



NEWSLETTER

CIRCULATED FORTNIGHTLY TO INFORM PARENTS OF
SCHOOL EVENTS AND VIEWPOINTS

P.O. Box 138, Donald

Camp Street, Donald

Phone: 5497-1205

Fax: 5497-1759

Email: donald.hs@edumail.vic.gov.au

D.H.S. Web page: <http://www.donaldhs.vic.edu.au>

No. 8
MAY 28th,
2009

Dear Parents,

BUILDING THE EDUCATION

REVOLUTION: We have been informed that our submission to construct an outdoor learning space for Physical Education classes has been approved. This will involve erecting a roof over the School's basketball court, which will also serve as a shade area. We have been allocated \$125,000 for the project which will also allow money to be spent on maintenance around the School.

NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK:

Schools are required to fly the Australian Aboriginal Flag from Wednesday, May 27 to Wednesday, June 3. These two dates are significant in the history of reconciliation. May 27 is the anniversary of the 1967 Referendum, which allowed aboriginals to be included in Australia's Census, and June 3 is the anniversary of the High Court decision in the Mabo Land Rights case handed down in 1992. The theme of National Reconciliation Week for 2009 is "See the person, not the stereotype."

SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY: Our annual cross country run was held last Thursday, and I was impressed with the effort of most students who did their best. Congratulations to the students who tried hard and to Mr. Haddow and Mr. Goode for their organisation.

KEN BURGESS: Mr Burgess is on sick leave until June 16. We wish him a speedy recovery. We have been lucky to employ

Mr. Scott from St Arnaud to take most of his classes.

AMBULANCE COVER: At the last School Council Meeting, it was suggested that we recommend to parents that they take out ambulance cover for their family members. There may be times when students require an ambulance when at School or on camps, and calling an ambulance can prove to be very costly.

REPORT WRITING DAY: All Donald Schools will be closed for students on Friday, June 12 to enable staff to write students' Reports.

GEOFF RIGBY, PRINCIPAL

CALENDAR

May	
Fri. 29 th	Inter-School Cross Country - at St. Arnaud
June	
Mon. 1 st	Parents' Club Meeting - 12 midday at Shamrock Hotel
4 th to 10 th	Year 11 Exams
Mon. 8 th	Queen's Birthday Holiday
9 th - 10 th	Year 12 Exams
Wed. 10 th	Science Competition
Thu. 11 th	GAT
Fri. 12 th	Report Writing Day - student free
Tue. 16 th	Northern Zone Cross Country - at St. Arnaud School Council Meeting - 7.30 p.m.
Wed. 17 th	Intermediate Public Speaking
22 nd - 26 th	Year 9 Green Week
Fri. 26 th	End Term 2 (2.30 p.m. finish)
July	
Mon. 13 th	Start of Term 3
Tue. 21 st	School Council Meeting - 7.30 p.m.
Fri. 24 th	High School Fete

CHANGES TO YOUTH ALLOWANCE:

The recent changes to Youth Allowance announced in the Federal Budget will impact on those who deferred Tertiary courses to obtain Youth Allowance in 2009, as well as many young people from rural areas. The North Central LLEN has provided the School with a fact sheet about the changes, and a possible course of action to register disapproval. This fact sheet can be collected from the general Office for those interested.

PARENTS' CLUB MEETING

Parents' Club are holding a lunch meeting at the Shamrock Hotel on Monday, 1st June at 12 noon.

A warm invitation is extended to all parents to be part of the occasion. Your thoughts and ideas on School matters are important, and the Fete will be one topic discussed.

Thank you,
Robyn

YEAR 7 NEWS

Year 7 Pastoral Care

During this term, students in Year 7 have been involved in 20-minute Pastoral Care sessions on Wednesday mornings. The theme for this term's Pastoral Care sessions has been 'Dealing with problem situations'. We have covered issues such as anger expression and management, actions and consequences of our actions, and currently we are spending time looking at bullying. It is hoped these sessions help give students strategies to cope with different real-life situations in a positive way. They are short sessions, but they give the staff and students a forum for discussing and gaining information on a variety of topical issues. I would hope parents could conduct similar

discussions around the topics we are covering, so our message is reinforced and supported.

Cross Country

Last Thursday afternoon, all students competed in the annual Inter-House Cross Country. I was most impressed with the efforts of the Year 7 students. They all competed to the best of their ability, and, although it is not everybody's cup of tea, it was pleasing to see them getting some exercise and having a go!

Students who finished in the top 10 of their section (junior girls or boys) will have qualified to represent the School at the Inter-School Cross Country in St. Arnaud on Friday, 29th May. Congratulations and good luck to Paige Butler, Lisa Falla, Eliza Goode, Shannon Jeffery, Kara Harberger, Celeste O'Shannessy, Rebecca Postlethwaite, Sabrina Smith, Clarence Barlow, Jaron Dunstan, Darby Harrison and Jack Onley.

NAPLAN Testing

These have been completed and sent away for correcting. The results should be back early in Term 3. They provide feedback to staff, parents and students, but please remember they are only a general test aimed to give us an idea or indication of a student's progress

Detailed Semester Reports

Detailed Semester One Reports will be given out at the end of this term. These reports show progress in each of the subject areas against the Victorian Essential Learning Standards (VELS). They also contain comments regarding effort, behaviour and areas for future improvement. In the coming weeks, students will become very busy as assessments are finalized so reports can be written. This will test our students' progress in their organizational levels. Please assist them where you can.

Assisting students with homework

I repeatedly get asked by parents "how much assistance should I give my child with their homework?" Below is an extract from the Education Age that I thought is useful advice in the area.

Question: Often I end up doing my children's homework. Am I doing the wrong thing?

Answer: It's important parents are interested and supportive, and this includes working with children to help them complete homework, says the head of the School of Education at La Trobe University, Vaughan Prain. This also gives parents a better understanding of the curriculum. But they should act as a coach or mentor to provide feedback and guidance, or review what children have produced - not do homework for them.

'It's less valuable if parents involve children minimally in the planning, production and evaluation of homework', says Professor Prain. 'It sends the message that they aren't up to the task, which is not very complimentary. The goal of education is to produce autonomous, curious learners, not total dependency on a teacher or someone else.'

Important Dates for Term 2

Fri. 29 th	Inter-School Cross Country - St. Arnaud
June	
Mon. 8 th	Queen's Birthday Holiday
Wed. 10 th	Science Competition
Fri. 12 th	Report Writing Day - Pupil Free
Tue. 16 th	Northern Zone Cross Country - St. Arnaud
Fri. 26 th	End of Semester Reports given to students at School Last day of Term (2.30 p.m. finish)

Homework due:

- Please cut this out and stick it on your fridge. Make sure these tasks are placed in your diary.

- 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.

Day/Date	Subject	Task
<u>Maths:</u> MathsMates 6 & 7 due Fridays.		
Mon. 1/6	Maths 7A Science Geog. 7B Home Ec	* Equations Test Assignment due "The Water Cycle" Map due - South East Asia Design a Muffin Prac. Students to bring labelled boxes to class
Wed. 3/6	French	* Oral Test
Fri. 5/6	History	Egypt assessment due (Wk4) and Test
Wed. 10/6	English	Writing Folio Piece
Mon. 15/6	7B Home Ec	Muffin evaluation due3
<u>Maths:</u> MathsMates due Fridays.		
<u>English:</u> Successful English exercises: 7A: due every Thursday /7B: due every Friday Spelling tests: 7A & 7B: due Mondays		

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

VCAL SELL

For Sale - Damson Plum Jam

Grown locally and made by the D.H.S. Years 10/11 VCAL Class.

Only a small supply available, so get in quick.

Small jar (250 grams approx.) \$3.00

Medium jar (450 grams approx.) \$4.00

Large jar (680 grams approx.) \$5.00

For sale

New "Face Off" girls School pants. 1 size 16, 1 size 14 at \$20 each. See Kathy Hose at School (for fitting), or phone 5497-2141 (after School hours).

INTER-HOUSE CROSS COUNTRY

THURSDAY, 21ST MAY

Congratulations to all students who participated last Thursday. The overall level of involvement was excellent. Meyer House was once again successful due to a high participation level and strong performances in the Intermediate Boys and Senior Girls. The first 10 placegetters in each age grouping of the Inter-House event have the opportunity to participate in the Inter-School Cross Country at St. Arnaud on May 29th. (The Northern Zone Cross Country will follow on Tuesday, 16th June, also to be held at St. Arnaud.)

Overall House Results: Meyer 422; Banyenong 348; Jeffcott 341

<u>Results:</u>	BOYS			GIRLS		
	Banyenong	Jeffcott	Meyer	Banyenong	Jeffcott	Meyer
Junior	63	65	54	57	59	63
	Winner: Jack Onley			Winner: Sabrina Smith		
Intermediate	42	40	107	63	64	61
	Winners: Reece Harberger (M) Jake Sheridan (M) Joe Sheridan (J)			Winner: Laura O'Reilly (J)		
Senior	69	63	53	54	50	84
	Winner: Jim McLoughlan (J)			Winner: Alex Downes (B)		
TOTALS	174	168	214	174	173	208

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

STS HIGH SCHOOL
FOUNDATION AUSTRALIA
SOS FOR HOST FAMILIES

It is the dream of many teenagers to visit our vast and 'exotic' country, Down Under. Their dream can only come true with your help. It is only through the hospitality of caring families, with an interest in better cultural understanding and world peace,

that these dreams can become reality. STS High School Foundation urgently needs volunteer host families for students arriving in July 2009 from Europe. If you would like to join a unique and growing group of families in Victoria, we need to hear from you now. Please contact us at stsf@people.net.au or phone 1800 263964. Website: www.sts-education.com.au

WORKCO Apprenticeship and Traineeship Vacancies

Job Title	Town	Contact	Closing Date
Automotive Agriculture Mechanic Apprenticeship	Horsham	Chris Perry	05/06/2009
Business Administration Traineeship	Horsham	Chris Perry	05/06/2009

Full details of these positions are on the noticeboard outside the office.

Winter and Asthma

With the winter months approaching, it is important to be aware of the triggers that can affect your asthma during this season. A sudden change in temperature, such as cold air or windy days can be a trigger for some people with asthma. It is recommended that you take your usual dose of reliever medication before going out on cold, windy days. Wearing a scarf over your face will help to warm the air before you breathe it in.



Thunderstorms can also trigger your asthma. This is due to the large quantities of pollen, in very small particles, being released into the air, as the raindrops break down pollen particles already in the air. It is best to stay inside with the windows closed during thunderstorms. Visit your doctor to determine if weather change is a trigger and ensure you have a

written Asthma Action Plan outlining what to do for your day to day asthma, what to do if your symptoms worsen and how to cope with an asthma emergency.

As we head toward cooler months, The Asthma Foundation of Victoria recommends that everyone with asthma should have a flu injection as people with asthma are at higher risk of developing complications from influenza.



To obtain a **FREE Asthma Control Pack**, containing information to assist parents and students in managing their asthma, please contact **Louisa or Sarah at The Asthma Foundation of Victoria** or **1800 645 130** or email schools@asthma.org.au

If you have any questions take a look at The Asthma Foundation of Victoria's website: www.asthma.org.au or contact **Arna at the School**.

Take Care
Arna, Secondary School Nurse



**NEW BOOKS IN YOUR
LIBRARY THIS WEEK**



"Dragon Dawn" by Carole Wilkinson
Set in 282 BC, *Dragon Dawn* is a 'prequel' to the *Dragonkeeper* trilogy. Danzi is sad after the death of his old and infirm Dragonkeeper, but looking forward to some solo adventures. Danzi's plans for a peaceful visit to a friend in the south soon go awry due to the unrest in the provinces.

"The diary of Laura's Twin" by Kathy Kacer
As part of Laura's Bat Mitzvah, she must learn about a child her age who was involved in the Holocaust. Through this project Laura is introduced to Mrs Mendlecorn, who gives her a diary. A friendship soon develops, and the diary starts to consume Laura's life like no other work on the Holocaust ever has.

"When the Hipchicks went to war" by Pamela Rushby
Kathleen is sixteen. She thinks she's got it sorted. It's the swinging 60's and the world is exciting. She is bright but sick of school, ready for the next stage of her life. A hairdressing job is abandoned when she scores an opportunity to travel to Vietnam to dance and sing for the troops. Her friend Cheryl is horrified, but Kath has little interest, in and less knowledge about, the war, seeing only excitement. But reality is quick to shake her. While protesters at home shake their placards, Kathleen discovers the realities of war.

"The White Tiger" by Aravind Adiga
This novel takes the form of a series of letters to Wen Jiabao, the Chinese Premier, from the Bangalore businessman who is the self-styled "White Tiger" of the title. Bangalore is the Silicon Valley of the subcontinent, and on the eve of a state visit by Jiabao, our entrepreneur Halwai wishes to impart something of the new India to the Chinese Premier - "out of respect for the

love of liberty shown by the Chinese people, and also in the belief that the future of the world lies with the yellow man and the brown man now that our master, the white-skinned man, has wasted himself through buggery, mobile phone usage and drug abuse". Halwai's lesson about the new India is drawn from the rags-to-riches story of his own life, the son of a rural rickshaw-puller.

WORKCO
Limited

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

DONALD RECREATION RESERVE

Please note the new rule change at the Donald Recreation Reserve that may be applicable to your family.

Under the new changes set by the Buloke Shire Council, no children under the age of 13 are to be on the balcony / viewing area in front of the Blue Room, without the supervision of a responsible parent or guardian. All user Clubs have been informed of the new rule, and have been asked to ensure it is enforced.

Anthony Judd - Recreation Officer
Buloke Shire Council

PARENTS' CLUB
LUNCH AND MEETING

12.00 midday
Monday, 1st June
SHAMROCK HOTEL
Bring along your ideas for
discussion
ALL WELCOME

MEALS ON WHEELS

As the next week for the High School to provide drivers for Meals on Wheels is coming up, we are seeking names of volunteer drivers. If you can help the school by sending the form back, it would be very much appreciated.

The school will deliver Meals on Wheels for the week 8th to 12th June. I would appreciate hearing from parents who are able to do the driving. As usual, two students will go with each car to deliver the meals.

The Hospital run begins at 11.45 a.m. and the Goodwin Homes run is at 12 Midday.

G. Rigby



Name: _____

Please tick the times you could be available:

Dates	11.45 a.m. Hospital	12.00 Midday Goodwin Homes
Monday, 8 th June	Public Holiday - driver not required	
Tuesday, 9 th June		
Wednesday, 10 th June		
Thursday, 11 th June		
** Friday, 12 th June		

** Friday is a Curriculum Day and therefore no students will be at School to assist the driver. However, we still need someone to deliver meals on this day.

Thank you. Please return to the Office by Tuesday, 2nd June.

DONALD HIGH SCHOOL



PLEASE EXCUSE

STUDENT'S NAME: _____ YEAR LEVEL _____

1. for being absent from school on:

DATE: _____ TIME: _____

REASON: _____

5. from P.E./sport today

6. as I will be picking him/her up at _____ a.m./p.m.

7. as he/she will be leaving at _____ a.m./p.m.

The reason is: _____

SIGNED: _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN