Dancing for Harmony Day

Once again, our Aboriginal Dancers did the school and community proud over the weekend, by taking part in the Harmony Day event held at the Town Hall on Sunday. Our dancers shared in cuisines of the world with other members of the community, and then set the bar high as the first performers for the day.

Being the opening performers after the formal proceedings, our ‘Duval Deadly Dancers’ (DDD) began their set with a traditional piece. Following was a Sapphires Medley from their School Spectacular show last year, and then they finished with something a little more pop-culture; the Bieb’s (Justin Bieber). As a result of this job well done, the DDD have been asked to do another gig towards the end of the month.

Mrs Pearson
FROM THE DP DESK

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Year 7 and 8 camps which take a great deal of organising (many thanks to Mr Cra- ven, Mr Lacey and their teams of hardy teacher and support staff volunteers), and result in some wonderful experiences for the students.

Not only do the kids get to see places and undertake activities that they may never have been to or tried before, they also get to earn some great collaboration and resilience skills.

Kids need to learn to get along. It's one of the best lessons we can teach them for their successful futures in the workplace and in society. It's often an eye-opener for young people to realise that not everyone has the same backgrounds, beliefs and ways of doing things as their own families. On camp when they are brought together for an extended period of time, which is a terrific opportunity to bond, to learn from each other, and to develop friendships and support networks that often last a lifetime.

I hope that the weather is kind and that fun is had by all.

Sandra Rosner

INTRODUCING……
NEW STAFF MEMBER:

Jessica Hardy
- HSIE & English -

My earliest memory is ... building a pillow fort with my older brother Daniel.

At school ... I was always going to great lengths to make my fellow class mates laugh.

I wish I’d never ... attempted to ride a green (novice) horse before I had enough experience under my belt. The end result was a severe coccyx (tailbone) injury.

My mother and father always told me ... I kissed the blarney stone because I have the gift of the gab!

I wish I had ... taken a tour of Pompeii and Herculaneum through a school program at the end of Year 12.

My happiest moments are ... when I am spending time with my Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Lily.

My last meal would be ... coffee, coffee and more coffee.

I’m very bad at ... comprehending new computer technologies. I have to ask Daniel (who is an IT specialist) to explain it all to me using very simple words.

OFFICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

• Students arriving after roll call should bring a signed note explaining why they are late.
• Any uniforms that students have outgrown can be donated to the clothing pool.
• Students with lost property please have office staff check under the front counter.
‘TELL THEM FROM ME’ SURVEY

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 24 March. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

Ms Verwayen

SCHOOLS SPECTACULAR AUDITIONS

Schools Spectacular Auditions were due this week so students have been very busy preparing videos of the highest quality for Choir, Aboriginal and Combined Dance Groups and Featured Artists. Good luck to all our talented dancers and musicians.

Mrs Pearson

CANTEEN THANKS

Our fantastic, very large new oven is now operational and is absolutely wonderful, many thanks again to Year 12 2015 for their very generous donation.

The installation of a commercial oven is quite a process and we would like to also thank Mr Cameron for helping with this process along with Wayne and other staff members.

A big thank you to Peter Simpson for supplying and constructing the steel frame on which the oven stands, saving the canteen considerable costs.

It is a great addition to the Canteen which everyone will benefit from. We all look forward to more tempting aromas coming from our wonderful canteen.

Beliinda, Vikki and Suellen

Tuesday and Wednesday ESL (English as a Second Language) Homework Centres

Open to primary students nominated by their school and any ESL /NESB high school students. Afternoon tea provided.

Where: Drummond Memorial Public School, corner of Rusden and Niagara Street.

When: Each Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon, 3.10 – 4.45 during term time.

Purpose: To assist refugee, migrant and Non English Speaking Background students with their school homework.

The Homework Centres are coordinated by ESL teacher, Mrs Fay Paris, & staffed by community volunteers.

Contact: Fay - 0434 144 243 or Judith - 0431 464 540

Funded by Northern Settlement Services, UNE, & Armidale Dumaresq Council.
YEARS 10, 11 & 12 MUSIC DAYS

Last week all of Duval’s senior Music students were lucky enough to participate in workshops at NECOM. At the workshops our students worked with amazing musicians from all over the state in a variety of musical styles ranging from African Drumming, Indonesian Gamelan, Bollywood Dancing to Hawaiian Ukulele, the Blues and Romanian Gypsy Songs.

Students also had the opportunity to work with Paul Jarman one of Australia's leading choral composers and conductors, Phil Oxley, Warwick Dunham and Senior HSC Markers Corinne Arter, Jane Cateris, Helene Galetetits and Jeff Willey.

Year 12 also had the opportunity to participate in individual workshops.

FUNDRAISING SHAVE

Our very own Mr Merrick (IT Department) lost his luscious locks last Friday in an effort to raise vital funds for cancer research. Mr Merrick’s shave raised a total of $175 thanks to the combined generosity of staff and students.

ABORIGINAL MODEL SEARCH COMPETITION

Congratulations to Mia Strickland (Year 7) who entered the Aboriginal Model Search Competition and made it through to the next round.

We wish her all the best in her next challenge.
DUVAL RIFLE TEAM

Three members of the Duval Rifle Team, Tiffany Tarrant (Year 9), Lachlan Williamson (Year 9) and Karl Simpson (Year 12) recently competed in the National Rimfire Benchrest Championships at the Dairyville Range, Coffs Harbour.

This prestigious and nationally recognised event consisted of an intensive four day competition against 74 other world class shooters from around Australia. Our three competitors performed under some extremely difficult weather conditions.

It was the first time Tiffany and Lachlan had competed in a National competition. Both students shot very well, managing some great grouping scores on the first two days and high scores in the IRB Events. Karl placed 2nd and 3rd Junior in the Light Class and Heavy Class events respectively; and scored a magnificent 247.13 out of a possible 250 on one of his IRB targets over the last two days.

All three students’ conduct was exceptional at all times, with their representation of Duval and indeed themselves something of which the whole school community can be proud.

Congratulations Tiff, Lachie and Karl. Well done!

SUellen Simpson
Team Manager

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH & JUNIOR ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Two Duval students, N’Dea Rumble and Stuart Geddes (both Year 11), were part of a squad of 8 athletes from Armidale making their way to Perth for the Australian Youth and Junior Championships as part of the NSW team. N’Dea competed in the U18 yrs 800m while Stuart competed in the U17 yrs 3000m and 2000m steeple.

Stuart ran on the first two days of the championships with his 3000m event first up on Tuesday. In what was a fast paced and hotly contested race Stuart had to run smart, sitting on the back of the leaders, to be placed 6th in the event. His time of 9:01:31 was also a new PB. Stuart’s next race was his favoured 2000m steeple, run on the following day. He had to run another smart race, again sitting on the back of the leader pack and saving his energy for the last lap. Stuart was sitting in 5th position with 400m to go, before making his move on the back straight to be 4th position. With a good exit on the last water jump, he advanced to 3rd position and had enough in the tank to cross the line in a time of 6:11:79. The run was a new PB, which earned him a bronze medal, and places him 3rd in Australia for this event!

N’Dea had to wait until Thursday to run in her favoured event. She ran a very smart 800m race but was unlucky, with her heat being the fastest of the two. N’Dea’s time of 2:18:13 placed her 6th in her heat and 10th overall; unfortunately not gaining a berth in the final.

Both athletes competed at a high level and represented the school to the highest degree, showing sportsmanship above their ages.

HORSE SPORTS

Congratulations to Sasha Drydale-Cech (Year 10) and Bandit who came 3rd in the 75cm show jumping competition at the Walcha Show. Sasha and Bandit were also clearing jumps of up to 90cm which is an impressive achievement. Well done!
**Decisions, decisions...**

A workshop on **Supported Decision Making** for young people with disability aged 14-18 years and their families and carers.

*To register go to [http://www.jaysmonkeys.com/decisions](http://www.jaysmonkeys.com/decisions)*

*For more information email [decisions@jaysmonkeys.com.au](mailto:decisions@jaysmonkeys.com.au)*

*These workshops are free. 10:00am - 2:00pm. Morning tea and lunch provided. To attend registration is essential.*

**AUTUMN KIDS’ CAMPS**

**BOOKINGS NOW OPEN**

- New friendships
- Fun
- Great value
- Safe

Our Autumn Kids’ Camps are now open. For more information, please visit our website. Here, you will find what’s on offer for the autumn school holidays. All camps are held by qualified instructors, ensuring your kids are in safe hands.

Our Kids’ Camps are available for children aged 7 to 16 years and range from 1 to 5 days.

**Camps include:**
- 24-hour supervision
- Activities
- Accommodation
- Meals
- Supervised transport

*For more information, visit [sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps](http://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/kidscamps)*

**FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION**

An inspiring story of the motivated Australian teacher who founded one of Tanzania’s most successful charity schools.

You’re invited to The School of St Jude’s Community Breakfast!

**WHEN** 7am, Tuesday, March 29

**RSVP** Wednesday, March 23

**WHERE** PLC Astra Arts Centre, Crest Rd, Armidale

**COST** Breakfast provided, $20 adult, $10 school age children

**REGISTER** Book your tickets via [www.trybooking.com/KQQF](http://www.trybooking.com/KQQF)

**CONTACT** Shona Eichorn at PLC on 6770 1700

Learn more: [www.schoolofstjude.org](http://www.schoolofstjude.org)