Principal

**Education Week, 26th - 31st July**

Every year at this time, we celebrate the successes of education in this state and our part in that success. This year’s theme is Local Heroes.

Our Education Week reception will be held on Thursday July 30th in the MPC and will recognise the many people who contribute to education in the Dungog Community of Schools. Parents and students from our local primary schools will be a major part of this reception that reflects the continuity of education from kindergarten to year 12 in the Dungog area.

DHS awards will be given to:
1. Excellence in Student Achievement: Sam Neilson, Aimee Robinson (both year 12)
2. Excellence in Teaching: Susan Hodgins (visual art), Natusha Joy (Special Education)
3. Outstanding contribution by a non-teaching staff member: Annette Nelson
4. Outstanding contribution by a community member: Val Cross
5. Outstanding school program: Community Art Program at Lara Aged Care Home

Congratulations and thanks to all of these great contributors to the quality of education in our school.

**Upcoming events:**
1. Parent / teacher evening August 5th. Students will be given booking forms for parents to complete. Please ensure that you indicate if you will need more than a five minute timeslot so that other parents can speak to teachers at their nominated times.
2. HSC Trial examinations weeks 5 and 6. Students are aware of the organisation of their trials and will be given a detailed timetable closer to the exam period.

**Dungog Community Centre**

The DCC has been granted funds to support families who are in need of assistance over coming months. The program is called “Bounce Forward”, reflecting the community’s wish to take stock and continue growing after the recent tragic floods. The support from these grants is in addition to what has already been donated or allocated to our community and allows the DCC personnel to give very personalised assistance to families and individuals in need.

More information is available from the DCC.

**Teacher of the Year Award**

Congratulations to David Brown, our Head Teacher Mathematics. He is one of three teachers who have won this award in NSW for this year.

This is an on-line award, in which students nominate a teacher and give reasons for that teacher’s selection. The citation for Mr Brown noted his dedication to helping students from all classes and ability levels and his willingness to spend as much time as is needed to get students to achieve personal success.

Mr Brown’s skill as a teacher and deep concern for students has been noted by many students over his years here at DHS. We are very fortunate to have a teacher of his quality and vision at our school. Thanks to the students who nominated him – he is a worthy recipient of this prize.

**Congratulations Lleyton, Young Sports Citizen of the Year**

Lleyton Lloyd, Year 9, was nominated for the Young Sports Citizen of the year award for the Paterson Electorate by the Clarence Town Lions Club. There were 7 other finalists for this award and Lleyton was the award recipient.

Lleyton was presented his award by the Hon. Tony Abbott MP and the member for Paterson Bob Baldwin.

**Anonymous Online Deposit**

As previously noted in recent newsletters, earlier in the year someone made an online payment of $178.00 into the school’s bank account without any further details.
Coincidentally a second person did exactly the same thing two weeks later for $830.00

To date, we are unable to allocate these amounts to a student until someone comes forward to claim them.

Regular reminders in the newsletter & on the school website weekly since then have failed to produce a claimant. The typically friendly Westpac bank will charge us $50 each transaction for a trace which is why we have held off that process until now. As a last ditch attempt at solving this mystery we will be sending student statements home again this week.

If you receive an account with amounts showing as due but you feel you had previously paid these amounts – PLEASE CONTACT US.

If these amounts remain unclaimed in a few weeks’ time, we will begin the trace process with Westpac and may unfortunately have to pass the $50 fee onto the claimant.

Student Achiever of the Week Award
This week’s recipient is: Rebecca Hudson Year 11
Rebecca is a diligent student whose application in English has been exemplary. Rebecca ensures all tasks are completed and catches up on work missed due to her TAFE commitments. In class, Rebecca works with other students and assists others to overcome difficulties they may experience.

Rebecca will receive a certificate and $25 voucher.

CAREERS NEWS
UAC 2016 GUIDE
University Admission Centre Guides are available for all Year 12 students and should be collected from the Careers Office as soon as possible. As well as listing all University Courses for 2016, the Guide contains instructions for enrolment.

Students will be able to apply in early August, as soon as they receive their UAC PIN in the mail. The closing date for enrolment without penalty is 30 September. Enrolments can only be made via the Internet.

In a week or two, a UAC Information Session for students will be held at the School. In the meantime, students should be reading the Guide and researching Courses that interest them.

YEAR 10 ARE GOING TO UNIVERSITY
Year 10 have the opportunity to visit the University of Newcastle on Monday 3 August. Student ambassadors will take Year 10 students on a guided tour of the University and show them facilities, laboratories, lecture theatres, the Libraries and student services. They will also outline a typical University experience, explain how to apply for University, what Courses are available and advise about subjects to study in Years 11 & 12.

This is an excellent opportunity for Year 10 students to start to make links with the University for future career options.

We are able to take 51 students to the University. The cost is $9. Permission notes are available from the Careers Office and should be returned to the Office with payment.

VISUAL ARTS VIRTUAL EXCURSION
On Wednesday last week Year 11 Visual Arts students had the wonderful opportunity to participate in a live experience with contemporary photomedia artist Anne Zahalka.

Using the school’s Visual Conferencing technology we joined with The Academy at the University of Western Sydney and a number of other senior Visual Arts classes from around rural NSW for this interactive virtual excursion.

The focus of the virtual excursion was to experience the process of Anne Zahalka in her practice of creating an artwork.

The photomedia artist presented a Tableau Vivant session that highlighted art making considerations such as composition, colour, lighting, resolution and appropriation and to link in with the HSC Visual Arts curriculum.

During the live workshop our students were able to ask Zahalka questions about her conceptual and material practice and to collaborate in the making of a photographic work.

(Anne Zahalka is one of Australia’s most highly regarded photographic artists, exhibiting extensively in Australia and overseas. She has received numerous awards and commissions and her works are held in most major public collections in Australia as well as private and corporate collects in Australia and abroad.)

Jude Crawford
Private Vehicle Conveyance Subsidy – Delay of Semester 1 payment.
Transport for NSW has been reviewing PVC subsidy claims for accuracy because it has introduced a new computer system and this has caused a delay.

This has also deferred for a short time, the attendance days collection process for all schools.

We understand this overall will lead to a delay of several weeks compared to the usual processing time.

Transport for NSW has advised us they are apologetic for the inconvenience.

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 27 July and 6 August. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is included later in this Newsletter. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday, 24th July 2015. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.
Dear Parents and Carers

This term, our school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will **not** be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

As well as schools getting student feedback, the Department of Education, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), will have access to data from across the State and will run a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research will look at how these things impact on student outcomes, including academic performance. Individual students and schools will **not** be identified in any CESE publications, and all information will be handled in accordance with the relevant privacy legislation. Students’ personal information will not be disclosed by the Department to any other person or body other than as required by law.

This research will help schools in New South Wales to better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next one. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child’s school by **Friday 24th July 2015**


Maureen Jarvis  
Principal  
Dungog High School

Dr Jenny Donovan  
General Manager  
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey

If you **do not want** your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by **Friday, 24th July 2015**.

I (print name) .......................................................................................... **DO NOT** give consent for my child/children (print name/s) .................................................................................................. of roll class/es ........................................to participate in the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey.

Signed.......................................................... Date.................................

Dungog - Clarence Town CWA
is holding its very popular **Quiltarama** at Dungog High School MPC this weekend

- **Saturday 25 July 2015** - 10am – 4pm
- **Sunday 26 July 2015** - 10am – 3pm

Entry $5.00
Exciting Raffle Prizes
Vote for most popular quilt

**NEW THIS YEAR!!!!**
NCEATA Exhibition – “Textile Trends”
(Newcastle Creative Embroiderers & Textile Artists)
We will also, of course, have a wonderful display of quilts and stalls for craft enthusiasts and interesting items to purchase.
We hope to see you all there!!!!