Swimming and Cricket have dominated our early Sporting competitions with our School Swimming Team turning in a great team effort at the Sectional Swimming Carnival on Tuesday 10th March. Our 39 swimmers placed in 70 out of 83 events. We recorded 37 wins, 26 seconds and 7 thirds. Brother and sister combinations including Lily and Harry Potocnik, Harriet and Will Green and Lauren and Gerard Gilder gave us 16 wins between them. Alessi Burnham- Year 11, Tori Rustciano and Michael Stavvakakis of Year 7 each had 4 wins. Our aggregate scores were our best ever, scoring 640 points, against; Fitzroy HS 332, Melbourne GC 321, Princes Hill SC 293 and Melbourne HS 286

Special mention should be made of 6 swimmers-mainly from Year 7, who just missed out on events in their own age group but attended - swimming in events and relays at higher age groups. Of our 39 swimmers, 35 progressed through to the Northern Zone carnival on Wednesday 18th March at MSAC in Albert Park.

On Wednesday 11th March our Year 7 Boys played in the District Cricket final in a 35 over game with a leather ball. Playing against Thornbury High and coached by Mr. Hore we made 180 and then bowled TBS out for 126. Micah Worrington retired after cracking 50 runs and Harry Potocnik after starring at the swimming scored 45 runs. Most of players got to bowl giving Mr. Hore a good look at all of our players. This team is off to the Zone finals on Monday March 23rd.

On Friday March 13th, 13 girls from Year 10 to 12 headed to R. H. Robinsons reserve in Preston to represent Northcote at the Northern Zone final against Mac Robertsons Girls. After winning the toss we headed out to field first and some fantastic catches were taken by Caitlin Friend, Georgia Hammond and Lucy Meaney. Wonderful bowling by Jo and Caitlin Godfrey also helped restrict the Mac Robertson girls to 117 runs. Unfortunately their fiery fast paced bowlers had us on the back foot ending up with a total of 53 runs. Congratulations to Caitlin Friend who contributed with 36 runs. Well done to all of the girls who participated.

The next few weeks see our Year 7,8, 9 and 10 students playing in District Volleyball, Tennis, Baseball and Softball tournaments. The training and excitement in our Year 7 students is showing as many of them will represent their new school for the first time.

Ms Leanne Guinea one of our regular relief teachers at Northcote High was the coach of our Senior Girls Cricket team above. Last weekend she was cutting up the white water course in Sydney in the Australian selection trials. Leanne was placed 1st and 2nd in her 2 races against strong opposition. She has now been selected to represent the Australian Senior team at the World Cup and World Championships to be held in Spain later this year in the ladies white water slalom canoeing. If Leanne maintains this amazing form we could be watching her in London in 2012.
Year Boys 8 Cricket 2009

Venue: Donath Reserve, Reservoir
Date: Wednesday 4 March
Northcote 2 for 67 defeated Resevoir 6 for 46

An excellent opening stand by Liam Trinh and Michael Belchambers set a very good run pace. Mitchell Bullen chipped in with some big hitting and Muktar Kaashi frustrated the Reservoir bowlers. Ivan Dang played a reverse pull shot that stunned the opposition coach. Running between wickets could be improved but overall a well put together innings. Mitchell Bullen chipped in with some big hitting and Muktar Kaashi frustrated the Reservoir bowlers. Ivan Dang played a reverse pull shot that stunned the opposition coach. Running between wickets could be improved but overall a well put together innings. Mitchell Bullen chipped in with some big hitting and Muktar Kaashi frustrated the Reservoir bowlers. Ivan Dang played a reverse pull shot that stunned the opposition coach. Running between wickets could be improved but overall a well put together innings.

Northcote headed into the next game full of confidence, but this was short lived as Thornbury had the answer to Northcote's wayward bowling attack. Michael Belchambers keeping behind the stumps was excellent. Vincent Luu took a wicket as did Liam Trinh but it was not enough. Northcote made a valiant effort to chase down the massive Thornbury first innings total but the wheels fell off like North Melbourne in the finals.

Thornbury 2 for 98 defeated Northcote 7 for 81

The last match against Merrilands saw Northcote's opening batsmen again impose themselves on the game, but bad light stopped play. Umpires were confused and despite some remonstrations from crowd the players were ordered off the pitch.

Nevertheless an excellent day in the field. There were some very good catches including a diving slips catch by Otto Ishak and some promising talent emerging as in Kevin Kuang and Khang Nguyen.

Mr Geoff Thomas

Ursula Hughson—Our Women’s Soccer star!

Ursula Hughson of Year 11 played for Victoria’s Melbourne Victory in the 2008 National W League and is now associated with the National Training Centre. Ursula is originally from Warrnambool, but came to Northcote to help pursue her career in soccer.

Ursula has been playing Soccer for 7 years, and she is the youngest in the squad. “I’m looking forward to playing for Northcote High as well!” she said. She will hopefully be traveling to China in April with Melbourne Victory to play various Chinese teams. Ursula has also been Captain for several state sides and is hoping to serve in this capacity again at Coff’s Harbour in July at the National Youth Championships. The school congratulates Ursula on this outstanding achievement. Last Friday she was presented a Victoria Blues sporting award, recognizing her achievement in soccer.

Photo at right courtesy Warrnambool Standard

Reminder—Parent Teacher Night

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 12.30 pm, and conclude at 8.00 pm. An appointment system will operate* with staff taking breaks for meals at various times. The appointment sheet will be distributed to your child next week and will also available from our website.

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

Other notes:

1. Interpreters can be booked—see Mr Murphy now. Currently Mandarin, Cantonese and Vietnamese interpreters are booked.

2. Wednesday April 1 is a late start—school begins at 10.40 am for periods 3-6

3. Some Year 7 students and several teachers will be involved in District Sports on Parent Teacher Day. Unfortunately, this clash of event is unavoidable, as the dates of District sporting events are not set by NHS.
Maths Faculty Update Term 1

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 CHALLENGE:

The maths challenge is as the name implies very challenging and is open to students in Year 7 to Year 10. The challenge consists of six problems for students to attempt over a three-week block in May. Students are selected by referrals from their maths teacher. If you think your child would be interested in attempting the challenge please contact Mr Savini or your child’s maths teacher. Notices will be given out. Entry cost is $12.00 and closes Thursday March 19th, 2009.

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 6th August 2009 and entry cost is $4.00. More information will be given to your child closer to the date. This competition is open for all students to attempt.

INFORMATICS COMPETITION:

The Australian Informatics Competition is based around problem solving in computer science for students from Year 7 to Year 12. It is a pen and paper competition in which students are asked to analyse and design methods for solving problems, skills that are fundamental to computer programming. It is not a programming competition and no programming experience is necessary. Competition Date is Thursday 7th May 2009 and the cost of entry is $4.00.

Competition entry fees will need to be brought to school by Thursday March 19th, 2009 in order to meet registration schedules.

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

Lions Club Debating Finals

Congratulation to our Year 12 Debating Team – Joanna Jellie, Christian Dirk and Emina Suzic (shown right) who represented NHS at the Northcote Lions Club Debating Finals last night – they were awarded second place and $750.00 towards library books. Our team was congratulated on their ability to skillfully rebut the opposition’s arguments and on their preparation. Emina was awarded the top speaker award for our team. Special thanks to Martin Ramsay and Carlene Wilson for ongoing their mentoring and support of our debating program and teams.

Round One of the DAV began last week with 10 NHS teams competing (Yrs 7-11)

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!” Track pants are not an acceptable part of day wear uniform for Years 7–10 students—they are a sporting item only.

Parents! Please support the school and avoid unpleasantness for your child by organizing the winter uniform now.
2010 Language Tour to France

2010 sees another 'Tour de France' for Northcote High School!

To many of us, France is Paris, but we are unaware of how important France's regions are to the French. Many French people do not identify themselves as French, rather by the region that they come from. Our trip to France next year includes Paris, with many of its icons of course, and the region of Normandy.

The first week will be in Paris, with language lessons in the mornings, and discovery of Paris in the afternoons and evenings. The full program covers contemporary as well as historical culture, including visits to the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, Notre Dame, L'Opera, Bastille, Montmartre and the Latin Quarter.

In Yvetot, Normandy, the students will be welcomed into French families and a secondary school. At night they will be immersed in the French language and culture. They will have two half-days at the school, experiencing the classes, as well as the famous 3-course 'cantine' meal that is still traditional in France.

We will include day trips to Rouen, Honfleur and Etretat expected as well as overnight excursions to Mont St Michel and Bayeux. This will be an invaluable opportunity to LIVE French as a language and a culture, and to begin your friendship both with the country and its people.

Ms Mink Schapper and Mr Chris Manousopoulos

For further information, or to indicate your interest, please contact Mink on mk@nhs.vic.edu.au or Chris on cm@nhs.vic.edu.au

Duke of Edinburgh Update

Gold for Northcote High School student!

Congratulations to Stephanie Moncur for the outstanding achievement, the Duke of Edinburgh's Award - Gold Award. The Gold level Award requires a twelve month commitment of one hour per week in the components of Community Service, Skill, Physical Recreation and a four day Adventurous Journey. Stephanie commenced her Gold Award when she was in Year 11 with the aim of completing the components before the end of year exams. Stephanie will receive her badge at a whole school assembly on the 18th of March and will be attending a presentation ceremony at Parliament House in June. Well done Stephanie. Mr Damien Hoban

(Year 9 students can become part of the program—see Mr Hoban in C Block)
To the Principal and staff at Northcote High School,

I write to pass on my congratulations to the students representing the high school who happen to be on my tram this morning. Normally I cringe at the sight of a group of school children, as generally loud and boisterous behaviour accompanies such gatherings.

However, this morning I was pleasantly surprised when the group of 15 or so students from your school all conducted themselves in such a pleasant manner. I was especially impressed with the group of young lads.

I know it would be terribly difficult to identify the group, but in any case, I was on the city bound #112 tram, which reached the high school at 5 mins to 9.

So, well done!

Jessica

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The view over Antarctica

Young Science Ambassadors rewarded with a breathtaking flight over Antarctica.

Joanna Jellie and Thomas Foy of year 12 were 2 of 52 final year students selected to participate in a centenary flight over the South Magnetic Pole, Antarctica.

The flight was organised by the Royal Society of Victoria to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the location of the South Magnetic Pole on 16th January 1909 by the party of Australians Professor Edgeworth David and Douglas Mawson, and Scotsman Dr Alistair Forbes Mackay. They were members of Shackleton’s British Antarctic Expedition 1907-1909.

The students were selected from around Australia and also included 10 from NZ, 2 from Scotland, 3 from England and 2 from Canada, as part of the Society’s Young Science Ambassadors’ program. The program consisted of two parts; the first was a 12 hour flight over the South Magnetic Pole and the second part consisted of a Science education program. The science education program was hosted at the University of Melbourne and involved a discovery tour of Bio21 Institute and the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of medical research the students attended seminars on drought, biodiversity, forestry, polar science and participated in ‘hands on’ genetics activities.

Guests included Professor David de Kretser AC, Governor of Victoria and Mrs Jan de Kretser, HRH Duke of Gloucester and the Chancellor of the University of Melbourne, Hon Alex Chernov. Students were also able to meet with the Prime Minister Kevin Rudd.

Overall, a magnificent and inspiring experience for two of our highest achieving students.

Ms Melody Gabriel

At the beginning of the year I, along with Thomas Foy, took part in a Young Science Ambassadors program organised by the Royal Society of Victoria. The program consisted of two parts; the first was a 12 hour flight over Antarctica and the south magnetic pole. The view was spectacular. While we were in the air we learnt about the earth’s magnetic field and located the south magnetic pole using a dip circle. It was fantastic to see and learn about the Antarctica region, its climate and global warming. This was a once in lifetime opportunity to see a part of the world that not many have seen.

The second part of the program was conducted at the University of Melbourne where we visited various research centres and science departments. We were given some insight into the different types of research that are being conducted at the University and their applications. We were also taught about the different pathways that science can lead to. The most interesting part of this program was listening to one man talk about his work with malaria.

The beauty of the trip was I got to meet other interesting students from Canada and Scotland, these were people I got along with really well and I know we will stay in touch.

Joanna Jellie Y12.

Another happy tram traveler!

To the Principal and staff at Northcote High School,

I write to pass on my congratulations to the students representing the high school who happen to be on my tram this morning. Normally I cringe at the sight of a group of school children, as generally loud and boisterous behaviour accompanies such gatherings.

However, this morning I was pleasantly surprised when the group of 15 or so students from your school all conducted themselves in such a pleasant manner. I was especially impressed with the group of young lads.

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So, well done!

Jessica
Important message from the Tax office

Education Tax Refund – Get 50% back
Under the new Education Tax Refund, parents and others who are eligible can now claim 50% of their eligible education expenses up to $750 for primary students and $1500 for secondary students.

This means you could receive a refund each year of up to $375 for each primary and $750 for each secondary school student in your care.

Are you eligible?
To be eligible you must have received Family Tax Benefit Part A for each child whose education expenses you wish to claim. You can also claim the Education Tax Refund if you were stopped from receiving Family Tax Benefit Part A because your child received any of the following:
- Youth Allowance (student) aged 18
- Disability Support Pension
- ABSTUDY
- the Veterans’ Children Education Scheme
- the Student Financial Supplement Scheme
- a scheme under s258 of the Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Act 2004
- an Australian Postgraduate Award.

Independent students are also eligible to claim.

What can you claim?
You can claim the purchase, lease, hire or hire-purchase costs, repairs and running costs of:
- laptops, home computers and associated costs — for example, internet and paper
- educational software, printers, USB flash drives, disability aids to assist in the use of computer equipment for students with special needs
- stationery and art supplies
- school textbooks and associated learning materials
- trade tools and safety equipment for secondary school trade courses.

Some of the expenses you cannot claim include school fees or the cost of school uniforms, school excursions or travel to and from school, musical instruments or sporting equipment, clothing or footwear. For a more comprehensive list visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

When can you claim?
You can claim your education expenses in your 2009 tax return. If you do not have to lodge a tax return, you will be able to lodge a separate claim with the Tax Office from 1 July 2009.

Remember, you need to keep all receipts for expenses you claim.

If your education expenses in one year are more than the claim limit for your children, you can add the excess to your education expenses for the following year.

For more information:
- visit www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au
- phone the Tax Office on 13 28 81.

National Ride2School Day—March 25
Once again Northcote High will be participating in the National Ride2School Day, held on Wednesday the 25th of March. We encourage everyone to either ride their bike, catch public transport or walk to school. A free pancake breakfast will be available for students who do so. Spot prizes will be awarded throughout the day. There will also be a competition for the best decorated bike and a music concert featuring student bands at lunchtime. More information will be provided closer to the date, in notices around the school. Nick Rickard for the Captain’s Council
DOBSON'S UNIFORM SHOP

Phone : 9488.2317 Opening Hours : Tuesdays 12.30 - 4.00 Fridays 8.30 - 11.30

ORDERS

Customers, please note that we will hold orders aside for 1 week after you have been notified of their arrival, unless alternative arrangements have been made with us. If other customers require that item it will be sold to them. If we have been unsuccessful in phoning you, please check the notice board outside the school shop for your name.

PAYMENTS

We accept cash, credit cards and eftpos. Remember, we do not accept cheques but can do credit card transactions by phone.

Adolescence—for parents !!

APPLES, Active parents participating in Learning, experiencing and sharing Wednesday evenings 7 - 9 pm Monthly Parental Information Support Meetings. Hear from youth workers about current adolescent issues and discuss strategies and support with other parents. April 29 Drug and Alcohol May 27 Body Image June 24 Mental Health

Surviving your Adolescents Series. Understand adolescence: A time of reconstructions, redeveloping social landscapes, brain snaps and body makeovers. Understanding your job as a parent of a teenager – observer, advisor, negotiator, director. Asking the question – is it serious? What’s worth reacting to and what’s not. How to hold the difficult conversations more successfully. Session 1- March 11, Session 2 - March 18 and Session 3 – March 25.

For more info or to register your interest for these free events contact Lisa on 9457 9907 or lisa.said@banyule.vic.gov.au

Debating Round One News

Round One of the Debater’s Association of Victoria competition was held last night with many of the N.H.S. teams experiencing success. It was great to see the excited faces of both parents and student. Debating is a wonderful activity that teaches research, clear thinking, how to use rhetorical flourishes and rebuttal all in front of a live audience. And win, lose or draw there is plenty to be gained from both the adjudicator’s feedback as well as debating against talented students from all schools. The students who are representing N.H.S. this year are;

B GRADE 1: Conor Flynn, Varun Khatter, Mary Ioannidis, Marissa Butera

B GRADE 2: Lucy Benjamin, Alec Deasey, Maddy Goss, Aiden Sloggett

B GRADE 3: Trevor Du, Azra Susic, Roy Logue, Jordan Cole

C GRADE 1: Katharine Thomas, Ruby George, Caitlin Mountford, Ruby Bell

C GRADE 2: Luke Dakis-Corcoran, Hamish Ramsay, Charles Cornwallis, Raka Hutchinson

D GRADE 1: Carmen Wiseman 9F, Nikk Marakis 9F, Alexei Ymer-Welsby Mike Matters 9F

D GRADE 2: Martin Ditmann, Isabella D’Sousa, Himani Khatter, Megan McGowan, Yilei Zhang

D GRADE 3: Brittany Wacholt, Sam Rooke, Lucy Foskey, Harry Howard

D GRADE 4: Anthea Tsagaridis, Katherine Tsagaridis, Anastassia Koslevska, Elinor Mills, Kelsie Miller, Molly Hunt

D GRADE 5: Chloe Simmons, Molly Sceary, Isabel Schreiber, Clare Adolph, Mary Zhang, Phi-Long Nguyen

Congratulations to all speakers and their teams. Updates on the progress of teams can be viewed in the D.V.A. website. Debating is a team sport and the success of a team depends on all of its members. Finally, we would like to acknowledge and thank parents for their ongoing and vital support.

Martin Ramsay and Carlene Wilson (Debating/Public speaking coordinators)

Some of our Yr 7 debaters
Short School Notices

BIKE SECURITY AT SCHOOL
Recently a student’s bike was stolen, while it was left parked and locked near A block on St. George’s Rd.. The thief, unknown to the school, was able to remove it with great speed, and as it was at the front of the school, without attracting suspicion.

Please avoid parking bikes on the oval or at the front of the school. It appears even locked bikes are vulnerable. We would much rather bikes were inside the school and out of sight. Please park your bike under the library or in the racks near C Block.

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 $210+ per week to host and board an overseas student)

2008 ANNUAL REPORT AVAILABLE
The Annual Report for 2008 was accepted at our General Meeting on March 12th. You can collect a colour copy from our General Office, or find it on our website at http://www.nhs.vic.edu.au/index.php?id=18. (Its under the School Community/School Council option)

SHORT TERM HOMESTAY HOSTS FOR FRENCH STUDENTS—JUNE 2009
NHS hosts 3-4 French students in June each year. They come to Australia for about 4 weeks (usually the last few weeks of Term 2 and some/all of the June holidays) to expand their English. If you are interested in having a French homestay please contact Mr Murphy on 9488 2342. Families receive about $220 per week to defray expenses.

PARENTS & GUARDIANS OF YR 10 & 11 STUDENTS—IronXS Project
In 2009 our school will be involved in a project called ironXS. This project will be conducted throughout Victoria and is being run by the Murdoch Childrens Research Institute at the Royal Children’s Hospital. Year 10 and 11 students will shortly be given Parent Information packs about this project to take home. These contain a detailed explanation of this project, as well as a consent form for parents to sign to allow their son/daughter to participate.

In Australia, one in every 250 people have haemochromatosis, a condition where there is too much iron in the body. If untreated this can lead to liver disease, diabetes, heart damage, tiredness, arthritis and infertility. A gene with a particular change has been identified, which makes a person more susceptible to developing haemochromatosis.

IMPORTANTLY, once a person knows they have this gene change they can PREVENT haemochromatosis from developing BY DONATING BLOOD REGULARLY. The aim of this project is to find out if offering genetic screening for a condition called haemochromatosis to year 10 and 11 students is practical.

This ironXS program will provide all the relevant information and then offer year 10 and 11 students the chance to find out their genetic risk of developing haemochromatosis by genetic testing. We hope that your son/daughter is able to take part in this state-wide study. Please help us by returning the consent form as quickly as possible.

Community Notices

UNDER 13 AND UNDER 16 FOOTBALL PLAYERS REQUIRED
Preston Bullants Junior Football Club (part of the Yarra Junior Football League) is seeking players this season for the Under 13 age group (must be 12 years of age on January 1 2009) and Under 16 age group (must be 15 years of age on January 1 2009). Training for the Under 13s is held on Mondays 4.30 - 6.00pm and for the Under 16s on Mondays and Thursdays 5.15 - 7.15pm. For full details please contact Dennis McNiece (President) on 0409 946 811.

SOUTHERN CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Southern Cross Cultural Exchange, an Australian not-for-profit organisation specialising in international student exchange programs, is seeking volunteer host families for high school students scheduled to arrive in Australia in July 2009 from Germany, Italy, France, Holland, Austria, Spain, Sweden, Norway, Denmark Finland, Japan, Brazil, Canada and the USA. To enquire, call Southern Cross Cultural Exchange now toll free on 1800 500 501, visit www.scce.com.au or email scceaust@scce.com.au