Year 3 Science

We are very proud of our regular classroom science at Donnybrook District High School, having spent the last two years providing additional funding for a teacher mentoring programme. This helped us explore some of the many available resources, including Primary Connections, as well as to get a clear understanding of the requirements for the new Australian Curriculum.

This term the Year 3’s have been involved in kitchen chemistry, observing, thinking about and exploring change reactions. Below are some photos of the kitchen science;

Mixing scientific ingredients  
Experimenting with Yeast  
Observing results  
Eating the results. Hope there’s not too much gas in those!

In addition to Science the Year 3’s have had a busy term, with a plethora of hands on learning activities. They have been swimming in the pool and also found and sorted head and heart words for use in persuasive writing.

Did you know we can use rational thinking and emotional language to persuade?

Head Heart Words—A dictionary is good to help find out what the words mean.
From the Principal

As I said in the last newsletter our school continues to be a very positive place with all the “fundamentals” about learning in place.

I have been visiting the classrooms, talking with the kids and teachers about their work and without exception there is a real “excitement” about the active learning going on. I am impressed with the way staff are responding to the challenges of new technologies viz the interactive environments, with all staff using the tools and just seeing the way the students participate and learn collaboratively is simply wonderful.

Congratulations also to our year 3 staff in Leonie Pearce, Sara Davies and Wendy Mountford, who have undertaken a further step and by next week we should see the “Apple” environment in the year 3 rooms. Stay posted about this.

Good luck to all our swimmers competing in this Friday’s primary interschool swimming in Bunbury.

Bentley Street News

It has only been 3 weeks since our last newsletter but we seem to have had some wonderful events since then—on top of our normal core business of teaching.

On March 7 we held our Faction Swimming carnival at Bridgetown where all students, who attended, enjoyed themselves in their respective forms of participation. I am very happy to say that GREEN won the carnival this year from points obtained from students who not only came 1st-2nd-3rd but participated just to get a point for their faction. A great value displayed by all our students who attended. Well done Green and of course I’m not biased! Much!!

On Thursday March 15 Dee Robinson, who works for the Bunbury Youth Outreach Program, organised a great talk for all students. The workshop was titled—“Making Good Choices”- which covered many areas of Life’s decisions. This supported our Choose Respect code of behaviour which is not only supported positively at our school but also by many businesses in town.

This week the school has funded and partly funded two wonderful events. Those being a leadership conference for all our Year 6-10 Student Representatives and a very Colourful Harmony Day which culminated in a very funny afternoon presentation to the whole school. Comments from our head girl and boy were: “funny and “interactive”, “informative while fun”, “taught us how to develop and motivate leadership skills” and “how to leave a legacy”.

Over the next 2 weeks, before the holidays, we have organised a visit from Manea College for our Year 9 and 10 students and our celebratory assembly which we welcome parents to on Tuesday March 27 at 9.00am.

Our curriculum delivery is well and truly embedded in all year levels and standards are being focussed on all the time. Please remember that the homework note comes home every fortnight and if you haven’t seen the last 2 please ask your student about it and how they are going. Our students educational journey is a partnership between students, staff and parents and if you have any issues please don’t hesitate to contact me. Have a safe and happy Easter.

Liz Burkett  Deputy Principal Secondary

Congratulations to our Student Representative Councillors for their enthusiastic participation in leadership training this week and to the whole of Bentley Street for their enjoyment of Harmony Day on Tuesday.

Behind the scenes be aware I am working with Janine Morgan, of our School Council and the P&C, ‘to advance’ community service and attain an “OUT OF HOURS CARE” service in our community. I know this is an issue for many parents and the school will be a partner in the provision of a facility if necessary. We are not interested in taking on the service ourselves, rather supporting others to provide a much needed service to our community.

Additionally we are moving closer to the launch of our new website. This will happen before the end of term!

Peter Fitzgerald  Principal

Student Leadership Conference
Junior Campus Mead Street

Parent survey

A big thank you to all those parents who responded to our survey, both online and on paper. We now have a good idea what people are thinking in terms of our school in K to 5, 6 and 7 as well as 8 to 10. Interestingly there were common themes across the whole school which we will be taking into account to maintain and improve our service to the community.

We were heartened by the positive responses regarding teacher professionalism, knowledge and practice. Over 90% of parents surveyed are happy with teacher expectations and delivery of curriculum to their children, agreeing that the school caters for the educational needs of their children, as well as providing a safe and stimulating learning environment. We are seen by over 90% as encouraging pride in achievement, motivating students to learn, setting high standards and developing a sense of self worth in our students.

Alongside this overall satisfaction with educational standards and student progress, including positive comments about the professional ability of teachers we can deduce that we are meeting the educational needs of the children in our charge. There are, however, a few concerns expressed regarding behaviour, clarity of rules and consequences and communication. Bullying is identified as an area we need to work on, or at the least, communicate more effectively about, as does consistency in dealing with behavioural issues. Be reminded that most behaviour issues are dealt with case by case and such information is not regularly advertised with respect to confidentiality. The same applies to situations regarding bullying.

Less than 80% of respondents feel they are well informed about the activities of the school and less than 70% feel they receive helpful information about their child’s progress and achievement. We are currently in the process of improving our school’s web profile as well as the timeliness and content of newsletters. In terms of communications it needs to be remembered that most teachers conduct individual parent interviews and/or class meetings early each year. This initial meeting should act as a springboard for further conversation, so please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the teacher to discuss your child’s progress at any time during the year. The education of any student is a partnership between the student, the parents and the teacher, with the best progress made when communication is open!

Thankyou again for participating in the survey and please be assured that we will endeavour, to the best of our ability or better, to constantly improve the educational service we provide, in all contexts and domains.

Jeff Brown
Associate Principal

Year 8 Awesome Autobiographies

Congratulations to the majority of Year 8 students who put in so much effort into their autobiographies. They were really interesting and incredibly well presented. Well done!
A number of these will be on display in the library for parents and the public to view.

Mrs Horton

Music Support Group

All students are settling well into Instrumental and Class Music and Band.
A reminder that ‘Master Your Theory’ books are available at the front office, Bentley Street.

We are conducting a Fundraiser with Garden Bulbs from ‘Tulips With A Difference’ in Boyup Brook, with money raised contributing to costs for a proposed Band Music Camp in August.
Order forms are available from Mrs Armstrong-Bentley Street Music Room Tuesday and Wednesday, or Wendy Cain at the Donnybrook District High School Kindergarten.
Orders/money must be returned by Tuesday, April 3, 2012.

If anyone has any black vests, black ties or long sleeved white shirts to donate, Band students would be very grateful.

New music students, please make sure Mrs Armstrong has your email contact details.

The Band played at the first School Assembly and will do so again on March 27, 2012 at 8.50am in the undercover area.

The next Music Support Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 28, 2012 commencing at 2.45pm.

Art News

After a 9 month wait and working art out of containers, boxes and one small sink, the art lesson was held in the new Art room on Tuesday March 6. The students have exhibited great patience over the past few months as the lack of facilities did limit our project range. We have moved from an old classroom, to a demountable woodwork room to finally having our own space.

We will continue to move properly over the next few months. There will be an official opening later where parents will be invited to come and inspect our new facilities.

Mrs Jessop
IMPORTANT DATES:
Friday March 23 - Yrs 4 - 7 Interschool Swimming Carnival
Friday March 23 - Mead Street Assembly—Yr 1/2
Tuesday March 27 - Bentley Street Assembly
Wednesday March 28 - English Young Writers Excursion - Bunbury
Thursday April 5 - Mead St Assembly— Student Leaders
Thursday April 5 - Last Day of Term 1
Monday April 23 - Teachers and Staff resume
Thursday April 26 - Students start Term 2

Secondary Assistance Yrs 8-10
If you have a Health Care Card or Pensioner Concession Card you will be eligible to claim Secondary Assistance. Please come into the office to complete paperwork as soon as possible. This is your last chance. Thank you.

Wanted—old towels—if you have any to spare the Art Department would make great use of them. Thank you.

Parenting Seminars
Playgroup WA and Perth based company Behaviour Tonics have collaborated to bring Parenting Consultant, Father of 2 and Playgroup Member Brad Williams to Bunbury for 2 Parenting seminars.
Playgroup members will get a very informative and entertaining presentation which will include 10 Practical Take Home tips.
Topics covered will include:
Discipline and why kids need limits; relationship building; empathy & emotional intelligence; developing independence in kids; keeping children safe from abuse and bullying; nurturing social & communication skills; mealt ime issues...plus much more.

When: Monday, April 2 2012
Time: 1 10am—12pm or 7pm—8.30pm
Where: YMCA cnr Ince & Jeffrey Road, Glen Iris
Cost: Members Free Associate Members $10 per person
Non-members $20 per person
Creche: $3.50 per hour (day seminary only)

REGISTRATIONS ESSENTIAL by March 26 2012. Please call our hotline on 1800 171 882 or email workshops@playgroupwa.com.au

CANTEEN—VOLUNTEER ROSTER
Thanks to our fantastic volunteers who have supported the canteen this year. The canteen relies heavily on volunteer assistance, and is in desperate need of volunteer help on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. If you have a spare hour or two on any of the days that are vacant in the roster below, please contact our Canteen Manager, Aleks Jackson on 9713 1457.

Thanks very much to Michelle Antcliffe for the delicious fresh pears and apples she regularly provides to the canteen.
Thank you also to Braiden Armstrong (Bentley Street), and Sharlene Murphy and family (St Mary’s), who both provided the canteen with a beautiful watermelon each, which the children loved. Special mention to Todd Cavazzi who was our first dad to help at the canteen. This is greatly appreciated.

Can YOU help OUR school community?
You are invited to be an active member of the Parents & Citizens (P&C) Association and be involved in what is happening at Donnybrook District High School for 2012.
The P&C exists to support our school and community. The association provides a range of services including the canteen and uniform shops as well as assisting in providing equipment for the school and sponsoring student awards.
Being part of the P&C is a great way to meet other parents and get involved in what is happening throughout the school. It’s an opportunity to develop new skills and gain a greater understanding of your child’s education.
The P&C is open to everyone: parents, caregivers, grandparents, teachers, students and members of the whole community. You can get involved by:
• Helping out at the canteen or uniform shop.
• Attending P&C meetings.
• Volunteering to take on a position in the P&C. Currently we have several openings available and plenty of support is provided.
• Making contact with the P&C to let us know what you’d be interested in being involved in.

For more information phone Steve Thomas 0427 908 717 or Deb Brealey 0411 097 126
Email donnybrookdhs.p.c@gmail.com
Learn, share, participate