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UT PROSIM ALIIS

Principal's Comment

The academic success of students at Northcote College reflects not only their commitment, but also the commitment of parents, teachers and others who have guided, supported and encouraged students to achieve their best. Prizegiving is an important symbol of the value we place on effort and the achievement resulting from effort. Through opportunity, experience, expectation and support Northcote College aims for students to reach personal excellence through academic, sports, cultural and social achievement; and for students to reach their potential not just while at school but throughout their lives.

There have been many academic, sporting and cultural successes and outstanding achievements made throughout the year and I congratulate everyone involved for their effort and commitment. The 2007 Dux award for the top academic achievement at Northcote College was jointly awarded to **Min-ah Ha** and **Angela Zhang**. The academic achievements of Angela and Min-ah were outstanding and inseparable. Congratulations to all 2007 prizewinners.

Recently the new national curriculum document was launched. The new curriculum supports and empowers students to learn and achieve personal excellence and encourages them to look to the future by exploring future focused issues such as sustainability, citizenship and globalization. Useful information for



Min-ah Ha
&
Angela Zhang
Joint Dux 2007

parents on the new curriculum is available on the 'team-up' website www.teamup.co.nz.

International travel, international students, foreign language learning and exchanges contribute to our collective understanding of the global world and will allow students to make the best use of the knowledge and skills they accumulate through their academic achievements.

Highlights of the 2007 year include the Jazz Band trip to Sydney; the Classical Studies trip to Europe and the French trip to New Caledonia. Close to 70 students and staff were involved. We can look forward to a growth in such international opportunities through school.

I consider myself fortunate to lead a dedicated, highly competent team of teaching professionals who are passionately committed to teaching and learning in the classroom and beyond. As a school we are also very appreciative of the contributions from parents, former students and friends of the school.

To the students leaving at the end of 2007 we wish you well for the future. You have ended your time at Northcote College with great style. You used your energy and imaginations ingeniously and you leave a positive legacy of wit and optimism for others to build on and for you to take with you into the world. Aim for excellence. Ut prosim aliis. We look forward to hearing of your future success.

Best wishes for the holiday season.

Vicki Barrie

CALENDAR

- Mon 10 Dec BOT Meeting 6.00pm
 - Thur 13 Dec Early finish at 1pm
 - Fri 14 Dec Junior Prizegiving
Term 4 Ends (approx 11.30am)
- 2008
- 31/1 & 1/2 Senior Course Confirmation
 - Mon 4 Feb Year 9 & Peer Support Leaders only
 - Tue 5 Feb Whole School (Timetable Day 1)
 - Wed 6 Feb Waitangi Day

Research Project

Vicki Mobley, a Northcote College parent, is undertaking a research project as part of her study towards a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Auckland. The research, 'Parenting and Step-parenting Roles in Re-partnered (Step) Families' has been approved by the University Ethics Committee. Families are needed to participate in a study of roles and relationships between family members living in stepfamily households.

If you would like to know more or are interested in participating in the research please contact Vicki Mobley on 3737599 ext 84479 or email vmob001@ec.auckland.ac.nz.

School Donation

Thank you to all those families who have supported the college and paid the school donation for 2007. The school apologises to those families who had made arrangements and were making regular payments to the school but were inadvertently sent the recent reminder letter. The article below from the Education Review highlights the school's determination to raise awareness of the current funding shortfall.

Prefects 2008

Earlier in the term we began the process of handing the student leadership from Year 13 2007 to Year 13 2008. Congratulations to the students who have been elected as prefects for 2008.

Courtney Rayes (*Head Girl*)

Sam McGerty (*Head Boy*)

Rebecca McFadzien (*Deputy Head Girl*)

Thomas Dixon (*Deputy Head Boy*)

Rachel Allen

Tegan Cheeseman

Priyanka Girish

Sophie McBride

Nicola Pyper

Ash Raj

Tavoi Taufalele

Matthew Ball

Aidan Cameron

Nathan Clarke

Nick Corlett

Adam Fuhr

Pravin Patel

Seb Recordon

Term Dates 2008

A full 2008 year planner, stationery lists and back to school information will be available on the College website www.northcote.school.nz by 14/12/07.

Auckland school aims to highlight funding issues

SCHOOLS/JOANNE HARRIS

AN AUCKLAND SECONDARY school is looking to make school funding a key issue for next year's general elections, with a campaign aimed at raising voter awareness about it.

The news follows last week's revelation that schools nationally raised over \$500 million in "local funds" in addition to government funding.

The Board of Trustees of Northcote College on Auckland's North Shore has asked other North Shore secondary schools to provide details of their fundraising efforts.

Board chair John Churchill said in the letter that: "The public is not aware of the size of the shortfall of government funding in schools [...] The reliance on locally raised funds exposes schools to financial risk and diverts the energy and focus of boards, principals and schools away from teaching and learning."

Northcote raised over \$2 million in 2006 from non-government sources, including over \$1 million in fees from overseas students. Almost half of its total income, excluding teachers' salaries, was locally raised.

Principal Vicki Barrie said the campaign was designed to raise awareness of the problem. "I think it's something that all New Zealanders should know about," she said, pointing out that the campaign came ahead of next year's election.

"The reliance on locally raised funds exposes schools to financial risk and diverts the energy and focus of boards, principals and schools away from teaching and learning."

Northcote plans to use the information supplied by North Shore schools to put pressure on local and national government through the news media.

Barrie acknowledged that her decile 9 school is in the "fortunate position" of being able to attract overseas students and benefit from parental contributions, or fees. However she added local fundraising exposed schools to a financial risk they should not have to take, and said: "The locally-raised funds are not being used for extras."

Source: Education Review 7/09/07

Student Achievement

Cocoon Environmental Group Update

During September Northcote College participated in the inaugural Enviroschools Youth Jam (a sustainability conference for secondary schools) held in Rotorua. **Sam Sneddon** and **Rick Zwaan** (Year 10), **Wilson Shen** (Year 12), **Lisa Andrew** and **Brigitte Langford** (Year 13) presented a workshop on climate change based on findings from their group study of sustainability issues at the college.



A short film made by Lisa and Brigitte for "The Outlook for Someday" competition received praise and strong encouragement for them to enter it in the nationwide film competition. The girls submitted their film and their entry was selected as one of 20 winners chosen. The awards ceremony was held at TVNZ where they received their award from the Prime Minister, Helen Clark. The 20 finalists are now listed on the website www.theoutlookforsomeday.net where public vote will decide the most popular film.

In addition the Youth Jam students have been asked to electronically participate at a Global Youth Forum.

This group of students and others, under the banner of 'Cocoon', have carried out a number of projects and developments in the environment this year and we have just been notified that our efforts over the last three years have qualified us for the Silver Enviroschools Award. Northcote College is only the second Auckland school to receive this award.

Chemistry Competitions

39 Northcote College students undertook the NSW Chemistry competition this year. The top 10% of students in this international competition are awarded High Distinction. A stunning seven out of the 39 students gained High Distinction. Congratulations and well done to all of the chemists who sat this exam and especially to those receiving High Distinction: **Min-ah Ha**, **Angela Zhang**, **Colin Wu**, **James Wang**, **Wilson Shen**, **Nicola Pyper** and **Nick Corlett**.

Congratulations to **Nicola Pyper** and **Clare Gillard** who have just been accepted into the Chemistry Olympiad training team. After an intensive training programme they will sit another set of exams before final selections

will be made for the final group of four to represent NZ at the World Chemistry Olympiad in 2008. Well done and good luck.

Drama Performances

Two performance assessment plays were held recently at the college.

Year 12 Drama classes embarked on a crusade to save battery hens from their shallow and meaningless existence. Using comedy, dance and a lot of clucking 'Chook Chook', a New Zealand play by Fiona Farrell took to the stage. There was always going to be huge public interest with boys in tights and feathers and true to form, the show was a sell-out on the Friday night. With set design by **Danielle Houkamau** and costumes by **Alex Catchpole** this was a visual fiesta. The play was funny and quirky and it was nice to hear the hall ringing with laughter.

Year 13 set their play 'Road' in a Northern English mining town where everyone is out of work and questioning their existence. This group did themselves proud with some stand out, heartfelt performances and it was funnier than you would think.

Writing Success

Three Northcote College students have recently won recognition for their writing.

Nosia Fogogo (Year 12) won the Category One and overall prize in the national 'Talk with Me' writing competition and travelled to Wellington to receive her prize.

Ruby Porter (Year 10) was shortlisted for the Sunday Star Times short story competition. Ruby was one of the 10 finalists.

Michelle Edwards (Year 9) won first prize in the NZATE national creative writing competition with her 300 word short story.

It is not only students who have enjoyed success in this area. **Kelly Malone** (English Teacher) recently had two poems selected to be published in Turbine '07, an annual publication by Victoria University of Wellington.

It is rewarding to know that there is such talent and skill in the college.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Congratulations to **Nicole Edgar** who has attained a Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award.

Student Achievement

Language Exams

Northcote College students recently entered a series of examinations in Japanese and French languages

In the Competence examinations 10 students achieved High Distinction in both listening and reading:

French

Level 2 - **Wilson Shen, Charlotte Routier-Perry, Nicola Pyper** and **Ashley MacPherson**

Japanese

Level 2 - **Dong-Man Kim, Jun Yi, Phillip Lee, Ki Jung** and **Angel Chou**

Level 3 - **Kathy Moon**

In the Alliance Francaise oral examinations **Angela Zhang** (Year 13) and **Ivor Popovich** (Year 11) both achieved the highest level possible.

In the Australian Language Competence Examinations High Distinction was achieved by:

French

Level 1 - **Kenny Chan, Adam Gerrett, Alex Grant, Ivor Popovich, Jonathan Valois** and **Matthew Yates**

Level 2 - **Ashley MacPherson, Nicola Pyper, Charlotte Routier-Perry** and **Wilson Shen**

Japanese

Level 1 - **Charlotte Cooper** (*who achieved a perfect score*), **Sally Kim, Amy Lim, Joanna Liu** and **Tom Walter**

Level 2 - **Angel Chou, Ki Chul Jung, Dong-man Kim, Phillip Lee** and **Jun Yi**

Level 3 - **Ellie Bae, Julie Cao** and **Simon Lee**

Past Pupil Update

Hollie Smith (1996-1999) was the recipient of the Judges' Special Award of \$10,000 at the 2007 North Harbour Club AIMES Awards held at the Bruce Mason Centre in November. Hollie performed vocals on Don McGlashan's award-winning song *Bathe in the River* and recently signed to the Blue Note Label Group/Manhattan Records in the United States.

Jamie Douglas (2002-2006) was a gold medal winner in the Outdoor Exhibition category at the Ellerslie International Flower Show. The rain garden was designed by Jamie and two other landscape design students from Unitec who wanted to encourage people that sustainable gardens could look great too.

Uniform Update:

In an effort to keep our students warm, dry and looking "sharp" we have increased the range of uniform items available for 2008 including:

School Jackets

From mid January the new school jackets will be available for purchase from Yarnton's Birkenhead. These light weight navy blue lined jackets are warm and roll up well to take up minimal space in a school bag. The old blue and gold anoraks are being phased out but can still be worn with uniform.

Also available are:

Navy blue school rain jackets (crested) \$99.95

Navy blue V-necked polyprop vests to be worn under the school shirt \$30.00

Year 9 PE Uniforms (shirts and shorts) will be in store from mid January (price to be confirmed).

Property

In late 2006 the Auckland Regional Council approved a grant of \$2,969.00 from their Environmental Initiatives Fund for the removal of 6 mature *Acmena* (commonly known as monkey apple) trees on the bank of the number two field and replanting. This season native plants have been planted alongside P4 in a garden leaving an access path for pedestrians. With the remaining funding further natives have been purchased and planted on the eastern bank of the number three field. Northcote College is very grateful to the ARC for their grant which has assisted us in the further beautification of our grounds.

Thanks to the Lion Foundation and the Birkenhead Licensing Trust for the recent \$25,000 grant for classroom equipment.

Stage Challenge 2008

Planning is already underway for the Northcote College Stage Challenge entry and the chosen theme is historical. This will be logistically more challenging than in previous years. If you are able to assist with costumes or are prepared to help by donating building materials please contact Karen Russell karenr@northcote.school.nz We are anxious to keep the costs to participants as low as possible and appreciate any offers of assistance.