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NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Newsletter

Volume 83, Issue 8  Celebrating 83 years of education in 2009  19 May 2009

Our All Australian Top 10 Stage Band

On Friday May 8 the NHS Senior Stage Band travelled to Mt Gambier, SA to compete in the National Jazz Band competitions. This event is part of the “Generations in Jazz” festival which is under the patronage of legendary Jazz trumpeter, James Morrison. In addition to the competition we attended a number of concerts and heard some amazing performances by some of Australia’s top Jazz players, including James Morrison himself. En route to Mt Gambier the band performed at Beaufort PS & Hamilton PS.

The band entered Division 1 which had us competing against the top school bands in the country. This was quite a task given that half of our band are new since the tour to California last year. James Morrison adjudicates Division 1 and composed the set piece that all bands have to play. The winner of the section was the Performing Arts Unit from NSW with second place going to the Wesley College Band. These bands were ‘out of sight’ and inspired us to even strive for even higher standards with our own playing.

NHS placed 7th which puts us clearly in the All Australian top 10 bands. This is a wonderful achievement and reflects the hard work put in by all the members of the band. We also made 3rd ranking Victorian band.

The Top 8 Australian bands were:
1. NSW Performing Arts Unit 1 NSW
2. Wesley College VIC
3. Rostrevor College SA
4. Marryatville High School SA
5. Prince Alfred College SA
6. Blackburn High School VIC
7. Northcote High School, VIC
8. Brighton Secondary College, VIC
9. Ringwood Secondary College, VIC
10. Caulfield Grammar School, VIC

Individual Excellence.
Generations in Jazz also has a number of scholarships and other acknowledgements that are made as part of the festival. Out of all the Division one bands, a “Super Band” is selected from the best players. Reuben Legge was selected as one of the two Alto Sax players for this band. This means that for this event, he was judged as one of the two best student Alto players in Australia.

James Morrison personally selects 5 students whom he considers to be Future Finalists. That is players he considers to have the capability of being professional players and finalist in the jazz player scholarship. Adrian Codognotto was awarded this honour for his trombone playing. This was in a year that James Morrison said “was exceptionally for the level and number of bone players”.

It was a fantastic weekend with great fun, great music and establishing NHS as one of the best programs in the country. Congratulations to all.

Ms Neesh Wray and Mr Peter Lewis

School Diary
May 19: VCE District Sports Day
7H Boho camp (to 22/5)
May 28: Yr 9/10 District Sports Day
May 29: Yr 9 Maths/English Exam
Zone Athletics Meadowglen
June 1: Yr 11 Exams commence
(to 5 June)
June 2: Yr 10 Exams commence
(to 5 June)
June 8: Queens Birthday holiday
June 9-10: VCAA Exams for some
Unit 3 subjects
June 11: GAT (no Yr 11 or 12 classes)
June 12: Report Writing Day (No school for students)
June 16: Yr BA-C High Resolves
June 17: Immunizations for Yr 7 Girls
Yr BD-F High Resolves
June 18: Yr 8 G-I High Resolves
June 19: Yr 8 District Sport Day
June 22: Yr 10 Work Experience
begins

Exams at a glance:
May 29: Yr 9 Maths/Eng
June 1-5: Yr 11 Exams
June 2-5: Yr 10 Exams
June 9-10: VCAA Exams
June 11: GAT Exam

School Contacts
General Office
9488 2300

NHS HISTORY PROJECT
nhshistory@nhs.vic.edu.au

Student Absence line
9488 2330

Student Absence email
absence@nhs.vic.edu.au

School Website
www.nhs.vic.edu.au

School Email
info@nhs.vic.edu.au

Postal Address
St. Georges Road, Northcote, 3070
Acting Principal’s Report

The final weeks of semester one sees a busy program for many of our students; our Year 9s leave for Razed Gap Camp on Monday and 7H heads off to Boho. Last week our International Students enjoyed a fun week of activities at Boho, bushwalking, canoeing, horse riding and Australian taste sensations i.e. bbqs. We are now moving into the last 3 weeks of Semester 1 with important exams, assessment dates and report writing.

Exams and Exam Preparation
The school exam period will begin on the 1st June. As a school we take exams very seriously and work to develop within our students a focused approach to exams and exam preparation. This starts with Year 9 exams in Maths and English through to Year 12 external VCE exams. We appreciate parents support in establishing a positive and supportive study environment at home as students prepare for this important assessment period. (see dates below)

NHS 2009 – Learning, Participating and Connecting
Northcote High School has a proud and strong tradition of excellence. Each day we are focused on continuing our improvement efforts - expanding the ways we support student learning in the classroom. Last week our teachers met as part of our Performance and Development process to continue to discuss, develop and achieve faculty and individual teaching goals. This work is pivotal to our continued development of effective instructional practices and assessment strategies that support and extend all students. Through this work we strive to strengthen our environment of respect and achievement and our culture of caring commitment and contribution.

NHS Performing
Last Friday was a full day rehearsal for the school production – Pirates of Penzance with students and staff working incredibly hard to ensure they deliver a top quality show. Directors Peter Lewis and Jennifer McIntyre lead the students through workshops developing their singing, delivery of lines and stage craft. This year we have casts of actors, singers and dancers, a full production band (lead by Ms Anne Rassoul), stage set and back stage crew and make up, lighting etc. On Friday the students in the orchestra came together for the first time practicing intently and becoming part of the show. It is always fabulous to see students working in multi-age groups, leading and coaching each other and developing new skills. The show will be performed early next term at NHS and we look forward to a full house every night! We are again looking for your assistance – if you can support with costume design, sewing or set building or any other area please contact Peter Lewis on 9488 2336.

Talking about quality performance our Senior Stage Band continues to go from strength to strength this year competing in the Generations in Jazz event in Mount Gambier. Collectively the Stage Band performed brilliantly and were ranked 7th in the A division. This is a significant achievement as most other higher ranked bands were from selective music high school or programs. Individually, two of our students were also acknowledged for their brilliant playing - Rueben Legge (alto sax) and Adrian Codognotto (trombone) – see report below. Congratulations to all Senior Stage Band members and to Peter Lewis and Shaun Murray for their musical direction.

NHS Building the Education Revolution (BER)
In the last newsletter I announced NHS had received $2000 000 from the Federal Government BER National School Pride funding. The BER Program has very tight timelines and therefore we are moving quickly with the planning process. We will be constructing a larger and more ‘useful’ multipurpose space attached to our gymnasium. This is a great opportunity to develop our Physical Education facilities ensuring we can offer two multiuse spaces indoor spaces that allow a range of activities.

Hall - Renovation
The hall renovation continues with the completion of extensive underpinning, restumping and repairs to the brickwork. Later in the year we will be completing a number of improvements that will bring our hall back to its former glory including: a stage extension, under stage storage, 2 small multipurpose spaces, a drama store, black out facilities, an electrical upgrade with multimedia capability and some structural improvements, including new doors, windows, floor sanding and painting. This will create a great space for learning and celebrating NHS achievements.

NHS Teachers Shine
Ms Soula Bennett - Science Teacher and Head of Middle Years and BHP Billiton Australian Science Teacher of the Year is currently in Reno, Nevada participating in the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Soula has sent us a number of emails describing her experiences and the great opportunities and people to which she has been able to learn from and engage with. Soula will also be visiting Gail Davidson at Lynbrook High School (where Gail has been appointed Principal), laying the foundations for another important international relationship for NHS. We look forward to hearing about Soula’s experiences in the next newsletter.

NHS Students Shine
In our assembly this week we will be acknowledging the achievement of our students in the classroom, in our co-curricular programs from debating to swimming and outside our school. We will also be featuring a number of home grown speakers (Nellie Montague, Nick Rickard, Sean Gilmartin (Dux 2008) who will be reflecting on their NHS experience and sharing their perspective of respect, high achievement and active learning in their world. Finally, congratulations to Marisa Butera (UBS Young Woman’s Leadership Academy – one week program University of Sydney) and Ilona Lovac (Monash University Human Rights Week award winner) for their wonderful achieve-
Most of our 120 Year 7 girls assembled for this photo on Friday May 15th. It’s 20 years this year that the first girls were again enrolled — there are now over 630 girls in the school!

Did you know that Northcote High School started in 1926 as a coeducational school? In 1929, girls were required by the Education Department to transfer to the new Preston Girls school. Many of our “Old Girls” remember their sadness about leaving the school, as they had no choice in the matter.

Did you know that while still a boys school in the 1980s, Northcote had several “unofficial” female students, whose parents insisted on enrolling them here because of our breadth of subjects?

Did you know that one of the girls of the 1980s was a very good soccer player, and played in our senior soccer boy’s team? Mr Price had to get special state permission for her to play in the NHS boy’s team, and against other boys teams!!!

Did you know Mr Murphy enrolled the first “official” girl back into the school for 1989? Her name was Jo Rizkalla and she wanted access to our range of VCE subjects. If you know where she is now, please tell us!!

Pirates of Penzance—coming soon!

Opening in two months time, Pirates of Penzance involves 80 students and numerous backstage helpers. Keep your eyes peeled for ticket sales! As Alexei Ymer-Welsby comments; “This musical is a great way to learn about 18th century pirating problems in Cornwall. Also, I’ll never be given the chance to wield a razor sharp sword at school again!”
**Yr 8 Toolangi excursions**

On Wednesday May 6, three year 8 classes, 8B, 8F and 8G travelled to Toolangi Forest to undertake fieldwork as part of their Geography course. Students viewed a DVD in the theaterette at the Toolangi Forest Discovery Centre, then undertook nature observations in both the temperate forest and rainforest sections of the park. On the return trip, we drove through Kinglake and students were able to observe first hand the extent of the fire-stricken area but also signs of forest regrowth and new building works.

Teachers accompanying the classes were Dr Fraser, Ms Capelli and Mr Devine.

**Coming to terms with Kafka!**

When I heard that Ms Alitt and Ms Costanzo where organising an out of school excursion to see the play, I decided to go on the basis of two things; Firstly, because despite having no idea what the play was about, I thought it might be fun to see a play with few school friends, and secondly, because if worst came to worst and the play wasn’t any good then... no harm done: my mother had paid for it anyway. When I heard that the play was supposed to be a serious solo piece about a talking monkey, I had misgivings. Comedy maybe, but watching a woman in a monkey suit philosophising for an hour in complete seriousness did not sound like it had much potential. But, as it turned out, I was more than pleasantly surprised. The play took the form of an ape (in tuxedo) explaining to an auditorium of scientists (the audience) how and why he made the transformation into a human, complete with incredible feats of flexibility, I and the rest of the audience, were completely drawn in.

Kafka’s Monkey, was brilliant and moving, and the sixty-something year old actress Kathryn Hunter (below) gave one of the best and most passionate performances I have seen in my life: off the screen or on it. I, along with my classmates and teachers (some of whom had participated in fleeting moments of comedy) came out feeling thoroughly drained and deeply moved.

*Clancy Fraser Yr 12*

**NAPLAN – all over for another year!**

The NAPLAN tests are complete and over for another year! These tests are conducted Australia-wide at Years 7 and 9 levels at the same. While the results provide valuable information for schools and families, its important to remember that quality education is not just about Naplan tests!
Sports Bag by Da Shan

Our Term 2 Sport program is a huge task with completion of 8 VCE Sports, 3 Athletic Carnivals, Cross Country and Round Robin days for Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 in Netball, Badminton, Football and Soccer! To coordinate this massive task requires the input of many people.

In our last VCE round robin day Year 11 students George Panagiotidis, Elizabeth Demetriou and Jake Bell were pivotal in organising Soccer and Netball players, liaising with coaches (teachers), packing equipment, running training and following up permission forms. Our VCE day saw our Netballers finish runners up to a very strong team from Mill Park SC. Our 2 VCE Soccer teams (Girls and Boys) looked formidable, winning all of their games. Our school coaches George Georgiadis and Geoff Thomas were pivotal in organising both teams and keeping them on their winning ways. Our Sectional Athletics last week was also a great team effort with many senior students working with our younger students. Competing against 8 other local schools we managed to win all 7 pennants on the day! Our Year 7 students are critical to our future and they performed as well as our older students. Eighteen Year 7 students won through to the Northern Zone Athletics, to be held on Friday 29th May. Maia Charya-Davis 7I (3 events), Mei Griffin 7G (2), Beth Barbour 7I (2) and Ben McDonald 7D (2) were all multiple event winners. Zoe McWhinney 9E, Jimmy Monaghan 11G and James McGee 11D dominated with 5 wins each. Students who won through in 4 events included Isabella Johnson 8E, Jean Katrina Delos-Reyes 9D, Lauren Gilder 9D and Bronwyn Humphrys. Momoh Sannoh of Year 11 must be thanked for all his sporting contributions as he leaves our school (he is moving house) – he stopped the crowd with his blistering speed and wins in the Open 100m and 200m - winning by huge margins. He repeated the effort in our VCE Soccer wins flashing down the wings setting up numerous goals for Northcote.

After retiring 2 years ago John Heyworth was another welcome spectator at our VCE Soccer. After coaching many of these students in Soccer he wanted to follow their development.

The Results of District Sectional Athletics were

<table>
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<th>School</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tr>
<td>Northcote HS</td>
<td>1182</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lalor SC</td>
<td>843</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fitzroy HS</td>
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<td>Epping SC</td>
<td>546</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brunswick SC</td>
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Calling all Writers

The University of New South Wales is running a special writing competition: The UNSW Educational Assessment Australia Writing Competition. The aim is to promote and encourage an interest in writing. It is open to all students in years 7-12. The competition follows a genre-based approach to writing that combines describing, explaining and persuading. Approximately 20 criteria are used to assess the writing pieces. We would like to encourage as many students as possible to participate in this great competition.

The competition will be held on: June 23rd, 2009

The cost is: $12.10

The fee is set by the University as each appear is marked individually. The fee must be paid to the office by Friday 22nd May, 2009.

If you would like your child to participate, please ask him/her to speak to his/her English teacher who will have a permission form available.

We wish all our Northcote High School students the best of luck! Ms. M. Castles & Ms. V. Konstantinou.
Careers news

For Yr 12 students:

GAP Year with the Australian Defence Forces (ADF):
Due to the enormous popularity of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Gap Year, the application process has changed and improved from previous years. Key Points:
- Apply online for the ADF Gap Year
- Applications open 1st May till 3rd September, 2009

The only way to apply for the ADF Gap Year is to complete an online application.

For further information, visit www.defencejobs.gov.au/gapyear

Yr 12 VTAC 2010 Guides:
Yr 12 Students wishing to order their copy of the 2010 VTAC Guide through the school need to pay $10 to the General Office by 3:30pm Thursday 21/05/09. Students who do not order a copy through the school will be able to purchase a guide at the newsagent for $15. Guides will become available in Term 3 (approx week 2 or 3).

For Yr 10 to 12 students:

Hoyts – now recruiting!
Hoyts (Melbourne Central) currently has casual cinema worker positions available. Are you available to work evenings and weekends? If you are interested, please submit a resume and covering letter outlining your availability to the cinema box office at Hoyts (Melbourne Central), cnr Swanston & La Trobe Streets, Melbourne before May 30th.

Ms Anderton Careers

Cyber safety for Year 7s

Our Year 7s had a morning with Greg Gephardt from the Australian Government to speak to our students about cyber safety; including internet, phones, my space and chat rooms. Greg works in Australian Communications and Media Authority.

He gave us some useful ideas of how to deal with a whole range of issues, and also gave us some confronting examples of how young people have been affected!!

Greg ensured our students heard loudly and clearly that the first and best strategy is to speak out.

We encourage you to speak to your children about this issue.


There are also some useful points on our own website. Ms L. Delahunty

Human Rights Law Award for Ivona

Ivona Lonac (Yr 12) was last week awarded with a Certificate of Commendation from the prestigious Castan Centre for Human Rights Law at Monash University. Ivona entered the annual Writing for Human Rights Essay Competition. Each year the competition receives an overwhelming number of entries so to be one of six students in the state to be acknowledged for her work is an impressive achievement. Ivona’s contribution, on the topic We’re not morons: governments should butt out of young people’s live, expressed the contention that government intervention is often necessary to protect human rights and young people in particular. Ivona’s hard work, thoughtful (and possibly unusual) approach and numerous drafts paid off and on May 13 she attended the annual Monash Law’s Great Law Debate and was presented with her certificate.
Duke of Ed update

Strict new anti-graffiti laws were introduced last year. Were they too strict? How do you feel about Graffiti?

Graffiti remains a constant topic for debate and many city councils, property owners and residents expend resources in maintaining their assets. Northcote High School initiated a partnership with the City of Darebin and Platform Youth Theatre to deliver this topic to young people through a creative theatrical work. The production will form the major community service initiative of the Duke of Edinburgh’s Award at Northcote High in 2009.

In 2009 Northcote High School Dukes candidates are challenged with the task of becoming experts in graffiti: to learn whether there is a difference between street art and graffiti, to meet street artists, police and agencies and to develop their own perspective. The Dukes team has thus far viewed a Melbourne documentary on Street Art, met with City of Darebin Arts and Culture officer, completed a Street Art walk in Fitzroy and on the 12th of May the students attended a street art workshop at Sketch City in Northcote. Artwork produced from this workshop will be placed on display for the school community.

The second stage of the project will introduce the students to Platform Youth Theatre. It will be with the guidance of VCA artist Emma Williamson that the students will develop their skills in writing and producing a theatrical work. This will involved many workshops and specific skill development sessions for all the roles required. The final stage will be the performances to local schools. Opportunities are already presenting to share the production with a wider audience.

We look forward to bringing you further updates as the project progresses.

The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award team

Debating—Round Two

Round two has now come and gone in the Debaters’ Association of Victoria competition and it was not only a very successful night for Northcote High School students but also a great night for student participation and a demonstration of the skills they are developing. To those students who won best speaker, well done. Some of the other highlights on the night included:

- Our wonderful Year 7 students working hard and proving more than a match for students at Year 9 from other schools. The school is very proud not just of your success but also the incredible effort you are making.
- We also wish to acknowledge those students who stepped in at the last moment to cover for students who were sick. It is the willingness of students Azra Susic, Ruby Bell and Alexei Ymer Welsby to step in with very little time to prepare that helped make this such a successful night. Northcote High School won eight out of its ten debates, probably our best result for a single night’s debating ever.

There are now a number of teams who are undefeated and we hope that some of them win their way through to the finals later. If they manage to do this it will be the third year in a row we have had teams in the finals. In the meantime round three is on Thursday, June 4th. We look forward to another action packed evening. Thanks again to our wonderful parents for their continued support and to the students who are working together so well to represent Northcote High School win, lose or draw.

Ms Wilson, Ms Couttie and Mr Ramsay

2009 YMCA YOUTH PARLIAMENT September 27th - October 2nd

Youth Parliament provides young Victorians aged between 16 and 25 with the opportunity to "raise the roof of parliament" on the issues closest to their hearts.

The program provides young people with an opportunity to develop skills in relationship-building, team-work, public speaking, and leadership as well as to have fun. Participants take part in a 9-day residential training program which culminates in them formally debating bills in the Victorian Parliamentary chambers in September.

The Victorian Youth Parliament program is run by YMCA Victoria in conjunction with the State Government’s Office for Youth and is led by a volunteer Taskforce of past participants, all under the age of 25.

If you will be over the age of 16 at the time the Youth Parliament sits in September and would like to be a member of a team of six representing NHS please see Mr Hoban for an application form. For further information visit www.victoria.ymca.org.au
Short School Notices

LOST PROPERTY
We all ready have a large amount of assorted parts of our school uniform in lost property and most unnamed!

If your child has lost some clothing they should first
• Go to the classroom last in or see the teacher last had.
• See year level co-coordinator especially if a year 7’s
• Go see Mr. Erlandsen in the B Block, where our lost property is stored.

Community Notices

Electric & Double Bass Lessons.
Tim has been teaching bass for 10 years and playing for over 15 in Australia and overseas, he is a graduate from the Victorian College of the Arts with a Bachelor of Music, Improvisation.
Learn Bass in a relaxed friendly environment from a professional teacher. Beginners to Advanced, All styles, VCE preparation.

For more information contact: timkeegan@hotmail.com ph: 0415 241 094

Second Hand Texts Wanted
Looking for second hand Year 9 texts: “Tapis Volant 2 Zemiro 2 Ed” and commerce books. Please ring Leonie 0425 714 944.

Parent volunteers needed for a survey on children’s everyday activities
The Royal Children’s Hospital is looking for parents of typically developing children/adolescents to complete a survey on their child’s everyday activities. This information will help us understand the needs of children who have had a brain injury. What would I do?
• Complete one 40 minute survey.
  The survey asks about your child’s everyday activities; for example, shopping, interacting with others, and organising leisure activities
• Where & When?
  We can meet you at your home or your child’s school - whatever is easier for you
• Your child will not be interviewed

We’d be happy to hear from parents of:
• Children between 8 and 14 years old
• Typically developing children (who have not had a brain injury or other problems with development)

At the end of the project, we will give you a summary of the study findings. Interested? Want more information?
Please contact: Ms Vivienne Champness (ph: 0421 957 651 or email: vivienne.champness@mcri.edu.au),

A reminder—End of semester / unit dates
that are coming up in the next few weeks

2009 end of semester one / unit one and three dates for years 7 to 12 are as follows:

Year 12 – Unit 3 – Friday June 5th.
Year 11 -  Unit 1 – Friday May 29th
Year 10 -  Friday May 29th
Year 7 - 9 -  Friday June 5th

Mr K. Hoole