



NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATED FORTNIGHTLY TO INFORM PARENTS
OF SCHOOL EVENTS AND VIEWPOINTS

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No. 14
SEPTEMBER 3RD,
2009

Dear Parents,

DRAMA FESTIVAL:

Once again the Drama Festival was a huge success, and the three plays were very well received by a large audience. The students performed very well on the night, and are to be congratulated on their enthusiasm and achievements. A special thank you to Miss Farnham who co-ordinated the Festival, and also directed a play, and to Miss O'Brien and Mrs. Warr, who also directed plays. Other staff members were involved with make-up, lights, filming, and a range of other jobs, and I thank them very much.

BOOK OF THE YEAR:

Well done to all the students and staff who took part in the lunch and vote. Congratulations to Mrs. Russell for her organisation and encouragement of students to participate.

COMMUNITY WEEK:

Our Year 9 students are currently undertaking a range of activities in the local community as part of the Time-out Program. On Monday, boys and girls took part in a special personal development day, and were enthusiastic participants. Thanks to Ms. Pickering, Mrs. O'Shea, Ms. Perkal, Mr. Cashin and Mr. Potter for running the day. Thank you also to Mark Connell from Donald Police and Daelene Green and Stacy Basset for their involvement in the day.

SCIENCE WEEK:

Thanks to Miss O'Brien, who organised a range of fun activities for Science Week, and I am sure that students thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Geoff Rigby, **PRINCIPAL**

CALENDAR

September	
1 st to 4 th	Year 9 Community Week and VRAP
2 nd to 4 th	10B Pre Driver Education
Thu. 10 th	Return Scholastic to Library Music Festival - 7 p.m. start
Fri. 11 th	Inter-School Golf
Mon. 14 th	Year 7 injections 11.30 a.m.
14 th to 18 th	Year 10 Snow Trip
Tue. 15 th	School Council Meeting - 7.30 p.m.
Thu. 17 th	Term 3 Reports posted to parents
Fri. 18 th	Last day of Term 3 (2.30 pm finish)
October	
Mon 5 th	First Day of Term 4
Thur 8 th	Northern Zone Athletics
Mon 12 th	Astor Presentations??
12 th to 16 th	Year 10 Work Experience
19 th to 23 rd	Meals of Wheels

WANTED - 500 LITRE WATER TANK

The School is seeking to borrow a 500 litre water tank to use to cart water on the Year 9 Canoe Camp in November. The tank would be placed on the back of a ute to supply thirsty paddlers. If you could lend the School a tank or know who could, please contact Trevor Whitfield at School.

SCHOLASTIC

Scholastic brochures are attached to this Newsletter. Please return to Mrs. Russell by 10th September.

YEAR 7 NEWS

Term 3 Reports

Term 3 "Tick the Box" Reports will be finalised in 2 weeks' time. These are the same format as students received at the end of Term 1.

Although brief, these will indicate how students have performed in four general areas for each subject: Effort, Behaviour, Standard Achieved and Homework.

Year 7 students need to realise that most assessments relating to these reports will be completed in the next 2 weeks, and that all set tasks need to be completed as well as possible.

SEPEP

In Physical Education, Year 7s have just completed a SEPEP unit of Table Tennis. This activity encourages student involvement, and all students have clearly defined roles in the organisation of the unit. Some of these roles require extra effort at home in the preparation of ladders and newsletter reports. Ask your child about their SEPEP role. The next unit in PE is gymnastics. 7B have just had 8 weeks with Mr. Ruwoldt from Ballarat. We hope he enjoyed his experience in Donald.

Music Festival

There are a number of Year 7s in the School Band, which will be performing at the Music Festival at the Donald Memorial Hall on Thursday, 10th September, starting at 7.00 p.m. It would be great to see as many family members as possible there to support these students - all of whom are volunteers.

House Plays

Well done to all of those students who were involved in the House Plays. I really enjoyed the performances of the Year 7 students in these plays, and hope it's a sign of great drama in the future. Congratulations to Eliza, Brittany, Teagan, Kara, Larissa, Lisa, Sabrina, Rebecca, Celeste, Paige and Kiahn.

Important Dates for Term 3

September	
Thu. 10 th	Music Festival - 7.00 p.m. start
Fri. 11 th	Inter-school Golf
Mon. 14 th	Year 7 injections 11.30 a.m.
Thu. 17 th	Reports posted to parents
Fri. 18 th	Science excursion - Halls Gap Wildlife Park Last day of Term 3, 2.30pm finish

Homework due:

- Please cut this out and stick it on your fridge. Make sure these tasks are placed in your diary.
- 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.
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Day/Date	Subject	Task
Wed 9/9	Science	Spelling words
	History	Test: Ancient Greece next Thurs/Fri

Maths: 7 MathsMates 8 (last one)

English: Successful English

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

Parents' Club meeting, Thursday, September 17 at Banyena Foods, 12 o'clock. Come along and have lunch or a coffee and share your ideas. The Raffle and Graduation Dinner will be on the agenda for discussion. Will use the flyer with the raffle tickets as a report, it has all the return dates for raffle books and items for raffle.

Year 10 Work Experience

Parents and Year 10 students are reminded that the date set aside for Work Experience this year is October 12th - 16th.

If they have not already done so, students must start making contact with employers and planning for this week. Remember there is a considerable amount of paperwork that needs to be completed before a student can begin work experience.

Please let Mrs. Gillahan know the details of your placement as soon as possible to allow for this paperwork to be done. Students may complete Work Experience outside of the Donald area, but transport, accommodation and all other expenses are the concern of parents. Please refer to the letter sent out at the end of Term 2 for further details.

Mrs. Gillahan is available to discuss possible placements if students are unsure of what they would like to do.

Austswim Course

An Austswim course will be held at Swan Hill on the 14th, 15th & 22nd November, 2009.

Upon completion of the course, successful candidates are qualified to teach swimming.

For those requiring points towards reaccreditation, a professional development component will be conducted both morning and afternoon on Sunday, 15th November.

Those wishing to do the course are asked to contact Brian Safe, Austswim Co-ordinator, phone 5032-4357. Applications are to be in by 4th November 2009.

Library News



CBCA Book of the Year

As part of the Book Week celebrations at Donald High School, on Wednesday 26th the CBCA reading group comprising 25 students, staff and parents enjoyed a light luncheon and book discussion on the six older readers' books shortlisted by the Children's Book Council of Australia. This year's selection of novels was quite varied and enjoyed by all. Our group voted on their favourite read, the winner being "Kill the Possum" by James Moloney, followed by "Tales from Outer Suburbia" by Shaun Tan and "A Rose for the ANZAC Boys" by Jackie French.

"Kill the Possum" throws together a group of young people who have serious issues in their lives in relation to family. Dylan is being raised by his mother after his father left when he was very young. His father has a new family in England, and contact between Dylan and his father has not been constant.

At the story's outset, Dylan is keen to get to know a girl from school, who he has been seeing, a little better, and he turns up at Kirsty's house unannounced. It is here that the story becomes complex as Dylan finds himself in the centre of a cruel and tense situation. Cartwright, Kirsty's ex-stepfather, is returning her young sister after an access visit. In the process he belittles and verbally attacks the different members of the family in a vile manner. Dylan becomes a lifeline to Kirsty and her brother, Tim, offering them support, both good and bad.

Revenge, and our capacity for violence, sees the story spiral out of control as each character seeks an answer to an untenable situation.

Alexander Bouchier, Karyn Goode, Lauren Swan, James Young, Jeremy Goode, Stuart Potter and Alexander Dunstan all chose this as their favourite novel.

The Children's Book Council of Australia judges voted "Tales from Outer Suburbia" by Shaun Tan, "Into White Silence" by Anthony Eaton, and "A Rose for the ANZAC boys" by Jackie French as the top three books meeting their criteria.

"Tales from Outer Suburbia" is a story and picture book for adults and children alike, with the fifteen intriguing stories leading us into the mysteries that lurk below the surface of suburban life. Shaun draws a mirror to the face of Australia, with lonely people, houses where constant bickering between the parents causes the boy to sleep on the lawn, communities where people use the missiles in their yards for practical purposes, and an exchange student who lives in a house where little exchange takes place. Each story provokes thought about how we live, and entreats the reader to give more serious consideration to our lives and the lives of those around us.

Premier' s Reading Challenge

The Premier's Reading Challenge is undertaken by all Year 7 students each year. Each student is asked to challenge themselves and read a variety of 15 books over 7 months. The library has a large number and variety of books at different levels from the challenge list for the students to choose from, or they can choose from books they have at home.

This year 24 students successfully completed the challenge, discovering an enjoyment for some new genres. Well done to all who have participated, most students should be very proud of their efforts.

Mrs. Rhonda Russell

SINGING LESSONS

'Learn a technique to sing any style'

Contact Tracey on 5495 2119

If enough interest, will travel from St. Arnaud to Donald

Annual Music Festival

Donald Primary School is running the festival this year, and they have made a few changes. Namely:

- ❖ The Festival will start at 7 p.m. sharp
- ❖ The Festival is on Thursday, 10th September
- ❖ Bands will be in the second half of the program

We will be entering the Concert Band, Choir, and 1 or 2 Rock Bands. School uniform required.

Energy Breakthrough Challenge News

In the last few weeks the RACV Energy Breakthrough Challenge team have been asking local businesses for sponsorship or donations. So far TPOS Fabrications, Donald Steel and The Buloke Times have kindly sponsored our group. It would be great if we could get more support, so any interested businesses could contact Mrs. Battersby at the School. We will promote your business on our bike, our website, and in the newsletter and local paper.

On Thursday, 6th August we held a casual clothes day with the theme 'favourite team' which raised \$160. This all goes towards getting us to the challenge in Maryborough in November. \$300 has been raised to date, but more fundraising is necessary.

Mrs. O'Shea came and spoke to us about nutrition and advised us on the right sort of foods to be eating in the lead-up to and during the challenge. Mr Haddow is going to help us work out a training program to ensure that we are fit and ready to compete in the 24 hour event.

Barnum performances dates and times:

	Date	Show start time
Gala Opening Night	Friday, 11 th September	7.30 p.m.
Evening performance	Saturday, 12 th September	7.30 p.m.
Matinee performance	Sunday, 13 th September	2.00 p.m.
Evening performance	Thursday, 17 th September	7.30 p.m.
Evening performance	Friday, 18 th September	7.30 p.m.
Matinee performance	Saturday, 19 th September	2.00 p.m.
Evening performance	Saturday, 19 th September	7.30 p.m.

WORKCO Apprenticeship and Traineeship Vacancies

Job Title	Town	Contact	Closing Date
Business Administration Traineeship	Horsham	Chris Perry	11/09/2009
Certificate II in Plastics – School Based Apprenticeship	Horsham	Shane Cross	04/09/2009

For further details on any of these positions, please check the notice board outside the office

BCG MainField Day *'From Surviving to Thriving'*

Thursday, 10 September, 2009

At Chris and Janice Kelly's property

3 kms south of Woomelang (on Sunraysia Hwy).

Come and learn about the new IMI-tolerant barley, the latest in ryegrass and brome grass control, crown rot management, and much, much more! BCG members: Free Entry. General Public: \$30. Breakfast will be available on site from 8.30 a.m. Trial tours begin at 9.30 a.m. (sharp)

INTRODUCTION TO SHEARING & WOOL HANDLING PROGRAM, CHARLTON

The 3-day workshop will be conducted for young people 15 - 19 years in 2009 across the following dates:

Wednesday, November 25th to Friday, November 27th, 2009 (inclusive)

9.30 a.m. to 2.30 p.m. each day

Location: 'Bushy Park', Corner of Wright & Kaye Street, Charlton

Included in the 3 days' training will be extensive course material, and morning tea and lunch will be provided.

For further information, please contact **Sue Hill**, NCLLEN Representative, on 5491 1144 or **Louse Cameron** RIST Traineeship Leader on 0438 730 973 or 5573 0943

MURRAY MALLEE TRAINING CO. LTD.

Invite boys and girls aged 13 to 17 to a **FREE AFTERNOON of GOLF**. Fun and Information - on Apprenticeships & Traineeships, Including free giveaways.

This is to be held at **Murray Downs Golf & Country Club, Swan Hill** on **Tuesday, 29th September**, at 2.00 p.m. Bbq to follow.

To enter, you must phone the Pro Shop on 5033-1427 no later than 22nd September.

Science Competition - 2009

"The Science Competition is an excellent independent assessment of the skills that students need in education, the wider community and the workplace of the future " (Professor Peter Knapp, General Manager of the Educational Assessment Centre).

Twenty-nine Donald High students participated in the 2009 Australasian Schools' Science Competition, and again achieved good results in the following areas

- Observing and measuring;
- Interpreting visual data;
- Inferring;
- Predicting and concluding;
- Investigating;
- Reasoning and problem-solving.

Daniel Griemink produced excellent results and was awarded a **High distinction** (placing him in the top 1% of participating students in his year level across the state) - Well done Daniel.

Congratulations to the following students who received **Distinction Certificates**, placing them in the next 10%:

Declan O'Shea (98%), **Luke Clark** (89%), **Ashlee Griemink** (89%) - Year 10

Rachel McLoughlan (95%) - Year 9

Rebecca Postlethwaite (94%) - Year 7

Well done to the following students who received **Credits** (placing them in the next 30% of students in their year level across the state):

Year 8: James Young (81%)

Year 9: Fin Baker

Jeremy Goode

James Heslop

Emily McLennan

Fabian O'Shannessy

Sarah Postlethwaite

Jake Sheridan

Year 10: Callum Baker

Catherine Falla

Students will receive an individualised feedback sheet about their performance. All students are to be congratulated on their efforts and willingness to challenge themselves.

Viva Perkal

Science Competition Co-ordinator

PACT CAMP

Below is some information on a PACT Camp (Parents and Children Together) at Halls Gap during September holidays 21st - 25th that may suit some families at this School.

PACT Camps are designed for single parents and their children (can be Primary or Secondary ages).

The aim of the camp is to provide a low cost holiday for single parent families with a focus on activities providing entertainment and fun for the entire family.

The cost of the camp is \$50 per family - all meals are included

Families need to make their own travel arrangements to and from the camp

*** Application form, available from the School office, and support letter **MUST** be submitted by Friday, Sept 4.

Some families may be referred by an agency worker, **BUT THEY CAN ALSO BE REFERRED BY A SCHOOL**. In this case - the School needs to supply a short letter of support to accompany the application.

Please contact Elissa Middleton on details below (scroll down) for any further information.



Susan Griffiths

School Focused Youth Service Coordinator
Wimmera Region

Wimmera Uniting Care
185 Baillie Street
P.O. Box 442
Horsham 3402

Ph: (03) 53624016 mob. 0419 390 494

Fax: (03) 53821566

Email: susang@wimmera.unitingcare.org.au

Website: www.wimmera.unitingcare.org.au



YOU ARE INVITED TO A FREE DINNER AND BEYONDBLUE PRESENTATION!

Get in quick - limited seats - Book your place by phoning Pam Kingwell on 5362 3206 or 0428 348 293.

DATE: Wednesday, 16th September, 2009

WHERE: Donald Golf and Bowls Club

Time: 5:45 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

We have all been impacted by unwanted change, and the flow-on effects it has within our community. Understanding and recognising this on-going pressure which results in feelings of stress and anxiety can sometimes be difficult.

If you are concerned about your own well-being, or the health of someone you care about, this presentation may help.

Presented in an interactive format by a *Beyondblue* Accredited Rural Workforce Trainer, this event will focus on rural communities / workplaces and will provide information, via DVD presentation and open discussion.

Topics covered include:

- What are depression and related disorders, and how common are they?
- What are causes of depression, and how can it be effectively managed?
- What is it like to live with depression?
- How to recognise depression and related disorders.
- How to approach someone you may be concerned about.



FINANCIAL LITERACY COURSE FOR VCAL STUDENTS.

On Monday, 24th August, the Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) students travelled to Charlton to attend a Financial Literacy program with Charlton College's VCAL students. This course was run in conjunction with the Bendigo Bank, and was conducted by Sharon Cook, who flew from Queensland to present the program. This program has been run many times up north, but is still in the pilot stage in Victoria.

Sharon conducted sessions which covered the topics of needs versus wants, how to plan and use a personal budget, the notion of living within your means, recognising scams, and the pros and cons of credit cards and dangerous debt.

Other speakers also talked to the students about important information they will need to consider when entering the world of work were Gary Tonkin, who spoke as a Telco provider, Alan Getley as a Real Estate Agent, and Brett Schofield as a Banker.

I would like to thank all of these people for their contributions, and congratulate them on the wonderful day. I would also like to thank the Bendigo Bank and Donald High School for subsidising the students, therefore reducing the costs of attending. A big thank-you to Mr. Barry McKenzie for organizing the day and for inviting our VCAL students to be involved.

Mrs. Sue Gillahan

Year 9 Girls/Boys Personal Development Day

To mark the start of the Year 9 Time Out program, the boys and girls were involved in a personal development day at the Uniting Church hall last Monday. Students discussed a variety of issues and were involved in a number of activities that centred around moving from adolescence to adulthood.

The major focus for the boys was on males and risk-taking behaviours. They looked at the influences on males to engage in risk-taking behaviours that harm themselves and others. They also examined the consequences of trying to fit certain male stereotypes. The girls focused on issues around being yourself and confident in who you are.

To assist with the day, there were a number of staff and guest presenters, and we thank them for their input and assistance. Students were very positive in their response to the day, and we hope they all got something out of the valuable messages given.

Guest presenters included:

- Local policeman Mark Connell
- Andrew, a paraplegic from the RACV who speaks to students about his accident
- Brendan, a martial arts expert, who instructed the students on self-defense
- Daelene Green and Stacy Basset, who spoke to the girls about being themselves, and did some belly dancing.

A special thanks must go to the VCAL students and Mrs. Gillahan who volunteered to make the morning tea for the year 9 students.