Top of the Hill
Newsletter of Duval High School

BIG WEEK FOR DUVAL SPORT

On Thursday, instructors from the UNE Volleyball Club presented workshops aimed at developing skills through their Youth Development Programme.

Students from Years 9 and 10 Sports Studies, Year 11 PD/H/PE and SLR were lucky to attend and learn valuable lessons on technique and game play.

More sports news:
Volleyball, netball, basketball, dance, mountain biking ..........see page 6

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- 3 March, 7pm  School Social
- 5 March  School Photo Catch-up Day
- 15 March, 4pm  Parent/Teacher Interviews
- 16 March, 6pm  P&C Meeting
- 17 March  Year 7 Immunisations
- 30 March, 10.30am  EAL/D Morning Tea

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INTRODUCING......
NEW STAFF MEMBER:

MITCH VALENTINE
- Science -
- Multi-Categorical Class -

My earliest memory is ... being pushed down a hill on a push bike.

At school ... I loved PD/H/PE.

I wish I'd never ... stacked that push bike.

My mother and father always told me ... you miss 100% of the shots you don't take.

I wish I had ... more hours in the day.

My happiest moments were ... skydiving and being the best man at a friend's wedding.

My last meal would be ... beef kebab.

I'm very bad at ... soccer.

If I were a car I'd be ... a Mazda RX 7.

WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

World Read Aloud Day is a great way to start thinking about literacy!

On Tuesday Year 7C and the Year 8 Extension English considered the importance of reading aloud by reading aloud to each other in class. This is an important skill and one lots of us are fearful about. We are often required to read aloud in a variety of situations.

Year 8 came up with a list of how to be successful when reading aloud:

1. preview the text,
2. read to the punctuation,
3. chin up, and
4. slow down.

LITERACY NEWS

Are you confident spelling the word abhor? What about spelling budgerigar?

Are you keen to improve your spelling? Check out the link below.


You are invited to attend a welcome morning tea for parents of students for whom English is an additional language or dialect (EAL/D)

The purpose of this event is to celebrate the diverse cultures in our school, recognise the contribution of your family to our school and to begin to build a community of parents to support the children in their learning.

When: Wednesday, 30th March 10:30 am

Where: Duval High School Staff common room

Morning tea will be provided.

Come along and talk to the EAL/D team and other parents from various countries and cultures. We are looking forward to this opportunity to meet you.
UNIVERSITY ROAD SHOW

Duval High School hosted the 2016 University Roadshow. Armidale High School and PLC joined Duval students in discovering more about university life and potential career paths. The Roadshow is a joint venture involving Charles Sturt University, Southern Cross University and the University of New England. The day featured presentations on a range of topics including admission, accommodation, university life, scholarships and a broad range of study options. A guest representative from iTravel Wahroonga also attended the information session providing students with valuable information about their Gap Year Programs and opportunities in the UK and Africa.

The Roadshow enabled local students to learn what our regional universities can offer. It was a great opportunity for students to gain insights into what university life is like, and the benefits of life and study at regional universities.

Lana Hardman
Careers Adviser

WHAT IS THE INTERACT CLUB?

Last year the Interact Club was launched as a group with a big heart that wanted to connect with other students at Duval. Our focus last year was establishing the Multi-cultural Room to acknowledge students in Duval from a wide range of nationalities. If you haven’t seen it yet it’s in the Library.

Through the support of Rotary Central in Armidale we work to support charities and groups both here in Armidale, Australia and overseas. We have already raised and sent money to Room to Read (an organisation that gives books to children in Nepal).

This term, our focus is on raising money for the Armidale’s Children's Ward (through the flower bulb catalogues). Please collect a catalogue from the front office or Mrs Rajaratnam in the HSIE staffroom. Time and catalogues are limited so please be quick.

Each term we will have a different focus. Our main focus this year will be to make a donation to an orphanage in Fiji. Our other focus this year is on student wellbeing by supporting student mental health. Please seek help if you feel stressed or anxious as we have friendly counsellors and teachers you can talk to at school. We all feel this way sometimes and it is important to get help.

If you feel you would like to help others come along to our meetings. The club is looking for new members to help bring in new ideas and assist with fundraising. The next meeting is on Friday 4th March at Recess in Room 114. Please come along and be part of this newly formed group with a big heart.

Mrs Rajaratnam

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. **Students who are late to school:** must sign in at the Office on arrival. Notes explaining the late arrival should be provided.

2. **Money or other items delivered to the office for students by parents/carers:** must be labelled and in an envelope/bag.
BANGARRA DANCERS

The Aboriginal dancers were invited to perform at the Civic Welcome for International Students at the Town Hall on Friday 26th February.

The dancers performed The Sapphires Medley choreographed by the Bangarra Dance Theatre to great applause. It was wonderful to see all our new dancers performing as well.

Mrs Pearson

HSC MUSIC ENCORE EXCURSION

The itinerary included HSC Music Encore Showcase and Bell Shakespeare’s Romeo and Juliet at the Opera House, The Song Company and Library at the Conservatorium of Music, The Rocks Markets (where we met up with Josh from Schools Spectacular performing with his dad. Mr Ryan received a free CD for correctly predicting that he would make HSC Encore), Museum of Contemporary Art, Art Gallery of New South Wales (where we had morning tea with Ben Quilty – ok he was just 2 tables across from us) and Allans Music.

Mr Ryan declared it the best yet!

Mrs Pearson

A GOOD CAUSE

Anisha Rajanathan in Year 11 is removing her long tresses for the World’s Greatest Shave.

She has been growing her hair since Year 7 but decided to go lighter for a good cause, to help people with cancer.

She is fundraising online or will accept donations at school. This event will take place on the 12th of April.
BOYS VOLLEYBALL

On Friday, 26th Feb, Ms Petherbridge along with 10 of Duval’s best male volleyballers headed across to Armidale High to face off in the Volleyball Knockout and vie for a spot on the Northwest Boys Volleyball Team. The Duval team consisted of Jaia Richardson-Fowell (Year 9), Callum Evans (Year 11), Dylan Ramsay, Max Westhorpe, Eliam Galindo, Liam Ryan, Toby Niemeyer, Turner Lynch, Fahad Algahtany and Lachlan Harris (all Year 10).

Duval played three games during the day, against Farrer Agricultural HS, Quirindi HS, and finally Warialda HS. This is the first time the team has played together. Our skills and teamwork improved throughout the day, to the point of taking out a win in the last game.

Dylan Ramsay was selected for the Northwest Team. Other noteworthy and honourable mentions go to Toby and Liam for some nicely placed hits, Eliam for his point-saving reaction time with a few crucial blocks, and to Turner for his consistently controlled passing.

A big congratulations must also be given to each member of our Duval boys volleyball team. They represented the school in such a positive light, conducted themselves in a most mature and respectable fashion and absolutely did Ms P proud. Well done boys!!

Ms Petherbridge

OPEN BASKETBALL

On Tuesday, the Open Boys attended a Gala Day and Zone Trials at Armidale High, followed by the Open Girls Gala Day and Trials on Wednesday. Both teams showed well developed skills and excellent team spirit to win one game and lose one game.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ashanti Hoskins who was selected in the Zone Open Girls team. This is an exceptional achievement as Ashanti is only in Year 7. Abe Dwyer-Westhorpe and Dylan Ramsay were selected in the Zone Open boys basketball team.

UNDER 15’S NETBALL

On Monday, twelve girls travelled to Glen Innes for the Under 15’s Netball Gala Day. Duval played exceptional netball, finishing runners up with four wins and one loss.

Congratulations to the following students: Emily Berryman, Ashanti Hopkins, Tylaeka Marr, Kayla Kim, Toni Kerr-David, Olive Clarke, Jorja Styles, Tiarna Styles, Bailey Swain, Libby Eastgate-Gorman, and Niamh Evans.

DUVAL DANCE GROUP

Congratulations to Maddy McFadyen and Alice Winter who have been working hard to develop a dance group at Duval High School for performances around Armidale. The girls have been practicing hard in their own time and are to be congratulated on their commitment.

MOUNTAIN BIKING

Congratulations to Sarah Schalk who has been selected to participate in the Nationals Mountain Biking event at Toowoomba on the 5th and 6th of March.

Sarah has only been competing for approximately 12 months and has come so far in a short time, namely thanks to the 2 Wheel Academy Team for their dedication to improving her riding.

We wish Sarah all the best in her first ever national race!