NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text only Newsletter
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School Diary this month

School Diary
TERM 3

• Sept 6. Vis. Com Workshop
• Sept 9. Yr 8 Sport
• Sept 13. Rock Eisteddfod Final
• Sept 14. Yr 9/10 sport
• Sept 14-16. Yr 12 Prac. Exams
• Sept 15. Yr 7-10 Parent Teacher Night. 3-7.30 pm
  School dismissed at 2.00
• Sept. 16. Last day of Term 3. School dismissed at 2.00 pm

TERM 4

• Oct. 5. First Day Term 4
• Oct 9. Tasmania Trip departs (to Oct 14)
• Oct 10. AMEB Flute exams
• Oct 13. Senior Music Concert—7.00 pm Hall
• Oct 17. VCAA Music Exams
• Oct 18. VSSSA Athletics
• Oct 20. Public Speaking finals—Period 3&4 Hall
Main headline story: Farewell to Huaibei visitors

The last members of the delegation from our sister school, Huaibei Number 1 High School, left for home on Thursday September 1. The two English teachers had an additional 8 day teaching immersion at our school after the main party left.

Thank you again to all parents, teachers and students who contributed to making this such a valuable experience

Honours in Tournament of Minds

Two Northcote teams participated in this year’s Tournament of the Minds, held on August 20th at La Trobe University as part of a group of 5000 Victorian school students.

Both teams performed superbly with one team finishing in the top third of the competition, winning Honours.

Thanks to all students, parents and staff for supporting our students in this enjoyable and exciting annual event.
(Further full report on Page 5)

Ski Camps Report

Over 100 Northcote students travelled to Mt. Buller last week on the annual snow camps. The groups stayed at the Arlzburg Inn in Mansfield. Each day the group would wind their way up the mountain to the Horse Hill car park.

Each day the students would have a two hour lesson followed by lunch and an afternoon of skiing or boarding down a selection of Mt. Buller runs. It was great to not only see students who had attended previous camps demonstrate their skills, but also watch the first timers do so well. We were very lucky with the weather as five of the six days were bathed in sunshine. During the evenings students swam in the indoor heated pool, played tennis, sang Karaoke and even danced the Nutbush. A big thanks to all staff involved especially Mr. Brad Martin and Ms. Seema Maharaj.

Mr Paul Mameghan

Principal’s Report

As we quickly draw to the end of Term 3, we reach another critical point in the school year. Year 12 students are rounding the corner for the final stretch with practise exams next week. Year 8-11 students have completed their subject selection for 2006 and have realised that their current work effort has a direct impact on their subject selection and future goals. We have moved the selection process up a month and have found it to be good for planning and a strong inspiration to students, as they more
clearly understand this correlation between their current study and achieving their future dreams. Parent Teacher Night is on Thursday, 15 September and will allow parents and students to clarify how each student is doing and what he/she can do to improve his/her learning and performance. We will also be piloting a program of mailing out letters to Year 9 and Year 10 students and parents in early Term 4 with notification of students in danger of failing subjects. In future years we hope to mail these letters out in late Term 3. They are part of our ongoing efforts to better communicate and partner with parents to support student achievement.

There has been much media coverage on the federal requirements and the State’s new format for reporting to parents in 2006. I greatly appreciate and support Minister Kosky’s stand on not ranking students into quartiles. We want to provide meaningful understandable information to students and parents and we do not want to provide inaccurate distorted ranking systems that could unjustly impact on a student’s confidence and achievement.

On a different level of media, this term we had a media student teacher who had worked on Channel 7 and Channel 9 productions. She has raved about the level of quality and creativity of our students’ work and has described them as “broadcast quality”. We are very fortunate to have the outstanding media teaching leadership of Peter Staubli and the excellent teaching, facilities and equipment that allow our students to produce such quality.

Finally, as you know we are working to expand our student leadership opportunities and the development of student leadership skills. We will be selecting the School Captains and Year Level Captains for 2006 in early Term 4 this year. This will allow our new Captains to attend the National Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne in November and prepare for leading the students and the school from the first day of our new school year.

I look forward to seeing you at Parent Teacher Night!

Gail Davidson

Principal

**Rock Eisteddfod Update**

**Rehearsal: Saturday September 10th**
10.30am Sharp until 2.30pm (Not 10am to 4pm as previously stated)

*It is really important that students are not late to rehearsals.*

All backstage crew and Dancers are required. (Students will need to provide a reason in writing as to why they cannot attend).
ROCK EISTEDDFOD FINALS
Tuesday 13th September
Rod Laver Arena

Tickets: $33.50 available from the General Office.

Please be quick .....they are selling fast........

Thank you for your support,
Melanie Bingham
Rock Eisteddfod Liasion Teacher

ICT in Science Conference

August 26th saw the annual ICT conference for Victorian science teachers, hosted for the sixth time by NHS.

This year's conference attracted over 200 participants, presenters & trade displayers. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Hon. Dr Barry Jones and reference was made to Einstein's contribution to Science and Society, and to the many Australian Scientists who over the years and in recent times have left a legacy in which we can all be proud of.

Ms Soula Bennett, Science Coordinator

Royal South St. Music Competition

A number of Northcote's Music groups performed in the Royal South Street Competition held in Ballarat in on Wednesday August 31– Saturday Sept 3. 250 students in our school study music, the group shown right is the Intermediate Stage Band standing outside Her Majesty’s Theatre in Ballarat.

Northcote’s Concert Band placed fifth in the Yamaha Music Australia Intermediate Orchestral or Concert Bands event on Saturday September 3rd. Well done to all performers and thanks to the Music staff who put in long hours rehearsing and transporting students to the event.

Writing Competition Results

Students from Northcote High School demonstrated high level skills when they participated in the Australasian Schools Writing Competition which was held on Wednesday 25th May. The competition is developed by the Education Assessment Australia of the University of New South Wales and is conducted annually across Australia and 12 other countries. The 22 students who participated demonstrated outstanding achievement with all scoring above the Victorian average. Well done!

Ms Rosemary Butera

Distinction
Phillip Gwynne addresses Year 9

As a precursor to the celebration of Book Week (20 – 26th August) the author Phillip Gwynne visited the school on Friday 19th August. He spoke to a largely male group of interested students at lunchtime in the library.

In period five all the year nines, nearly 250 of them, assembled in the hall to listen to the author. In year nine English students study one of his books, Deadly Unna, which deals with Aboriginal race relations and Australian Rules football. Phillip spoke about his early life, his time playing Australian Rules football, and how he got into writing.

The author elicited a lively response from the students and several of them lined up afterwards to get their copies of his book Deadly Unna signed.

Public Speaking and Debating News

The month of August has been a busy time for those students in junior school who have expressed an interest in debating. Year 7 and 8 students have now completed their training in debating for the D.A.V. and had their first three debates. Congratulations to Daniel De Vuono, Noah Solman, Sarah Williams and Jessica Bishop from Year 8 and Varun Khatte, Andrew Stasiak, Tim Dobson, Simon Hunt, Ellen Davies, Senjutee Chatterjee and Alberta
Gunner from Year 7 for representing Northcote High School so well in the competition. These students are not only developing debating skills which will be of use to them all through their studies in high school but also a sense of pride in the school, in their teams and in themselves. Twice teams were successful in their debates and Alberta Gunner and Simon Hunt were both chosen as Best Speaker on separate nights. Topics included; That we should ban violent video games, That school canteens should ban junk food and That Harry Potter should not be taught in schools. Thanks to those families who attended these debates and by doing so helped support the program. We look forward to seeing these students (and hopefully others) develop their skills next year.

On Tuesday 9th and 23rd of August the junior teams had their first two debates. Year 8 students have worked hard but are still chasing their first win. The Year 7 team has featured two different line-ups including in the second team. Simon Hunt was named best speaker in a win for the second team on August 23rd. The final debate in the junior competition will be held on Tuesday 30th August. The topic is that Harry Potter should not be taught in schools. Thanks to families for their continued support.

Finally, after attending the regional constitutional convention, a number of students including Kate Jama, Noni Sproule, Cameron Shallard, Georgia Fraser (Year 9) and Jan Lesinskis (Year 12) have applied to attend the constitutional convention be held at state parliament later this year. An evaluation form may need to be completed for those students short listed in the first round.

Two students Elly Piper and Dean Evagorou (Year 11) will represent Northcote High School in a form of debating called the British Parliamentary style to be held on Saturday, September 3rd at Scotch College, Hawthorn.

Martin Ramsay
Public speaking and Debating coordinator

BIBLIOMANIA at Northcote High

Our Bibliomania interactive quiz game took place on Thursday 25th August, as part of our Book Week celebrations. The activity attracted an enthusiastic crowd, with three teams, each made up of three contestants.

There were four rounds of questions. Students enjoyed the challenge of testing their knowledge of books and reading. Thank you to Ms O’Heare, Mr. Ramsay, and Mr. Do, who gave up their lunchtime to be judges of the event.

Congratulations to the contestants of the winning team: Carlo Kassen, Oskar Lindenmayer and Tim Ratcliff.

Ms Kathryn Taylor

Parent Teacher Meeting this Term

The final parent teacher meeting scheduled for the year is in the last week of Term 3, on Thursday September 15. The meeting goes from 3-7.30 pm and is for parents of students in Years 7 to 10.

It is scheduled just before the Term 3 holidays, so as to allow time for students to respond to advice and guidance before the final term. Please note that a written report is not given out at this time. Years 7-10 students will be required to make appointments with teachers over the course of the next week.
Interpreters will be available, and students can book these through Mr Murphy. Currently attending are Interpreters for Greek, Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese), Vietnamese and Somali.

*Note: School is dismissed at 2.00pm on Thursday Sept 15th and Friday Sept 16th.*

**Tournament of the Minds report**

The Tournament of the Minds is a great opportunity for students to exercise their creative minds and have fun. This year we successfully overcame complication after complication to have 2 teams competing. As always, we had just five weeks to prepare. Excellent scripts, props and performances were the result for both the language literature problem and the social sciences problem.

Thanks to Helen Dwan, Callum Flint, Tom Noonan, Hanna Kapuscinski-Evans, Melissa Fung, Chrissie Atkinson, Sarah Williams, Patricia Lee, Clancy Fraser, Simon Hunt, David Bone, Hannah Mathieson, Bronwyn Evans, Stephanie Fiorentino, Varun Khatter, Allison Ingle, Rebecca Bone, Zemmon Walker, Suzanne Nowara and Kathryn Evans for involvement. Ms Corkery for driving the bus and Ms Butera for running the show.

*Kathryn Evans*

**Activities Week program (see P.6&7)**

Activities week is held on Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th, and Friday 16th of December and is part of the school program at NHS. The Activities Week program is now open to all students in Years 7, 8 and 9. A variety of activities are available for students to choose both in and outside the school over the three-day period. Please note Monday 19th December is “Report Collection Day”, Tuesday 20th is “Course Confirmation Day” and Wednesday 21st December is “Clean up Day”.

Activity selections will be done on a first to pay will go basis, meaning that students who are interested in any activity in or out of the school must pay the required money to the front office as soon as possible. Payment means confirmation. All students must complete an Activity Program Form and Permission slip by circling one activity only for each day. A parent/guardian needs to sign the form and the completed form is to be returned with payment to the front office before or after school by Friday 8th November. An activity program form is in this newsletter and on our website. Additional program forms will be available at the front office and our website.

If your child is not attending one of the days for any reason this must be indicated in a note signed by a parent or guardian. This will be counted as an approved absence. Full descriptions of each activity and costs are detailed in this newsletter and will also be available on the school website for students and parents to view. Select carefully as each activity has limited places each day.

All Money must be paid by Friday 8th of November. There will be no changes or refunds once payment has been made as the school’s bookings and payment for all activities must be made 30 days in advance. Venues will then hold the money. Teachers at NHS will be supervising the activities both in school and out of school and appropriate safety and excursion procedures will be followed. Activities week is a celebration of goals achieved and friendships made throughout the year. Together students and staff have quality time to reflect and communicate with each other.

*Ms. Jane Archer*

*End of Year Activities Co-ordinator.*
Activities Week Return Form

Students are to choose one activity only for each day. (CIRCLE YOUR CHOICE FOR EACH DAY)

Student Name: ___________________________________________ Form: ______________

Wednesday 14th December

IC Fun -Ice skating in Oakleigh (cost $20)
Adventure Park Geelong (cost $25) Christmas Cookery at school (cost $6)
Board Games & Pizza at school ($6) Computer Games & Pizza at school ($6)
Photography Plus at school ($6) T-shirt Design at school ($10)
Wet & Bowled –swimming and ten pin bowling at Northcote ($16)

Open Range Fun –behind the scenes tour a Werribee Zoo ($16)
Movie Madness – two movie sessions at Victoria Gardens Richmond ($18)

Thursday 15th December

Funfields at Whittlesea (cost $25) IC Fun -Ice skating in Oakleigh (cost $20)
Adventure Park Geelong (cost $25) Board Games & Pizza at school ($6) Computer Games &
Pizza at school ($6) Creative Badges and Earring Design ($10)
Wet & Bowled –swimming and ten pin bowling at Northcote ($16)
National Gallery on St. Kilda Rd (cost a Met Ticket and lunch on the day)
Movie Madness – two movie sessions at Victoria Gardens Richmond ($18)

Friday 16th December

Funfields at Whittlesea (cost $25) IC Fun -Ice skating in Oakleigh (cost $20)
Adventure Park Geelong (cost $25) Board Games & Pizza at school ($6)
Computer Games & Pizza at school ($6)
Wet & Bowled –swimming and ten pin bowling at Northcote ($16)
National Gallery on St. Kilda Rd (cost a Met Ticket and lunch on the day)
Movie Madness – two movie sessions at Victoria Gardens Richmond ($18)

I give my son/daughter…………………………………………………………….of form…………..
Permission to attend the above mentioned excursions during activities week (14th -16th December). I
authorise the teacher in charge of the excursion to consent, where it is impractical to communicate with
me, to the child receiving medical or surgical treatment, as may be deemed necessary. Should this
activity conclude earlier than stated, I give permission for my son/daughter to be sent home before the
normal school dismissal time.
I give permission for photographic, video audio or any other form of electronic recording of the named
student and the use or reproduction of any such recording for any reasonable purpose within the
discretion of Northcote High School.

Signed…………………………………………………………………………………………Dated…………

Daytime Contact Number ……………………..

Medical Alert: My son /daughter suffer from the following medical conditions:

……………………………………………………………………………………………………...
……………………………………………………………………………………………………...
Vietnamese Youth Forum Report

In August, we represented the Vietnamese student community at Northcote High School by taking part in a Vietnamese Youth Forum at Victoria University, Footscray. Students from High Schools across Victoria attended this summit, exchanging and learning experiences from each other. The Forum aimed at educating the second generation Vietnamese in Australia, the importance of their contribution to society as an Australian and a Vietnamese. Topics of concern to the Community were properly addressed, such as the difficulties second generation young people find when communicating with their parents, owing to the differences in languages and ideologies. Besides, maintaining and understanding the existence and importance of Vietnamese culture in Australia is an obligation that is passed on to the second generation. The program was followed by workshop sessions. Students chose an issue they were interested in discussing further. We took part in the workshop on the "Discrimination and Racism issue". The Vietnamese community are trying to make a stand in multicultural Australia. We hope to eradicate this prejudice and unfriendliness, if any exists in our school.

Giang Nguyen and Hang To Year 12

Another former student honoured

Dr Barry York, OAM attended NHS between 1962 and 1968. After successfully completing Year 12, he entered LaTrobe University and completed a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History. He taught in Victorian Technical Schools for a number of years and then moved to Sydney in 1982 where he completed a Master of Arts degree at Sydney University. This was followed by a Ph.D from the University of NSW. His love of History, his enduring field of study, began, he says, at NHS under the inspiring teaching of Mr Itiel Berenson. Mr.Berenson taught Year 12 Modern History (now called Revolutions) and went on to be Principal of Reservoir High School until his retirement. Dr York is presently Senior Research Officer of the Australian Senate working in the Biographical Dictionary Section. He was Research Fellow at the Australian National University in the Centre for Immigration and Multicultural Studies and was Historian of Immigration in the Australian Public Service.

Dr York was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in the recent Queen’s Birthday Honours and looks forward to receiving his Medal from the Governor-General in Canberra on September 2nd. This award is for service to the community through research into and recording of Australian Immigration History, particularly Maltese immigration.

The School Community takes pride in the achievements of its alumni and offers congratulations to Dr York, his wife and family on this occasion.

Gary L. Israel
Community Mail Bag

Hear Cat at the Darebin Music Feast, Sunday September 25th, 9.00 pm Northcote Town Hall
Ex student Cat Canteri will be playing solo as part of “High Vibes Day”, in conjunction with the Darebin Music Fest and the Melbourne Fringe Festival. Cat will be joining Don’t Mess with the Pony at the Northcote Town Hall on Sunday September 25th. Entry is $3.00. So come along and support local original music.

Connecting with your Teenager

“I created an understanding with my son that didn’t exist before. I feel much more in control of my feelings” Cathy, Mother of two, VIC.
ParenTeen’s Small Group Workshops and Individual Coaching Programs will help you connect with your teenager. Sarah Oliver is Victoria’s only qualified practitioner in the Parent As Coach® Approach.

DOBSON’S UNIFORM SHOP

ATTENTION YEAR 10 STUDENTS

Your VCE selection forms need to be stamped by the Uniform Shop before returning to Year Level Coordinator by 19th August as proof you have purchased your VCE polo top. Because you have 2 weeks to do this we are not having extended opening hours this year. So you must come in to purchase or order (if size not available) on your normal opening times of
Tuesday 12:30 - 4pm
Friday 8:30 -11 -30am We will not place tops ‘on hold’, so come prepared to buy

Sizes 12-20 $51.50
22-26 $52.95
28-30 $57.95

If you no longer require your VCE top after purchasing (eg. leaving, the school) we will refund so long as you return your receipt and not removed tags.

CASH, CREDIT CARDS, EFTPOS AND ACCOUNT (NO CHEQUES)