Dear Parents,

This is the last newsletter for the year, and again the year seems to have flown past. Speech Night is on December 15, and I invite all parents to attend to celebrate your child’s year at School.

EXAMS:
Our Year 10 and 11 students have completed their exams, and can now take a well earned break. I hope they reflect on their performance this year, and come back refreshed and ready to take on the demands of V.C.E.

REPORTS:
These will be distributed on Tuesday, December 15 at Speech Night. The final Reports are NOT posted because they are too bulky. If for some reason students are not at Speech Night, can you please organise to have reports picked up on Wednesday.

REMEMBER:
Could families please arrange to finalise their accounts for the current School year as soon as possible. We seek your support of our School - payment may be made at the School office or by instalment. If you wish to establish an instalment plan, please contact the office staff.

SOLAR GRID SYSTEM:
The 6.84kW system is being installed this week and comprises 38 x 180 watt solar panels. This will help lower our energy bills in the future.

THANK YOU:
Thank you to the Burnaby Lodge for their generous donation of $2,000 which is financing the painting of the canteen.

I have enjoyed my first year as Principal, and I thank parents, staff and students for their support over the year. Donald High is a great School, and I aim to keep it moving forward.

I hope that you all have a great Christmas and that next year is a prosperous one for the entire Donald community.

GEOFF RIGBY, PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>December</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14th to 17th</td>
<td>End of Year Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue. 15th</td>
<td>Speech Night - 8 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reports handed out to students at Speech Night</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri. 18th</td>
<td>Last day of Term-2.30 pm finish</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January, 2010</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thu. 28th</td>
<td>Book Distribution Day at Donald Newsagency (9 am to 4 pm)</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>February, 2010</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon. 1st</td>
<td>Students start School year</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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.
As this is the final Newsletter of the school year, I would like to thank you, the parents of Year 7 students, for the cooperation you have given me in bringing your children through Year 7 relatively unscathed and generally successfully.

The majority of our Year 7 students have coped extremely well with the challenges of what has been a very hectic and demanding year. I hope they have enjoyed it and feel confident about heading off into Year 8 and beyond.

Some students have struggled and needed greater parental support than others. The kids who are most organised will, in my experience, ultimately be the more successful senior students, and it is the development or improvement of these organisational skills that I have been so keen to push - with your help.

Next year the level of contact between school and home will be less, as diaries are no longer required to be signed weekly. Please keep checking your child's diary, and keep as aware as they will let you be, about their on-going school program, homework and assessment. Keep helping and stay interested, regardless of how busy your own work life may become at times.

Reports
Semester 2 Reports (which are detailed booklets) will be handed out at Speech Night.

Speech Night - Tuesday, 15th December
Our last formal function of the year is the school's Annual Speech and Awards Night. This will be held on Tuesday, 15th December, and will commence at 8.00 p.m. All students are expected to attend to help recognize and thank those who have made a significant contribution to the school throughout 2009. All students are asked to attend in full school uniform. I hope all parents can get to this night to celebrate our students' achievements this year.

Booklists
This is the final reminder that all School Booklists for 2010 should have been handed in. If you have not done so as yet, please get it into the School. Late orders will be charged an additional fee for postage by the book supplier.

If students received an Award when in Grade 6 last year at Donald Primary School, and have the shield at home, please return to Donald Primary School.

Important Dates for Term 4

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>14-16/12</td>
<td>Wacky Week</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Tue. 15/12 | Speech Night
             | Reports handed out to        |
             | students at Speech Night     |

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

WORKCO Limited
67 Woods Street,
DONALD. 3480
Ph. 5497-1821

HOME ECONOMICS
Envelopes with outstanding amounts owing for Home Economics prac. classes have been sent home. Please send payment as soon as possible, before the end of the School year.

Raeanne O’Shea
DONALD HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARY

There are many new books about at this time of year (Biographies, Records of events and achievements, Graphic Novels, Cooking and Craft) drop in to a book shop and check out the collection. Help your children with their reading skills and include one as a gift this Christmas.
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a safe and restful holiday.
From Mrs. Russell and Mrs. Walsh in the A. R. Adams Library.

PARENTS’ CLUB REPORT

Thank you to the parents who gave up their time to help at the Graduation Dinner; it was much appreciated. To the Year 12 students, congratulations and we hope you all receive the ENTER score you require for your chosen studies.

A total of $4,000 was raised throughout the year, which will go towards the following items:
Subsidising Pre-Driver Education $1,000
Speech Night Awards $100
Glass Display Cabinet for animal specimens $2,020
Coffee Mugs (2 dozen) for Parent Information Evenings, etc. $80
RACV Energy Breakthrough - T-Shirts and iron-on logos $690.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students, parents, teachers and office staff a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

To Jan and Ngaire thank you both for your continued support throughout 2009.

Robyn Bibby,
President, Parents’ Club

ST. ARNAUD & DONALD DANCE STUDIO
Proudly Presents
“DANCE XX”
Celebrating 20 years of
Dance: ’Stepping back
Moving forward’
Reminiscing all the old
favourites and adding a
touch of the items.

“Twilight Zone”
“Calendar Girl”
“Muppets”
“Barbie”
“Aladdin”

Revisiting memories of the last 20 years’ performances; and lots more. This is a show not to be missed.

“Just the Thing” (Photo: Back Row: Kate Haynes, Megan Berry, Chantelle Petrie, Rebekah Borden, Sarah Postlethwaite Front Row: Kaarin Goode, Hannah Jennings, Karleigh Weir, Sarah Grigg)

ST. ARNAUD TOWN HALL
SATURDAY, 12TH DECEMBER
2.00 P.M. & 8.00 P.M.

THE REX THEATRE, CHARLTON
COMING FILMS

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
Tips for a stress-free Christmas

Christmas is meant to be fun, but for many it can become a source of anxiety and frustration as financial, emotional and family issues come to the fore. Here are some tips from Salvo Care Line on how to avoid stress this Christmas.

Ideas for buying Christmas presents

- make a list before going shopping
- make gifts instead of buying them
- set a limit on the cost of presents
- have each member of the family buy for a different person, rather than everyone buying for everyone

Ideas before Christmas Day

- try to have a rest day before Christmas
- don’t expect a "perfect" Christmas Day celebration
- organise any parenting issues well before Christmas so children are not subjected to any extra stress
- try and clear the air with anyone you’ve had a recent disagreement
- with before you see them on Christmas Day
- be flexible to changing previous years' arrangements if family members want to try an alternative
- be mindful of any stressful situations or family issues that might arise

Ideas for Christmas Day

- share responsibility for the meal with a number of family members (not just the women!)
- if you drink, watch your alcohol intake (and avoid saying something you might regret!)
- focus on the positive things about people rather than the negative
- visit someone who may be lonely or invite them over to share lunch with you

Salvo Care Line is The Salvation Army’s 24-hour telephone counselling service. If you need to talk, call 1300 363 622.

DONALD HIGH SCHOOL
FORTY-NINTH ANNUAL SPEECH NIGHT
DONALD MEMORIAL HALL - 8.00 P.M.
TUESDAY, 15th DECEMBER, 2009

Parents and members of the community are invited to attend this function.

Sincere thanks are expressed to all those people of this community who have supported the school generously in provision of Awards for this evening.

Your interest in our School is appreciated.

Parents and students are reminded that End of Year School Reports (Semester 2) will be handed to students at Speech Night.
STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS
2009–10

Main Points:
- Students in Years 4 – 12 are invited to apply online for Student Scholarships administered by the Department of Education.
- The Scholarships for School students range in value from $250 to more than $2,000.
- There are also Scholarships offered to VCE students who intend to enter a course of teacher training after completing their VCE.
- Scholarships are also available for student teachers completing the second year of a Bachelor of Education (Early Childhood or Primary) or a Bachelor of Arts/Teaching (Primary).
- Applicants will be required to submit their 2009 end-of-year results, which Principals must verify.
- Many of the Scholarships identify financial need as an eligibility criterion. Parents/guardians receiving the Education Maintenance Allowance or students receiving the Youth Allowance meet this criterion.

Critical Dates:
Students must lodge online applications by Friday, 22nd January, 2010.
Principals must verify students’ 2009 end-of-year results by Friday, 19th February, 2010.

Additional Information:
Further information is available on the student Scholarships website at www.eduweb.vic.gov.au/scholarships

Year 11 Work Experience 2010
(3rd to 7th May, 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.

DONALD IDOL SINGSTAR
COMPETITION
Twilight Night, Friday, 11th December
Starting at 5.30 p.m.
Top 10 highest scores go into Grand Final on Promotion Night (Wednesday, 23rd December)
On Promotion Night, the top 10 highest scores from the Twilight night will sing off for an 8 Gb iPod Nano and 2 iPod Shuffles.
You must sing on the Twilight Night to be eligible for the Final on promotion Night.
Any queries to Nicole – 0407 311 575.

DONALD TENNIS CLUB
TENNIS LESSONS WITH MAX
SUNDAY, 20TH DECEMBER
10 A.M. AND 11 A.M.
ADVANCE NOTICE OF CAMP DATES AND COSTS FOR 2010

The table below provides advance notice of camp dates and costs during 2010 to assist with planning and budgeting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YR LEVEL</th>
<th>CAMP</th>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COST (APPROX.)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Boort</td>
<td>24th - 26th Feb.</td>
<td>$90</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Roses Gap (Grampians)</td>
<td>10th - 12th March</td>
<td>$125</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bushwalk – Nelson Green Week Canoe Trip</td>
<td>21st - 26th March 21st - 25th June 8th - 12th Nov.</td>
<td>$120 $50 $220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bogong – Snow Trip Pre-Driver Ed.</td>
<td>2nd - 6th August 23rd - 25th June or 1st - 3rd Sept</td>
<td>$450 $130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Work Experience (Ballarat)</td>
<td>3rd - 7th May</td>
<td>$175</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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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>Transport &amp; Logistics (Warehousing/Storage) Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Chris Perry</td>
<td>11/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Administration Traineeship</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Joe Richardson</td>
<td>11/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trainee (Sales &amp; Delivery Driver)</td>
<td>Horsham</td>
<td>Shane Cross</td>
<td>18/12/2009</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ward Clerk Traineeship (Cert III)</td>
<td>St. Arnaud</td>
<td>Kate Clark</td>
<td>16/12/2009</td>
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</tbody>
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Please contact the Office for further details if you are interested in any of the abovementioned positions.