

# DONNYBROOK DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL

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NEWSLETTER - Issue 3

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## Principal's Report

As we near the end of Term 1, I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the teachers and education assistants for their work throughout the term. I acknowledge that it has been a demanding start to the year as the school adjusts to a new way of operating under the Student Centred Funding Model and a change in school leadership. It has been a busy term and I commend them on the way they have collaborated to provide an array of opportunities for the Primary and Secondary students.

Importantly the majority of students are endeavouring to improve in all learning areas, which is extremely pleasing to see. A large number of students have certainly impressed their teachers with improvements to their level of work and outcomes they are achieving since the end of last year. These students are also benefiting from their commitment to their homework and study. Well done and please keep up the concerted effort next term.

A special thank you to all the non-teaching staff for the work that goes on behind the scenes to ensure the school runs efficiently. It has been a particularly challenging term and your support has been invaluable.

I must also thank the parents and wider community for the support they have given the students and staff during Term 1. The assistance provided with Homework and Study, as well as the time being offered to help out in classrooms is certainly appreciated and valued. I look forward to this continuing throughout the remainder of 2015.

I know as a school there are areas we need to improve on and I can assure you we are working hard to address these issues. I hope all parents and carers appreciate where we are at and will continue to support our efforts to improve.

I hope everyone has a wonderfully relaxing school holiday. Stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all in Term 2. School commences for students on **Tuesday 21 April**. Monday is a scheduled School Development Day for staff. On the Monday both Primary and Secondary staff will be given an opportunity to participate in workshops lead by staff from a Busselton school.

A copy of the Term 2 planner will be available at the end of next week, this will be emailed to all parents and on the website as well. Please give careful consideration to the planned events and mark these on your calendar.

Garry Davis is taking Long Service Leave for the duration of Term 2. Garry has worked tirelessly over a long period of time and will no doubt enjoy his long service leave. My sincere thanks to him for his commitment to the students of Donnybrook District High School. Garry's position at the Senior Campus is being filled by Neil Robertson and I'm positive Neil will do a wonderful job with this opportunity that been presented to him. Genevieve Mellor has been appointed to the Secondary Humanities and Social Science position. Genevieve is familiar with the students and school and will work closely with Neil to ensure student learning isn't disrupted in this core area.

## Lee Fitzgerald Retirement

At the end of this term we say farewell to Lee Fitzgerald. Lee has worked for the Department of Education for 33 years, with 24 years of service at Donnybrook District High School.

Throughout her career, Lee witnessed many educational changes, impacting significantly on her roles and responsibilities, but through her commitment she helped schools effectively manage these changes. Lee was a valued link between the school and local community, and played a key role in influencing the schooling of thousands of Primary and Secondary students.

On behalf of the school community I would like to express the utmost thanks to Lee for her contribution to the education of the students of Donnybrook. A retirement function is being held on Wednesday 1 April at 3.30pm in the Seniors Room at the Community Library. Parents and community members are most welcome to join staff.

The process of filling the Business Manager's position Lee is vacating will be finalised prior to the end of this term.

## Business Plan

Towards the end of 2014, Jeff Brown and I commenced work on a new Business Plan. My

The priority areas have been renamed, but maintain similarities;

1. Excellence in Teaching and Learning
2. School Community Partnerships
3. Learning environment

There are broad Strategic Directions, Specific Strategies and Targets/Milestones for each priority. These have been developed based on;

- Key Department of Education documents such as Focus 2015
- Our 2013 Independent School Review Findings and Recommendations
- Ongoing student Assessment and Data
- Our Existing Business Plan
- Staff, Parent and Student Feedback/Thoughts

The Business Plan provides a narrative of the school and our intended journey over the next two-three years. It provides the school and the School Board with a clear direction that is designed to support long term school improvement. A copy of the Business Plan has been placed on the school's website and I welcome any feedback from parents and carers. Please take a look so you can develop a better understanding of where Donnybrook District High School is heading.

### Interim Reports

Secondary staff are in the process of finalising Term 1 Interim Reports for all students in Years 7-10. These reports are designed to provide parents and carers with an overview of how their child/ren have commenced the 2015 school year. Importantly they indicate whether there is a genuine commitment to their studies and if they are coping with the course contents and expectations being placed upon them. For the majority of students they are tracking well, however there are a number of students in each year group who do need to reflect on these reports and ensure that they make the most of the opportunities presented to them throughout Terms 2 - 4. Parents and carers are urged to discuss these reports with their child/ren and also take the time to meet with staff if this has been requested. Please be assured that if an interview isn't requested, you are still most welcome to touch base with any or all of the teachers.



Jeanette Hutchison and Marg Howlett are also producing Interim Reports for their Year 6 students which will provide them, together with their parents and carers, a snapshot of their start to their final year of Primary school. This is a critical year as they establish the foundation that will set them up for success in lower Secondary school.

### ANZAC Service

The school will be holding an ANZAC service on Friday 24 April for all Primary and Secondary students. This will be held at the Memorial Hall on Bentley St commencing at 9.30am. Parents and community members are most welcome to attend.



### 2015 Year 7 Camp

Parents and carers of Year 7 students are advised that the camp to Pemberton has been rescheduled to November. The camp was originally booked for Week 3 next term, however alternative dates were made available by the Pemberton Camp School so we took up the opportunity to re-book the camp for the end of this year.

### School Board



The School Board met on Monday 23 March for our second scheduled meeting for Term 1.

At this meeting we welcomed our new elected members, Sally Young, Daniel Wiseman, David

Watson and Eliza Miller. It is fantastic to have this group join the board and I'm genuinely looking forward to working closely with each of them in the pursuit of excellence throughout the school. At this meeting we also said farewell and thanks to our School Board Chair, Pip Murdoch. Pip has been on the School Board/Council over a long period of time and during her tenure has committed herself to supporting Donnybrook District High School.

On behalf of the Donnybrook School Community, I would like to thank Pip and wish her the very best. Congratulations and thanks to Neil Pemberton-Ovens for stepping up to the role of Chair, I'm positive he will do a wonderful job and be well supported.

**Jamie Milne**  
Principal



**SECONDARY FACTION ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**  
VC MITCHELL PARK  
FRIDAY 27 MARCH, 2015



Year 7-10  
Starting 9.30am  
All parents/ carers welcome, come along and enjoy the day.

## Junior Campus News

### Scitech



A couple of weeks ago Scitech came to the school. The year fours to sixes did **H<sup>2</sup>O** and the ones to threes did **Air**. We had a show and a workshop. In the workshop you had to

make a dam that could hold water and not let any water through. I think Scitech was amazing and I wish they could come every year.

**Tom Anderson**

Donnybrook District High School was lucky enough to get Scitech to come to our school. Shelley and Michael from Scitech did a range of activities. There was a "Where is Air?" Workshop and show for the years Kindy to year 3.



There was also a "H<sub>2</sub>O" show and workshop for years 4 – 6 where they tried their best to build a dam. I think the whole school enjoyed Shelley and Michael when they showed us Scitech!

**Charli Clark**

### Harmony Day

On Friday 20 March we had Harmony Day. We all dressed up in different colours. It was amazing seeing everyone in so many colours. Even the High School kids dressed up. We had a special guest whose name was Mona



Williams. She talked to us about racism and about her life. It was really interesting. Overall I think Harmony Day was really good. We would all really like to thank Ms McLoughlin for organising the whole event and to the teachers for bringing the secondary students up to Mead St.

**Charlotte Powell**



Last Friday was Harmony Day. Almost everyone dressed up in their brightest and most colourful

clothing. After lunch everyone went to the Assembly area. A lady name Mona Williams spoke to us, she is from New Zealand and was born in Guyana (It was called British Guiana back then). The first thing she did was to introduce herself and then she called up people that have Aboriginal in them and thanked them with a song and dance. In the dance she used a stick with a stringy thing on the end. She thanked them and their ancestors for letting her into their homeland.

She was really nice and had a very strong big voice. She started telling stories. The first story was called 'Strong Medicine'. Then she told us a story called 'The Lion and the Mouse'. I think Mona was a very good storyteller and I really enjoyed it and wish I could tell stories like her.

**Cynda Davis**

Harmony Day was great it was so good to see so many people attending the event with such colourful clothes. I think it was great to see the high schoolers playing well with the primary schoolers. Plus the act by Mona Williams was really funny with her stories as well.

**Steele Turner**

### Harmony Day Interaction

Mr Little's Year 5's and Mrs Smith's Year 1's participated in two fun activities on Friday morning.



The Year 5's played a memory card game, using picture pairs of fish, with the Year 1's. The other activity was having the Year 1's draw pictures of things in an alphanumeric grid the Year 5's had created.

### Loose Parts Junior Campus"

Last week a group of teachers joined community members and health workers in a workshop presented by Nature Play Solutions to learn more about the theory and application of "Loose Parts Play". While we are proud of our own nature-play provisions at the Junior Campus we recognise that there is more to be provided for a wider range of students in terms of play. Having access to a range of re-cycled materials and objects goes a long way to providing creative play opportunities for children.

We anticipate acquiring materials to have Loose Parts as part of our recess and lunch experience for our students. Emma and Ruth from Nature Play Solutions also worked with parents and children to help us gain further insight into the value of this program.

Thank you to those parents who attended and to those who have offered support, we will be canvassing your views, to help create our position statement on "Creative Play at DDHS Junior Campus" Loose Parts Play is also being offered as part of the Donnybrook Balingup Shire's school holiday program at the Bentley Street campus on Tuesday 7 April 1-2pm. For more information contact the Shire Office on 9780 4200.

## Deputy Principal's Report Bentley Street Campus

**In-Term Swimming 3 March to 13 March:** All Year 7 students completed two weeks of In-Term Swimming. Well done to all on achieving their new certificates. Special thanks to the swimming teachers for passing on vital life-saving and fitness skills.

**TAFE Guest Speaker:** Our Year 9/10 students were given the opportunity to discuss apprenticeships and how to attain them through TAFE. The expectations that TAFE have for standards in Maths and English (C or above) were explained, and the points system for entry to TAFE including First Aid Certificate (which is being completed on the 24 and 26 March) and the White Card which students will achieve shortly. All go towards achieving a TAFE enrolment.

**Whole School Harmony Day Friday 20 March:** Last Friday the Bentley Street students with Good Standing were taken up to Mead Street after morning tea. There students listened to Mona Williams who has written 24 children's stories and is a world travelled storyteller. She gave an enthralling account of how students need to make the very best of what they have got. She clearly explained how the tougher your circumstance the more you need to have an education to rise and be successful. Everyone in Donnybrook has the ability to be a success in life was her key message. (After lunch the Mead Street students listened to Mona. (Their reports are

contained within this newsletter.)

Following this talk all Bentley Street students spent the entire lunch hour with the Primary School students. All students instantly intermingled which was a brilliant example of how our wonderful students are able to get on so well together. This was a key message that comes through the format of Harmony Day.

Special congratulations again to Ms Jonelle McLoughlin who co-ordinated the whole school harmony message. We appreciate positive enthusiasm in supporting all students to have access to the messages of harmony in our community.

**Cyber-Safety Talk: Nola Marino:** A special thanks to Nola Marino MP who came to the school on Friday 13 March and spoke to the Year 7 and 8s first and followed with a talk to the Year 9/10 group. She spoke first-hand about the very real dangers that are posed to students on the internet in general, as well as the positive and negatives about social media, with Facebook being very well covered. Her personal experience with people severely impacted by social media in close by Bunbury made all students and staff sit up and take notice of her key messages. This valuable talk gave all students and staff in attendance a valuable insight on what to watch for, what to avoid in the modern world where the kids are the real experts. Students are now better informed on how to deal with the internet in a much safer way.

**Mr Garry Davis Secondary Deputy**

## Music News

The Apple Festival is on Saturday April 4 and a note has been sent home with all the details for the band regarding the band performance.

For more detailed information please check the website [www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au](http://www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au)

The next Music Support Group Meeting is planned for Tuesday May 12 at 3.15pm in Music Room at the Senior Campus.

**Wendy Armstrong**



## IMPORTANT DATES

<b>Friday</b>	<b>27 March</b>	<b>Interim Reports posted out - Years 6 - 10</b>
Friday	27 March	Senior Campus Faction Athletics Carnival - VC Mitchell Park
Tuesday	31 March	Junior Campus Motor Cycle Awareness Training
Wednesday	1 April	Senior Campus Motor Cycle Awareness Training
Thursday	2 April	Last day of school for staff and students
Monday	20 April	School Development Day - school closed for students
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>21 April</b>	<b>First Day Term 2 for students</b>

**Uniform Shop open every Wednesday 8.30 am to 9.00am in the  
Community Library Emerald Street, Donnybrook**

**Every  
Wednesday  
Early Closure:  
Junior Campus 2:35  
Senior Campus 2:45**



# ----- **NEWS FLASH!** -----

**The 2015 DDHS P&C Footy Tipping Competition is about to commence .....**

**If you have already registered, then sit back and relax, otherwise.....**

**Please REGISTER NOW only 1 week to go!**

**Register for the DDHS P&C Footy Tipping Competition today on**

**<http://www.footytipping.net.au/ddhspandc/>**

*Please help us with our fundraising by forwarding the details of this great competition to your family and friends...**SHARE THE FUN!***

**Competition Registration closes Thursday, 2 April, 2015 at 4pm WST**

**The DDHS P&C Footy Tipping Competition continues to have the best prizes around with a *weekly prize of \$70* being awarded to the best tipper, *lucky ladder position spot prizes* and**

***a grand final prize of \$5000.***



## **POPPIES FOR ANZAC DAY**

A 'Poppy Wall' display is currently being created for our ANZAC Day service this year. Several classes are taking part in making poppies for this display from a variety of materials. If you would like to crochet, knit or make poppies in some form for this wall please contact Chantelle Wood at the Senior Campus or Jeanette Hutchison at the Junior Campus. The following websites have some suggestions on how to make poppies are listed below. Could all poppies please be delivered to school by **Wednesday 22 April**. Poppies may also be delivered to the Donnybrook Library.

<https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/poppy-patterns/><https://5000poppies.wordpress.com/poppy-patterns/>

<http://www.lionbrand.com/cgi-bin/faq-search.cgi?store=/stores/eyarn&faqKey=498>

<http://blog.themakingspot.com/blog/knit-your-own-poppy><http://blog.themakingspot.com/blog/knit-your-own-poppy>

Thank you very much

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