Table Tennis Team to State Finals

Full Report on Page 8

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 12 June Red Day @ Canteen
- 16 June Go Gold for Noah Day
- 15-19 June> "Guys and Dolls" - UNE Arts Theatre
- 26 June Last day of Term 2
- 14 July Students return to school for Term 3
- 15 July P&C Meeting @ 7pm

PBL has been revising Respect - how do we respect ourselves?

Publication of this newsletter is made possible through the generous support of the Duval High School Parents & Citizens Association.
Welcome to the penultimate Top of the Hill for Term 2, 2015. I am still a bit stunned by how quickly this term has flown!

Congratulations to all students who attended and participated in this year’s Athletics Carnival. The day was a great success, largely due to the organisation of Mr Model, but Mr Moulynox’s “power plays” also added a certain flavour to the day, especially for Ms Verwayen and Ms Simes in the Recorders’ Tent. The weather was very kind to us, and all of the students I spoke to had a great day. Special congratulations to our record-breakers - Stuart Geddes (15 Years Boys 800m and 1500m), N’Dea Rumble (16 Years Girls 400m), Kourtnee McFarlane (17 Years Girls 100m), Muhaymin Khan (14 Years Boys Shot Put) and Lachlan Graham (15 Years Boys Shot Put). You can read more about their efforts elsewhere in this newsletter, but there were certainly some stellar efforts on the day.

I was also very impressed by the standard and variety of talent displayed by our students at the DHS Talent Night on Friday 29th May. Singers, dancers, musicians, speakers, bands – the young people of Duval covered the gamut in this show. As one parent said, “You’ve got some exceptionally talented kids at this school!” Yes, we do. The depth of these talents is also going to be displayed in our Musical, ‘Guys and Dolls,’ being staged at the UNE Arts Theatre on the 16th, 17th and 19th of June. I have only heard small excerpts from the show so far, but what I have seen and heard augurs very well for a fantastic night’s entertainment!

This week we also celebrated National Reconciliation Week (NRW). The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort. Reconciliation involves building positive, respectful relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians; enabling us to work together to close the gaps, and to achieve a shared sense of fairness and justice. The ultimate goal of reconciliation is to build strong and trusting relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and other Australians, as a foundation for success and to enhance our national wellbeing.

The theme for NRW 2015 is “It’s time to change it up!” This year, Reconciliation Australia is ‘changing it up’ by working to engage the next generation through a program called Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning. Narragunnawali (pronounced narra-gunna-wally) is a word from the language of the Ngunnawal people meaning peace, alive, wellbeing and coming together, and is a chance for us all to take some fresh action to spark a change in your school, workplace or community—no matter how big or small.

Narragunnawali: Reconciliation in Schools and Early Learning is designed to support the 21,000+ early childhood, primary and secondary schools in Australia to develop environments that foster a higher level of knowledge and pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and contributions. Participating schools will be assisted to find meaningful ways to increase respect, reduce prejudice, and strengthen relationships between the wider Australian community and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Finally, a reminder that we will be holding the inaugural meeting of the Duval High School Interact Club on Wednesday 10th June at lunchtime in Room 114.

Stafford Cameron

P&C NEWS

P&C members are actively supporting many aspects of the school musical: “Guys and Dolls”. We initially provided funding to purchase the production rights of the show; and since then have been assisting with advertising, publicity, ticket sales, and preparation of the show’s programme.

The money raised from this production will provide seed-funding for future dramatic productions. Therefore, a successful ‘Guys and Dolls’ is important for further theatrical opportunities for DHS students in future years.

The next P&C Meeting is Wednesday 15th July at 7pm in the Staff Common Room. Everyone is most welcome to attend.
FROM THE DP DESK

Today I'd like to talk about a very simple thing that helps all kids focus on their schoolwork, maximise brain function and stay alert all day. It's simple and we should all be doing it to get the best out of every day. It's not tricky or hard work, it's just eating breakfast.

Breakfast sets kids (and adults) up for optimal function. Through the night, we are fasting and as the day begins, we need to get our metabolism cranked up to support our brains and our bodies for the long day ahead. There is plenty of evidence to prove that people who eat breakfast are calmer and much more able to think and function well than those who wait till later in the day to eat. Plenty of people who don't eat breakfast say they have no time or no desire to eat so early, but it's a matter of getting into a good habit and dropping the bad one. A piece of toast, a couple of weetbix, a fruit smoothie or a bowl of porridge will do the trick. A few minutes spent eating breakfast every day can really help optimise outcomes for our kids.

Have a great couple of weeks.

Mrs Sandra Rosner

OFFICE BUSINESS

Student Drivers

Students who obtain a drivers licence may use a vehicle for the purpose of travel between home and school. Students are expected to comply with all current road regulations, drive safely and to use roadworthy, registered and insured vehicles. The student's licence must be valid.

♦ Vehicles must only be used for travel between home and school.
♦ Students must not bring vehicles onto the school grounds.
♦ Students are not to visit vehicles at any time during the school day.
♦ Students are not to use vehicles during recess and lunch.
♦ All passengers must have written consent from their parent/carer.
♦ Passengers of student drivers will submit a signed form with their parent/carer’s consent and the nominated driver’s name.
♦ Where a student drives in an unsafe manner, the police will be informed and the parent/carer will be contacted informing them of the issues.
♦ Continued unsafe driving will result in disciplinary action.
♦ Drivers and passengers not following this policy may face disciplinary action. Discretionary leave privileges may be withdrawn.

Student Driver forms and Student Drivers’ Passenger forms are obtained and returned at the Office.

We urgently need extra parent help for each showing of Guys and Dolls to:

1) provide baked goods to sell during intermission,
2) sell tickets and programmes before the show, and
3) assist in serving and selling food and drink during intermission.

Please contact the DHS Office or Mr Myers on 6772 1266.
**VISITING WRITER & ARTIST - MATT BLACKWOOD**

The New England Writers Centre helped arrange a visit from writer and artist Matt Blackwood. He spoke to all of Year 12 about writing, being creative and imaginative and accepting no limits to publishing your work. This was well-received.

Matt also conducted a “Sticky Stories” workshop with a small group from years 7 and 8. Britney Walls (7X) has written the following:

> When Matt Blackwood came to work with a few year 7 and 8 students, he talked to us about what amazing things he had done in the past few years. He showed us a slide show of where he put his stories and how he made them. After a while we got to make our very own “#StickyStories”. We got given pieces of bright paper, wrote stories between 20-60 words on the paper then stuck them upstairs in the library where we got the inspiration for them. We enjoyed having Matt here and we wish we could do it again.

*Ms Simes*

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**PLAIN ENGLISH SPEAKING AWARD**

Aleisha Singleton from Year 12 was awarded 2nd place in The Plain Speaking Award held in Tamworth earlier this month.

This is an outstanding result as Aleisha was competing against senior students from six high schools across the New England region. Aleisha spoke very confidently and with great knowledge about the recent federal budget and the ramifications of cuts to foreign aid. She was narrowly defeated by a student from Armidale High School and both students were proud to represent our local community of schools.

The Plain English Speaking Award is coordinated by the Arts Unit within the Department of Education and provides an opportunity for NSW senior students to improve their confidence and to develop their speech-writing and public speaking skills. Students present both a prepared speech and an impromptu speech. The impromptu speech is about a subject chosen by the adjudicator. This year's impromptu topic was “Rich and Poor”.

What would you say about this topic for 3 minutes in front of an audience?

Well done Aleisha!

*Ms Grice*

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Don't miss Duval's musical production of **Guys and Dolls**

@ UNE Arts Theatre
16, 18, 19 June
Purchase tickets online or at DHS office
GO GOLD FOR NOAH DAY

Tuesday next week (16th June 2015) will be our inaugural multi-fund-raising day in memory of Noah Fittler. Students are asked to wear GOLD and a BEANIE and bring a GOLD coin donation. Noah loved finger buns and Moxons has kindly donated 300 of these for us to sell on the day.

Finger buns will be $2, bags of lollies will also be on sale (donated by Noah's parents) for $1.

All money raised will be donated to Ronald McDonald House, Kids Cancer Project and Camp Quality.

BIGGEST MORNING TEA

On the 27th May, the prefects organised and cooked for the Biggest Morning Tea to raise money for the Cancer Council. There were lots of delicious things to choose from including sandwiches, cupcakes, slices and biscuits and everybody seemed to enjoy all the food.

About 80 people turned up to enjoy the food, including teachers and students. We raised over $500, all of which will go to the Cancer Council towards cancer research. It was a great event and we would like to thank anyone who was involved in the organisation and cooking.

ATHLETICS CARNIVAL

Age Champions

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### House Points

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ATHLETICS CARNIVAL (cont)

Power Play (PBL)

Congratulations to the (PBL) Power Play winners – great participation!

Amber Harper – 16 years javelin
Sean Niemeyer – 16 years high jump
Lachlan Graham – 15 years long jump
Tiffany Tarrant – 13 years shot put
Callum Ferguson – 14 years javelin
Brandon Giles – 17 years long jump
Hollie Porter – 12 years shot put
Isabelle Winter – 15 years high jump
Luke Wilson – 12 years long jump
April Heagney – 14 years discus
Bethany Jedlicka – 17 years 200m
Ethan Rogers - 13 years high jump

Thanks to Mr Moulynox for his music – it was terrific!

Battle of the Sexes

Congratulations to the winners in the Battle of the Sexes (for participation)!

Year 7 girls
Year 8 girls
Year 9 boys
Year 10 girls
Year 11 boys
Year 12 girls.

Those who participated at the carnival will have an afternoon treat organised by their year adviser.
TABLE TENNIS SUCCESS

A year ago, in the CHS inter-school table tennis competition, Duval’s school team were knocked out by Macintyre High School in Inverell, beaten 4:2. Travelling back that afternoon, two of our team members Jake Murphy and Justin Bullen promised to be in the school gym at lunchtime the following day, “To start training for next year...”. That training has paid off!

This year, in addition to Jake and Justin (Year 12) Duval has two younger rising stars: Alex Rogers and Kolja Drydale-Cech (Year 9). These four players have just finished an impressive run in the NW region of the CHS competition, becoming regional champions after defeating Macintyre HS 4:0. Duval had previously won similarly emphatic victories over Armidale HS (4:0) and Tamworth HS (4:0) in earlier rounds.

The regional final was played in Duval’s gym, in front of a large, appreciative audience of Duval students, whom all behaved impeccably.

The team is to be commended on their dedication and calibre of play. At a competitive level, table tennis is a highly technical sport. It requires lightning fast reactions, a good eye, the ability to play a full range of strokes (from deceptive spin serves, through close-to-the-table blocks or back-spin push shots, to all-out top-spin loops on both forehand and backhand). At the same time, players must have the ability to anticipate the opponent’s spin on that little white ball travelling at high speed!

Jake, Alex, Justin and Kolja, as well as a wider squad of keen ping-pongers, have been practising at recess and lunchtimes up to five times a week in Duval’s Table Tennis Club for most of the past year. They are all developing an impressive range of skills. Thanks to the P&C, we now have a beautiful new competition-quality table to play on and the school’s sports budget has given us two good new nets.

The 4 players will now contest the State Finals at the Olympic Sport Centre on Monday 22nd June. We will be up against many top-ranked players in NSW, so cannot be expected to win many matches - think the Socceroos in the last FIFA World Cup!

However, I am confident our team can represent Duval proudly, will have a lot of fun playing at the top level and may even surprise an opponent or two along the way!

Good luck to all and congratulations on the successes you have already achieved.

Mr Suddaby

ROUND BALL UPDATE

The Bill Turner Cup Regional Final will be played between Duval HS and Carinya Christian School on Thursday 18th June at Phil Wheaton Oval. Kick off will be at 11.00 am. Spectators welcome!

Mr Model

NEW COMMUNITY GARDEN

Recently the Narwan Village Community Garden, adjacent to Doody Park, made history as Armidale’s first Indigenous Community Garden.

It was opened in east Armidale by Costa Georgiadis of Gardening Australia. His address to the crowd was very informative; he explained that local residents throughout Australia are currently establishing community gardens and city farms to reconnect people with the food cycle and improve our ecological footprint. Costa said that this garden is an example to others, and that we “........are building a culture around food.” Costa is frequently asked to the openings of community gardens and it gave him great pleasure in telling people how valuable these gardens are for food security and personal well-being.

Four students from Duval helped on the day. Monica Palad, Elizabeth Harrison (both in Year 12) and Nyah Golding (Year 10) can be seen preparing the entrance to the garden for the opening, and Frank Roberts (Year 8) helped with the barbecue later in the day.
GUYS AND DOLLS NEXT WEEK!

There is nothing like a high school musical to excite and engage a school community. The response from Duval’s students, staff, and community is overwhelming.

Purchase tickets at the Duval office or online at www.trybooking.com/138796.

Mr Myers

EISTEDDFOD AWARDS

Year 8 student, Georgia Vaughan, has been busy participating in the local eisteddfod season. At the Inverell Eisteddfod, she received several places in song and dance categories, as well as receiving the overall judge’s Encouragement Award in the dance section.

Georgia also received an impressive array of places in speech, drama, and dance categories at the Armidale Eisteddfod, gained the Championship Trophy in her division of speech/drama, and was presented the judge’s overall Local Encouragement Award.

A huge thanks to Miss Petherbridge and Mrs Walsh for their assistance in preparing for these events.

Don’t miss Duval’s musical production of:

Guys and Dolls
@ UNE Arts Theatre
16, 18, 19 June

Purchase tickets online or at DHS office

WEP Student Exchange
– Learn and Discover the World! –

WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation registered with the Education Departments in NSW, QLD and VIC.

Applications for short and long-term programs commencing from November 2015 onward are open now.

Students can choose from over 25 countries to live with a volunteer WEP host family and attend an overseas high school for a summer, semester or year.

To request program information for your family, visit www.wep.org.au, email info@wep.org.au or call 1300 884 733.
2015
Duval High School presents

Gus and Dolls

June 16, 7pm
June 17, 12.30pm & 7pm
June 19, 7pm
UNE Arts Theatre

Book tickets at trybooking.com/138796
Tickets $20, Student / Concession $15

A musical fable of Broadway
Based on a Story and Characters of Damon Runyon

Musics and Lyrics by: FRANK LOESSER
Book by: JO SWERLING and ABE BURROWS
by arrangement with Hal Leonard Australia Pty Ltd
Exclusive agent for Music Theatre International (NY)