Seasons Greetings

This is the last newsletter of the year and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the best for the Christmas and New Year season. We are coming to the end of a school year that has had its full share of success and difficult times – we have made it through to this point by working hard together to support students and families as they navigate the many issues 2015 has thrown at us.

I would like to thank the individuals and groups who have helped us this year and continued the tradition of DHS as an integral part of our community.

All of our parents who have supported their students in their endeavours to improve and show their best work: if you have helped with homework, attended meetings, prepared nutritious lunches, talked to your child about what they are doing and what they are concerned about, you have supported them. We thank you for this.

Our P&C members and canteen volunteers: thank you for giving up your time to come to meetings and discuss the school’s future and help maintain a wonderful service to our students. The canteen is our only fundraiser and, through the P&C, donates around $30,000 to school programs that help our students.

Dungog Community Centre: has worked closely with us to support students and help us to develop and present programs that help students work through issues of concern.

The DHS staff: have shown commitment to our students that is over and above all expectations. Thank you for the care and concern that you have shown and the effort that has been made to get the best possible results for all our students.

I wish you all the best for the holiday season and look forward to seeing many of you at the annual Presentation Day on Wednesday this week.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Larraine from the Uniform Shop for her service over last nine years.

Maureen Jarvis

Music Concert Wednesday Night in the MPC 7pm

This concert will be ‘short and sweet’ as we have many students away or working.

That doesn’t mean it won’t be fun so please come along and have a look and listen.

Donation is a gold coin!!!!!

From the Office:

➢ Want to make a payment?

Parents Online Payments

Go to the schools website, http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/ and the $ Make a Payment link will be on the front page. By selecting the link you will be taken to a secure Westpac Quickweb payment page.

There is an instruction manual on the website http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/schooling-costs

Please cease depositing directly into the school’s bank account.

➢ Parent Portal (Sentral)

Sentral’s parent portal provides parents with 24/7 access to important information about their child/children.

To use the Parent portal, you will need to register as a parent user. Each parent has been sent a letter from the school by Mr Curran, our Sentral Coordinator, explaining this simple process and providing you with a unique access code. You cannot register without this code. If you did not receive a letter, or if you lose your registration access code, you can contact the school for a new one.

You will be able to register for the Parent Portal at any time after receiving the letter.

➢ Student Letterbox

To save students lining up and waiting to hand in notes or pay for excursions, fees, etc we have started a new system with a ‘Student Letterbox’. Students can drop the following in the Letterbox:

• permission notes,
• absence notes,
• correct monies with permission note in a sealed envelope, and
• early leaver requests – (note all Thursday early leaver requests must FIRST be signed by the Deputy).

If a student does need change or a receipt to take home they will need to stay in line, or come back later to collect it.
safeTALK
Thank you to all that took time out of their busy schedules to attend our first safeTALK session for parents, teachers and community members. Robyn from Lifeline delivered the presentation which involved lots of discussion, time to ask many questions and an opportunity to try out some strategies. We had 17 people attend the session with excellent feedback from all attendees.

“I am now more aware that suicide awareness is an important issue for all of us. It is not up to just the school or parents to deal with, it is up to everyone to get involved.”

“This awareness training has helped me to understand how I can support others, signs or invitations I can look for and how to talk to someone about suicide”

“This training was very effective. I now have the confidence to discuss suicide and know where I can go to keep someone safe”.

Every participant also commented that their number 1 take home point they learnt from the evening was to “just come straight out and ask if someone has been thinking of suicide”.

Thank you to those that let me know they would like to be involved in future sessions. We will be running more sessions in 2016. If you have any feedback or contributions to the planning of these sessions, please feel free to contact me via my email hayley.dibley@det.nsw.edu.au.

Hayley Dibley
Head Teacher Welfare

FLASH MOB DANCE IN ACTION AT CHARLESTOWN SQUARE
Well done girls. This was great fun and the dance was a real crowd pleaser.

Congratulations to you all on not only your great performances but also in the way you presented yourselves and represented Dungog High. We received many compliments. GOOD ON YOU!!!

Thanks also to Ian and Ronnie for their ‘sound’ help. Great work boys!

Debating Report 2015
Despite having two very strong teams, this year’s debating competition proved to be a frustrating one. In Year 8 the Debating season got off to a very successful start when they resoundingly defeated Mt View High. The team consisted of Stuart Hitchens, Alesha Lenyr, Georgia Stewart and Clare Richardson. The team debated the time-honoured topic, That Homework Should Be Banned. The students were congratulated at the end of the debate for the quality of their arguments and their presentation. Unfortunately it proved an impossibility co-ordinating the next round of the debating however this win has led to these students being awarded the title, Inter-Zone Finalists for 2015.

They are currently in the process of debating their fellow classmates in order to gain practice for next year’s competition, I am also scouting around for new recruits and seem to have a ready supply of excellent speakers.

In the Years 9 and 10 competition, the same problems with co-ordination occurred. The team won their first round on a forfeit but were narrowly defeated by a very experienced Maitland Grossmann team in Round 2. This year’s team consisted of Isabella Hudson, Anneke Maiden, Sarah Boland and Pascal Francisci. The team debated the topic, That the past was better.

I am looking forward to taking these students to more competitions next year and would like to encourage any students out there who would like to develop good speaking skills, as well as their ability to formulate arguments and opinions to participate, everyone is welcome!

Mrs Shumack
**SOME CALENDAR DATES FOR 2015-2016**

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>Yr9/10 Music Performances MPC</td>
<td>Annual Presentation Day 9.30am MPC Volleyball teams to Wollongong MADD Night MPC, 7pm</td>
<td>Orientation Day (Back Up Day) Uniform Shop 8am-4pm Volleyball teams to Wollongong Year 11 Drama Performance</td>
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<td>PBL Rewards Day, Y7, 8, 9</td>
<td>PBL Rewards Day Yr10,11</td>
<td>STUDENTS LAST DAY.</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td>2016 Term 1 Wk 1</td>
<td>25 January</td>
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<td>AUSTRALIA DAY</td>
<td>Staff Development Day Staff only attend.</td>
<td>Years 7, 11, 12 attend Uniform Shop 8am-4pm</td>
<td>All Students attend.</td>
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<td>Uniform Shop 8am-4pm</td>
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**DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN**

**Roster**

**Week 10 : 7th to 11th December**

- Mon  P Garrett, J Hipwell
- Tues  J Kellner, A Moss, N Paterson, J Huntress
- Wed  C Wheeler, L Lovegrove
- Thurs  J Czaplewski, R Rolfe, K Flannery
- Fri  D Marquet, L Dries, L McInnes, J Townsend

**Week 11 : 14th to 16th December**

- Mon  K McDonald, J Chant, K Ross
- Tues  A Field, C Briggs, M Gibbs
- Wed  F Pike,

**2016 Week 1 : 27th to 29th January**

- Wed  PUPIL FREE
- Thurs  M Muddle, K Rowe, S Simmonds
- Fri  N Pearce, K Watson, K Fisher

Due to the change in the structure of the school day could Canteen helpers please be here by 9.30am. If you are unable to be here by that time could you please let Margaret Edwards know, by phoning the school on 49923022.

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**Dungog Theatre**

**The Hunger Games: Mockingjay- Part 2 (M)** - Saturday, 12 December, 7 pm

With the nation of Panem in a full scale war, Katniss confronts President Snow in the final showdown. Teamed with a group of her closest friends - including Gale, Finnick and Peeta - Katniss goes off on a mission with the unit from District 13 as they risk their lives to liberate the citizens of Panem, and stage an assassination attempt on President Snow who has become obsessed with destroying her. The mortal traps, enemies and moral choices that await Katniss will challenge her more than any arena she faced in the Hunger Games.

Starring Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, Liam Hemsworth, Woody Harrelson, Elizabeth Banks, Julianne Moore, Philip Seymour Hoffman (in his final film role), and Donald Sutherland, Mockingjay Part 2 brings The Hunger Games film series to an exciting, poignant, and satisfying conclusion.

**Macbeth (MA15+)** - Sunday, 13 December, 7 pm

In December we’ll have a special screening of the modern masterpiece Macbeth, from the director of Snowtown, Australian director Justin Kurzel. This critically acclaimed adaptation of William Shakespeare’s play stars Michael Fassbender and Marion Cotillard. This is a special bonus for Dungog Film Society subscribers – it’s been a good year, so this film is only $10, if you’ve hung on to your subscription pass. (Others welcome to see this classic at the normal price of $12). It screens at 7pm on Sunday 13 December. And if you’ve been volunteering or supporting the James Theatre during the year, watch out for details of a thank you barbecue before the film.

For any other details, go to our website. [www.jamestheatre.com.au](http://www.jamestheatre.com.au)

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**Kids in the Park - Sydney Olympic Park**

Sydney’s largest school holiday program returns this summer school holidays! There are 60+ fun-filled activities to keep kids active, outdoors and entertained. A range of activities are free or under $25, making it affordable to discover Sydney’s most exciting playground this holidays.

- Archery – Kids on Target & Little Archers
- All Day Holiday Recreational Program
- Science, cooking, writing workshops
- Gymnastics
- Circus Skills & Flying Trapeze
- Apia International Sydney Kids’ Tennis Day
- Summer Wetlands
- Sport & adventure camps
- Australia Day celebrations - FREE ...
- and lots more


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**Summer fun in nature around Port Stephens**

Join our Discovery Rangers to experience a different side to Port Stephens and Tomaree National Park this summer holiday. There’s something for everyone.
Term 4 Week 10

7th December 2015

Tomaree’s WilderQuest treasure trail
Thursday 7 January 2016, 9am–11.30am
Discover the sights, sounds and heritage of Tomaree as you step back to the time of World War II.

WilderQuest wild world of rockpools
Friday 8 January 2016, 1.30pm–3.30pm
Explore amazing rockpool creatures on Boat Harbour’s headland.

Spooky night walk
Wednesday 13 January 2016, 6.30pm–8.30pm
Experience stories by dusk, the haunting ambience ‘behind the scenes’ of Tomaree’s World War II gun emplacements, and then return by dark.

WilderQuest bush to beach family discovery
Thursday 14 January 2016, 3pm–5pm
Enjoy nature with fantastic family activities. For the young and young at heart.

Bookings and information
Bookings for all NPWS Discovery Tours are essential.
Book online following the links above, or phone 13000 PARKS (13000 72757).
All tours between $12 and $15 per person and families between $36 and $45.
For more information on tours, such as meeting points, please follow the web links or ask on booking. For general enquiries, phone Sue Olsson on (02) 4984 8210 (after 7 December 2015), or email suzanne.olsson@environment.nsw.gov.au