NORTHCOTE HIGH SCHOOL
Text only Newsletter
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School Diary this month

School Diary
TERM 4
· 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,
· 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 Yr 8 Indoor Soccer/Cricket
· Nov 28-30 VCE Orientation for
  Yr. 10s
· Nov 29-Dec 2. 8C Boho Camp
· Dec 1. Report Writing Day (no School for students)
· Dec 2. Yr 11 Report Collection & Course Confirmation
· Dec 5. Yr 10 Reports Collection & Course Confirmation
· Dec 6. Transition Day Yr 7, 2006
Main headline story: **Minister announces $1 million in school resources for Northcote**

On Tuesday, November 8, Minister for the Arts and Member for Northcote, Hon. Mary Delahunt MP, announced significant staffing and facility funding for Northcote High School. The exciting new developments for our school are outlined in detail in the Principal’s Report on Page 2.

In summary, the Government’s funding supports our NHS Leading Schools Fund (LSF) Proposal. The aim of the proposal is to further improve student learning and achievement through increased student engagement by means of global/community based collaborative projects and student conferences.

$1 million over three years will fund improved facilities and three additional teachers to support the implementation of Northcote High School’s LSF Proposal.

**Staffing**

Three teachers for three years to release a team of 3 Northcote HS teachers to develop curriculum, professional learning teams, facilitate student projects and community connections, plan and organise professional development and student exhibitions and conferences

**Facilities**

**The Global Citizenship Centre (GCC)**

• Renewal and reconfiguration of 5 portables to create “GCC”
• Teaming space for teachers and students
• Flexible learning spaces for research
• ICT/AV rich infrastructure to support data gathering, sharing and presentation

**Student Convention Facility in School Hall**

• School Hall refurbishment including improved seating
• New sound and visual presentation system to provide ICT/AV infrastructure for student community action exhibitions and presentations.

Please note that the plan shown on Page 2 is a very preliminary concept showing the LSF “building” (Global Citizenship Centre) as part of an overall plan being developed for the portable area. The final plan will need to include LSF, replacement classrooms and other grants. We are in the planning stages at the moment. Responding to the strong input received from students, teachers, parents and School Council, there is a strong commitment to develop the portable area into an active supportive teaching and learning environment.

The announcement of our successful Leading Schools Fund Proposal is great news for the school and should be celebrated by staff, students, and parents. Following our major building projects of the last five years, this will bring all our school facilities up to a uniform world class standard.
Principal’s Letter

Over the course of this year, I have shared that we have been focusing on ways to further develop our curriculum and our programs in the Middle Years, especially in Years 8 and 9, and the developmental process we have gone through in creating our Leading Schools Proposal. It was wonderful to get the call from Hon Mary Delahunty to announce that our proposal had been selected as one of the successful Leading Schools Fund Proposals. Our LSF proposal describes a vision of teaching and learning that has been years in the making at NHS.

Our LSF proposal reflects many years and many layers of thinking and planning. It reflects many thoughtful discussions between teachers, faculties, parents and School Council. It reflects current research and best practice. The planning builds on the quality teaching and ongoing innovation that has been a part of Northcote High School for many years - as a Navigator School implementing innovative use of ICT (Information and Communication Technology), as a Science and Technology Centre combining state of the art facilities with innovation teaching practices, and as a school committed to developing opportunities to empower students to problem solve, become reflective learners who think deeply and can apply knowledge.

One of our great strengths as a school and as a community is our diversity. Our LSF proposal uses the common thread of global citizenship to build on the strong international links to Northcote HS in promoting active engagement with our community and wider world. Over the next three years, our goals will be to transform the learning environment, particularly for our Year 9 students. We will establish the Global Citizenship Centre and Academies for Active Global Citizenship to provide the physical and intellectual environment for active student and teacher learning. Students will study issues in an area of interest (e.g. Environment, Engineering, Essential Moral Questions, Science and Technology), conduct active research and present their findings to a “Community Action Exhibition” at a student convention held in our redeveloped School Hall at NHS.

As a Leading Schools Project, $1 million in resources will be provided to support the development of facilities and the release of a team of three NHS teachers to lead in the areas of curriculum development, assessment for learning and community connections. They will facilitate student projects, professional development and the organisation of the student conferences.

The facilities to be developed include the renewal and reconfiguration of 5 of the portables into an ICT/AV rich teaching and learning “building” that forms the Global Citizenship Centre. In addition, the School Hall will be upgraded to function as a conference centre including an ICT/AV rich infrastructure.

It is said, “luck is when preparation meets opportunity”. We have planned and prepared, we are fortunate to have the support of the Government and the Department and we have a wonderful opportunity with our Leading Schools Project to further improve student learning, teaching excellence and our supportive environment.

I will add that there are several changes that will be occurring over the next few years in the “portable area” as we will receive a new replacement portable for 2006, reconfigure the 5 portables for the Global Citizenship Centre and apply to develop the remaining portable area, add landscaping and additional locker facilities through the Federal Government’s Investing in Schools Program. I will keep you updated as the planning proceeds.

Finally, our Year 12 students have almost all completed their exams and I look forward to seeing you all and your families at our Year 12 Graduation on 21 November. Hon. Mary Delahunty MP will be our Valedictory Orator for the Graduation. It will give us an opportunity to not only celebrate the accomplishments of our wonderful Year 12 students, but also to thank Minister Delahunty for her support of Northcote High School on the most recent LSF and for the many NHS projects and programs that she has supported over her many years as our local Member.

Gail Davidson
Principal

Zone and State Chess Report

During term 3 Northcote had sent 4 teams to the Northern Zone finals. Against some tough opposition, Northcote A & Northcote B finished a close second and third behind Scotch College with Charlie Han of year 10 playing some really good chess. This effort enabled us to have 5 players at the State Chess Secondary Chess Finals which were held at St Catherines College in Toorak on the 25th October. Considering the private schools have specialized coaching Northcote finished a very credible 5th behind Melbourne High, Brighton Grammar, Camberwell Grammar and Mirboo Nth Secondary. Janis Lesinskis (who missed the zone...
final) finished equal fifth in the overall individual standing finishing with 6.5 wins out of 9 games. The winner from Camberwell Grammar winning 7.5 games.

Well done to our other players Charlie Han (winning 5.0 games), Simon Chiu (5.0), Tom Noonan (4.0), Vaughan Rafferty (4.0) and Rhys Smith (a late inclusion allowed by the organiser) finishing with 3.0 wins. Special mention to Aaron Chen (yr12) who could not make it to the finals due to yr 12 exam commitments. He performed very well during the zone finals.

The NORTHCOTE HIGH Chess Championship which was run in term IV was won by Janis Lesinskis who defeated Simon Chiu. Janis will be presented with a trophy during the Yr 12 Graduation Ceremony. Many thanks to all the chess players for their hard work during every lunchtime.

*Mr Danny Leondidis*

Chess/Recreation Coordinator

**Young Leaders Conference—Nov 2**

On Wednesday November 2nd a group of 16 Northcote students accompanied by three teachers made their way into the city to attend a National Young Leaders Day Conference. This was the School Captains and Deputy Captains, and the Year Level Captains and Deputies.

Around 2000 students attended the conference; some even came from N.S.W and had got up at 3am. And we thought it was hard getting up at 7am! The day consisted of a number of speakers including a para-olympian and the founder of BOOST juice. After they told their story we had the chance to ask questions. We also had the opportunity to meet and talk to other enthusiastic young leaders. Students from Northcote were brave and took the initiative throughout the day, with Zoe from Year 7 standing up and asking a speaker a question and Niall from Year 11 coming runner up in a competition to describe what a leader was. We all had a great time and took many ideas and thoughts about leadership away with us. I’m sure we will all put these ideas to use as young leaders at Northcote, so watch this space!

*Nellie Montague 8E*

**Sports Round-Up**

**Junior Teams dominate in Racquet Sports**

2005 has seen our Year 7 students dominate in Tennis, Badminton and Squash. The popularity with coaching in Tennis, Squash and the before and after school training in Badminton has seen our students dominate these Sports. We also had Year 7, 9 and 10 boys winning in the District Table tennis.

Our Year 7 Boys and Girls teams have already played off in the State Finals

This Thursday 17th Nov our Year 7 Girls and Boys play off in the State Squash finals at Moorabin and Gladstone Park. On Monday 21st and Friday 25th of November our Year 8 and 7 Boys play off in State Tennis at Boorondara (Photo below)

**Indoor Cricket and Soccer – Coaches Mr Price, Mr Mameghan and Mr Georgiadis**

Our Year 9 and 10 Girls teams dominated the District Indoor Cricket and Soccer competitions on Thursday 3rd of November. Highlights of the day were
• Our Year 9 Boys team beating our Year 10 team and winning the Cricket.
• Our Year 9 Girls winning 5 games in a row to easily win the Soccer tournament.
• Our Year 9 Girls beating Preston Girls in the final of the Cricket.
• Nikki Reponia and Diala Fayad taking 40 runs off the last four overs to win by 2 runs.
• Jessica Mandile and Nikki Reponia (see photo above) have been fantastic players in the Cricket – they have played in the Girls Indoor Cricket teams from Year 7 up to 10 winning the final in each of the four years. They must love it because they are the first ones to register their names when the competition is announced.

Our year 7 and 8 Girls and Boys get their chance to play these two Sports on Tuesday 29th of November and Friday 2nd of December.

Mr. Price (Sports Coordinator)

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

St John Cadets Surf Camp

As a make up for the snow camp that was cancelled, and as an end of year celebration, the Northcote High St John Brigade went on a 3-day surf camp to Barwon Heads from Nov 9-11. We all participated in two surf lessons and we all stood up, if just for a few seconds, even Mr Martin and Mr Erlandsen!

We camped in the rain, played cards in the bathroom and ran out of hot water in the girls’ showers. The teachers cooked up a storm and we all had a ball. Mr Erlandsen was the bus driver, Lucy Meeny was the entertainer and Sarah Adolph was the energetic one. Tom Clune and Jack Atkinson ran laps of the oval (crazy) and none of us drowned when it was pouring with rain and we were out surfing. A big thank-you to all three teachers for organising the camp and for coping with us on the trip.

Nellie Montague 8E
Year 7 Girls Basketball Report

Well done to all the girls for their great effort and sportsmanship in the Zone Finals...

All girls played very well but unfortunately it was not enough to go through to the State Finals.

However, the 10 girls managed to keep the sprit high and fight to the end.

The Team

Nicole Higginson, Melinda Lay, Mannon Nolan-Black, Tenille Thomas, Alberta Gunner, Naomi Hourigan, Ai-Thi Ngo, Georgia Hammond, Amy Ly and Phoebe Shiu,

Ms. Sigerstrom
Coach

Northcote High School Alumni News

It was an impressive ceremony at Graduate House, University of Melbourne, on the evening of November 10th as the retiring President of Melbourne University’s Graduate Union and NHS ex-student of the 1940’s, Mr Frank Lees, AM, MBE, introduced the Governor of Victoria, Mr John Landy to the distinguished audience to open the new buildings. The University Chancellor paid high tribute to Frank’s outstanding work to overcome earlier problems in the Union, unite opposing forces and lead the Union to create the splendid new buildings central to the new Graduate House. Frank’s distinguished war service is remembered at NHS in the Science Department’s display of interesting memorabilia.

Later in the evening, Frank announced that the new President of the Graduate Union was another NHS ex-student, the Hon. John Cain, former Premier of Victoria. Frank said of John’s appointment, “Our fourteenth President will take up office on the 16th of November…and brings wisdom and experience, with enthusiasm, to the office of President”. The School and the NHS Ex-Student Association both offer congratulations to the outgoing and incoming Presidents.

Activities Week Update

Activities week programs have now been finalised and students will be notified as to their activity program choices this week. Remember if you do not intend to be at school on the 14th, 15th and 16th of December you must notify the school of your absence. Ms Archer

From the Library

Its time to return those library books
Just a reminder to all students and families that all library books must be retuned by Monday 5th December. Reports will not be issued to students with outstanding loans. Ms Mancell
DOBSON’S UNIFORM SHOP

YEAR 10 STUDENTS: PICK UP YOUR VCE POLOS NOW or they will be returned to stock.
ALSO, if you are wanting a second-hand hand VCE polo to have as a ‘spare’ we have plenty at around $20.
Year 10 girls: If you are wanting VCE embroidered on your pullovers bring them into the uniform shop over the next few weeks.
The cost will approx.$12.
We are still accepting good, clean uniform items for second-hand sales. However we are overstocked with VCE polos at present.
No more of these PLEASE. We need skirts, dresses, pullovers, jackets and white polos in the smaller sizes.

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

Your School Council

PARENTS: John Butera (President)
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Charles Caddy
Con Dinopoulos (Co-opted)
James Galea
Brenda Gilmartin (Vice-president)
Zora Marko
Wayne Moncur
Graham Moore (Treasurer)
Paul Wiseman (Co-opted)

STAFF:
Gail Davidson (Executive Officer)
Dianne Frost
Pam Mancell
Craig Price
Wayne Roberts

SRC:
Menekse Kar