operation in 2009. Testing for Year 7 entry testing will be held on Saturday May 3rd. You need to register your Grade 6 child to sit the test by Thursday April 24th. There is information about the program available from our website or the General Office. A charge of $48 is made to register, which covers the cost of assessment of the testing by external providers.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR OPEN DAY 2008 (Wednesday April 16th) AND FOLLOWING DAY
This year Open Day will occur on Wednesday April 16th, from 2 -7 pm. Again, we expect large numbers through the school and to our information sessions at 5 and 7 pm. (Current parents are very welcome). Classes finish at 12.40 on Wednesday April 16th. On Thursday April 17th, students should be at school by 10.45 am, ready for classes to commence at 11.00 (starting with Period 3)

Community Mail Bag

FC Melbourne City CA
Is seeking two or more players needed to fill key attacking roles in an established Under 14s squad (i.e. players born ‘94 or ‘95). Players will be trained for key striker positions by a Victorian State Coach. If you are energetic, determined and competitive contact: gialloblu@bigpond.com or call George on 04 33 102 847