NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Newsletter

Volume 82, Issue 18
Celebrating 82 years of education in 2008
Nov 5, 2008

2008 VCAA Exams Commence !!

It is an exciting time for our Year 12 students as their secondary schooling draws to a close. They are well into their VCAA exams this week and look forward to the release of their results on Monday 15th December. They will be carefully considering their post school options and eagerly awaiting tertiary offers with the 1st round occurring 20th January.

They will celebrate their successful completion of Year 12 at a Graduation Ceremony on Monday 24th November at The Moonee Valley Racing Club, where The Governor of Victoria, Professor David DeKretser will be the Valedictory Speaker. This will be followed by their formal on Wednesday 26th November at Leonda in Hawthorn.

For other senior students
Our Year 11 students will commence their exams on the 10th November and have been busy working with their Year Level Coordinators to ensure the best possible outcomes in all of their studies. They will return on Friday 28th November to collect reports and confirm their 2009 Year 12 subjects.

They will be given time arrangements for that day and they will also be given preparation work to complete over the summer holidays for each of their subjects, to ensure a smooth transition to Year 12 in 2009.

Year 10 students will commence their exams on the 12th November and they will be returning on Monday 1st December to collect reports and 2009 VCE subject confirmation. They will be given a letter outlining the arrangements for the day. They will attend a VCE Orientation Program on December 3rd & 4th in preparation for 2009.

Our current Year 9 students will attend 2009 Course Confirmation day on Monday 8th December. They will receive a letter outlining the time to attend on that day.

In 2009 our Year 11 &12 VCE students will return to school on Monday 2nd February with our Year 10 students on Tuesday 3rd February.

Meliora Sequamur Awards

On Tuesday the 29th of October we held the third annual ceremony for the winners of the 2008 Meliora Sequamur Awards. The proud recipients received their awards from Ms Davidson, the School Captains and other members of Captains Council in the presence of their families. After the ceremony everyone enjoyed refreshments and mingled with family, friends and teachers. The winners were selected by members of the Captains Council. These awards were created in 2006 to acknowledge students who have positively changed their attitude towards schooling or have shown contribution and commitment to the school and community. Congratulations to all winners and nominees.

The winners for the 2008 Meliora Sequamur Awards are:

Contribution and Commitment Award
Year 9: Maddy Goss & Luke Dakis- Corcoran

Year 10: Lucy Benjamin & James McGee

Positive Change Award
Year 9: Amba Hooper & Ben Mesic

Year 10: Naomi Anderson & Kosta Kouzounmis
Principal’s Report

As many of you know, this will be my last official term as principal of Northcote High School. I will be on Long Service Leave in Term 1 and the School Council and Region will be completing the selection process for a new principal. I told the Year 12 students at their last year level assembly that I was going to finally graduate as part of the class of 2008. What a great year it has been.

The year 2008 continues to be a big year of growth, development, learning and achievement.

Student Learning

Our students have been active and engaged in learning at all levels. Student learning and achievement remains at the forefront.

- We started the year celebrating the wonderful results of our class of 2007 with notification that 95% of our VCE students had received first round tertiary offers and our students received a Top Design Award and a Premier’s VCE Award in Philosophy.

- This year we have had very strong results and high distinctions in the International Competitions in English, Mathematics, Science and Geography. Our debaters won the Lions Club Competition and our students performed well above the State in the first National NAPLAN tests.

- Our students were engaged and challenged in a broad range of learning activities including CSIRO workshops, geography field studies, Engaging with China seminar, Tall Poppy workshops and being active in the development of the STELR Year 10 science curriculum.

Our camps and excursions took students across the state and around the world… from China to France to California to Vietnam… from Boho to the ski slopes to Wilson’s Prom and the Great Ocean Road.

- Our students have been young leaders involved in important youth forums and conferences including the State and National Constitutional Conventions, 2020 Schools Summit, Middle Years Conference and initiatives such as Reconciliation Race Around Town.

- Meliora Sequamur Week was a week filled with student-led events that increased involvement, awareness, understanding, personal and collective action and commitment.

Meliora Sequamur Awards (awards “for the students, by the students”) recognised Year 9 and Year 10 students for Contribution & Commitment and Positive Change.

Our Year 9 students became the first class to study an entire year in our Global Citizenship Centre. Students were active in their learning and assessments by exhibition. The New Year 9 experience also included the Year 9 Adventure Camp, Community Conference, City Centre Experience and the new Global Citizenship Award.

Our visual and performing arts students sang, danced, played, created and displayed excellence and wonder.

- Our production and third part of the trilogy, North of the South-side, was created and wonderfully performed by 150 NHS students at the Fitzroy Town Hall.

- Our musical bands and singing ensembles performed locally, across the state and internationally from Federation Square to Preston Town Hall to Big Band Boogie to South Street to Disneyland and Del Oro High School in California. Their performances showed their musical talents, ability to entertain and an NHS spirit that brings joy to the hearts of all in the audience.

We celebrated our third annual Art Week, Art Show and Fashion Parade and can look forward to the VCE Art Show at Northcote Town Hall.

Our student sporting teams have competed with pride and class at District, Zone and State Level as well as in our sporting carnivals and staff-student competitions. All of our students have displayed excellent sportsmanship as they worked together in teams, learned from the challenge of competition and represented NHS.

Our sister school friendship links have grown stronger. With our student tour to Huaibei Number 1 HS, hosting our friends from Huaibei at NHS, Mr Murphy & Ms Wang attending Huaibei’s 50th anniversary and Ms Sinclair becoming our first NHS teacher placement at Huaibei during Term 4, our sister school relationship continues to grow stronger. We look forward to celebrating our 10th year as sister schools in 2009.

Teaching Excellence

Our staff have been professional leaders presenting at Department and National Conferences, hosting the STAV ICT Conference and being recognised for the development of an exemplar program- our NHS Leading Schools Project. NHS has earned State Performance & Development Accreditation, partnered with the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and has begun the planning with University of Melbourne to implement the High Resolves Initiative in 2009.

Supportive Environment

Our facilities projects (new Student Support Services Centre, Student Programs Office, Careers Centre, Harmony Courtyard & Amphitheatre) have created improved learning spaces for our students and our teachers.

Our parents and community members continue to be our important partners. From our traditional community-building events such as our Year 7 Barbeque and Diversity in the Kitchen to the important Parent Teacher Meetings, Parent Forums, and Information Evenings, we have worked to further strengthen school-home links and relationships.

Endings and New Beginnings

The Year 12 exams have begun and the graduation tickets have been distributed. This year, we are also planning a Year 9 Graduation to mark the transition from the Middle Years 7-9 to the Senior Years 10-12 and preparing for our Grade 6 Transition Day for 250 future Year 7 students. Our 2009 School Captains, Deputies and Year Level Captains mark the transition from the Middle Years 7-9 to the Senior Years 10-12 distributed. This year, we are also planning a Year 9 Graduation to mark the transition from the Middle Years 7-9 to the Senior Years 10-12 and preparing for our Grade 6 Transition Day for 250 future Year 7 students. Our 2009 School Captains, Deputies and Year Level Captains will be attending the National Young Leaders Conference this week. So, we are definitely in the term of endings and new beginnings.

Lastly, I look forward to our Back To Afternoon for our ex-students on Saturday, 8 November. As we know, we never really graduate. We are all NHS. To be a part of NHS is to be touched by the true spirit of the NHS community… a community working together, striving to grow, learn and contribute to a more positive and healthy future.

Gail Davidson
Principal
Our National Champion!

Recently Alana Radford (7I) attended the National Under-14 Basketball Championships in Gawler, Adelaide for a week. She was very excited to be part of the tournament. The top five teams from every state were invited to attend. Her team, the Bulleen Boomers, won the tournament making them the Under-14 National Champions.

School Entrepreneur of the Year Finale

On Tuesday 28 October, Mitchell Cross and Matteo Panarello of 9G (at right) won an award for their participation in a workshop on business innovation. The workshop was part of the Ernst & Young School Entrepreneur of the Year Final held at Victoria University in Flinders Street. The boys' challenge was to explain to their group what was innovative about an ordinary plastic bag. Their sales pitch was very effective! The boys had been finalists in a competition run in Year 9 Commerce classes this semester in which students were asked to design and write up business plans for micro-businesses. Two other Year 9 students also participated at the Final: Natasha Moustakas and Madeleine Goss of 9E. They were accompanied on the day by Commerce teacher, Ms Soti Zorbas.

Art Show People’s Prize

The Art and Technology staff had a difficult time selecting the award winners from this Year's Art and Technology Exhibition. Congratulations to Sophie Wallace 8G for winning the People's Choice Award 2008. Sophie scored 12 votes for “Waiting for Parvana” followed by Penny Ray with 7 votes and Brad Hammond and Holly Best in third place with 5 votes each. Twenty eight art works received votes.

Year 7 Excellence Award: Manuel Tsarhatsidis 7H
Year 7 Encouragement Award: Natasha Sideropoulos 7F
Year 8 Excellence Award: Jennifer Nguyen 8G
Year 8 Encouragement Award: Maddison Melkie 8I
Year 9 Excellence Award: Aaron Ocean Pacifique 9H
Year 9 Encouragement Award: Antonella Martucci 9G
Year 10 Excellence Award: Laura Pears 10F
Year 10 Encouragement Award: Shanae Radford 10F
Year 11 Excellence Award: Arun Kim 11J
Year 11 Encouragement Award: Penelope Ray 11C

We look forward to the Year 12 Studio Art exhibition “Potential Solution” opening 19th November 6 – 8.30 pm at the Northcote Town Hall. The exhibition will run from 17th – 23rd November and their work will be for sale.

Susan Anderson Art Faculty Leader

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT HOMESTAYS NEEDED—2009

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 $220-$250 per week to host and board an overseas student)
Yr 10 Geography Fieldwork

On Monday 27th of October, the Year 10 Physical Geography class embarked on a fieldtrip to the Organ Pipes National Park in Keilor. Despite the unpredictable weather on the day, students were able to enjoy several hours of volcanic study in the valley surrounds. Sites visited included the Organ Pipes (basalt rock columns – pictured), the Rosette Rock and the Tessellated Pavement, where students were able to “walk on lava.” Students even encountered several wallabies on the day, as well as some oversized ants! Well done Year 10’s for completing the fieldwork and making it an enjoyable day.

Jennifer McIntyre

Bon Voyage, Ms Margaret Sinclair!

Ms Sinclair, the head of our ESL faculty, left last Friday for four weeks of intensive teaching at our sister school in China. Huaibei Number One High School is a school of 3,000 senior students, located in the north of Anhui province. Ms Sinclair will work with Huaibei’s English teachers to deliver English as a Second language approaches to their final year students. As a guest of the school Ms Sinclair will also be taken on a tour of the province and hosted by staff of the school. It sounds good—but keep in mind that the average sized class in China is perhaps 40-60 students, and classes go until 6 or 7 pm!!

Ms Sinclair will return in December, and hopefully this collaborative project will work very well for both schools!

Year 7 History Walks

In Term 4 some Year 7 students have chosen an unusual Sports elective called Local History Walks. During Period 6 on Mondays, the Year 7s in the company of Humanities Coordinator Dr Fraser and local historian Ms Dawe have been walking along the Merri Creek or through local neighbourhoods to see landmarks or landscapes of historical interest. The first walk centred on flood control through the ages, the second on the St Georges Road Bridge and Merri Creek Primary School and the third on Ruckers Hill mansions and the Northcote Town Hall arts precinct. Future walks may set out in Period 5 and take in the former Eastment Street industrial area and All Nations Park. The areas and themes the students are exploring are relevant to the History and Geography curriculum taught in later year levels.

2009 China Student Tour—Info. Evening

Information Evening November 17th
6.00 pm A.1 (Music Room)

Term 3 holidays in 2009 will see our annual student trip to China, and our 10th anniversary visit to our sister school in Huaibei. Come along to hear about the itinerary and get an idea of how much fun it is. Enquiries to Mr Murphy or Ms Wang
Da Shan’s Sport Report

The start of term 4 has seen a lot of action with a highlight being our biggest group of students competing at State Athletics. Zoe McWhinney (right top) of Year 8 continues to lead our charge with great wins at the elite State level in the Long and Triple jump. She also finished a close 6th in the 100m. Nathan Jumeau of Year 11 (right centre) finished 3rd in both the 400m and 800m. Tim Dobson – Year 10 (Shot Put) and Sean Bolger Year 8 (Discus) both finished 4th. Our Year 8 boys relay team finished a great 6th improving their best time by 3 seconds. They only finished 2 seconds behind the winners and are keen to do better in 2009.

Other news included our 3 Hockey teams, 3 Squash teams, 3 Tennis teams, 1 Softball and 1 Basketball team that competed at Zone level. Our Year 7 and 8 Girls and Boys Hockey and Year 8 Basketball teams were very competitive finishing third with narrow margins in all games. Our Year 7 Girls worked hard doing a 10 week block of Squash in Sport Education followed by a half day skill training session. Their reward was a win in the Squash Zone final. They now play off in State finals on Monday 24th of November. In Softball our Year 7 Girls showed great skills when complementing a small Year 8 team and are already planning to do better in 2009 in a stand alone Year 8 team. Our Year 8 Boys also tasted success at Melbourne Park winning the Zone final in Tennis. They are off to the State finals on Friday 28th November.

A novel sporting event at lunchtime was the play off in handball between 2 Year 10 groups who separately studied the elective Team Sports and Leadership. This was a skilful and at times explosive match with the Semester 2 team narrow victors.

Many of the best times in Sport at Northcote is training new students in new sports and gradually developing them into teams. Success never comes easily but over time it can be even more rewarding. A special mention must be made of all our senior student coaches and helpers who helped train our currently competing teams. Sarah Adolph of Year 12 (Hockey), Gabriel Anagnostakis and George Drakopoulos (Basketball) of Year 9 have all been invaluable in developing our sporting teams.

Craig Price and Megan Young (Sport Directors)

Launch of the Investing in Schools Project

On Friday October 31st, (also World Teacher Day) we launched our Investing in Schools project, acknowledging the Federal Government grant with the presence of the Hon Martin Ferguson AM, MP, Minister for Resources and energy, Minister for Tourism, Member for Batman (Vic). Also present were our long suffering architect Wendy Hastrich, builder John Pendavingh (Jourant building solutions) and cleaning and grounds supervisor Tony Manicolo. Staff enjoyed a celebratory lunch and joined students to watch our wonderful senior stage band perform.
End of year “Activities Week” Program Announced

The excitement builds as End of Year Activities gets closer! It’s a chance for students to celebrate friendships formed with each other – and their teachers! – during the year in a relaxed, fun atmosphere. In this edition of the newsletter the full program is listed, along with details of how to register student selections.

Activities Week will run on Thursday 11th, Friday 12th, Monday 15th and Tuesday 16th of December. There are various active, social, technological and crafty activities to cater for lost of tastes, and many are free or involve a low cost. Students can be encouraged to save for the activity they want to take part in!

Students should firstly discuss their preferences with parents/guardians and then make their selections online. Students can register their choice of activity by responding to the survey which will be active from the 6th November. Selections can be made at school or at home following the links as follows Scholaris > Virtual Classroom > End of Year Activities > and follow the instructions. Indemnity and payment forms will then be distributed from home-group teachers and Year Level Co-ordinators. Many activities will fill quickly, and we’ll use a first-registered-first-to-pay-will-go policy.

All forms and money must be paid at the Office by Thursday 20th of November. There can be no refunds once this date passes, as final numbers will determine costing for transport and discounted entry fees to most activities. Teachers at NHS will be supervising the activities both in school and out of school and appropriate safety and excursion procedures will be followed.

If your child will not be attending Activities Week, you should inform their year level coordinator with written confirmation in their diary.

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<tr>
<th>Thursday 11th December</th>
<th>Friday 12th December</th>
<th>Monday 15th December</th>
<th>Tuesday 16th December</th>
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<td>Cards and board games</td>
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<td>Sports Games</td>
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<td>Students vs Staff Games</td>
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<td>Digital Photography $5.00</td>
<td>Christmas Cooking $10</td>
<td>Hip-Hop / Breakdance $15</td>
<td>Teams Trivia Competition</td>
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<td>Fun Fields Adventure $28</td>
<td>Sew your own purse/make up kit $5 (plus material)</td>
<td>Jewellery Making $8</td>
<td>Hair Braiding</td>
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<td>Ice Skating $19</td>
<td>Splash Out (MSAC) $19</td>
<td>Bicycle Maintenance $5 (prerequisite for Tuesday cycling)</td>
<td>Tour de Yarra (cycling)</td>
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<td>Rock Climbing $15+Zone 1</td>
<td>Ice Skating $19</td>
<td>Safari Adventure $19</td>
<td>Westgarth Movies $8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rock Climbing $15+Zone 1</td>
<td>Westgarth Movies $8</td>
<td>Dark Zone Games $19</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Luna Park (Year 9 only) $8</td>
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<td>Fishing $8</td>
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If you have any queries about the activities offered, please feel free to contact The End of Year Activity Co-ordinators Donal Uahwatanasakul or Damien Hoban on 9488 2300.
NHS Second Hand Book Sale

General Information

Selling & Buying second hand books
This is a wonderful opportunity to save up to half the cost of new books, to help the environment by recycling perfectly reusable items and to raise money to support the school.

Selling
Books will be accepted for sale on the dates listed and locations listed in the table at right.

Goods must be accompanied by a Seller’s Form listing all books for sale and a completed Seller’s ID Slip for each book to be sold. (Forms will be available from the General Office and school web site) Only books in good condition will be accepted for resale. Goods that cannot be sold because they are no longer on the booklist or are in poor condition cannot be returned to you, so check your goods and check the lists below.

Please carefully check the list of books that will be accepted. Make sure you are not selling something you will need next year. Unsellable books left for processing (wrong editions, unlisted books, workbooks with any writing in them or books in very poor condition) will not be returned to you.

Clean up and repair your books. Locate any accompanying CDs. Write your student ID in pencil on the 1st page of each book.

Goods are graded as follows:
Excellent = as good as new, sell for 75% of new price
Good = the broadest category, sell for 50% of new price
Poor = torn or missing cover or pages, stains, drawings, 5 or more pages with permanent marks (ink or highlighter, etc.), etc., sell for 25% of new price. Poor quality books are regarded as a donation.

Payment
Items are sold at 50-75% of the new price. The shop pays the seller 75% of the selling price. The 25% commission helps to cover costs in running the sale and also funds student programs at NHS. All payments must be collected by Thursday 18th December 2008, or it will be regarded as a donation to support programs.

Buying
The books will be sold on one of two days:

Years 7 to 9 Tuesday December 2nd during the hours listed
Year 10 and VCE Friday December 5th during the hours listed

UNIFORM POLICY REMINDER

Students and parents are reminded of the uniform policy in place at Northcote High School. A note from a parent needs to be presented to the Year Level Coordinators before school and a uniform pass will be issued to the student for the day. We look forward to your continued cooperation in this matter.
Short School Notices

Work position in SPECTRUM MRC

Are you interested in providing home care, personal care and companionship to elderly migrants and people with disabilities in their homes? Do you speak a second language? Italian? Greek? Macedonian?
We Offer: Flexible hours (school hours) Training-Certificate III Home & Community Care
For further information contact: Lil Popofski or Antonios Kyriakopoulos on telephone 94960200.
Spectrum Migrant Resource Centre, 251 High Street Preston 3072

Catch JAMES LIOTTA
(Ex NHS and Melbourne's youngest Italian/Australian comedic performer)

- ITALIAN COMEDY ARVO, MILL PARK LIBRARY, SATURDAY 8TH NOVEMBER, 2 PM SHOW, FREE ENTRY! ph. 9437 8189
- WITCHES IN BRITCHES THEATRE RESTAURANT. Community performer JAMES LIOTTA has joined the cast of WITCHES IN BRITCHES theatre restaurant. NEW SHOW! “INFERNO”. Book your next function now! www.witchesinbritches.com.au INFERNO will run for 1 year from Oct 2008
- DAREBIN WINE FESTIVAL Saturday 15th Nov 2PM to 5PM, PRESTON TOWN HALL, JAMES LIOTTA - M.C
- LYGON STREET FESTA IS BACK! JAMES LIOTTA will M.C on Sunday 15th November.

SHORT TERM (CASUAL) RETAIL CHRISTMAS WORK WITH TELSTRA

For details see http://www.telstra.com.au/abouttelstra/careers/retail.cfm
(Note: Age and other requirements may apply)

Engineering Expo for Yr 10s

On Thursday 30th October 40 students from year 10 advance Science attended the Endeavour Engineering expo at Melbourne University. The main feature of the Endeavour Adventure is the priority tour of the Endeavour Exhibition, a showcase of the final year Electrical and Electronic Engineering student projects. Students were able to discuss the research and products developed by the final year Engineering students by accessing their work and facilities at the University. The students gained a valuable insight into the diverse role of engineering and engineers in society including cross discipline engineering such as biomedical engineering. Some of the fantastic displays included; Premature Birth detection, Energy storage devices, Make me better singer and streamline supermarket shopping. One display entitled the Ultra Walking stick was aimed at building a walking stick that helps visually impaired people to see approaching hazards. The walking stick will either vibrate or beep to inform its user when there is an obstacle approaching. A popular display was one called Digital Image Stabilisation which was a device that detected speed limit signs and communicated to the car the limit so the car slows down to the appropriate sign. Students were fascinated by the broad range of research and design available during an Engineering degree.

Ms. M. Gabriel