Year 7 SRC Reps Elected

Congratulations to Emma Murphy, Amelia Randell, Tao Grieves and Hadi Hussein who have been elected by their peers as the Year 7 representatives on the school’s Student Representative Council.

Watch this space in the next issue of Top of the Hill for a full wrap-up and photos from our hugely successful Careers Festival.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 4-15 August> HSC Trial Exams
- 6 August> Year 10 → 11 Information Night
- 13 August> Year 8 → 9 Information Night
- 19 August> Year 6 → 7 Information Night
- 4-12 September> Year 11 Exams
- 9 September> Parent/Teacher Interviews

In PBL we are encouraging students to be ready to learn by having the necessary equipment for each class.

Publication of this newsletter is made possible through the generous support of the Duval High School Parents & Citizens Association.
Of course, by the time you read this our fabulous Careers Festival will be over, but I can’t let the opportunity pass without commending Mrs Lana Hardman and her wonderful team for the extraordinary efforts in getting the whole event organised. I didn’t think they could ever surpass the efforts of two years ago – but I was wrong! Look out for a full recap in the next Top of the Hill.

As usual I have to report that it has been very busy here at Duval since the last newsletter. Year 12 and their teachers are very much locked into preparation for the HSC, and now that they’re into the home stretch it’s interesting to observe how different students are reacting to the impending exams. Those who have been working hard all along are generally looking quite relaxed about it all. Those who have left it to the last minute to try to prepare – well, let’s just say it’s a different story for them. Nevertheless, we wish them all the best in their final term of public education. Everywhere you look there are students finishing off their major works in Music, Art, Dance, Industrial Technology and Drama, so it’s a very exciting time of the year for the school.

Next Monday, 28 July see the annual Armidale Community of Schools (ACOS) Education Week Awards, being held this year in the Armidale High School auditorium at 4.00pm with afternoon tea available from 3.40pm. The Armidale COS Primary Orchestra will also be performing. Congratulations to this year’s winners from the Duval High School learning community – Joshua Barlin, Mrs Melissa Ball, Ms Amy Gow, Mrs Lana Hardman, Mrs Caroline Winter and Mr and Mrs Peter and Suellen Simpson. A full report will follow in the next newsletter.

Congratulations also to Indah Dwyer-Westhorpe of Year 11 and Amber Askew of Year 12, finalists in the UNE ‘Let’s Hang It’ Acquisitive Art Prize, held last Friday night at the New England Regional Art Museum. There were some exceptional artworks on display, and I was very proud to see the girls’ work representing our school.

Stafford Cameron

It was wunderbar!

We had a wonderful response from the Year 7 German classes to the ‘German Gala Day’ at Thalgarrah. This was run in collaboration with Frau Evan’s Year 8 classes from Armidale High. In the last week of Term 2 we set off with 90 students and all the German-speaking staff and senior students of German we could muster (danke schön Herr Suddaby and Year 11s!). Students took part in rotating activities. Herr...
Suddaby ran Schiffe Versenken (Battleship); Frau Evans ran craft during which Claire, Georgia, Hadi, Kate and Zarah created a......let's say rather bohemian lady out of balloons and newspaper and introduced their creation in German; and there was a song - ‘Oh Lord, won't you give me my language back!’ This was all a stimulus for using and extending students’ learning on language and cultural heritage. There was a cake competition with some amazing entries, such as one inspired by the World Cup, as well as traditional-style cakes. We enjoyed these for morning tea. Guten Appetit!

Our students are experiencing that learning another language can be enjoyable. Importantly, it can also enhance skills in using 'language to describe language', which helps you to succeed in English tasks. The Board of Studies recognises that there is a clear link between learning another language and improved literacy skills. As our many students from other language backgrounds already know......monolingualism is curable! Continue on with German as an elective after Year 7!

Danke schön Years 7s for all your delightful enthusiasm, making the day just wunderbar!

Joanne Scotchmer
German Teacher

Regional Art Museum (NERAM). Congratulations to Amber Askew (Year 12) and Indah Dwyer-Westhorpe (Year 11) whose artworks were amongst the finalists. The exhibition runs at NERAM until Sunday, 3 August and is well worth a visit.

UNIVERSITY OF NEW ENGLAND SCHOOLS ACQUISSITIVE ART PRIZE (UNESAP)

Out of 545 entries in this year’s UNESAP, 61 finalists’ artworks have been selected to be part of the Let’s Hang It exhibition at the New England Regional Art Museum (NERAM). Congratulations to Amber Askew (Year 12) and Indah Dwyer-Westhorpe (Year 11) whose artworks were amongst the finalists. The exhibition runs at NERAM until Sunday, 3 August and is well worth a visit.

By Indah Dwyer-Westhorpe
Year 11

By Amber Askew
Year 12

By Amber Askew
Year 12
MATHS NEWS

9Maths2 - Trigonometry Success

9Maths2 undertook a study of trigonometry during the final three weeks of Term 2 and have recently sat an assessment task in order to gauge their level of understanding. It was a great pleasure to see all students engaging keenly with all activities throughout the topic and also to witness them preparing thoroughly for their assessment. They have learned much and have demonstrated the ability to solve difficult problems involving bearings.

The assessment results were very high with all students achieving more than 60% and the majority above 75%! Congratulations to all students and keep up the good work!!

Ms D Wijewickrama

New Mathematics Resources

The Mathematics department and the students of 11M1 and 11M2 would like to extend a big thank you to the Duval P&C for their gift of a set of new textbooks for the Senior Mathematics Course. This course has not changed significantly for several decades and hence our textbook budget has been directed to other courses which have been altered over the years.

As a result the textbooks we have been using in this particular course were getting very old and some were now in a state of disrepair and as a result were difficult to use. These new books will be an invaluable resource not only for these students but for many classes of students to come!

Thank you very much for your foresight and for providing for the ongoing mathematical education of students at Duval High!

Ms D Wijewickrama

Year 8 Maths Day

On Friday, 16 May four Duval Year 8 students participated in the New England Mathematics Association problem solving day held at the University of New England. Between 200-300 high-achieving students attended from within a 300 km radius of Armidale. The focus of the day was to promote students working together to solve a diverse range of mathematical problems, as well as having them interact with students from other schools across the region.

There were four rounds in the competition and the Duval High School team came in 3rd place. Congratulations to Brad Lucas, Max Westhorpe, Michael Kuchlmayr and Tung Nguyen for their achievement.

Maths Faculty
AUTHOR JOHN HEFFERNAN VISIT

John Heffernan, an accomplished Australian author, visited Duval High School on 24 June. Selected students from Years 7 and 8 were privileged to attend a fantastic writing workshop with Mr Heffernan. His wise words and writing skills helped us to construct well-written individual short stories.

Later in the day the whole of Year 7 gathered in the staff room to listen to John Heffernan speak about his writing career and his past experiences as a writer. He told us about how he gains inspiration to write novels. His main focus was on his touching story of a young boy named Naveed.

Year 7 thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and showed their interest by asking many questions at the end.

By Georgia Vaughan and Claire Wood (TX)
NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2014

School vaccination clinics continue into terms 3 & 4:

The next vaccination date at Duval High School is Thursday, 23 October.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS MISSED A VACCINE?

If your child has missed any vaccinations they will be offered any missed doses at the next clinics at their school.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED ALL HPV VACCINES BEFORE THE END OF 2014?

Any Year 7 student will be caught up for HPV only in 2015. Any Year 9 boy who has not received all 3 doses of HPV can attend their local doctor to receive any missed doses.

Additionally, any Year 8 student who commenced HPV vaccination while in Year 7 and is yet to finish all 3 doses (and who has not received any from their local doctor) can still receive these at the next clinic at their school.

Don’t forget a Record of Vaccination is given to each student for each vaccination. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at:


MEASLES CATCH-UP CAMPAIGN

You may have heard through a media campaign about the school based measles catch-up program due to the recent measles outbreaks in NSW. Details are at:http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/measles-catchup.aspx

Due to high measles coverage rates in the Hunter New England Local Health District, not all schools will be participating in this school catch-up campaign. However if your child’s school is not participating in the measles program and your child needs vaccination, you can take your child to their doctor to receive free MMR vaccine (you may be charged for the consultation).

To check if your child has received two doses of MMR:

- Look in your child’s Blue Book for a record of two doses of ‘MMR vaccine’ or ‘Priorix vaccine’
- Check with your child’s doctor