



Newsletter

Term One, February 2008

NORTHCOTE COLLEGE

Principal, Vicki Barrie BSocSci Dip Tchg

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Principal's Comment

It is my pleasure to welcome students, parents and staff to the 2008 academic year. The year has started very positively for both returning students and new students to the school. Students are showing great promise and have settled quickly to learning and school routines.

The new school year began with the arrival of the 2007 external examination results. I am delighted to report that the Northcote College NCEA and Scholarship results once again compare very favourably with previous years and with other schools. Students individually and collectively achieved outstanding results in both NCEA and Scholarship examinations. For example a remarkable 10% of Northcote College students receiving Level 3 NCEA certificates achieved an Excellence endorsement. This compares with just 4% nationally and 5% on average for decile 9 schools.

In 2007 we welcomed the introduction of Merit and Excellence endorsements for NCEA certificates. These endorsements reinforce the success of Northcote College students. Congratulations to all students on their success.

A full summary of results is featured later in this newsletter.

CALENDAR

- 2 - 4 Mar Year 13 Camp
- 7 - 9 Mar Affair of the Heart Art Exhibition
Fri 7th Gala Opening 7 - 9pm
Sat 8th & Sun 9th 10am - 4pm
- 14-15 Mar Maori & Pacific Is. Festival
- Thur 20 Mar Progress Reports Issued
- 21-25 Mar Easter holiday break
- 3 & 8 Apr Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm
- 14-18 Apr Year 10 Camp
- Fri 18 Apr Term 1 Ends

Welcome to New Teaching Staff

We have welcomed the following new staff to Northcote College in 2008:

Mr Clark	Classics/Drama
Mr Clarke	ICT
Mrs Houltham	Learning Support
Mrs Judd	Physical Education
Miss Leask	Careers Advisor
Miss Meade	Head of English
Ms Rardin	Media Studies
Ms Smith	Drama
Mrs Tauhara-White	HOD Maori
Mr Wallace	Geography, Tourism & Social Studies
Ms Utens	Physical Education

Northcote College is fortunate to attract quality applicants for teaching positions and students are already benefiting from the expertise and enthusiasm of these new staff, which complements the outstanding skill and experience of the existing team.

"Affair of the Heart" Art Exhibition

I encourage all members of the school community to attend the 4th Annual Northcote College "Affair of the Heart" Art Exhibition to be held at the school from Friday 7th March-Sunday 9th March. The exhibition is our major fundraiser for the year and is guaranteed to be very enjoyable.

Tickets for the very popular gala opening on Friday 7th March are available from the School Office. There is no charge for entry to the exhibition on Saturday and Sunday.

We are delighted to be exhibiting the art works of more than 100 artists including the work of both current and former students of the school.

As in previous years the proceeds from the event will be used to improve performing arts facilities at the school.

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Principal's comment continued

Finally, I urge you to make every effort to stay in touch with school activities and events. I understand the challenge this can be as students strive to develop independence in their teenage years. The school website is a useful resource for parents in this regard. Please continue to attend school events and ask to see notices. Ensure that your child (or children) attends regularly, is punctual, has the right equipment and uniform and meets all of his or her obligations.

We are justifiably proud of the programmes we offer and the success of Northcote College students while at school and beyond school. We constantly strive to improve and respond to the learning needs of students. I invite and welcome feedback from parents. All suggestions, ideas and comments can be emailed to principal@northcote.school.nz

I wish all Northcote College families the very best for a successful 2008 school year.

Vicki Barrie

Student Achievement

Merit and Excellence Endorsement Certificates

In 2007 Northcote College students once again achieved consistently well above national averages.

2007 was the first year students nationally were able to achieve a National Certificate of Educational Achievement with a Merit or Excellence endorsement. These endorsements were introduced to encourage students to aim high and be recognised for their achievements.

A Merit endorsement is awarded to students achieving 50 or more credits at Merit or Excellence level. An Excellence endorsement is awarded to students achieving 50 or more credits at Excellence level.

Of those students gaining Level 1 NCEA, 51% were awarded an endorsement certificate compared with 28% nationally. At Level 2, 33% of our students gained endorsements compared with 21% nationally. Year 13 students achieved outstandingly well in Level 3 NCEA with 27% gaining a Merit endorsement and 10% an Excellence endorsement. Nationally the figures for Merit and Excellence at Level 3 were 21% and 4% respectively.

Congratulations to all students who successfully completed their NCEA Level 1, 2 or 3 in 2007.

Scholarship Examination Results

New Zealand Scholarship is designed to be highly demanding and only for the very top students at secondary level. The aim is to assess a student's ability to synthesise and integrate concepts - to apply higher-level thinking based on in-school and independent learning.

Northcote College students gained an exceptional 35 Scholarship Awards in 2007 including five Outstanding Scholarships. Congratulations to the following students for their success in the 2007 Scholarship Examination:

Nick Blazey	Visual Arts (<i>Outstanding</i>)
Rosie Bohling	Media Studies
Suzanne Bowerman	Economics
Nick Chester	Drama
Michael Carpenter	Classics
Julie Cao	Accounting and Economics
Joanna Cass	Visual Arts
James Daniell	Music
Hannah Eriksen	English
Valerie Fremy	French (<i>Outstanding</i>)
Min-ah Ha	Chemistry (<i>Outstanding</i>), Physics, Calculus and Economics
Sky Jiang	Calculus, Statistics and Physics
Sarah Knowles	English and Media Studies
Nastassja Millard	Classics
Stephane Monten	Drama
Kathy Moon	Japanese
Nic Pope	History, Classics and Economics
Isaac Robinson	Drama
Renji Sun	Statistics
Mei Yen Tan	Statistics
Chanel Turner	Drama
Tobias Webster	Drama (<i>Outstanding</i>)
Angela Zhang	Physics (<i>Outstanding</i>), Biology, Chemistry and Calculus

Past Pupil Update

Richard Stebbing and **Owen Woodhouse** (2002-2006) have been named on the Auckland University School of Engineering Deans List. This places both students in the top 5% of students for 2007.

Georgia Richmond (2002-2006) has been accepted into medical school at Otago University.

Student Activities

Environmental Dedication

Northcote College year 13 student **Raquel Gunman** spent part of her holidays in Blumine Island in the Marlborough Sounds. Raquel was part of a group selected nationally for a joint venture initiative between the Untouched World Charitable Trust, the Department of Conservation and Canterbury University School of Education. The initiative was designed to establish an island sanctuary for the endangered NZ Giant Snail.



The group, led by Dr Barry Law (Senior Lecturer and National Coordinator for Environmental Education) and supported by DOC and teacher trainees, conducted snail, rat, mice, bird and weta surveys and data on vegetation type as well as other activities. Raquel is a keen member of the Northcote College Environmental Group 'Cocoon' and has long had a passion for animal conservation and the environment.

The Spirit of New Zealand Trophy 2008

Northcote College has registered to enter a team of five boys and five girls from Year 10 in this competition aboard the tall ship, Spirit of New Zealand. Our team will sail from Auckland in May. There will be teams from four schools on the voyage competing against each other for five days. Events will include teamwork, problem solving, debating, ships handling and aquatic sports in and on the water. Teams will go ashore for a day and complete a task against others that will involve ingenuity, leadership, excitement and reward and most of all, fun. This is a wonderful opportunity for Year 10 students at a cost of \$425 per student.

We expect that many more than 10 will wish to go. Please register by email, before the end of February, to billk@northcote.school.nz using 'Spirit Trophy' as the subject. Mr Gratton (Y10 dean) and Mr Kinghorn (Spirit of NZ liaison) will choose our team and inform all applicant families by 12th March.

Enquiries to Bill Kinghorn 4810141 ext 714.

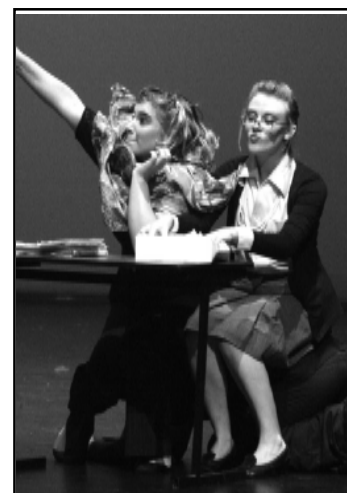
Stage Challenge

The rehearsals are about to begin for Stage Challenge 2008 with more than 120 students currently signed up to take part.

Alongside the actors and dancers are the designers, builders, parents and technical crew, led by Head of Drama, Kate Olliver.

This year's performance is likely to bring a new dimension to the tried and true Northcote formula but the theme will remain under wraps for now. There is no doubt that there is a great deal of fun ahead for all those involved.

Any parents who are able to assist with sewing costumes, set design or construction are encouraged to contact Karen Russell on karenr@northcote.school.nz.



Chanel Turner (right)
Year 13 performer 2007
Choreographer 2008

Admin Notices

Uniform Reminders

It is a pleasure to see the student body return to the new school year wearing their uniforms correctly and with pride. Students have been reminded that long hair must be tied back, only one small stud in each ear is permitted and no necklaces are allowed. No nail polish is to be worn. Roman sandals are able to be worn only in Term 1 and Term 4.

Contact Details

It is important that the school holds accurate contact information for student families. Please contact the main office (ph 481 0141) to update your records if there have been any changes to phone or address details.

School Fees

The start of the school year is an expensive time for families and we take this opportunity to thank those who have paid the requested school donation, or made arrangements with the Accounts Office to do this. Also a thank you to those families who have made an additional donation towards targeted areas of the school. The BOT urges all families to make this contribution to the school for the benefit of all students.

Careers Services

During April Northcote College will host representatives from most of the New Zealand Universities. The university presentations are designed to provide an overview for students. Additional information for students is available on the Northcote College Student Network.

Careers Day will be held on Thursday 19th June and provides an opportunity for senior students to choose workshops on three different careers of interest to them from a range of options.

Philippa Leask
Careers Advisor
philippal@northcote.school.nz

Support Services

Keeping Connected with your Kids

12th & 19th March and 2nd & 9th April
7.30pm - 9.00pm

Increase parenting confidence and practise important skills to build:

- friendship with your teenagers
- happier homes
- success at school

This series of four seminars by Northcote College Support Services has been offered for the last few years and found to be very beneficial. The course is limited to 25 participants and there is no charge to parents/caregivers of Northcote College students.

To reserve your place please contact:
Bill Kinghorn 481 0141 ext 714

School Shop

Open Daily 10am - 1.30pm
(term time only)

The school shop is available for the purchase of stationery items, secondhand uniforms (subject to availability) and sports uniforms.

Secondhand school uniforms are urgently needed. If you have items you wish to sell please contact Liz Godfrey, Shop Manager on 481 0141 ext 744 or by email on shop@northcote.school.nz

2008 Key Dates:

Mar	2-4	Year 13 Camp
	3rd	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	7-9	Affair of the Heart Art Exhibition
	20th	Progress Reports Issued
	21st	Good Friday (school closed)
	24th	Easter Monday (school closed)
	25th	Easter Tuesday (school closed)
Apr	3rd	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm
	7th	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	8th	Parent/Teacher Interviews 4-7pm
	14-18	Year 10 Camp
	18th	Term 1 Ends
May	5th	Term 2 Begins BOT Meeting 7.30pm
June	2nd	Queen's Birthday (school closed)
	3-9	Senior Exams
	9th	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	14th	School Ball
	17th	Team Photos
	19th	Careers Expo
	27th	Junior Reports Issued
July	4th	Senior Reports Issued End Term 2
	21st	Term 3 Begins
Aug	4th	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	7th	Parent/Teacher Interviews (4-7pm)
	12th	Parent/Teacher Interviews (4-7pm)
Sep	1st	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	4th	Teacher Only Day (school closed)
	5th	Mid Term Break (school closed)
	10-17	Senior Exams
	23rd	Thames Sports Exchange
	26th	Term 3 Ends
Oct	13th	Term 4 Begins BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	27th	Labour Day (school closed)
Nov	3rd	BOT Meeting 7.30pm
	6th	Sports Prizegiving
	12th	Last day in class for seniors
	13th	Senior Prizegiving
	15th	NZQA Exams begin
	24-28	Junior Exams
Dec	3rd	NZQA Exams End
	8th	BOT Meeting 6.30pm
	12th	Junior Prizegiving / Reports Issued End Term 4

Please refer www.northcote.school.nz for updated information