On Tuesday, 13 May Duval High School played host to a group of Armidale Aboriginal Elders for the final presentation of the Digital Elders Project. The project was started back in 2011 and it involved students from across the New England region being chosen to interview Elders from their communities. Other schools involved include Ashford Central School, Boggabilla Central, Curlew Public, Glen Innes High, Gum Flat Public, Jennings Public School, Macintyre High, Moree East Public School, Oxley High School, Narree Pitman and Matt Carey thank Mr Cameron and the School Captains, Lewis Wheatley and Katie Broomfield, on behalf of the school, for their participation in the Digital Elders Project.

Continued on page 3
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

Once again I am amazed at how quickly this year is passing. Here we are in Week 3 of Term 2 already and so much has been happening it has all been a bit of a blur. Since my last newsletter report, students from Duval have been engaged in a wide range of educational, sporting and cultural activities, as well as active participation in our local community. For example, a strong contingent of our students turned out to represent the school at the Anzac Day March, and looked fabulous in their uniforms!

School activities are also coming thick and fast. As I write this, our Year 7 and 9 students are getting ready for the first of their NAPLAN tests. As in past years, this year the school and the P&C have provided juice and a muffin in the morning for every student sitting the tests. Research clearly shows that, for children, having a good breakfast to start the day is essential, and that is why we have made sure that each student is well-prepared in this way for NAPLAN. However, I encourage parents to make sure that their children have a healthy and nutritious breakfast every day. If this is impossible for any reason, the P&C Canteen also has breakfast items for sale every day, including toasties, cheese bread, hot Milo (in winter), and a range of milk products and juices.

Today we are also celebrating a very important, if somewhat belated, Digital Elders Ceremony & Morning Tea for the Armidale Elders’ Group. A few years ago, Duval High School participated in the Digital Elders Project in which students interviewed local elders and family members about their stories and their lives in Armidale. The interviews were recorded and transcribed and the results were posted, along with those of many other schools, on the DEC’s Digital Elders website as a teaching and learning resource for all students in all schools in NSW. This resource can be accessed at http://dei.eduone.net.au/duval/index.html . (Members of our Aboriginal Community are cautioned that the website contains images and audio recordings of people who have since passed away.) The school had intended to host a thank-you ceremony for our Elders at the time, but were unable to carry it out due to some logistical issues. However the event is finally taking place today due to the efforts of our AEO, Ms Leonie Donovan, and our past student Matthew Carey, who has volunteered much of his own time towards helping prepare for this very important day. We join with the Aboriginal Education Team in congratulating and thanking all of those who took part in this project as a way of passing on the knowledge of past generations to the young people who will lead the community tomorrow.

STOP PRESS! Reforms to P&C Federation

The NSW Parliament has introduced legislation to reform the NSW Federation of Parent and Citizens Associations, which has suspended operation pending Supreme Court action. While these reforms will not affect the day-to-day operation of individual school P&Cs, they will introduce a new executive structure which will ensure the Federation operates as a modern and representative body on behalf of school P&C Associations.

Each school’s P&C Association will be asked to vote for councillors and delegates who will represent their electorate at the Federation’s Annual General Meeting and councillors who will serve on the Federation’s Board of Management. More information will be available on the Department’s website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/a-z/involvement.php

Stafford Cameron

INTRODUCING NEW STAFF
MEMBER..........MEG MANCELL

Name: Miss Mancell
Faculty: Creative and Performing Arts

My earliest memory is.......of my mum forgetting to pick me up from my first day of kindergarten.

At school I.......loathed Maths but loved Visual Arts and English.

I wish I’d never worn.....overalls and jelly sandals.

My mother and father always told me.....that hard work will pay off and they were right!
I wish I had...learned another language while I was at school.

I wish I hadn't...wasted so much time on Facebook during university.

My happiest moment was...either graduating from university or being offered a job at Duval High School.

My last meal would be...salt and pepper squid.

I'm very bad at...getting ready in short periods of time.

If I were a car I'd be...anything brightly coloured.

Tingha Public School, Bundarra Central School, Wee Waa Public School and Westdale Public School. Duval High School was the only school from Armidale selected to take part in the project.

On Tuesday, certificates were awarded to the participating Elders and students. The Elders were also treated to a slide show of photos, some easy listening music, morning tea and lunch.

Leonie Donovan, the Aboriginal Education Assistant at Duval High, has recognised the importance of recording the stories from the Elders and a project like Digital Elders can make this possible. Ms Donovan also expressed her thanks to all those involved and in particular Matthew Carey for all his hard work with the Digital Elders project. He was very keen to come back to Duval to help with the final stages and was honoured to be a part of the project.

MATHS NEWS

During Weeks 2 and 3 the Maths Faculty has been very privileged to welcome back one of our top students from last year’s Year 12 class as a practice teacher. Brittany Singleton studied Extension 2 Mathematics last year, is now training to become a Mathematics teacher herself, and is currently in her first year at UNE. She is with us for 2 weeks and is assisting students in a variety of different Maths classes from all year and ability levels. It is a pleasure to have her here and we are all looking forward to seeing what is bound to be a very successful and enjoyable career for Brittany!

Literacy

Duval High School is working to improve the literacy of all our students and as such the Maths staff is making an effort to include the explicit study of important terms in our lessons. Although often thought polar opposites, Maths and literacy actually go hand in hand, with many problems coming in the form of a paragraph, which must be translated into an equation to be solved. There are also many terms which are used exclusively in Maths and we are always working to build up students’ vocabulary so that they are able to access the material presented to them.

Test yourself!! Can you define the following terms? Parallel, perpendicular, adjacent and mean?(Answers to follow later this term!)
In a game of Scrabble each player gets 7 letters. Find some 7-letter words and work out their scores. What is the largest score you can make?

Puzzle 2

Answers later this term!

Congratulations

The Maths staff would like to commend the large (and still increasing!) number of students who are regularly choosing to attend morning Maths classes run between 8.00am and 9.00am in Room 208. A reminder that these are open to all students who would like to come and get assistance with homework or simply study!

Also a number of Year 11 students are spending much of their free time (recess, lunch and study periods) outside the Maths staffroom completing extra study and seeking assistance as it is required. We commend these students on their diligence; it is a real pleasure to see!

ENGLISH NEWS

Term 2 started with a focus on writing for both staff and students. Our staff development day (photo) was a full day workshop for staff from both Duval and Armidale High run by Pina Sernio from Seven Steps to Writing Success. This workshop dealt with all text types - Persuasive, Informative, Recount and Narrative. The workshop was an action-packed session focussing on humour, acting, five minute fast writing and entertaining activities to help us develop writing skills in our students. Many staff have taken back the ideas and skills in writing to the class room and have had great success with students.

The following day students from Years 7, 8 and 9 also participated in these great workshops and we were thrilled with the feedback we received from both the presenter and the students. What are the Seven Steps? You might like to check out the website http://www.sevenstepswriting.com/

Literacy review

Next week Duval High School will embark on a whole school literacy review. We will be considering how we teach the most important skill of literacy across all areas of the curriculum. As part of this review we will have visitors in the school and some students will be asked to participate in short interviews about literacy in our school. We are keen for parents to participate in the review process by completing the literacy survey. Please complete the survey at https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/95L69TH The link will be open for 10 days. We value your input on this valuable aspect of our school.

Wanted!!

As we are promoting and focussing on correct uniform we are keen to keep our school uniform pool well stocked. If you have any uniforms which are not needed any more, especially jumpers and sloppy joes, please drop them into school, clean and ready to re-use!

Susan Hoddinott
Head Teacher English
Ski Trip
Year 11 PDHPE students are reminded that the ski trip money is due. Please see Mr Harris with any questions.

Dance News
Armidale Dance Eisteddfod - students are busy working on eisteddfod items. This year's dance eisteddfod is being held on the 28 May at the Armidale Ex-Services Club. Parents and friends are welcome to come along for the day. Student's can purchase performance DVDs on the day of the event. Costume, makeup and hair requirements will be finalised this week and information will be given to students.

Dance Festival
Auditions for the Dance Festival will take place over the next three weeks. Duval High School will audition 5 items. Fingers crossed that all items will be selected! The Dance Festival is held in Tamworth during Term 3.

P & C NEWS
Our first meeting for this term is next Wednesday, 21 May at 7pm in the Staff Common Room. It would be great to see some new faces - everyone is most welcome. Contact Susie or Caroline via the school office for enquiries.

The Great Wall project update
Many thanks to parents, teachers, students and even alumni who turned up to paint the “great wall” during the last term break. It might not look like much but take a small brush or a small paint roller and stand in front of that wall and it has been no small feat to get the two coats of undercoat up. A special thanks to Paul Matheson of Dreamcoat who donated the many buckets of undercoat you see on the wall now. The large stainless steel “DUVAL” letters have been pulled from storage and we plan to mount them on a navy background and paint the wall finishing coat of texture paint that is a “stoney” colour.

UNE OPEN DAY EXTRAVAGANZA
Our Year 12 students had the opportunity to get a taste of university life at UNE Open Day on Friday, 2 May 2014. Students experienced different aspects of university life including academic, cultural, sporting and on-campus activities. This invaluable opportunity enabled students to gather information, walk around the campus, explore degrees of interest, talk to academic staff and current students, and get a general feel for campus life.

Students’ feedback was unequivocally positive. They enjoyed all the activities and entertainment provided and found the people they spoke with and information they gathered from various schools extremely helpful. The students also commented on how much they enjoyed the campus and college tours. All in all everyone had a fun and informative day!

Congratulations to Erin Bourke WINNER of UNE mini iPad competition!!

Mrs Hardman
Careers Adviser

keep a space in your diaries to help if possible - more details in the next newsletter!

P&C Committee
SPORTS NEWS

Open Boys Football

On 2 May the Open Boys Football team played Armidale High. Duval started well and went into the second half with a 2-0 lead. At the start of the second half Armidale High hit back to make the score 2-1. Duval responded with 2 goals of their own to take a 4-1 lead going into the last 10 minutes where Armidale High clawed one back. This was to be the final goal of the match - Duval winners 4-2. Duval goals were scored by Ari Georkas (2), Tom Browne and Dan Cherry.

The fourth round of the competition saw Duval play Inverell High School in Inverell on 12 May. Duval conceded a goal within 15 minutes of the kick off, but with 10 minutes left in the first half Angus Wheatley struck a ball from outside the box which struck the back of the net. The score at half time 1-1. In the second half Duval took the lead off a Dan Cherry boot. 10 minutes later in the half, Inverell was awarded a free kick just outside the penalty area. The strike took a deflection and the score is now 2-2. With 5 minutes to go before full time Ari Georkas taps in the winning goal. Final score 3-2.

By A Wheatley and P Frost

The Open Boys now await other results within the North West region to determine who they will play in the North West regional final.

Open Girls update – next match is to be played against Armidale High. The date for this match will be published soon.

U15 Boys update – in round 2 of the Bill Turner Cup competition Duval plays host to O’Connor Catholic College on Friday, 16 May. The winner will then go on to play Inverell High School.

U15 Girls update – again in round 2 of the Bill Turner Trophy competition, Duval is set to play Armidale High School on 16 May. There are high expectations of this match being of exceptional quality.

GO DUVAL!!

PAST STUDENT’S TRIATHLON WIN

Last weekend, 23-year-old professional triathlete, Gillian Backhouse (DHS 2003-2008), won the International Triathlon Union World Cup triathlon in Chengdu, China, which was an Olympic distance race (1500m swim, 40km cycle, 10km run). She is based in Brisbane under coach Steve Moss. Gillian completed her BSc (Marine Science and Ecology) at University of Queensland in 2012. To read more about Gillian, check out her website www.gillianbackhouse.com.au