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School Diary this month

- (to Nov18) VCAA Unit 3/4 exams
- Nov 3. Yr 9/10 Soccer & Cricket
- Nov 7. End of Semester for Year 10
- Nov. 7-14. Yr 11 Exams
- Nov 8-11 St John’s Surf Camp,
  8H Boho Camp
- Nov 11. Curriculum Day. No school for students
- Nov 15-18. Yr 10 Exams,
  Nov 15-18. 8I & 8A Boho Camp
- Nov 21. Yr 12 Graduation,
  The Centre, Ivanhoe
- Nov 22-25. 8E Boho Camp
- Nov 23. Yr 9 Exam Day,
  Yr 12 Formal
- Nov 24. Yr 7 Literacy testing
- Nov 25. End of Semester Yrs 7, 8, 9
- Nov 28. Junior Music Concert— 7.30 pm Hall
- Nov 28-30 VCE Orientation for
  Yr. 10s
- Nov 29-Dec 2. 8C Boho Camp,
Main headline story: VCE students sit down to exams

At 9.00 am on Friday October 28th, almost 200 Northcote Yr 12 students finally sat down to the VCE English and ESL papers, bringing to a finale six years of secondary school and the intensive 34 weeks of Year 12 study.

As an inner city school, TV and newspaper reporters generally make an appearance at Northcote to use our students as “background” material for the nightly news report. This year The Herald Sun and ABC TV news arrived to interview our students and staff.

The Great Grade 6 debate!

After running a similar competition in the Coburg region for five years, I am proud to say that we have been successful in setting up a public speaking competition involving seven local primary schools at Northcote High School this year. It is not only a great transition activity but it also gives students, parents and teachers the opportunity to see the high skill levels of Year 6 students in action on the big stage. This year the participating schools were Alphington PS, Brunswick East PS, Fitzroy North PS, Merri Creek PS, Newlands PS, Northcote PS and Westgarth PS. Each school chose two finalists, a boy and a girl, to present a three minute speech on the topic ‘Why School is Important to me as a Grade Six Student’. The winners were; in 1st place Patrick Rehill (Northcote PS), 2nd place—future NHS student—Tylah Ann Burton (Newlands PS pictured right) and in 3rd place Aditya Mithanthaya (Newlands PS). The speakers were all well prepared and spoke confidently. Finally I would like to thank the Year 10 debating students Emma Boehm, Georgia Burns Williamson and Chandra Gamble for judging the event and the Year 9 debating students Kate Jamma, Georgia Fraser and Christina Rizzo for helping out as ushers and timekeepers.

Martin Ramsay, Public Speaking, Debating coordinator

Principal’s Letter

I have often said, “Our students are our untapped resource.” They are capable and ready to contribute as young adults in our school, our community, and our world. As we have expanded the school leadership and moved the process forward for selecting student leaders for 2006, we have found that there are many students willing and able to step forward as leaders. It has been quite an exciting few weeks as we have witnessed the dedication, talent and desire of our students to make a difference.

In the first week of Term 4, we invited students to be a part of an expanded Student Leadership Team for 2006. We had over 70 students express an interest and follow the process of nomination for the School and Year Level Captain Selection.

On Wednesday, 2 November, 16 of our newly selected Student Leaders will attend a National Young Leaders Conference in Melbourne. I must also say that there are many many more students at school wanting to make leadership contributions. Thus, our challenge will be to develop ways for more students to contribute in meaningful ways. The new leadership structure is one of many steps we will take to expand opportunities for our students to become active participants and confident contributors to our school and our community. We hope to further expand student leadership in 2006 into the areas such as Sport, Music and Social Justice.
Recently, I was able to attend the presentation by our Innovation & Excellence Cluster (NHS and our cluster of primary schools) at Northcote Primary School. Each of the school’s had a group of students that had attended a Cluster Student Leadership Conference, had learned quality tools and had taken these tools back to their schools to address areas for improvement. The students were in Years 5-9 and they reflected a thoughtful, creative, collaborative approach to old problems. It resulted in a range of projects from the Rubbish Bin design that allowed preps to reach the bins through specially designed holes to the design for a Harmony Garden at NHS created and constructed by students wanting to connect with our International Students. These were great examples of creative new student approaches to collective problems.

On Saturday, we also held a reunion of ex-students, with over 70 alumni gathering to reflect and remember their days and growth at NHS. From Dennis Quon, Class of 1933, to our one of our young staff members, Matt Woodward (old boy from 1989), they spanned the ages and generations. They were reflective and especially appreciative of their teachers. This week we celebrated World Teachers’ Day, we celebrated the contributions of our teachers …each day, every day…past and present…and their lifetime impact on the lives of our students. At the reunion, it was the memories of their great teachers that brought such a sigh of thanks and enthusiasm.

This week, as our Year 12 students begin their exams and their own transition, it is important to recognise the contributions of both our students and our staff. It is the ongoing partnership. With the guidance of our staff, each student finds his/her own pathway and way to contribute to the world…. as student leaders and community leaders, as productive citizens and active alumni. Our students are capable of not only learning from us, but teaching us new ways of seeing the world and finding solutions. We will assist them in finding their future, but recognise that as they create their future, they create ours.

_Gail Davidson_
_Principal_

**NHS ex-students win 3 Uni. Scholarships**

Three former NHS students have won prestigious Access Scholarships to help them through their first year of Melbourne University.

Selvam Sinnappan was one of the recipients of the scholarships, he is pictured at right with the Dean of the Faculty of Economics and Commerce, Margaret Abernethy, at the 2005 Dean’s Awards Ceremony.

Laura Knight and Lucy Du also won Access Scholarships in other faculties of Melbourne University.

Congratulations to our three Melbourne university Scholarship winners!!
A feast of culture!

Tuesday October 25th saw 42 students, mostly Year 10s and 11s, cooking up a storm!! Many of our overseas students cooked a favourite dish, hand in hand with a local buddy. The cooking was different styles of Asian cooking—Chinese, Vietnamese and Japanese. 30 staff attended and crushed into the Food technology lab as the rains came down! Savoury steam poured forth from the room, attracting a large crowd of hungry and interested students, eager to see if there were any left overs!!

Thanks to all concerned for a most enjoyable and successful celebration of our school.

Persistence pays dividends for Alex Price

Last Tuesday (18th October) a few other students and myself were lucky enough to compete in the State athletics in our chosen events at Olympic Park (home of the 1956 Olympics). I competed in the under 17 discus and was fortunate enough to come 3rd, out of the eight competitors from all over the state.

Since primary school I have always been passionate about competing and representing my school in interschool sport. I have competed in discus every year since grade 4 and in Year Eight I finally made it to the State Athletics. In my preparation for my first state athletics I borrowed a discus from Mr Price and took it down to my local park to practise. Although I practised almost everyday I only ended up coming 5th (which is an achievement in itself).

The next year I got as far as the zone athletics where I came 2nd, so I missed out on the State Athletics. In year 10 through hard work and persistence I again made it to state athletics defeating the girl who won the previous year. This year I made it to state level once more. As a wise woman (mum) once said to me, anything can happen. It did with a throw of 28.56m I came 3rd, with a 40cm break from 4th place. (Seems all my practise at the park finally paid off). So I guess this proves that persistance pays off. Next year my goal is to get to state for what will be the last time during my time at school (Yr 12) and finally crack the 30m mark.

I’d like to say a special thanks to everyone who supported me and wished me luck for the state athletics.

Alex Price

On the move ...the Tasmania trip

The year 9 and 10 Tasmania camp was great! The highlight of the trip would have to have been the Port Arthur ghost tour. We split up into two groups and each had a tour guide take us around the old prisons at night. There were many stories to be had and all throughout was a very scary atmosphere. We only had three lanterns to light our path and two of them went out early in the tour. Was this the work of a ghost? No it was faulty lamps and bad kerosene. We were taken into haunted houses and ancient buildings and told about experiences that people had there. It was very believable and our tour guide looked the part which all added to the fun. By the end of the tour, everyone was huddled together and nobody wanted to sleep alone.

By Daniel Spano and Emma Boehm
The 2005 trip to Tasmania was awesome. The Cadbury factory was a major highlight throughout the camp. The students and teachers were divided into two groups for a tour around the factory. Hairnets were supplied for our brief explanation of the history of Cadbury and how the chocolate was made. Throughout the tour many samples of different flavoured chocolate was given to us. The aroma was incredibly strong and sweet. It was a wonderful experience and we were all extremely thankful to all the teachers who were willing to attend the camp with us. 

By Mary Illiadis

Our Coach Driver and tour guide—“Simmo” took us to many different places. One of our favourite stops was the historic town of Richmond. There we experienced the best vanilla slices and raspberry tarts of the planet!! We stopped and looked at the Richmond Bridge, the oldest in Australia. There we fed the ducks. Along our journey we passed lots of green paddocks with the most adorable lambs ever!! While we admired the natural wonders of Devil’s Kitchen and the Tasman Arch, on of the Yr 10s slipped over and was caked in mud for the rest of the day. We went to a wildlife park where we were shocked to hear about the devastating circumstances of the Tasmanian Devil. The Devil population has halved in the last four years due to a disease. We saw stellignights and stelligtights at Mole Creek caves. Many of us took chair lifts across Cataract Gorge at Lanceston. In Hobart we went to cinemas and saw “Dukes of Hazzard” (errg). Everywhere we went we bought souvenirs. We would like to saw a big thank you to Ms Capelli, Ms Fattore, Laura and Mr. Woodward.

By Georgia Burns-Williamson and Ellen Dick

HELP NEEDED—2nd Hand Book sale
2005!!

This year Mr. Coleman will not be able to conduct the annual second hand book sales as in previous years. In order to keep the sales going, it is hoped a group of parents might be interested in taking on the task, perhaps adopting a less time-consuming system. Mr. Coleman will be available to assist in the initial planning stages. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Mr. Ken Coleman on 94882321

BOOKS NOT SOLD FROM LAST YEAR

Students who have books not sold from last years are asked to collect these from Mr. Coleman and Ms. Pyke after school on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays until the end of November. Many of these books will not be able to be sold due to booklist changes. Unfortunately, books not collected by the end of November will need to be disposed of due to a lack of storage space. If you would like to pick up books you believe are unsold, please go to T4 at 3.15 with a list of those books.

Mr. Ken Coleman and Ms. Deborah Pyke   Student Welfare Co-ordinators

Reminder—Activities Week 2005

~Activity selections are filling fast!

Activities week is held on Wednesday 14th, Thursday 15th, and Friday 16th of December and is part of the school program at NHS for all year 7’s, 8’s and 9’s. Remember it is 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. Activity program forms are located at the front office and can be down loaded from 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 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.

Einstein Mania—National Science Week

Four teams of students competed in a very close contest to match their knowledge on Einstein’s contribution to society.

First prize was decided with a play-off & the winning team was Maddie Turner, Eleanora Bertsa & Lillian Coventry. Runners-up were Courtney Zlatic, Isabella Morand & Frances Good. Thank you to all the students who participated. All competitors were presented with a certificate & were awarded a prize.

Congratulations must go to the audience who were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills throughout the entire proceedings.

I would also like to thank Ms. Katharine Taylor, Ms Patchon, Ms Lacovino, Ms Hutchens, Mr Pekin, Ms Archer, Mr Do, Mr Mekawi & the Science & library staff for their support.

Ms. S. Bennett
Science Coordinator

Squash finals Report

YEAR 7 SQUASH BOYS FIGHT THROUGH TO STATE FINALS

Congratulations to the Year Seven boys squash team who competed in the Northern zone finals at Epping Squash Centre on Wednesday 26th October. The boys played very well to come second in the round robin competition which has seen them qualify for the state finals next month. Well done to all boys for your great efforts and excellent sportsmanship throughout the day.

The Team:
Andrew Timos-7G, Liam Kelly-7E, James McGee-7E, George Panagiotidis-7C and Steven Ristic-7F.

Results:
Northcote HS defeated Epping SC: 7 – 2 sets
Northcote HS defeated Viewbank SC: 6 – 4 sets
Fitzroy SC narrowly defeated Northcote HS: 5 – 4 sets

(Because there was no country team in the competition, 1st and 2nd teams in the comp—Northcote and Viewbank—go on to State Finals)

YEAR 7 GIRLS SQUASH TEAM JUST MISS OUT ON STATE FINALS

Congratulations to our Year Seven girls squash team who also competed in the Northern zone finals at Epping Squash Centre on Wednesday 26th October. The girls played well all day and narrowly missed out on second place which would have also put them through to the state finals. The girls are to commended for their positive attitude and great play during the day.
The Team:
Chloe O’Brien-7D, Fiona Kalathas-7D, Daniela Russo-7E, Ellen Havekin-7D, Senjutee Chatterjee-7G and Deborah Nicholls (scorer) -7E.

Results:
Epping SC defeated Northcote HS: 6 – 3 sets

Northcote HS defeated Fitzroy SC: 8 – 0 sets
University HS narrowly defeated Northcote HS: 6 – 5 sets

Ms Tayton.
Coach

NHS Reunion—October 22nd

The NHS Alumni Reunion Day on Saturday October 22nd was a great success. Seventy ex-students and some partners joined staff in the Library to remember old times and renew friendships.

After a fine introduction by current Principal, Gail Davidson, former Principal Gary Israel introduced the Guest Speaker, Mr Hector Gallagher, “boy” of the 1940’s. Mr Gallagher went on to be a Geography teacher, member of the Board of Inspectors of Schools and Assistant Director of Education Victoria. His wonderful address recounted tales of personalities and events of the past and paid tribute to the teachers of those days. Each highlight elicited a loud murmur of appreciation from the assembled group and it was clear that those present had very happy memories of their School days at Northcote. Hec particularly drew attention to the outstanding English teaching of John Forster and of the influence this had in helping him to decide to enter the teaching profession. It was a happy and interested group who then enjoyed afternoon tea and tours of the campus. Dennis Quon was there. He brought with him the Speech Night program of 1931 which showed him winning a prize for an English essay. The majority present were from the 1940’s and 1950’s but there, too, were the School Captains of 1988 and 1989, George Papadakos and Matthew Woodward. Sam Cusumano, Lecturer at Deakin University, was there for the 1960’s along with Ken Coleman, former Prefect and about to retire after a long teaching career with the last 18 years at NHS as Student Welfare Coordinator. Keith Corcoran was spotted in the crowd. He is still remembered as the bell ringer of the 1950’s.” Holding Court” in one corner was former physical education teacher of many years, Alec Weston. Nearly all present knew him.

Thanks go to the staff present- Ms Mancell, Library Manager, Mrs Haack, Mrs O’Brien, Mr Woodward, Mr Coleman, Mr Bridges, Mrs Gelevski and Mrs Sinclair. The latter pair earn special thanks for organizing the day. Finally, thanks go to the Year 10 students who very ably acted as hosts on the day.

From the Library

It’s time to return those library books
Just a reminder to all students and families that all library books must be returned by Monday 5th December. Reports will not be issued to students with outstanding loans
Ms Mancell
Nth Fitzroy PS Fete
Sunday November 6
10am – 4pm

A fantastic day of food, fun and frivolity! Carnival Rides, Harley Davidson Rides, Rock Climbing, Gourmet Food, Wine Bar, New Gifts Galore, Bands, Body Painting, Tattoo Tent, Competitions, Auctions Raffles and lots, lots more!

Fergie St Nth Fitzroy - Opposite the Edinburgh Gardens

DOBSON'S UNIFORM SHOP

ALL VCE ORDERS ARE AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTION. PLEASE DO THIS BEFORE YOU FINISH FOR THE YEAR AS WE WILL NOT KEEP THEM ASIDE FOR YOU IN 2006!!!

YEAR 10 GIRLS MAY BRING IN THEIR PULLOVERS FOR VCE EMBROIDERY FROM NOW ON.

OPENING HOURS
TUES: 12:30 - 4PM
FRI: 8:30 - 11:30AM

Community Mail bag

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.


Piano for Sale


US-UK-Germany-France-Spain-Ireland: Student Exchange – come and learn all there is to know about going overseas as a high school student in 2006-7

EF High School Overseas is having an information meeting at Flemington Library, Racecourse Road Flemington, on Saturday November 5th, at 1 pm. Phone 1800 251 866  Web: www.ef.com
Your School Council

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Con Dinopoulos (Co-opted)
James Galea
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Zora Marko
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Craig Price
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