NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Newsletter

Volume 82, Issue 20
Celebrating 83 years of education in 2009
Dec 3 2008

School Diary

TERM 4, 2008
Dec 2: Report Writing Day
(No school for students)
Yrs 7-9 2nd hand Booksale
Dec 3: VCE Orientation
Dec 4: VCE Orientation
Yr 7 Parents Info. Evening
Dec 8: Wilson’s Prom Camp (to12/12)
Dec 9: Yr 7, 2009 Transition Day
Yrs 10-12 2nd hand Booksale
Dec 10: Curriculum Day
(No school for students)
Dec 11: Activities Program (to Tues 16th Nov)
Dec 17: Yr 7-9 Report Distribution
Dec 18: Course Confirmation.

TERM 1, 2009
Jan 28: Staff recommence
Feb 2: Yr 7,11,12 Commence school
Feb 3: Yr 8,9,10 Commence school
Feb 10: 7D Boho Camp (to 13/2)
Feb 17: 7E Boho Camp (to 20/2)
Feb 23: NHS Swimming Carnival
Feb 27: School Photos
Mar 2: 6 pm Yr 7 BBQ
Mar 3: Yr 7 Boho Camp (to 6/3)
Mar 9: Labour Day Holiday
Mar 10: Yr 7 Boho Camp(to 13/3)

I 0th Annual Wilson’s Prom Trip

Dec 1st 2008 saw the annual Wilson’s Prom Trip depart. This is the 10th consecutive year we have conducted this trip, so its one of the “regulars” on our calendar. Ably led by Mr Murray, Ms Buckle, Mr Woodward and Ms Wray, the group will spend 5 days walking the lighthouse trek. They are joined this year by Italian International Student Ilaria Stori.

Our last Sports finals for 2008

Last week we had 2 teams – Year 7 Girls and Year 8 Boys, playing off in both State Squash and Tennis finals. Both teams performed well with our Tennis Boys finishing 3rd behind 2 Sport specialist schools (Box Hill and Williamstown). Our Central district also hosted 2 developmental tournaments in Futsal (Indoor Soccer) and Indoor Cricket. This was directed at Year 7 and 8 students. In Futsal we entered 4 teams- 2 winning their sections and the other 2 losing in the final on penalties. In Indoor Cricket we won both sections. Our Boys beat Preston Girls by 1 run off the last ball of the innings. Our Year 8 Boys had easy wins in all their games. Our Year 7 Boys developed well over the day playing in a Year 8 competition. They managed to beat Thornbury’s Year 8 Boys in a close finish. (More inside)

Mr Price and Ms Young

To receive the newsletter electronically, send an email with your name to info@nhs.vic.edu.au
Principal’s address to the class of 2008

It is my great pleasure to address the Northcote High School Class of 2008.

As a school, we strive for our students to be active learners who can contribute purposefully. And so it is with great joy that tonight we are at the graduation of the Class of 2008 for you have truly been active, involved learners who have contributed in so many ways.

Each year level, each graduating class is different. Like people, they have different personalities and different characteristics. When I asked your teachers and coordinators to describe your class they would always smile and say you were

- Conscientious and really became focused in Year 12
- You want to achieve. It was important to you to do well
- Friendly, inclusive… you get on well with each other
- You question things and ask really good questions, thoughtful questions
- Your coordinators were proud of not only how you cared for the VCE Centre, but importantly, how you used it to work harder…many of you there until 5:30 or 6pm
- You were involved in your school, programs, activities
- You are the kind of people who take control of their lives
- Lots of initiative, you go out and look for what you can do.
- Ms Hutchens said, “I love them… I miss them already”

I too, have seen how you have come together as a class in Year 12. The one characteristic that stands out to me is that you have had a determination to make a difference.

Over the last 6 years, you have contributed in so many ways...

- In your classrooms, labs and discussion groups
- Through your essays, design portfolios and presentations
- As young leaders forming the Indigenous Student Action Team and developing the Changing the World at Lunchtime Forums

You contributed...

- On the sporting field in over 25 sports including the great senior football victory over Melbourne High for the first time in 31 years
- As debaters in Lions Club debating competition

You contributed...

- As musicians in China playing before 5000 at a Friendship Concert in Huaibei, at Disneyland and Del Oro in California and the South Street Competition in Victoria
- As student ambassadors to China and to Italy, New Caledonia, Greece and France
- At Tall Poppy Science Workshops, Constitutional Conventions and leadership forums

You contributed...

- At Boho, ski camps and Geography field studies
- During Global Cooling Week and Meliora Sequamur Week
- As young performers in Rock Eisteddfod and as leaders in the trilogy of amazing Productions – A Northside Story, Rhyme & Reason and North of the Southside

You contributed...

- When sharing your Chinese cultural dances
- Facing off in the Staff vs. Students sporting competitions
- As artists/designers in the NHS Art Show & Fashion Parade and then taking it a step further to develop your own VCE Art Show, Potential Solution

The class of 2008 has been fully involved as planners, participants, designers, team members and leaders.

Tonight we celebrate you, individually and collectively.

People will say that you have changed over the years, for you have...

- Grown in physical size and in your thinking
- Learned from each other and with each other
- Learned from your parents, your teachers… and from your mistakes
- Found your own voice and created your own path
- Found a way to learn about the world as you moved into the world

So, pause for a moment with me on that word Change… a word with a thousand meanings.

Change… A personal change…. a world change…. a job change….a government change….a climate change…. a financial change…a life change.

We often speak of the “rate of change” ………. The “Change Explosion”
One million BC - 1450 AD……… Information Doubled
1450 AD – 1700 AD……………. Information Doubled

When you were 3 years old ……….Information doubled every 11 months

When you started high school…. Information doubled every 70 days.

Now, we speak about “flux”… Constant information, constant change

Your generation accepts it and embraces such change… as life.

You breathe it, live it….and try to help my generation, your parents’ generation deal with it- and the technological gadgets that reflect it.

But it is not the “rate of change” or the information change that we really focus on tonight. It is the internal change and growth that is the miracle of life and the wonder of YOU … and the person “next to you”.

My dear friend and mentor, Dr. Randall Olson, always said, “Change occurs at the crossroads.”

- You stood at the crossroads as a new Year 7 student six years ago
- You are standing again at the crossroads tonight.

At graduation, I like to share the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes...

“What lies behind us and what lies before us
Are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”

It is what lies within you that makes you the person you are.

It is what lies within you that will guide you at the crossroads.

You stand at the crossroads, but you don’t stand alone.

I see those who care about you out in the audience…. your parents and family, your teachers and principals, your friends…. They know how far you have come.

They remember when you were a baby in nappies….a little prep in the playground… the day you jumped in your first puddle… the day you entered Northcote High School… the day you walked out to breakfast in your VCE top…and tonight as you walk across the stage at graduation.
Principal’s address continued...

They realize tonight how far you have come.

You entered NHS as a child... You have become a man. You have become a woman.

You stand at the crossroads as an Adult... moving into the world.

It is what lies within you that allows you to take that next step into the world with confidence.

You will bring your life experiences, your family experiences, your cultural experiences, your NHS experiences... your knowledge, skills, preparation, persistence, commitment... your hopes, fears, values, beliefs...and your dreams.

You will also bring with you your sense of community...

What you care about and your understanding of

What it is to work together with others.

And you graduate in the Year 2008.

2008 has been the year we came together as a people as the Prime Minister spoke for all Australians when he said “Sorry” to the Stolen Generation and to our Indigenous People. It has been a year of nation-wide conversations and visioning about the future... leading to and following the Australia 2020 Summit.

It has also been a year of world crises (poverty, war, finances and climate change). And now, more than ever before and around the world, there is a clear recognition that the solutions to such challenges will be found by coming together as a world... as a community.

The world needs you, the Class of 2008... it needs your energy, your initiative, your inclusiveness, your questioning, your sense of community, your desire to make a difference....

One of my favourite authors, Margaret Wheatley, wrote a poem I want to share with you tonight.

Turning to One Another

There is no power greater than a community discovering what it cares about.

Ask ‘What’s possible’ not ‘What’s wrong?’ Keep asking.

Notice what you care about.

Assume that many others share your dreams.

Be brave enough to start a conversation that matters.

Talk to people who you know.

Talk to people you don’t know.

Talk to people you never talk to.

Be intrigued by the differences you hear.

Expect to be surprised.

Treasure curiosity more than certainty.

Invite in everybody who cares to work on what’s possible.

Acknowledge that everyone is an expert about something.

Know that creative solutions come from connections.

Remember, you don’t fear people whose story you know.

Real listening always brings people closer together.

Trust that meaningful conversations can change your world.

Rely on human goodness. Stay together.

On behalf of our NHS School Council, staff and community, I want to congratulate each of you, each member of the NHS Class of 2008, on what you have accomplished and thank you for what you have given to all of us at NHS.

- Keep asking “what’s possible” not “what’s wrong?”
- Remember creative solutions come from connections.
- Rely on human goodness.

You have been at NHS for 6 years and we are all the better for it. Now, you step into the world and we know the world will be the better for it.


And remember... We believe in you.

Gail Davidson.

The Governor and Mrs DeKrester, the Honourable Fiona Richardson MLA, Council President Mr John Butera with Ms Gail Davidson at the 2008 Year 12 Graduation.

Perhaps some leaders of tomorrow? Ruby Foley, Eleanor Foley and Molly Walsh of Yr 7 are awarded their 2008 ICAS medals at a special ceremony at Melbourne Convention Centre on Friday 28th November.
Yr 9 Legal Studies Excursions

During Term 4, Year 9 students who are currently studying the legal component of Commerce, Government and the Law travel to the Old Melbourne Gaol where they re-enact a real life court case. On 11 November 9G students, accompanied by Dr Fraser and Mr Uahwatanasakul, acted out a case involving culpable driving. Students from the class played the roles of the judge, the tipstaff, the prosecuting and defence counsels and various witnesses. At the end of the role play, a facilitator based in the Old Magistrate’s Court led the students in a lively discussion about the appropriateness of the sentence the defendant received. 9E with Ms Zorbas and Mr Ramsay participated in the same experience on 18 November, and Mr Gilby and Mr Hamit’s classes will also soon take part in this engaging fieldwork.

Da Shan’s Sports News

This school sporting report for 2008 includes our final sporting competitions held in the last week. In my last report I want to thank the School Principals for their support, my sporting partner Ms. Young, all the students who helped coach and play in teams and all the teachers who gave up hours of their own time to coach teams. Over the next week we are finalising our Year 9 and 11 Sport/House Captains for 2009. We have many applicants wanting to promote and lead our Sporting program in 2009. We are also selecting the best school player in each sport for 2009 and the Year level male and female sportstar of the year.

A reminder as Christmas approaches to use the NHS Rebel Member number: #35808 and state you are from Northcote High to receive a 5% discount off any sporting goods purchased for yourself and the school. Any family members or friends who want to use the number at Rebel are invited to join our team.

Sport Director Craig Price
Staff raise money for Movember.

Movember (the month formerly known as November) is an annual charity event held during November.

At the start of Movember guys register with a clean shaven face. The Movember participants have the remainder of the month to grow and groom their Mo, raising money along the way to benefit men's health - specifically prostate cancer and male depression. This year six of our staff raised money for men’s health in the annual Movember event.

Team Captain Blake Rizzo-Green recruited his team and encouraged them. He showed great leadership and gave his support when the going got tough. “December couldn't come soon enough”, stated one team member as Blake brandished the razor and shaved up the remainder of what has been a fun month for all involved at Northcote.

Thank you to students and staff who supported our team in their fundraising.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award comprises four components: Skill, Physical Recreation, Community Service and The Adventurous Journey. With State Government funding through the Advance Program, Northcote High School continues to support our community and provide this opportunity for interested students.

This year our Bronze Award students selected to complete their Community Service at St Joseph’s - Little Sisters of the Poor on St Georges Road. Students had to complete service for a period of three months.

This was a really great experience for everyone: we had to set tables, serve meals, feed people and clean up after everyone had finished eating. We learnt a lot from the different generation and some people were getting into great conversations with the elderly people. When you saw their smiling faces it made the dirty work all worthwhile. (Lauren Gilder 9F)

Our Bronze Award team completed their Adventurous Journey with a Sea Kayaking expedition at Nooramunga Marine Park in South Gippsland. The team packed their tents, food and clothes into kayaks and paddled from Port Albert to Port Welshpool camping two nights on Snake Island. It was a rewarding experience for the students as they developed competency with a range of new skills such as: paddling kayaks, camp craft, cooking, team work, communication, navigating and leadership.

I’ll never forget carrying the kayaks from the shore to the bus in the cold, rain and the wind. There were many good and challenging moments, said Daniel McDonald of 9D. And for students thinking about in joining the team in 2009, Just do it! he says. Otherwise you probably wont get the chance to do anything like it again.

Students who are interested in completing the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award at either Bronze, Silver or Gold Level in 2009 should see Mr Hoban. Further details www.theaward.com.au

Pictured below are students from the 2009 Bronze Award team before the last leg of their Adventurous Journey. They were Will Barbour, Ruby Bell, Harry Dwan, Eliza Free, Ruby George, Lauren Gilder, Phoebe Godfrey, Shannon Hickey, Melanie Karipidis, Zak Lasker, Yong Lin, Izaak Martin-Stevenson, Daniel McDonald, Caitlin Mountford, Dylan Nguyen, Hannah Patchett, Elias Salloum, Timiki Saunders, Alison Stewart, Katherine Thomas.

Mr Hoban
Yr 9 Italian excursion

On the 18th of November, Ms Fattore’s year 9 Italian class went on an excursion to the Vaccari aged care centre to meet the elderly residents. The aged care centre was formed to help old Italian people that are unable to look after themselves. The centre allows the residents to feel more at home in an Italian cultural environment. Our job was to interview the residents and find out about how and why they migrated from Italy to Australia. Once we arrived we were greeted by the staff and sat down and ate cakes and drank coffee with the welcoming residents. We were then able to interview the residents in Italian and ask them questions about them migrating to Australia. It was a great experience sitting down and chatting with the enthusiastic residents. Gianni, Nina and I then recited our Italian poems to the elderly and they were very excited to hear our poems. It was a very touching and emotional existence listening to the residence stories however it was the best excursion I have been to all year!

Antonella Martucci

Yr 7 History Walks again!

This is a report by Yr 7 “History Walks” student Tiffany Chan:

The Year 7 “History Walks” students went along St Georges Rd to Merri Parade. When we were walking along Merri Parade we saw the Albion Charles Pub and learnt why it was in an unusual place. It was built in an unusual place because the owner thought that a railway line would be built there. We then crossed the Merri Creek at the pedestrian level of the Merri Parade railway bridge. The teachers with us were Dr Fraser, Humanities Coordinator, and Ms Allie Dawe, a local historian.

Tiffany Chan 7F

The 10th Anniversary Tour to China, 2009

Yes—2009 is the year to travel with us to China! 10 years ago next year we signed our historic sister school agreement with Huaibei Number One High School. Next year will be your last opportunity (before 2011) to travel with us to this fascinating country and experience the warmth of true Chinese hospitality in Huaibei, unless you are travelling with the mid-2010 Music Tour to the Shanghai Expo.

Costing only $4,500, including all meals and all accommodation for 14 days, all international and domestic transport, all visa costs, insurance and taxes; this is remarkable value for money. Accompanied by at least three staff, the tour takes in some of China’s most famous sights—including the Great Wall (admired by vertigo-struck Ms Cummins and Mr Murphy at right), the Terracotta Warriors of Xian and the famous Forbidden City.

See Ms Bennett or Ms Delahunty for more details.
End of Year Activity Week Update

Thank you to all students who have confirmed their selections with payment for the 2009 End of Year Activities Week. Please check the Virtual Classroom for all your activity updates.

Q. What if I haven’t made my selections? For any student who is yet to register their selections, YES there are Activities for you on every day of the program.

Q. I had a form but I haven’t paid. What happens? You worked quickly to get your preferences, but unfortunately if you haven’t paid your selections are now available for other students. Priority for these places will be offered to students already confirmed and paid.

Q I am in Year 10 can I attend Activities Week? No, unfortunately Activities Week is only available to students in Years 7-9.

Q I cannot make my selections on the computer any more? The online registering is now closed. All selections must be done directly with the Co-ordinators.

Q Who do I need to see if I have a question about my selections for the fantastic range of activities? Your friendly End of Year Activity Co-ordinators are Mr U in Student Welfare or Mr Hoban in the GCC, they look forward to helping you.

Q. What activities are still available? The table below indicates which activities are still available. Where numbers are limited the places available are shown.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Thursday 11th</th>
<th>Friday 12th</th>
<th>Monday 15th</th>
<th>Tuesday 16th</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fun Fields Adventure $28 [13 places]</td>
<td>Ice Skating $19 [22 places]</td>
<td>Bicycle Maintenance $5</td>
<td>Tour de Yarra (cycling)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sports Games</td>
<td>Sports Games</td>
<td>Sports Games</td>
<td>Students vs Staff Games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cards and Board Games</td>
<td>Cards and Board Games</td>
<td>Cards and board games</td>
<td>Cards and board games</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital Photography $5</td>
<td>Rock Climbing $15+Zone 1 [7 places]</td>
<td>Westgarth Movies (High School Musical 3) $8</td>
<td>Westgarth Movies (Special Advance Screening - Madagascar 2) $8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luna Park for year 9 students only $30</td>
<td></td>
<td>Jewellery Making $8</td>
<td>Teams Trivia Competition</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Yr 9 Program for December

Please take note of the following key dates for Year 9 students.

**Monday 8th December: Year 10 2009 Course Confirmation Day**

The final stage of our *Year 10 2009 Course Confirmation Process* will occur on this day.

Students will receive their Booklist for Year 10 2009 once their Course is confirmed.

The format for the day is outlined below. Students must ensure they attend the VCE Study Centre at their corresponding time. Please assist us by ensuring your son or daughter arrives at the scheduled time.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FORM GROUP</th>
<th>TIME</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9A</td>
<td>9:00 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9B</td>
<td>9:30 AM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9C</td>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9D</td>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
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<td>9E</td>
<td>11:30 AM</td>
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<td>9F</td>
<td>12:00 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>9G</td>
<td>1:30 PM</td>
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<td>9H</td>
<td>2:00 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9I</td>
<td>2:30 PM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Tuesday 9th December: Year 9 – 10 VCE Orientation Program Period 2**

Year 9 students who have a confirmed VCE subject are required to attend on this day.

Period 2 (9:50 am – 10:38 am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Room</th>
<th>Teacher</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>G2</td>
<td>LS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>G3</td>
<td>JA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Management</td>
<td>G4</td>
<td>MJ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>G5</td>
<td>NM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>G6</td>
<td>CL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Year 9 students will not be required to attend classes on this day.

**Wednesday 10th December: Curriculum Day:** No school for students.

**Thursday 11th December: Year 9 Graduation Program**

Year 9 Graduation will commence at 10 am. Students are to meet at the GCC. A celebration of the year’s events will occur followed by a BBQ lunch. Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm.

**Friday 12th December: Year 9 Luna Park Activity**

All Year 9 students are invited to attend a day at Luna Park as part of the Activities Program. Please ensure that a payment of $30 is made at the General Office to secure your place.

**Wednesday 17th December: Report Collection**

Year 9 students will collect their reports at 11:00 am. Please do not hesitate to contact the school on 9488 2300 if you have any further queries.