Dear Parents

Although we have less than four weeks to go before the school year ends, students in Years 7-10 are still undertaking meaningful work and are participating in a range of extra-curricular activities.

RACV ENERGY BREAKTHROUGH CHALLENGE: Congratulations to our students and staff for their efforts at the event in Maryborough last weekend. Both junior and senior teams performed very creditably. Once again, thank you to Mrs Battersby, Ms Perkal, Mr Goode and Joe Battersby for their assistance to our students.

YEAR 12 GRADUATION DINNER: This was held last Friday at the Blue Room and students, parents and staff had a great night. Thank you to Miss Swan for her overall organisation, and to the Parents Club and parent and student helpers who all contributed to give our graduation class a night to remember.

INDUCTION DAY: The Year 7 class of 2011 attended school on Monday and were involved in a range of activities and classes to give them an insight into what to expect next year. Thank you to Mrs Leishman for organising the day and to Miss Swan for organising the junior public speaking. Well done to all the competitors who made speeches and were prepared to become involved. Public Speaking remains very strong at this school and I urge students to support the English faculty by entering the Public Speaking in 2011.

SUPER 8’S: Well done to our boys who represented the school at Melton on Tuesday. Thanks to Mr Wyatt who coached the team and transported them to Melton.

LEE KWONG DOW YOUNG SCHOLARS PROGRAM: Congratulations to Sarah Postlethwaite and Jeremy Goode on being welcomed into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at the University of Melbourne. The Program affords the participants the opportunity to mix with like-minded peers and future leaders. A tailored program of events and activities will support and enhance their secondary studies, inspire their career plans and provide opportunities to interact with the university community. Thank you Miss O’Brian for entering a number of students from our school to be considered for the program.

Geoff Rigby
Principal

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>November</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 22nd to Thu 25th</td>
<td>Year 11 Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thur 25th</td>
<td>Newsletter No. 19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 26th</td>
<td>Year 11 attend Yr. 12 Orientation Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29th</td>
<td>Year 10 Exams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 30th</td>
<td>Year 10 Study Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 1st to Fri 3rd</td>
<td>Grade 6 Orientation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec 8th</td>
<td>Summer Sports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 13th onwards</td>
<td>Wacky Week</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 14th</td>
<td>Speech Night</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Important Dates for 2010

Wed 8/12
Summer Sport

13—17/12
End of Year Program

Tue 14/12
Speech Night

Wed 15/12
End of Term 4

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**YEAR 7 NEWS**

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.

Change of Clothes
7B will be painting with Mrs Bird on Monday. Students are asked to bring a change of clothes for this activity.

Booklists
Booklists for Year 8 (2011) were handed out last week. They are due back now. (Yesterday actually!)

Second-hand books
It looks like there will be around 33 Year 7 students next year, so there should be sufficient for you to sell your books.

Junior Public Speaking Competition
This was conducted last Monday during periods 6 and 7. Our Year 7 students spoke very well. Well done to Katie Gillahan, Darcy Drum, Meg Cumming, Stacey Rachinskaya and Branden Goodman. There were some extremely persuasive speakers who had thoroughly researched their topic. 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.

RACV Energy Challenge
Well done to Year 7 students Jeremy Pearce, Kelly Baker, John Gillahan and Belicia Bowles 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!

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.

Chickens
Thanks to all the Year 7s that have been helping Miss O’Brian with the chickens.

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 26th</td>
<td>Science 7A/7B</td>
<td>*Spelling Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 30th</td>
<td>Maths 7A/7B</td>
<td>*Data Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29th</td>
<td>French 7A/7B</td>
<td>Oral task ‘Quel temps fait-il?’ Weather report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 29th</td>
<td>Home Eco 7A</td>
<td>*Test Guide to Healthy Eating &amp; Pyramid</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History 7A/7B</td>
<td>Rome Group Research Project due soon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ENGLISH:** English Skills 7A/ due Tuesday/7B due Monday
**MATHS:** Maths Mate 8(last one due Friday 26th)

Kindest regards,
JENNY LEISHMAN
YEAR 7 CO-ORDINATOR
Home Phone: 5497 1206
2011 BOOKLISTS

Booklists were due to be returned yesterday. Please return your booklist immediately if you have not already done so as late booklists may incur extra freight charges and delivery cannot be guaranteed to be on time.

If you have any queries, please contact the office asap.

CLASS OF 2010 GRADUATES

The Donald High School VCE class of 2010 has celebrated their graduation in style at the Blue Room on Friday 19 November.

The 24 students, their parents and teachers enjoyed a three-course meal prepared by the Donald High School Parent’s Club. Everyone reminisced while watching slideshows of photos – noticing how much some of the students have grown.

Graeme Leishman was MC for the night and he reflected on how the group had stuck together since they started high school in 2005. Principal Geoff Rigby also congratulated the group and reminded them that there were another 13 students who had started high school with them and left for various reasons.

School Captains Ethan Powell and Alex Downes spoke and thanked the school and teachers for supporting them through their secondary education.

Students from Year 11 volunteered their time to wait on tables and they are to be commended for their excellent service.

Everyone enjoyed the night and the celebrations will go on as many students have headed to ‘Schoolies’ in Torquay.

Thank you to Kevin Anderson, Blake Grant and Hamish McEwen for their work in the bar, and to everyone who assisted with set up and clean up.

The Donald High School Class of 2010:

Megan Berry
Emily Bird
Laura Connell
Shannon Crowe
Alex Downes (School Captain)
Alex Dunstan
Ethan Egan
Andrew Falla
Erin Fritsch
Timothy Gillahan
Josh Gilmour
Kalon Green
Darcy Harrison
Caitlin Leishman
Zack May
Jarred Newell
Jake Postlethwaite
Ethan Powell (School Captain)
Alice Rooney
Tamika Russell
Lachlan Sheridan
Leah Trollop
Caitlyn Wood
Andrew Young

Junior Public Speaking Competition

Students have taken part in the Junior Public Speaking Competition on Monday 22 November. All students in Year 7 and 8 completed speeches in their English classes and the best speakers were chosen to go on and compete in the competition.

Joan Hardingham and Judy Wall were the judges for the competition and they had their work cut out for them. Grade 6 students who were at the high school on orientation day were also part of the audience.

Sabrina Smith won the competition for the second consecutive year and her flair for public
speaking couldn’t be denied. She delivered an impassioned speech about West African Child Slavery with particular reference to cocoa farming. She spoke with conviction and determination as she enlightened her audience to the fact that much of the chocolate that is consumed in Australia comes from countries where child slavery is prevalent.

Rebecca Postlethwaite was awarded second place with her inspiring speech on organ donation. She spoke knowledgably about the idea of presumptuous consent where anyone who has not declined organ donation is automatically eligible to be a donor. Kathleen Gillahan was in third place with a speech on the horrific nature of the fur industry and Meg Cumming was in fourth place with a speech about the sensitive issue of animal cruelty.

The winners all spoke passionately about their topics and made excellent use of eye contact and well-practised intonation. Congratulations to the winners for their outstanding performances.

The judges had an onerous job this year as the remaining speeches were of a commendable standard. Contestants were awarded Distinction certificates for participating and their topics are listed below:
- Nikeisha Grant - Cyber Bullying
- Seb McConville - Troop deployment in Afghanistan
- Stacey Rachinskaya - Influence of the media
- Darcy Drum - Facebook
- Jaron Dunstan - Abolition of VCE Exams
- Branden Goodman - Video Game Addiction
- Jorey Russell - Celebrity Adoption
- Eliza Goode - The Honeymoon Killer

Public speaking is one thing that many people fear above all other things. That idea was not evident yesterday as these juniors took to the lectern and kept an audience of 90 people entertained.

Congratulations to the winners and all students who took part.

**RACV Energy Breakthrough 2010**

This year, we celebrated the 20th Edition of the RACV Energy Breakthrough! The event began with just 23 entries in 1991 and has grown to become Australia’s premier science, technology and education event. 318 energised school teams from across Australia came to Maryborough last weekend and we all had a great time.

Donald High School was represented by 2 teams of students at this year’s RACV Energy Breakthrough. Congratulations to our Senior team, Blue Lightning, who won the Presentation and Display section in their category!

**Blue Lightning 2010**

**New Books in our Library**

*Henry Hoey Habsen by Christine Bongers*
Starting a new school is hard enough without being the only boy in your class. To make matters worse, a pack of weirdos that moved in next door, with their pale skin, black clothing and eerie coffin, they freak out the local kids and befriending Henry, makes it near impossible for him to try and fit in with the locals.

*Rat Whiskers by Lorraine Marwood*
This is a beautifully rendered verse novel, telling the story of conditions on the Bendigo goldfields in the 1850s, bringing to life the hardships of the life of the miners, the harsh prejudices faced by the Chinese and the extremes of human behaviour during the gold rush.

*Shadow by Michael Morpurgo.*
*Shadow*, is about a boy from Afghanistan and the dog who helps him and his mother survive. Life in Afghanistan is terrifying for Aman and his family and they want nothing more than to escape. When a Springer Spaniel appears in the mouth of their cave, Aman nurses the dog back to health. The dog is like a “friendly shadow” that stays with Aman and his family. When life becomes more dangerous, Aman and his mother leave their home and escape, with Shadow leading the way.

*Age Newspaper subscriptions 2011*
The Age Newspaper offers a special subscription to all students. $15.00 for the year. If you are wishing to subscribe to the Age Newspaper in 2011 (for School Terms, week day delivery to school) please pay Mrs Russell $15.00 by November 30th.
Our Senior Team competed in the open Try-athlon section. They had to present their trike to a panel of engineers to ensure that it met the tough safety standards set by the RACV. They then went to a panel of judges to present a 20-minute display about themselves, their school, their town & the journey to the Energy Breakthrough. All this had to take place before they could take to the track to ride their trike.

The try-athlon consists of 3 separate sections: an obstacle course, a time trial and an 8 hour endurance race. The team did well in the 8 hour race managing an impressive 166 laps (182.6 Km) with James Young posting the fastest lap time of 1min 50 secs. When all the scores were totaled we finished 7th in our section. Well done to Jenna Allen, Kayla Allen, Alexander Bourchier, Ethan Egan, Michael Geatches, Tom Gillahan, Jeremy Goode, Katrina Heslop, Fabian O'Shannessy, Jake Postlethwaite, Sarah Postlethwaite and James Young.

Our Junior Team, Donald Dux, competed in the 24-hour challenge. They also had to undergo a safety inspection and present a display before they were able to race. However due to technical problems, a hankie getting caught in the back wheel and gears, the trike was put off the track for an extended time. The team still managed to complete the race finishing with 280 laps (364 Km) an outstanding effort! The fastest lap was 2mins 33 secs by John Gillahan in lap 279. They ended up 86th of 92 for the 24 hour event and after all marks were added up they were placed 14th in their section. Congratulations to Kelly Baker, Belicia Bowles, Lisa Falla, John Gillahan, Eliza Goode, George Milne, Jeremy Pearce and Rebecca Postlethwaite.

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Donna Postlethwaite, Donald Dux 2010

On behalf of the students and the staff at Donald High School we would like to thank our sponsors: The Sidney Myer Foundation, Donald Mensland, Donald Newsagency, Hardinghams, Weir’s IGA Donald, Pea-Co, Regional Wholesalers, Donald Motorcycles, Signs-R-Us, Speedy Trikes, Donald Steel, Buloke Times and Esmore’s Apex BP St Arnaud. Without their generous support we would not have been able to participate.

Thanks also to Tony Goode, Haviva Perkal, Karen Sheridan, Peter Battersby, Joe Battersby & Deb Jenkins and to all the parents and staff who assisted us in so many ways.

We are looking forward to 2011 all ready.

Jane Battersby
RACV Energy Breakthrough Co-ordinator

PARENTS CLUB

There has been a change of date for the forthcoming Parents Club meeting, it is now to be 1 December instead of 29 October as earlier advertised. Still at 51 Central 1pm for lunch or 2pm for the meeting.

Parents Club would also like thank all those who came along to assist with the graduation dinner it makes it easier to run these events with willing helpers.

I would like to wish the Parents Club well for the coming years and I have enjoyed being part of it, I would also encourage other parents to get involved to assist the school and therefore the students.

Jan Crowe
Secretary

YEAR 11 NEWS

The Year 11 students are completing their Unit 2 exams this week. Don’t forget that Friday 26th November is the VCE Headstart Program where Year 11’s (and some Year 10 students) will attend school for the day and be introduced to their Unit 3 subjects and receive their Holiday work in preparation for a busy 2011. It is of great importance that the students attend this day, we all want them to start off on the right foot next year. If students already have some of their Year 12 textbooks they are to encouraged to bring
them that day. Below is a timetable of the day.

**VCE HEADSTART PROGRAM - FRIDAY 26th NOVEMBER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PERIOD</th>
<th>SUBJECT</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Further Maths</td>
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<td>Maths Methods</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Accounting</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>French</td>
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<td>Health and Human Development Biology</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Chemistry</td>
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<td>Geography</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>English</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
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<td>Legal Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Physics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Studio Art</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Specialist Maths</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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When students have a spare they are to go to the Library and might as well get started on any work they have been given to complete before they return next year.

**Science News**

The chickens are growing quickly and have nearly outgrown the brooder in Room 8. The students have named the chickens and are spending their lunchtimes interacting with their feathery little friends. Letters have been coming in from the Year 7 students wanting to adopt chickens (there are some requirements).

I would like to congratulate Jeremy Goode and Sarah Postlethwaite, who have been accepted into the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program.

**SUPER 8'S SUCCESS**

The students travelled to Horsham's Dudley Cornell Oval and each team played three games of Super 8s cricket, which is high intensity and high scoring. The girls won one of their three games and the boys won all three in fine style. The boys progressed to the final where they played against a very competitive Kaniva Secondary College. The final score was Kaniva 4/157 and Donald 4/163. Donald will now progress to the Regional Finals to be played in Melton on Tuesday 23 November. If the boys are successful in Melton they will then go on to play in the State Grand Final at the MCG.

All students involved had a great day and enjoyed the fast and furious form of the game.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Title</th>
<th>Town</th>
<th>Contact</th>
<th>Closing Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cert III Auto—Panel Beating Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>26.11.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cert III Auto—Spray Painting Apprenticeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>26.11.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cert III Information Technology Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>26.11.2010</td>
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<td>Chris Perry</td>
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<td>Cert III Horticulture—Parks &amp; Gardens Apprenticeship</td>
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<td>Chris Perry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cert III Business Admin Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>03.12.2010</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cert III School Information Technology Support Officer—Traineeship</td>
<td>Hopetoun</td>
<td>Kate Clark</td>
<td>03.12.2010</td>
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<td>Ballarat</td>
<td>Clint Rodger</td>
<td>26.11.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate III government (School Support Services) Traineeship</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Kate Clark</td>
<td>03.12.2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
School Nurse Arnna Pickering has been working with various groups of students throughout the term, completing a variety of activities aimed at increasing self esteem, positive relationships and healthy lifestyle choices. These activities are funded through the Victorian Department of Planning and Community Development initiative’s ‘Go for your life’ Positive Body Image Grant program. The High School’s project consisted of 3 parts, Scraphappy, Mosaic Madness and Year 9 Girl’s Day Out (held earlier on in the year, in an earlier edition of newsletter). Here is an update on the other two parts of the project:

The Year 7 & 8 female students continue to enjoy their weekly Scrapbooking sessions. Belicia Bowles, Kelly Baker, Morgan Green, Chloe Wheeler and Brittany Egan have been regular attendees of the craft sessions. The girls stated that they enjoyed the Scrapbooking sessions as they were ‘fun’ and gave them an opportunity to build relationships with different people and the School Nurse. To wrap up the Scrapbooking sessions – the Scrapbooking art works will be on display at the High School during the first two weeks of December. Please take some time and come along to see their masterpieces.

The mosaic tiling of a cement garden seat has proved to be a hit with students. This part of the project was also about increasing student’s ability to develop positive relationships, communication skills and their ability to work within a team environment. The mosaic project gave students an opportunity to display their creative flare and talk with students they may not typically socialize with. School Nurse Arnna purchased a cement garden seat and has been working with students from all year levels to tile it in a mosaic fashion. Year 11 students provided Arnna with various suggestions of words and designs that could be put onto the seat, with Rebekah Borden’s ‘Chillax’ phrase being coined the favourite by Principal Geoffrey Rigby. ‘Chillax’ is a combination of the two words ‘chillout’ and ‘relax’. The students have been tiling throughout their recesses and lunchtimes and have enjoyed the project so much that they want to tile everything! The seat will be situated outside the School Nurses office for students to use during recess and lunchtimes, with more mosaic items to follow in the near future.

* Please note several photos have been removed from this publication prior to electronic distribution.