Minnis Shield Public Speaking Stars

Minnis Shield is Duval High School’s premier public speaking event. Each year students come together in a spirit of friendly competition to compete for honours in front of an excited home crowd. This year twenty-five students spoke on topics as diverse as political correctness to defence spending and Usain Bolt. Our adjudicator was ex-student, accomplished public speaker and former winner of the Minnis Shield, Lucy Eddy.

Vaishnavi Pradeep won the Years 7-8 Minnis Shield with her excellent, thought-provoking speech on beauty competitions. Adam Lucas and Georgia Vaughan were Highly Commended. Speaking on the Continued on page 2

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 2 November> Catch-up Immunisations for Year 7
- 5 November> Year 7, 2016 Orientation Day
- 9-13 November> Year 10 Exams
- 16-20 November> Year 9 Tea Gardens Excursion
- 1-4 December> Year 10 Sydney Excursion
- 8 December> 7.00pm Presentation Evening
- 9-16 December> Term V Activities
- 16 December> Last day of school for students

We are continuing to be informed about the new awards system.

Publication of this newsletter is made possible through the generous support of the Duval High School Parents & Citizens Association.
PRINCIPAL’S NEWS

A belated welcome back to Term 4 2015, possibly one of the busiest and most productive terms of the year. Of course the Year 12 Class of 2015 are well into their HSC exams and seem to be taking them in their stride. However the Year 12 cohort of 2016 has only just begun their HSC Course studies in preparation for their final event in a year’s time. I spoke to them recently and urged them to make sure that they were doing everything within their power to make that last hurdle as easy and as painless as possible by commencing a program of study and doing their work to the best of their ability now. Hard work now and during the next three terms will make that final obstacle so much simpler to overcome!

There is certainly a great deal going on at Duval High School right now. Parents may be unaware, but under the Positive Behaviour for Learning program (PBL) which we run at the school, we are obliged to undergo an assessment every year to determine how well we are going against our own PBL targets and the state-wide program as a whole. This assessment, called the School-wide Evaluation Tool, or SET, was carried out on the 13 October, and the school passed with flying colours! We were also involved in a Vocational Education and Training (VET) Audit on the 21 October and once again achieved an excellent pass thanks to our hard-working VET teachers and our irrepressible VET coordinator, Mrs Lana Hardman. I recently had the honour of representing Mrs Hardman at a Careers and Transition Workshop in Narrabri and the assembled principals, careers advisers and DEC officials were all most impressed with the amount of work she does, combining Careers and VET in our school.

On Tuesday, 20 October, Ms Armstrong and her team ran another highly successful Minnis Shield Public Speaking Competition. I would like to acknowledge how very impressed I was by the calibre of the speakers who participated in the competition, and the knowledge and oratorical skills they demonstrated on the day. There are some fine young speakers in our school, and I was very proud of all of them.

Duval High School is also in the process of establishing a Multi-Categorical (MC) Class, to commence operations in 2016. This class has been established to provide educational support for students with a variety of learning difficulties from throughout the Armidale district. One of our older Science labs will be refurbished and converted into a specialist classroom, and a trained specialist teacher and School Learning Support Officer (Teacher’s Aide in the old money) will be appointed to work exclusively with this class. This is a new direction for Duval High School, but we see it as an important step in helping to provide appropriate public education support to all students in our region.

Stafford Cameron

Minnis Shield (continued from page 1)

refugee crisis and freedoms we enjoy in Australia, Amelia Rowe-Dawson swept the field in the Years 9-10 Minnis Cup, with Chris Esplin, Axel Jedlicka and Zoe George securing Highly Commended. David Wilson won the Minnis Trophy for Years 11-12, regaling us with his humorous insights on growing up. Deb Hyde and Winona Rumble were Highly Commended.

Ms Eddy congratulated our speakers on their thorough preparation and insightful presentations. Ms Eddy explained how speaking in such forums has assisted her personal and professional development. She encouraged students to keep building on their skills and developing their confidence by continuing to participate in such events. We thank Ms Eddy for her generous contributions to the Minnis Shield and we look forward to welcoming her back to Duval High School in the future.

Alison Armstrong

The annual Minnis Shield Public Speaking Competition always brings out Duval’s best and brightest stars. Axel Jedlicka of Year 10 is an excellent writer and speaker; each year he manages to produce a memorable entry and this year was no exception. Axel secured a Highly Commended Award for the entry reproduced below. Congratulations, Axel!
Today, I will inform you, I am consumed with rage. And the cause for my indignation? A flaw that has consumed the very competition I stand part of today. However this unfair judgment of a most noble art stands, and yet, I seem to be the only one standing up to defend it … I will be defending Magic, Memorability, and even Memes! Together, I will be defending the one thing that connects these three concepts together. It is an idea that composers avoid, critics shun, and causes audience-goers to shiver with fear. That concept…. is Gimmicks.

Now, upon hearing this, most people will groan. This is because they associate gimmicks with 3-D glasses, cheap tricks, and Batman villains. Isn’t doing flashy, “showoff-y” things when you’re a criminal usually a bad idea? But we’re not talking crime, we’re talking public speaking, and for the most part, most of those loser villains would be epic at it. You see, the definition of Gimmick is “a trick intended to gain publicity or attention” and nothing says attention more than dressing up like a scarecrow, or bad ice puns.

When it comes to public speaking, what matters is presentation. The more flashy and attractive it is, the larger your audience. The flair of what’s zany and unexpected drives people to the edge of their seats. Speaking of unexpected, did you know that the palm-card I’m reading from right now isn’t a palm card? It’s actually a playing card. And anyone guess which card it is? It’s the ace of palms actually. Now that this magic trick is out of the way, I want to talk about “What” gimmicks are based on. Though it takes intellectual thinking to yield the ideas behind an essay, it takes creative thinking to give it flair. Theatricality is what turns a normal, everyday event into a spectacle, which is the single most important phrase when talking about gimmicks. Spectacle is like a lighthouse, guiding poor, lost, hopeless audience to shore like moths to an attractive flame. However, when presenting you only have a limited time to grab the attention of the audience, and Gimmicks make the most of the time available. How? Memorability!

Most of the time, people leave speeches remembering only one or two lines. For example, Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” catchphrase. Now some might object to one of the most famous and influential speeches of all time being called gimmicky, but the thing about Gimmicks is that they are SPECIFICALLY ENGINEERED to gain attention, so the more a line (or a catchy song) gets stuck in your head, the more gimmicky it is. Injecting humour into a speech is also a good idea for a gimmick to stand out in the crowd; because a good joke will elicit laughter from the audience (and engagement), a bad pun elicits only groans. Jokes exist in a tough “survival of the fittest” environment, where imitating others - and being imitated - is very important. And that brings us to our last M word. Memes.

Everyone knows memes as those things that clog up our Facebook feeds and are used by out of date politicians to cash into what was trendy in 2009. However, the phrase Meme actually originated in terms of the evolution of an idea in a community, where the easier it is for us to understand and imitate an idea, the more powerful and pervasive it becomes. Over time, these memorable ideas integrate themselves into society, and become a cultural basis themselves. But if the ideas aren’t memorable enough, the seeds won’t take root and the idea won’t spread. Like hashtags on twitter, clever and memorable phrases spread like wildfire. Remember kids, you can’t spell Mimic without Gimmick.

Yet, despite all of this evidence showing what they are, how they work, and why they can be a good thing, Gimmicks are still ridiculed by the masses. But I believe that this discrimination against gimmicks, especially by schools, is a bad thing. All we ever learn in schools are the technicalities of speechwriting, instead of the spectacle of it. I’m not saying that using techniques is a bad thing. I’ve used plenty of techniques myself throughout this speech. But I’m saying that we are over reliant on them in our education. Persuasive techniques are so overdone anyway; have you ever heard a speech that used so many rhetorical questions that it sounds like a buzzfeed article? Click here to find out!

But it’s not the audience’s fault. It is the critics, the intellectual elites who pass judgment on whether or not something is considered “Quality”. Today, I’m not going to be pandering to what is considered “correct”. I believe that Gimmicky-crowd pleasing stuff is just that - stuff that makes the crowd pleased, not just persuaded. So the next time your English teacher dismisses your work as “gimmicky”, take it as a compliment, showing that you unapologetically and unpretentiously put your heart into it.
P&C AND GONSKI

Last night at our monthly P&C meeting (7pm, third Wednesday of the month at the bowling club, all welcome) it was extremely exciting to listen to the exciting ways our school community has chosen to use its "Gonski" money. This additional funding into our school and all schools based on need, is a well-received and thought-through benefit for our kids. The funding model recognises that to create great learning environments we need to support schools and students in a way that ensures students are funded based on their needs. Sounds sensible right? Well it is. Duval P&C has a history of supporting Gonski funding, being part of the Fair Funding bus tour across NSW in February 2012, then, along with the Tamworth high delegate, moving the motion at P&C annual conference 2012 that saw state P&C embrace unanimously support for the Gonski funding model.

What we need now is for the last two years of federal funding on this to be guaranteed and delivered as committed when NSW signed the funding agreement with the Federal Government in April 2013. Our kids deserve to see politicians follow through on such an important agreement.

To support this please consider adding your voice to the http://www.igiveagonski.com.au campaign.

P&C Committee

MATHEMATICS COMPETITIONS
RESULTS 2015

During August a number of students from Years 7-12 took part in three different Mathematics Competitions. The Australian Mathematics Competition, ICAS Mathematics Competition and Australian Mathematics Olympiad are international problem solving competitions that require students to attempt some very difficult questions indeed!

I commend all students who took part this year and would like to offer special congratulations to the following students who have received awards.

**Australian Mathematics Competition**

**Year 7**
A Distinction was achieved by Brittany Walls and a Credit by Beth Do.

**Year 8**
Distinction awards were achieved by Callum Ferguson, Isabelle Jedlicka, Adam Lucas and a Credit by Nyanyuie Nanedo.

**Year 9**
A Credit award was achieved by Muhaymin Khan, Michael Kuchlmayr, Angus Lawrence, Brad Lucas, Turner Lynch and Max Westhorpe.

**Year 10**
A Distinction certificate was awarded to Mohammed Ahsan with Tanvee Islam and N'Dea Rumble both achieving Credits.

**Year 11**
A certificate of Distinction was awarded to David Wilson and certificates of Credit were awarded to Adamantios Callias and Winona Rumble.

**Year 12**
Distinctions were presented to Jol Choct and Farah Islam and Credits were attained by Brandy Ritch, Rachel Dawson, Samuel Munday and Bethany Jedlicka.

**ICAS**

**Year 7**
A High Distinction was awarded to Alonso Geesink-Anton and a Distinction to Beth Do.

**Year 8**
A Distinction was awarded to Isabelle Jedlicka and a Credit was awarded to Adam Lucas.

**Year 9**
A Distinction was presented to Bradley Lucas.
Year 10
A Distinction was presented to Mohammed Ahsan.

Year 11
A Distinction was presented to Chenyou Zhang and Credit was attained by Scott Lucas.

Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad

This competition required students to sit a four-hour paper with no opportunity to have a break! Congratulations to the four students who took part this year – Beth Do, Alonso Geesink-Anton, Adam Lucas and Isabelle Jedlicka. This is the first year Duval has participated in this challenge and we commend these four students for their hard work! A big congratulations to all who took part in the various Maths Competitions in 2015. We look forward to seeing many students participate again next year in these highly worthwhile challenges!

Miss Gow

7W VISIT TO KENT HOUSE

Last Friday, our Year 7W students went to Kent House to have a special morning tea with the residents.

A recent graduate from Duval High School, Matt Carey, co organised the excursion. He has been helping out some students in our class all year. Matt was presented with the award of Young Citizen of the Year in 2014 in recognition of his community work.

We have had multiple discussions in class about the importance of community service and how we can all make a positive contribution to our society. Students interacted with the residents, performed a group song in French and in English. They were accompanied on the guitar by Cyril Green who is Matt's grandfather and used to be Jimmy Little's lead guitarist. The talented Charlotte Williams performed a wonderful physie routine. This excursion was very beneficial in getting the students thinking about how they could contribute to their community in the future.

Florence Champion de Crespigny

DHS Soul Band practises on Wednesday afternoon after school, finishing at 4.45pm. The band plays a mix of soul, jazz, blues, and rock music and includes improvisation. Students who can read music and play Saxophone, Clarinet, Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Bass Guitar, Guitar, Piano or the drums are welcome to attend.
OUTSTANDING TALENT IN YEAR 9

Alex Rogers of Year 9 is a champion martial artist. He has trained under Mr Kelly for many years and recently was awarded his black belt. This is an outstanding achievement of which Alex can be justifiably proud. The Duval community congratulate Alex and wish him continued success.

Alison Armstrong

INTERSCHOOLS HORSE EXTRAVAGANZA

Jade Fangmeier represented Duval recently at this event held at the Australian Equine and Livestock Events Centre (AELEC) in Tamworth. There were nearly 1500 entries, and Jade rode and competed well with her horse Silverthorn Wills. These are Jade’s outstanding results:

1. Working Horse Challenge - Hack 1st - Working 4th and placed 4th overall high point score
2. Hack - 1st
   Champion Hack - Senior
3. Rider - 1st
   Reserve Champion Rider
4. Educated Hack - 1st
5. Pleasure - 1st
6. Dressage - Novice 2.1 - 5th - Novice 2.2 - 1st
   Reserve Champion Dressage Rider
7. One Day Event (ODE) - 1st Senior
   Champion 13 Years and Over ODE