School Swimming Carnival Report

The sporting year has started off with our Senior Girls winning the District Cricket competition. They are playing Mac Robertson Girls on Thursday on Merri Park in a Zone final. Most of our other Cricket teams are playing in District tournaments this week.

Merri House were the successful team at our Annual School Swimming Carnival. It was a hot day leading us to set up under the trees and sun shade. There were record numbers of swimmers in traditional races in the main pool. Over 300 students competed in around 50 events. The strength of our student swimmers was reinforced when 2 student teams beat our best teacher swimmers in a freestyle relay. The rest of our students competed in wading, kickboard races and waterpolo matches. Our 15 sport captains worked with Houses and as officials during the day. A large school swimming team will take on 10 schools including Melbourne High, Melbourne Girls, Princes Hill and Fitzroy at Fitzroy pool on Tuesday 10th March.

Our Year 7 students have started the year well being very well organized and keen participants in swimming, cricket team selections, physical and sport education classes and lunchtime class diamond cricket matches. Our 15 sport captains worked with Houses and as officials during the day. A large school swimming team will take on 10 schools including Melbourne High, Melbourne Girls, Princes Hill and Fitzroy at Fitzroy pool on Tuesday 10th March.

Our BHP National Science Teacher

Ms Bennett has been awarded the BHP Billiton National Science Teacher of the Year Award. This award recognises the outstanding contributions she has made to science education as a classroom teacher. Ms Bennett was nominated as the state finalist and on Monday and Tuesday presented to an expert panel who selected her for her excellence in teaching, her support of open-ended student investigations and her ability to represent Science on a state level including exemplary classroom teaching, her work at Northcote High School with her fellow teachers and Faculty Teams and leading science partnerships with tertiary and business organisations.

Well done Ms Bennett!
Principal’s Report

Bushfires
The events of the past weeks have certainly reinforced the meaning and importance of being a supportive school community. Students and staff have been working together, coordinating and raising money for communities ravaged by the bushfires. The Yr 7 Team lead by Ms Lynn Delahunty have collected 100s of novel for the Marysville community, the canteen pancake day raised $550, Ms Emily Wang and her team of chefs raised $550 at the Chinese food stall, Ms Jennifer McIntyre and the Captains Council coordinated the donation of pet food and equipment to the RSPCA and hot coffee and chocolate stall raised $750, coordinated by the Food Technology teachers and students. All money raised has been deposited in the Red Cross Bushfire Appeal Account. Thankyou to our students, families and staff for contributing over $4,000 to rebuilding of the bushfire communities.

Safe Travel
Yesterday I was talking with one of our students who at this time last year was in the Royal Children’s Hospital recovering from an accident involving a tram. The school community is absolutely delighted to have our student back, participating fully and engaging in the myriad of experiences available at our school. This year we continue to discuss with our students issues regarding safe use of public transport particularly safely accessing the tram stops outside the school via the pedestrian crossings and entering/exiting the trams safely and courteously. We are also continuing our communication with Yarra Trams, Vic Roads, City of Darebin and politicians on safety issues related to trams, trains and roads. We must remain diligent in working with our students to ensure they are extremely careful when travelling to and from school and when on public transport. We ask that all families discuss the importance of safe travel practices and the need for extreme caution when travelling.

Together as a community – Year 7 BBQ
Our much anticipated annual school community event, the Year 7 BBQ, was again a wonderful success. The weather was perfect, the food delicious and the company delightful. It is always fabulous to see so many staff, students and family members share in the spirit of the event. Great music by our talented NHS musicians and their leader Peter Lewis filled the air. Our students introduced their parents to their teachers and to other parents as everyone shared the excitement of the first few weeks of school. Special thanks to our Northcote Highlights, Year 7 Coordinators, Lynn Delahunty and Damien Hoban and Year 7 Pastoral Care Teachers for helping to create this wonderful annual event.

Students Active in the Community - Debating
Congratulations to our Year 12 students - Emina Susic, Joanna Jellie and Christian Dirk who will be competing in the final of the Lion Club Inter-school debating contest this week. They will be competing against Thornbury HS, after having defeated Santa Maria, thank you to Mr. Martin Ramsay and Ms Carlene Wilson for their work mentoring and coaching our debaters.

Whole school planning
This Wednesday 4 March, there will be a shortened day (12.40pm finish) all NHS staff will be meeting in their Performance & Development teams to clarify their personal and team goals for 2009. All goals are aligned to our NHS Strategic Plan. This year we are focused on instruction and delivery in the classroom, extending and supporting our students, assessment strategies and the use of data. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support.

Interim Reports and Parent Teacher Meetings
Parent Teacher Meetings will be held on Tuesday, 31st March 12.30pm – 8pm. As part of our ongoing efforts to improve our school-home communications, we will be mailing home the interim reports. We hope this will provide you with some additional time to examine the report and discuss it with your son/daughter. Interview Booking Forms will be available in the next newsletter, will be distributed at school and can be downloaded from our website. We also hope students will attend the Parent Teacher Meetings with you so the meeting can be a three-way conversation focused on improved student learning and support.

Construction Projects
This year sees a long awaited project in progress, the renovation of the assembly hall – if these walls could talk! Ex visitors are always keen to visit the hall and recall their memories of awards, assemblies and concerts within its walls. The underpinning of the foundations has been completed and we are currently working with our Architect Wendy Hastrich who is designing the expansion of the stage, two multi-use small spaces - instrumental music and small group learning, a purpose built drama storage and props space and an under stage storage space. This is a joint funded project with DEECD but a large percentage of the money has been contributed by our School Council. As with most construction, there will be some disruption to the use of the hall, the worked is generally planned for holiday, therefore the project will not be completed until the end of 2009. We appreciate everyone’s patience as we work to improve our community and learning spaces within the school.

NHS Annual General Meeting
Thursday, 12 March, 2009, at 5:30 will be our Annual General Meeting. At the AGM, the NHS 2008 Annual Report will be presented. Copies of this report will also be available at the Parent Teacher Meetings.

School Council Elections and Thanks
Lastly, I want to encourage all parents to vote in the School Council Elections. This week you will receive a voting slip in the mail, please read the instructions carefully and return your completed voting slip by March 5th, at 4 pm.

On behalf of our entire school community, I want to express my sincere thanks to our outgoing co-opted School Council member – Con Dinopoulos. Con is an ex-student of NHS and has provided important input, guidance and leadership over twenty years, particularly with his perspectives of education and history of NHS. The Northcote High School students, staff and community have benefited greatly.

Kate Morris Acting Principal
Study Tour of Italy- Update

Preparations are continuing for our trip to Italy in September. Trek Set has received payments from all families participating in the tour. Our flight on Emirates has now been confirmed for departure on Sunday 20th September, returning Wednesday 7th October.

Trekset is now requesting passport details for all members of the travel group. Please ensure that you provide passport information to us as soon as possible. Medical Forms and Insurance documents should also be returned to the school now.

A reminder that the next instalment payment will be due at the end of Term One.

Hosting visitors from the UK

12 teachers from the Gloucestershire Local Education Authority visited us on February 19th, as part of an extensive professional development visit of Melbourne schools. The British Government subsidizes overseas travel for professional development for their teachers, as long as they travel in school holiday time. Of course, British teachers are very keen to travel to Australia, at this time of year, as winter in Europe is very cold! This is the 10th such group to visit NHS since the UK scheme was introduced. Group leader Ms Alexandra Fleming promised they would return!

They are shown at right, with the School Captains and PD Coordinator Mr Sean Butler.

Early finish to school on Wednesday 4 March

Our staff will be participating in a Professional Development Program at Northcote High School on Wednesday 04 March 2009. School classes will finish at 12:40pm on this day.

Any parent/guardian unable to make arrangements for the supervision his or her child for this afternoon please contact Mr. Kevin Hoole at the School on 9488-2300.

Should you have any queries regarding the tour please contact Ms Fattore on : 94882327

NHS Annual General Meeting

Thursday, 12th March, 2009, at 5.30 pm in the Conference Room

AGENDA

Minutes from previous Annual General meeting

Presentation of Northcote High School Annual Report 2008

All parents are welcome!

Uniform Reminder—colder weather

A reminder to parents. With colder mornings now on us, please ensure your son or daughter has adequate warm winter school uniform.

Students! Its not acceptable to put on your favourite old cardie to wear to school because you “haven’t got a spray jacket yet!”

Parents! Please support the school and avoid unpleasantness for your child by organizing the winter uniform now.
Camps Update

The Year 7 Boho South Camps Program has been postponed for Term 1 due to the fires and high fire danger in rural Victoria. This decision was made by the School Council.

The Year 7 Boho South Camps will commence in the first week of Term 2 and run through this term and Term 3. Camps cannot run every week due to reasons including NAPLAN testing, Production and end of semester dates.

Upcoming Camps

Students need to look in the daily bulletin & Newsletter for details of the following. Note: there is no guarantee that all these camps will run.

Other Camps:

Term 2:

- **Year 9 Roses Gap Camp**
  Monday 18th – Friday 22nd May

- **International Students Year 11 Camp at Boho South**
  Tuesday 12th – Friday 15th May

Term 3:

- **Year 9 – 12 Snow Camp**
  30 students, 4 full days, cost about $800 10th – 14th August. Students who are interested need to register with Mr. Griffiths in the GCC staffroom. Notes will be available soon and students and parents will be required to attend several meetings at school.

  - **Year 9 Landcare Camp Boho** – 25 students, 3 days 10th – 12th September

Term 4:

- **Year 9 – 12 Wilson’s Promontory** (20 students, 7th – 11th December, Cost $165, TBC)

  - **Year 8 Boho Camps** – students attend in form groups for four days almost every week of term 4. Activities include an overnight hike, swimming, bowling, horse riding and a visit to a trout farm.

  Permission forms will be issued to all Year 8 students at the start of Term 2 with all payments made by the end of Term 2. Payments can be made at the office now.

**Mr. R. Griffiths**
Camps Coordinator

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE - SEMESTER 1, 2009.

Applications must be lodged at the School by **FRIDAY 27TH FEBRUARY 2009.** The Department of Education, Employment & Training has instructed that late applications will not be accepted.

Letters and application forms were mailed to all families at the beginning of the month.

**IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE, PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOUR FORM HAS BEEN LODGED WITH THE OFFICE.**

Teena Pavlatos
Student Services Coordinator

Final call - Anniversary Tour to China, 2009

Yes—2009 is the year to travel with us to China! (You can’t travel again until September 2011!!)

**Final Information Night**

Wednesday 11th March, 2009, Science Room 1 at 6.00 pm.

If you came to last year’s preliminary meeting, please come again, as matters to be covered now include final cost, payment plan and final itinerary, travel insurance, passports and visas, Do’s and Don’ts, all with Ms Bennett, Ms Delahunty, your tour hosts.

(Many Yr 10 and 11 students missed our November 2008 information meeting. No problem—just attend this one!)
Community Mailbag

Taktix at the Darebin Community and Kite Festival
Alastair Moulding, Year 10, and Josh Katz, Year 8, are two members of a local band named TaktiX. After their recent performance at Clifton Hill Primary School fete, the band has been invited to perform at the Darebin Community and Kite Festival on Sunday March 1st. TaktiX has been allocated a prime lunchtime slot on the Lake stage and intend to wow the audience with a mix of original material and classic rock covers. (We'd love to see you there if you're free!) The 4 boys have been putting in some serious practice time and all involved are extremely excited!

Attention ex- Spensley Street PS students and families– Maureen Douglas retirement
The principal of SSPS, Maureen Douglas, is leaving after 15 years of service. The school is seeking contributions (writing, poems, photos, drawings) from former students and families for a book which will be presented to Maureen. Contributions should be on one side of A4 paper (80 gsm), photos should be scanned. You can send your contribution via email to maureensfarewell@gmail.com, post to Maureen’s Farewell, C/o 193 Spensley Street, Clifton Hill, 3068 or hand deliver to the office at the school. All contributions must be received by 16 March 2009. Please note original photos etc sent in will not be returned.

To farewell Maureen we are having a breakfast at the school on Friday 27 March commencing at 8am. Please RSVP by 20 March to the above email address for catering purposes. If you wish to make a donation towards a gift for Maureen please make cheques payable to Spensley Street Primary School and post to the above address in an envelope labeled ‘Maureen’s Farewell’ or hand deliver to the office. For further information please contact Petrina Halloran 0421 097 541.

Curves Fitness for Women, Fitzroy North
We are seeking a mature person to train as a permanent casual at our Women’s fitness centre. You must be available for a variety of shifts both mornings and evenings Monday-Saturday. You will have a passion for health, fitness, nutrition and for helping women achieve their fitness goals. Sting customer service and computer skills are required. Experience is an advantage but not essential as extensive and ongoing training will be provided. Please forward your resume to curvesfn@bigpond.com

Local businesses who have donated generously to our NHS History Project.

Lygon Hardware and Engineering Supplies
245-247 Lygon Street,
EAST BRUNSWICK.

The Environment Shop
594 High Street, THORNBURY
Show your appreciation of their support by giving them your support.

When you do tell them you are from Northcote High School!
Mountain Bike Championships Mar 28/29

The third annual Shimano Australian Interschool Mountain Bike Championships is on again! On top of the world at Mt Buller, Australia’s premier mountain bike resort, on March 28-29 for a weekend packed full of races across 3 divisions, for students from years 7-12.

Northcote High School not only has mountain bike fanatic (Mr Sheedy) but also some students who will attend and are keen for school support. If you are interested in making up a school team please see Mr Murphy or Mr Sheedy as quickly as you can.

For more information, have a look at http://www.interschoolmountainbiking.com.au/events.htm

Coaching services

*NHS is often asked to provide the names of Tutors and coaches. The following tutors have asked to advertise in our newsletter, but please note they have no official connection with the school. You should discuss your needs and the cost directly with the tutor concerned.*

**VCE English Private Tuition**

I am an experienced VCE teacher of English offering private tuition to VCE English students in 2008 I am registered with The Victorian Institute of Teaching and am currently teaching VCE English and VCE ESL at a school in Melbourne. I have extensive experience teaching analysis of media texts, print and film text analysis and Context studies. I am familiar with a wide range of current VCE English print and film texts.

I have completed a Masters in Education which includes an evaluation of the new VCE Units 3 and 4 Curriculum: Creating and Presenting. I have also tutored in English Literature.

For further information or to arrange a tutoring session, please call Jan on 0414 583 599 or 9489 2490. Year 12 students will be given priority. Referees are available if required.

**MATHS COACHING**

Experienced, VIT-registered, References available.
Ph 0405-470-568 or email lindawannanedgar@yahoo.com"
Linda Wannan-Edgar, Economist-Educator

**VCE TUTORING**

ART, STUDIO ARTS & VISUAL COMMUNICATION

Focus on folio development and preparation for course requirements.
Please call Leanne 0403 425 005 Small group or individual

The “Gialloblu” Football Club will be establishing new squads for the 2009 season. We are seeking interested junior players to attend pre-season training and join the Under 13, Under 14 or Under 15 squads.

Gialloblu will resume football training from Tuesday 3rd March. We provide a variety of training locations, times and facilities to suite all players and members.

The club family day will be held on

**Sunday the 15th of March,**

At the Furlan Club (1 Matisi St. Thornbury).
For further information, please contact George by:
Email: gialloblu@bigpond.com,
or Phone: 0433 102 847