Principal:

Transition Evening

Thanks to all the parents and year 5/6 students who came to our recent transition information evening. We had a strong attendance and lots of good questions about coming to high school. Staff and students took groups around the school to let people see the facilities; other staff were stationed in their teaching areas to speak to each group and outline what happens in their classrooms. Mrs Staciwa also explained how the office operates.

DHS students lead each of the groups and were outstanding ambassadors for our school. Music students entertained the groups as they walked past. Thanks to all the students who gave up their time to help young future students of our school.

A special vote of thanks to Bede van de Scheur. As a year 7 student, he spoke to the whole group to explain how the transition had been for him, coming to DHS as the only student from his primary school. His clear description and confidence were very helpful to the audience of parents and students – I’m sure that many of the 5/6 year students will remember his words for a long time.

Thanks to Denise McKinna for her outstanding organisation of the event.

SRE

If your student has not returned a note to the school saying that they are not to attend Special Religious Education (SRE), the DoE requirement is that they will take part in the SRE lessons or seminars. Year 7 students whose parents have elected non-attendance at SRE will be with Mr Dives in the library for these periods.

Front Gate

The gate and fence at the front of the school have been in place this term and are now operating with the assistance of our school cleaners. You may have noticed that the gates are closed overnight and on weekends. This is a safety measure and was a result of concerns from the school’s neighbours.

I am aware that it closes the school off from the community but, unfortunately, I have been only one voice in this decision.

P&C AGM

The next meeting of the P&C will be held on March 10. It will be the AGM and it would be wonderful to see as many parents as possible in the school library for this meeting.

The other main focus of this meeting is the annual submission process for faculties and school programs. The P&C donate significant funds to the school each year, raised through the hard work of our canteen volunteers and workers. For the past few years, the amount donated has been around $30,000. Each faculty and program is able to make a submission to the P&C for items that are paid from this donation.

At the next meeting, P&C members will be given a list of requests; from this they will select the items that they agree will be funded. It is a significant responsibility and one that is best shared by as many interested P&C members as possible.

Maureen Jarvis

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 permission notes, 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 of any kind, please send a note to the school, or if you lose your registration access code, you can contact the school for a new one.

Maureen Jarvis
**Student Achiever of the Week Award**

**This week's recipients are:**

**Edrah Flynn: Year 12**

Edrah was instrumental in the planning of the Year 5/6 Information Night held last week. Edrah assisted the Transition coordinator by encouraging and coordinating students to assist on the night. Edrah prepared information packs, helped organise the group leaders and the tours. Once the tours were over, Edrah spoke to families and promoted the school. Edrah's efforts went above and beyond what was asked of her.

**Bede van de Scheur: Year 7**

Bede volunteered to assist with the Year 5/6 Information evening by preparing a speech about life at Dungog High School as a new Year 7 student. Bede's presentation was delivered with confidence and was very informative yet entertaining. Bede then assisted in the running of the evening by helping with the tours.

Edrah and Bede will each receive a certificate and $25 voucher.

**Library News**

**Clickview Online – Single Sign In**

Clickview Online is a fantastic resource which allows students access to thousands of educational videos at home or at school. The students have access to Clickview online via a Single Sign In! To login in enter your DEC e-mail address > Click ‘Sign In’ > Choose ‘Dungog High School from the drop down list > Click ‘Proceed’ > log in to the DET NSW portal in the normal way and you will be taken to your personal Clickview online space.

**Would Special Provisions benefit your student?**

Do they have difficulty with reading, writing and/or spelling? Do they have an ongoing medical condition such as diabetes or severe asthma, or a physical disability? Do they suffer from anxiety or depression?

If the answer to any of these questions is ‘yes’ they may be eligible for practical assistance in examination and exam situations.

If you think your student might benefit from Special Provisions please encourage them to see me, Jude Crawford, for details about the ways we can help them. Alternatively you can contact me directly at school on 49923022. If I am not available, please leave your number and I will get back to you promptly.


**Extract of an email from a parent of an ex student.**

“I have nothing but praise for the school and the staff, and it has been an absolute pleasure being associated with the school.

My daughter has since moved on, and is becoming a wonderful adult in Melbourne. I enjoyed the many years of being a member of the P&C, and have seen many changes, but I know the school is in good hands and will continue to convert wonderful children into educated, talented, polite and fantastic adults.”

**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 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.
A consent form is attached to this Newsletter. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by FRIDAY 4TH MARCH. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

**Health and Wellbeing News**

Each week we will be providing some information, tips, guidance and support for the health and wellbeing of our school community. Keep an eye out for suggestions of meetings, courses, programs and resources that will be helpful to students and their families. If you have anything in particular you would like discussed or highlighted then please get in touch.

Good health is more than not getting sick. It is important to have a holistic approach to health and address physical and psychological states. **Wellbeing and resilience** will assist with a holistic approach and is important as they can prevent the onset of mental illness or lessen the severity of existing mental health problems. They are also really important in developing problem solving skills, building and maintaining relationships and setting goals.

The World Health Organisation defines **wellbeing** as *“the state in which an individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively, and is able to make a contribution to his or her own community”*. Wellbeing involves having positive self-image and esteem.

Being aware of your strengths and weaknesses will help with setting realistic and achievable goals, problem solving and social skills which all contribute to improving wellbeing. Try the following:

- Setting realistic, achievable and measurable goals (SMART goals).
- Understand and avoid negative self-talk
- Develop and focus on interpersonal skills
- Download the Smiling Minds app, which is a free Mindfulness Meditation Program.

If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty then contact Lifeline on 13 11 14.

Hayley Dibley
Head Teacher Welfare

**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.

**Uniform Shop Update**
Great News! The Uniform Shop’s new EFTPOS machine is now up and running! Available for credit and debit transactions.

**CAREERS NEWS**

**UNSW ENGINEERING WORK EXPERIENCE**
The University of NSW is running a work experience program from 20 June to 24 June 2016 for Year 10 students. Students will need to organise their own accommodation for the 5 day course and will need to be confident in using public transport. Applicants should have strong mathematical ability and an interest in pursuing a career in engineering. Each school can only send two students. See Ms Smith for an application.

**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.
JAPAN EXCURSION

Dungog High School is organising an 8 day excursion to Japan during the September 2016 holidays. This excursion is offered to all students attending Dungog High School and any interested parents.

The aim of the trip is to allow participants to experience the historic culture and the modern lifestyle of Japan. Key destinations include Tokyo, Kyoto and Hiroshima.

Any interested persons should contact Mrs Denise McKinna at the high school on 0249923022. An information evening will be held next Tuesday, 8th March, at 5.30pm in the Library.

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**SOME CALENDAR DATES FOR 2016**

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<th>Week</th>
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<td>6</td>
<td>29 February</td>
<td>1 March</td>
<td>Formal Assembly</td>
<td>3 March</td>
<td>4 March</td>
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<td>Regional Swimming Carnival</td>
<td>2 March</td>
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<td>Boys' Basketball to Francis Greenway HS</td>
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<td>U14 Cricket, Singleton</td>
<td>Y7 Vaccinations Uniform Shop 8am-4pm Japan Excur Info Evening, 5.30pm Library</td>
<td>Y11 Bio/SnrSci Field Study</td>
<td>10 March</td>
<td>11 March</td>
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<td>8 March</td>
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<td>P &amp; C Meeting – AGM – 7.30pm Library Port Stephens Netball Gala Day</td>
<td>Construction White Card Course (Y10-11-12)</td>
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<td>9 March</td>
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<td>Y10 PASS Excur to Warners Bay</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>Y11 AncHist, Retail Y12 LegalStud – Syd CBD 6am-7pm Defence Force Recruiting</td>
<td>15 March HVTC ‘Career Gate’</td>
<td>16 March Yr7 Camp - Morisset</td>
<td>17 March Yr7 Camp – Morisset Y8/9 Ag Royal Easter Show</td>
<td>18 March Yr7 Camp - Morisset</td>
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<td>21 March</td>
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<td>The ‘Lemon Car’ Y8 Outdoor Rec to Dungog Common Canteen AGM 3.45pm</td>
<td>GOOD FRIDAY</td>
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<td>9</td>
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<td>22 March Uniform Shop 8am-4pm Y7-12 Parent/Teacher evening 5-7pm</td>
<td>23 March</td>
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<td>Formal Assembly –PBL 10am</td>
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If you are unable to be here by 9.30am could you please let Margaret Edwards know, by phoning the school on 49923022.

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**Flickerfest**

A reminder that Flickerfest is returning to Dungog on Saturday 5 March, showcasing the most entertaining and innovative short films from around the world. Make a day of it, or pick your favourite session(s). And please join us for our delicious 'Flickerfeast' behind the screen at 6.30 pm before the final evening session. The program for the day is:

- **Sat 5th Mar, 11.00am** - Best Of International 1
- **Sat 5th Mar, 2.00pm** - Short Laughs Comedy
- **Sat 5th Mar, 4.00pm** - Best Of Australian Shorts
- **Sat 5th Mar, 7.30pm** - Best Of International 2

We're excited to announce a recent addition to the Flickerfest program, with a new short film called "The Lake", by emerging filmmaker Andrew Gallagher, which was shot in the Newcastle area.

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**Paterson Red Cross**

Invites you to Celebrate our 90th Anniversary With a Roaring 20’s Ball

**Saturday 7th May 2016**

**Paterson School of Arts Hall**

6.30pm Start for 7pm Dinner
Followed by Live Music & Dancing
BYO Drinks
Lucky Door & Best Theme Dress Prizes
Fancy Dress Optional
Tickets $50 per person
From the Paterson Post Office
Table of 8 or 10 available
The ticket price for all four sessions is $55, for three sessions is $45, single sessions are $17. Dinner is an extra $35 – book this at the same time. Dinner bookings in advance are essential, and should be paid for by next Wednesday 2 March. To purchase tickets in advance, post a cheque made out to “Friends of the James Theatre” to PO Box 175 Dungog, 2420 with details of required tickets, or leave the money, with details of required tickets, in an envelope at the Dungog Visitor Information Centre for collection (please confirm by email). You can also direct deposit, using our account at the Commonwealth Bank, Dungog Branch (BSB 06 2535 A/C 1012 5212; put Ffest and your Surname in the payment details) and email me (howard.d.glenn@gmail.com) to confirm what you’re paying for. Otherwise, just buy tickets for film sessions at the theatre on the day.

DUNGOG Netball Club is seeking players aged between 13 – 17 years old to join teams to play at Port Stephens Netball association. If you are interested, can you please contact Sam Rumbel 0407 953293 or Katrina Watson 0427 923397 Asap. Team entries close next Saturday 5/3/2016
Dear Parents and Carers

In Term 1 2016, your 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 30 minutes or less 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), has access to data from across NSW and is running a research project to look at state-wide patterns of student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices. The research is looking 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. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. 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 4th MARCH 2016

More information about the survey and the research is available in English on the CESE website: http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents

Maureen Jarvis
Principal
Dungog High School

Dr Jenny Donovan
Executive Director
Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

E: cese@det.nsw.edu.au     www.cese.nsw.gov.au
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

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 4th MARCH 2016

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s .................................................................

Roll class/es ...........................................................................

Name of parent/carer ............................................................

Signature of parent/carer ......................................................

Date .................................................................