Dear Parents

Once again, the school year seems to be flying with 3 Terms already completed.

MUSIC FESTIVAL

Congratulations to Miss Walsh for her organisation of the very successful Music Festival. Well done to all our Staff and Students who performed really well.

NEW CALEDONIA TRIP

All reports of the trip have been very positive and it is obvious that the trip has been a great success. Special thank you to Miss Hoare for her excellent organisation and coordination of the trip, with Boort Secondary College, and to both her and Mr Wyatt for accompanying the students.

YEAR 10 WORK EXPERIENCE

This week our Year 10’s have been undertaking Work Experience with firms in Donald and surrounding districts. Students always find this activity valuable in helping them make future career choices. Thank you to Mrs Gillahan who coordinated the week.

BEST WISHES

Good luck to all of our students who are in Sports Finals this weekend. We also hope both Rebecca and Sarah Postlethwaite have a great time in their performance in “Shine On 2010”

I wish everyone a happy holiday and I trust that both students and staff will come back refreshed and ready to complete a fruitful Term 4.

Geoff Rigby
PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

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REMINDER

During Term 4, ALL students are to wear hats during lunchtime and recess.
**Reports**

Term 3 reports will be handed out tomorrow. They are “tick the box” reports. Although brief, they indicate how students have performed in four general areas of each subject: Effort, Behavior, Standard Achieved and Homework.

**Parent/Teacher Interviews**

There isn’t an official Parent/Teacher Interview evening, as we had one earlier in the Term. However, if you feel the need to discuss your child’s report, please phone me to arrange an interview.

**School Social**

The annual School Social was held on Wednesday evening. Many Year 7 Students attended and had a great time.

**Music Festival**

This was held last Thursday, and a number of students from Year 7 were involved in the Band. It was a very enjoyable night, and I was impressed with the number students who are getting involved in these extra-curricular activities.

**Lockers**

All lockers will need to be cleared out at the end of term. This is so the area behind the lockers can be cleaned.

**Finals**

Good luck to all students competing in the sports finals over the weekend.

**Halls Gap Wildlife Park Visit**

On Friday, as part of the Science program, students from Year 7 will visit the Halls Gap Wildlife Park. The bus will leave at 8.45am and return to DHS by 2.15pm. Students are asked to take a packed lunch, drink and morning tea. This should be a great way to finish the term. (No mobile phones are to be taken on this trip.)

**Important Dates for Term 3**

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<td>Fri. 17th</td>
<td>Halls Gap Wildlife Park Excursion</td>
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<td>End of Term 3 2.30pm finish</td>
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**Important Dates for Term 4**

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<td>Thur 7/10</td>
<td>Northern Zone Aths Immunisation</td>
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<td>8-9/10</td>
<td>Donald Show</td>
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<td>Thur 21/10</td>
<td>Battle of the Bands</td>
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<td>Mon 22/11</td>
<td>Junior Public Speaking</td>
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<td>Wed 8/12</td>
<td>Summer Sport</td>
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<td>13-17/12</td>
<td>End of Year Program</td>
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<td>Tues 14/12</td>
<td>Speech Night</td>
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<td>Fri 17/12</td>
<td>End of Term 4</td>
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**Homework**

There should be no homework for Year 7 students over the holidays. This is part of DHS Homework Policy. Of course, reading is always important, so encourage your child to read novels/newspapers/comics over the holidays.

There has been quite a lot of illness going around the School community this term. I hope everyone has a restful holiday and come back refreshed and ready for Term 4.

**MISSING DVD’S**

Several English DVDs are missing and I would like parents and students to check to see if they may be lurking somewhere at home. They are “Snowcake”, "Holes" and "Omagh". It is important that we retrieve them as they are needed for Year 10, 11 and 12 English classes. Thanks for your assistance.

Karyn Goode
English Co-ordinator.
LEAVING THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

Students and parents are reminded that students are not to leave the school grounds without having a permission note and signing out at the office.

Students cannot just sign themselves out, they must have an accompanying note from their parents. The school must know where students are at all times and if they wish to leave the grounds for any reason, they must have permission to do so.

Recently students have been trying to sign out without parent permission notes and staff have had to waste time chasing this up. We require parent support and assistance in this matter.

REMNINDER TO PARENTS

It is vital that during classes we have minimal disruption so that maximum learning can occur.

We would ask that parents don’t ring the school expecting to speak to students during class times. Messages can be given to the office staff that will then be passed on at the next break. Only during emergency situations will students be drawn out of classes. Thanks for your assistance in this matter.

PARENTS CLUB MONSTER RAFFLE

Raffle tickets were sent home on the last newsletter for our Monster Raffle, to be drawn at the Donald Show. We ask that all families please donate a house or garden item for the raffle prize (not food please). Items such as pegs, detergent, garbage bags, gardening gloves, veggie peelers, picture frames and so on would all be greatly appreciated. If you could please send your donation to school as soon as possible that would also be appreciated.

Please return sold raffle tickets/money to the school by the end of this week.

Thank you for your support.

CHANCES FOR CHILDREN

Chances for Children assist young people with funds to ensure that they have the opportunity to fulfil their educational, sporting or musical potentials. Students in need of financial support to attend TAFE or University next year are encouraged to apply to Chances for Children in the current funding round.

The current round of funding is open until Friday 8th October, 2010.
For applications write to: Chances for Children, PO Box 1870, Mildura 3502

DONALD BASKETBALL

Enter names now!!

Teams will be allocated - Juniors & Seniors.
Season to commence on October 11th & 13th.

Juniors – Monday nights- Girls 4.30pm & 6.30pm; Boys 5.30pm & 7.30pm

Seniors – Wednesday nights - Women 6.00pm & 6.50pm; Men 7.40pm & 8.30pm.

Names to Donald Newsagency or contact Kathy Hose on 5497 2141 (please leave a message, name & date of birth) or put name on list at High School.

Entries close October 4th.
VICTORIAN STATE SCHOOLS
SPECTACULAR
Hisense Arena, Melbourne Park
3 SHOWS ONLY!
18 September – 19 September
Bookings: Ticketek 132 849
www.ticketek.com.au
A musical extravaganza for all ages!

SOUNDS LIKE ROCK

Donald High School students have been rocked through four decades of rock music by the ‘Sounds Like Rock’ duo. The duo, made up of Gillian Eastoe and Terry Murray, played a variety of rock songs for the students and got them involved with an all-in rendition of Tina Turner’s 70s hit Song “Nutbush.

The specifically designed high school Rock show is high energy, fun, informative and crammed with full-on Rock music. Kicking off with a high energy, well-known Rock’n’Roll song, it then takes a leap back to the musical influences which formed Rock’n’Roll such as Blues, Country & Western and Gospel.

Terry and Gillie explore how the music evolved to give Rock its unmistakeable edge through the introduction of the solid body guitar by Leo Fender in the 50’s and then the invention of pedals and sound effects. Terry and Gillie played a range of songs that the students and teachers knew and Terry played a version of the national anthem on electric guitar. Students and teachers were fortunate to have such high quality performers in Donald. Terry and Gillie have played with a variety of bands including Tom Waits, Jimmy Barnes and Tom Jones.

The performance was full of energy and the quality of music was sensational. All students and staff were very grateful that the duo had braved rising flood waters to get to Donald from Maryborough. It was a wonderful way to spend a Monday afternoon.

NATIONAL BILBY DAY

A few weeks ago students in Year 7 - 10 entered a crossword competition in support of National Bilby Day. Donald High School also ran activities at lunchtime on Friday in recognition of Saving the Bilby, such as a Bilby interactive game, Bilby Badges, Bilby puzzles and cubes.

The Bilby is a native animal to Australia and is close to extinction. Once gone it will never return, so we need to look after our environment and support our native animals. The Science Department purchased a sticker for all students at the school, therefore donating over $140 including the sale of some Bilby mobile phone charms. Below is a list of the winners, keeping in mind that this competition was open to all Australian school students.

CONGRATULATIONS

State Winners - VICTORIA DRAW
Prize: 7th Sarah Clark
FAMILY PASS TO ZOOS VICTORIA:
Sarah won one of ten family passes to Zoos
Victoria. This prize includes her choice of entry to one of the Zoos Victoria properties (Melbourne, Healesville or Werribee) for 2 adults and 2 children. Passes are valid until 31st March 2011.

**Combined Draw Prize: 7th Nicholas Atkins**

ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS ($100) & WOLLEMI PINE DVD: Nick will receive a gift voucher for one hundred dollars ($100) from Harvey Norman and a Dvd: Wollemi Pine.

**Combined Draw Prize: 115th Chloe Wheeler**

PLANET PRESS ENVIROPRINT GIFT PACK: Chloe won one of eight Planet Press EnviroPrint Gift Packs comprising: Activity Sheets, Puzzle, Gift Cards, Bilby Notebooks, Times Table Chart, Bumper Stickers, Drink Cooler, Bubbles, Bookmarks and Threatened Species Gift Cards, plus more!

Well done!!!! Prizes will be sent to the school and Miss O’Brien will hand them out. Once again congratulations on a fantastic result.

**National Science Week – Australian Biodiversity**

**WHAT A BLAST?**

There were many different activities held during the week, students were involved in quizzes, badge making, investigating magnetism, voting for their top ten species, ‘The BIG Report’ and listening to a guest speaker from CSIRO.

On Monday students were involved in testing the iron content in cereals, though this wasn’t very successful.

On Tuesday students voted for their favourite species out of 10 on the Bush Blitz website. To have a look at the website go to www.bushblitz.org.au and you can vote for your own favourite species. Darby Harrison scored the highest on the Bright Sparks Quiz and all students received a certificate for their participation.

On Wednesday we made Badges with our favourite pictures and some students even created their own designs. All students were allowed to keep their excellent badges. Miss Williams (a pre-service teacher) joined in on many of the activities for the week. Morgan Green, Kelly Baker and Chloe Wheeler helped in the world record breaking attempt that the Weather Channel was running, where over 500 schools were involved. The record was broken and Donald High School was a part of this record. There was also an article in the Wimmera Mail Times, which features some Donald High students.

On Thursday, Prof. David Haylock from CSIRO in Melbourne visited Donald High School and spoke to the Year 10’s, Year 11 Science students and Year 12 Biology students on Stem Cell Research. Below is an article the Year 11 Biology students wrote.

On Thursday 19th Associate Professor David Haylock came to the school to talk to Year 10’s and 11 an 12 Science students about stem cell current research and the ethical issues regarding stem cells. The informative talk introduced us to stem cells and their potential uses in things like treating diseases such as Parkingtons disease. The Associate Professor showed the processes involved in producing stem cells and how they specialize in his presentation and included a video of independent cardiovascular tissue which was beating regularly in a dish with no stimulus...
to do so. Overall, the interesting presentation provided us with an expert insight into the potentials of stem cells and future career prospects in the biomolecular field.

On Friday we had the big Australian Biodiversity Quiz, which Miss Williams (pre-service teacher) was the Quiz Master. Jay, Darby, Daniel Matthews and Dylan’s team won.

Winners were announced from the Year 7 Photography Competition. The entries were completed to such a high level that it made judging quite difficult. I would like to thank Mrs Warr, Ms Perkal and Mrs Battersby for their help in judging the entries.

First Place: Morgan Green
Second Place: Sophie Hogan
Third Place: Belicia Bowles
Runners-up: Blake Hogan, Katie Gillahan and Stacey Rachinskaya

**STUDENT EXCHANGE**

In January 2011 Student Exchange Australia New Zealand will welcome a new group of international exchange students to Australia. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2-10 months.

As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student. Please note that all our host families are interviewed in their homes and carefully checked for suitability. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies ranging from playing the guitar, drawing Japanese animations to skiing.

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting [www.studentexchange.org.au](http://www.studentexchange.org.au).

**DONALD JUNIOR CRICKET CLUB**

Anyone wishing to play Junior Cricket for the 2010/2011 Season is asked to leave their name and date of birth at the Donald Newsagency or with Mary Hogan at St. Mary’s Primary School or at home on 54971971 - leave a message.

The Annual Meeting will be held during the first week of next term and will be followed by a registration evening for all intending players.

Please have names in no later than October 5th, 2010.

Contact Mary or Anthony Hogan with any queries.

**EARTHWATCH – Student Challenge**

Year 10 and 11 students
Imagine spending a week in an amazing place with students from all over Australia finding solutions for a more sustainable environment. Student Challenge is a unique, once in a lifetime opportunity for a select number of 16 and 17 year olds to experience conservation research firsthand. Working with leading scientists, you will be trained in all aspects of scientific work and gain valuable insights into conservation research.

There are two student challenges this year:
'Vanishing Frogs' and 'Secrets of Microbats'.
The vanishing frog project is located in the
Forests of the Wataga Mountains (NSW)
To apply visit earthwatch.org.au/education
and download the application form or visit Moodle and go to the Science area. Once
completed hand to Miss O’Brien to check
over and write a reference for you.
Applications close 1st October, though
numbers are strictly limited so apply early.
This is a fantastic opportunity; don’t
let it slip you by.

New Books in our Library
Two Series being enjoyed by years 7 & 8 at the moment are The Eddie Dickens Trilogy by Philip Ardagh and The Conspiracy 365 Series. Both are good quick reads that can be passed on and then discussed with other readers within a short time.

The Eddie Dickens Trilogy
Shares the mishaps and misadventures of the young Eddie Dickens in the weird world he inhabits. He lives in a house called Awful End with his Mad Uncle Jack (who lives in a tree house, well, a dried-fish house), his even Madder Aunt Maud (who lives in a hollow cow named Marjorie – don’t ask), his parents and various other servants who have little sense among the lot of them.

Conspiracy 365
With twelve books over twelve months, the Conspiracy 365 series offers an adrenalin-pumping mix of action, conspiracy theory, mystery and espionage for readers. Set in Australia it all begins on New Years Eve when 15-year-old Callum Ormond is accosted by a stranger who tells him that he must hide for the next twelve months or risk becoming a fugitive as he is hunted by the same people who killed his father. Unaware that there was anything sinister about his father’s death, Callum tries to ignore the strange man’s warning but Callum’s life reels from one disaster to the next until he finally goes into hiding in an attempt to keep himself and his family safe.

Phoebe Nash Girl Warrior by Justin D’ath
Phoebe Nash is thirteen and excited to be on her first trip to Africa with her parents and little brother, but when her father collapses on an uphill bike ride with Phoebe and they end up hijacked, Phoebe’s family holiday turns into a rather wild adventure.

Darkwater by Georgia Blain
Amanda Clarke is dead her body was found floating facedown by the riverbank, and no one knows what happened. As rumours fly and fear grows, it seems that everyone suspects Lyndon, one of Amanda’s friends. Winter finds herself alone in trying to defend Lyndon, and the answers she has been looking for are closer than she has ever wanted to believe.
Donald High School's Adolescent Health Nurse Arnna Pickering was fortunate enough to source funding from the 'Go For Your Life – Positive Body Image' grant program to fund a range of activities that have been happening at the High School throughout the year. The Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development initiative's 'Go for your life' Positive Body Image' Grant, funds community based activities that build self esteem and promote positive body image and healthy lifestyle choices. The Donald High School Program consists of 3 parts, Scraphappy, Mosaic Madness and a Year 9 Girl’s Only Day.

**Girls’ Only!**

Last Monday, 30th August, the Year 9 Girl’s Only day was held at the Uniting Church Hall. During this day, the Year 9 female students participated in various self esteem and positive relationship building activities.

Students spent the morning with Adolescent Health Nurse Arnna, delving into the lives of inspirational woman who, despite extreme adversity, have reached their personal and professional goals. One of these women was Julia Child, the famous French Chef who, despite many setbacks moved her way into the culinary world. To pay homage to Julia, students decorated gingerbread men for morning tea. Other inspirational women included Oprah Winfrey, Alicia Keys and Delta Goodrem with students participating in various self-esteem building activities to represent each person. Students discussed the affects of media on woman’s self esteem and were reminded of how individually special each of them were.
Mark Connell, from the Victoria Police provided an informative insight into the dangers of alcohol and drug abuse and also highlighted the legal ramifications of ‘sexting’.

Prior to lunch, students witnessed an amazingly inspirational presentation from RACV Spinchat’s Andrew Harrison. At the age of 17, Andrew dove into the Dimboola river and severed his spinal cord at the C4 level, making him a complete paraplegic. Although Andrew still has movement in his hands, he is termed a quadriplegic as he will never regain full functioning of his four limbs and will rely on a wheelchair to ambulate for the rest of his life. Now 23 years of age, Andrew provided the students with insight into how his life had changed during the past 5 years, reminding students to avoid risk-taking behaviours and to think about consequences of all actions.

Following lunch, students were taught some basic self defence moves by experienced Renshinkan instructor, Brendan Doyle. The students enjoyed learning the correct techniques of boxing and tips on how to tighten their abdomen muscles.

To end the Girl’s Day, Daelene Green taught the students how to belly dance. Daelene highlighted to students that Belly Dancing first originated as a way to celebrate being a woman and certain milestones in a woman’s life. With jingling belts on, the students danced the hour away to one of Shakira’s hit songs.

The Year 9 Girl’s Day was a great success with students commenting of how much ‘fun’ it was to take part in.

scraphappy

Over the past few months, female students, particularly year 7 and 8 have been taking part in weekly lunchtime Scrapbooking Sessions. Scrapbooking is the creative art of adding photos, memorabilia & journaling to blank pages, which celebrates you as a person. It is a creative art that does not discriminate against people, because of age, race, ability or intellect. Students have been showcasing their talents whilst, receiving positive support from others – all towards developing a more positive self esteem. The Monday lunchtime Scrapbooking sessions are open to all female students in Years 7-10 and are held in the Art Room. Students are encouraged to come along! There is no cost involved, just bring along your photos that you want to scrapbook – everything else is supplied! In case students have misplaced their permission slips there is one attached to this newsletter. See you all next Monday!
Mosaic Madness

The final part of the Positive Body Image funding is the mosaic of stone seats to sit outside the Adolescent Health Nurse’s office. Over the next few weeks, students in years 10–12 will be surveyed as to what values they think are important in being a good friend. These values will then be artistically drawn on to stone seats and a mosaic created during lunchtimes. Students from years 10–12 will be encouraged to participate with the design and creation of the mosaics. If you would like to be involved please let Arnna know.

Take Care
Arnna
Adolescent Health Nurse

ARE YOU EX NAVY, ARMY, OR AIR FORCE?

Then Carry On (Victoria) may be able to help you with education costs if you meet our eligibility criteria.

Carry On (Victoria) assists Secondary School students in Years 7–12 with grants for expenses such as fees, books, uniforms, excursions etc. For those students going on to Tertiary Education a grant may also be available. Children whose Parent/s or Legal Guardian/s have a need for financial assistance and comply with our eligibility criteria may apply. All grants are income tested and the closing date for applications is 26th October, 2010.

If you have served in the Australian Defence Forces or Allied Forces and you wish to apply for a Secondary Education Grant for 2011, please telephone Carry On (03) 9629 2648 to establish eligibility and request an application form.
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL

PLEASE Excuse

STUDENT'S NAME: ___________________________ YEAR LEVEL ____________

1. for being absent from school on:

DATE: ____________________________ TIME: ________________

REASON: ________________________________________________________

2. from P.E./sport today □

3. as I will be picking him/her up at____________a.m./p.m.

4. as he/she will be leaving at _____________ a.m./p.m.

   The reason is: ____________________________________________________

SIGNED: ________________________________________________________

PARENT/GUARDIAN