

# Dungog High School News



## Prosperitati Specto : I Strive for Success

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Term 4 Week 5

16th November 2009



### From the Principal

#### External Examinations

The School Certificate examinations were held last week in the MPC. Students completed examinations in English, mathematics, science, history / geography / civics and computing studies. This is the first major external examination these students have completed, and it is a daunting task – yearly school exams give an idea of what it will be like, but only the reality lets students understand the task they must get through. The results of these exams will be given to students on their Graduation Day, Monday December 14<sup>th</sup>. All students have been informed of the requirements for them to attend this graduation – if you are unsure, please check the website.

The HSC exams are still continuing. Most students have completed all their exams, but there are a few who have to wait until the last days of the exam period. Teachers are still available to assist these students, and we wish them all the best of luck as they come to the end of this very stressful period.

#### Year 9 Meeting

Thanks to all the parents and students who came to the Laptops meeting last Wednesday. This was the first major meeting we have held in the new library, and the space worked well, seating around 120 people who attended.

Remember to get the charters returned – no laptops can be issued to students until this has been completed.

And a reminder to parents: the laptops are an educational tool have strong security features; they are only able to access the DET Portal. They cannot be used for any social networking sites such as Facebook. Using one of these laptops is the same as using a computer at school – the safeguards are in place.

#### Students to attend Mathematics / Science Summer School

Congratulations to the following students who have been invited to attend Year 9 Girls + Maths + Science = Choices Summer School organised by the University of Newcastle. The six day program will give these girls a great introduction to careers in the areas of science and mathematics. Well done all: Sophie Payne, Shannon Cant, Emily Richardson, Carmen Denniss and Samantha Swilks.

#### End of Year Preparations

We are now more than halfway through term 4 – this is a short term, only 9 weeks long, and it is packed with things that need to be done before the year ends. Year 11 reports have been completed and handed out. Year 7 to 10 reports will be completed over the next few weeks. Year 7 Orientation Day will be held on Thursday December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Both year 9 and year 10 will be going on separate excursions to Melbourne; year 9 in the week starting Nov 30<sup>th</sup>, and year 10 Dec 7<sup>th</sup>.

Presentation Day will be held at school, in the MPC, on Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup>, the last day of school for students. The last two days of that week are staff development days.

The builders believe that they will have completed all work by the end of this term. That still leaves us with some building work for next year: the new commercial kitchen, an upgrade of the other kitchen, improved facilities for Construction, painting of many classrooms that have not been refurbished and significant landscaping work in the playground. The school will remain very busy, even in the school holidays. Somehow, I can't find any reason to complain, even though it means the dislocation will continue for longer than originally planned.

#### Reminder: getting the newsletter at home

Please remember to complete and return the slip in this newsletter that tells us how you want to receive your newsletter in 2010. The default or standard method for most families will be through the school website, where the newsletter is posted each week and all previous newsletters are archived and available to you.

Many of the families who already receive their newsletter by email have contacted us to continue this system – it must work well for them. If you want to continue receiving the newsletter on paper, you will need to indicate this on the return slip, as fewer copies will be available next year.

*Maureen Jarvis*

#### Student Achiever of the Week

*Name:* Imogen Waters

*Area of Achievement:* Academic/Quality Work/Personal Best

*Nominated by:* Ms G Smith

*Reason for Nomination:* Imogen always works to her full potential. She is an independent and well motivated student who contributes actively in the classroom.

#### Careers News

##### WORK EXPERIENCE AT THE ZOO

Students in Year 10 next year have the opportunity to undertake Work Experience at either Taronga or Western Plains Zoo. As these positions are highly prized by students throughout NSW, the Zoos require applications by December this year so that they can plan their year. Each school can only send one student to each Zoo.

If your daughter or son is interested in working with animals and you can arrange accommodation in Sydney or Dubbo, this would be an excellent Work Experience opportunity.

Interested students need to see me before the end of this week (November 20).

#### Tax File Numbers

The Tax Office, with the co-operation of schools, offers secondary students the opportunity to participate in a program which educates students about important tax issues, such as tax file numbers (TFN), relevant to living in Australian society.

Secondary students may need a TFN to apply for youth allowance or for part-time and holiday employment. To make it easier for students to get a TFN, students can choose to fill out a TFN application through their school.

The application form requires information such as the student's name, address, birth certificate registration number and date of birth. The class teacher and the school administration then certify the application. This means that the student does not need to attend the Tax Office with original proof of identity documents, or send those documents to the Tax Office.

This is a voluntary program and is being offered as a service to make it easier for students to obtain a TFN. An information flyer will be available for students.

If you would like to apply for a TFN see Mr Wright. This program is run in term 4 each year.

If you have any further questions or need any more information please contact the school or phone the Tax Office on 132861.

### Sports Merits Term 4 Week 4

Congratulations to the following students who received merits for sport last week:

**Swimming:** Crystal Venables, Tom Levick, Daniel Studden, Emily Drennin, Samantha Honke, Kristy Snipe **Weight Training:** Scott Sullivan **Water Polo:** Daniel Price, Sully Pralica **Walking:** Harley Whalen **Water Aerobics:** Lilly Hudson, Erin Saunders **Street Hockey:** Emily Walters, Ashleigh Brown

**The recipients of the Merit Draw this week are:** Daniel Studden, Scott Sullivan, Samantha Honke and Lilly Hudson. Please collect your prizes from the PE staffroom. Merits have been handed out already or will be in your sports rolls this week.

### Girls Cricket

On Thursday 5th November the open girls' cricket team played against Rutherford High School in a thrilling match at Norm Chapman oval. We elected to field first and bowled them out for 99. Jodie Maytom, Amanda Horn, Grace Bell, Samantha Simmonds, Emily Dries and Jessica Litchfield all bowled well. Grace Bell and Kalika Osborne, opened the batting and got us off to a good start. Samantha Simmonds scored 35 runs, Jessica Litchfield did an amazing job to make a safe hit every time and stayed strong for many overs. Abbie Geddes also doing a good job batting with her eyes shut and hoping for the best and it actually worked!

All together we did a good job but unfortunately we lost 70 runs to 99 runs to Rutherford High. We would like to thank Mr Curran for coaching us and Pam Horn for scoring, it was very much appreciated.

### Series of workshops for Year 10 Students

As part of the Year 10 leadership program, a workshop about young people and change will be held on Wednesday, 18 November at Dungog High School starting at 9.15 am and finishing around 3.25 pm.

This activity ties in with the What Youth Want project being undertaken by the Dungog Information and Neighborhood Service and Dungog Council's Social Plan development. It will involve

young people using digital cameras to take photos about changes that have and will take place at Dungog High School, and also about what they like about living in Dungog Shire and what could be improved.

There will be lots of practical tips about taking digital photographs, and plenty of opportunity to try out new skills by taking photos around the school. Ivan Skaines and Kylie Pratt from DINS and Tracey Lowrey from Dungog Council will lead the workshop.

The best images from the What Youth Want project will be put on public display in an exhibition to coincide with Youth Week in April 2010. Bring along your digital camera to take some photos or borrow a digital camera for the day.

**On Thurs 19th Nov** – Good Sports Program until lunch, then normal sport.

**On Fri 20th Nov** – Love Bites

Love Bites is an extremely successful school-based sexual assault and domestic violence prevention program.

I would like to thank Dungog Interagency for supporting the High School in this endeavor.

Miss Dale Loveday (acting HT Welfare)

### Plan-It-Youth

Another successful Plan-It-Youth program has come to an end.

Last Thursday 8 students and their parents were invited to a celebratory Breakfast with the Plan-It-Youth mentors and Mr Malcolm Campbell from Charlestown. Each student was presented with a certificate and badge.

Plan-It-Youth has been in operation at Dungog High since 2007.

This program has been very successful due to the Volunteer Mentors who give up their time to assist students. We also welcome the support in 2009 from the local Rotary Club.

### Space and Astronomy Show

**2009 – The International Year of Astronomy**, a United Nations initiative celebrating the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Galileo turning his telescope to the sky and revolutionizing the way we think about the Universe and our place in it.

Welcome to 'Astronomy Outreach', bringing the entire Universe right into the classroom ...in a unique and exciting way! This program will give the students a refreshing new look at the latest discoveries in astronomy and space in a one hour audio visual display show by a top astronomer educator.

The programs audio-visual section, 'Discover the Universe', aligns with the current school curriculum and consists of several powerful, graphic intensive, PowerPoint slide shows with well placed sound effects, detailing the evolution of the Universe and the history of the Space Program. Throughout each talk, David Reneke will be using the latest, most up to date visual material available from NASA and the Hubble Telescope.

This activity is being made available to Yr 7 and Yr 9 on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> Nov. The cost is \$4.00 per student.

### Norta Norta Aboriginal Education Program

Students from Dungog High School and Dungog Public School met on Wednesday 11 November to celebrate their aboriginal heritage through an art project. The painting of two large panels combining

traditional and contemporary ideas in subject matter and materials directly relates to their sense of place in the Dungog area.

Shane Kennedy, an artist from Newcastle, was invited to assist students participating in the Norta Norta Aboriginal Education Program by tutors Rachel Stokes and Anne Fisher. Shane has wide experience working with young people in schools and community venues in the Hunter Valley.

Dungog High School students Haley Reeves, Lucinda Shilcock, Nathan Shakespeare, Kiara Whalen, Bradley Norris and Daniel Sherman worked alongside Patrick Cowin, Troy Cowin and Sam Russell from Dungog Public School.

The composition of the panel to be displayed at the High school is titled 'The nature of rivers'. Earthy and bright colours mingle, representing rivers, land and the flow of life. Water lines flow into the sun and link eight circular shapes for each of the Norta Norta students involved. They show unity and connection between people. The students spray painted their own symbols through stencils into the circles to show their individual interests of cars, soccer, sharks, turtles, BMX bikes and surf board riding.

Bush tucker is the theme of the panel for the Public School and is titled 'Yamily' combining the yam root and the concept of family unity. There are bush tucker images of a honey ant, witchetty grub, barramundi, emu, tortoise, possum, goanna and cockatoo. Lines and dots of greens and golds represent movement, the vibrations of the earth and air.

All the young people worked together very well, the older students mentoring the younger ones in a friendly and helpful way - even providing a guided tour around the high school, including an exciting visit to our new library.

Although it was our hottest November day so far, everyone agreed that it had been an excellent experience

The project was assisted by Dungog Area Youth Worker Kylie Pratt, Dungog Shire Council Youth Events Coordinator Tracey Lowry and Dungog Apex Club.

PHOTOS: 1. Nathan Shakespeare and Haley Reeves; 2. Lucinda Shilcock

### Year 9 Melbourne Excursion

Not long to go now! All notes should be in and monies paid to the office. Groups and rooming are now being organised. An extra information note will go out this week and will be available through the calendar on the school website (click on the excursion link on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> November). Please ensure that I have any medical information necessary and if this changes before the excursion please let me know. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs M.Wilson (Year 9 Advisor)

### Elective Choices 2010

All choices for Years 8,9,10 and 11 for 2010 have been put up on the noticeboard near the girls toilets. It is very important to check your subjects and see Mrs Wilson ASAP if there are any problems.  
Mrs M.Wilson

### YEAR 12 PARTIAL ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES.

These procedures are based on:

- Schools OH&S requirement to know "who is on campus at any given time?"
- School and staff "duty of care" requirements
- Historical precedent
- Manageability and required documentation
- Understanding that Year 12 students will use the added flexibility to constructively enhance their education.

These procedures are regularly reviewed and may be changed throughout the year to better meet the needs of our students, school or community. Please note that a positive public perception of Dungog High School benefits all our students. The privilege to have partial leave may be revoked on an individual basis if a student misuses it. Failure to comply with the procedures will result in disciplinary action.

### THE FOLLOWING TYPES OF PARTIAL LEAVE ARE AVAILABLE FOR YEAR 12 STUDENTS.

1. SPECIAL ACTIVITY: (This includes medical appointments, RTA appointments, family access to local businesses for out of town families. Does not include going to the shops for lunch, visiting friends etc.) This leave is for recess, lunch times or periods with no classes as confirmed with student timetable.
  - Student takes signed note from a parent outlining a valid reason for the leave to the office, before school on the day of the leave.
  - The office staff refers the student to the Deputy Principal if they are not sure it fits guidelines. On urgent occasions the Deputy Principal will phone parents to obtain verbal permission.
  - Student receives a leave pass. It is recorded in the "Pass Book" not the "Sign-out book"
2. IN TOWN STUDENTS GOING HOME FOR LUNCH OR RECESS.
  - Student supplies the office with signed note from a parent.
  - Receives and carries a "Lunch Pass" with them.
3. INTOWN STUDENTS WHO DO NOT HAVE A TIMETABLED CLASS ON
  - May sign-out/ sign-in in the "Sign-out Book" if:
  - Student has given a signed long-term note from parents to the office.
  - Student has given a current copy of their timetable to the office.
4. OUT OF TOWN STUDENTS WITH THEIR OWN TRANSPORT. (May arrive late or go early but will not be granted leave to go out and return in the same day.)
  - Student must not have classes on.
  - Student has supplied the school office with a current copy of their timetable.
  - Student has given a signed long-term note from parents to the office.
  - Student has completed "Use of Private Motor Vehicles by students" form and given it to the Deputy Principal. If they are travelling with another student, the Deputy Principal must have a signed statement from their parents authorising them to travel with the student.
  - Student uses the "Sign-Out Book" to indicate their presence on campus.
5. STUDENTS REQUIRING THINGS FROM CARS PARKED JUST OUTSIDE THE SCHOOL GROUNDS

- Individual students may briefly visit cars if they have a note from a teacher.

6. **PATHWAYS STUDENTS OR STUDENTS WITH VERY FEW LESSONS DURING A DAY.** Occasionally students may only have one or two lessons in a day. Sometimes long-term special arrangements can be made for them not to attend on that day if the student:

- Negotiates arrangements with the teacher of the periods they do have on and then supplies the office staff with a note from the teacher.
- Has supplied the school office with a current copy of their timetable.
- Has supplied the office with a long-term signed note from parents.

#### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON SPORT.** Thursday afternoon sport is not a rostered part of the Year 12 school week. Year 12 students may leave the school grounds at the completion of period 5. If they wish to leave prior to period 5 they must follow one of the above procedures for partial attendance.

It is essential however that the school knows which students remain on the school campus on Thursday afternoon. To help with this two lists are kept in the school office. "*Always leave school grounds on Thursday afternoon*" and "*Always remain at school on Thursday afternoon*". All Year 12 students must place their names on one of these lists. The school office staff must be notified if there is to be any variation to these arrangements.

#### **Definitions:**

- School grounds/ School campus - Area that is fenced/gated around main school buildings. Does not include Eloiza Street or Dowling's corner shop.
- Long-term note. - A note outlining an extended time frame, eg. Term four, all 2010.

#### **Who can sign notes?**

- Students of any age who live in the family home with one or more parents require a parent/guardian signature.
- Students 18 years of age or over who live independently from their parents may sign their own note if the school has been officially notified of their situation.
- Students under 18 years of age who live independently from their parents will require the signature of a guardian the school has been officially notified about.

#### **SENIOR STUDENTS' USE OF PRIVATE TRANSPORT.**

- Students who drive cars to school must complete a "Use of Private Motor Vehicles by Students" form and give it to the Deputy Principal.
- Students who travel in cars with other students must supply the Deputy Principal with a signed statement from their parents/guardian authorising them to travel with the student.

#### **DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN**

The canteen volunteers' Christmas dinner will be held on Thursday 26th November at the Dungog RSL. Time will be 6pm for a 6.30 meal. Cost is \$17 for a 2 course meal and \$23 for a 3 course meal. Names and menu selection can be left at the canteen now and are due in by Wednesday 18th November, with a deposit or payment in full before the dinner preferred.

Hope to see as many volunteers as possible come along on the night to thank you for your work in supporting the canteen and school throughout this year.

#### **Roster**

##### **Week 5 : 16th to 20th November**

Mon S Hallett, J Saunders, S Stevans, K Fardell, R Rocco  
 Tues R Rolfe, R Stokes, R Arkinstall  
 Wed L Jefferson, C Kellehear,  
 Thurs A Mayberry, J Czapiewski, S Murray, G Magno  
 Fri D Legge, J Gay, J Piper, C Easdown

##### **Week 6 : 23rd to 27th November**

Mon N Eyb, T Schuhmacher  
 Tues L Waterford, J Kellner, B Reeves  
 Wed K Drinkwater, A Howton  
 Thurs C Kellehear, L Thronsen  
 Fri D Marquet, L Dries, L McInnes, M Townsend

#### **Coming events**

##### **Nov**

16 Yr11 Hospitality to Dungog RSL, all day  
 17 Gresford PS Shakespeare Day  
 Y11 Visual Arts Life Drawing Class, Newcastle  
 18-20 Peer Support Camp  
 18 Swim Program – Support Unit  
 Y10 'PhotoVoice'  
 19 Y11 Hospitality to Dungog RSL, ½ day  
 Y10 'Good Sports'  
 20 Y10 'Love Bites'  
 U15 Boys Water Polo at Lambton Pool  
 23 Kickstart to Workforce, Year 10  
 Y11 Hospitality catering for Kickstart program  
 Space and Astronomy Show, Yr 7 and Yr 9, MPC  
 24 Yr 8 ESSA Exam  
 25 Y7 Enrichment Class, Music & Drama students excur – Syd  
 Swim Program – Support Unit  
 26 Choir performing in Newcastle all day  
 30-2/12 Yr 7 Enrichment Class excursion to Sydney  
 30-3/12 Y11 Hospitality to Sea World Resort

##### **Dec**

9 Y11 Hospitality – Returned Servicemen's Dinner  
 Swim Program – Support Unit

#### **White Ribbon Day 2009**

One in three women will experience physical or sexual violence by a man at some point in their lives.

**November 25<sup>th</sup> is White Ribbon Day** - The United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. White Ribbon encourages all men to swear that they will not commit, excuse or remain silent about violence against women. As a school, we are working to develop a culture of respect towards all people, white Ribbon Day gives the men and boys of our community a chance to speak out against behaviours that support the use of violence.

"Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter" - Martin Luther King's wise words are so relevant here. If we as a community remain silent about the continuation of violence in our relationships, then we begin to die inside, relationships breakdown, and our community crumbles.

Our school is privileged to have Mr Bryce Gaudry, an Ambassador for White Ribbon Day, addressing our school community on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November. After this we will be asking for Volunteers from our male students, to become Ambassadors in our school and community. Our aim is to raise awareness and support the White Ribbon campaign by :-

- encouraging male staff members to wear a white shirt on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov;
- by selling white ribbons and wrist bands in the week leading up to the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov,
- and by attending Dungog's very own **White Ribbon Day Breakfast** on the 25<sup>th</sup> Nov.

If you would like to learn more about White Ribbon Day, or take up the challenge and swear to:

never commit violence against women

never excuse violence against women

never remain silent about violence against women,

please join us for **Breakfast at Chillbillies , Dungog, between 7:30 – 8:30am on 25<sup>th</sup> November.** (For more details ring Wendy McAlpine 49923022, or Tracy Lowrey 49957777)

Parents are also more than welcome to come along and hear **Bryce Gaudry** on the **18<sup>th</sup> Nov at 9:50am at our school assembly.**

### For Sale by Tender

1. A train carriage located near the school's main quad is offered for sale by tender.

If you would like to examine this carriage please contact the school for a time to view.

The carriage will be removed from its current location and placed in an area accessible for removal by the successful tenderer.

Tender submissions for this carriage will close on Wednesday December 2.

All offers are to be addressed to the Principal, Dungog High School.

2. The PDHPE Dept. has 3 vaulting horses for tender. If you are interested and would like to view the vaults please contact the PDHPE Dept. to arrange a time. Tender submissions will close for these on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. All submissions are to be made to The Principal, Dungog High School.

### Travelling Youth Cinema

The youth cinema travels around the shire, showing great flicks, free for Young People. Awesome theatre equipment, just like you're at the movies! It is totally **free** to come and for any young person 12-25 years.

The next screening at Dungog will be **APARIJITO** at the **Dungog Baptist Church Hall** (behind Bram Cottage) on **Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup>** from **2:00am-4:30pm**. It will be followed by snacks/refreshments and a discussion about the film.. Bring along a pillow for more comfort if you wish ☺



**Aparajito** has won 11 international awards, including the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival. An honest and sensitive portrayal of one Bengali boy's life

### Join us for an afternoon of fun, food and a flick!!

Bookings much appreciated!! See Kylie, the Youth Worker, for more info – Wednesday Lunch at DT2- Dungog High Drop-in or call 0428 329 643

### Preferred Method of Receiving the School Newsletter in 2010

**Return to student's roll teacher by Friday week 6 (November 21<sup>st</sup>)**

1. **Website:** you need do nothing more. The newsletter is available each week and previous newsletters are available on this site.

2. **Email:** if you have provided the school with your email address or you would like to get the newsletter by email, select from the following 3 options:

**Parent/Carer's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Student's Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

• Continue sending the newsletter by email to this address  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

• I will use the website to get my newsletter. **Discontinue** sending the newsletter to this address  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

• I would like to receive my newsletter by email rather than use the website. My email address is:  
Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

3. I would like to continue to receive the newsletter by **paper copy**. My son/daughter will collect it from the school office each week.

Family name  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Student collecting newsletter name:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_