Wonderful VCE Results for 2008

VCE Results for 2008

December 15th saw the release of VCE results for 2008. For our Year 12, the highest ENTER score achieved was 99.45. Four students (shown at right) achieved ENTER scores over 99. For those who like statistics, 34 of our students earned an ENTER of 90 or above, and 71 of students earned an ENTER of 80 or above (That’s 35% above 80). 104 students achieved an ENTER above 70. The median study score achieved across all subjects was 30. 7.3% of study scores were over 40. The 2008 duxes will be Aviva Kidd (99.3) and Sean Gilmartin (99.45). Congratulations to all our students and long suffering parents; another great year for the school!!

Outstanding tertiary pathways for 2008

For the Yr 12 of 2008, 94% of Northcote’s VCE cohort who applied for tertiary places received a “first round offer” in January 2009. The breakdown of University and TAFE offers for our 201 students was as follows:

• Offer of University Studies in Victoria 133 (66.2%)
• Offer of TAFE studies in Victoria 53 (26.3%)
• Other Tertiary offer in Australia 15 (7.4%)

The breakdown of tertiary courses has remained remarkably constant over the last four years, with RMIT and the University of Melbourne still the two most favoured tertiary course providers, followed by La Trobe University, RMIT TAFE and NMIT. Interestingly, this year there were significantly more offers from Monash University than ever before. The following figures are for first round offers:

• RMIT University 43
• University of Melbourne 29
• La Trobe University 26
• Victoria University 11
• Monash University 10
• Swinburne University 3
• University of Ballarat 2
• Deakin University 4
• Aust Catholic Uni 5
• NMIT 19
• RMIT TAFE 14
• Victoria University TAFE 9
• Swinburne University TAFE 6
• William Angliss 5
• Other providers 15

Congratulations to all students!

Vale Wayne Roberts

Former student of the school, teacher and Assistant Principal Mr. Wayne Roberts died on December 18th, 2008, after a long battle with illness. His funeral was held on December 22nd, and many members of the school community were in attendance. This school was his great passion and he will be remembered fondly by parents, students and staff. He will be greatly missed.

At right—Wayne Roberts in 1986, after joining the school as a Geography teacher.
Acting Principal’s Report

Welcome Back!

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you all back to school this year. I want to extend a special welcome to all of our new students and their families. Congratulations on becoming part of the wonderful Northcote High School Community!

For our incoming Year 7 students and their parents, the start of secondary school marks a significant, exciting beginning. As parents this year you will see your child grow in age, size and maturity. Beginning the process of becoming a young adult, an independent thinker and an individual with a focus on their own future goals and dreams.

NHS has a proud and rich tradition of involvement beyond the classroom and we encourage our students to be involved. Students can pursue passions in music, performance, visual art displays, international trips, social justice, environment, science, mathematics and English competitions, sport, debating, magazine production, leadership, public speaking, chess, camps, technology and fashion parades! There really is something for everyone.

Class of 2008

For our VCE class of 2008, the past few weeks have brought the first round of offers that provide another step in the realization of our students’ goals. It was wonderful to see 93.6% of our students receive their first round offers and we look with interest to the second round to see the last few placements.

On behalf of our NHS Community, I want to extend our sincere congratulations to all members of the Class of 2008 with special congratulations to our Duxes: Girls Dux – Aviva Kidd, with an ENTER of 99.3 and Boys Dux – Sean Gilmartin, with an ENTER of 99.45. Aviva and Sean, like many of the class of 2008, immersed themselves in the NHS experience. They were involved in learning in our classrooms, they were involved in a myriad of school activities and they were participants in community clubs, activities and events. Congratulations also to Viktoria Linden and Jonathan Anderson for their excellent results (also with ENTERs over 99). Congratulations and best wishes to all of the members of the Class of 2008.

NHS 2009 – Learning, Participating and Connecting

Northcote High School has a proud and strong tradition of excellence. In 2009 our improvement efforts are focused on continuing to expand the ways we support students learning in the classroom. Our teachers will be working in Faculty Teams developing instructional practices and assessment strategies that supports and extends all students. We strive to strengthen our environment of respect and achievement and our culture of caring, commitment and contribution.

In 2009, we continue to expand and improve the learning opportunities, programs and facilities available to our students:

- Our Year 8 students will be participating in the High Resolves initiative linked with the University of Melbourne (plus four other schools in Melbourne). The High Resolves initiative seeks to motivate young people to be purposeful global citizens, through students participating in highly engaging activities and experiences.

- The Year 9 – Global Citizenship Program and Centre continues its dynamic interactive program, linking student learning with our community locally, nationally and globally. In 2008 all our students participated in 5 day camp at Roses Gap and the City Centre Program. Another first for the Class of 2008 was a Middle Years Graduation, a collaboratively organised staff and student event.

- Science Programs and Partnerships continue to be a feature of the programs at NHS. The Year 10 STELR Program in partnership with the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering focuses on renewable energy, while teaching the principles of chemistry, physics and biology.

- Our Faculties and their teachers are planning and are preparing for the many activities and excursions that will enrich the learning experience and allow our students to be active learners. From Changing the World at Lunchtime, to Art / Technology and Multi-media events to Music Performances, the planning for the school production to LOTE Competitions, to Environment Actions Teams and Celebrating Chinese New Year...our teachers will be working with our students to provide rich and real learning activities.

- International Links – This year, once again we will be participatory in a series of international links. Our students will travel on a cultural, science and food study tour to China visiting Beijing, Shanghai, and our sister city in Huaibei. We will have a cultural/language study tour of Italy visiting our sister school in Bari, Rome.

- Sport and Music – Our students are certainly living the word ‘involvement’ with our Music and Sports Program. I am sure participation in 2009 will provide many personal and team challenges and much fun and excitement. Last year we celebrated exemplary achievements at Zone and State level. Our Music Program also continues to shine with our various performance groups and individuals winning accolades and awards from Disneyland to South Street Competitions in Ballarat.

In the Grounds and in the Classrooms at NHS

Over the summer our buildings and grounds have been with contractors (creating havoc):

- A new fire service now rings our school. This large project is almost complete. It has resulted in our school grounds looking like they have endured surgery. Rest assured when complete we will address the cosmetic issues! 

- NHS Green – continues to do positive work. We are awaiting the delivery and installation of 2 more water tanks and pumps. We have also applied for the Federal Government $50 000 Solar Schools Grant. We continue to grow our relationship with the Friends of Merri Creek and thank them for helping us to tend the new plants in our car park.

- The Rudd Computers: On Friday the Federal Government confirmed our allocation of 197 additional computers. NHS School Council has over the last 2 – 3 years allocated substantial additional resources to ensure our infrastructure and hardware can support 21st century learning in our classrooms. The Rudd Computers will ensure this continues.

School Council Elections: We will be holding School Council elections early in the school year. The important key dates for nominations and elections are listed in this newsletter. Information regarding school council roles and responsibilities are available form the school.

AN IMPORTANT EVENT Year 7 - Student and Parent BBQ

The Year 7 BBQ will be on Monday March 2nd, at 6 pm. This is a wonderful school and community event and I hope all of you can join us.

Once again I welcome you back to school and to our new students to Northcote High School - a vibrant and dynamic place, alive with positive energy and learning. We are delighted you are a part of our community and we greatly appreciate your involvement and support. We look forward to a great year together. Kate Morris, Acting Principal
Uniform— an important reminder

The school’s uniform policy is clearly outlined in the school diary. While occasionally students to let their uniform become a little untidy in the last months of the year, we would like to see all students start the year fully compliant with school policy on uniform.

Please note that as of January 2009, students will not be able to change into uniform on arrival at school, or change out of it at the end of the day, or at the beginning or end of lunchtime. (However, this does not apply to arrangements for organized PE classes)

Alternative non-school tee shirts cannot be worn underneath school uniform. This is unhealthy and not in keeping with school policy.

Students who arrive at school out of uniform, may find themselves being sent home to get changed, once parents have been contacted.

Please refer to the school diary for School Council policy on uniform, or contact your Year Level Coordinator (see below) if you have any questions.

Collecting and delivering children by car

A reminder to parents who drive their children to school, or collect at the end of the day.

The front circular drive must not be used to deliver children to school, or to collect them. With 1350 students on site, the risks of accidental injury are simply too great. A recent tragic case of student injury at a nearby private school has only just finished being heard in the courts. Similarly, please do not stop in the Gym car park to collect or deliver students.

The student walkway from the Gym to the St. George’s Rd crossing must be left clear at all times.

If your child is being brought by car or collected, please consider parking in one of the streets opposite the school, or the marked parking places to the north of Merri Park, in Sumner Avenue. Your child can easily and safely walk to these locations and you will avoid the stress of navigating our student population.

Key Contacts for 2009

At this time of the year, there are always a number of questions. We are here to support you. Some of your key coordinator contacts are:

Yr 7 Coordinators – Ms Lynn Delahunty, Mr Damien Hoban 9488 2343  
Yr 8 Coordinators – Mr Geoff Thomas, Ms Megan Jeffery 9488 2320  
Yr 9 Coordinators – Mr Martin Ramsay, Ms Elisabeth Lenthall 9488 2382

Head of Middle Years (Years 7-9) – Ms Soula Bennett 9488 2385

Yr 10 Coordinators – Ms Adele Fattore, Mr David Norman 9488 2327

Yr 11 Coordinators – Ms Ms Megan Rolls, Ms Cathy Lester, Ms Diana Corkery 9488 2386

Yr 12 Coordinators – Mr Chris Manousopoulos, Ms Voula Kanellopoulos 9488 2396

Head of Senior Years (Years 10-12) – Jocelyn Hill 9488 2312 / 94882314

NHS Open Day 2009

Do you have friends and neighbours who want to know more about Northcote High School?

Every year Northcote welcomes some 400-500 primary school parents and students at its Annual Open Day. In 2009 this will be held on

Wednesday April 29th, from 2-6.45 pm.

Parent information sessions will be held at two alternative times—5.00 and 7.00 pm.

The Open Day is designed for Grade 5 and 6 students and their parents, but of course, all prospective primary school parents are welcome.

Further information will be posted directly to Primary Schools. But in the meantime, please spread the word!!

(formal classes finish at 12.40 on the day)
Our practices on the use of student images

In the Newsletter, Ripples and similar publications mostly for in-school circulation

At Northcote High School we celebrate the efforts of our students by mentioning their participation in school events and their achievements in this newsletter. As you would have seen, we use photographs of students and sometimes examples of their own work in this newsletter. We also use photographs and examples of their work in the school magazine Ripples, at the end of the year.

An electronic (pdf) version of the newsletter is put on our website. Thus the photos seen here in this newsletter are also available in this size in the electronic version.

On the School website

Small group photographs of students involved in school activities and excursions are also on our website, although here we do not usually identify these students by name, age or form group. Where larger scale photos are used (such as on the front of our homepage) or where the student could be easily identified, the school will seek parental consent before placing information and/or photographs on the website.

At Special Events

Unless special arrangements have been made, we allow parents to record school performances, as this creates a momento that can be shared with other family members. Video or audio recording is permitted at school under a copyright licence paid by the Department of Education (DET) on behalf of all Government schools (AMCOS/ARIA license).

The only exception to this rule can be live performances such as the school production, where use of flash photography may be prohibited, as it might disturb/temporarily blind those on stage.

In the Media

We sometimes invite local press and state media to school events and they are expected to follow DET and school policy on the publication of photographs of students. When a press story is about an individual or small group achievement, the school will seek parental consent before approving or passing on information and/or photographs.

If you have any concerns about how photographs of your child may be used by the school, please let us know.

Yr 10 students being photographed by the Northcote Leader in mid 2005. In this case, all students and parents involved had to give their approval.

Locker arrangements for 2009

In the Form Group meeting on the first day of school all Yr 9 – 12 students received information regarding allocation of lockers for 2009. This information explains the locker allocation process. Spare forms are available from the General Office.

YEAR 7 LOCKERS

Lockers will be allocated in week 1 of the school year.

LOCKS - All students have been allocated a new combination lock on Orientation Day

Lockers located Year 7 Locker Bay, C Block and Main Building lower level

YEAR 8 LOCKERS

Lockers will be allocated in the first week of the school year.

NEW LOCKS - $10 SECOND HAND LOCKS $5 see Mr Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block)

Lockers located in Year 8 Locker Bay – top and bottom of B Block

YEAR 9 – 12 LOCKERS

Yr 9 – 12 Lockers will be allocated within the first four (4) weeks of the school year.

ANNUAL LOCKER RENTAL FEE - $20 per locker or $10 per student if sharing a locker

NEW LOCKS - $10 SECOND HAND LOCKS $5 see Mr Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block)

Year 9 Lockers bottom of B Block and Main Building lower level

Year 10 Lockers Upper main Building and Art Centre

Year 11 Arts Centre

Year 12 VCE Centre and Atrium

STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

A number of lockers are available for students with special needs. Please present a letter or current medical certificate to Mr. Erlandsen (Technology Staffroom - B Block Lower)

Chris Erlandsen  Director of Lockers
You too, can wear Navy whites

Young Endeavour is a Sail Training vessel run by the Royal Australian Navy. They regularly write to us, asking we advertise the two week programs they run throughout the year. There are various cruises and payment options, and financial assistance is available. Certain medical conditions preclude involvement.

Students need to be aged 16 or over, be able to swim 50 metres, weigh less than 120 kgs and pass a health questionnaire.

See Mr Murphy for a form.

Parent Teacher Meetings this year

The first Parent Teacher Meetings this year will be on Tuesday March 31st, in the last week of Term One.

The day’s interviews will commence at 10.00 am, and conclude at 8.00 pm. An appointment system will operate with staff taking breaks for meals at various times (to be advertised).

Classes will not run on the day, but students are expected to attend interviews with their parents to discuss the report with their teachers.

Note: Some Year 7 students and several teachers will be involved in District Sports on this day. Unfortunately, this clash of event is unavoidable, as the dates of District sporting events are not set by NHS.

Other Parent Teacher Meetings for 2009 (Dates, TBC)

* For Years 11 & 12 students & parents
  Thursday August 13th, times TBC

* For Years 7-10 students & parents
  Friday September 11th, times TBC
Da Shan’s Introduction to Sport at NHS

Mr Price and Ms Young coordinate Sport at Northcote High School. We are both located in the Gym Office. In 2008 we had over 70 teams compete for the school with many making state finals. Term 1 2009 starts off with a Swimming afternoon at Northcote pool for all Year seven students on Monday 16th Feb. Our school carnival in Swimming is also held at Northcote Pool all day on Monday 23rd Feb. Our local group of schools who we compete against include Reservoir, Mill Park, Thornbury, Banksia/LaTrobe, Northland, Merrilands, Lakeside and Preston Girls. Term 1 Sports we compete in include Swimming, Cricket, Volleyball, Softball, Baseball and Tennis. More news, permission forms and dates will follow in the next newsletter. Students or parents can visit or ring Mr. Price or Ms. Young if they have any queries.

Da Shan (Mr Price)

School Council Elections 2009

The process of the elections remains unchanged from previous years and like the most government school we will work to the following timeline.

There are 2 parent and 2 staff positions available.

Thursday 12th February: Call for nominations
Friday 20th February: Nominations close.
Monday 23rd February: Display a list of candidates, nominators and seconder outside School Office
Thursday 26th February: Distribution of ballot papers by mail if necessary
Thursday 5th March: Close of ballot at 4:00 pm.
Friday 6th March: Counting of votes and declaration of the poll
Thursday 12th March: From this date the new council is able to meet

If you are interested in being a member of School Council, please contact the Acting Principal, Ms Morris.

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.
KID’S FITNESS CLASSES AT FITNESS ADDIX

Two classes for different age groups. NO Contract Fee. NO Joining Fee.

4.30pm – 5:00pm
5 - 7 year olds
“LITTLE ADDICTS”

5:00pm – 5:45pm
8 - 12 year olds
“THE CONTENDERS”

Monday / Wednesday / Friday

More classes available for specific sports Tuesday and Thursdays...please call to find out more.

These classes are dedicated to educating children on how fun it is to be fit and healthy and find out what they love and what they are good at in one action packed class. Motivating, fun, rewarding and challenging programs look at fitness, sport specific skills, nutrition, discipline, dedication, co-ordination and much more.

The classes cover sports such as football, soccer, boxing, kick boxing, martial arts, body weight training, gymnastics, ball skills, dance, and much more.

A team of dedicated trainers are here to encourage and educate children allowing parents to train in the fully equipped gym while they wait.

Cost - $150.00 per 9 weeks (based on school terms)
Maximum 3 classes per week per child

Each child receives a T-Shirt and Drink Bottle

All trainers have level 2 first aid certifications and are qualified to instruct over a broad range of areas including strength and conditioning coaching (elite level), gymnastics, martial arts, boxing and much more. All trainers are certified in children's fitness, personal training and group fitness.

Please call for more information.
GUIDE DOGS VICTORIA OPEN DAY – SUNDAY 1st MARCH, 2009  10AM – 4PM


SCHOOL LEADERS 2009

School Captains: Sophie Freeman, Jack Dalton

Vice Captains: Claire McDonagh, Nellie Montague, Edward Wills, Nick Rickard.

Year Level Captains for 2009
Himani Khattar Yr 8, Phi-Long Nguyen Yr 8
Ronnie Secoulidis Yr 9, Jennifer Nguyen Yr 9
Oscar Dowling Yr 10, Sarah Paleologou Yr 10
Lucy Benjamin Yr 11, Varun Khatte Yr 11

Yr 7 Captains will be determined in Term 1

Music Captains
Senior—Tim Dobson, Sibon Curulli-Maillard
Junior—Jean Katrina Delos Reyes, Julia Percival-Cassin

Sport Captains
Senior House Captains (Yr 11)
Lily Potocnik, Phoebe Shiu, Bronwyn Humphrys, Jovee Reponia, Marissa Butera, Tennille Thomas, Ben Malandra, Laura Pearse

Junior House Captains (Yr 9)
Olsen Clark, Aydin Akyayli, Gerard Gilder, Sofia Mahoney, Zoe McWhinney

Yr 7 Boho Camps update

We have just completed the process of employing an extra casual staff member at Boho camp, and while this happened we were a little delayed on organizing camps. Here are the slightly revised and current camp dates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Dates</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7D</td>
<td>10th – 13th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7H</td>
<td>17th – 20th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7E</td>
<td>24th–27th Feb</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7G</td>
<td>3rd – 6th March</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7B</td>
<td>10th—13th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7J</td>
<td>17th—20th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7A</td>
<td>24th—27th Mar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7F</td>
<td>31st Mar—3rd Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7I</td>
<td>21st—24th Apr</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7C</td>
<td>27th—30th Apr (Note Monday—Thursday)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mr Rohan Griffiths

We would like to send you our warmest wishes for the Chinese New Year.

We wish you and your families all happiness, good health and good fortune for the year ahead.

Happy Chinese New Year – The Year of Ox The Chinese Faculty