

Dungog High School News

Prosperitati Specto : I Strive for Success



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WEBSITES: DHS - <http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au> DHS Careers - <http://www.dungoghcareers.com/>

FACEBOOK PAGES: [Dungog High School](#) and [Dungog High School Careers](#)

School Hours: 8.58am-3.20pm; Office Hours: 8.30am-3.30pm during school terms

Term 3 Week 9

12th September 2016



Principal (Rel.)

Principal report – 11-9-16

Year 12 – Last weeks

As this will be the last newsletter before our Year 12 students have their final classes on Wednesday of Week 10, it is timely to say farewell to them. On behalf of Dungog High School, I would like to wish all Year 12 the very best for their exams, and wish all Year 12 every success in pursuing fulfilling and happy futures, at both a personal and career level. Thank you also, to all of our Year 12 people for being a part of our school, and for the varying contributions each of you have made in your individual ways, throughout six years with us.

The graduation assembly for Year 12 will be held in the MPC on Friday 23rd September at 10.00. This is always a very emotional time for our senior students who are together for the last time as a year group at a school assembly. Parents and friends are encouraged to attend to congratulate all these students at the completion of 13 years of schooling. Morning tea will be provided after the assembly for Year 12 and their parents. Year 12 students need to be at the MPC by 9.30am so that they can be organised into their lines. They must be wearing **full school uniform for this assembly** if they want to go on the stage. Can I also remind parents that siblings at the school need to be in full school uniform on the day to be in the MPC. It would be unfortunate if they missed the assembly because of their uniform.

Year 12 students are given clear information about their final weeks at school, ways in which we can help them and what is 'acceptable behaviour' up to and including their last day. They received this note at the end of Week 8 explaining this in detail (attached to the newsletter). I also caught up with Year 12 last week to remind them of our expectations in the final weeks. My expectations are that they are in all classes working to the best of their ability until their final full school day on Wednesday of Week 10.

YEAR 12 GRADUATION ASSEMBLY Friday, 23rd September 2015 10.00am

Evacuations and lockdowns

Periodically, the school holds both evacuation and lockdown drills. The evacuation procedure occurs when there is a need to move out of the school building because of possible emergencies such as a fire, gas leak, earthquake or bomb threat. When the evacuation siren sounds students under the direction of classroom teachers move via the safest route to the school's designated "safe zone" which is our front oval. Everyone must remain secure in the "safe zone" until the situation has been declared safe by the Principal.

Another possible emergency procedure is called Lockdown. Lockdown is when everyone in the school must remain secure in rooms because it may not be safe to go outside. This procedure occurs when there is a potentially dangerous or suspicious person or group of people on or around the school grounds. Everyone must remain secure in rooms until the situation has been declared safe by the Principal.

During these emergency procedures it is very important that students do not communicate electronically with any other person either inside or outside the school. Parents should be aware that there will be no access to the school grounds and that information will be restricted until the emergency situation has been resolved. It is important that parents or other members of the school community do not arrive at the school in order to pick up their child or attempt to contact their child by telephone or text message, unless contacted by the Principal or Police to do so. Parents should also be aware that, depending on the type of emergency, their arrival at school may place themselves in danger, and hinder the work of emergency personnel.

Your cooperation with these procedures will assist the Principal, Police, and other emergency personnel to resolve the situation quickly.

Sometimes an emergency procedure could last for an extended period of time or extend beyond the normal school hours. If this happens, it is important that everyone remains secure either in the "safe zone" during an evacuation or inside during a lockdown. The Principal, with the assistance of the Police, will then notify parents using the most appropriate means,

From the Office:

> Want to make a payment?

Parents Online Payments

Go to the schools website, <http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/> and the **\$ Make a Payment** link will be on the front page. By selecting the link you will be taken to a secure Westpac Quickweb payment page.

There is an instruction manual on the website <http://www.dungog-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-school/schooling-costs>

Please cease depositing directly into the school's bank account.

> Parent Portal (Sentral)

Sentral's parent portal provides parents with 24/7 access to important information about their child/children.

To use the Parent portal, you will need to register as a parent user. New parents have been sent a letter from the school by Mr Curran, our Sentral Coordinator, explaining this simple process and providing you with a unique access code. You cannot register without this code. If you do not receive a letter, or if you lose your registration access code, you can contact the school for a new one.

You will be able to register for the Parent Portal at any time after receiving the letter.

> Student Letterbox

To save students lining up and waiting to hand in notes or pay for excursions, fees, etc we have started a new system with a 'Student Letterbox'. Students can drop the following in the Letterbox:

- permission notes,
- absence notes,
- correct monies with permission note in a **sealed envelope**, and
- early leaver requests – (**note** all Thursday early leaver requests must **FIRST** be signed by the Deputy).

If a student does need change and/or a receipt to take home they will need to stay in line, or come back later to collect it.

Dungog High School Vision : Dungog High School educates individuals to be contributing members of a modern global society. It provides a positive working and learning environment where people feel valued and are responsible, knowledgeable citizens.

- We focus on respect, responsibility and personal best
- We encourage initiative, innovation and leadership
- We value individual differences

- We respond to our local, national and international contexts and student needs
- We provide a range of experiences that challenge individuals to explore and interact with the world.
- We provide a broad, responsive curriculum focussed on excellence.

including via the media.

Please be aware that we practise several of these procedures each year and are a normal part of providing a safe and secure environment for our students and staff.

Brad Dives

Information for Year 12 Students and Parents

The last week of term 3 is a time of very different emotions for all year 12 students and their families. Mixed with the joy of finishing school, there will be trepidation and anxiety about HSC examinations and long term plans. Into this mix is the "last time I will be with my friends as a school student" issue. This mixture can be volatile at home and at school and we need to work together to ensure all our year 12 students get through this period safely and with the best possible memories of their last week at school.

Remember that even though we are at the end of your school year, not all courses have been completed – some are still finishing content others are doing important revision. It is very important that students attend all classes available to them until the final day at school.

The highlight of the final week is the **Year 12 Graduation Assembly**. This will be held on **Friday 23rd September** in the MPC. It will commence at **10.00** and usually lasts for 1 ½ hours. There will be a morning tea for year 12 and their parents afterward. Students are expected to be in **full school uniform** as they will be presented with their portfolio on stage. All year 12 parents and friends are invited to attend the graduation. If any student does not have any item of uniform, they must contact their year adviser to ensure that this item can be organized ***well in advance*** of the ceremony.

I ask for your co-operation to ensure that there are no "muck-up" activities at the school or in the community. In past years, activities of this type across a number of schools have disrupted the teaching of other students, caused damage to buildings at the school and in the community and created a very negative impression of senior students and the school. Some students have caused damage to the private residences of teachers; any vandalism of this kind could result in police action. There have also been tragic cases of death and serious injury, caused by activities that were meant as "a joke". I cannot condone any activities of this type, and I am sure that most students and parents would agree with me. Students involved in activities that bring themselves, and the school, into disrepute, risks the loss of a school reference and permission to attend the Year 12 graduation assembly. They may also not be allowed to sit the HSC examinations at this school. These are serious consequences and I sincerely hope that I will never be forced to use them against any Dungog High School student.

All year 12 students complete their course of study at the end of term 3. No further formal lessons occur in term 4 for any year 12 student

Dates to remember:

- **Last day of School:** Thursday 22nd September
- **Rehearsal for Graduation Assembly:** Thursday 22nd September, during Roll Call;
- **Excursion to Revolution Park and lunch followed by the amazing race at school:** Thursday 22nd September
- **Graduation Assembly 23rd September:** be at the back of the MPC no later than 9.45 for a uniform check and any last minute details;
- **Thursday 13 October:** HSC examinations commence
- **Thursday 10th Nov :** Year 12 Formal

Signing Out

Remember that you will need to officially sign out of school after your last HSC exam. This is also when you return all your textbooks – year 11 students are waiting for them – and collect your school reference. A school reference will be available if you have requested one from your year adviser – do this as early as possible so that Mrs. Kemp has time to develop a meaningful reference for you.

Important Phone Numbers:

HSC Advice Line: 131112
 HSC Results Line: 1902 220 100
 Lifeline: 131114

Important Web Addresses:

NSW Department of Education and Training: www.schools.nsw.edu.au
 BOSTES www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au
 Universities Admission Centre www.uac.edu.au
 TAFE NSW www.tafensw.edu.au
 NSW HSC on-line <http://hsc/csu.edu.au>

Illness/Misadventure

The guidelines for applications for Illness or Misadventure at the HSC are clearly set out by the BOSTES.

If a student can answer "yes" to either or both of the following questions, they should fill out an appeal form. These forms are available from Mrs. Krempin:

1. Has your performance in a HSC examination been affected by illness or unforeseen misadventure suffered immediately before the exam period?
2. Were you prevented from attending an examination due to illness/misadventure?

If you have suffered a long-term illness/misadventure **that has affected your preparation and performance**, you should consider an appeal. You will need to show how this illness/misadventure has affected your performance for each examination.

(The Board uses glandular fever as an example of a basis for appeal. You can't appeal because you have had the disease during year 12; the appeal could only be based on a flare-up at the time of the HSC examinations.)

Medical and/or other documentation is required for any appeal. If you have any queries, see me or Mrs Krempin. Appeals do not go in to the BOSTES until after the HSC examinations unless they are in a practical examination, eg Drama, where you must submit the appeal within a week of the practical exam.

We wish all of you the best throughout this examination period.

Brad Dives, Rel. Principal

Partners in Learning Parent Survey 2016

At Dungog High School we value feedback from all of our stakeholders. During Term 3 we are conducting surveys with parents, staff and students on how well the school is performing and gathering data on what needs improving. We would encourage all parents to complete the survey, which will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey can be accessed from the following link:

<https://nsw.tellthemfromme.com/2016dhsps>. We have attached a FAQ sheet that explains some more about the survey, how it is administered and what we hope to achieve from implementing the survey. Should you have any questions please contact Ms Archer on 49923022

Student Achiever of the Week Award

Recipient for this week is: Breanna Miller

Breanna captained our Girls Volleyball team, who achieved second place at NSW State Championships over the weekend. Breanna has also been travelling to Sydney each weekend as she was selected as the setter for the NSW Under 15 team. Breanna is an outstanding student who consistently produces work of a high standard.



Breanna will receive a certificate and \$25 voucher.

Health and Wellbeing News

Week 10

Health and wellbeing during the HSC

As parents, this is one of the areas that we can offer practical support and assistance. Make sure they eat properly, get enough sleep, continue playing sport and don't spend every minute studying or, at the other end, don't socialise so much that they can't complete assignments.

Stress can be a major part of this year for your child – and you – so try to keep the house as calm as possible. It's helpful if all family members are aware of the challenges Year 12 brings and support the child going through it.

Often you might find that irrational behaviour can be a cry for help so support rather than punishment is a good idea. Unfortunately, during stressful times, some teenagers can suffer more than their parents realise.

Keep a gentle eye out for substance abuse. Watch for changes in behaviour, mood swings and weight loss or gain. If you do become worried, speak to someone at school and your child. Don't ignore it. However hard it is for you, try to keep the communication channels open at all times.

Good luck!

English Faculty News

Debating Zone Finalists 2016

Earlier this term four very dedicated and wonderfully articulate Year 9 students travelled to Maitland Grossman High School to take part in the zone finals of the Premier's Debating Challenge for 2016; having been undefeated throughout the first round of the competition and receiving the title of Zone Finalists.

Clare Richardson, Georgia Stewart, Stuart Hitchens and Thomas Field have shown great energy, enthusiasm and commitment towards their preparation for each of their debates helping them to resounding wins against Irrawang High, Tomaree and Hunter River High School.

In the finals of the competition they took on a formidable and very experienced Year 10 team from Maitland Grossman High. Arguing in the affirmative, ***That all public events should be alcohol free***; the year 9 team put forward a very strong case but were outdone by the more in-depth rebuttals of their opposition. The team were congratulated by the adjudicator on their confidence and the delivery of their arguments.

A less experienced Year 7 team achieved a strong win against Irrawang High School in the last round of their competition impressing all with their knowledge of four-wheel drives and adequate safety provisions. Well done to Bede van de Scheur, Emma Steele, Elise McKay, Connor McCumstie and Joel Rollinson for taking part in these debates.

Justine Shumack

Shakespeare at the Opera House - 'if we shadows have offended...'

A very enthusiastic group of students accompanied Mrs McKinna, Mrs van de Scheur and Mrs Shumack to the Sydney Opera House to view Bell Shakespeare's production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'. Both the students and teachers had a fabulous day and all were impressed by the quality of the performance:

"It was an incredibly good play. Sydney was amazing and I wish we could have stayed longer." Carter Nelson Yr 11

"It was captivating!" Ian Brockwell Yr 11

"Much better than expected, the music was great!" Michael O'Hara Smith Yr 11

"It was a great performance!" Tia Orchard Yr 11

"It was good to go and see the play, rather than just reading it or watching the movie." Taylor Hack Yr 11

"It was amazing, I love watching plays and this one was my favourite, loved the costuming and the set. The music was beautiful too as well as the acting." Eloise Hitchens Yr 11

Shakespeare in the Classroom

'Macbeth'- A Recipe for a Hero or a Villain?

Year 9 have been displaying 'vaulting ambition' and proving that 'fair is foul and foul is fair' this term. They have impressed their teachers and their peers with their outstanding presentations on Shakespeare's heroes and villains in the play 'Macbeth' and how these characters compare with the heroes and villains depicted in modern comics such as DC and Marvel. Who would have thought that Lady Macbeth and The Joker would have so much in common? Or that Macbeth and Harley Quinn share similar qualities? It is amazing how influential and relevant Shakespeare's works are in our modern context.

Year 9 also had a lot of fun participating in the Shakespeare rap battle earlier this term. Word up, everyone at home, Shakespeare is cool and definitely no fool! A number of students performed impressive rap pieces complete with beat boxing and breakdancing moves. They were no match, however, for the expertise and rap talent of the English faculty. Mrs Kavanagh was a stand out rapper on the day and won the full support of the crowd.

'Othello'- 'O, beware, my lord of jealousy; it is the green-ey'd monster which doth mock the meat it feeds on'

Year 10 have been busy exploring the Shakespearean Tragedy genre. They have made some interesting discoveries such as learning that Shakespeare killed off most of his characters before 'Game of Thrones' did and that Shakespeare had never heard of happily ever after. The focus for this unit was to demonstrate how the play 'Othello' fits into the Tragedy genre. The key ingredients for a Tragedy, such as a tragic flaw and external forces, were mapped out and supported with examples from the play. The end result was the understanding that Shakespeare's tragedies reveal important lessons about human nature and form a cautionary tale that we can all live by.

Word out -The English Faculty ☺

Library News

Week 10 Term 3

Premier's Reading Challenge

Congratulations to the following students who completed the Premier's Reading Challenge.

Amy Magri

Alexander Campell

Jeremy Nunan

Daniel Seach

New Library System Oliver

The new Oliver Library system is able to be downloaded onto your portable device. Download the App Library Links (Oliver) for Apple or Android Devices. Open Library Link on your mobile device. Select setup. Press the Scan Set Up Image (the image/QR code can be found in Oliver under My Library>Details. Enter the following web address <http://oliver273.library.det.nsw.edu.au/oliver>. Choose Dungog High School via the drop down link where it says Library Name. You can use the Scan Option to scan barcodes of books to check if it is in our catalogue and to place items on reservation (You do not need to enter a Password).

World Book Online

Reminder that you are able to access World Book Online via the internet using the following
Username dungoghigh
Password dungoghigh

Angel a Cull
Teacher Librarian

NSW SCHOOL VACCINATION PROGRAM 2016

The school vaccination clinic continues into terms 3.

The last round at Dungog High School will take place on Monday, 19th September, 2016.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS MISSED A VACCINE

If your child has missed any vaccinations they will be offered any missed doses at the next clinics at their school.

WHAT IF MY CHILD HAS NOT RECEIVED ALL VACCINES BEFORE THE END OF 2016.

Any year 7 student with missed doses of vaccine can be caught up in 2017.

Additionally – any year 8 student who commenced HPV vaccination while in year 7 and are yet to finish all 3 doses of HPV (and who has not received any from their local doctor) can still receive these at the next clinic at their school.

Don't forget a Record of Vaccination is given to each student for each vaccination. Parents/guardians should ensure that this record is kept for future reference and should not assume that their child has been vaccinated if they do not receive this Record of Vaccination.

Immunisations can see a number of issues with anxiety. While some anxiety is normal for students receiving needles there are a few things that can help to minimise the impact of this:

- Try to keep your child calm in the lead up to the day.
- Remind them that they need to breathe normally (many tend to hyperventilate if they get worked up which leads to them feeling sick and they often believe this is from the needle and not their anxiety, making later vaccinations more difficult).
- Remind them to drink plenty of fluids both before and after their immunisation. Having some water in their bag is a good idea.
- Make sure they have some food in their bag to eat afterwards.
- Try to prevent siblings from stirring them up prior to the immunisations.
- If you know your child is likely to suffer from extreme levels of anxiety, please ring me by 16th September on 49923022 so I can organise to have them immunised earlier in the day. We often find that the longer they have to work themselves up, the more difficult it becomes to control the anxiety.

If there are any major concerns on the day, the nurses will phone parents to inform them of what is happening. This generally only happens if a student cannot be immunised due to extreme levels of anxiety.

Any questions, visit the NSW Ministry of Health website at:

<http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/immunisation/Pages/schoolvaccination.aspx>

Mrs Kristy Neilson
Girls Adviser

MUSIC NEWS

On Friday this week our Year 12 students will perform for their Higher School Certificate Practical Examination in Music.

This Examination will take place in the MPC from early morning until after lunch and will involve year 12 Music students plus many other 'helpers' who will provide Backing Vocals, Stage Band accompaniments and support for Year 12.

Over the years many year 12 students have sung at various venues in and out of Dungog representing Dungog High. This includes Starstruck, Tocal, Reprise, Dungog Film Festival and Dungog Festival as well as many community functions and we thank them for their ongoing support.

The group consists of Zac Van Dam, Ronnie Piper, Rebecca Murray, Melanie Rumbel, AmyRose McLoughlin, Jamie-Lee Wilson, Jenna –Lea Turner and Chloe Barrow.

Students giving up their own time to support Year 12 are Harry Wheeler, Jacob Ney, Ian Parsons, Gabi Griffith, Eloise Hitchens, Marina Keller, Any Turner and Jack McDonald.

We also welcome back Jordan Eyb, an ex-student who has returned to help out. Jordan is at present studying Music at the Newcastle Conservatorium.

Mrs Danvers and Mrs Knight would like to wish Year 12 all the best in this Examination and hope that they enjoy the day performing. Thank you to everyone involved

Year 7 Year Advisor's Report

We have recently re-launched the Positive Behaviour for Learning program in the school. The program focuses on the three core values of Respect, Responsibility and Personal Best.

Our focus for the last few weeks has been on the responsibility of students to bring the correct equipment to class. Since the beginning of the year a number of Year 7 students have lost pens, pencils and pencil cases and are often turning up to class expecting their teachers to provide equipment for them. It would be great if parents could re-stock students with the correct equipment and check their bags to make sure books are being packed each day.

Also some students in Year 7 have only one book to do all their work in and this is definitely not acceptable. If students have problems getting books, all they have to do is see me and I can help them with this.

I was very pleased to see the number of students with merits getting up on our PBL assembly to receive awards the other day. We are moving to an electronic merit system and after this term the old cardboard merits earned throughout the year will not count anymore. So if students have some at home they need to bring them in in groups of five to be tallied.

Uniform has been mostly great with year 7 wearing correct jumpers over the winter. Students are not allowed to wear their sports uniforms on normal days. It seems quite a few girls are wearing sports shorts every day. This may be because they feel comfortable in them. I am sure there are some comfy grey shorts out there that are more appropriate for every day wear.

Year 7 will be moving from the year 7 playground area next term. Year 12 has left creating more space in the bigger playground and the grass in the year 7 area needs some TLC and repair. This move happens every year. Year 7 will then have to find seats and a bay somewhere in the bigger playground. There is always room in the barn and as other students take up the year 12 spaces other areas can open up.

There has been some silliness in the playground of late and hopefully with more space and the move students will settle down again. Boys who love touch football can always play on the front oval where there is plenty of space. The rule of no tackling applies to all footy games and is strictly supervised.

If parents have any concerns about students, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Ms Louise Rowley

Year Advisor

International Women's Week – Year 7

To celebrate International Women's Week Year 7 girls will be having a talk by their Year Advisor Ms Rowley, HT Welfare Ms Dibley and Girls Advisor Mrs Neilson on women's health. As part of this talk the students will be issued with a sample pack which have been donated by U by Kotex. This sample pack includes an information booklet and sanitary items. If you do not wish for your daughter to participate in this discussion or receive a sample pack please contact the school on 49923022 and ask to speak to either Ms Rowley, Ms Dibley or Mrs Neilson.

Tantrum Youth Arts

Year 10 have been given the opportunity to attend a production by Tantrum Youth Arts in Newcastle on Monday 19th September 2016. This is a free production which has only been offered to 10 schools in the Hunter. I encourage all parents to ensure the permission note and signed and returned to school by the 9th September. If you have any questions please contact Ms Dibley or go to <http://www.tantrum.org.au/projects/openingdoors.html>.

Rotary support for Girls' Volleyball team

Tabitha Beisler and Mr Francey attended a Dungog Rotary dinner recently to ask for assistance in attending an upcoming NSW Schools Cup three day event, which doubles as the NSW State Championships. Tabitha gave an impassioned speech explaining how dedicated the girls are and outlining the commitment they have made over the last 2 Years to become a very competitive team. The evening was both entertaining and insightful as we discovered how much positive work and support the Rotarians have done for the community as a whole but especially for the youth of our shire.

The Rotary club of Dungog donated our entrance fee for State and pledged to support us attend future events. We are incredibly thankful and humbled by the support the team has been given by this wonderful association. To add to this generosity, donations of raffle items and a very generous gratuity was also given to the team by individual members.

In other exciting news Breanna Miller who will represent NSW at the Australian Volleyball Championships has been named Vice Captain of the State team. Breanna, who is the only player residing outside of Sydney, travels 5 hours each weekend to train with the team. Breanna is looking for support to assist her with the \$2000 expense to travel to the Championship.

Any support can be sent to:

Breanna Miller C/- of Dungog High School
Eloiza Street Dungog, NSW 2420



Year 10 Geography Fieldtrip

Year 10 Geography have visited Port Stephens to undertake fieldwork for their coastal management topic. They visited Shoal Bay to climb Tomaree Head and to undertake field sketches and make observations. Students then had lunch at Nelson Bay Marina followed by more fieldwork at Birubi Point. It was then an exciting afternoon on a 4WD tour and sand boarding along Stockton Dunes. Students gained valuable insight into coastal processes and management strategies in the Port Stephens coastal region.



Japanese Excursion

Last week Year 7 students were treated to an oriental experience. They travelled by bus to the Pokolbin area. Firstly there was a visit to the Hunter Valley Gardens with the focus being on the oriental sections of the gardens. Here students saw blooming cherry blossoms, gigantic coy carp fish and bamboo forests. It proved to be a truly awesome experience for students and teachers alike.



After a wonderful experience at the gardens, students enjoyed a Japanese lunch at the Oishii restaurant at Tempus Two Winery. Oishii is the Japanese word for delicious. The restaurant certainly lived up to its name as everyone certainly enjoyed the delicious food.



Mrs Vivian Hodges
Japanese teacher

Uniform Shop Manager Position

This position will be available from the start of Term 4 2017.

The Manager is responsible for

- Opening and closing
- Ordering stock
- Managing the proceeds of sales
- Liaising with Daylight Sportswear company and DHS
- Other responsibilities as required by Daylight and DHS
- Laptop supplied

Position description:

- Hours of business - alternate Tuesdays 8am to 4pm; additional times e.g. start of summer and winter seasons, orientation days
- Banking of monies
- Managing stock levels
- Salary is paid by Daylight
- Processing online orders

Application for the position is by presentation of CV to Principal, DHS, at close of business on Monday 12th September 2016.



20% off SALE — including jumpers.

The Uniform Shop will be open on Tuesday 13th September and Tuesday 20th September for a 20% off sale. 2 days only. 8am-4pm

NO EXCHANGES **NO RAIN CHECKS**
SHOP STOCK ONLY **NO LAY BY**
NO REFUNDS

CASH, CREDIT CARD or EFTPOS AVAILABLE
NO CHEQUES



Friday the 2nd of September saw 250 Primary Schools students come to Dungog High School to participate in the Science and Engineering Discovery Day 2016. Student's had the opportunity to participate in a number of hands-on activities that they might not normally see in the classroom. Such as building bridges, earthquake proof structures and mars rovers. Well done to all student's who participated. A special mention to the year 9 and 10 students who ran activities throughout the day. The Discovery day would also not have been possible without the Local Rotary Club, the University of Newcastle and AGL.

SOME CALENDAR DATES FOR 2016

| Week | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|-----------|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| 9 | 12 September | 13 September Uniform Shop 8am-4pm | 14 September 16y Boys Rugby League Raymond Terrace | 15 September | 16 September |
| 10 | 19 September Yr 7 Vaccinations Yr 10 Tantrum Youth Arts | 20 September | 21 September | 22 September Yr 12 Fun Day – Revolution Park | 23 September Yr 12 Graduation 10am |
| T4 Wk1 | 10 October Staff and Students return | 11 October Uniform Shop 8am-4pm | 12 October | 13 October HSC Exams commence Support class sailing & gymnastics program | 14 October HSC Exams |
| 2 | 17 October HSC Exams Yr 8 & Yr 11 Physics – Luna Park | 18 October HSC Exams | 19 October HSC Exams IOTAS Graduation Practice & Concert | 20 October HSC Exams Support class sailing & gymnastics program | 21 October HSC Exams |

DUNOGG HIGH SCHOOL CANTEEN

Roster

**Week 7: 12th September to 16th September**

Mon S Hallett, N Eyb
 Tues C Briggs, Y Barrall
 Wed M Milburn
 Thu K Eyb, K Hudson, S Lawrence
 Fri N Pearce, K Watson, K Fisher

Week 8: 19th September to 23rd September

Mon
 Tues K Nairn, A Ellicott
 Wed H Williams, P Williams, S Hitchens
 Thurs L Tull, M Ince, A Tighe
 Fri

If you are unable to be here by 9.30am could you please let Margaret Edwards know, by phoning the school on 49923022.

Expression of interest for Assisted Travel Support Officer (ATSO) position

The Assisted School Travel Program (ASTP) often provides additional support to students with disabilities on transport. Assisted Travel Support Officers (ATSOs) support students with complex health or behaviour needs to ensure their safe travel to and from school. If you are interested in temporary part-time work as an ATSO the following website contains information on how to apply for the position.

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/programs/astp/index.php

For further information please contact ASTP on 1300 338 278 or email ASTP at atso.astp@det.nsw.edu.au

SAILABILITY PORT STEPHENS

Sailability Port Stephens is running a "Come Try Sailing" program at Grahamstown Dam, Grahamstown Road, Medowie, on Tuesday – Thursday, 27-29th September 2016. Age c.12 and up. Cost: \$45 (Family up to 3: \$65). Children with a disability especially catered for. Bookings essential. Enquiries: 4981 7509

Clarence Town Hoedown

On 22nd October the Clarence Town Community is holding a full day Country Music Event under the name of Clarence Town River Country Hoedown.

The event will begin with a "Bushman's Breakfast" at the Clarence Town School of Arts Hall at 800am which will include bush poetry and ballads, then will move to the Clarence Town Reserve (Football Field in front of the pool) where the event goers will have the opportunity to browse food and market stalls. There will also be opportunity to participate in the walk up open mic and talent quests, join in a range of organized country games, or sit on one of the music workshops which will be held at the Clarence Town Bowling Club. The day will wrap up with an evening concert at Clarence Town Reserve headlining Bill Chambers along with Sharna Burcher and James Van Cooper finishing at 11.00pm.

With that in mind, we are seeking interest by any student, teacher &/or parents who may be interested in taking part in any of the events such as the walk up open mic, Junior & Senior Talent Quest. We would also be very appreciative of anyone who would like to be a Volunteer on the day in helping set up, monitor events through the day & pack up afterwards.

There is a Facebook page that people can follow which is "Clarence Town River Country Hoedown" which will be listing items happening along the way. Tickets are available for online purchase through the website www.clarohoedown.com

If you would like further information, please contact either Katie Bagnall, Bronwyn Prentice or Dannielle Jeffery by emailing us at clarohoedown@gmail.com

Bronwyn Prentice
Clarence Town River Country Hoedown
Treasurer

Maitland Women's Shed Committee Meeting

The Maitland Women's Shed Committee will be meeting to formalise a committee as they work towards the establishment of a Women's shed in Maitland.

There has been a lot of interest in a local women's shed since Ability Links was first approached in late 2016 to assist in its establishment. so the need is there — it would be great to see a strong turnout next week.

All interested individuals, groups — & services are encouraged to attend the meeting at 9.30 on Monday the 6th of September in the Ability Links office 364 High St. Maitland.

Enquiries: Kln 043S 762 244



JAMES THEATRE - COMING EVENTS***Absolutely Fabulous The Movie (M)*****Saturday, 10 September, 4 pm and 7 pm**

London publicist Edina Monsoon (Jennifer Saunders) and best friend Patsy Stone (Joanna Lumley) are still oozing glitz and glamour, living the high life they are accustomed to, as they shop, drink and club their way around London's trendiest hot-spots. But after they are blamed for a major incident at an uber fashionable launch party, when they accidentally knock supermodel Kate Moss into the River Thames, Eddie and Patsy become entangled in a media storm and are relentlessly pursued by the paparazzi. Fleeing penniless to the glamorous playground of the super-rich, the French Riviera, they hatch a plan to make their escape permanent and live the high life forever more! Starring Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley and names, names, names darling!

Goldstone (M)**Sunday, 18 September, 7 pm**

Goldstone is a crime thriller written and directed by Ivan Sen. It is a sequel to *Mystery Road* and stars Aaron Pedersen, Alex Russell, Jacki Weaver, David Wenham and David Gulpilil. Indigenous Detective Jay Swan arrives in the frontier town of Goldstone on a missing persons enquiry. What seems like a simple light duties investigation opens a web of crime and corruption. Jay must pull his life together and bury his differences with young local cop Josh, so together they can bring justice to Goldstone. Goldstone is one of the key Aussie films of the year with a tough cast, fine playing and a vivid sense of time and dusty, dangerous place.



CITY UNITED DCC
100th Year
REGISTRATIONS



"Come and play cricket at The Park in 2016-17"

Registration are being taken for all forms of cricket including

Milo in2cricket 5-7 years

T20 Blast 8-9 years

Kookaburra Cup Up to 11 years

Juniors from 12 – 16 years

Seniors teams

Registrations can be taken at

<http://cucc.nsw.cricket.com.au/>

Contacts for further information

Michael – 0417498370 vikkijordan@bigpond.com

Paul – 0419 294 033 pbrownle@ausgrid.com.au or kritpaul@bigpond.net.au

Find us on Facebook

Sponsorship Opportunities exist for the 100th year. If you have a business that wants to be a part of the celebrations contact Paul on the number above

Application forms are available from the Dungog Rotary Club President. Please phone 65588272 to apply for either or both of these wonderful Rotary youth programs.



APPLICATION FOR RYPEN (Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment)

23rd, 24th & 25th September 2016,
Myuna Bay

RETURN THIS PORTION ONLY STUDENT DETAILS:

I am interested in participating in the Rotary Exchange Program between New Zealand and Australia in 2017. My personal details are:

SURNAME: _____

First Names: _____

Home Address: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Email Address: _____

Gender M F Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____

School: _____ Form/Year _____

Have you asked the school if they are happy for you to be involved in the Exchange? This approval is required! YES NOT YET

Please send me the 2017 Application Form

FAMILY DETAILS:

Father's name _____ Occupation _____

Mother's name _____ Occupation _____

Contact Phone Number (____) _____

Parents Email _____

Student's signature: _____

Parents' signatures: _____

For more information, or to obtain a Student Application Form, please email Rotary District 9650 Chair – Les Moulds - on lymoulds@bigpond.com or phone 02 6722 1374.

Spring School Holidays

www.eventsgloucester.com.au

Enviro Art

The Enviro Art Workshop is for kids 6-12 years. Go to eventsgloucester.com.au for all the details. WHEN: Wed 5 Oct 2016. WHERE: The School of Arts, upstairs, Denison Street Gloucester. COST: Children 6-12 years \$10 for full day, \$5 half day. BYO lunch & morning tea. Bookings essential at Gloucester Health Foods call 6558 2622.

Film Making

Learn about creating scenes & capturing action. WHEN: Thur 29 & Fri 30 Sept 2016, 9.30am - 3.30pm each day. WHERE: School of Arts. COST: Children 8-14 years, \$10 each per day.

Kids Drama

Learn the craft of acting with a seasoned professional. Loads of fun for budding actors. WHEN: Wed 28 Sept 2016. WHERE: Gloucester Citizens Centre, Hume Street. COST: Children 6-12 years \$10 for full day. BYO lunch & morning tea. Bookings essential at Gloucester Health Foods call 6558 2622.



Kids Club

Barrington Outdoor Adventure Centre. The 'Kids Club' offers a range of activities at prices that won't break the budget. Canoe Games, High Ropes, Abseiling, Eco Treasure Hunt, Rainforest Bush Walk. Bookings essential - 6558 2093.

Mini Golf

Gloucester Holiday Park's popular 9-hole mini-golf course. Open 9am-6pm, \$3 per person. Phone 6558 1720.

Trail Rides

Ride for an hour or a week at local horse riding facilities: Camp Cobark - 6558 5524 & Riverwood Downs - 4994 7112.

Pond Detectives

Free workshop for kids aged 4 and up - you need to register as spaces are limited - WHEN: Thur 29 Sept 2016 at 10am. WHERE: The Tucker Patch Cemetery Road, Gloucester. COST: Free - register call Kirsty on 6592 4830.

Gold Mine Tour

Discover the mysteries of NSW's longest running operational gold mine at Copeland. Tours run Wed & Sun. Book at the VIC 6538 5252.

Working With Children Check

The Department of Education has brought in a new Statutory Declaration to be completed when volunteering at school.

We have included a link to the Stat Dec (and identification requirements) below and on our website & Facebook page for you to view. We also require 100 points of identification similar to when opening a bank account.

If you have completed a declaration at school, and supplied identification, in the last 2 years your declaration is valid for 5 years from date of signing and we do not require new forms.

A RMS WWCC clearance is not required for parents and close relatives of students of Dungog High School.

Each time you drive students you must also supply your rego papers and drivers licence.

All documentation has to be completed the day before you are volunteering.

These checks are in place to protect your child and we thank you for your cooperation.

Appendix 5 (2016)

STATUTORY DECLARATION

Under the *Oaths Act 1900* (NSW) and section 40A of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*



Education



This declaration is to be completed by **volunteers** and **contractors** seeking engagement with the **Department of Education** and where the person is exempt under the [Child Protection \(Working with Children\) Regulation 2013](#) from having to hold a Working with Children Check clearance. See the Department's [Working with Children Check Procedures](#) for more details.

First name: Surname:

Previous names:

Date of birth: Male Female

Place of Birth: Telephone:

Street address:

Suburb State Post Code:

Occupation:

I do solemnly and sincerely declare that:

1. I am in child-related work or applying to be in child-related work within the meaning of the NSW *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*, but am exempt from the requirement to hold a working with children check clearance under the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013* at the time of the making of this declaration.
2. I have not been refused a working with children check clearance under the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* (this declaration may be made if a clearance was subsequently granted to you).
3. I have not had a working with children check clearance cancelled under the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* (this declaration may be made if the clearance was surrendered by you, a clearance was subsequently granted to you, or the cancellation was overturned on review).
4. I am not currently subject to an interim bar on engaging in child-related work under the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*.
5. I have not been convicted of an offence, or subject to a finding of guilt for an offence or a finding that the charge for an offence is proven, where the offence was committed as an adult in New South Wales or elsewhere and was an offence of the following kind:
 - (a) a sexual assault or intercourse offence;
 - (b) the common law offence of rape or attempted rape;
 - (c) an indecent assault offence;
 - (d) a sexual servitude offence;
 - (e) observing a person engaged in a private act, for the purpose of obtaining sexual arousal or sexual gratification (voyeurism);
 - (f) filming another person engaged in a private act or filming another person's private parts, for the purpose of obtaining, or enabling another person to obtain, sexual arousal or sexual gratification;
 - (g) installing a device, or constructing or adapting the fabric of a building, for the purpose of facilitating the observation or filming of a child, with the intention of enabling any person to commit an offence referred to at (d)-(e) above;
 - (h) murder of a child;
 - (i) manslaughter of a child (other than as a result of a motor vehicle accident);
 - (j) intentional wounding or causing grievous bodily harm to a child who was three or more years younger than me;
 - (k) a child prostitution offence;
 - (l) an offence involving an act of indecency with or towards a child;
 - (m) procuring or grooming a child under 16 years of age for unlawful sexual activity;
 - (n) using a child for the production of child abuse material, or producing, disseminating, possessing or importing child abuse material;
 - (o) possessing or importing child pornography;
 - (p) offences relating to the use of a postal or similar service for child pornography material or child abuse material;
 - (q) offences relating to the use of a postal or similar service involving sexual activity with a child under 16;
 - (r) publishing indecent articles;
 - (s) an offence of kidnapping a child, unless a parent or carer of the child at the time of the offence;
 - (t) a forced labour or deceptive recruiting for labour or services offence, where the victim was a child;
 - (u) intentional or reckless infliction of grievous bodily harm on a child, during or after the delivery of the child;
 - (v) intentionally abandoning or exposing a child under the age of seven;
 - (w) bestiality;
 - (x) an offence an element of which is an intention to commit one of the above offences; or
 - (y) an offence of attempting, or of conspiracy or incitement, to commit one of the above offences.

And I make this solemn declaration conscientiously believing the same to be true, and by virtue of the provisions of the *Oaths Act 1900*.

Signature [of declarant] Date

Declared at Dungog High School

STATUTORY DECLARATION

Under the *Oaths Act 1900* (NSW) and section 40A of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*



Education



I understand that any person who willfully makes a false statutory declaration is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to imprisonment for 5 years in accordance with section 25 of the Oaths Act 1900.

I am aware that providing false or misleading information in this document may lead to the following:

- the Department withdrawing any offer of engagement that it has made to me; or
- the Department terminating my engagement; and
- the Department considering any false or misleading information I provide, when considering any future applications by me for employment or engagement.

This declaration was signed in the presence of an authorised witness, who states:

I, *[name of authorised witness]*

State Gov. employee with over 5 years continuous service.

Position: *[qualification of authorised witness]*

Certify the following matters concerning the making of this statutory declaration by the person who made it: *[please cross out the text that does not apply]*

1. I saw the face of the person OR *I did not see the face of the person because the person was wearing a face covering, but I am satisfied that the person had a special justification for not removing the covering, and
2. I have known the person for at least 12 months OR *I have confirmed the person's identity using an identification document and the document I relied on was

Describe identification document relied upon

.....

.....
Signature of authorised witness

.....
Date

.....
Position of authorised witness

Note:

To complete the statutory declaration process the person must also:

- complete the Consent and Undertaking to the Statutory Declaration, and
- provide 100-point of proof of Identity (see [Appendix 6](#)).

Consent attached to Statutory Declaration to be used for audit purposes under Section 40A *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*

Ideclare that I am the person named in the attached Statutory Declaration.

I am aware that providing false information in a statutory declaration is a serious offence.

I consent to the Children’s Guardian or a person approved by the Children’s Guardian obtaining and considering my criminal records from any jurisdiction (if any) and such other records or other information as may be permitted by the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* for the purpose of verifying the information provided in the attached Statutory Declaration in accordance with section 40A of that Act.

I acknowledge that the Office of the Children’s Guardian or a person approved by the Children’s Guardian may provide information in the attached Statutory Declaration to the CrimTrac Agency (an Agency of the Commonwealth of Australia) and the Australian Police Agencies for the purposes of a Working with Children Check, which includes a National Police History Check.

I acknowledge that any information provided by me in the attached Statutory Declaration relates specifically to the purpose of obtaining a Working with Children Check for the purpose of verifying the information provided in the attached Statutory Declaration.

I consent to:

- the CrimTrac Agency disclosing personal information about me to the Australian Police Agencies;
- the Australian Police Agencies disclosing to the CrimTrac Agency, from their records, details of convictions and outstanding charges, including findings of guilt or the acceptance of a plea of guilty by a court, that can be disclosed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth, States and Territories and, in the absence of any laws governing the disclosure of this information, disclosing in accordance with the policies of the Australian Police Agency concerned;
- the CrimTrac Agency providing the information disclosed by the Australian Police Agencies to the Office of the Children’s Guardian or a person approved by the Children’s Guardian in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth.

I acknowledge that information released as part of the National Police History Check obtained from the CrimTrac Agency will be released in accordance with the Spent Convictions Schemes (see below)

I understand that there may be exclusions from the Spent Convictions Schemes in the information that may be released.

I acknowledge that any information provided by the Australian Police Agencies or the CrimTrac Agency, relates specifically to the purpose of verifying the

information provided in the attached Statutory Declaration.

I acknowledge that the Office of the Children’s Guardian or a person approved by the Children’s Guardian may obtain information or documents for the purpose of verifying the information provided in the attached Statutory Declaration from:

- the CrimTrac Agency;
- NSW Police;
- the Director of Public Prosecutions, whether or not those documents are subject to legal professional privilege or other restrictions of disclosure;
- Courts; and
- Government agencies and other persons holding information about me.

I acknowledge that personal information that I provide in the attached Statutory Declaration may be disclosed to the Office of the Children’s Guardian or a person approved by the Children’s Guardian (including contractors or related bodies corporate) located in Australia or overseas for administrative purposes.

I acknowledge that it is usual practice for an applicant’s personal information to be disclosed to Australian Police Agencies for them to use for their respective law enforcement purposes including the investigation of any outstanding criminal offences.

I acknowledge that the Office of the Children’s Guardian will be informed if the information provided in my Statutory Declaration is inaccurate.

I acknowledge that the Office of the Children’s Guardian may disclose such information to:

- my employer;
- NSW Police or other Australian Police Agencies;
- the Ombudsman;
- any other investigative agency that the Children’s Guardian considers appropriate;
- the Department of Family and Community Services;
- the Director of Public Prosecutions;
- a court or tribunal;
- an approved interstate screening agency;
- the Minister of Family and Community Services;
- the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner;
- any other person approved by the Information and Privacy Commissioner and prescribed in the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Regulation 2013* (NSW).

.....
Signature

.....
Date

(Part VIII C of the Crimes Act 1914 (Cth); Criminal Records Act 1991 (NSW); Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 (QLD); Spent Convictions Act 2009 (SA); Spent Convictions Act 1988 (WA); Criminal Records (Spent Convictions) Act 1992 (NT); Spent Convictions Act 2000 (ACT); Annulled Convictions Act 2003 (TAS); Victoria Police Information Release Policy).

Undertaking to accompany Statutory Declaration to be used for audit purposes under section 40A of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*

I provide with this Statutory Declaration certified copies of identity documents equal to or greater than 100 points as outlined in the requirements for identity verification at:

http://www.kids.nsw.gov.au/ArticleDocuments/208/CRIMTRAC_POI.pdf.aspx

First Name:..... Surname.....

Previous names:.....

Date of birth Male Female

Street address:.....

Suburb State Post Code:

My Drivers Licence Number is: I do not have a Drivers Licence

I currently hold a passport issued by the Government

Passport Number I do not have a current passport

In addition to the address provided, I have lived at the following Australian addresses in the past five years

I have not lived at another Australian address in the past five years.

Street address:.....

Suburb State Post Code:

Street address:.....

Suburb State Post Code:

Undertaking under section 40A of the *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*

I undertake, as a condition of my continuing to perform child-related work (including volunteering) for

Beresfield Public School

....., that I will notify them of:

- (a) any refusal to grant me a working with children check clearance under the NSW *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*;
- (b) the cancellation of any working with children check clearance I may hold under the NSW *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012*;
- (c) the imposition of an interim bar under the NSW *Child Protection (Working with Children) Act 2012* that prevents me from engaging in child-related work that requires a working with children check clearance; and
- (d) any conviction imposed on me for an offence, or finding that I am guilty of an offence, or finding that the charge for an offence against me is proven, where the offence is of the kind referred to in the attached Statutory Declaration.

.....
Signature

.....
Date

Appendix 6

Proof of Identity

Education & Communities

NOTES:

1. All persons who are employed or engaged in child-related work are required to provide *Proof of Identity* that meets the 100-point check. This document sets out the documents that may be provided, including the value of each document.
2. Other than Special Categories 4 and 5 provided below, the 100 points proof of identity documents must include ONE Category 1 document; or at least ONE Category 2 document containing a photograph. Collectively, these documents must, as a minimum, also provide evidence of the person's date of birth and signature.
3. If a name used in one document is different from that shown on the other documents provided, evidence of the name change is to be provided (for example, *Marriage or Change of Name Certificate*, or divorce papers issued by the Family Court). These documents DO NOT count towards the 100 points.
4. **All original documents must be sighted and certified by the relevant hiring manager or human resources/recruiting area.** Alternatively, certified copies may be provided, as certified by a Justice of the Peace or a legal practitioner with a current practising certificate.

The suitable wording for certification of the copy would be: ***"I certify this is a true and unaltered copy of the original"***.

The certification statement is to be written on the copy and then signed by the officer. In addition, the person must print their name and position.

Category 1 – 70 points

(Only ONE form of identification accepted from this category.)

- Birth Certificate/Birth Extract
- Australian Passport (Current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)
- Australian Citizenship Certificate
- International Passport (Current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled)
- Other document of identity having same characteristics as a passport e.g. diplomatic/refugee (Photo or Signature)

Category 2 – 40 points

(More than one of the following documents may be counted. The initial document will score 40 points, and any additional documents will be awarded 25 points each.)

- Current Licence or Permit (Government Issued)
- Working With Children/Teachers Registration Card
- ASIC/MSIC Card
- Public Employee Photo ID Card (Government Issued)
- Department of Veterans' Affairs Card
- Centrelink Pensioner Concession Card or Health Care Card
- Current Tertiary Education Institution Photo ID
- Reference from a Doctor (must have known the applicant for a period of at least 12 months)

Proof of Identity

Category 3 – 25 points

(More than one of the following documents may be counted; each will score 25 points.)

- Foreign/International Driver's Licence
- Proof of Age Card (Government Issued)
- Medicare Card/Private Health Care Card
- Council Rates Notice
- Property Lease/Rental Agreement
- Property Insurance Papers
- Tax Declaration
- Superannuation Statement
- Seniors Card
- Electoral Roll Registration
- Motor Vehicle Registration or Insurance Documents
- Professional or Trade Association Card

To use more than one of the following documents, they must be from different organisations:

- Utility Bills (e.g. Telephone, Gas, Electricity, Water)
- Credit/Debit Card
- Bank Statement/Passbook

Special Category 4 – Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander resident in a remote area/community

The applicant will meet the 100-point requirement if the applicant is an Aboriginal person or Torres Strait Islander resident in a remote area/community, and the identity of the applicant is verified by two persons recognised as 'Community Leaders' of the community to which the applicant belongs.

Special Category 5 – Person under the age of 18

A child will meet the 100-point requirement if his or her Identity is verified from ONE of the following:

- Birth Certificate/Birth Extract;
- Australian Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled);
- Australian Citizenship certificate;
- International Passport (current, or expired within the previous two years, but not cancelled);
- Other document of identity having same characteristics as a passport eg. diplomatic/refugee (Photo or Signature); or
- A statement from an educational institution, signed by the principal or deputy principal, confirming that the child attends the institution (statement must be on the institution's letterhead).



Tell Them From Me parent survey Frequently Asked Questions

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the Partners in Learning parent survey?

The Partners in Learning parent survey is part of the *Tell Them From Me* suite of surveys on student engagement. The parent survey helps to clarify and strengthen the important relationship between parent and school.

The parent survey is anonymous. It can be used either as a one-off survey or to identify trends within schools over time and better inform school priorities. The survey is held once a year (Term 3), and is run at the same time as the Focus on Learning teacher survey and the second optional student survey.

Over 700 schools in NSW participated in the 2015 parent survey.

2. What are the benefits for my school?

The parent survey provides school principals and school leaders with parents' perspectives on their school as well as learning at home. Communication between parents and staff, activities and practices at home, and parent views on the school's support of learning and behaviour help build an accurate and timely picture that schools can use for practical improvements.

Data reports are provided to school leaders within three business days of the survey closing. Schools will be able to access a 'one click' PDF summary report of their school's results. A summary 'radar' chart shows your school's average scores on a ten-point scale for eight measures. The report also shows the distribution of answers for each measure which allows school leaders to target specific issues. Your school's results will be compared against state-wide averages.

3. How does this survey relate to the school planning cycle?

The *Tell Them From Me* student, parent and teacher surveys provide valid and reliable data to help schools during the 2015-2017 planning cycle, including with the annual review of strategic directions, development of improvement measures and milestones, self-assessment against the School Excellence Framework and preparation of the annual school report.

The survey data can help schools:

- understand parents' perspectives on their children's experience at school, including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour
- understand parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their children's learning
- provide evidence of areas of strength to support self-assessment and reporting
- engage the school community in discussions to identify strategic directions for school improvement
- establish quantitative improvement measures and help schools track achievement against them.

4. How are these surveys different from existing Departmental surveys on the School Survey System?

Schools have access to national and Departmental surveys of students, parents and teachers through the School Survey System. The *Tell Them From Me* suite of student, parent and teacher surveys incorporate many of the same topics and have similarly worded questions. However, they also:

- include a number of different measures
- bring student, teachers and parent surveys together in a single reporting tool
- will include data collected over multiple years
- enable comparison with state averages.

5. How will the student, parent and teacher surveys assist the Department to support better student outcomes?

The Department is committed to using data, evidence and evaluation to inform its planning and practice. The survey data allows the Department, through the Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE), to analyse results at a state-wide system level as well as in comparison with other data sources, to understand better the impact of parent and student engagement, wellbeing and teaching practices on student outcomes.

6. What kind of questions will the parent survey ask?

The survey questions aim at understanding parents' perspectives on their child's experience at school, including teaching, communication and the school's support of learning and behaviour. The survey also helps schools understand parents' perspectives on activities and practices at home related to their child's learning.

Schools will also have the option to include their own custom questions in closed and open-ended format. Individual responses to the open-ended questions will not be passed on to CESE researchers.

The survey questions relate to the following drivers of student engagement:

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Parents feel welcome | Parents are informed | Parents support learning at home | Parents participation at school |
| School supports positive behaviour | Safety | Inclusion | School supports learning |

7. How does my school participate in the surveys?

CESE has invited expressions of interest from all schools for the 2016 surveys. To participate in the parent survey, schools must also participate in the student survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools.

8. How many parents at my school can take part?

All parents are encouraged to take the survey. CESE will provide schools with advice on different ways to engage parents.

Parents can complete a different survey for each child they have at the school if they wish.

9. What is the cost to my school?

The surveys are provided free of charge to schools. In return, schools are asked to encourage as many parents as possible to complete the survey. CESE may also ask schools to take part in a feedback questionnaire once the surveys have finished.

10. How will the survey be conducted?

The survey is conducted entirely online at home or on public computers, during the specific survey window. For 2016, this will take place during Term 3. The survey will take around 15 minutes.

11. How will parent anonymity be ensured?

To protect parent anonymity, schools will be provided with a single username and password for the school prior to the start of the survey period. This username and password will then be distributed to parents. Data suppression rules are applied to the school reporting tools where there are fewer than five responses.

12. Will support be available to schools during the survey period?

Schools will have access to technical support provided by *The Learning Bar*, the company that has been contracted to supply the surveys for the Department. A free-call telephone number and email address will be provided to participating schools. Support will be available every day during term time between 8.30am and 4.30pm, before, during and after active survey periods.

13. Will training be available to school coordinators?

Online live training and information webinars will be offered to all schools. All school coordinators and principals are encouraged to attend one of these training sessions prior to the survey window. There will also be additional webinars offered at the end of the survey period providing information about how to interpret the reports and analyse the data provided by the surveys.

14. Can I see the survey questions?

Schools will be able to view the surveys online via a password protected portal once they have formally committed to undertaking the surveys. The questions in PDF form are available for participating schools. Please note that the survey questions are the intellectual property of *The Learning Bar* and must not be distributed beyond your school or used in any manner other than that stipulated by the Department.

15. How does the parent survey relate to the student and teacher surveys?

CESE is offering the full suite of *Tell Them From Me* surveys (student, parent and teacher surveys) to ensure schools can capture the views of students, teachers and parents. The surveys are complementary.

For more detail on each of the surveys, see the survey website: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/>

16. Will the surveys all take place at the same time?

The student survey will take place in Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3. The parent and teacher surveys will take place at the same time as the second student survey in Term 3.

17. Can our school do one of the surveys and not the others?

Schools can take part in the student survey without taking part in either the teacher or parent surveys. However, schools must commit to do the student survey to be able to run the parent and/or teacher survey. Some exceptions do apply to schools in special circumstances, such as infants schools, schools for specific purposes (SSP schools) or schools that participated in the 2014 pilot Focus on Learning teacher survey. The parent and teacher surveys are designed to complement the student survey.

18. My school is small. Will the survey work for me?

To protect student and parent confidentiality, data suppression rules do apply where fewer than five parents answer a question. This may limit the capacity of small schools to drill down into their data.

Small schools can choose to cluster together, allowing them to pool data. Clustering is completely optional. To form a cluster, all schools involved must agree. If schools form a cluster this will mean that these schools receive a report that shows the combined data from all the schools in that particular cluster. These schools will also receive their individual school report if enough data has been collected to protect student and parent confidentiality.

Please indicate whether you would like to be part of a school cluster when lodging your expression of interest.

19. Can infants schools, SSP schools or other schools with special circumstances participate?

Infants schools can take part in the parent survey, even though the student survey is only suitable for students in Years 4 to 12. SSP schools and other schools with special circumstances may do the parent and/or teacher surveys without doing the student survey after first enquiring with CESE.

20. Who will be able to see my school's data?

Schools will be able to see their own aggregated data. They will not see individual parent responses.

CESE researchers will have access to anonymous survey response data for system-wide analysis. The researchers are interested in trends only, not individual responses. CESE will not be able to see responses to your school's open-ended custom questions. No parent will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

As with other Departmental data, your Director, Public Schools and selected policy staff from State Office may view your school's report.

Schools are encouraged to use the data as part of their ongoing community and stakeholder discussion.

21. What will happen next for schools that choose to participate in the parent survey?

| | |
|--------------|---|
| Early Term 3 | Training for school principals and coordinators in using the survey website (conducted by webinar). Schools provided with a single log-in and password for their school for distribution to parents. |
| Mid-Term 3 | Active period for surveys. Help desk support will be available. Schools receive their reports three days after closing their survey. |
| Term 4 | Training for school principals and coordinators in analysing school survey results (conducted by webinar). |

What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE identifies and shares what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar is a Canadian education company that specialises in school surveys for both primary and secondary students. Its survey, *Tell Them From Me*, is the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of Canada's ten provinces. More than 2,600 schools and 1.7 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last nine years. Australian schools have been participating in the *Tell Them From Me* surveys since 2012.

The Learning Bar is led by Dr J Douglas Willms. Dr Willms is a Professor and Director of the Canadian Research Institute for Social Policy at the University of New Brunswick, and holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development. Dr Willms led the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8331 /9561 8056 /9561 8370.