Latest News

Magic Moments – Youth Leadership and Business Summit

During the Term 2 school break, Skye Dalton-Hill and Tim Mountford, two of our current students and Emily Fernley, one of our former students, jetted off to Sydney to attend the Youth Leadership and Business Summit held in Sydney. The students were selected from a pool of nominees with sponsorship from the Bendigo Bank.

The students were given the fantastic opportunity to meet with other students from all over Australia and engage with some of the world’s most influential entrepreneurs and motivational speakers.

The Summit was designed to give students the opportunity to explore life pathways they may never have considered in business, wealth creation, motivation, and leadership. The speakers included Marlon Smith, an ex Silicon Valley engineer who began a foundation to help high school students called “Street Academics”. Brent William, author and award-winning “Leader of the Year” recipient. Heather Yelland, a career and business motivational speaker. Rachel Bell, a “Young Entrepreneur of the Year” recipient, motivational speaker with a focus on youth wellbeing. Dr Matt Mannino, a Physicist and Neuroscientist who specialises in wealth creation. Andrew Davey, business owner and entrepreneur. Savannah Jackson, an expert in stock market trade and Dale White, an entrepreneur in personal training.

The students spent five days in Sydney interacting with other young people from all over Australia. Skye and Tim both really enjoyed meeting other students who were interested and engaged in career goal setting and leadership. They learnt many valuable life skills and were exposed to financial ideas that many adults wish they had. One of the Summit’s goals is to provide students with skills, including some they won’t appreciate until later in life.

The Summit left such an impression with Skye that she is planning to apply to be a Youth Mentor for next year.

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Welcome back to Semester 2 and 20 weeks of learning that will focus on supporting your child in preparation for their next year of schooling. The Western Australian Curriculum, together with the school’s Business Plan and Operational Plans, will focus staff on meeting the needs of our students. I have no doubt that Terms 3 and 4 will be busy, but importantly they will be exciting and engaging for students from Kindergarten to Year 10. A look at the term planner highlights some of the many wonderful opportunities being provided to the students of Donnybrook District High School.

I have returned from my extended break refreshed and reenergised and with your continued support, ready to progress a number of new initiatives and tackle the challenges that lay ahead. My sincere thanks to Jeff Brown, Garry Davis and Neil Robertson for their work throughout Term 2. I appreciated the opportunity step out of the school, knowing that there would be a continual focus on the core business of improving student learning.

Congratulations to the students for the way they have applied themselves to their work in the first couple of weeks. It is genuinely reassuring to see the bulk of our students engaged and committed to their learning. For the Primary students who were involved in swimming lessons, this is always a challenge, but from all reports they have been superb. For the Secondary students who are participating in our trip to Canberra, Jindabyne and Sydney, they haven’t let the excitement distract from their studies and should be congratulated for their work ethic. The Western Australian Curriculum demands a lot from the students, as they aim to meet the increasing standards that are placed upon them.

I hope the students have taken the time to reflect on their Semester 1 Reports and overall progress throughout Terms 1 and 2. It would be beneficial for them to set themselves a goal or two and strive to achieve these. The staff will be looking to meet the needs of all students and I would like the students to play their part in their education. Secondary parents were provided with an opportunity to meet with teachers last week and I thank those parents who were involved in this process. If the time provided wasn’t long enough, you are most welcome to arrange a further meeting with any relevant teachers. I would urge Primary parents to please take the time to meet with the teachers if an interview was requested on the reports by classroom or learning area teachers. If an interview wasn’t requested, you are still more than welcome to meet with teachers to clarify any issues or concerns you may have. You are also most welcome to take the time to meet with me and you can do this by calling in for a chat or phoning the school to arrange a time.

Our Deputy Principal, Garry Davis, has taken leave for the remainder of the term. To ensure continuity, Neil Robertson will remain in the Secondary Deputy role and Tiffany Leeder will continue teaching Humanities and Social Sciences. Chantelle Wood will replace Anthea Horton on a Friday, teaching English and Home Economics. Wendy Mountford has been appointed to the Year 2 class (Monday-Wednesday), replacing Liz Elkington who is on leave for the rest of 2016. Deb Cann is on leave for the remainder of Term 3 and her position has been filled by Lena King. Our Pre-Primary teachers Julie Atherton and Michelle Fernley have had their work fractions increased to cover the retirement of Pam Ucich. There will also be a number of staff replaced at various times throughout Semester 2 as they act on a directive from the Department of Education to clear any of their remaining Long Service Leave entitlements. This isn’t an ideal situation, but one that is unavoidable and impacting on all Western Australian Public Schools.

Attendance
As part of the Reporting to Parents process, teachers indicated on the Semester 1 Reports the number of half days your child/ren have been absent from school. Please give careful consideration to the number reported as regular attendance at school is essential to ensure learning is not disrupted.

In Semester 1 2015 70.8% of our students attended school regularly, however in Semester 1 2016, this dropped to 69.8%. Regular attendance requires a student not to miss more than 10 days a semester. Attendance is a priority area of the Department of Education and therefore must be a focus of schools. I ask all parents and carers to please consider this and if possible minimise the time your child/ren are away from school.

Trip to Canberra, Jindabyne and Sydney
This Sunday, 33 students accompanied by Neil Robertson. Tiffany Leeder, Michelle Sutton (parent) and myself, depart for Canberra, the Snowy Mountains and Sydney. The group will spend Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday morning touring Canberra and visiting attractions that include Parliament House, Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House), Australian War Memorial, Questacon and the Australian Institute of Sport. On Wednesday afternoon the group will head to Jindabyne to settle in for two days of action packed skiing at Perisher Mountain. On Saturday afternoon the group
the group returns to Canberra to fly out to Sydney, providing the students with an opportunity to discover this iconic city over two days. Luna Park, Sydney Aquarium and Madame Tussauds Wax Museum will entertain the students and compliment their sightseeing tour of Sydney Harbour.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit their national capital as part of their civics and citizenship education. To assist parents and carers in meeting the cost of the trip, the Australian Government is contributing funding of $260 to each student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate (PACER) programme towards the travel expenses incurred. We would like to thank the Australian Government for their support of this program.

Thank you to the parents of Year 9 and 10 students for embracing this unique opportunity and a special thanks to Neil Robertson, Tiffany Leeder and Michelle Sutton for volunteering their time to attend.

**Combined Donnybrook District High School and Collie Area Concert Bands' Camp**

An exciting event is looming for the Donnybrook District High School Concert Band as they combine with Collie Band students from Collie Senior High School, Amaroo and Allanson Primary Schools to go on their bi-annual camp. On the morning of Friday August 2 they will be heading to Edith Cowan University and the WA Academy of Performing Arts for a workshop and tour with Dr Geoffrey Lowe, and will go on to their accommodation at Ern Halliday Sport and Recreation Camp in Hillarys.

The weekend will be full of rehearsals, rehearsals, rehearsals as well as lots of team building and recreational activities, then some more rehearsals! As always, the students are likely to be tired but pleased with the enormous amount of achievement resulting from rehearsals and what comes to those who work hard and play hard. Well......that's the plan, as, on Sunday they will perform at the Churchlands Concert Hall in the WA Schools' Band Festival. This event is exciting for all who get to participate as bands aim to play at the very best standard possible alongside around 90 other bands from across the state. Internationally acclaimed adjudicators provide feedback and ratings to bands and also feedback to conductors on their work. After all the work, and having experienced the elation of performance in an outstanding auditorium, the students get to have some down time and fun with a session of ice skating before heading home. We look forward to reporting back after the big weekend!

**Kindergarten Enrolments**

Donnybrook District High School, like all Public Schools, has commenced taking enrolments for Kindergarten in 2017. The Department of Education is encouraging all parents and carers to enrol as early as possible to secure a placement. Enrolments are for children turning four by 30 June 2017. When enrolling, parents and carers need to bring their child’s birth certificate, immunisation records and proof of current address.

Kindergarten is a wonderland of painting and story time; of talking and listening; of exploring the world; and of making new friends. Children begin to build on what they have learned at home. This includes their understanding of language – that language is made up of words, that written words are made up of letters in the alphabet, and that spoken sounds can be written down. They also learn about numbers and shapes, and the many different ways we use maths in our lives every day.

These early lessons help children later with reading, spelling, language and maths skills. Teachers take into account the many different experiences and backgrounds of children in the classroom to make sure the learning program helps each child. Children learn social skills by playing with other children and sharing equipment. Play allows children to share and take turns while developing coordination and confidence.

All of these experiences are vital to their future learning. If you would like further information you are encouraged to make contact with the school. A package will be sent out to parents and carers of enrolled students in Term 4 and there will be scheduled information and introduction sessions before the end of the school year.

**Voluntary Contributions**

As we enter the second half of the 2016 school year, I am arranging for invoices to be sent home asking parents and carers to pay their outstanding contributions and/or charges. Donnybrook District High School relies on parents and carers to contribute towards their child’s schooling through payment of these invoices. As part of our financial planning each year we budget to receive voluntary contributions together with all outstanding charges. With these funds, we are able to deliver the programs and supply the resources that ensure the students of our community are provided with an array of opportunities during their schooling at Donnybrook District High School.

In 2016 we have invested significantly in upgrading our learning environments, purchasing English resources and the employment of additional staff to support student learning throughout Primary and Secondary.
Secondary Deputy Principal

As we start a busy semester it is important for all parents and students to know that the school is here to support student learning and achievement. If you are concerned about the progress of your child in any subject area it is important to be aware of the help that is available in every subject area. Teachers are available during breaks and after school to support student learning, provide help and guidance and for revision programs. Please communicate with your child’s classroom teacher or the front office to ensure that your child’s learning needs are being met.

The Year 9/10 Camp to Canberra, Jindabyne and Sydney leaves this week. We take 33 Year 9/10 students who are all excited about the next few days especially, the 143cm of snow on the ski fields. The school will run as normal over the six school days we are away with all learning areas and option classes running. All remaining Year 9/10 students are reminded attendance at school is compulsory and expected.

Blog address to follow us all at camp is http://ddhs2016.blogspot.com.au/

Uniform continues to be an issue in the cooler months at school. Please refer to our uniform policy which is found in the front of the school diary to ensure that your child is correctly attired. Denim and black is not part of the school uniform and nor are leggings. The school uniform shop is open on a Wednesday morning from 8:00am – 8:40am.

On a final note please remember to update the front office about your child’s absences from school. It is a legal requirement for all children to attend school and it is expected that you send a note or contact the school when your child is going to be absent or to explain an absence. Please try to avoid taking your child out of school for appointments unless absolutely necessary.

Associate Principal

It is good to be back at the Junior Campus again this Term, even though I very much enjoyed my time at the Senior Campus last term. Thank you to Mr Davis for keeping the Junior Campus running smoothly and welcome back to Mr Milne!

Most parents who had a request for interview indicated on their child’s report have organised or already had teacher/parent discussions. Those of you who have not yet booked a time, please do so. Remember it is our aim to work in partnership with parents in the best interests of every student in the school.

Swimming lessons are over for this year and despite some cold mornings the pool was always warm and the children enjoyed building their swimming skills. Thank you to all the swimming teachers and to Brenda and Sally who kept the organisation tight.

Please keep an eye on the School Planner and if you have not done so already download our “Skoolbag” app to receive important notifications from the school. It is National Science Week from August 15-19 and the Year 4s will be visiting the Duyfken on August 25.

Artists of the Month

Girls in Art

The Year 8 girls are dominating the art scene this week with some spectacular Pop Art inspired shoe paintings completed last term. Sevina Jones, Alex Hendry and Sophie Pemberton-Ovens works were selected because of their outstanding drawing skills, creative original compositions and careful painting techniques. All artworks will be submitted in the up and coming Visions Art Exhibition in Bunbury next term.

P&C Uniform Survey

Unfortunately the recent uniform survey received insufficient responses to give clear direction to the P&C, so the Uniform Shop is once again seeking your feedback on the current uniform.

The P&C Uniform Survey has been re-opened and we seek your input by asking all parents/carers, who have not already done so, to please take 5 minutes to complete the survey by 4:00pm on Friday 26 August 2016.

The survey can be found at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/933DTJZ
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<td>Yr 9/10 Canberra Trip</td>
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<td>Return Yr 9/10 Canberra Trip NATIONAL SCIENCE WEEK</td>
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<td>School Board Meeting 4:30pm JC 2.35 Early Close SC 2.45 Early Close</td>
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<td>Road Trauma Prevention Yr 10 Alyssa Autism Visit Yr 4 &amp; 6's at 2pm</td>
<td>9:00am Jnr Campus Assembly – 5 GL NEWSLETTER JC 2.35 Early Close SC 2.45 Early Close</td>
<td>&quot;Duyfken&quot; Visit in Bunbury Yr 4's 12.00 - 2.00pm School Photo Day Senior Campus &amp; Kindy 1</td>
<td>PMP Primary Winter Sports Carnival @ Leschenault Leisure Centre School Photo Day Junior Campus &amp; Kindy 2</td>
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<td>BOOK WEEK Yr 10 OLNA TESTING</td>
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**Parents/ Carers/ Students:**
The Apple Fun Park will be closed to the public on Wednesday 17 August for maintenance works. Shire of Donnybrook Balingup

**Start and End of Term**
**Public Holidays**
**School Holidays (students)**
**School Development Days**

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**KNOWLEDGE AND PROGRESS**