Dear Parents,

Welcome to everyone to the new School year. A particular welcome is extended to our new crop of Year 7’s, the seven students who have joined us from other Schools, and their parents. I urge the students to quickly accept the hard working culture of Donald High School and to do their best in the range of programs we offer.

We started the School year with 174 students - down from 179 last year.

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

NEW ARRIVALS
I am pleased to have recruited Mr. Ian Hume from Melbourne, who is replacing Miss Farnham and is teaching English, History and Geography. Ms. Marie Audegond has commenced work as a French Assistant. I am sure that both new staff members will be assets to our School.

VCE RESULTS
These were again very pleasing with the median study score being 32. I was very pleased with the results, and I commend the students for their hard work. Most of our students gained their first preference for tertiary studies, which is also very pleasing.

GEOFF RIGBY, PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

February, 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 9th</td>
<td>Inter-House Swimming Sports</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 15th</td>
<td>S.R.C. Induction</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Parents’ Club 1st Meeting for 2010</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1.30 p.m. in Meeting Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue. 16th</td>
<td>School Council Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 17th</td>
<td>First Science Club Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 22nd</td>
<td>Inter-School Swimming Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>24th to 26th</td>
<td>Year 7 Boort Camp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu. 25th</td>
<td>Youth of the Year</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 1st</td>
<td>Year 9 First Aid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 2nd</td>
<td>Year 9 Parents’ Info Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri. 5th</td>
<td>Senior Public Speaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon. 8th</td>
<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 9th</td>
<td>Athletic Trials</td>
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<tr>
<td>10th to 12th</td>
<td>Year 8 Roses Gap Camp</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 17th</td>
<td>Northern Zone Swimming</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Year 7 Parents’ Info Night</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Parents’ Club Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, February 15 at 1.30 p.m. in the school meeting room. All welcome.

STUDENT ABSENCES & APPOINTMENTS
PARENTS ARE REMINDED THAT IF STUDENTS ARE ABSENT, THERE MUST BE A NOTE SENT TO SCHOOL EXPLAINING THE ABSENCE. IF STUDENTS NEED TO LEAVE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS, A NOTE MUST ALSO BE GIVEN TO YEAR LEVEL CO-ORDINATORS OR OFFICE STAFF.

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.
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.

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.

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 $450 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. Students turning 16 years in 2010, will be paid on a pro rata basis.
Parents with continuing eligibility, who are paid the first instalment of 2010 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 26th February, are available from the school office.

HOME ECONOMICS SEMESTER 1, 2010
This Semester (Terms 1 and 2) Home Economics practical classes are 7B and 8B on Monday, Year 9 Monday, 10A Thursday and 10B 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).

CONVEYANCE ALLOWANCE
Conveyance Allowance is available for families if they have to travel more than 4.8 kilometres to meet their School bus. Please contact the office for more information and an application form.

DONALD ST. ARNAUD DANCING STUDIO COMMENCES NEXT TUESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY.
CLASSES RESUME AS NORMAL. LINDA’S MOBILE PHONE OUT OF ACTION. PLEASE PHONE HOME NUMBER FOR ANY QUERIES - 5495-1308.

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. Due to the amount of information to Year 7 parents in this first Newsletter, please see the Year 7 Sheet given to them today.

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.

Kindest regards,
JENNY LEISHMAN, YEAR 7 COORDINATOR.
Home Phone: 5497-1206

Junior Netball
Any girls wishing to play Junior Netball for Donald this season are to give their names to Trish at the Newsagency as soon as possible.

“Well bred Kelpie Pups”
Born 3rd January, 2010
Male and female, brown or black available
See Darcy Drum at School, or Phone 0427 090 730
February is…….. Ovarian Cancer Awareness Month
One in 70 women will develop ovarian cancer in their lifetime. Every year in Australia, around 1500 women are diagnosed with ovarian cancer and more than 850 women will die from the disease.

Unfortunately, when most women are diagnosed, their cancer will be at an advanced stage and difficult to treat effectively.

But……if ovarian cancer is found in the early stages, up to 95% of women will be alive and well after five years. More women need to be diagnosed at an early stage when ovarian cancer is very treatable. There is currently no reliable early detection test or screening program for ovarian cancer. UNTIL THERE IS A TEST, AWARENESS IS BEST.

Ovarian cancer has previously been called a silent killer, but we now know that the symptoms are NOT silent.

Almost all women with ovarian cancer experience symptoms. It can be difficult to diagnose ovarian cancer because the symptoms are ones that many women will have from time to time, and they are often symptoms of less serious and more common health problems.

But when these symptoms are new for you, have persisted for two weeks or more, and you have them on all or most days, then it's definitely time to see your doctor:

- Increased abdominal size or bloating
- Unexplained abdominal or pelvic pain
- Feeling full and/or difficulty eating
- Increased urinary urgency or change in bowel habits

Also let your doctor know if you have any other symptoms that are not usual for you. These may include:

- Change in your bowel habits
- Back pain
- Unexplained weight gain or loss
- Indigestion or nausea
- Vaginal bleeding
- Excessive fatigue

There is no reason to panic. Most women with these symptoms will not have ovarian cancer. Your doctor should first rule out more common causes of these symptoms. If there is no clear reason for your symptoms, your doctor needs to consider the possibilities of ovarian cancer even in the early stages.

For more information, visit: www.ovariancancer.net.au
Science Club

Science Club is back for another year! Science Club ran last year with members ranging from Year 7 to 9. Science Club is generally held once a fortnight on Wednesday lunchtimes. Students get to 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. Science Club 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, oogy, googey and smelly things.

The first meeting will be held on Wednesday, 17th Feb for all new and old members. Also, students will have their photos taken for their membership cards.

Term 1 Timetable

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, 3rd March</td>
<td>Elephant Toothpaste</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 17th March</td>
<td>Volcanoes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 31st March</td>
<td>Laval Lamps</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 14th April</td>
<td>Slime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed, 28th May</td>
<td>Mini-Rockets</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

This is the sixth year that the Club has been available in the School. 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 in 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

THE REX THEATRE, CHARLTON
COMING FILMS:

Sherlock Holmes - Sat 6 Feb 8pm, Sun 7 Feb 2pm, Tue 9 Feb 8pm
Fantastic Mr. Fox - Sat 13 Feb 8pm, Sun 14 Feb 2pm, Tue 16 Feb 8pm
The Boys are Back - Sat 20 Feb 8pm, Sun 21 Feb 2pm, Tue 23 Feb 8pm
18TH CHARLTON FILM FESTIVAL 2010 - 26TH AND 27TH FEBRUARY
Featured are:
Fri, 26th Feb 8pm: An Education
Sat, 27th Feb 10.30am: Departures
1.30pm: The Soloist
3.45pm: The September
8pm: 500 Days of Summer

Tickets: Season $60 incl lunch & 2 suppers
Saturday: $55 incl lunch & supper
Fri or Sat night: $16 incl supper
Single film: $10
Lunch: $10
Phone: Rex Theatre 5491-2333
Charlton Pharmacy 5491-1521

RIVERINA TAI CHI & QIGONG
Tai Chi for Stress Control and Relaxation
Gentle exercise for all ages and levels of fitness.
New class has commenced 6 p.m. Tuesdays
Donald Senior Citizens Clubrooms
$70 for 10 weeks - One hour per week
Instructor: Graeme Funcke
Wednesday class - 6.00 p.m.
For further information, contact Graeme Funcke 5398-8244

Junior cricket inter-town match against St. Arnaud scheduled for this Sunday, February 7th has been cancelled due to St. Arnaud having some difficulty in getting enough players available to play.
Anthony Hogan, President
Donald Junior Cricket.
Telephone: 54971304
Mobile: 0408 971 304
Science News: - In the next newsletter, Andrew Falla will have an article on his Earth Watch Expedition, and Jake Postlethwaite will write about his experiences at AUSIMM.

Sarah O’Brien, Science Co-ordinator

Australian Brain Bee Challenge 2010
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, and if you do well enough, you may make it into Round 2 (individual/team event). This 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, 22nd February.

Work Experience 2010
Construction Induction Card
Due to new legislation in relation of work experience and work placement, students may need to obtain a ‘Construction Induction Card’ (Red Card). If a Year 10 or Year 11 student is thinking of completing work experience in any type of building and construction business, that means anything to do with construction (even agriculture - if you are building yards) they will need to Construction Induction Card. If you think you may need one of these cards, please see Mrs. Gillahan (Year 10 students) or Miss O’Brien (Year 11 students).

Year 11 (3rd – 7th May)
It can become very difficult to find work experience in Ballarat. Donald has once again been placed in the same week as a large Ballarat School, so if you want to do work experience in Ballarat, I suggest you need to be looking NOW. Especially if you are interested in working at the TV station, Wildlife Park, Accounting agency and or/graphic design places. All Year 11 students MUST all have their placements confirmed by the end of TERM 1. A letter and database of past employment areas will be handed out shortly. Please see Miss O’Brien if you have any questions.

FIRST FUSION DAY TRIP OF THE YEAR IS IN Donald!!! Saturday, 6th February at the pool – 10.30 a.m.
Register with Bek Borden 0428 179 404
Includes lunch and tea. Finishes approx. 8.00 p.m.
Bring bathers, towel, old clothes and sandshoes. Activities include: Giant whirlpools
Water Polo
Super Soakers
And lots more
Cost $15
Day trips are fully supervised by qualified Youth Workers and are Drug and Alcohol free events for 12 to 18 year olds.
SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS:
Every year at this time, School Council membership comes up for election/re-election, and we have three parents (Mr. Peter Russell, Mr. David Falla and Mrs. Kerry Wood) and two staff Councillors (Mr. Tony Cashin and Mr. Graeme Leishman) whose two years' term finishes. Mr. Roger Smith, who was elected as a community member by Council 2 years ago, also finishes his 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 25 at 4p.m. Nomination forms are available at the Office.

School Council elections 2010
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 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

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 25, 2010.

The ballot will close at 4 p.m. on March 11, 2010.

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 –

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Membership category</th>
<th>Term of office</th>
<th>Number of positions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Parent member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012</td>
<td>......3......</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DEECD employee member</td>
<td>From the day after the date of the declaration of the poll in 2010 to and inclusive of the date of the declaration of the poll in 2012</td>
<td>......2......</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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