Parent Involvement in the school

There are a number of ways that parents and caregivers can contribute to and find information about the workings of the school. The easiest one is by attending P&C meetings twice per term - they are held in the school library at 7.30 on a Thursday evening. This is where any questions you have about school events and processes can be directly asked to the Principal.

Staff also can be contacted about any specific concerns. The class teacher, faculty head teacher, Year adviser, boys or girls supervisor and Head Teacher Welfare are available as are the DP and Principal. We also have a counsellor for three days per week. Next term we will see the start of an additional resource as we have been included in the Chaplaincy program. This Chaplain will be selected by a panel to ensure that the person is the right one for our school.

The Parent Portal is a new way of finding out about your child’s learning. This was outlined at a meeting last week and further information is available on student’s homework, student information, absences, reports, assessment tasks.

Newsletters are available each week on Tuesday on the school’s website or emailed directly to parents and the school has a Facebook page.

We are using as many sources of information sharing as possible to get information directly to you. If you have any ideas for other ways of sharing information with our community, please feel free to let us know.

PBL Assembly

Next week will be the first PBL assembly for the year. Students who have gained merit awards will be recognised for their efforts and thanked with a special morning tea. It is important for all students who have gained merits to make sure their year adviser knows what they have received - you have a few days to get them in, so make sure this happens early this week.

Reprise concert

I had the great privilege of attending this concert last Friday with music students and staff at the Newcastle Conservatorium. It was a concert of outstanding quality and variety, hugely enjoyable. It was easy to see why the students who were selected to perform were chosen - as well as achieving the highest results in their HSC performance, they were all gifted musicians and performers.

The range was from classical piano and flute, acoustic and electric guitar, voice and harp. DHS was represented by Melody McLarty, Jade and Jordan Eyb, backed by Oliver and Harry Wheeler and Mr Wheeler, Ian Parsons and Jack Ethan McDonald. They were well up to the challenge and stood out as one of the strongest performances.

Well worth a visit to the Con to see this concert for any music lover.

Maureen Jarvis

Attendance update

As from Week 6 this term parents will receive a SMS message if their student is away in roll call. Please advise any adjustments required to new mobile phone numbers that have occurred over the holiday period so our information is accurate.

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. New parents have 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 do 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 away in the term a receipt to take home will be sent. If a student needs change away in the term a receipt to take home will be sent.

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Student Achiever of the Week Award

This week’s recipient is: Hannah Long  Year: 10
Hannah has received this award for: application in class, always doing her personal best and helping others in class.

Hannah will receive a certificate and $25 voucher.

MANDATORY WORKING WITH CHILDREN CHECK (WWCC)

As per Department of Education directive, dated August 2015, it is mandatory for all child related work volunteers in NSW Schools to apply for a WWCC from January 2016.

This process commenced in 2015 for paid casual employment, taking in the volunteers this year and will be completed with permanent staff in 2017.

WWCC for volunteers is free of charge, but for paid employees there is a cost of $80. The WWCC last for 5 years.

Applications are completed online; an application number will be mailed to you which is then presented to the RMS Agency along with your 100 points proof of identity, and payment if required, to complete the process.

Thank you to those volunteers who have begun this process, your ongoing support of our students and school programs is appreciated.

If you have obtained a WWCC through a sporting club or church organisation this covers you for volunteer work in schools.

Year 7 Camp

Just a reminder that we are 4 weeks away from our exciting camp at Outdoor Education Morisset!

Can I please have Medical forms (blue notes) and outstanding money owed for camp in to the office by Friday 4th March.

If your child will not be attending for any reason or there are any issues with forms or payments, please contact Mrs Joy if you have not already.

Thank you
Mrs Joy (Year 7 Advisor)

CAREERS NEWS

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES ADMISSION TEST

Year 12 students planning to study Medicine (and some other Health Science Degrees including Dentistry) at Adelaide University, Flinders University, Charles Darwin University, University of Melbourne, Monash University, Universities of Newcastle & New England, University of New South Wales, University of Western Sydney, Bond University, La Trobe University, University of Queensland, University of Tasmania or the University of Western Australia will need a UMAT score to apply for 2016 undergraduate admission.

Registrations must be submitted online via the UMAT website http://umat.acer.edu.au Registration are now open and close 3 June and the test date is 27 July. The fee for UMAT2016 is $250. Late registration until 17 June will incur an additional fee.

A Quick Reference Guide is available from the Careers Adviser. The complete UMAT Information Booklet is only available online from the UMAT website.

Receiving Your Newsletter

The Newsletter is available on the school website and is also distributed by email. A paper copy can be obtained on request.
Year 7 students will receive a paper copy of Dungog High School’s Newsletters issued during February.

If you would like an email or paper copy of the Newsletter, and have not already advised the school, please complete the form at the end of this Newsletter.

There is also a form on page 20 of the year 7 student handbook or on our website – Our School/Forms.
This form will need to be returned to the school office by 26th February 2016.
The first offering of the Dungog Film Society for 2016 is Carol (M). Based on Patricia Highsmith’s novella The Price of Salt, Carol follows two women from very different backgrounds who find themselves in an unexpected love affair in 1950s New York. Directed by Tod Haynes (Far From Heaven), this exquisite movie features Oscar-nominated performances by Cate Blanchett and Rooney Mara. There’s one screening on Sunday, 28 February, at 7 pm. I’d encourage you to buy a DFS season pass for 10 monthly Sunday night films at the door for just $80, which is a true bargain for a whole year of first rate cinema, or you can buy a single ticket for $12.

Chances program has been set up at the Dungog Sire Community Centre. This program is to give children and their families the opportunity to be involved in a sport or activity. Donations of equipment: eg. footy boots, uniform, rackets, new or used items can be left at the school office and will be collected by the CHANCES coordinator.

School Collection is the 4th Friday of the month.

Dungog Junior Rugby League
Has your child ever wanted to play Rugby League. Well this is their year.
Dungog Junior Rugby League is offering FREE Registration to all those kids that have never played Rugby League for a Club before. REGISTRATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE ON SUNDAY THE 28th FEBRUARY STARTING AT 10.00AM at the Dungog RSL Club. So come along and REGISTER and help make this great little Country Club even better....
If you have any questions please contact Lindy on 0429825570.
EXPERIENCE A NEW CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND LEARN A NEW LANGUAGE AT HOME

In June-July 2016 students from over 25 countries around the world, will be arriving in Australia to study at local high schools for 3-10 months.

Opportunities exist for families to act as a host family, in a volunteer capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long term basis. Host families help provide international students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a lifelong link to a family in another country and contribute to international goodwill.

If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To hear more about this wonderful opportunity or our student exchange programs out of Australia
Call Student Exchange Australia New Zealand on 1300 135 331 or
visit www.studentexchange.org.au/host-a-student

Dungog Community College
Our Barista classes have proved very popular. And now that we’ve expanded to the Dungog Festival Lounge we can do greater numbers in a less squeezy space.

For $195 you get two certificates: a Food Handling qualification you do in your own time, and the very hands-on Make & Serve Espresso Coffee. Youth (under 18s or at High School, must be Dungog Shire or Stroud resident) only pay $30, thanks to our youth subsidy.

We'd love to see you there on 12 March. There are only 10 places for this course. Here's a link to book:

By the way, it's not too late to join our Cert III Individual Support (Aged Care, Home & Community Care), the entry level course for the Aged Care industry.
And stay tuned for news about this year’s Masked Ball. Early Bird tickets go on sale in April for a limited time. See you on the course.

Jane Richens & John O’Brien
Education Officers. Dungog Community College
4992 1133. education@dssc.net.au
www.dungogcommunitycollege.org.au

a part of the Dungog Shire Community Centre

IF YOU WISH YOUR COPY OF THE NEWSLETTER TO BE EMAILED OR A PAPER COPY GIVEN TO YOUR CHILD, AND YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OFFICE BY 26TH FEBRUARY 2016.

Preferred Method of Receiving the School Newsletter

1. Website: you need do nothing more. The newsletter is available each week and previous newsletters are available on this site http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

2. Email: if you would like to receive your newsletter by email, please complete the following:
Parent/Carer’s Name:
__________________________________________

Student's Name: _____________________________________________________________________ Year _____ Roll ___

Email address: _______________________________________________________________________

3. I would like to receive the newsletter by paper copy.

Family name: __________________________________________________________________________

Name of student collecting Newsletter: ___________________________________________________________________________________________ Year: _____ Roll: _____

Dungog Shire Community Centre

Due to popular request Sam Cawthorn’s presentation has been moved back to 6pm, as many people were saying they could not make it at 5pm. Tuesday 23rd February, Dungog RSL.

Also for those wanting to attend Tracy Norman’s meeting/ workshop please note that they too have put their starting time back to 7pm to assist all attending Sam’s presentation.