Welcome back
Welcome to all students and staff for a new year of learning. Newsletters, covering the most important events we are involved in, will be available via email or on the school website each week, usually on Tuesday. Year 7 students will be able to get a hard copy of the newsletter for the first 5 weeks of term.

If you need to contact the school for any reason, the office is open from 8.30am until 3.30pm. The phone number is 49923022.

New staff
We have a number of new staff this year – a longer list than I have ever had to present as Principal of this school. Our new staff members are:

Senior Administrative Manager, replacing Mrs Ivy Wilson: Mrs Robin Staciwa
Special Education, replacing Mrs Cindy Lidbury: Ms Natsasha Joy HSIE, replacing Mrs Fran Crane: Mrs Susan Judd HSIE, replacing Mrs Anne Middlebrook who is on 12 months leave: Mrs Kristy Neilson
English, replacing Ms Glenda Smith: Mrs Amy Clifton PDHPE, replacing Mrs Michelle Wilson who is now Head Teacher: Mr Rodney Corcoran
Library, replacing Mr Iain Crawford: Mrs Angela Cull Science: Mrs Alison Schatz has been transferred to Maitland Grossmann HS; her replacement will be determined after advertisement and interview this term.
The Head Teacher positions in English and HSIE will also be interviewed this term.

Year 12 2012
We have had news from many of last year’s year 12 students that they have achieved the university or TAFE courses they were hoping for. I will give more information on this in a later newsletter, but for now, congratulations to all our students and their families.

Weather
We have had some changeable weather lately and last Friday was definitely a difficult one. I would like to thank the staff and students for their outstanding response to what could have been a dangerous situation.

Fifteen minutes before students were to go out on the playground for lunch, the heavens opened and we had a massive downpour with hailstones. Students were held in classrooms for the first part of lunch until it was safe to go outside. All students were able to stay under shelter and have their lunch and free time; their behaviour was excellent and I congratulate them for this. Thanks to all the staff who came out on supervision and kept things calm.

Gallipoli Tour 2015
A timeline for students and parents interested in taking part in the Gallipoli Tour of 2015 is printed in this newsletter and is also available on the school website. All eligible students have been given the information on this trip and should have spent time over the past few months to get their project started.

The first thing I will need is an Expression of Interest from all interested students; this EOI should be no longer than one page and outline their response to the Task. I will hold a meeting this term to discuss the application and the tour itself to all the students and their parents who complete the EOI.

Digital future – year 9 laptops
Over the past four years, we have been the beneficiaries of a Federal Government commitment to give laptop computers to all year 9 students. This has been combined with extensive professional development for staff in use of the laptops in the classroom and integrating technology into teaching/learning programs. The school has been fitted with wireless capabilities, making all classrooms available for laptop use.

This has been an outstanding success for our students and staff. Students have had the ability to work at a sophisticated level, using resources from around the world. They can communicate with their teachers and submit work via their laptop. Teachers have sent work to students who were absent during a class. Last year’s year 12 students, the first to be given these devices, were able to have all filters removed and have them upgraded for their own use after they left school.

Sadly, this program has come to an end. This current year 9 will be the last to receive laptops; these laptops will be on loan to them, but will remain the property of the school. Students will receive them and have use of them in a similar way to the past, but will not keep them if they leave DHS.

It seems a great shame that such a successful program must come to an end; it was made clear by the Federal Government that continuing the program would become a State responsibility when the four years it had committed to were completed. It will be very interesting to hear what the State government will say now that schools are left with uncertainty around such an important educational tool.

We will be looking at our response to this issue for our current year 7 and 8 students. “Bring your own device” is being held out as the way of the future, particularly because of the speed with which technology is changing. My main concern is equity – not all families can afford to provide a laptop or tablet for each of their children. This will be an issue that we will discuss within the school and at P&C meetings throughout the year. Your input will be welcome.
SPORTS REPORT

Hello and welcome back to school sports in 2013!! We have hit the ground running and have already completed ½ of our swimming events in our new format of having carnivals in normal sport time. This is designed to increase attendance at carnivals and hopefully participation as well but unfortunately we will no longer have time for events such as noodle races, Year 12 bombing and biathlon. This week we return to the pool for the 100m Breaststroke and 100m Butterfly and then we should have time for a supervised swim. Port Stephens Zone swimming carnival will be held at Tomaree Aquatic Centre on Monday 18th Feb for any swimmer who comes 1st or 2nd at our school carnival.

Term 1 sport choices have already begun for Years 8 – 11 and normal sport should commence in Week 3 (Year 7 are involved with Peer Support in term 1). All of our summer sports are on offer again with the introduction of Turner Cup pre-season soccer training for those students wishing to try out for our junior boys/girls soccer teams. Remember if you wish to choose Cattle Judging for sport students must see Mr Lawrence first or for Music see Mrs Danvers.

F Fardell (Sports Organiser)

English Faculty News

We would like to welcome everyone and hope you all had an enjoyable holiday.

Last year we said goodbye to Mrs Gordon, Ms Smith and Mr Crawford. These people worked hard for many years at Dungog High School and hopefully they are enjoying their retirement. Their departure has meant the English Faculty has two new members of staff: Mrs Clifton will be teaching English and French Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, with Mrs Lawrence teaching English and French Thursday and Fridays. Ms Cull is our new Librarian. The position of Head Teacher of English will be filled by the start of Term 2, so in the mean time I will be relieving as the Head Teacher of English/LOTE.

Our Senior students have settled in well and have begun the year working very hard. It will be a challenging year, but we know they are all very capable.

Students in Years 7 and 9 will be sitting the NAPLAN test at the start of Term 2. To ensure they are well prepared, students in Year 7, 8 and 9 will work on their understanding of Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling. Students will have a spelling list each week, with lists of words going out a week before. Please ensure your child is revising these lists each week.

At the end of this year, students will be invited to participate in a spelling competition in which they compete against their peers. Last Year the winner of the English Faculty spelling competition was won by Ian Parsons.

Years 7, 8 and 10 students will begin their study of English by studying Poetry. Year 9 students will begin with a Writing Unit, focusing on persuasive writing.

As a rule, junior students do not usually receive a great amount of homework for English. However, we do expect every student should be reading each night. As they are in High School, it is important they are not simply reading magazines, we expect every student should be reading novels. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be given a lesson in the Library before the end of Week 3 to borrow a novel from the Library. Students in Years 7 and 8 will be given a
tracking sheet to record the novels they have read. Please support us by encouraging your child to complete this as it is important for their futures.

This year, Mrs Shumack has entered all students in Years 7 and 8 in the Premier’s Reading Challenge. Students will be asked to read 20 novels over a 12 month period. The novels must be selected from the Premier’s list. Students who complete the challenge will receive a certificate from the Premier.

Mrs Shumack will once again be organising Public Speaking and Debating teams. Students are encouraged to get involved with these activities. Competition dates will be announced later this term, but I encourage students to get involved.

This week students in Years 7, 8, 9 and 10 will be given an Assessment schedule, outlining how each year will be assessed and reported on. Please read this information and sign that you have read and understood the document. If you have any concern or queries, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

**LOTE News**

This year students in Year 7 will be studying French for their Language Other Than English course. Students will learn about the importance of learning about another culture, the influence the French have had on Australia and the region as well as learn some of the language.

This year Mrs Shumack, Mrs Inwood, Mrs Clifton, Mrs Lawrence, Mrs Crawford, Mrs Kavanagh and I will teach French and we will expect all students to actively involve themselves in all lessons and have fun exploring the culture.

If you have any concerns or questions about English or LOTE, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. I wish you all a very enjoyable year.

Mrs Denise McKinna
Relieving Head Teacher English/LOTE

**CAREERS NEWS**

**CONSTRUCTION INDUCTION COURSE**

Year 10 students wishing to actively participate in Work Experience in the Building and Construction Industry must complete a Construction Induction Training Course ("White Card"). This is a legal requirement. Students in Year 11 who are enrolled in Construction (VET) must also have completed this course.

A course will be run at the School by an approved WorkCover trainer on Friday 1 March. The cost is $120. A maximum of 20 students can attend. A second course will run in Term 2 only if there is sufficient demand.

Permission notes are not required. Students are to pay at the Office.

**DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN**

Roster

**Week 2 : 4th to 8th February**

Mon T Schumacher, M Gibbs, J Holmes, B Beaumont
Tues J Kellner, B Reeves
Wed M Milburn, L Morris, K McDermott
Thurs S Kiddle, J Czapiewski
Fri D Marquet, L Dries, L McInnes, M Townsend

**Week 3 : 11th to 15th February**

Mon J Chant,
Tues D Dykyj, C Bridges, K Nairn
Wed C Wheeler, M Dew, L Lovegrove
Thurs K Eyb, J Saunders, K Falconer
Fri N Pearce, R Nicholson, V Sanderson

**DUNGOG JUNIOR RUGBY LEAGUE INC.**

FREE COACHING CLINIC

WITH NRL and NEWCASTLE KNIGHTS DEVELOPMENT COACHES...

A Coaching Clinic for all players 6 years to 18 years inclusive will be held at Bennett Park on Wednesday 13th March 2013 commencing at 3.30pm.

NRL and Knights Development Coaches along with club coaches will be in attendance to run a skills based clinic.

Don’t play rugby league?? Why not come and try a rugby league clinic for free! It is also a great opportunity to sign up to play Rugby League for Dungog in 2013.

All players who register to play with Dungog Junior Rugby League for 2013 season will receive a free football on full payment of registration fees.

For more information please feel free to contact Shane Darr on 0428044588.

**YEAR 12 PARTIAL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES.**

This document is available on Dungog High School website http://www.dungog-schools.nsw.edu.au/years/year-12

**Coming Events**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Y12 PDHPE Laser Tag</td>
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<tr>
<td>5-8</td>
<td>Drama Excursion to Sydney</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Swimming Carnival Days 2 during sport</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Uniform Shop open</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Y12 PDHPE Beach Fitness</td>
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<tr>
<td>18-22</td>
<td>Yr12 Construction Work Placement</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Zone Swimming Carnival, Tomaree</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>Y9-12 Vis Art to Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Y8 Powerhouse Museum excursion</td>
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<td>Rural Uni Road Show</td>
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SEAHAM NETBALL CLUB

**REGISTRATION DAYS**
Saturday 9th February 2013
Saturday 23rd February 2013
Seaham Public School 10am – 12noon
Uniforms available on the day.
For further inquiries contact either Tracey Marks,
Registrar on 49886979
Or Clinton Bridge, President on 4988 6921.
New players to SNC will need to bring along their birth certificate.

**Student Exchange – Memories and Skills for a Lifetime!**

Give your child the opportunity to gain international experiences and language skills to kick-start a future career. Along with distinct language benefits, exchange students mature, gain confidence and develop a much more worldly approach upon their return to Australia.

World Education Program Australia (WEP), a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the education departments, is now accepting applications for students to live overseas in 2013/14 as exchange students for a summer, semester or year.

WEP is offering two **$3000 scholarships** towards semester-long student exchange programs to Argentina and China commencing in 2014.

**Find out more!**
- Visit [www.wep.org.au](http://www.wep.org.au)
- Attend one of WEP’s information evenings and open days
- Call 1300 884733

**Upcoming Information Session**
Sydney
13 Feb, 13 Mar, 14 May 2013
7:30-9pm
Bowlers Club of NSW
Level 2 / 95-99 York Street
Sydney

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**FAMILY LAW NETWORK AUSTRALIA**

We have recently launched the website Family Law Network Australia. The website is a free information resource and referral service for family law matters. The information provided on our website could be very useful and of great benefit to families.

We invite you to visit Family Law Network Australia at [www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au](http://www.familylawmattersaustralia.com.au)