CONGRATULATIONS
GARDNER

Gardner once again demonstrated outstanding sporting prowess, coming first in the House Competition at DHS’s annual swimming carnival held last Thursday evening.

This result is a repeat of preceding years: Gardner has topped the tally sheet for at least the last eight consecutive swimming carnivals!

House Competition results for the 2016 Swimming Carnival:

1st Gardner
2nd McIntyre
3rd Walker
4th Crane

......more photos page 6!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

♦ 2 March  School Photographs
♦ 3 March, 7pm  School Social
♦ 7-9 March  Year 10 Excursion to Nymboida
♦ 16 March, 7pm  P&C Meeting
In this brief report, I’m going to spend most of my time thanking people for the activities and initiatives which are going on here at Duval High School, and the positive impact they will have on the wellbeing and learning of your children.

Firstly, I must thank Sandra Cotton and her Transition Team for the fabulous Year 7 Welcome BBQ. We had the biggest roll-up of students and parents I have seen in years, and it was delightful to meet and speak with such a broad cross-section of our parents. I think everyone who came along had a great evening, even though we unexpectedly ran out of sausages! Thanks also to the hardy parents who put up their hands on the night to become Canteen volunteers – we always need more parents to come along and be a part of this fabulous organisation, whose sole purpose is feeding your children healthy food, and contributing to the educational climate and atmosphere of the school!

Secondly, thanks to everyone (staff, students and parents) who participated in the Twilight Swimming Carnival. What a great night it was, and what wonderful student participation we saw! From my observations I think it’s fair to say that everyone had a fantastic time, and the PowerPlays run by Ms Mancell and Mr Moulnoyx only added to the flavour of the occasion. Now, if we can only do something about that announcer...

Finally, a big thank you to the staff for coming along to the in-lieu-of day on Friday 12th to take part in training and development in topics as diverse as Child Protection, Using Google Docs and Edmodo in the classroom, the Sentral computer system and reporting, and Learning Walks as a means of improving teaching and learning. This T&D is aimed at improving the educational experience of your children, and I am grateful to the whole staff for their support. I am also grateful to the Canteen team for feeding us so well... again!

It is very important for our students to be at school on time for the start of the day, with the equipment they need for each class. Getting to class on time is likewise extremely important so that each student is set up for the lesson with the information they need to focus and achieve the outcomes for the class.

I am pleased to say that our students are generally very mindful of time and most often they are at school and in class as they should be, ready and eager to learn, appreciating the opportunities that a good education opens up for them in later life.

Our staff put a lot of effort into encouraging kids to be punctual and organised and these good habits certainly pay off in assignment and exam results, as well as in student engagement in each of their classes throughout the school day.

We held a BBQ at the Twilight Swimming Carnival last Thursday evening. A huge thanks to those who assisted during the evening. It was a successful fundraiser and a great opportunity to meet with students, staff, and other parents.

The P&C has raised close to $100,000 over the past 5-or-so years -- mainly through our wonderful Canteen. These funds are directed back into the school, by supporting various academic, sporting, and creative arts programmes.

We have also been working on beautification of the school grounds. The freshly painted bus-bay, front entrance, and school wall plaque are a result of these efforts. We organise a monthly working bee to plant, mulch, and weed.

DHS P&C meets the third Wednesday of every month at 7pm. Our first meeting for the year will be at the school on March 16th. Please join us!

FROM THE DP DESK

FROM THE DP DESK

P&C NEWS

P&C NEWS

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENT: We have a pile of clothes left behind at the Swimming Carnival. Please label school uniforms and other important items so they can be easily returned.
INTRODUCING……
NEW STAFF MEMBER:

BRIDGET LABROSSE
Science Faculty

My earliest memory is … being 3 years old and going to work with my Dad when he was working as a postman.

At school … I played the double bass in the school orchestra.

I wish I’d never … had to watch a dead lamb’s head get cut off by my colleague on work experience in order to save the mother during a complicated birth.

My mother and father always told me … to always make sure that no matter where life takes me to make sure I’m happy!

I wish I had … taken Biology in Year 11 & 12 – it would have made Biology at University that much easier!

My happiest moments are … of travelling and exploring different places all over the world. My favourite places so far have been Copenhagen, Denmark and Hawaii, USA.

My last meal would be … Breakfast. Fresh blackberries and greek yoghurt – my parents own a berry farm just out of town so fresh berries are never short in supply for me!

I’m very bad at … sitting still. I’m one of those people that needs to be busy and on the move all the time!

If I were a car I’d be … a Mazda. Small and compact but reliable!

CALLING ALL DEBATERS!
Duval has a proud tradition in debating and public speaking and we are hoping to continue this into 2016.

If you want to be part of one of our many teams – please sign up at the English faculty.

DUVAL HIGH LITERACY RESOURCE

All year 7 students have been issued with the Duval High School literacy resource booklet. This booklet has been designed by the teachers at our school to help promote literacy skills for all our students in all areas. Flick through it and you will find examples of different types of writing, outlines for different types of writing as well a glossary of terms that may help explain the literacy vocabulary. We have issued it to students to take home as a way of managing homework and assignment requirements. There is also a copy posted on the school website under the English faculty page.

Good literacy skills are very important and to help our students develop these skills. All students from year 7 to 11 should now have a copy of this resource. If you don’t, please come up to the English faculty to collect a paper copy.

Mrs Hoddinott

YEAR 12 HSC STUDY DAY

We are off to Singleton!

Yes, the annual HSC seminar day in Singleton is on again and plans to take Duval students are underway.

All HSC subjects will be covered in comprehensive seminars presented by senior HSC markers and highly experienced teachers.

We will be taking a minibus so seats are limited. Check the noticeboard outside the English faculty for information. First to pay get to go!

DUVAL INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES

Duval High School Orchestra and Soul Band are the two instrumental ensembles at Duval High School. Students who play an instrument are encouraged to join either, or both, groups.

Orchestra rehearses on Tuesday lunchtime and is for players of string and woodwind instruments. Soul Band rehearses on Wednesday afternoon after school, finishing at 4.45pm, and is for players of brass and woodwind instruments.

Both ensembles are for grades 7 – 12 and for students of all abilities.

Mr Myers
YEAR 7 WELCOME BBQ

Year 7 Adviser, 2016
Ms Sandra Cotton

If you need to contact Sandra:
Phone: 6772 1266 (main Duval number)
Email: sandra.cotton1@det.nsw.edu.au
BANGARRA DANCERS

Last Wednesday, 9 ATSI students travelled to Tamworth High School to participate in a Bangarra Dance Theatre Workshop run by the Arts Unit. This was a fabulous opportunity for the students to work with top international dancers for the day. The morning session focussed on exercises and traditional dances whilst in the afternoon they performed modern dance moves.

PJ Ferris made the short list for the state Aboriginal Dance Ensemble which is an awesome achievement. He will find out in June if he has made the elite ensemble.

NSW STATE ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Over the weekend, a number of Duval High School students travelled to Sydney to compete at the NSW State Athletics Championships. Stuart Geddes, N’Dea Rumble, Turner Lynch and Marvin Palad all competed at a very high standard, gaining personal best times in their events, as well as showing great sportsmanship to each other and all the other athletes.

Marvin Palad was unlucky not to place in his first major Championship, but still gained valuable experience as an athlete. Stuart Geddes and N’Dea Rumble gained selection into the NSW team to compete at the Australian Youth and Junior Championships in Perth on the 7th – 13th March. Our champion athletes and their results are listed below:

**Stuart Geddes**:
Gold and State Champion U17 yrs 3000m - *Time*: 9:10:83

**N’Dea Rumble**:
8th U18 400m - *Time*: 60:58
5th U18 800m - *Time*: 2:20:99

**Turner Lynch**:
7th U17 yrs 400m - *Time*: 52:81
6th U17 yrs 800m - *Time*: 2:04:76

**Marvin Palad**:
4th U15 100m - *Time*: 12:58
4th U15 200m - *Time*: 25:22

All the Aboriginal students are now preparing their audition video for Schools Spectacular and two community performances before the end of term.

Mrs Pearson