News from our USA tour

Arriving to the California Spring sunshine, 45 NHS Band and Choir students along with 8 staff enjoyed 3 days in Hollywood, Universal Studios and Disneyland. While performing twice in Disneyland, the Main Street Courtyard was filled with NHS musical energy and spirit. Also, it was fun to hear that after 3 days of California tour food, our students were craving much missed Aussie fruit and vegetables!!

Flying to Sacramento, our NHS group arrived at the airport to "Welcome Northcote High School" signs by the Del Oro High School Music Students. Traveling to DOHS, they were greeted by their host families who took them home for a much needed sleep before returning to school for a 7AM practice. The next two days included four Stage Band and Choir performances at the local schools with receptions as Australian Rock Stars including requests for autographs, swooning and screams of joy and appreciation. NHS Stage Band performed in the Del Oro Courtyard for students at lunchtime, attended classes, practiced with the DO Concert Band, kicked the Aussie footy at the new Football (gridiron) Stadium and enjoyed lunch in the cafeteria (including some peanut butter and jelly sandwiches made by homestay mums.)

On Friday night, Del Oro and NHS performed a joint Concert Band concert in the Performing Arts Centre and on Saturday they said goodbye to their new DO friends and traveled to the University of the Pacific for the Western Band competition and workshops. Our wonderful NHS/AUS ambassadors are now on their way to Yosemite National Park and then San Francisco. They will soon be home to share their stories, photos and memories of a great California music/friendship/adventure tour.

Headspace National launch

Early in March, Northcote High School was asked to participate in focus groups in preparation for a National Mental Health Campaign helping to raise awareness of mental health issues, alcohol and substance abuse in young people.

This national health initiative was a new online mental health resource for young people experiencing mental health and drug and alcohol problems in communities across Australia and it will assist young people, their families and communities access help.

The website www.headspace.org.au was launched by the Federal Minister of Youth, Kate Ellis on Wednesday 9th of April as part of National Youth Week. Northcote High School was invited to actively participate in this significant event launched at Melbourne Central. Our students enjoyed a great morning and were welcomed guests, celebrated by Minister Kate Ellis as “our future”.

Mental health is one of the most important health issues affecting young Australia’s today. One in four young people aged 12 to 25 will experience a mental health problem in any 12 month period and mental health issues are in the top three areas of concern as identified by young people themselves.

Jane Archer, Psychology Teacher.
AIM becomes NAPLAN on 13, 14, 15 May

The first National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests will be conducted at all schools from 13-15 May 2008. This takes the place of the AIM tests.

As this is the first year of this important national initiative, it is vital that Victorian students are given every opportunity to complete the tests. To assist with the smooth running of the NAPLAN 2008, we take this opportunity to provide parents with the following reminders.

This is the timetable for Years 7 and 9 NAPLAN:

- Tuesday 13 May: Language Conventions (Spelling, Grammar and Punctuation) and Writing
- Wednesday 14 May: Reading
- Thursday 15 May: Numeracy.

Year 7 and 9 students undertake two numeracy tests, the second of which will require the use of a calculator. All Year 7 and Year 9 students **will need to have either their own calculator** or a calculator with which they are familiar, to use during the test.

In the interest of maximising participation in the NAPLAN 2008, individual students who were absent on test days can do ‘catch-up’ tests up until Friday 23 May.

Sample NAPLAN questions are available at [http://www.naplan.edu.au](http://www.naplan.edu.au). Past AIM tests, available on the VCAA website, may also help familiarise students with the test format.

Top designs Awards

To celebrate the achievements of students in the VCE Technology areas, Melbourne museum displays work of students in these areas as part of Top Designs VCE season of excellence. Top Designs celebrates the application of creative thinking and problem solving. The exhibitors demonstrate both the ability to plan and evaluate, and the skills and techniques to use specialised materials and processes. The best in the state are exhibited.

**Dilini Pothuwila** a Food Technology student in 2007 is part of the exhibition this year. Dilini investigate the Mediterranean Cuisine. **Ben Walton-Healey** was also shortlisted for Design and Technology.

Top Designs are showing at Museum Victoria, Carlton.

Parent Drug Education forum—22 May

Last year The Student Wellbeing Team at Northcote High successfully applied for funding to develop a Drug and Alcohol Education program for year 10 students. The program will be run in partnership with Moreland Hall Drug And Alcohol Service and will involve a series of classroom workshops, activities and the opportunity for individual counseling.

The project will commence towards the middle of term 2 with a Parent Drug Education Forum- to be held on Thursday 22nd May at 7.00pm.

The program is targeted at Year 10’s but ALL parents are welcome to join us for this event!

More Information to follow!!!

*Krissy Bergin—School Nurse*
Roses Gap Rocks!!

Last week 147 Year 9 students and 14 staff spent the week at Roses Gap in the Grampians. Both students and staff experienced an exhilarating week undertaking activities ranging from Abseiling and the Giant Swing to bushwalking and canoeing. Personal challenges, developing positive relationships and working together were the goals of the camp. Fear of heights was one of the many challenges faced by students and staff alike, along with trying to get mobile reception. All agreed that the destination, activities, food and accommodation were fantastic. All returned from camp weary but with wonderful memories of a great time.

Ms Saillard

Maths Faculty Updates

COMPETITIONS:

There are a number of mathematically based competitions that are available for students to enter. Please encourage your child to participate. The aims of the competition include encouraging and fostering a greater interest in and awareness of the power of mathematics, a desire to succeed in solving stimulating mathematics problems individually and in groups and to encourage and foster discovering the joy of problem solving in Mathematics.

MATHEMATICS COMPETITION:

The Australian Mathematics Competition has been running at Northcote High School for a number of years. It is a pen and paper test comprising of 30 multiple choice questions to be completed in a 75 minute period. The date of the competition is Thursday 31st July 2008 and entry cost is $4.00. Permission notices available from your child’s mathematics teacher or Ms. Pavlatos Staffroom B8 This competition is open for all students to attempt.

INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

The University of Melbourne – BHP Billiton School Mathematics Competition will be held on Wednesday 7th May, 2008 at Northcote High School. Any students that perform exceptionally well may be asked to represent Australia at the Mathematical Olympiad in Madrid, Spain this year. The competition is two hours for the Junior division and three hours for the Intermediate and Senior Division. Previous test papers can be downloaded from http://www.mathscomp.ms.unimelb.edu.au Any students interested in this problem solving competition please see Ms. T. Pavlatos in Staffroom B8.

Congratulations to the 40 Year 7 – 10 students who are currently undertaking the mathematics challenge which is 6 problems in 3 weeks and good luck to the 30 Year 7 – 12 students entering the mathematical informatics problem solving competition on Thursday 8th May.

Any students interested in entering the competition please see their mathematics teacher or contact Ms. Pavlatos on 9488 2300

MATHS and the NAPLAN

A reminder that all Year 7 and Year 9 students will need to have either their own calculator or a calculator with which they are familiar, to use during the test. This will be on May 15th.
2008 - Northcote High School Annual Athletics Carnival –
Compulsory attendance for all Year 7, 8, 9 and 10 students

1. Held on TUESDAY 29th of April 2008 at Coburg Athletics in Outlook Rd.
2. It costs $5 if you meet at the track at 9.20 or $10 if you go from school at 9.00 am by hired buses.
3. You get a permission form which must be returned to the GYMNASIUM OFFICE with the money by Monday the 28th of April - at the latest.
4. Your parents/careers are most welcome to attend.
5. Roll call is done on arrival at the TRACK. Please have your name marked off.
6. In all Events you just turn up and enter on the day. Events include
   - Novelty races which are SACK RACES, THREE LEGGED RACE and TEAM TUG OF WAR.
   - Field events including High Jump, Shot Put, Long Jump, Triple Jump, Discus and Javelin.
   - Track events, which include 100M, Relays, 200M, 400M, 800M and 1500M.
7. You must dress in loose, baggy clothing preferably in house colours and apply Sunscreen, regularly through the day.
8. Wearing a hat and sunglasses is highly recommended. Bring a drink bottle and food. The canteen will be open.
9. You can win ribbons in all events.
10. At the end of the day house points will be added up and the results announced.

11. Houses are used for all students attending. Year 7-10 students can view their house on the gym noticeboard. They are the same as for Swimming.

12. At 2.20 we will read out the results and clean up. Buses back to school leave at 2.40. Back at school by 3.00-3.15.
13. Students walking home can leave at 2.40pm.

EVENTS WILL RUN AS FOLLOWS – all starting at 10.00am.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TRACK</th>
<th>100 Metres, 800 Metres, 200 Metres, 400 Metres, 1500 Metres RELAY – One Boy and Girl Team from each year level per HOUSE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HIGH JUMP</td>
<td>YEAR 9,       YEAR 8,       YEAR 7,       YEAR10-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LONG JUMP</td>
<td>YEAR 7,       YEAR10/12,   YEAR 8,       YEAR 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRIPLE JUMP</td>
<td>YEAR 8,       YEAR 7,       YEAR 9,       YEAR 10/12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DISCUS</td>
<td>YEAR 10/12,   YEAR 9,       YEAR 8,       YEAR 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAVELIN</td>
<td>YEAR 10/12,   YEAR 7,       YEAR 9,       YEAR 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHOT</td>
<td>YEAR 10/12,   YEAR 8,       YEAR 7,       YEAR 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOVELTY</td>
<td>SACK RACE,    3 legged race, TUG OF WAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YEAR 7 students have trialled the above events in their Term 1 Physical Education classes and their Sport Education session on Monday 21st April
Summary

Term 2 has started well with many District and Zone sporting competitions in full swing.

Our District Tennis, Volleyball and Base/Softball competitions have been played with the following teams winning

- Year 7/8 Girls Softball
- Year 7/8 Girls Tennis,
- Year 7 Boys Tennis
- Year 8 Boys Tennis
- Year 9/10 boys Tennis

These teams now play on 30th April and the 1st of May in Zone finals.

Swimming

Our School Swimming team continues to strengthen with Lauren Gilder of Year 9 and Lewin Eddy of Year 12 swimming in Brisbane at the National titles last week. At the Zone Swimming at MSAC, wearing our new school swimming caps and with over thirty schools represented we finished a close second to Eltham High School (405 to 398). Our division swimmers all did well with very even results.

- Year 7/8 Girls 8th behind St. Helena SC
- Year 9/10 Girls 1st (Pennant Winners) beating MacRobertson Girls HS
- Year 9/10 Boys 2nd to Viewbank SC
- Senior Boys 3rd to Melbourne HS

Swimmers who won events included Lewin Eddy(3), Lauren Gilder(3), Dean Stavtakakis Year 7(3), Lily Potocnik of Year 10 (2) and Eve Walton Healey of Year 9(1). Special mention must be made of Nicholas Rickard of Year 11 who has been placed numerous times over the past 5 years. In his 50m freestyle he again finished 2nd but came from behind to win the backstoke by 0.3 of a second. His first win after 5 years of trying and endless hours of training sees him going to the State finals on Tuesday 29th April. Mark Langley (2 seconds) and Kate Datson – Diving also deserve special mention. Three of our relay teams – U16 Medley Relay Girls, U17 Relay Girls and U13 Relay Boys also join the swimmers above who won - at the State meet.

Athletics carnival

Our school Athletic Carnival at Coburg is only a week away with our Year 7,8 and 9 students trialling many events at school. A separate sheet is included in this newsletter outlining permission forms, cost and other arrangements.

Mr Price & Ms Young

1,100 attend an Open Day to remember!

April 16th saw an estimated 1,100 + parents and students visit Northcote High School for the Annual Open Day. The two information sessions (at 5 and 7 pm) were attended by 550+ people (above), with standing room only. Next year we may consider running three! We had 390 show-bags to give out—one to each family, and had 12 left at the end of the evening! Thanks to all our volunteer students and their very supportive parents. A most successful evening showcasing our school to our community!
As sixteen Northcote students and two teachers headed off into the wilds of France the parents were thinking; ‘have we done the right thing?’ The teachers were saying ‘can we handle this?’ and the kids were saying ‘I can’t wait!’ As it turned out all fears were set to rest and everything turned out perfectly in the end, even if we did have some hairy moments not knowing where we were or where the teachers were......

The group woke up extremely early every morning with little complaining and visited many sites of Paris including the Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Sacre Coeur in Montmartre and some even went to Euro Disney where they got snowed on!

We then visited Yvetot, a small country town where we were warmly welcomed to College Bobee and our home-stay families. Everyone tried hard to communicate and we tasted all the strange food. We did some trips along the coast and visited the Normandy beaches where the allied forces landed in World War Two (Guerre Mondial), you can still see the shell craters and the German bunkers! A great trip with two very brave teachers who organised everything wonderfully and enthusiastic students who braved the cold and the language to enjoy a très bien vacances!

Nellie Montague

“It’s very stressful taking 16 students overseas”

Diamond Cricket Grand Final

On Tuesday at lunch, 7A took on 7D in the grand final of the diamond cricket tournament. Both teams and the audience were roaring with anticipation for the game to begin. The coin was tossed and 7D won and elected to field first. 7A went out to bat and started well. With a few 6’s and 4’s, it looked like 7A may have won it. At the end of their innings they made a total of 46 runs with an extra 5 runs for their form teacher showing up to the game. It was 7D’s turn to bat and we were nervous but excited. It looked bad as we started off with not many boundaries. But 7D fought back into the game to win by 8 runs with a total of 59. It was an exciting game with a lot of good cricket. Congratulations to both teams for making it this far in the tournament. Ms Lester
French Report – Très bien vacances

I loved sharing special French moments with our school group: walking along the ‘cap’ at Étretat, all going on the carousel at Honfleur, eating crepes on our walk back to the metro, (past the Eiffel Tower) from our River Seine tour, trying a chocolate éclair from one of the patisseries in Yvetot, looking at the actual ground where Joan of Arc was martyred, eating lunch in the ‘cantine’ at College Bobee (where the teachers take wine with their meal!). Ms Mink Schapper

France was unbelievable! I loved Normandy in particular, because of the character it had. But the one thing I loved the most, was experiencing the food there. Their food was more flavoursome. It was so much fun visiting the school in Yvetot. The kids there gave us all heaps of attention which most of us enjoyed. It was also good to have long showers!

Nick Shoesmith. Year 9.

What I most remember about France, was the hospitality we received from our homestays, and all the locals - whether they knew us or not. Everybody was so kind, and would go to any length to ensure our stay was a happy one. Ngaire Freeman. Year 9.

France is a country of elegance and beauty. As I find myself wandering down a darkened street of Paris, gaping at the glinting lights of the Eiffel Tower, I wonder if this is all a dream, if this city is all in my head. Can this be the city of lights, the city of where I could live in ten years time? France is full of surprises and inspiration - things I’d never heard of, together with the old architecture and famous attractions and landmarks.

My first thoughts on my home stay were all nervous and anxious feelings. It turned out to be the finest bit of the tour.

The French Tour is one of the greatest travel experiences I’ve had and will stay one of my most significant memories. Oscar Dowling. Year 9.

The most memorable aspect of our French trip was definitely the home-stay. My home-stay family lived in a small Normandy village called Limesy. They made me very welcome and cooked great French meals. It was interesting to see how much French families differ from Australian families. Also, I really enjoyed being around French speaking people.

Carmen Wiseman. Year 8.

What I loved most about France was how there was so much history. You could be walking down an ordinary street (with traffic lights and people under umbrellas), then suddenly turn around the corner and come across a monument which has stood there for hundreds of years, stare in awe for a while and then just have be like an ordinary Parisian and walk on by.

Carma da Silva. Year 12.

If I had a choice to spend more time in France it would be at the home stay. It was a really good experience and it was fun to see what the French did differently to us. I really got used to living in that environment and would love to do it again! Natalie Morton-Brown. Year 8.

The best part about the French trip was everything in itself. It was an amazing experience, and I want to go back there. Disneyland Paris was probably the best part, as well as the food. I miss it all. Tom Robinson. Year 9.

I loved being able to visit France and meet French people there. I really enjoyed the homestay, and just travelling around France in general, seeing historic places. Lucy Foskey. Year 8.
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 student 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.

CASUAL POSITION – DATA ENTRY / ADMINISTRATION SUPPORT
Northcote High School is seeking an experienced Data Entry / Word Processing / Administrative assistant to work with our General Office Team on a casual basis. You will work both individually and as part of a supportive team. Work tasks include data entry, word processing, general administration including some phone and front desk work. Please note: CASES21 training would be an advantage but is not essential.

Please forward your resume to lilliang@nhs.vic.gov.au

ACCOMMODATION NEEDED
in the Northcote area. Hi my name is Michelle and my daughter (aged 12) and we are new to NHS. We need 3-6 months accommodation in a self contained bungalow or a spare room/s in your house while I look for private rental. If you can help us please contact me on 0400 433 515 or bam-mic@hotmail.com

Community Mail Bag