Dear Parents,

In the last fortnight, the School has been a very busy place.

JUNIOR PUBLIC SPEAKING:
Well done to all those who entered the public speaking and thanks to Miss Farnham for organising the event. The quality of the speeches was high.

RACV ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE:
Our students performed very well in this gruelling endurance event last weekend in Maryborough, in very trying conditions. To come 24th out of 49 teams in our section was a very creditable performance, especially in our first year. I hope more students take part next year. I extend a special thank you to the teachers who organised our participation - Mrs. Battersby, Ms. Perkal, Mr. Goode and Mr. Burgess. Many other staff helped out in other ways as well.

YEAR 9 CANOE CAMP:
The students had a great time. Thank you to the staff who accompanied them - Mr. Whitfield, Mrs. Warr, Mrs. McConville, Mrs. Russell and Mr. Wyatt. Ron and Jan Corrie, Mary and Anthony Hogan, and Geoff Pearse also went on the camp as helpers, and I thank them for their contribution.

GRADUATION DINNER:
This was a great night, and all Year 12 students, parents and staff enjoyed themselves. Thanks are extended to Miss Lauren Swan for her excellent organisation, Mrs. Gillahan for the photo displays, the Parents’ Club for the catering, and the Year 11 girls for waitressing.

GRADE 6 ORIENTATION DAY:
Our Year 7’s of 2010 attended Orientation Day on Monday, and all reports were positive. Thank you to Mrs. Leishman for organising the day, and I look forward to working with the new students as they progress throughout the School.

GEOFF RIGBY, PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
<th>January, 2010</th>
<th>February, 2010</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 27th</td>
<td>Year 10 exams begin</td>
<td>Book Distribution Day at Donald Newsagency (9 am to 4 pm)</td>
<td>Mon. 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 30th</td>
<td>Year 10 Study Day</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 1st</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day</td>
<td>Mon. 1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1st to 3rd</td>
<td>Year 10 exams continue</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th to 17th</td>
<td>End of Year Program</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 15th</td>
<td>Speech Night - 8 pm</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed. 16th</td>
<td>Reports handed out to students at School</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 18th</td>
<td>Last day of Term</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.
The Run Home - 2nd last Newsletter

Realistically there are only 3 weeks of serious assessments before Reports begin to take shape. It is vital that students plan for the tasks in the next couple of weeks, and are organised.

Booklists

Booklists for Year 8 (2010) were handed out last week. They are due back now. 23 from Year 7 have been returned so far.

Second-hand books

It looks like there will be around 28 Year 7 students next year, so there should be sufficient for you to sell your books. Denise Goldsbury will again be in charge of books, and can assist if you are having trouble organizing people to sell to.

Junior Public Speaking Competition

This was conducted last Monday during periods 6 and 7. Our Year 7 students spoke very well.

RACV Energy Challenge

Well done to Year 7 students Celeste O’Shannessy, Darcy O’Shea, Brittany Egan, Rebecca Postlethwaite and Jaron Dunstan who participated in the RACV Energy Challenge over last weekend. It was a huge commitment from these students, and I believe they have found it a fun and rewarding experience.

There is a small group of Year 7 students who have been prepared to involve themselves in all sorts of extra-curricular activities, ranging from Drama/Band to Science Club/RACV Challenge. I know these are the sorts of students who grow to become valuable members of the community. Well done!

Public Speaking

There were some extremely persuasive speakers who had thoroughly researched their topic. Congratulations to Sabrina Smith, who won the Junior Public Speaking, and also Laura Ackland (Year 8), Kiahn Powell (Year 7) and Daniel Griemink (Year 7), who came 2nd 3rd and 4th.

I also congratulate all speakers in the competition for having a go. Public speaking can be an ordeal, but is a great skill for students to acquire.

Primary School Awards

Any Year 7 students who won Awards last year at Donald Primary School, are asked to return the shields to the Primary School.

Work due in 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day/Date</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Task</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 27/11</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>* Classifications Test (date changed)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 30/11</td>
<td>7A Home Ec</td>
<td>* Healthy Eating Pyramid &amp; Guide to Healthy Eating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 2/12</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Spelling words</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu. 3/12</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>* History Test</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Maths:** Mathsmates (last one) due Friday

**English:** Successful English

7A: due every Thursday 7B: due every Friday

Spelling tests: 7A & 7B: due Mondays

Important Dates for Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 1/12</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14-16/12</td>
<td>Wacky Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 15/12</td>
<td>Speech Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed. 16/12</td>
<td>Reports handed to students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Kindest regards,
Year 12 Class of 2009 Celebrates Graduation

The Donald High School Class of 2009 celebrated their graduation at the Blue Room on Friday, 20th November. The class of 24 students completed their VCE exams on Wednesday, 18th November.

Donald High School Parents’ Club provided a delicious three-course meal for the evening. Students provided the music and entertainment, and guests were entertained by photos past, present and future! Jessie Onley used her creative flair to give the audience an interesting glimpse at how the students may look in a few years time. Sue Gillahan put together a wonderful display of photos showing how much the students had grown since they started at Donald High School in 2004.

Mr. Geoff Rigby and Mr. Graeme Leishman delivered speeches on the evening, and School Captains Stephanie Gillahan and Luke McConville also thanked their classmates, parents and teachers.

Friday night saw the completion of 13 years of education, for some completed entirely in Donald, and for others, at schools outside the region.

Thanks go to Kevin Anderson, the bar staff and waitresses who provided extremely professional service on the night. Sincere thanks go to the volunteers in the kitchen, without whom this night would not be possible. Thanks also to all the staff and students who assisted with clean up, and Raeanne O’Shea for providing savouries.

Sincere thanks must also go to Sue Gillahan who worked tirelessly collating photo collages of the students’ years at Donald High School. These were a much-loved attraction on the night appreciated by students and parents.

The comment was made by a staff member that Graduation is one of the most enjoyable events on the School calendar, as everyone involved is happy and relaxed, and the occasion is a true celebration of achievement. This was certainly true of Friday night, and the students are to be congratulated on the way they celebrated the evening in such good spirits.

Miss Lauren Swan

Donald High School Graduating Class of 2009 consisted of:

Trent Allen          Luke McConville
Stephanie Borden   Melinda McEwen
Blair Burke        Lauren McLean
Nicole Clark       James McLoughlan
Jenna Davidson     Jessie Onley
Stephan De Silva   Hannah Russell
Christine Fiasco   Sarah Sheridan
Stephanie Gillahan Sarah Tottenham
Kirk Harberger     Martin Voigt
Siobhan Jones      Tarli Westerland
Stephanie Kessler  Thomas Whiteford
Ryan Leeder

MEALS ON WHEELS

The School extends its very sincere thanks to those parents who gave up their time to drive around Donald to deliver Meals on Wheels to the elderly citizens. The same parents usually donated their valuable time each Term, and this is most appreciated.
Below is a letter the School received from John Rogerson, C.E.O. of the Australian Drug Foundation.

Dear Parent,

Are you concerned about your child drinking alcohol? You have every right to be. Australian research shows that 96% of kids under the age of 17 have tried alcohol, with 21% drinking alcohol every week.

Why should you be concerned?

New research shows young people’s brains can be seriously damaged from drinking alcohol. There is now evidence to suggest that binge drinking destroys the growing brain’s ability to relay information between cells.

One third of 12 – 17 year old drinkers are consuming at harmful levels. It indicates kids have easy access to alcohol and are drinking too much.

What can you do?

As a parent, you are the most important role model for your child. Your attitude to alcohol and personal behaviour will have a big influence on your child and the decisions they make:

- **Talk to your child and be involved in their life** - if you know what is going on, and can talk openly, you are more likely to be able to influence your child’s attitude towards drinking.
- **Know where your teenager is** - check where the parties are going to be, whether they are supervised, and if alcohol is being served.
- **Talk to other parents** - presenting a united front makes it easier for everyone.

- **Use alcohol responsibly yourself and be a responsible host** - show your children that you can also have fun without alcohol too.
- **Encourage your child not to drink until they are at least 16 years old.**
- **Point out the risks** - don’t be afraid to disapprove of unsafe drinking behaviour.
- **Inform yourself** - log on to www.adf.org.au for more information.

What are we doing?

In most Australian states and territories, it is still legal for anybody to provide your child with any amount of alcohol on private property, without your permission. Without the right laws in place, there is nothing to protect young people against drinking a damaging amount, and drinking without parental consent.

In Queensland, New South Wales and Tasmania, it is illegal to supply alcohol to kids under the age of 18 without a parent’s permission. We believe the protection of young people in those cases should be extended to all young Australians regardless of where they live.

The Australian Drug Foundation is campaigning to strengthen Australia’s laws to protect young people. Register your support for a national law by visiting www.adf.org.au
Chicken Success

10 gorgeous little chickens hatched on Monday, 16th November. They are now in the hatchery. All students have had a chance to interact with them if they wish. Many students have taken a great interest in them, and this is fantastic to see. The Science room is now open every lunch at 1.30, so if students wish they can spend their lunchtimes interacting with the chickens. Students last week named and weighed the chickens. Each chicken has its own Birth Certificate, and will have adoption papers with them.

I have sent home a permission letter with the Year 7 students who were interested in adopting a chicken.

Stay tuned for updates.

Sarah O'Brien
Science Teacher

“New Books In Your Library This Week”

“The Crossing” by Mandy Hager
This trilogy follows the fate of fifteen-year-old Maryam and three other main characters - Joseph, Lazarus and Ruth, and is set on a Pacific island, approximately three generations after an apocalyptic event threw the world into complete chaos. At that time, a large cruise ship 'Star of the Sea' had just foundered at the entrance to the main lagoon. This cruise ship, and her accompanying crew, forms a temporary sanctuary for the island's inhabitants. Over the intervening years, the descendants of the original ship's captain and officers manipulate Christian texts to implant themselves as 'gods' and rule over the Islanders.

“Loving Richard Feynman” by Penny Tangey
Told entirely in letters from main character Catherine to her hero, physicist Richard Feynman, whom she is drawn to because of her love of science and the esteem her father feels for 'one of the best physicists in the twentieth century'. Catherine's view of the world is fairly black and white. Feynman is good, Bitch-face Renee from School is bad. But of course, life is seldom so neat. When she begins to read a collection of anecdotes Feynman told about his life, she finds he is not such a nice bloke. And brought together with different students through a Maths competition, Catherine must re-examine her assessments of the people around her.

“Jasper Jones: a novel” by Craig Silvey
When he is woken in the middle of a hot summer's night, Charlie Bucktin is excited to find that Jasper Jones needs his help. Charlie is bookish and unpopular - and Jasper Jones is the town's rebellious outcast. But what Jasper shows him will shake him from his childhood, and, in the weeks that follow, everything that Charlie thinks he has known starts to change. He struggles with the terrible secret that he carries, the disintegration of his tight-knit family, the racism directed at his friend Jeffrey and first love, Charlie, as he seeks to find truth and peace.
**Age Subscription Offer**
The Age Education offers Age newspaper subscriptions to any student for week-day delivery of the paper to the School for School terms 2010 at a cost of $15.00 for the year. If you wish to subscribe, please pay Mrs Russell by 30th November, 2009.

**Congratulations Teagan Stuchbery and Declan O’Shea**
Teagan and Declan have both been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholar Program. Below is just a brief description of some of the benefits:
The program is an academic enrichment program designed to support high achieving Victorian Secondary Schools. Students will have the opportunity to participate in an extensive program of events and activities, including workshops delivered by leading researchers, seminars with world-class teachers, and opportunities to interact with other young scholars and members of the University community. There are substantial additional benefits for students who subsequently enrol at the University of Melbourne.

**Some Benefits**

😊 Year 11 students (2010) will have access to study skill sessions, a career-focused activity, and tailored on campus events including academic, social, cultural and sporting activities.

😊 Year 12 students (2011) will have access to discipline-based lectures, library and information service tutorials, and an end of year celebration ceremony.

😊 All participants will be granted access to a dedicated portal on the University of Melbourne website, and receive an ‘Approved Borrowers’ library card.

If students end up enrolling at the University of Melbourne, they are eligible for:

😊 A Commonwealth-supported place, conditional upon achievement of an ENTER score of 95 (or 90 if student is from an unrepresented School).

😊 A $2,500 allowance to assist with costs of settling in Melbourne.

😊 Participation in an exclusive tailored program during their first year of enrolment at the University.

😊 A $2,500 Study Abroad Scholarship (payable in second or third year of University study) to enable participation in an International Mobility Program.

**APPRCIATION**
St. Mary’s School thank the parents and families of the Donald High School who attended our Twilight Fete, contributing to its success.
Thank you to the members of staff and student body who took the time to entertain the Fete gathering with your talents in music.

Congratulations to the raffle winners:
1st: Maree Sands
2nd: Kerryn Voigt
3rd: Sophie Hogan

Julie Downes,
Parents & Friends Secretary

**Year 11 Work Experience 2010**
It can become very difficult to find work experience in Ballarat. We have once again been placed in the same week as a large Ballarat School, so if you want to do work experience in Year 11 in Ballarat, I suggest Year 10’s start thinking about where they would like to be placed 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 in 2010 must all have their placements confirmed by the end of Term 1 in 2010.
BRING HOME A BROTHER OR A SISTER
In late January 2010, students aged 15 – 18 years from over 15 countries will be arriving in Australia to study at local Schools for 5 or 10 months. Opportunities exist to act as a host family in a volunteer/unpaid capacity. Hosting can be on a temporary, short or long-term basis.

Host families help provide our students with the chance to study and experience life in Australia. This is a great way to learn about another country and culture, establish a life-long link to a family in another country, and contribute to international goodwill. If your family can offer a friendly, supportive and caring home environment, contact us today.

To learn more about this opportunity, call Student Exchange Australia on 1300 135 331 or visit our website: www.studentexchange.org.au

ST. ARNAUD & DONALD DANCE STUDIO
Proudly Presents
"DANCE XX"
'Stepping back Moving forward'

Celebrating 20 years of Dance

ST. ARNAUD TOWN HALL

SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER
2.00 P.M. & 8.00 P.M.

THE REX THEATRE, CHARLTON

COMING FILMS

Julie & Julia - Sat 28 Nov 8pm, Sun 29 Nov 2pm, Tue 1 Dec 8pm
Mao’s Last Dancer - Sat 5 Dec 8pm, Sun 6 Dec 2pm, Tue 8 Dec 8pm
Twilight - 1 screening only before "New Moon" on Sat 12 Dec at 6.30 pm
New Moon - Sat 12 Dec 8.30pm, Sun 13 Dec 2pm, Tue 15 Dec 8pm, Sat 19 Dec 8pm, Sun 20 Dec 2pm, Tue 22 Dec 8pm

FOR SALE
Casio CTK 495 Songbank Keyboard with 100 Songbank tunes. Comes with fold-away stand - $120.
Phone 5497-1408

East Wimmera Health Service

Free Bus trip to Horsham Breastscreen Monday, November 30th.
Leaving Donald Hospital car park at 9 a.m. and to return at approx. 3 p.m.
All women over 40 are eligible for breast screen.
To ensure your place, please contact Kerry Wood, EWHS – ph 5478-6213 as soon as possible.
JUNIOR CRICKET A GRADE DRAW

The Junior Cricket A grade draw will be changed to three 2 day games for the remainder of the season, instead of the six one day games in the draw at the moment. The current draw was modeled on last years, when we only had eight players per team. The increased number of players this year has resulted in a number of players getting a minimal chance to bat. In past seasons we have had two-day games, so we are taking the chance to alter the draw in line with the past draws, as we have almost a full team of players. The main impact this will have is the change in the allocation of grounds so a new A grade draw will be done for the remainder of the year. Immediate changes will be in Friday’s Buloke Times, and a new draw distributed next Saturday.

Another problem is that we will have an unfinished game over the Christmas break, however we are looking at ways to overcome this.

The B grade draw will remain in its current one-day format for the rest of the year.

A. Hogan, Donald Junior Cricket Assoc.

CHILDREN’S SERVICES TRAINEESHIP

As part of the Northern Grampians Shire Council’s ongoing commitment to apprenticeships and traineeships, applications are invited for this position to be based in Stawell. This is an excellent opportunity for an energetic person with a genuine passion and interest in caring for children. Training will be on and off the job.

The ideal candidate should possess the following attributes:

- Effective communication skills with the ability to relate well to children and their parents
- Alert, observant, active and the ability to use judgement and initiative
- Ability to work as part of a team.
- Reliable and responsible attitude

For further details, contact Chris Perry on 0419 312 293.

WORKCO Limited is an equal opportunity employer

TO APPLY: Written application and a resume to be sent to:
Chris Perry,
WORKCO,
1 Victoria Place,
Stawell. 3380 by 5 p.m., Friday, 27th November, 2009.

BOOKLISTS

Please return Booklists to the Office. If you are having difficulty finding second-hand books, please contact Denise Goldsbury.
HAVE YOU EVER CONSIDERED BECOMING A VOLUNTEER HOST FAMILY?

World Education Program (WEP) is looking for Volunteer Host Families for International Students arriving in July 2010.

Expand your knowledge of other countries, cultures, languages and cuisines, and consider opening your door to an international exchange student. Take some time over the Christmas period to select a student from the photos & letters they send us. If successful – then start communicating with them! Before you know it, July will be here and a great new friend and family member will step off the plane. Students from Belgium, Italy, Brazil, France, Germany, Argentina, Canada, Holland and Switzerland are looking for families that are prepared to welcome them into their homes.

These young ambassadors are looking for life-long friends and a place to call home during their stay. If you would like more information on becoming a Host Family, please contact our National Office.

Full support is provided to all host families and their students!

Nikki Medwell
Inbound Exchange Administrator
World Education Program
Toll Free: 1300 884 733
Email: wep@wep.org.au

An information pack can be sent on request, which includes student photos and profiles. It’s easier than you think, & a fantastic experience for all! Outbound programs are also available.

RACV Energy Breakthrough 2009

Last weekend 13 students and 3 staff members from Donald High School competed in the RACV Energy Breakthrough at Maryborough. During the year the students have worked hard to get their human-powered vehicle ready.

We left school at 4.30 p.m. on Thursday in 40-degree heat. After we arrived in Maryborough, the rest of the day was spent setting up camp and preparing the evening meal. After tea the students were presented with their team shirts.

Friday: The students had to present the vehicle and their equipment for safety inspection. Unfortunately the event organisers found a couple of problems that we needed to fix before the trike was passed as safe to compete. This kept Mr. Goode and the students busy for the rest of the
day. The students were also required to complete a presentation about their town, School, trike and what they have learnt during the year to a panel of judges.

Saturday: The Big Race started at 1.30 p.m. and was meant to finish at 1.30 p.m. on Sunday, but due to the worst weather conditions in the history of the RACV Energy Breakthrough, the event was called off after 19 hours.

The students had set themselves a goal of 200 laps in the 24 hours and staff set the goal of finishing the 24 hr race. After 19 hours we had completed 216 laps, so we were all extremely happy with this result. Overall we finished 24th in our section.

Thank you to everyone at Donald High School for the wonderful assistance and support throughout the year and during the weekend. To the Donald Community and all our sponsors, without your generosity our students would not have been able to go to compete. Special thanks to Carol Holland (Sign-r-us), the Donald Lions Club, Donald Steel, Johno’s Diner, Weir’s IGA, Donald Mensland, Donald Newsagency, VCAL students, T-pos Fabrications, Cooinda CWA, The Buloke Times, Clothes Bin and Faye Allen for sponsorship; to a wonderful group of students, Mr. Goode, Ms. Perkal and Mr. Battersby.

Jane Battersby, RACV Energy Breakthrough Co-ordinator.

WORKCO Apprenticeship and Traineeship Vacancies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate II Business Administration Traineeship (School Based)</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Shane Cross</td>
<td>27/11/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>27/11/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Information Technology Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>27/11/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refrigeration/Air-Conditioning Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Stawell</td>
<td>Jamie Bennett</td>
<td>27/11/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate II Retail Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Shane Cross</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate IV Spatial Information Services</td>
<td>Stawell</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate II General Maintenance Assistant Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electrotechnology (Electrician) Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Horticulture (Parks &amp; Gardens) Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plumbing Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>04/12/2009</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Further information about the above positions can be obtained from the Office.

Donald Junior Tennis Championships This Sunday

It is hoped that all junior club players are able to make themselves available to participate in this Sunday’s Annual Club Championships. Players are encouraged to play both singles and doubles, and are able to enter by leaving their names on the sheets at the Donald High School Canteen or to Sue Gillahan (ph. 54971960), up until the completion of junior tennis this Saturday. Age groups are for girls and boys - 12, 14, 16 years and under (by the 13/12/09) with the possibility of mixed championships. The day will start off at 9.30 a.m., and will be completed with a complimentary sausage sizzle for lunch.