Top of the Hill
Newsletter of Duval High School

High Achieving 2014 Graduates

Erin Bourke
ATAR 99.75
All Rounder - Above 90% (Band 6) in all subjects
Top Achiever - Biology
Distinguished Achiever - Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Mathematics Ext 1, Mathematics Ext 2, English (Advanced)

Hannah Dillingham
ATAR 94.95
Distinguished Achiever Mathematics General 2

Xavier Dean
Distinguished Achiever Industrial Technology

Kaitlyn Hay
Distinguished Achiever Community & Family Studies Hospitality

Lucy Eddy
Distinguished Achiever English (Advanced)

Jol Choc
Distinguished Achiever Music 2

Dates for the Diary
♦ 11 February, 5.30pm> Year 7 Welcome BBQ
♦ 12 February> Twilight Swimming Carnival
♦ 13 February> In-lieu-of-school day
♦ 18 February, 7.00pm> P&C Meeting

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

We are introducing Year 7 students to our core values and reminding all about our Awards.
Welcome back to what will be another fabulous year of teaching and learning at Duval High School. I would like to give a special welcome to our new Year 7 students, and wish them all the best on their high school journey, and also to our new members of staff, Ms Liz Harvey-Foulds and Miss Amy Petherbridge. Ms Harvey-Foulds joins us from Canada on a year’s exchange with our Head Teacher of English, Ms Susan Hoddinott, and Miss Petherbridge will be teaching PDHPE and Dance in 2015 in place of Miss Cullen who is on leave.

Since we have quite a few new students, I think I should start the year by revising some basic school rules. There is no doubt that Duval High School is one of the finest schools in NSW - certainly it’s the best school that I have ever been involved with in over thirty years of teaching - and we work hard to keep it that way. The reason we do that is so that the students will have the best possible learning experiences they can have, which will give them the best possible life chances. I expect each and every one of them to do his or her best to ensure that Duval stays that way.

We are a Positive Behaviour for Learning, or PBL, school. At Duval we show our PBL values (Community, Respect, Excellence, Safety, and Teamwork) by:

♦ Coming to school every day - the Government says the minimum level of attendance at school is 85%. However a better way to think about it is like this - every day of school that a student misses means that they have missed out on an important bit of learning, and that might have a direct impact on the learning they will be expected to do tomorrow!
♦ Wearing the correct uniform with pride - we have a broad uniform code so I expect student to follow it. Just a note: black t-shirts are not part of the school uniform and hoodies are totally unacceptable!
♦ Being prepared to learn by bringing the right books and gear every day.
♦ Doing the right thing in class and following the classroom rules.
♦ Allowing others to learn - even helping others if we can.
♦ Seeking and accepting recognition when we do well.
♦ Participating in extra-curricular activities.

As I say every year, students have the right to learn and the teachers have the right to teach. Students who persist in trying to disrupt lessons and the learning of others will soon find themselves in trouble. They also have the right to feel happy and safe at school, and anyone who impinges on that right will also end up in trouble.

Just so that we are absolutely clear, let me briefly mention the negative things. Fighting, threatening behaviour or any other forms of violence won’t be tolerated at Duval, and that includes swearing at teachers. These things will result in suspension from school. Bullying is also completely unacceptable, and will be dealt with according to the school’s policy.

Smoking is strictly prohibited by law for every single person who comes on the school grounds. This includes students, teachers, parents, visitors and tradesmen.

We don’t leave school without permission. This includes seniors with cars. Year 12 students must complete a Discretionary Leave Form for Mrs Walsh before leaving the school - failure to do so is truantaing, which will go on the student’s permanent attendance record. The same applies to any passengers who wish to travel in another student’s car. If you haven’t had a passenger form signed by your parents and returned to Mrs Walsh, you should not be in anyone else’s car.

We have specific playground areas for a reason. The front oval is for active play and sports. The COLA is for handball. The other areas in the front of the school are passive areas for those people who just want to sit and eat or have a chat during breaks. The back area of the school is for Years 11 and 12 only, but this does not include the area behind the trees (the woodpile) which is out of bounds for all students.

I expect each and every one of our students to focus on and follow the PBL values and do the right thing. All of our students have talents of one sort or another, and I expect them all to do their best.

Stafford Cameron
INTRODUCING NEW STAFF MEMBER........LIZ HARVEY-FOULDS

Name....Ms.Harvey-Foulds
Faculty.......English
My earliest memory is........ my mother bringing my baby brother home from the hospital.
At school I ........am never bored!

I wish I'd never worn ........my new shoes to school last week because now I have blisters.

My mother and father always told me....... it is nice to be smart but it is smart to be nice.

I wish I had ........a million dollars to spend travelling around Australia this year.

I wish I hadn't ........had such a heavy suitcase when I arrived in Sydney.

My happiest moments were ........the days my four children were born.

My last meal would be ........steak, salad and shrimp.

I'm very bad at ........sports!

If I were a car I'd be ........a convertible.

NOTICE FROM SANDON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Duval students are reminded that they should not use the Sandon Public School grounds as a thoroughfare on their way to or from school. Students should not be on Sandon school grounds at any time without permission.
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2015 HOUSE CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS

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<tr>
<th>House</th>
<th>Captain</th>
<th>Vice Captain</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Crane - Boys</td>
<td>Kyle Hodson</td>
<td>Wil Shorter</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crane - Girls</td>
<td>Anisha Rajanathan</td>
<td>Zoe George</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardiner - Boys</td>
<td>Dominic Horneman</td>
<td>Ethan Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gardiner - Girls</td>
<td>Courtney Sim</td>
<td>Winona Rumble</td>
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<tr>
<td>McIntyre - Boys</td>
<td>Alex Oliver</td>
<td>Toby Niemeyer</td>
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<tr>
<td>McIntyre - Girls</td>
<td>Emilie Winter/Citi Emojong</td>
<td>Jennifer Roberts</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker - Boys</td>
<td>Michael Jakes</td>
<td>Ben Dawson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Walker - Girls</td>
<td>Kourtnee McFarlane</td>
<td>Amy Kwan</td>
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This activity is the sole reason for coming to Term 5

As most of you know, (and Year 7s will find out at the end of the year) last year Duval High School students and staff participated in the highly popular, end of year festivity known as Term 5. This term offers students the opportunity to interact with different year groups, and students can choose to enter a new activity or continue with an old favourite. The best afternoon activity as far as I am concerned is ‘Treasure Boxes’.

Have you ever asked yourself about the various choices in term 5? Do you enjoy helping people? Do you like getting creative with scrapbooking? Do you want to be in an activity that combines both of these affairs into one? Have you ever considered participating in the popular afternoon activity of Treasure Boxes? Do you want me to stop talking in questions and to get to the point? Okay then, I will proceed.

In this activity students are given plain boxes, wrapping paper, stickers, glitter glue, and the blissful opportunity to give your imagination free rein to wander in a safe and peaceful environment. In Treasure Boxes, you can make as many colourful creations as you see fit, take all unfinished and finished work home as you please, and remember to make a few of your boxes extra-special and give them to the children on the Children’s Ward of the Armidale Hospital on the last day of the course.

I sincerely hope that when the special week comes to those privileged enough to attend, that you will choose whichever activity suits you. (Hint hint, Treasure Boxes is the best!!)

Christopher Esplin
Year 10

MUSIC @ DUVAL 2015

Soul Band begins rehearsal this week (Week 2) on Wednesday afternoon after school, finishing at 4.45pm. All students who play the trumpet, trombone, saxophone, flute, or clarinet at any ability level are encouraged to attend. As well as being an extension opportunity for gifted and talented students, the band functions as a public relations vehicle for the school, performing at school assemblies, school fêtes, music festivals, and special events in Sydney. It is a jazz orchestra which plays soul, jazz, swing, blues, funk, rock and roll, and popular music and is run by Mr Myers. If your child misses the first rehearsal, don’t worry, just send them along to the next one.

Private Instrumental Lessons Your child can receive private instrumental lessons with a private teacher at the school during school hours which can be very convenient for busy parents. If your child already has a private instrumental teacher, you may arrange with them to give lessons during school hours at Duval High School. Alternatively, instrumental teachers for many different instruments visit the school regularly and you may wish to take up the opportunity to learn a new instrument. Contact either Mr Myers or Mrs Pearson for more details.
ATHLETICS NEWS

The NSW Country Athletics Championships were held on the Australia Day weekend in Newcastle and Duval students achieved the following fantastic results:

Stuart Geddes (Year 10)
Gold U15 1500m (new PB 4:21.51)
Gold U15 2000m steeplechase
Silver U17 4 x 100m relay
Bronze U15 3000m
Bronze U15 800m

Anisha Rajanathan (Year 10)
Gold Open 4 x 100m relay

Turner Lynch (Year 10)
Silver U17 4 x 100m relay
Bronze U15 400m (new PB 56:94)

Aaron Iji (Year 8)
Silver U17 4 x 100m relay

Basketball is Back!!

2015 nomination forms for teams or individuals are due on Saturday, 7th February and are available from Intersport or Sportspower.

As it is a new season and many students have graduated to and from high school, we have to reorganize our junior basketball teams for 2015. It doesn’t matter if you are not very good at it, it only matters if you are having fun and getting fit.

Don’t know anyone else who wants to play??? No worries! To help you get started in a new team, there will be a sign up session on Tuesday, 3rd straight after school (3.30-4.30) and again on Saturday, 7th (4-5pm). Come down to the stadium and sign up to go into a team. We will put you with as many friends as possible or find you new ones.

Games are on a Tuesday evening, anytime from 4.20pm onwards with grades being Yrs 7/8 or Yrs 9/10. Cost is $6 per week or $40 per team for game fees, and registration is $70 for the 12 months. Players in Yrs 11 and 12 will need to join the Men’s and Women’s grades.

If you are interested in improving your basketball, join our Armidale Lions Representative Squad which will be training from 10am - 12noon on Sunday 1st or 8th at The Den. We are looking for players turning 12-17 in 2015.

If you would like to participate in this fabulous game or simply need more information, please contact Judy Monaghan on 6772 7771 or 0417622859, or by email at armball@bigpond.com

Twilight Football (Soccer)

The SportUNE Twilight Football (Soccer) Term 1 competition will commence on Tuesday, 17 February 2015 and is open to U10’s, U12’s, U14’s, U16’s (Juniors) and Opens, Mixed and Womens (Seniors) teams. The competition will be 6 weeks and cost $240.00 per junior team and $300.00 per senior team.


Registrations close 11 February 2015.

Any further information, please contact Ariane Mazzei at SportUNE on 6773 3744 or amazzei@une.edu.au
NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM

Each year NSW Health works in partnership with schools to offer the vaccines recommended by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for adolescents as part of the school vaccination program.

In 2015 the following vaccines will be offered:

**Year 7 students**
- dTPa vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus & Pertussis (whooping cough)) as a single dose
- varicella vaccine (chickenpox) as a single dose; and
- human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine in a 3-dose schedule at 0, 2 and 6 months (students who commence HPV vaccination in Year 7 but do not complete the course may be offered catch-up doses at school in Year 8)

**Year 11-12 students**
- measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine as a single dose as part of a catch-up vaccination program for students who are not fully protected.

PLEASE CHECK HOW MANY DOSES OF MMR VACCINE YOUR CHILD HAS RECEIVED BY CHECKING THEIR BABY VACCINATION BOOK (BLUE BOOK) OR CONTACTING MEDICARE ON 1800 653 809. IF THEY HAVE EVIDENCE OF TWO PREVIOUS DOSES – DO NOT COMPLETE THE CONSENT FORM.

* The Parent Information Kits contain a consent form, information sheet and privacy statement that details how personal information will be collected, stored and utilised.

**Consent form kits** will be sent home to parents/guardians. To consent to the vaccination of their child, parents/guardians are advised to:

- read all the information provided
- complete the consent form, including signing their name next to the vaccine/s they would like their child to receive
- return the completed consent form to their child’s school
- ensure that their child eats breakfast on the day of the school vaccination clinic.

Parents/guardians who wish to withdraw their consent for any reason may do so by writing to the school Principal or phoning the school. The Procedure for Withdrawal of Consent is available on the NSW Health website at [www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation)

To improve vaccination completion, students will be opportunistically offered any missed doses throughout the year where possible.

Please note that for HPV vaccine only, parents/guardians must record their Medicare Number (all 10 digits and the 11th number beside the child’s name) on the consent form, as this is required to record the student’s information on the National HPV Vaccination Register and (for female students only) link to the National or State Cervical Screening Program.

A Record of Vaccination will be provided to each student vaccinated at each clinic. 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.