Duval High School officially launched the Positive Behaviour for Learning initiative on Thursday, 28 February 2013. Students, parents, staff and community members participated in a day of celebrations to recognise this important milestone in our school’s history.

The celebrations began with a whole school assembly, during which Charlie Winter from EACH spoke of the importance of our core values – Community, Respect, Excellence, Safety and Teamwork (CREST), in the workplace. The whole school community participated in a flash mob, which was a fun way to end the assembly.

After, the students were treated to lunch and then had a great afternoon of activities at the town pool.

More photos on page 6

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- **8 March** > School Photos catch up day
- **12-14 March** > Art/Drama Excursion to Sydney
- **19 March, 3.50-6.50** > Parent Teacher Interviews
- **21 March** > Harmony Day
- **21 March** > 1st Vaccination Day - All Yr 7 students and Yr 9 Boys (see Page 2)
- **2-5 April** > Year 8 Moonee Beach Excursion
- **2-9 April** > Year 12 Half Yearly Exams

**ATTENTION PARENTS AND CARERS OF YEAR 7 AND 10 STUDENTS**

Please note that on some of the accounts for school fees there are two amounts which are not correctly explained:

$20 **one per family**, is the P&C contribution. This amount is an annual fee per family, not per child.

$10 **one per family**, is the Library contribution. This is a one-off payment for each child when they are first enrolled at school.
PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

As you will know, we recently celebrated our official Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) Launch Day.

This was a very significant day for Duval High School, and indeed for any school which is undertaking the PBL journey – we can now really lay claim to the statement that PBL is the driving force at Duval and helps to shape everything we do.

I remember when I first heard about PBL. It was at a special meeting held at Tamworth South Public School. The Principal, Chris Shaw, told us a story about how he came to view PBL as the way forward for his school. A small kindergarten child was running along the concrete and was taken to task (i.e. yelled at) by a teacher, who said “Don’t run on the concrete! You know that!” Chris then said to the teacher, “Hang on. Has anyone ever specifically told that child that rule?” His point was that if no-one had ever told the child the rule, how was he supposed to know what it was, and what he was expected to do? This is the cornerstone of PBL, and this is why the staff and students here have spent so much time working out the ‘shared areas’ of the school, and exactly what kinds of behaviour we expect – from everyone – in those areas.

From that moment on, Chris said, his focus shifted to explicitly teaching the children the rules of the school – the expected standards of behaviour. He decided there and then that his school was, in fact, going to be a PBL school. He held a meeting of the staff and told them what he wanted to do – if you believe the rumours, he was so passionate about this that he placed two piles of forms on the staffroom tables – one, a form indicating the staff member was willing to participate fully in the PBL process, and the other a transfer form!

Our story is not so dramatic. This school chose several years ago to follow this path, with the goal of making Duval High School an even better place for students, teachers and our school community. Already we are seeing signs that PBL is doing this. One of our areas of data measurement required under the PBL process is the unfortunate one of suspensions from school. Since embarking on our PBL journey, our number of suspensions has drastically fallen. I take this as a clear sign that PBL is starting to have the desired effect! We still have a long way to go, but we are on our way. As Winston Churchill so famously said; “This is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”

Stafford Cameron

Advice to Parents of all Public Schools in the Armidale Dumaresq Council Area

According to the Armidale Dumaresq Council website a half-day public holiday has been gazetted on Monday, 18 March for the running of the Armidale Cup.

As this has been gazetted under the Public Holidays Act of 2010, the public holiday applies to all employees working in the Armidale Dumaresq Council area.

Since January 2012, new provisions of the Public Holidays Act 2010 have applied to Local Public Holidays, and schools can no longer be excluded from locally gazetted public holidays for race days.

Therefore this school will be non-operational from 12 noon on Monday, 18 March.

The Department is seeking further information and will be consulting with the Edwards Bus Company about student travel arrangements.

BUNNINGS HELPS STUDENTS GET A FRESH START TO SCHOOL YEAR

During the holidays the Prefects of Duval High School painted their Senior Common Room with a timely donation from Bunnings. Naomi from Bunnings supplied the students with paint and equipment to enable them to complete the work before school began this year.

The students also bought curtain material and sewed curtains to replace the old ones in the
room. The old curtains were still in good condition and were donated to the Armidale Hospital.

The School Captains, Christine Freak and Anil Rajanathan, said they were very pleased with their new room. Anil said that every year the Year 12 students gave a present to the school and painting the Senior Common Room was the Prefects present to the school. It was their gift back to the school for all the support they have had from the whole school community.

Prefect Coordinator, Lynette Rajaratnam, said she had received very positive comments about the students’ sacrifice in giving up their holiday time. Thanks to Bunnings it was indeed a fresh start to the new school year.

**TAS NEWS**

Last week Ms Munday’s Year 10 Textile & Design class were given the task of creating a wedding dress in groups, demonstrating the Elements of Design they have been studying in class. As many of the Elements as possible were to be included, with the only material allowed being newspaper and pins or sticky tape.

The Elements of Design they were trying to demonstrate are texture, line and direction, shape and size, and colour (this element obviously a little more difficult with newspaper). They had one lesson to come up with ideas in their groups and experiment, and then one lesson only to create their designs.

**ENGLISH FACULTY NEWS**

We have started the year well in English and are starting our focus on the skills involved in great writing in the run up to NAPLAN.

Two exciting competitions are open for students:

1. **What Matters 2013 (It’s Time to Write)** run by the Whitlam Institute

What Matters? is a writing competition that gives Years 5-12 students in NSW and the ACT a
chance to say what matters to them in society today. What actions do you think should be taken to build a better society? What would you change if you could? What do you want other people to care about?

**Closing date:** Friday, 3 May 2013

2. **ICAS competitions** in Spelling (for Year 7), Writing and English for all years. Information from Mrs Webb.

**Today we’re Alive New England Region**

HSC performance on Wednesday May 8 for Stage 6 English students. There is no charge, the only cost being for the bus, so, first in!!

For further information, see Ms. Hoddinott in the English staffroom.

**Debating** will start soon when the senior teams will debate Glenn Innes High School.

**STUDY OPPORTUNITIES FOR HSC STUDENTS - HSC Study Day @ Singleton**

Duval High school will be taking 10 to 12 keen Year 12 students to the HSC Study Day in Singleton on 31 May 2013. This day covers most of the HSC courses set for study and the presenters are experienced HSC teachers and examination markers.

Places are limited so Year 12 students wishing to attend this day are encouraged to pay their money as soon as possible. Cost will be $90.

We will be leaving early in the morning from the bus bay at Armidale High, returning late that night. There will be sessions on most subjects studied for the HSC, and these sessions will be given by experienced markers. You can check the range of subjects on offer by viewing last year’s extensive timetable posted outside the English staffroom.

This is a great opportunity to learn about the expectations of the HSC exams.

To celebrate Harmony Day and this year’s theme: Many stories—One Australia, SBS are giving all Australians the opportunity to share their story.

Create a video, take a photo or share your written personal journey. Everyone has a story to tell, so share yours today!

There are two fantastic prize packs up for grabs:

First prize: A Canon EOS 110D SLR Camera Twin Lens Kit complete with memory card, tripod and case plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.

Second prize: An Apple iPad 4 with Retina Display 32GB WiFi + Cellular plus SBS’ A Day in the Life photographic book.

For more information, visit www.sbs.com.au/harmonystories

**ARMIDALE RAMS OZ TAG**

12-16 YEAR OLD GIRLS

If you are interested in learning something new, come and check out Armidale Rams Girls Oz Tag

Training every Wednesday 4.30–5.30pm and Friday 5.00–6.00pm

For more information call Emma on 0438 967 221.

**Ex-Services Westside Soccer Club Registration Day**

23rd March 2013, 3pm at the Ex-Services Club or register online at myfootballclub.com.au

Contact Tony Drozdowski on 0428721985 for more details.
The Campus City Canter
Saturday 16th March

It’s on for young and old. Walk, jog or run along the bike track from the University into town. Are you up for it?

Entry fee: just $5 per person.

Start time 8.00am. Get there early, to avoid parking congestion & queuing for entries.

For entry forms, see the Armidale Express or Armidale Express Extra in the weeks before the event.

Please get your entry in before the day if possible! Call in at the Armidale Express office in Faulkner St.

FUN, FITNESS AND FRESH AIR.

After finishing, stroll across the park for a Pancake Breakfast with the City Band. (Breakfast not included in the Canter entry fee.)

The Canter is organized by Armidale Athletic Club as part of the Armidale Autumn Festival. Results published in the Armidale Express.

Trophies for 1st, 2nd and 3rd males and females, first school team, first university college team and first corporate team. A team can have four or more people. Results are based on the first four in the team to finish.

Net proceeds go to our local SES.

Armidale Youth Council -

is looking for new members.

If you are interested in having a say and making things happen in your community for young people come along and check out the Youth Council!

For more information call Sally on 67703678

Or go to www.armidale.nsw.gov.au