Yr 12 Class of 2009 Graduates

School Captains Jack Dalton and Sophie Freeman performed their last duties for 2009 at the Yr 12 graduation ceremony held at Moonee Valley Function Centre. The school thanks them for their exemplary work as our 80th captains. Former parent Dr. John Bradley presented the 83rd Graduation Address, while former NHS student Professor Ken Inglis presented the inaugural K.S. Inglis Prize for Dux of History. Ms Prue Morris also presented the inaugural Wayne Roberts Prize for Humanities.

VCE Results 2009

December 14th saw the release of VCE results for 2009. For our Year 12, the highest ENTER score achieved was 99. Three other students achieved ENTER scores over 98. For those who like statistics, 29 of our students earned an ENTER of 90 or above, and 97 (that’s almost half the cohort) earned an ENTER of 70 or above. The median study score achieved was 29.5. 5% of study scores were over 40.

This year’s duxes will be Patricia Lee (99) and Ronald Nguyen (98.15). Congratulations to all our students; another great year for the school!!

And as one year level leaves, another arrives. On transition day (December 8) we welcomed almost 250 students to year 7!
Principal’s Farewell to class of 2009

It is now my great pleasure to address you the class of 2009.

Let me start by saying something controversial: Year 12 in actual fact means very little…..

A school that measures its success only on the academic results of its Year 12 cohort has failed its community – its students, its teachers, its parents and its own broader charter.

At Graduation it is important to reflect on what Oscar Wilde said - albeit also controversially:

That “Education is an admirable thing, but it is well to remember from time to time, that nothing that is worth knowing can be taught”.

You, the Year 12 class of 2009, will achieve a broad range of VCE results. Some of you will achieve results that will allow you to pursue your dreams – Medicine! Law! Industrial design! Professional Writing! Materials Engineering! The VCA! The list goes on…..

Some of you may find yourselves reassessing your options, reviewing your priorities, thinking deeply about what it is you really want - having not quite achieved at the level you were aiming…..

Which brings me to reflect - yet again somewhat controversially on the words of former US President George Bush returning to Yale University to receive an honorary degree, who said:

“Those of you who received honours, awards and distinctions, I say well done. And to the C students, I say you too can be president of the United States of America.”

But what I want you to know is that I am particularly proud of you regardless of where your VCE results may place our school on any league tables that might emerge in the future.

In life, there are so many different ‘measures’ of achievement, of what it means to succeed, or what it means to be a successful or what it means to be a good person or a good citizen. Making a difference is dependent on so many varying factors……

At our last school assembly Alan Wilcox – Global Educator and NHS Alumni of the Class of 55 – set you a challenge to meet again in 50 years time. At your Reunion in 2059 – of Alumni of the Class of 55 – you will be reminiscing excitedly about the experiences that shaped your 6 years at NHS and your journey far, far beyond our school – a world away from your VCE results. I do hope you embrace Alan’s challenge in 2059.

As individuals you have all, in part, been shaped by a group experience. The Year 12 Class of 2009 - our 83rd graduate class. You are a particularly tight-knit group, who, by working together, have collectively made a difference.

As I have said already, it is not by your VCE results that I measure you.

I have so many measures for you …

And At graduation it is important to reflect on what Francis Bacon said,

“A wise man [or indeed woman] will make more opportunities than he [or she] finds”.

You have been a class that has embraced every available opportunity and more. You have lived the values of Northcote High School … imagine a list with little checkboxes according to these values. You have been

- Active learners (Tick)
- Contributing purposefully (Tick)
- Focused on achievement (Tick)
- And relating respectfully (Big gold star and Tick)

Your commitment to making a difference is exemplified by the Class of 2009 Yearbook – inspired by you, written by you, edited by you and contributed to by many – Your Yearbook charts your 6 years at Northcote High School and highlights how you have contributed in so many ways.

If we look back to 2004 when you arrived at NHS, shiny shoes and white t-shirts, stiff summer dresses – simultaneously nervous and excited you were universally described as a ‘noisy class’ of year 7s…..

Your noise then morphed into 6 crowded years with many highlights. There’s a saying that so describes your experiences at NHS - “enjoy the journey as much as the destination”. The Class of 2009 has fully embraced this six-year journey, which is characterised, demonstrated and lived through your actions:

In the classroom

You have hypothesised and experimented in science, fieldworked in Geography, group worked in English, problem solved in Maths and created in drama, music, art, VCD, ceramics and food tech.

You have made fluffy stools, electronic bugs and textile bags

You have walked back in time in History; you’ve spoken French, Italian, Greek, and Chinese…..

You have starred in the sporting arena – participating in swimming and athletics carnivals and a myriad of sporting teams to state finals representation.

You have embraced the outdoors - Year 7 and 8 at Boho plus Landcare, Production and International Students Camps and Wilson Prom…..

You have surfed, skied and snow boarded, and ventured internationally to Greece, China, France, Italy, New Caledonia, California and Vietnam…..

You have role monitored and garboed

You have witnessed bold changes in your school environment – the redevelopment of our old portable classrooms, the classroom courtyard complex, the Harmony amphitheatre and our shared community use basketball court

You have embraced our global relationships hosting international visitors from France, Germany, Italy and home stay guests from our sister school Huaibei No. 1 High School

As performers and artists you collectively created and performed in the Northside Trilogy - Northside Story, Rhyme and Reason, and North of the Southside and in 2009 Pirates of Penzance. Your creativity was also featured in our annual show-
American writer Napoleon Hill claimed that, "Taking responsibility for your actions. During the course of this ride, you have learned independently and the final destination. Their journey – embracing and fulfilling all the steps along the way - to their journey. These are just some examples of how the Class of 2009 has relished "a friend is someone who understands your past, believes in their future, and accepts you just the way you are." The Class of 2009 has spent much of the last six years nurturing great, important friendships, many of which will no doubt continue to flourish in the years to come.

At the same time, you have truly been active involved learners who have contributed in so many ways. Your learning not only happened in the classroom but through the myriad of programs and activities you led or involved yourselves in.

Your teachers and coordinators describe you as:

Inquisitive learners who have questioned and pushed each other to achieve academically and creatively.

Leaders beyond the classroom engaging in activities, developing their own views on inclusiveness and community and sustainability – what it means to be a true global citizen.

They describe you – As people who took control of their lives and actions – who were focused on achieving in the classroom and beyond.

And they said you - Show initiative, leading by example, whilst enjoying yourselves, and caring for each other.

You have always been a 'close' class, but in 2009 what became clear to me was your broader appreciation of your place in the world and your rich experiences as members of our community. These understandings will inform and shape your lives and experiences well beyond NHS.

You will continue to make a difference. These are the things that I measure you by. Reflecting on your actions, and on your approach to your past six-year journey, you score very, very highly on my success scale.

You are successful young people even now as you sit before me, not knowing what your VCE results will be, not knowing what choices lie in front of you, knowing only what we all know about the future: that it is closed to us, that we must wait until it unfolds.

You have equipped yourself well for this future, for your future where you will navigate the world that unfolds for you, where there will be others measuring you, assessing your worth, estimating your abilities, counting your successes and failures, and holding you accountable.

What I want to say to you in finishing, having measured you myself, having added you up and found you in my estimation so favourably placed to embrace your future - is that it is your own measure of yourself that counts.

When you leave our school and are standing in that still place on the brink of everything that awaits you in your life, think back on all that you have achieved here, the experiences you have accumulated, the friends you have journeyed with, and the differences you have made. Measure yourself as successful, measure yourself as someone who has come at the world with an open mind, an open heart and a sincere desire to make the world a better place.

On behalf of our School Council, Teachers, Support Staff and Community, I want to congratulate each of you, each member of the class of 2009, on what you have accomplished and thank you for what you have given to all of us at NHS.

Kate Morris
Ms RICHARDSON (Northcote) -- The matter I raise is for the Minister for Public Transport and it concerns the safety of students from Northcote High School and other pedestrians who use tram stop 27 on St Georges Road.

The tram stop is extremely popular and struggles to deal with a large number of students using the stop, particularly at the end of the school day. I call on the minister to upgrade the tram stop to improve safety for all tram users.

In my earliest discussions with Northcote High School about the safety of their students, which occurred just after I was elected as the member for Northcote, the school community raised with me its concerns about the roundabout on St Georges Road. I shared their concerns and the school community immediately joined the campaign to upgrade this intersection. I am very pleased to say that this intersection has now been upgraded and safety has improved for all.

Thanks again to the Minister for Roads and Ports for listening to our concerns and responding with over $5 million to improve this busy intersection.

Another area of concern for the school community is the tram stop on St Georges Road outside the school. Over the past 10 years improvements have been made to this stop but it is clear that the stop landings are not wide enough to accommodate the large number of students entering or exiting the trams. Initially I asked the Minister for Roads and Ports to investigate changes that could be made to St Georges Road itself to improve safety.

VicRoads, to its credit, conducted a survey to determine vehicle numbers and movement patterns.

Meetings between Kate Morris from Northcote High School, my office, VicRoads and Yarra Trams were then convened to try to address the concerns over safety. In August, in response to my letter to the Minister for Public Transport, I was advised that tram stops 26 to 33 on St Georges Road were being considered for upgrades to comply with the disability standards for accessible public transport. In other words, tram super-stops were being considered all along St Georges Road from Clarke Street in Northcote to Hutton Street in Thornbury, including tram stop 27. This is great news for tram users on St Georges Road and is part of Labor's strategy to improve access to our public transport system.

The Department of Transport has met with Kate Morris to discuss any changes that may need to be implemented to the proposed super-stop design. I have written to the Darebin council about cyclist numbers and have asked for warning signs to be put in place to alert cyclists along St Georges Road that they are approaching a school.

Tram stop 27 manages a very large number of passengers at this busy section of St Georges Road and I share the concerns raised by the school community.

The upgrade to this tram stop will greatly improve safety for all and I therefore call on the minister to ensure improvements are made as a matter of priority.

Fiona Richardson, MLA for Northcote
The Mega Band’s Phillip Island Tour

Intermediate band went on tour to Phillip Island at the end of November. We left bright and early on the Thursday stopping to perform at a primary school on the way. Shortly after arriving at our caravan park and dropping our luggage in our rooms we went to “A maze ‘n things” and had a fantastic time. The fun house included a big maze, mini-golf, a vertical slide and lots of other great activities. After an early dinner we left for the “Penguin Parade” attracting a large crowd thrilled to see us perform. After performing we went inside and got free time to watch the penguins return to land, explore the activities and have a nice relaxing evening. Off to bed pretty quickly to be bright and early Friday morning. Sadly it was time to go back home, on the way back we performed at another primary school who greeted us very enthusiastically, we stopped for lunch and fed the pelicans making it a lovely ending to a great tour. Thanks to all music staff who organised and supervised the tour and made it a delightful experience for all.

What Students said of the tour:

Jack: “It was really fun and I really enjoyed myself, I loved minigolf, seeing the penguins and playing for crowds and primary schools is really cool, I hope future tours are as much fun.”

Molly: “I had a really good time, everyone was friendly and feeding the pelicans was really exciting.”

Laura: “I had a fun time and can’t wait, as junior music captain, to help Orson co-ordinate trips as fun as this one for next year.”

Written by Orson Passi

Tertiary Partnership Programs 2009

2009 saw NHS once again invited to participate in the Partnership Programs of RMIT (SNAP), La Trobe University (SALT) and Victoria University (PPP). These programs offer Yr 12 students the opportunity to be considered for early provisional offers for courses at each institution through an additional selection process. These ‘early’ offers are made to students on the provision that pre-requisites are met, and this is determined when the results come out on Monday 14th December 2009.

SNAP RMIT 51 students applied for 143 courses (maximum of 3 courses per student). 50 provisional offers were issued to 31 students.

SALT LaTrobe 31 students applied for 31 courses (preselected list, one course only) 20 provisional offers were made to 20 students.

PPP Victoria Uni. 9 students applied for 9 courses (one course only) 3 provisional offers were made.

Some students applied for courses at more than one university and through more than one schemes and, therefore, are eligible to receive more than one provisional offer. This information is vital to students as they receive their ENTER and subject results on Monday 14th December so that they can make an informed choice at Change of preference time. When VTAC issues 1st round offers on 18/01/10, students will receive only one offer, irrespective of how many provisional offers they have received. This offer will be for the course highest on their preference list for which they are eligible.
Congratulations
for being short listed in
VCE Season of Excellence 2010
Nicholas Rickard
Media Film
Unit 3 & 4
The Wrong Step

Kate Fayle
Product Design
Unit 4
Visual Communication & Design

Marbella Design
Mr Hore’s Lunchtime Sport Update

FUTSAL

The lunchtime futsal tournament created much interest around the school. 10 teams were entered in the year 7/8 competition and 6 teams in from years 9/10 draw. In the years 9 and 10 competition it was fiercely competitive all the way through until the final came down between Hobarn Utd and The Gunners. The game was very entertaining with both sides showing great skills. Hobarn Utd ended up the victors winning 5-3 in a great game. The year 7 competition required teams to win three games to make the final. Those two sides were The Riley’s and The Fat Freds. The game was very close with neither side able to score freely. In the second half, however The Riley’s broke the game open with 2 quick goals to Aidan Lambert sealed the game. The Fat Freds, led by captain Loukas Tsigaras tried hard but could only manage one goal. As Riley Terrens when on to confirm victory with a goal of his own. The end score was 3-1. Pictured are the successful year 7 team The Riley’s.

MURDABALL

The murdaball tournament involved every year 7 homeroom playing off in an elimination format. The gym was chaotic every lunchtime with kids playing, watching and nerf balls flying everywhere. The aim was to get three lacrosse sticks down at the either teams end whilst trying not to get hit yourself. Many games came down to one stick each and were very close. 7E and 7D played off in the final, both having played extremely well throughout the competition. 7D had many strong throwers and won quite convincingly in the end against a gallant 7E team. The competition ran really well with every year 7 having the opportunity to play and many enjoying themselves. Pictured are the successful 7D class.

RSL Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Hoi Yee (Patricia) Lee and Ronald Nguyen of Year 12, for winning the Northcote RSL Scholarships. Both students were chosen for their high level of commitment and achievement in their studies.

Hoi Yee and Ronald, together with family and Ms Kanelloupolos, Year 12 Coordinator, attended the RSL presentation which was held on Sunday 6th December 2009. Both students were presented with their awards and prize money of $250 each.

Lost property Reminder

It is very difficult to return lost property to students who do not have items clearly marked. Please make our job easier by marking all items of clothing and equipment with the students name and form.
**Da Shan’s Sports Bag**

2009 was a great year for Sport at Northcote High. Of our 90 school teams across 18 sports, 40 were from Year 7. Our Year 7 and 8 Girls have dominated Soccer this year and continued by recently winning the Zone Futsal finals. Our Year 7 Girls returned to school with a wish to enter the Victorian Futsal championships in 2010 in Bendigo. After their great success and commitment in 2009 we are working on making this possible. We also entered teams in our District Indoor Cricket competition Coached by our second year PE teacher Mr. Hore where we had success with all of our teams. The pleasing aspect of our Year 7 Cricketers was the convenor emailing our principal to comment on the great behaviour and sport(person)ship of our students. The convenor thought our national men’s team could learn a lot from our students on how to behave when playing Cricket.

It is with some sadness but also best wishes for gun PE, Science and Sport teacher Mr Martin who is leaving us for 1 year and taking up a position in a SEDA Sporting position for 2010. We have recently been able to keep Ms. Sarah Chadha on for 2010 in our department and also employ a Ms. Ingrid Mibus to teach PE, Sport and English next year. She is from Rochester up near Echuca on the Murray River.

We recently got to meet all of our new Year 7’s who will start in 2010. Their enthusiasm to find out what Sporting House they will be in and also their personal comments to contribute to our great Sporting tradition was a pleasing aspect of their recent transition day.

In 2009, students, families and teachers From Northcote High School spent around $4000 at Rebel Sport where they quoted the member number below. Northcote High Sport Department received $200 as a rebate which we spent on Soccer (Futsal) balls. These ball were used by our Year 7 and 8 Girls when they recently won the Northern Zone competition in Macleod. Anyone in the Northcote community who quote the number below when purchasing goods from Rebel Sport will get a 5% discount and also contribute 5% towards equipment at our school.

Da Shan

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**Final Junior Music Concert—November**

There definitely isn’t room on stage for our over 100 musicians - as we saw at the Junior Music Concert - here is the evidence!!!!

November 23rd saw almost 200 music students perform! A wonderful evening’s entertainment. Congraulations again to the Music Department, ably supported by the very active parents music group! Many thanks to all our...