Dear Parents

This is the last newsletter for the year, and again the year seems to have flown past. Speech Night is on December 14, 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 14 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.

REMINDER:
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.

STAFFING 2011:
The only staff change for next year is the return of Mr Tony Goode who will replace Ms Debbie Jenkins. I thank Ms Jenkins for her year with us and wish her well in the future.

JAMES HESLOP:
Congratulations to James who recently finished in fourth place in the Shell Young Driver of the Year competition. Students were selected for the competition from their performance in the Pre-Driver Education Program which Year 10’s completed at Charlton this year.

I have enjoyed my second 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>
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<th>December</th>
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<td>Mon 13th onwards</td>
<td>Wacky Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 14th</td>
<td>Speech Night</td>
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<td>Wed 15th</td>
<td>Last Day of Term 4</td>
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As this is the final Newsletter of the school year, I would like to thank you, the parents of Year 7 students, for the co-operation 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. 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, 14th December
Our last formal function of the year is the school’s Annual Speech and Awards Night. This will be held on Tuesday, 14th 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 2010

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>13—17/12</td>
<td>End of Year Program</td>
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<td>Tue 14/12</td>
<td>Speech Night</td>
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<td>Wed 15/12</td>
<td>End of Term 4</td>
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Kindest regards,
JENNY LEISHMAN
YEAR 7 CO-ORDINATOR
Home Phone: 5497 1206

New Books in our Library

By now all school text books should have been returned to the library and any outstanding library books, if you still have not returned yours please do so as quickly as possible. If you would like to borrow items over the break please discuss with Mrs Russell.

Remember if you are stuck for ideas for Christmas, books are good stocking fillers, whether it is a graphic novel, biography, cooking, craft, sports, quiz or joke book. All are great to relax with over the holidays.

May you all have a safe and enjoyable Christmas and holiday and look forward to the new school year.

From Mrs Russell and Mrs Walsh in the A.R.Adams Library.
11 other teams from the Western Victoria and the results were:

Game 1- Played Cobden Tech and lost 145 - 179

Game 2- Played Red Cliff Secondary College and won 176 - 156

Game 3- Played Ouyen Secondary College and lost in a very close game that would have placed them in the finals 159 - 169.

I would like to commend the boys for a fantastic day of sportsmanship and congratulate them on making this stage of the Super 8’s cricket tournament.

**SCIENCE NEWS**

**Victoria Statewide State Schools Science Video Competition 2010**

Students around Australia and New Zealand are invited to compete in the Statewide State Schools 60 Second Science Video Competition run by the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development. The Year 11 Chemistry students have part taken in this competition for the last three years.

In the first year Donald High School had two teams win both the Science and Editing prize. The teams consisted of Jim McLoughlan, Emily Bird, Stephan DeSilva, Hannah Russell, Blaire Burke, Tarli Westerland and Melinda McEwen, they won individual prizes that totalled $1000.

Congratulations to Ashlee Griemink, Laura O’Reilly and Declan O’Shea for receiving
'Highly Commendend' certificates from the judges for their 60 second video on the famous acid base volcano demonstration. Well done to all Year 11 Chemistry students for their efforts. Well done everyone!

**Chicken – Adoption fast approaching**

The Year 7 chickens are in their outside chicken coop in the VCAL garden, before they leave and enter the big wide world with their new adopted parent. Could I please ask Year 7 parents who wrote permission forms for their child/ren to adopt a chicken that they be able to pick the chicken up at **3.25pm on Tuesday 13th** or have permission from the bus driver to take the chicken home on the bus.

As I have so many chickens to adopt out this year, it would be handy if your child could bring in a box to take the chicken home in. The students will get a small bag of chicken starter on Tuesday and will receive their chicken birth certificates and adoption papers on the Wednesday. Good luck to all new chicken parents.

**Christmas Trees**

Finally, the long awaited Christmas trees are finished, The Science Club and Textile Faculty sponsored 4 trees on behalf of Donald High School. The Year 7 and 8 Textiles students worked on the Textiles tree and I must say they look fantastic. Congratulations Mrs Gillahan and the students. The Science Club trees were finished on Monday ready for Display on Tuesday and then Auction on Friday 10th December.

I would like to thank the following students who had a part in making the final products: Kelly Baker, Morgan Green, Chloe Wheeler, Brittany Egan, Belicia Bowles, Kara Harberger, Paige Bulter, Michael Geatches Katie Gillahan, Jeeven George, Josh McCahon and Tamika Koplick. I hope that you can all make it down to the Auction to view and maybe bid on the students' creation.

Sarah O’Brien

**EARTHWATCH**

**Earthwatch – Australia’s Vanishing Frog Program**

**Congratulations Fabian O’Shannessy**

The principal aim of the project is to assess the status of a number of critically endangered frogs in the rainforests of Eastern Australia. Nine endemic Australian frogs are considered to have disappeared (presumed extinct) in the past 20 years. A further 20 species have declined in distribution and abundance and 27 species are listed as threatened.

Fabian applied and has been accepted to attend this all expenses paid week long project in December. Congratulations to Fabian for taking on this wonderful opportunity. He will be working with a group of scientists completing fieldwork, surveying stream transects, taking animal measurements, data recording and analysis.

Once again congratulations to Fabian and hopefully he will write an article to go into the first newsletter for 2011.

**Year 10 NEWS**

**In preparation for 2011:** Year 11 students have a week of work experience in Ballarat, or another chosen town/city in Victoria between 16th to 20th of May. Donald High
School has once again been placed on the same week as two other big schools to do their work experience in Ballarat. If your child intends to complete their Year 11 work experience in Ballarat they really need to be thinking about it now and if it is a popular profession, I suggest organising work experience with them early, otherwise they may miss out. Examples of high demand: Vet Clinics, WIN TV, The Courier, Childminding centres, the Wildlife Park, Accounting agencies and TGM.

I would like you to help your child, but I would like your child to make the contact with the employer, as I see it as good character building. Why not practise with your child what the employer may say and what questions your child needs to ask.

If you have any queries please contact Sarah O’Brien at the High School.

2011 Bendigo and Adelaide Bank
Scholarship now open!

As part of Bendigo and Adelaide Bank’s commitment to help build stronger communities, we have established a scholarship fund.

Each year grants are awarded to outstanding, but disadvantaged students, usually from a rural area, that have been offered a full-time place at an Australian university or college campus for the first time.

The Scholarship aims to support first year students who, due to social or financial circumstances, would not have been able to further their education.

Applications for the 2011 Scholarship are now invited

For further information, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, please visit http://www.bendigoadelaide.com.au/public/in_the_community/scholarships.asp

WOODWORK PROJECTS

St Arnaud & District Dance Studio
Presents

‘CARNIVAL’ 2010

St Arnaud Town Hall
Saturday 11th December
8pm

Tickets available at door from 7.30pm
Refreshments available
Hi everyone,

My name is Julie Saylor, and I’ve been employed by the Buloke Shire Council in the Youth Development Officer position previously held by Marc Cox. I have always worked with young people, children and families, and am passionate about supporting and assisting youth (and their families) to build pathways in life, whether it is, sports, the arts, or education/training and employment.

Over the next few months, I’ll be getting to know you all by visiting the schools, local community members, and business and community services. If you would like to catch up with me for a chat, you can contact me on (T) 54 780128, (M) 0429 867 897 or Email me at: jsaylor@buloke.vic.gov.au

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If any students still have projects to collect from the Woodwork Room, could you please make arrangements with Mr Segger to collect these items on Tuesday.

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BOOK LIST

DISTRIBUTION DAY 2011

Distribution day will be held on Tuesday 1st February, 2011 due to the fact that students do not start School until Friday 4th February, 2011. All orders should now be in, late orders will attract extra freight charges.

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RESPONSIBLE SERVING
OF ALCOHOL COURSE

Date: Friday 10th December
Time: 11am - 3pm
Cost: $110.00

Venue: Wycheproof Community Resource Centre

Bookings essential
Phone: 5493 7455
Apprenticeship and Traineeship Vacancies
67 Woods Street, DONALD, 3480, Ph: 5497 821

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<th>Job Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>Certificate III Government (School Support Services) Traineeship</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Kate Clark</td>
<td>07.12.2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Certificate III School Support Worker</td>
<td>Charlton</td>
<td>Kate Clark</td>
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**FUTURE CAMPS FOR 2011**

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Level</th>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>Boort</td>
<td>23rd – 25th February</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Roses Gap</td>
<td>9th – 11th March</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bushwalk – Nelson Green Week Community Week Canoe Trip</td>
<td>27th March – 1st April, 27th June – 1st July, 5th – 9th September, 14th – 18th November</td>
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<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Bogong – Snow Trip Pre-Driver Ed</td>
<td>27th July – 1st August, 7th – 9th September</td>
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<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>Work Experience Ballarat</td>
<td>16th – 20th May</td>
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**Farmers – Hang in there**

The recent rain has devastated and demolished crops and hopes of a 'good year' for farmers throughout the region. During this tough time, it is really important to keep banding together. It is important that farmers and farming families continue to socialise with their friends, not only to 'check' on how each other are fairing but also for their own mental health and well being. If you or someone you know need someone to talk to, there are many avenues that provide support to people during these hard times. The internet is a great place to find support services. Some of these services offer confidential free online counselling. There are also options for telephone and person to person counselling.

Mens Line (www.mensline.org.au) – 1300 78 99 78
Life Line – 13 11 14
Rural and Remote Telephone Counselling (Relationships Australia) – 1800 817 569
Kids Helpline – 1800 555 1800
Rural Financial Counselling Services – 1800 686 175

You can also contact your local doctor for support if required. All in all - if you are feeling down it is vitally important that you talk to someone and receive help........

Take Care
Arnna Pickering
Adolescent Health Nurse
HOME ECONOMICS

Year 10’s as their final practical task in Home Economics made, constructed and decorated Gingerbread Houses.

Could all outstanding Home Economics money please be paid immediately. Envelopes have been sent home with those students who still owe money. Any queries please contact Raeanne O’Shea.

On behalf of the Donald High School we wish all parents, students and staff a very joyful Christmas and a happy & safe New Year.