

Dungog High School News



Prosperitati Specto : I Strive for Success

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Term 4 Week 9

2nd December 2013



Principal.

Response to Gonski Plans

It was with the utmost dismay that I, and most other Principals and teachers, heard that the Gonski Plan for school funding is likely to be overturned.

The Gonski Plan is based on equity – all students, regardless of the system in which they are educated or the wealth of their parents, are given a base allocation of funds. On top of this are “loadings” in response to specific needs: equity, Aboriginal status, special needs. For 2014, DHS was allocated \$99,000 under equity and \$26,000 for our Aboriginal students. These amounts are tied specifically to the needs of the students **currently enrolled in our school**.

For example, as I discussed at our last P&C meeting, the \$99,000 equity loading put into place by the State Government in its response to the Gonski Plan recognizes the fact that 220 students out of our enrolment of 620 come from the most disadvantaged group and a further 220 from the next level of disadvantage. We have never had his level of recognition of our needs or any financial response to them before this allocation – no wonder we are deeply concerned that we may have this support for only one year. And we have not yet been informed of the funding for climate and remoteness that could give us further funding to support our students.

The reports that are coming out of the media are not giving us any confidence in the future. Schools plan for many years ahead and budget to achieve these 3 to 5 year plans. I cannot see how a 6 month process, as outlined by the Commonwealth Government, can do the work that was completed so comprehensively by the Gonski committee over two years. My concerns are only increased when the Federal Minister for Education, who effectively has charge of all funding for education, cannot give an honest answer about the reasons for the changes or what he proposes to do in place of the program he has dismissed.

I am at a loss to explain the nuances of “unity ticket” other than to think of “weasel words”. I hope that some good can come out of this, but when a government appears to be deliberately giving false information about its promises, I am deeply concerned for our students’ future. It saddens me that, when I speak to our students about the importance of telling the truth, I cannot look to the highest level of public life for an example.

Stop work meeting

The Teachers’ Federation has called its members to a stop work meeting on Tuesday December 3rd. The meeting will discuss a wages and conditions offer that has been made; it will also vote on these matters. I expect the meeting will allow staff to be back at school around 10.00am and that school will commence at 10.15. Because of the situation I have noted in the first item, the meeting may be extended.

There will be a small number of staff in the school on that morning but no lessons will commence until staff have returned from the meeting.

Bring Your Own Device Policy

In the last newsletter, I wrote one item on the BYOD policy that will be implemented from 2014. I will clarify some points that I made.

What do we use technology for in classrooms – computers, laptops, tablets?

I put this question to the executive after an enquiry from a parent. These were some of the replies and indicate the range of use for technology in the classroom:

- Technology is part of life for young people today. By using it in classrooms, we are responding to the “language” that is part of their world and preparing them for the next phase of their lives, either in further study or the workplace;
- Research through the internet. The knowledge and information provided online is exponentially greater than that available to earlier generations. Technology allows this to be accessible at any point in a lesson;
- Word processing and editing of notes, assignments;
- Clickview: the resources held in the school library can be available to students who have missed a class through illness or any other absence.
- Edmodo and Moodle: communication with the teacher and other students in the class or from home; a classroom can be interactive and immediately responsive to questions and views;
- Blogs: co-operative work and discussion groups;
- Power point presentations by teacher and students;
- Survey monkey: instant marking and feedback
- Recording, analyzing and evaluating movement sequences in PE
- Film and music making

This is not an exhaustive list and I recommend having a look at http://www.21stcenturyschools.com/what_is_21st_century_education.htm

<http://www.innovationunit.org/knowledge/our-ideas/21st-century-learning>

<http://education.qld.gov.au/smartclassrooms/documents/strategy/pdf/scbyte-21steps.pdf>

to see what is expected of education in the 21st century

What are the best devices to look for / purchase?

The list of requirements was given in the last newsletter. I can’t advise a specific brand or model but can suggest that students will need a device that will last them a few years. It will need significant memory and capacity – the cheaper units will not fit what students need over time. I suggest that you take the information from last week with you:

We have had success trialling a tablet called Microsoft Surface RT or 2 with keyboard – this will be displayed in the library.

The department’s Wi-Fi network installed in high schools operates on the **802.11n 5Ghz standard**. Devices that do not support this standard will not be able to connect.

Is there a DEC policy on BYOD?

The policy was released last week. It will be available to read on the school's website <http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/dungog-high-policies>

Which students will BYOD apply to?

Students in all years, 7 to 12.

Where can I find out more about technology use and BYOD?

I will publish information and/or links in future newsletters. This will be a major topic at the first P&C meeting in 2014.

Year 10 laptops will not be recalled at the end of this year, unless the student is leaving the school to attend a non-government school, TAFE I or to start employment.

Year 9 RED laptops were loaned to students for the year. If they wish to extend the loan into 2014, this will be organized over the next 2 weeks.

Maureen Jarvis

DEC - Attendance of students in Term 4, 2013

All students in Kindergarten to Year 11 will be required to attend school up until the last day of teaching, Wednesday 18 December 2013. Prior to this date, students in all year groups should be engaged in meaningful work based on the curriculum and syllabus requirements.

Where parents are seeking permission for their child not to be at school for a period of time the matter should be dealt with using the [Exemption from School - Procedures](#).

2013 Annual Presentation Day

Dungog High School's Annual Presentation Day is on Wednesday 11th December 10.30am in MPC.

Family and friends are invited to attend.

STUDENT ACHIEVER OF THE WEEK AWARD

This week's recipients are:

Chelsea Greentree of Year 10

Chelsea has demonstrated commitment, diligence and enthusiasm giving her personal best in PDHPE and Physical Activity and Sports Studies.

Chelsea was insightful and confident with excellent leadership skills on display at all times during Peer Support Camp. A leader's leader. She was helpful in all areas often helping in the kitchen, tidying up or setting up as well as leading her group. She lead by example at all times.

**Tara Sykes of Year 10**

Tara displayed excellent leadership skills during the Peer Support Camp. She was well prepared and clear in her teaching and leading and showed confidence and maturity in all she did.



Chelsea and Tara will be receiving a certificate and a \$25 voucher.

Direct deposit bank details

BSB: 032-001 Account No. 140079

Reference: please quote **student** name and name of excursion or subject name. e.g. J Citizen Melb exc; Wood fees

HSIE & Support Unit

In Week 7 we had a crazy week due to the local flooding, so we cooked Turkish wraps on the Tuesday and learnt about the country the following week.

In Week 8 we covered off on Turkey first and then we really got into our next country – Russia (where Mrs Joy's family is from).



The students loved learning to speak some Russian (via YouTube) and we all had a little giggle at our pronunciations. We cooked dumplings filled with beef and pork – it has been one of the students favourite foods this term.

Ms Archer, Mrs Joy and Mrs Cooper

**SistaSpeak Excursion to Wollotuka on Thursday 14th November 2013.**

Ten members of our great group of SistaSpeak girls attended an excursion to The Wollotuka Institute at the University of Newcastle on Thursday. These enthusiastic students were keen to find out about life on the University Campus and possible study pathways for the future.

The Wollotuka Institute gave the girls a taste of the care and support available to their students by providing a delicious morning tea on arrival and later a sumptuous lunch. The girls were given a tour of the Wollotuka Institute where they saw lecture rooms, tutorial and computer rooms, staff offices and student meeting spaces.

This was followed by talks from two inspirational women, one who is about to graduate from the Architecture Degree Course and one who shared an interesting career path which has led her to her exciting role at Wollotuka working with prospective students. The girls were

then taken on a comprehensive tour of the larger University Campus, where they were shown the different Schools of study and lecture halls, the Libraries, the Pool and Gymnasium, the shopping and service centres and the Cafeterias and social gathering places.

The girls had a great day and certainly have some interesting and exciting study possibilities to ponder for future pathways.
Mrs Brockwell.

Year 12 Ancient History

In Week 7 the Ancient History class ventured into Newcastle Town Hall to participate in a seminar by Dr Brian Brennan on their Core HSC topic The Cities of Vesuvius.



This was an invaluable experience for the students as they got to hear from one of Australia's most well known historians on the topic.
Ms Archer

DUNGOG HIGH HOLDS CONCERT FOR FIRE VICTIMS.

Dungog High School students showed their community spirit and empathy for others when they held a Concert in aid of the Winmalee Bushfires. The students made a donation as they entered the Concert.

Winmalee is a small state school similar to Dungog High, at the base of the Blue Mountains. But a month ago 200 homes were lost and 93 damaged. Directly 46 students from Winmalee High School lost their homes and everything in them.

The Principal is an ex-student from Dungog High, Katrina Middlebrook, who has promised to provide those students with all their educational needs for the next 12 months, relieving some of the burden from their families.

Thank you to all those involved and those that donated. Donation boxes will be at the Office and Canteen for the remainder of the week if you would like to donate.

Music Staff, Mrs Danvers & Mrs Knight and all music students: Zac Van Dam, Levi Neave, Jack Thompson, Katie Fisher, Shae Noble, Tiana Snowdon, Gabi Griffith, Taylor Hack, Laura Cotterill, Isobella McDonald, Amber Tull and The Year 7 Vocal Group.

Drama Staff, Ms Rowley and students: Chloe Williams-Gray, Mel McLarty, Georgia Burns & Maddie Lang of Year 10.

PD/H/PE Staff: especially Mr Corcoran for performing.
Ms Trappel.

Coming Events

DEC

- 4 Orientation Day Y6 – 7 in 2014
- 4 Uniform Shop open 8am – 4pm (Wed)
SRC Trivia Night, 5.30pm – 12 am
- 10 Uniform Shop open 8am – 4pm (Tues)
- 11 Annual Presentation Day, MPC, 10.30am – 12.00pm
- 12 Newcastle Now, Flash Mob Dance
- 18 Last day of Term for students
- 19 Staff Development Day
- 20 Staff Development Day

Jan

- 20-21 Uniform Shop Open, 8am – 4pm
- 28 Term 1 begins - Staff only attend
- 29 Year 7, 11, 12 students attend
- 29 Uniform Shop Open, 8am – 4pm
- 30 All students attend.

DUNGOG HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN

Roster

Week 9 : 2nd to 6th December

- Mon T Schumacher, M Gibbs, J Ross
- Tues
- Wed C Bridges, K Nairn, A Ellicott
- Thur K Eyb, J Saunders, K Hudson
- Fri D Marquet, L Dries, L McInnes, M Townsend

Week 10 : 9th to 13th December 2013

- Mon P Garrett,
- Tues R Arkinstall, R Rolfe
- Wed C Wheeler, M Dew, L Lovegrove
- Thurs L Tull, M Herbert
- Fri N Pearce, R Nicholson, Y Lowrey

Christmas Giving Tree

Every year Dungog Shire Community Centre has Christmas hampers which they distribute to local families doing it a bit tough. This season Dungog High School is asking you to contribute to the hamper with in-date items of non perishable goods.

This is a great cause which you can involve the whole family in and we are inviting everyone to participate.

Let's all have a Merry Christmas this year!

Hamper donations are welcomed under the tree in the foyer at Dungog HS. Items need to be left at the school by Wednesday 18th December.

