Our Very Own Dance Sensation

The Aboriginal Dance Ensemble had the privilege of working with Bangarra Dance representatives in Tamworth two weeks ago. Students from around the New England participated in a number of movement workshops and learnt invaluable performance skills. This day was also used as an audition process for the main Bangarra Dance Student Ensemble. This group is used for a number of Schools Spectacular items. After very intense auditions, Narree Pittman (above) was selected along with five other students from the New England to represent the school in this prestigious performing group. A fantastic effort!

In other dance news, our talented Aboriginal Dance Ensemble will be taking part in Dance Workshops being held as part of the Beyond Empathy, Art – Influence – Change program. Students will be working with well known choreographer Michael Leslie and performing at the Youth Opportunities Expo being held at the University of New England next week. We wish them luck.

A huge congratulations also to both our dance groups who auditioned for the 2014 Schools

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DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 1-9 April> Yr 12 Half Yearly Exams
- 9 April> Year 10 Youth Opportunities Expo, UNE
- 11 April> Last day of Term 1
- 29 April> First day of Term 2 for students
- 2 May> UNE Open Day - Year 12
- 5-9 May> Year 11 Half Yearly Exams
- 13-15 May> NAPLAN - Years 7 and 9
- 21 May> Tamworth Careers Expo
- 22 May> Athletics Carnival

Next term we will be focussing on the classroom - our five rules and procedures.
It may have been a couple of weeks ago now, but I wanted to take the opportunity to give my congratulations to all of our students who participated in the Armidale Autumn Festival on 15 March. The students who marched (or rode in Mr Bieler’s ute!) looked fabulous in their uniform, and respect is due to the Koala mascot who braved the quite hot temperatures for the whole parade! Even better, the combined Armidale Community of Schools (ACOS) float won the best school entry at the Festival Parade, and our bands made a tremendous impression on the audience when they played on the Saturday afternoon in the park. I have received several messages of thanks and congratulations on their behalf from the organisers, and it made me really proud on the day to be involved with such a great bunch of young people. Well done to Mr Myers and Ms Pearson as well, who stepped in at very short notice to get our bands ready to play after the scheduled entertainment for the afternoon was cancelled. I think they sounded great, and the audience certainly agreed!

More of our students were recognised at our assembly on Friday, 28 March, where our local MLA, Mr Adam Marshall, was in attendance to present Gold Awards to our leading school citizens, and also Parliamentary Certificates of Recognition to Morgan Rowbottom and Sam Jenner of Year 12 for their excellence in representing NSW in their chosen sports. Mr Marshall was most impressed with our multi day in support of the Drought Relief Appeal, and spoke to the students about how tough some farmers were doing it. Even though it was raining in Armidale on the day, the rain has sadly been too little and too late to help many farming families, and we were pleased to be able to be involved in the variety of fundraising events which took place last weekend.

Construction of our new disabled-access lift is now complete and it was formally handed over for school use on Tuesday, 1 April. This is a tremendous facility for disabled students at our school, and will allow them to utilise classrooms on the top floor of A and E Blocks for the first time ever.

A gentle reminder as the weather grows cooler to make sure students’ uniforms remains up to the accepted level. We have a good and generous uniform code here at Duval, which is listed in the student information booklet (copies are available at the front office for anyone who hasn’t got one), and I expect our students to show their pride in their school by wearing it. Wearing correct school uniform also displays all five of our school values – community, respect, excellence, safety and teamwork. Contrary to what your child may tell you, black T-shirts, T-shirts with company logos and hoodies are not part of the uniform! Students who persist in wearing such items of clothing to school may find themselves in a bit of strife under the uniform drive taking place next term!
In other news, we will be welcoming a new staff member to the Creative & Performing Arts Faculty next term in the form of Ms Meg Mancell, a targeted graduate appointment, replacing Ms Sheree Roberts who retired last year. I am sure everyone will do their best to help her settle into her new school.

Finally, I wish everyone a safe, happy and refreshing holiday. We look forward to welcoming you back at Duval next term for more innovative teaching and learning.

Stafford Cameron

P&C NEWS

As a result of the AGM, we are pleased to announce Caroline Winter, as the President, Caitlin Rowe-Dawson and Rachel Sowden as Vice Presidents, Therese McGuren as the Treasurer, Susie Winter as Secretary and Vicki Weaver as the Minutes Secretary. We welcome anyone who is willing to help in any way to call any of us via the school office to find how you can be involved in your child’s education through the efforts of the P&C.

The wonderful canteen ladies would like to thank the school community for supporting the ‘Red Day’ held last Friday. As it does require extra preparation, your support was greatly appreciated. Also there will be tickets for sale at the canteen for the Valentine’s Day raffle basket that has now become an Easter Day treat for the winner, to be drawn on the last day of school this term!

Working Bee: Due to the wall being too wet last weekend, the Working Bee will now be held this coming weekend, Saturday, 5 April starting from 9.00am and continuing as the painting keeps going on Sunday, 6 April. If painting isn’t your thing, there will be weeding and rubbish collection and general grounds tidy as is evident on the day. Please bring tools, bags, gloves, rollers, brushes, etc and call Caroline for all enquiries. Look forward to seeing you there.

P&C Committee

REMINDER TO PARENTS

The last day of Term 1 is 11 April 2014. If your child is starting holidays earlier than this date or coming back later than 29 April, please advise the school office of the dates your child will be absent. You may also consider applying for Exemption if your child will be absent for an extended period of time. Please contact the office on 6772 1266 or email duval-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

SPORTS NEWS

The following students have recently been successful in gaining selection in North West region teams. Congratulations and best of luck at your state carnivals.
Dance (Continued from page 1)

Spectacular. Students worked extremely hard and produced outstanding audition tapes. We look forward to hearing if the students made it through the audition process which will allow them to perform in Sydney in late November.

Dates for the Calendar:
Armidale Dance Eisteddfod – 28 May
New England Dance Festival – 13-16 August

English Faculty News

Debating The English faculty are proud of our involvement in the state run debating competition and again we have been able to enter five teams in this competition.

We have started debating for the year with our Senior team of Aleisha Singleton, Bethany Jedlicka, Maddie Reckord and Farihah Islam debating Oxley High. Unfortunately we were defeated but it was a terrific debate allowing both teams to demonstrate their fine skill in speaking. We are looking forward to our debate in the final week of the term against Farrer. Other year groups will be starting to debate next term.

Who wants to read a million words? Year 7 Extension English do! This class has been set the challenge in term one to see who can read a million words. Students have been working in teams to complete this great challenge and we have been impressed with how much our students have read. Well done especially to Joseph Feitz who really is a reading millionaire!

Literacy homework Well done to all those students who have been completing their weekly English homework all term. The English staff have been impressed by the way students have approached this work. We will be continuing this throughout the year with homework next term focussing on the skills needed in NAPLAN. This year the writing section of the NAPLAN has been changed so that students could be required to write either a persuasive or narrative text. As a result of this we are encouraging our students to consider what is required in both text types.

Seven Steps to success in writing The first day back of Term 2 will be a student day focussing on the power of writing. An expert will be in the school presenting action packed workshops to Years 7, 8 and 9 students. Each session is an hour long and students should have brought home notes on this excursion which need to be returned as soon as possible. The excursion is free - fully funded by the English Faculty - and will be on 29 April in the school library.