Visit by NZ Minister of Education

In Melbourne for a meeting of Education leaders, New Zealand's Minister for Education Mr Chris Carter recently visited the school and met with staff and students. Four of our New Zealand students are shown with him on our front lawn, above, with Principal Gail Davidson.

Girls’ State Soccer Finals

On the last Tuesday of Term 3 our Yr 7 girls soccer team competed at state level. It was a great experience for the girls, seeing so many schools arrive with similar hopes for the day. We were fortunate enough to get a home ground advantage as the competition was played at our local Darebin International Sports Complex.

We had a full contingent for the tournament, 16 girls, 2 coaches and 1 fantastic lines woman! Full credit to Nick Nicolaides and Nick Nikolokoudis (coaches) who not only got the girls as far as state but coached positively, professionally and effectively throughout all games the girls played.

Unfortunately the girls did not make it to the final on the day but are certainly motivated for another go at it next year. The competition was even and the girls felt that with a little more luck on their side, they’d be there next year!

Evie Gerantidis in goals was almost unpassable. A couple slipped through and we were unable to concede our own. It wasn’t until the final match against Shepparton that Jade Vias was brought forward to attack the goals that we scored 2 fantastic goals! Well done Jade!

Thanks to all the parents who attended, offering support and half time refreshments. It was great to see you all there. Till next years soccer season…. Ms. Megan Young

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School Contacts

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9488 2399
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9488 2330
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School Website
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School Email
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Postal Address
St. Georges Road, Northcote, 3070

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School Diary

TERM 4

Oct 6: First day Term 4
9B, 9G City Camp (to 10/10)
Oct 7: Yr 8 Boho Camp (to 10/10)
Oct 14: Yr 8D Boho Camp (to 17/10)
Oct 16: Snr Music Concert. 7.00, starts Art Week
Oct 17: Art Exhibition opens 4.00 pm
Oct 21: Yr 8I Boho camp (to 14/10)
Oct 24: Yr 7, 9, 10 Immunizations
Oct 25: (Sat) Diversity in Kitchen
Oct 27: 9D, 9H City Camp (to 31/10)
Oct 28: Yr 8A Boho Camp (to 31/10)
Oct 29: Parent Night for City Centre Presentations for 9B, 9G & 9I GSC
Oct 31: VCAA Exams commence
Nov 3: Staff development day
No classes for students
Nov 4: Melb Cup Day
No classes for students
Nov 7: Yr 9 Maths exam
Nov 10: Yr 11 Exams commence (to 14/11)
Nov 11: Yr 8G Boho camp (to 14/11)
Nov 12: Yr 10 Exams (to 18/11)
Nov 18: Duke of Ed Camp (to 20/11)
Nov 19: World Challenge Camp Vietnam (to 17/12)
Nov 24: Yr 12 Graduation
Nov 25: Junior Music Concert
Nov 26: Yr 12 formal (Leonda)
NAPLAN Testing results 2008

In 2008 the State and Federal governments introduced compulsory nation-wide testing for students in Yrs 7 and 9, in English and Numeracy. Called the National assessment program (NAPLAN) this replaces the state AIM tests. Here are the median results showing how NHS students went, compared to students across the state, using the state’s 1-6 point VELs scale.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NHS</th>
<th>State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7 Reading</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 7 Numeracy</td>
<td>4.4</td>
<td>4.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 9 Reading</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yr 9 Numeracy</td>
<td>4.9</td>
<td>4.7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As the tests are conducted at a different time of year and are slightly different in construction, they are not comparable to former AIM tests of 2005-7.

Making sense of Education Department Statistics.

In the early 1990s, when the first statistics were provided by the Education Department, parents understandably breathed a sigh of relief. Here at last was a way of making a judgement about a school – beyond the usual good vibes conveyed by a school prospectus! Statistics also provided a way of comparing a school’s performance against similar schools, or the average of schools across the state.

Today these one-off comparisons can still be made, although we now know the sorts of statistics shown here really only tell us part of the story. For example, the averaged 2008 NAPLAN, like the famous Percentage of VCE 40+ scores reported every January, can vary considerably from year to year depending on the group of students, when the testing was done, or how many were tested, and even how many were not tested.

Irrespective of the stats we are looking at, and accepting that they “bounce around” from year to year, one of the most important questions school leaders ask is What is the long term trend – say 5-6 year trend, of the statistics? Are they consistently above state averages? Are they static, or are they getting stronger? A feature of our Yr 7 AIM results when they were collected between 2005 and 2007 was they were consistently above state averages. These 2008 NAPLAN stats seem to point in the same direction, but we’ll need several years of results to get a clear picture.

Mr. Nick Murphy

Music comes alive at the South St. comp!

You may have heard of the NHS Junior Band’s (at right) outstanding FIRST place in the Novice Band section of The Royal South Street Eisteddfod in Ballarat. This was followed by the NHS Senior Stage Band receiving an honourable mention in their A grade section, and the NHS Senior Concert Band being awarded SECOND place in their section, with a score of 93/100. The NHS Choir also received an honourable mention and the Intermediate Band also competed but didn’t place (this year!). All students and teachers should be congratulated for their fantastic preparation, practice and performances! NHS is certainly creating a name for itself as one of the leading state school music programs. Ms Vaneesha Wray

2009 Student Leadership Positions

Applications are now open for all Year Level Captain positions in 2009.

Information sessions for all interested students will be held during Weeks 1 & 2 where selection criteria, role descriptions and application forms will be distributed. All applications are due in by 3.30 pm on Friday October 17th.

For more information please contact Ms Lenthall.

Our newest Year Level Captains—Clare Adolph and Michael Bellchamber, of Year 7, are shown at right. They were elected in Term 2 this year.
CAMPS UPDATE

YEAR 8 BOHO SOUTH TERM 4

All Year 8 students should have returned their parent information form for the Term 4 Boho South Camps. Any student who has not finalised payments must do so at least two weeks prior to their camp leaving.

Some of the camps still have space for the few students who have not yet returned forms. If you wish to attend please collect a form from the Year 8 Coordinators and return it with full payment to the General Office two weeks prior to the camp leaving..

The camp dates are:

8F  Tuesday 7th Oct – Friday 10th Oct
8D  Tuesday 14th Oct – Friday 17th Oct
8I  Tuesday 21st Oct – Friday 24th Oct
8A  Tuesday 28th Oct – Friday 31st Oct
8G  Tuesday 11th Nov – Friday 14th Nov
8C & H Tuesday 18th Nov – Friday 21st Nov
8B  Tuesday 25th Nov – Friday 28th Nov
8E  Tuesday 2nd Dec – Friday 5th Dec

Students who are not attending are required to be at school and contact the Year 8 Coordinators to provide an explanation for not attending the camp.

YEAR 9-12 HIKING CAMP AT WILSON’S PROMONTORY

NOTE NEW DATES

5 days, 4 nights
Monday 1st – Friday 5th December

Twenty students from Years 9 to 11 will travel to Wilson’s Promontory National Park for five days. It will include two nights at Tidal River and two nights on the overnight hikes. Final permission forms are available from Mr. Griffiths in the GCC staffroom. LATE NOTE: Sorry, this camp is now full.

YEAR 9 & 10 LANDCARE CAMP

Twenty two Year 9 & 10 students and four teachers/student teachers participated in a camp to the school campsite at Boho South to take part in a Landcare Activity from Thursday 4th to Saturday 6th September. The group planted over 220 trees, shrubs and grasses in a council reserve to regenerate lost habitat. This reserve is used to link the significant roadside habitat with the local creek and further on state forest. Students also took time to inspect the Landcare work done by Northcote High Students in 2007 as part of the “Bridge to Bridge Project” in nearby Strathbogie.

This year’s project was made possible by a grant of $550 from Australia Post as part of the Junior Landcare Program. The site was also registered as part of the Planet Ark National Tree Day 2008.

Mr. R. Griffiths
Camps Coordinator
Da Chen’s Sports Report

Sport rolls on – Term 4 2008

Interest in Sport continues to grow at Northcote High with students hungry to learn, compete and improve their skills. Winning is one of the incentives for our students but participating, improving and competing seem to be stronger motivators.

Term 3 finished with many of our teams playing off in Zone and State finals. To reach this level is a great achievement in itself where students then play off against the 8 best schools in Victoria. Teams who reached this level included Senior Boys Cricket, Year 7 and 8 Girls Badminton, Year 7 Girls Soccer, 8 Boys Soccer and Year 8 Boys Football. All of these teams were very competitive and most won one or two of their games. Our Year 7 girls Badminton team led by Gronya Somerville of 7E finished second in their State 8 team round robin. Their new red sash award can be viewed outside the General Office. Many of our Junior teams have been coached or assisted by older students. Sarah Adolph (Year 12) has created a lot of interest in Hockey running training sessions before and after school. Other senior students have coached teams in Basketball and Soccer which inspires our younger sport stars.

Term 4 continues with Zone finals in Softball, Tennis, Basketball, Tabletennis, Squash and Hockey from Term 1 and 3. We also have 10 students competing at State Athletics on 21/10. Dates for these finals are Year 7&8 Girls Softball 10/10, Year 7&8 Tennis 13/10, Year 7-10 Tabletennis 15/10, Year 9/10 Hockey and Squash 28/10, Year 8 Hockey, Squash and Basketball 29/10 and Year 7 Squash 30/10.

Year 7 Timetabled Sport in Term 4 has students working in a range of Sports. Two new sports chosen by students include Lacrosse and Power Walking to view some historical sites around Northcote.

Mr C. Price

State Constitutional convention

The sky was brooding just like the teeming minds of the 60 teenagers including our very own Luke Dakis-Corcoran, Maddie Goss, Azra Susic, Nick Rickard and Nellie Montague who gathered at Parliament House on Monday 15th September. The event; the schools’ state constitutional convention, the topic; the Australian citizenship test should be abolished. The day started with a debate held in the luscious green legislative assembly room. Sides skilfully argued cases for and against the citizenship test. Question time followed with many difficult questions being posed to the debaters, and Luke braving the floor to ask a question. A delicious morning tea was then provided followed by vibrant small group discussions which were run entirely by the students. Strong opinions, ideas and personal stories showed that young people are in touch with and have opinions on issues being debated in parliament that relate directly to all Australian but which are often aimed at adults rather than the next generation. Lunch then back to the legislative assembly to report back the ten groups’ findings, a soap box session then followed during which students could put forward their case for or against the citizenship test. A vote was then taken in a way they use in parliament with delegates being asked to cross the floor and find a seat to indicate their vote. In the end it was voted that the citizenship test should be abolished. A worthwhile and highly thought provoking day which allowed tomorrow’s adults to air their opinions and meet like minded or as the case may be oppositely minded young people. The participants in this year’s state convention can now apply for an all expenses paid trip to Canberra for the national convention next year.

Nellie Montague


The French Department is currently planning a trip to New Caledonia in September 2009 and a trip to France in April 2010.

For more information or if you are interested:
• in the 2009 New Caledonia trip, please contact Ms Teresa Fanning tf@nhs.vic.edu.au;
• in the trip to France 2010, please contact Ms Mink Schapper mk@nhs.vic.edu.au
Northcote High Schools

Bumper Car Boot Sale

Sun Oct 19th, 2008 - 10am - 3pm

Northcote High School is hosting a Bumper Car Boot Sale and everyone is invited to join in. You can book your own space, clear out that cluttered storage area, under the bed, the shed and turn your trash into someone else’s treasure.

You keep all your own profits! – the stall hire will assist students taking part in a World Challenge Expedition to Vietnam in November, where amongst their many challenges, they will assist with volunteer community work at an orphanage in Hanoi.

Stalls will be available to the general community for just $30.

You can sell straight from the boot of your car or B.Y.O trestle table.

Coffee & light refreshments will be available. Everyone loves a bargain so join in the fun!


If you would like to book a stall at our Car Boot Sale, please call Doris Pearse on 0439 825509 or return the slip below along with payment to: Northcote High School, St. Georges Rd, Northcote 3070.

Name: ............................................................ Contact Number: ............................................................
Address: ............................................................ Enclosed: $ ............................................................

PLEASE RETURN TO:
Northcote High School, St. Georges Rd, Northcote 3070 - For further details call Doris on 0439 825509
Short School Notices

ICAS ENGLISH COMPETITION MEDAL WINNERS
Eleanor Eddy, Molly Walsh and Ruby Foley have been awarded medals for achieving the highest possible scores at their Year levels in the 2008 ICAS English Competition. Well done girls!

Diversity in the Kitchen 2008
NHS Highlights presents a culinary journey through Germany with guest chef and parent - Danielle Zimmerman  
When: Saturday 25 October 2008  
Time: 1:30pm NHS Food Tech Centre  
Cost: $15.00  
Please book and pay at the General Office or contact - Kate Morris 9488 2328 or km@nhs.vic.edu.

NHS Green ....... NHS Green........ NHS Green.........

NHS in conjunction with the City of Darebin is embarking on an ambitious greening strategy both within our grounds and on the school perimeter.

NHS Parents Students, Staff and community  
Come join us to plant a tree or three!  
When: Sunday 12 October 2008  
Time: 10 – 12 noon  
Where: NHS Gym Car park – meet at the Green garage  
MORNING TEA provided and Green giveaways.......  
Please bring:  
- Digging tools – spade, trowel and or fork  
- Gloves and a bucket  
- Suitable clothing  

Thank you to NHS Staff members Lesley Fraser and Nicole Lowe for their leadership of the planting program. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to register your interest or would like further information Kate Morris 9488 2328 or km@nhs.vic.edu.au

ACE PROGRAM TESTING for 2009 (Years 8 & 9)
Current Year 7 and 8 students are invited to participate in the NHS ACE Test Program. A limited number of places will be available in ACE classes in 2009. Please see your Year Level Coordinator or the ACE Coordinator Ms Butera (Staffroom 10) for ACE Program Application Forms. Cost: $45.00 Applications Close: Monday 13 October 2009  
Test Date: Monday 20 October 2009 Please do not hesitate to contact Ms Rosemary Butera or Ms Kate Morris if you have any further queries.