LATEST NEWS

**GATE Program**

Congratulations to Ethan Smith for being accepted into the GATE (Gifted and Talented Education) Program run at Bunbury Senior High School. In order to be considered for a placement in the program, students sit a comprehensive exam. The exam took place in the Term 2 school holidays.

Ethan was offered a place and has accepted. We wish Ethan well and hope he enjoys the GATE program.

**Family Picnic at the Junior Campus Oval**

**Wednesday 14 December**

11:30 until the end of the school day

Hamburger and Sausage in a bun, Juice Boxes and Water, Icy Poles stalls and a Coffee Van will be available. IGA have kindly donated the food for the stalls.

Come and have fun on the Bouncy Castles.

Bring your own picnic blanket, chairs and shade.

Look forward to seeing you there.

**Junior Uniforms:**

9:30am till 11:30am at the Junior Campus Office.

**Senior Uniforms:**

12 noon till 2pm in the Meeting Room at the Community Library, Emerald Street.

Hours for Wednesday, 1 February will be 10am till 11am at the Senior Campus. We will revert to normal hours the following week.

If you would like to pre-order uniforms, an order form can be obtained from the schools web site [www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au](http://www.donnybrook.wa.edu.au) and then emailed to ddhsuniformorders@gmail.com

We wish you all a safe and happy holiday.

**In this Issue**

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As the school year draws to a rapid close, we are busy finalising arrangements for the Year 10 Graduation and the Year 1-9 Presentation Assembly and Family Picnic. These events will be exciting conclusions to Term 4 and importantly a wonderful way to end the school year on a positive note.

I look forward to seeing all parents and carers of our Graduating Year 10s on Monday 12 December, with the Graduation Ceremony set to commence at 5.00pm. Following this, the students will enjoy a wonderful evening at Barton Jones Winery, indulging in a three course meal. It is fantastic to secure this venue, which will provide a unique and relaxing setting, whilst at the same time support the Donnybrook Community.

I hope that the majority of families can be represented at the Presentation Assembly on Wednesday 14 December. This is being held at the Recreation Centre, commencing at 10.00am sharp. The School Concert Band and Junior Campus Choir will be entertaining everyone throughout the Presentation Assembly.

At the conclusion of the Presentation Assembly, all students will take part in a Family Picnic at the Junior Campus. Brad Johnson from Donnybrook IGA has kindly donated sausages, hamburgers, juices boxes and water and icy poles for the students and their families. This is a wonderful gesture that is most appreciated. Parents and carers may bring along a picnic to share with their child/ren. The school has organised a number of inflatable castles to entertain the students for a few hours. Parents and carers of Kindergarten and Pre-Primary students are reminded that they are invited to attend the picnic with their child/ren.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank both the staff and the School Community for their ongoing support throughout this year. I believe that together we have continued to move forward as a school for the betterment of the students. I am now in possession of the Draft Independent Public School Review Report and am genuinely very pleased with the findings as it confirms the extent to which we are continually improving. It identifies the schools’ strengths, together with areas the school needs to focus on. Importantly there were no surprises as our thorough Self Review process prior to the external review was accurate. The Report will be the catalyst for our next Business Plan that will be developed at the beginning of 2017. I look forward to sharing both the Report and the Business Plan with you in the new year.

The teaching and support staff at Donnybrook District High School have worked tirelessly throughout 2016 to support the students they are entrusted to teach. I therefore urge you to write notes of encouragement and thanks to those that have assisted in the development of your child/ren to show your appreciation. Please take the time to do this as it will mean so much to the staff!

A special thank you to the staff whose contracts finish at the end of this year. Katrina Taaffe who has delivered Science on the Junior Campus over the past few years. Katrina’s leadership and passion for Science will be missed. Venessa Hendry who has supported the Year 7s in the core areas of English, Mathematics, Science and Humanities and Social Sciences. Venessa’s knowledge and experience ensured this newly introduced approach was a success. Tiffany Leeder who was appointed to the Secondary Humanities and Social Science position for Terms 2-4. Tiffany established fantastic relationships with the students that supported the learning in this core area. Michelle Harris who has filled in for Denise Duncan in the second half of the year. Michelle’s passion, energy and knowledge in Health and Physical Education, ensured the students were well catered for in Denise’s absence. Lena King who has filled in for Deb Cann and other Primary staff throughout 2016. Lena’s enthusiasm and enjoyment for teaching was most appreciated. Thank you also to the large number of temporary staff who have filled various roles as staff were directed to exhaust all of their leave entitlements before the end of this year. Your contribution was most valued!

I sincerely hope the School Community has a wonderful holiday over December and January and you get the opportunity to take a well-earned break and catch up with family and friends. All staff will be back at work on Monday 30 January. Students are due back on Wednesday 1 February.

2017 Packages
A number of important documents were sent home two weeks ago. These include a copy of the 2017
Contributions and Charges and the 2017 Personal Items List. An updated School Information Booklet was also compiled and included in the pack for your reference. If you didn’t receive a copy, please contact the Front Office at the Senior Campus to arrange for a package to be sent home.

**Semester 2 Reports**

Semester 2 reports will be distributed to students in Week 10. Please take the time to discuss the report with your child and if necessary arrange a time to discuss your child’s progress with the teachers in Term 1 2017.

To further support the Year 7 student’s transition to Secondary school, Jeff Brown will be arranging meetings between parents and carers of all Year 7s early in Term 1. The meetings are compulsory and are designed to focus on the progress of the students and the expectations that are being put in place for 2017 and beyond.

**End of Year**

**Thank You**

I would like to wish Joanne Atherton many thanks for her work at the Junior Campus this year. Jo has been a key factor in the success of the Junior Language program and the students’ progress is testament to this. A big thank you Jo and best wishes for 2017.

**Meryl Spykers**

Many people in the community will by now be aware that Martin’s wife, Meryl passed away on Saturday. There are a number of staff who worked with Martin for quite a few years in his role as Associate Principal at the Junior Campus and our thoughts and condolences go out to Martin and his family.

**How Can I Help?**

I hear many parents asking how they can help with their child’s education and with the holidays coming up thought that this would be a good opportunity to share some ideas:

Let your children be children. Give them time for unstructured play, preferably outside. Let them choose their friends and help them arrange safe gatherings of friends where they can play their own games, which may or may not involve sporting equipment. Have lots of “un-rubbish” around for them to play with, to build with, to pull apart and de-construct. Encourage them to read, take them to your local library to borrow books and to join in any holiday activities. Talk about their books with them. Read to them regularly. Cook with them, measure ingredients and talk about how things change when mixed together, whipped and heated. Have pencils, crayons, pens, watercolour paints and plenty of paper at hand. Have them draw or paint what they see, from their memory and from their imagination. If possible have clay or play dough to create 3D forms and objects. Make sure they are doing stuff around the house to help. Talk to them about having pride in and caring for their environment; home, community and natural environment. Start a kitchen garden. Have them list ways you could use less water and electricity. Get them to help with the shopping list and the shopping. Get them to organise a picnic in the back yard. Have them make a cubby in the back yard (and sleep in it overnight!) With their siblings or friends; put on a talent show or organise a family quiz night (morning or afternoon even). Go fishing, measure fish, go snorkeling, watch out for big fish with teeth, count seashells, walk along a bush track, along a beach, honestly, there are a million things to do and so many can be adapted to suit any age-group! It may also be a good idea to monitor and minimise screen time too; consoles, iPads, TV etc.

If you are feeling highly energetic yourself then teach some science, using the great ideas at: [http://atomickids.org/](http://atomickids.org/)

Kids helpline advise that some children find it difficult to know what to do with themselves when they aren’t being organised like they are at school. But, if you encourage them to look around and use their imagination, there is always plenty to do.

**First Aid Course**

The Year 10’s completed their Provide First Aid course on the 24 and 25 November. All the students did really well on the practical experience component of the course. This gives them a valuable certificate to take onto TAFE, Senior Secondary as well as into the workplace. It also, it gives them critical lifesaving skills for the future.
Certificate Courses
I have been very pleased with the progress of the Certificate Courses. These new initiatives have given students an aim for the future. I have already seen a number of students who have mapped out their future because of the experience with their Certificate Course this year. The valuable skills gained in Agrifoods Operations have created links for students wanting to attend Harvey Agricultural College as an example. Added to this, students now understand the agriculture base of Donnybrook and realise there are jobs such as nursery work available through the skills learnt. Students who have completed the Engineering Certificate 1 also see the links to Cert 2 courses at TAFE. Students of Cert 1 Hospitality have also shown a great level of pride in their practice assessments. A number of students have shown a keen interest in taking this skill into the workplace or following up at TAFE. It is great to see students building their future pathways through the experiences this year.

Thank You
As this is the last newsletter for the year I would like to thank all staff for their solid support since my return in Term 4. I would also like to thank all the administration and support staff for their excellent behind the scenes work which keeps the school running efficiently: Mrs Long, Mrs Bible, Mrs Cross and Mrs Williams for their work in the Senior Campus Administration. Well done to Mrs Reynolds, Mrs Priest and Mrs Johnstone in Education Support. Also, well done to Ms Kelly in Home Economics, Ms Sue Field in the Science Laboratory, and Ms Barbara Kay in the Library. Well done and thanks.

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Thanks to parents, staff and students for their feedback in creating the Positive Behaviour Matrix that will form the basis of the Whole School Positive Behavior Management Plan. The PBS team, consisting of staff from the Junior and Senior Campus, has worked strongly behind the scenes to create the new Positive Behaviour in Schools template. We now have a solid platform to start 2017 off with a positive framework to guide all students and staff. The key outcome of this will be consistent messages and the teaching of key behavior skills for a positive future.

I would like to wish all the Year 10 students Graduating on Monday 12 December all the best for a very positive future. Last year’s Year 10 Graduates have mostly settled into employment, and done well at Senior Secondary, and in a number of cases won high level awards at Manea’s end of Year Award night. We wish you the same level of success no matter what direction you all take.

The Principal, Deputy’s, Staff and Students
I hope that you have a wonderful Christmas this year and that you will have a good time of rest over the holidays. May you all come back refreshed and ready for 2017. Those that will leave us and go on to Year 11 at another school, I hope that the new chapter in your life will be pleasant but also challenging, because through challenges we accomplish much.

Len Van Aarde
Youthcare Chaplain DDHS

Year 10 Graduation Ceremony
Monday 12 December

Commencing at 5:00pm in the undercover area at the Senior Campus. 
Hope to see all Year 10 parents/carers and family members at this ceremony to celebrate the completion of the Year 10’s schooling at Donnybrook District High School.

Year 10 students at the conclusion of the Graduation Ceremony will travel by bus to attend the Graduation Dinner at Barton Jones Winery in Donnybrook. They will be returning back to the school at approx. 10:00pm

Invacuation Junior Campus
During Bushfire season the Junior Campus has planned to keep students safe in the event of a bushfire suddenly occurring.

There is the choice of evacuating students to the Recreation Centre as our Off Site Evacuation point. However, if there is not enough time, the Fire and Rescue, DFES controller will direct all students on site to go to the safest place. This is called an Invacuation. The agreed safe place in meeting with DFES on the Junior Campus is the Year 1 / 2 Cluster.

We will have a drill on Tuesday 13 December at 11.30am where all students Invacuate to the Year 1/2 Cluster to test the process. Early in the school year we will repeat the drill to ensure all are familiar with the safe place.
Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to announce that the Summer Reading Club is taking place at the Donnybrook Community Library these summer holidays.

Last year the Summer Reading Club was a huge success!

- Over 48,000 children participated across Australia, and
- more than 333,000 books were read.

Celebrating its sixth year as a national program, the Summer Reading Club could be even bigger and better this year, with the help of your school!

The theme for the 2016 Summer Reading Club is **Heroes and Villains**. Young readers will be encouraged to engage with a variety of traditional and non-traditional heroes and heroines as they explore the themes and conventions associated with super and everyday heroes, and their villainous counterparts.

Books are not limited to this theme, and participants may read anything they choose.

Registration is FREE! When participants register at our library they will receive a Summer Reading Pack, they can also register through the Summer Reading Club website at [www.summerreadingclub.org.au](http://www.summerreadingclub.org.au)

National prizes are also up for grabs for those who participate in the online activities.

For more information, please contact the Donnybrook Community Library.

Yours sincerely,

Esme Kidd
Teacher/Community Librarian
Donnybrook Community Library
[Donnybrookrc@education.wa.edu.au](mailto:Donnybrookrc@education.wa.edu.au)
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### 2017 PLANNER

#### Term One

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