Students Speak Out

Congratulations to our Minnis Shield Public Speaking Competition winners:

Minnis Shield (Years 7/8) - Georgia Vaughan
Minnis Cup (Years 9/10) - Axel Jedlicka
Minnis Trophy (Years 11/12) - Lucy Eddy

We finished 2014 with a whole school teamwork activity - see the result on page 5.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 10-17 December> Term 5 activities
- 17 December> Last day of term for students
- 28 January 2015> First day of Term 1 for Yrs 7 and 12
- 29 January 2015> First day of Term for Yrs 8-11

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PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

And so we come to the end of another year at Duval High School. I’m still feeling a bit stunned as to where all the time actually went! However I’ve been sitting here in my office this morning writing my speech for Presentation Night, and I think I’m beginning to get the picture. I’ve been trying to include the highlights of the year in my speech, and the problem is that there are just too many! If I include them all, my speech will go for hours, and that just isn’t on. Suffice it to say that through whichever lens you view the school’s activities this year (Academic, Cultural, and Sporting excellence - as well as our PBL values of Community, Respect, Excellence, Safety and Teamwork), Duval High School has had it all.

On Monday we held a special Merit Awards Assembly, and some of you may be wondering why. The simple fact is that we have made some long overdue changes to the Merit system at Duval High School in order to recognise more of the students who simply do the right thing. I have asked teachers to award up to three additional merits per class from 2014 on, apart from whoever came first. This is not necessarily for the students who came second or third in the class - that is possible, depending on the class and the teachers, but it’s more likely those to be who tried hard or went the extra yards in their classwork, assignments and projects.

Recognising those who work hard and do the right thing is a PBL response, and those who received awards yesterday should be justly proud. The school is recognising their excellence, in the same way that it recognises their community, respect, safety and teamwork. However, any of the students who didn’t receive a certificate shouldn’t give up. This should serve to encourage them to do that little bit extra next year so that they can have a merit certificate to go in their portfolio or resume. Potential employers really value these as they show that you are a hard worker, diligent and conscientious.

At Presentation Night, of course, we acknowledged the very best and brightest, the high flyers and the hard workers, and those who will definitely go on to achieve great things in the future because they have learned the key lesson - that hard work brings its own rewards. Presentation Night is perhaps the ultimate expression of our school’s Positive Behaviour for Learning commitment and values, in that, as a community, we will gather to show Respect for the Excellence, Safety and Teamwork of the students. The conclusion of my speech goes something like this:

“Of course, none of this would have been possible without the efforts of our committed and wonderful staff, and I thank them all for their hard work and dedication to both the young people of this school, and Public Education as a whole. Your children are truly well-served by these consummate professionals, and I would hate to have to pay them for all of the overtime they so willingly contribute so that quality teaching and learning can take place every day. There are too many to single out of course, but I particularly wish to acknowledge the work of our former Deputy Principal, Dave Bieler, and congratulate him on his appointment as Principal of Bundarra Central School. I also offer our sincere gratitude to Susan Hoddinott, who took on the daunting task of Relieving Deputy Principal this term, and has done a magnificent job. We wish her and Graham all the best for their exchange teaching year at Nipigon-Red Rock District High School in Canada in 2015.

I wish to thank to the P&C and their President Caroline Winter for being so very active and supportive in 2014. The P&C have, as always, been a tremendous advocate and partner for the school, providing support for school-parent communication, for faculties and for all students at the school through their insurance arrangements. They have worked behind the scenes all year on projects including the new school mini-bus, the painting of the front wall, regular working bees and various fund-raising ventures. Their efforts are truly appreciated by the entire school community.

The School Canteen is genuinely healthy and amazingly successful and has contributed some $25,000 to the P&C this year, to be spent on improvements to the learning environment at the school, and for the benefit of your children. My special thanks go to Suellen Simpson, Vicki Shorter and Belinda Piddington for all of the hours of their own time they put in to providing good, healthy food for the students at Duval. However they do so much more, lending support and a kind ear to children with any concerns, gently reinforcing discipline in the canteen lines, and generally doing everything they can to promote Duval High in our community. Our
school is truly fortunate to have them looking out for us.

I also want to take the time to acknowledge those who work behind the scenes - the School Learning Support Officers who work with our most challenged students; our AEO Leonie, and our Aboriginal Paraprofessional Clifford; the NortaNorta tutors who work to help raise the literacy and numeracy achievements of our Aboriginal students specifically, but who end up helping out wherever they can; the School Administration Support Staff and Julia, our School Admin Manager, who keep the place going in the face of ever-increasing departmental bureaucracy; Steve, our Lab Assistant, Ruth our Home Ec Assistant, Jude in the Library, Wayne our General Assistant and Mark our Farm Assistant, and our cleaners, who do a tough job in the face of continually decreasing hours and increasing demands. The place simply could not function properly without all of them!

I would like to conclude by thanking you, the parents, family, friends and carers of these young people before us. It is through your support, encouragement and care that tonight’s award winners have reached this level of success. They deserve the kudos and plaudits for their achievements, but so do you!”

I wish you all a very happy and safe Christmas and New Year, full of good times with family and friends, and look forward to seeing all of you back here at Duval High School next year.

Stafford Cameron

P&CP&CN&CUNEWS

With the funds raised from the canteen and the voluntary school levy the Duval High School P&C was able to fund and support:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ipads and software for literacy support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Electric piano</td>
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<td>Team jackets for Duval shooting team</td>
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<td>Lockers</td>
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<td>Maths textbooks</td>
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It is worth noting that more than $25,000 of this funding was contributed by the P&C canteen this year. By far, the Canteen is our most significant fund raising source. So please consider donating your time.

The Duval App has had a positive reception and is an excellent way to keep up with the Top of the Hill newsletter and also for submission for absences and other school notes.
Beautification projects remained a focus of the P&C in 2014. Working bees were held the first Sunday of each month with mulching of gardens and cleaning up the grounds around the school. The great wall project continued with an undercoat going on at the start of the year. A final coat went on recently, and the finishing touch will be the mounting of the large stainless steel letters this weekend. The entire project has been completed through the generous donation of time and supplies and only $250.00 coming from the P&C. A very big thank you to our merry band of helpers both with the painting and gardening. We have great ideas for grounds projects for 2015. So, come along and join in!!

The uniform review was also part of this year’s focus for the P&C. The committee, which was made up of teachers, students, and P&C members, provided feedback and suggestions for the uniform. There is a proposal for the addition of a dress and a polo shirt. In support of the uniform two mannequins were sourced and then donated by Sue Lennon from Renee Marie, and Peter Simpson constructed the frames so they could be displayed in the office. The P&C will also continue its financial support of a school hat for incoming Year 7s.

The P&C has established a special projects account. To date the Canteen has contributed $17,000. This has given us the scope to consider an application for dollar for dollar match funding to the DET (initial consultation for the proposal has been met positively). We have applied for funding to build a shed for the bus. The shed will also hold many items that are currently in storage in the hall. Relieving this space of storage will then hopefully progress to the next stage of development and convert the storage area in the hall into a classroom near the stage.

Thank you very much to the all members of the school community who volunteered their time to P&C activities. We are looking forward to a productive “Can do “ year in 2015. Please join us!

Wishing you a safe, happy and restful holiday season!

P&C Committee

HAPPY 40TH BIRTHDAY DUVAL

Students and staff celebrated Duval’s 40 years of success and achievements on Friday, 28 November. Alice Cairns, a former Principal at Duval High School, cut the ceremonial cake in front of the school community. Alice was one of the first teachers at our school in 1974.

The Prefect body organised the distribution of two large cakes (made by the Guyra Bakery) to students at recess. Later at lunch the Prefects cooked a barbeque and sold drinks to raise over $300 which will be banked and later spent on the school.
AMAZING PREFECTS

Since being elected as Captains, Eleanor Logan and Sam Munday, along with the other prefects, have been actively involved in representing the school at community events. Their first fundraiser was a Halloween stall at the markets selling Halloween themed baked goods. Their latest fundraiser was on Thursday, 4 December at the inaugural Night Market which coincided with the turning on of the Christmas lights. Each student put in their own time and effort in baking Christmas treats with the help of Ms Mancell and Mrs Rajaratnam who assisted at the stall. The stall raised over $600 which will be given to the prefects’ chosen charities for the year: The Smith Family and Care Australia. A large number of current and ex-students and teachers supported the stall. We would like to thank everyone for their support in making this event the best one this year.

PBL CREST AWARDS

Year Advisers were asked to nominate five students in each year who have consistently demonstrated the school core values of Community (C), Respect (R), Excellence (E), Safety (S), and Teamwork (T) during 2014. Congratulations to the following students:

Year 7
C - Tao Grieves  
R - Faith Hall  
E - Kyanna Villano  
S - Ethan Franke  
T - Janae Galindo

Year 8
C - Daniel Fletcher  
R - Tilly Commens  
E - Rachel Goodwin  
S - Molly Commens  
T - Zachary Harvey

Year 9
C - Miranda Williams  
R - Sean Niemeyer  
E - Zoe George  
S - Christopher Werren  
T - Brianne Saxby

Year 10
C - Deborah Hyde  
R - Chenyou Zhang  
E - Cody Bourke  
S - Jessic Saunders  
T - Zoe Stevenson

Year 11
C - Oliver Bruhl  
R - Sam Jenner  
E - Jol Choc  
S - Brand Ry  
T - Douglas Rowe-Dawson

CRESTS REWARD

Year 7 won the PBL reward for having collectively achieved the highest number of Crests for the year. This week they enjoyed a morning at the Monckton Aquatic Centre.
ATTENDANCE CERTIFICATES

The following students have achieved a 98% or better record of school attendance in 2014. Congratulations to these students on such an outstanding accomplishment.

**Year 7**
- Bethany Anderson
- Aiden Betteridge
- Janae Galindo
- Joshua Haddon
- Sarah Hasari
- Aaron Iji
- Kaveni Kaliopati
- Adam Lucas
- Andiswa Ndhlovu
- Vaishnavi Pradeep
- Georgia Saunders
- Tiffany Tarrant
- Claire Wood
- Kyle Barton
- Ellis Dick
- Tahlia Geddes
- Isobel Harris
- Hadi Hussein
- Isabelle Jedlicka
- Jace Lennox
- Jennifer Maleke
- Emma Pearson
- Harry Rowbottom
- Gavin Saunders
- Kyanna Villano

**Year 8**
- Joshua Bell
- Angela Fittler
- Bradley Lucas
- Tung Nguyen
- Joshua Carmichael
- Lachlan Harris
- Austin Maleke
- Robert Wilson

**Year 9**
- Liam Betteridge
- Callum Evans
- Axel Jedlicka
- Yoganes Manoharan
- Mitchell Dye
- Kade Glock
- Oscar Lamb
- Sean Niemeyer

**Year 10**
- Samuel Andronicos
- Ben Barton
- Brandon Giles
- Emily Jarman
- Alexander Oliver
- Jasmin Russell
- Chenyou Zhang
- Alpena Banfield
- Cody Bourke
- Elizabeth Holland
- Harrison Lawlor
- Ella Ramsay
- David Wilson

**Year 11**
- Zac Battersby
- Brittany Freeman
- Michael Jakes
- Eleanor Logan
- George Prokop
- Hannah Chaffey
- Farihah Islam
- Bethany Jedlicka
- Grace Motley
- Brandy Ritch
YEAR 10 STUDENTS IN ACTION

With the end of the term fast approaching a group of Year 10 students put into action what they have learnt in the classroom about managing land and water resources. The students displayed their ‘water wise’ knowledge through planting and mulching native plants at the front of the school. “With the current drought it is particularly important that we mulch our gardens well and water in the cooler hours of the day”, said their teacher Mrs Rajaratnam.

Elizabeth Holland, Amber Harper, Alpena Banfield and Tamarla Smith are seen planting and watering the new plants.

YEAR 9 NEWCASTLE EXCURSION

Newcastle was a great excursion because we went to the NBN studios and got a grand tour of the studio and behind the scenes. We also went to Nobby’s Point and the RAAF fighter jets put on a show just for us. At the Newcastle baths some of us went for a swim and bumped into Adrian Madaschi (defender for Newcastle Jets) and Mike Rabbitt from NBN again. The wetlands and coastal walk was interesting, learning about water quality and regeneration of areas. The ropes course was a highlight for everyone, with most of us finishing the gruelling course and many conquering our fear of heights. To top the week off, we had a little shopping adventure at Charleston Square. Huge thanks to our year advisor Miss Cullen for organising the excursion, and Mr Harris, Mr Lacey and Miss Gerkens.

Mitchell Brennan and Isabel Waters
YEAR 10 SYDNEY EXCURSION

From 2-5 December, Year 10 went on their excursion to Sydney. The excursion started with a bang ….. the bus broke down! We were stranded for over an hour just outside Willow Tree in the hot sun. A replacement bus arrived from Tamworth and we continued onto Sydney where the fun and excitement began: Pancakes on the Rocks for dinner and a ferry ride to see the city’s night lights.

On the first day we went to the Justice and Police Museum, where we learnt about the Pyjama Girl Mystery and got dressed up for a mock trial. We went to Cockatoo Island and learnt about the convicts, Thunderbolt’s escape and the ship building. There were also some old film sets from the movie Wolverine. We went up the Sydney Tower Eye and saw a short film in 4D.

On the second day we visited the Pylon Lookout Museum – great views – and then we went to Wet’n’Wild and the IMAX. At Wet’n’Wild we had some great experiences – like Mr Model nearly falling out of the tube, and Ms Simes constantly saturated in the face on one of the rides.

We can confidently say on behalf of our year this was the best excursion we have been on as a year group. Thanks to Ms Simes for organising it, and the other teachers who came with us. We appreciate it.

Winona and Kimberley

YEAR 7 TECHNOLOGY

Year 7 Technology students have designed and constructed beautiful cushions for their bedrooms this semester. They have dyed their fabric using two different techniques - tie dyeing and heliography - and have constructed the cushion after learning to use the sewing machine. These students have been commended for their efforts.
ATHLETICS

Last weekend Stuart Geddes (Year 9) represented NSW at the 2014 Australian All Schools Track and Field Championships in Adelaide in the Under 16 3,000m. He was the only Armidale athlete to compete at these championships. As the race was a combined age group (14s and 15s) Stuart performed extremely well to finish 10th overall, and 3rd overall of the 14 year olds in the event. His time of 9:40.66 was also a big personal best for him. Congratulations Stuart - we are very proud of you.

TABLE TENNIS

The inaugural Duval Table Tennis Knock-out Singles Handicap competition has just reached its thrilling conclusion, the final being played at lunchtime on Monday, 8 December with one day to spare before the end of Term 4! The quality of play has been impressively high at each stage of the competition. All students and teachers who participated are to be congratulated on their contribution to making this such a good school community event. In particular, for players to reach the later rounds required tenacity, mental toughness and a fine range of ping pong skills.

In the first semi-final, the school team’s number one Jake Murphy of Year 11 proved too strong in the end for Year 7’s Lachlan Williamson, although Lachlan is to be commended on his run all the way from Round 1. He will be one to watch in future years! The other semi-final, fought between school team player Justin Bullen of Year 11 and up-and-coming Year 8 star Alex Rogers was a humdinger! Both players have the skills to dominate a rally, from excellent spin serves to
punishing top-spin drives. Justin slowly pulled back Alex’s 4-point handicap start to level at 7 all, then went ahead 10-8. Two match points! Alex kept his nerve to recover to ‘deuce’ at 10 all, then 11 all and finally took the match 13-11.

So, after nearly 8 weeks of matches, it came down to a final between Jake Murphy and Alex Rogers, Year 11 vs Year 8. Both players agreed to play the best of five games, first to 11 points. Alex, who has been making rapid progress in table tennis skills throughout the term, sportingly agreed to a somewhat tougher handicap, starting at ‘minus 4’ to Jake’s ‘minus 8’ in each game. Jake took the first game, looking confident with his heavily top-spun forehand loops. Alex pulled back to one game all, impressing the watching crowd with some unplayable backhand winners. Jake dominated the 3rd, winning several points with viciously side-spun serves. Alex showed how tough a competitor he is, coming back to win 11-9 in a well-played 4th game to level the match at two games all. In the deciding fifth game, Jake’s serving and top-spin attack again proved decisive as he pulled away to win 11-6, three games to two.

In the end a knockout competition has only one champion: congratulations Jake Murphy. However, congratulations are also due to all other competitors who played so well. The sport of table tennis is looking good for the future at Duval.

Jamie Suddaby

MOVEMBER

Well done to the Duval teachers mo-growing team who together raised $1,042 for their hirsute efforts!