



NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATED FORTNIGHTLY TO INFORM PARENTS OF
SCHOOL EVENTS AND VIEWPOINTS

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No. 1
FEBRUARY 5TH,
2009

Dear Parents,
Welcome to everyone to the new School year.

We start the school year with 182 students - up from 174 last year.

Students were able to start working effectively in classes from day one thanks to the efforts of Mrs. Leishman, Mr. Whitfield, Mrs. Laird, Mrs. Goldsbury, Mr. Walker, Mr. and Mrs. Guild and a number of other staff members.

NEW ARRIVAL

Congratulations are extended to Ms Fran Sanford and Glenn Berry on the safe arrival on 27th January of Oscar Thomas.

FRENCH ASSISTANT

Ms. Marie Pascal has commenced work as a French Assistant. I am sure that she will provide invaluable assistance to Miss Hoare and I welcome her to our School.

COMPUTERS

Mr. Whitfield has been successful in gaining twenty-six new computers for the School from a Federal Government submission. Our students will benefit greatly from these.

CARPARK

The new sealed carpark has been completed, and I thank Dale Basset for his excellent contribution to the project. I request that all parents dropping off or picking up students use this carpark. It has been designed to both ease

congestion near the School, and also provide greater safety for students. Visitors to the School can also use the carpark throughout the day.

VCE RESULTS

These were again very pleasing with the median study score being 33. This ranked our School as the equal fifth best Government Non-selective Secondary School in the State. Our score was nearly 34, which would have ranked us second. Most of our students gained their first preference for tertiary studies, which is also very pleasing.

Geoff Rigby, **PRINCIPAL**

LUNCH PASSES

Any student who intends going home on a regular basis for lunch will need to bring a signed note from home (only once per year) to be given a yearly lunch pass. Students are not permitted to leave the School grounds at lunchtime without a Lunch Pass.

CALENDAR

February, 2009	
Tue. 10 th	Inter-House Swimming Sports
11 th - 13 th	Year 8 Roses Gap Camp
Mon. 16 th	S.R.C. Induction
Tue. 17 th	Year 9 First Aid School Council Meeting - 7.30 pm
Mon. 23 rd	Inter-School Swimming Sports - St. Arnaud Parents' Club Meeting - 1.30 p.m. (Meeting Room) New Caledonia Information Night - 7 p.m. V.C. Room
Tue. 24 th	Years 7 & 10 Injections
25 th to 27 th	Year 7 Boort Camp

PERSONAL GOODS BROUGHT TO SCHOOL AT OWNER'S RISK

Personal property is often brought to school by students, staff and visitors. This can include mobile phones, calculators, toys, sporting equipment and cars parked on school premises. Students are reminded that valuable equipment or money brought to school should be left at the office.

Mobile phones are NOT to be brought to school. If they are required for an out of school activity, they are also to be left at the office and collected at the end of the day.

Please note the Department of Education and Training does not hold insurance for personal property brought to school, and it will generally not pay for any loss or damage to such property.

For parents' interest, an electric engraver can be borrowed from Donald Police Station if you would like to engrave valuable items such as calculators.

PARENTLINE 13 22 89

Parentline is a government provided telephone support line providing a 7-day-a-week counselling, information and referral service for parents with children from birth to 18 years.

Parentline is a confidential and anonymous service available to all families in Victoria. Professional counsellors are available to discuss issues related to parenting such as sleeping, managing tantrums, teenage conflicts and family relationships.

A wide range of Positive Parenting Tip sheets are available on request.

PARENTS' CLUB ANNUAL MEETING

This first meeting for 2009 will be held on Monday, 23rd February

at 1.30 p.m. in the Meeting Room. ALL WELCOME.
STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE AND AMBULANCE COVER

School Injuries and Insurance:
Parents and guardians are generally responsible for paying the cost of medical treatment for injured students, including any transport costs. Most medical costs will be refundable by Medicare. If you are a member of an ambulance fund, your transport costs will be covered. Some medical insurance funds may allow members to claim some ambulance transport and other costs - you should check the conditions of membership.

The Department of Education and Training does not hold accident insurance for school students.

Is other insurance cover available?
Yes.

The Department is aware of two insurers, JUA Underwriting Agency Pty. Ltd. and Willis Australia Ltd. that provide accident insurance policies for students. These policies provide specific benefits for students who are injured in accidents for a reasonably low cost. Other insurers may also do so.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOL GROUNDS AFTER HOURS

The reporting of suspicious activities on or around school properties after hours can be made by contacting the Department of Education and Early Childhood's Emergency Management Office on telephone 9589 6266 (24-hour number).

EDUCATION MAINTENANCE ALLOWANCE

The EMA provides an annual amount of **\$221** for primary students and **\$442** for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school. Students turning 16 years in 2009, will be paid on a pro rata basis and not on the 70/30% basis.

Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2009 through this school, will not be required to complete a new application for the second instalment.

Application forms, which need to be lodged at the School by 27th February, are available from the school office.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Welcome to our 34 new Year 7 students and their families. For those parents who are new to the school, or back after a bit of a break, the 'Year 7 News' column will appear each fortnight in the School Newsletter. Through it, I will aim to keep you as informed as possible about all aspects of the Year 7 program. I will also include a schedule of set work due over the coming fortnight. Hopefully this will help you assist your child in studying and meeting homework deadlines.

Transition

34 Year 7 students began their secondary education this week at DHS and are currently learning to adjust to one of the biggest changes they have ever been confronted with. Making the transition from Primary School does not happen automatically, and some students struggle at first to cope. Your child needs all the help you can give them at the moment, and

many will need considerable on-going help right throughout the year. Please be prepared to sacrifice some of your time to help at this vital time in your children's lives. My view at this stage is you **CAN'T HELP THEM TOO MUCH.**

So far all students appear to have settled in quite well. Generally they appear quite comfortable in their new environment. No doubt in the next few weeks, as the students are extended and their personalities start to show out a little more, we may encounter some difficulties. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns at all about your child. They need our support.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR TERM 1

Mon. 9/2	Science Club first meeting
Tue. 10/2	Inter-House Swimming Sports
16/2	S.R.C. Induction - period 7
Wed. 18/2	ScienceClub
Fri. 23/2	Inter-School Swimming Sports
Tue. 24/2	Year 7 & 10 Injections
25 - 27 Feb	Year 7 Boort Camp
Mon. 9/3	Labour Day Holiday
Wed. 11/3	Year 7 Information Evening
Tue. 17/3	Inter-House Athletics Trials
Fri. 20/3	Northern Zone Swimming
Wed. 25/3	Inter-House Athletics Sports
Thu. 2/4	Reports posted out
Fri. 3/4	Last day of Term 1 - 2.30 p.m. finish

Newsletter

Newsletters are sent out fortnightly (on Thursdays) and are distributed to the eldest in the family. Make sure you see this document each fortnight, as it will include important information concerning your child in Year 7.

Semester One Timetable

For your information, and to help you further assist your child to organise themselves from home each school day, I will be giving students up to 3 copies of

their timetable. One of these should be taken home and posted in a prominent place. If you need another copy, ask your child to collect another from me.

Year 7, 2008

Total students = 34

Girls 17 Boys 17

6 new families have joined or re-joined the school.

Diaries

The DHS Diary is the single most important piece of your child's school equipment. If used properly, it can make organising the work program much easier and it should be brought home every night to help remember the next day's requirements. For this year, I ask you to keep checking your child's diary and sign it in the space provided each week. I will then check their diary and co-sign each Friday. There is space at the bottom each week for comments, and this can be another way of keeping open the channels of communication between school and home. I will start this tomorrow. I will sign them each Friday, so if you could check it and sign it prior to this, it would be appreciated.

Lunch Passes

A signed note from parents/guardians, giving students permission to go home for lunch on a regular basis, must be sent to school (only once per year) to be given a yearly lunch pass.

Year 7 Camp

The Year 7 Camp will be held at Boort Lake. The camp will again be held in week 4 - Wednesday, 25th to Friday, 27th February. We will be staying at the Boort Caravan Park and heading to Bendigo for activities such as ten pin bowling, laser force and ice skating on the Thursday.

There is a large emphasis placed on teamwork and co-operation during this camp. The primary aim of the camp is to

get the students thinking of themselves as one group of Donald High School students rather than the smaller groups they have formed from their feeder Primary Schools. The camp also allows staff and students an opportunity to get to know each other better. More information will be handed out next week.

Craft Classes

In Semester 1 (terms 1 and 2) Year 7A will be studying Textiles and Graphics and 7B studying Woodwork and Home Economics.

In second semester this will be reversed.

Instrumental Music Tuition

The Instrumental Music Program at D.H.S. is going from strength to strength and the quality of music produced by the school band is becoming increasingly professional. Instrumental Music Tuition is available to all students as part of their normal school program and I would like you to consider the benefits of this program for your child. Miss Anne Walsh will speak to the Year 7s about taking Music this year, and you can contact Anne at school on Tuesdays and Thursdays or at home if you would like to discuss any aspect of the Music program. Music Tuition is purely voluntary, but is a great opportunity for students to extend themselves. Students are withdrawn from half a class when their lesson is timetabled, and to ensure that they do not keep missing the same class, their music timetable rotates over 3 weeks. Any class work missed as a result of music lessons will need to be caught up on in the student's own time.

If previous years are a good guide, our rapidly improving school band should get bigger and better as Year 7s master their

instruments and graduate into the band later in the year.

Home Economics

Home Eco pracs will generally be each fortnight. Students are required to pay \$3.00 towards the ingredients for each prac. Food prepared will be eaten during prac or taken home.

Successful English/Maths Mate Homework Program

At Year 7 (and Year 8 and 9) we conduct a weekly homework program in addition to other set work in English and Maths. Students have a "Successful English" and a "Maths Mate" set of homework sheets, each of which comes as a pad.

This structured set of English and Maths exercises forms an important part in the development of your child's Literacy and Numeracy Skills.

We would like YOU to play a part in this and are happy for you to help your child complete the weekly homework sheets.

MathsMates will be collected every Friday.

Phys. Ed.

Phys. Ed. is made up of 2 single classes and one double class each week. This term in each double class students will be swimming and should bring appropriate gear. Doubles for 7A are Tuesdays and 7B are Thursdays.

Work due over the next fortnight

Please cut this out and stick it on your fridge

Tests are marked with an * asterisk

Please note that this schedule only reflects tasks that teachers have set in advance. Other homework may be set from day to day.

Day/Date	Subject	Task
Fri. 6/2	Geog	Aboriginal Map due
Mon. 9/2	7B Home Ec	Prac lesson - pikelets. Students bring \$3
	7B Science	Front Cover & Safety Plan
Thu. 12/2	7A Science	Front Cover & Safety Plan
Mon. 16/2	French	Personal profile due
<u>Maths:</u> MathsMates due each Friday. <u>English:</u> Successful English exercises: 7A: due every Thursday 7B: due every Friday Spelling tests: 7A & 7B: due Mondays		

Kindest regards,
JENNY LEISHMAN,
YEAR 7 CO-ORDINATOR
Home Phone: 5497-1206

HOME ECONOMICS SEMESTER 1, 2009

This Semester (Terms 1 and 2) Home Economics practical classes are 7B and 8B on Monday, Year 9 Tuesday, 10B Thursday and 10A Friday. Year 7 and 8 will cook every second week and will need \$3 on those days.

Year 9 and 10 students will cook most weeks, and will need \$3.50 each cooking lesson. (7A & 8A will do Home Economics during Semester 2 - i.e. Terms 3 & 4).

WORKCO
Limited

67 Woods Street,
DONALD. 3480
Ph. 5497-1821

DHS SLICE DRIVE

The Year 10 New Caledonia Educational Tour has proved to be a highly successful excursion at DHS in recent years. The study tour is designed to enable students to practise what they have learnt in class, in real-life situations. Students immerse themselves in both language and culture.

Students interact with native French-speakers in a variety of situations. Students order their meals, shop in the supermarket, and ask for directions, to name but a few scenarios. Students experience the unique blend of French and Melanesian cultures in the closest French-speaking country to Australia, just over 2 hours flying time from Sydney.

Students who have participated in the New Caledonia excursion have all enjoyed themselves immensely, and found that it was indispensable in building their confidence and motivation in speaking French.

Due to a limited number of students studying French next year in Year 10, we will be combining with St. Arnaud Secondary College. Thanks to Mrs. Fiona Burchell, St. Arnaud Secondary College now offers French as an elective, consisting of five passionate female students. In combining with St. Arnaud Secondary College, we will reduce the overall costs involved. However, there are still a lot of expenses to cover!

We are running a slice drive to help offset costs associated with the trip, and your support will be greatly appreciated! Please find an order form attached to the newsletter. All orders must be in by

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27th, and you will receive your order by Thursday, 5th March.

Thank you for your support!

Natalie Hoare
LOTE Co-ordinator

ScienceClub

Science Club is back for another year! Scienceclub ran last year with members ranging from Years 7 to 9. ScienceClub is generally held once a fortnight during Wednesday lunchtimes. Students conduct experiments they may not get a chance to do in class, and investigate areas that they are interested in. Last year the students conducted many experiments, and we also conducted a mousetrap car competition. ScienceClub will hopefully have a stall at the Donald Fete this year that the members will once again run.

Rock along and check it out. There will be blasts of fun, colourful creations, and oogy, gooey and smelly things.

The first meeting will be held on Monday, 9th Feb for all new and old members. Students will have their photos taken for their membership cards.

Term 1 Timetable:

Date	Activity
Wed, 18 th Feb	Elephant Toothpaste
Wed, 4 th March	Volcanoes
Wed, 18 th March	Geodes
Wed, 22 nd April	Lava Lamps
Wed, 6 th May	Mini-Rockets
Wed, 20 th May	Slime

This is the fifth year that the Club has been available in the school, and it will only be able to survive with the support of the students and teachers. I would like

to see the members take a leadership role in deciding what direction the club will go, and the activities that will be conducted.

If you have any ideas on activities, I would be grateful for your input.

Sarah O'Brien
Science Co-ordinator

Science News: - In the next newsletter, Emily Bird and Shannon Crowe will have an article on their Earth Watch Expedition. Also, Jim McLoughlan will write about his experiences at the National Youth Science Forum.

Congratulations to the following students who applied for a 1-day program held at Werribee Zoo (Careers at the Zoo), which has been fully funded by North Central LLEN: Angie Clark, Ally Doak, Rachel McLoughlan and Fabian O'Shannessy. Their articles will be published in the School Newsletter after the Easter Holidays.

Sarah O'Brien
Science Co-ordinator

AVALON 2009

Australian International Airshow and Aerospace and Defence Exposition
Friday, 13th March, Avalon Airport
Students in Years 9 - 11 are invited to a student information day:

On **CAREERS In**

Aviation, Aerospace and Defence!

Attendance is free of charge, though places are limited. If interested, please see Miss O'Brien.

Australian Brain Bee Challenge 2009 OPEN TO YEAR 10 STUDENTS

The Australian Brain Bee Challenge (ABBC) motivates young people to learn, and is designed to inspire students to pursue careers in Science. The Brain Bee Challenge is a test of knowledge about important facts concerning intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movement, stress, aging, sleep, Alzheimer's disease, stroke and other neurological disorders facing our community.

Students don't have to be a 'brain scientist' to enter - they will learn about neuroscience from a downloadable, information-packed book called *Neuroscience: Science of the Brain*.

There are three rounds involved: the first round is held at School. If you do well enough, you may make it into Round 2 (team event), which will be held in Melbourne, and if you're very lucky, you might make it to Round 3, which is held in Sydney.

Registration is FREE! If you are a Year 10 student and interested in challenging yourself and learning new things, please see Miss O'Brien by Friday, 20th February.

THE REX THEATRE, CHARLTON

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Sat 7/2, 8 pm; Sun 8/2, 2 pm; Tue 10/2, 8 pm
Bolt

Sat 14/2, 8pm; Sun 15/2, 2pm; Tue 17/2, 8pm

Marley & Me

Sat 21/2, 8pm; Sun 22/2, 2pm; Tue 24/2, 8pm

COMING LIVE - JOHNNY O'KEEFE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY TRIBUTE SHOW
THURSDAY, 12TH MARCH 7 - 10 PM

**NEW BOOKS IN YOUR
LIBRARY THIS WEEK**


"The Changeling and The Dust Devils" by Sean Williams

Ros's family are so desperate to save their drought-stricken farm that they'll sacrifice anything - even him - for rain. His only friend, Escher, an unseen entity with a voice that whispers in his head, continuously warns Ros to leave before it's too late. Ros escapes his family and decides to try his luck in the desert, discovering along the way a power he never knew he had that will help him on his journey.

"Right behind you" by Gail Giles

In this frightening story of psychological suspense, Kip McFarland, a troubled, lonely and jealous child, commits a terrible crime. After treatment, he is finally released and believes he can make a new beginning with the new identity (and name) of Wade, and finds popularity and success, only to jeopardize it all with a huge mistake.

Cool Chemistry Show - Friday 27th March - Years 7, 8 & 10

The CSIRO will be conducting their 'Cool Chemistry' Shows on Friday, 27th March for Donald High School students in Year 7, 8 & 10. It is an interactive show and some of the demonstrations will be:

Hydrogen and Fireworks
Dry Ice and Indicators

Chemical Luminescence
and many more.

Over the years the students have thoroughly enjoyed the Science Roadshows that come to the High School, and this should be no exception.

The Science Department has donated some money towards lowering the cost for students. We ask that all students in Year 7, 8 and 10 pay \$8.00 to cover the cost of the performance. If you have any issues or queries, please feel free to contact Miss O'Brien or Ms. Perkal at the School.

Cool Chemistry

Student's Name/s: _____

Cost: \$8.00 per student:- _____ total payment

Please return form with payment to Miss O'Brien or the Office by **Wednesday, 18th March.**

"Where the streets had a name" by Randa Abdel-Fattah

Thirteen-year-old Hayaat and friend Samy are on a mission to retrieve a handful of sand from her grandmother's home in Jerusalem, so she may touch the land she grew up on before she dies. Although they only have to travel a few kilometres, curfews, the permit system and the wall that divides the West Bank make it a journey more dangerous than any they have ever taken.

"Beaten By a Blow - a shearer's story" by Dennis McIntosh

A true 'Aussie battler' story, this larrikin memoir tells a tale of loyalty and mateship, but ever present is the underlying struggle to get by. Set at the time of the union struggle against the Fraser government and New Zealand import shearers in the late 70s and early 80s, *Beaten By a Blow* provides an insight into Dennis McIntosh's career progression as a shearer. From his lowly start as a roustabout; cleaning the woolsheds and removing the shorn fleeces; through to a qualified shearer sought after to be part of the shearing team.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS:

Every year at this time, School Council membership comes up for election/re-election, and we have three parents (Mr Jim McEwen, Mr Dale Basset and Mrs Jenny Baker) and two staff Councillors (Mr. Geoff Rigby and Mrs Raeanne O'Shea) whose two years' term finishes. Mrs. Judy Wall, who was elected as a community member by Council 2 years ago, also finishes her term of office.

I would like to thank all those Councillors for their support, advice and direction over the past 2 years, and I hope that they will consider re-nominating for Council or make themselves available for co-option.

School Council is an important body of the school organisation and is responsible for the operations of the school. If you are interested in becoming part of this team, please don't hesitate to contact me and discuss nominating. Also, retiring Councillors are also encouraged to re-nominate

I am therefore calling for nominations for the parent positions on school council.

Nominations for these positions **CLOSE on Thursday, February 26 at 4p.m.** Nomination forms are available at the Office.

School Council elections 2009

What is a School Council and what does it do? All Government Schools in Victoria have a School Council. They are legally formed bodies that are given powers to set the key directions of a School within centrally provided guidelines. In doing this, a School Council is able to directly influence the quality of education that the School provides for its students.

Who is on the School Council? There are three possible categories of membership of the Donald High School Council:

- **A mandated elected parent category.** More than one third of the total members must be from this category. Department of Education and Training (DE&T) employees can be parent members at their child's School, other than the School at which they are employed.
- **A mandated elected DE&T employee category.** Members of this category may make up no more than one third of the total membership of School Council. The Principal of the School is automatically one of these members.
- **An optional community member category.** Its members are co-opted by a decision of the Council because of their special skills, interests or experiences. DE&T employees are not eligible to be community members.

The term of office for members is two years. Half the members must retire each year and this creates vacancies for the annual School Council elections.

Why is parent membership so important? Parents on School Councils provide important viewpoints and have valuable skills that can help shape the direction of the School.

Those parents who become active on a School Council find their involvement satisfying in itself, and may also find that their children feel a greater sense of belonging.

How can you become involved? The most obvious way is to vote in the elections, which are held in February or March each year. However, ballots are only held if more people nominate as candidates than there are positions vacant. In view of this, you might seriously consider:

- standing for election as a member of the School Council
- encouraging another person to stand for election.

Do I need special experience to be on School Council? No. What you do need is an interest in your child's School and the desire to work in partnership with others to help shape the School's future.

What do you need to do to stand for election? The Principal will issue a notice and call for nominations following the commencement term 1 each year. All School Council elections must be completed by the end of March. For parents, this notice will probably be given to your child, so you may need to check with them whether it has been sent home.

If you decide to stand for election, you can either arrange for an eligible person to nominate you as a candidate in either the parent category or DE&T employee category, or to nominate yourself. Once the appropriate nomination form is completed, return it to the Principal within the time stated on the notice of election.

If there are more nominations received than there are vacancies on Council, a ballot will be conducted in the two weeks after the call for nominations has closed.

Remember

Ask at the School for help if you would like to stand for election and are not sure what to do.

Ask the School for the appropriate nomination form

Consider standing for election to Council this year.

Be sure to vote in the elections if there is one

DONALD & ST ARNAUD DANCE STUDIO

2009 TIMETABLE

Tuesday, 10th February

Donald Memorial Hall

Beginners 4.00 - 5.00 pm

Intermediate 5.00 - 6.30 pm

Seniors 6.30 - 8.30 pm

Linda Grigg MOBILE: 0412 015 710

17TH CHARLTON FILM FESTIVAL

Presented by Charlton Arts Inc. at the historic Rex Theatre Charlton

27th & 28th February, 2009

Tickets:

Season - \$55 (incl. lunch & 2 suppers)

Friday Night - \$16 (incl. supper)

Saturday - \$50 (incl. lunch & supper)

Saturday Night - \$16 (incl. supper)

Single Film - \$10

Available from the Rex Theatre, phone 5491-2333 or Charlton Pharmacy 5491-1521

Enquiries to M. Larmour (5491-1647) or J. Russell (5491-1528)

Schedule 4 Notice of Election and Call for Nominations

An election is to be conducted for members of the School Council of Donald High School. Nomination forms may be obtained from the school and must be lodged by 4 p.m. on **Thursday, February 26, 2009.**

The ballot will **close** at 4 p.m. on March 12, 2009

Following the closing of nominations a list of the nominations received will be posted at the school. The terms of office, membership categories and number of positions in each membership category open for election are as follows –

Membership category	Term of office	Number of positions
Parent member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2009 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20113.....
DEECD employee member	From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2009 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 20112.....

If the number of nominations is less than the number of vacancies, a notice to that effect and calling for further nominations will be posted in a prominent position at the school.

G. Rigby
Principal