TOP OF THE HILL
Newsletter of Duval High School

SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

Tuesday, 5th August
Room 104, or “The Rooftop Theatre” as it is affectionately known, played host to the combined talents of Duval Elective Drama students and a group of Year 9 students from Armidale High School.

Full Report - page 5

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 3-14 August> HSC Trial Exams
- 19 August> Year 8 into Year 9: Information Evening
- 20 & 27 August> Year 6 into Year 7: Taster Days (1-3pm)
- 1 September> Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 3-11 September> Year 11 Final Exams
- 18 September> Valedictory Assembly

What do you do?
We are discussing scenarios and what we would do to ensure a positive outcome.

PBL CORNER

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

As the weather warms up, the school calendar seems to speed up. Our Year 12s are sitting their Trials, and soon will be in the lead up to the HSC itself. The Trials are very important and give students a really good indicator of whether they have studied effectively enough to express their understanding of each subject. Following the Trials, Year 12 students have the opportunity to reflect on where they are on track and what areas need tweaking or serious attention in order to get their best possible results for their HSC exams.

Research has shown that high school students need to have a balance of study, active time, family time and down time. Proper diet is very important, while paid work of more than 10 hours a week is proven to be detrimental to an effective study program.

At the moment if you are a family with a HSC student, you are likely going through a period of heightened stress and I feel for you. Rest assured that there is a light at the end of the tunnel and your beautiful teenage son or daughter will return to their usual self in a few months’ time. Don't hesitate to contact us if you feel you need a little extra support in the meantime.

Sandra Rosner
Deputy Principal

Our monthly working bee was held last Sunday morning, and more mulch for the garden beds is expected to be delivered this week.

We have recently assisted the school in purchasing new textbooks for History, whiteboards for English, and paint to maintain the front entrance wall.

We have also decided to change our meeting venue to the Armidale Bowling Club. The next meeting will be 16th September at 7pm. All warmly welcome!

P&C Committee

Duval High School Captains, Sam Munday and Eleanor Logan, presented the annual Public Education Week Awards at a special morning tea on the 31st July.

Cathie Simes and Bruce Myers were awarded Outstanding Contribution from a Staff Member; Stuart Browne (Yr 10) was recognised for his Outstanding Contribution from a Student, Matt Ryan was acknowledged for his Outstanding Contribution from a Member of the Community, and Sue Muir received Outstanding Contribution from a Parent.

Every year a 3-week Challenge Competition is run by the Australian Mathematics Trust. The Challenge involves students from Years 7 to 10 working independently through 6 difficult problems which require them to use high-order thinking and problem solving skills. Students from all over Australia and the Pacific took part and it was wonderful to see Duval well represented among them.

The following students are commended on their participation: Luke Wilson, Asha Karsten, Heather Girard, Callum Fergusson, Sai Yarram, Brian Torio, Brad Lucas, Michael Kuchlmayr, Robbie Wilson, Yoganes Manoharan, Alex Evans and Mohammed Ahsan. Adam Lucas of Year 8 achieved a Distinction placing him in the 82nd percentile for his age group and is especially congratulated on such an outstanding result.

Well done to all students and a reminder that the Challenge will run again next year and is open to any interested student in Years 7-10.

Miss Gow
HISTORY

Duval historians know the value of oral history; it’s a rich source of family history from which we can learn so much. In this interview, Zoe George’s Grandfather reflects on his experiences in the Vietnam War.

This is my grandfather, Peter. Now 68 going on 69, he sits down with me to tell me about his experience.

In this picture you are holding he is 21 years old. The year is 1967 and he has just been shipped out to his first base, support base Kerry in Bein Hoa province, Vietnam. Like everyone else, he was conscripted. His birthday number was drawn out of a barrel and was sent a letter saying that he was to be ready for service. It was like an adventure at the start, landing in Saigon at a mega air base, they were overwhelmed at what they saw.

“There were helicopter gunships, Chinooks, large transport helicopters, jet bombers and F4 bombers preparing for NAPALM runs.”

From there, his unit was transferred to another support base located at Nui Dat where he was an artillery surveyor, surveying all weaponry to make sure it was 100% effective.

After the first week, the adventure started to wear off and really set in. “We were always under constant threat because the war was fought at night,” he says. “We were always being bombed by mortars and rockets.”

He points at his scars where shrapnel entered his body. Still today, like most other returned veterans, he is still having little pieces of it removed from his body as a constant reminder of the war, 40 years on.

It is then that I ask him probably the most important question: “Did you kill anybody?”

He simply replied “Yes. We killed lots of the enemy.”

I asked him: “Why?”

He said “Each morning, we had to go on patrol around the base to make sure that nobody was sneaking up on us. If we found them, they started firing at us and we would kill them. After, we would bring back their remains in body bags and document everything we could about them before handing the deceased over to the village chief.”

He pauses. I then ask: “Would you still have to kill them if they surrendered?”

He shortly replied “Yes, probably….. I saw lots of Americans and Australian brothers of mine fall in combat.”

Most returned veterans including my grandfather suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (or PTSD for short) on a daily basis.

“There is not one man who was not affected in some way by their experience. We knew why we were there. We were there to fight the spread of communism,” he says. “No matter how many of our brothers we saw die, we all had to keep going….. I saw many atrocities, but after 40 years it all becomes part of a bigger picture.”

I think about what he has told me and then finally ask: “Did you have to go? Was it all really worth it?”

He replies: “When you’re young, you do what you have to do. My country sent me away to war, and I am part of what I’ve achieved…..Men who didn’t go to war were ostracised because they didn’t go. I still know men in their 60’s who are ostracised because they didn’t go.”

I then asked him to sum up what he learnt about the war in the 40 years that has passed.

He said: “Even though it was a war we never should have been involved in and many people died, I believe that we did what we did to help create the society we live in today.”

QUICK QUIZ:

Do you know the meaning of these expressions in the context of Zoe’s interview: communism, conscription, PTSD.

Tell Ms Armstrong what they mean in exchange for a reward.
DEBATING

Last week, 13 students travelled to Oxley High School to participate in the annual Arts Council Debating Camp. Our students joined many other students from around the region in one of the largest debating camps that has been organised.

Duval’s Year 9 debating team members Genevieve Dunn, Angus Lawrence, Bradley Lucas and Amelia Rowe-Dawson participated in the regional finals held on the first day of the camp where the topic was; “That we should have equal male and female candidates for political positions”. They debated confidently and with great style and conviction, but sadly they were defeated by Glen Innes.

Congratulations to the team and their coach Ms Jennifer Squires for getting to the regional finals. All students had a great two days attending workshops and mock debates and we look forward to attending again next year.

Ms Grice

PROGRAMME FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSESSMENT

Duval High School has been selected to take part in the 2015 Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) Main Study.

PISA is an important part of the National Assessment Program in Australia, which is the measure through which governments, education authorities and schools can determine whether or not young Australians are meeting important educational outcomes. All Australian Education Ministers have agreed to Australian schools’ participation in PISA, which is reflected in the Australian Education Act 2013.

International assessments provide a wide range of valuable information for education policy and review in Australia and overseas and also enable Australia to consider the performance of our education system compared with others.

Since the first PISA assessment involving 32 countries in 2000, the survey has continued to raise interest amongst educators and policy-makers world-wide. In 2015, Australia will be one of over 70 countries participating in PISA with around 15,000 students (from more than 800 schools) representing our country.

If your child is one of the 30 students to be involved, they will have been given information to take home regarding the assessment. The assessment will take place on Tuesday 18 August 2015.

Each participating student has an important role in representing all students in Australia. They will be making a valuable contribution to the education community both nationally and internationally.

To thank your son/daughter for participating in the PISA assessment, ACER will provide a certificate of participation and students will also receive two small gifts. Students will receive feedback on their performance in PISA in the form of an individual report, which will be provided to the school in late 2015 or early 2016.

Mr Crompton

INTERACT CLUB

The Duval Interact Club began officially on July 16th 2015 with a donation of $500 (seed money) from the Armidale Central Rotary Club. The first project is school-based, and involves the students establishing a Multicultural Room at the school to support and promote cultural diversity within the school and community.

Meetings are on every Tuesday at lunchtime in Room 114. Its not too late to join, so please come along.

Mrs Rajaratnam
SHAKESPEARE FESTIVAL

The annual Duval Shakespeare Festival kicked off with a wonderful tempter from Debbie Hyde and Elizabeth Holland, re-discovering *Twelfth Night* and ended with a comedy slapstick jollity from David Wilson and Alana Smith in *The Taming of the Shrew* - Wilson donning the dress as Katherina and Smith as Petruchio. Everything in between was a treat and displayed the extraordinary talents of our students.

Other highlights included an ensemble performance of the witches from *MacBeth* set in a hairdressing salon, with Michael Kuchelmayr's *MacBeth* being served up a rare potion of Cafe Latte - complete with vile ingredients. Kyle Donnan did an outstanding job as Lady MacBeth, and all performers served to re-inforce the extraordinary talents for we are known.

MCs for the day were Alex Evans and Stuart Browne, both appearing in a scene from *Twelfth Night*, and Stuart's film - an appropriation of a scene from *Romeo and Juliet* - finished off the day.

It was an excellent opportunity to share our performance fun with AHS. The students were at once supported and inspired by the combination of these school groups.

A heart-felt congratulations to all the participants! We will all look forward to next year’s Shakespeare Festival.

*Ms Walsh*
BLOOD DONATIONS

Drip, drip, drip……..

July 31st, the day Year 11’s nightmares came alive, big needles and bloodsucking nurses. Throughout the day small groups of Year 11 and one Year 12 (lonely boy) gave their essence (blood) to save lives in the future. Mind you, this was after we visited several houses to find ID which we forgot we needed. We reached the very edge of our courage as Ms Simes reached the very edge of her patience.

Overall, it was a great day though and we felt good doing it.

Kyle Donnan

Ouch! is what was going through our minds as we stepped through the doors of the Armidale Blood Bank, along with the thought of, “How will I fill in the paperwork without Mum’s help??!!” But, despite our fears we soldiered on through the doors and potentially saved 30 lives.

Paige Meredith

STATE WIND BAND

Bradley Lucas (Year 9) represented Duval in the State Senior Wind Band program, held August 1st-4th in Sydney.

The program concluded with two evening performances in the Festival of Instrumental Music at the Opera House.

MOVIE REVIEW - THE DUFF

This movie is about the stereotypes through our lives, and especially high school. The geeks, jocks, and in this case, the Duff. It is the one-o-one on dating!, and is somewhat an eye opener to watch as it is a must-see for all teenagers, whether struggling with your identity or not.

A teenager’s perspective on love, lust, school, and relationships. What way do you identify yourself?

Score: 8.5/10.

Kaitlyn Weston, Year 10
**NEWCASTLE JETS**

It was selfie central on Thursday 30th July at Sport UNE when the Australian A-League team, Newcastle Jets visited Duval High School students.

Students were given the opportunity to show off their football skills in front of professional athletics, get autographs and take a happy snaps to remember the occasion.

The afternoon ended with a high paced Duval All Stars Futsal match and a whole group photo.

**STATE ATHLETICS**

Duval High School had a strong representation at the North-West Region Athletics Trials in Tamworth on Friday, 24th August.

Congratulations to the following students who qualified for the CHS State Championships:

- Marvin Palad: 13yr 100m, 200m
- Cameron Waters: 14yr 1500m
- John George: 14yr High Jump
- Jaia Richardson-Fowell: 14yr Long Jump
- Stuart Geddes: 15yr 1500m, 3000m; 17yr Steeplechase
- Bradley Lucas: 15yr 1500m
- Turner Lynch: 15yr 400m, 800m
- Isabelle Winter: 15yr 100m, 200m
- N’Dea Rumble: 16yr 400m, 800m
- Daley Wood: 16yr 400m, 800m
- William Vince-Moin: 17yr 400m, 800m, 1500m

The CHS State Championships will be held in Sydney on 3-5 September.

**WORLD CYCLING REPRESENTATIVE**

Year 12 student, Sam Jenner, has been selected to represent Australia in the under 19 category at the UCI Road World Championships.

Sam is one of five members of the National Junior Team, and will be travelling to USA in the second half of September.
MOUNTAIN BIKING

Sarah Schalk (Year 9) has been selected for the 2 Wheel Sports Academy (sponsored by Community and NIAS). This is a fantastic achievement, considering she has only been competing in mountain biking events for 3 months.

Sarah has been participating in events across the region. This weekend, she will be riding in Tamworth as part of a 5-hour endurance team race.

Sarah appreciates Duval’s PE Teacher Peter Harris (currently on secondment) for supporting and encouraging her in her mountain biking achievements.

Congratulations and good luck!

CADETS

Bernadette Vickers (Year 8) has recently celebrated her promotion to Able Seaman at TS Armidale. Bernie recommends the Cadets programme, either with TS Armidale or 337 Squadron, to everyone.

TWILIGHT SOCCER

10s/12s/14s/16s
womens/opened/mixed
Juniors $350/Seniors $450
Starts Oct 6th and runs for 9 weeks
Register: www.sportune.com.au

Artwork by Chloe Gillin, Year 7