DSODE continues to be a hive of activity with many and varied events taking place within the school. Vacation packing is well under way for the 2014 school year and the preparation of semester 2 reports is almost complete.

Whilst the primary camp is on this week, Year 7 2014, students and parents will participate in an orientation program. This provides an introduction to the teachers and secondary section of DSODE and aims at making the move from primary to high school as smooth as it can be. This year there are a large number of primary students continuing from year 6 into year 7.

The ESSA test which is administered annually to all Year 8 students was completed on Tuesday 12th November. Arrangements for events such as this are complex due to the diverse geographical locations of our students so a ‘well done’ to the science staff for their organisation.

Several teachers have recently completed HSC marking in a range of HSC courses. This is a great opportunity for professional development both for the teacher and their fellow KLA members when they return to school. Students benefit greatly from teachers gaining this experience and insight.

At this stage, Presentation Day planning is well underway and it is hoped that a large number of students and families will take the opportunity to be recognised for their achievements and to join us for this end of year celebration. If you are intending to be at Presentation Day, please don’t forget to let us know so that we can include you in our arrangements.

Chris Mason is on leave for approximately two weeks so we will welcome her back sometime during week 9.

Until next time, Melissa

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Hello everyone – Term 4 is rushing by – look out here comes Christmas!

The HSC examinations have only just finished- it won’t be long till the results come out.

The year 10 students are continuing to work as normal towards their RoSA (Record of School Achievement) award. Keep in touch with your teachers and call them if you have any questions about what work you should be doing.

Our K-6 camp is currently running and everyone is having a wonderful time.

Presentation Day is on Friday 13th December and it is always a wonderful celebration of our student’s achievements!

Make sure that you keep in touch with your teacher and don’t hesitate to call or email if you need any help at all.

Start to return all resources that are not needed please. It will make the end of year clean-up much easier.

Regards for now,

Sue Howlett
The end of year muster camp disco is nearly upon us

This year the SRC has decided the theme to be

**BUSH DANCE**

There will be prizes for the best dressed and most country dancers

So pull out your flannelette shirts, dust of your RM's and get ready for a night of

Boot scootin tootin fun!

SRC requests that students bring a gold coin donation to help us with our fundraising!
Greetings from the Library

Vango: Between Sky and Earth
by Timothee de Fombelle

A gripping mystery-adventure set in the 1930’s interwar period about a character desperately searching for his identity. Raised by a strange nanny in Sicily, Vango grows up with one friend, a priest Zefiro, who lives in a monastery hidden from sight. On reaching adulthood, Vango decides to follow in Zefiro's steps, but at the moment he is taking his holy orders at Notre Dame in Paris, he is falsely accused of a crime and has to go on the run. This is a breathless and highly cinematic story that follows Vango travelling by Zeppelin across Europe from Stromboli to Nazi Germany, from Scotland to the Soviet Union, climbing the rooftops of Paris, crossing the paths of arms’ traffickers, crooked policemen, Russian spies and even Stalin.

Walking the Bear
by Nicola Davies

Zaki’s family have been a nomadic family for generations, relying on their Dancing Bears to entertain and earn the family money. Zaki has two bear cubs of his own that he is to teach and bond with to ensure his families future. But much is changing in India, and indeed the world, and treating bears in this way, getting them to perform for humans, is not okay. Most of Zaki’s family sees the sense in change, and Zaki would love to play his flute to earn money instead. But Zaki’s father has more trouble accepting the changes to his world. Eventually Zaki takes an opportunity to run away and try to retrain and release his cubs back into the wild. Can all turn out well for the wonderful Zaki and his family? Could the cubs survive the wild? A tremendous story of courage in a world where animal welfare is taking an important and changing role in people’s lives.

Split Second
by Sophie McKenzie

Bound together by the devastating consequences of a terrorist attack on a London market, teenagers Charlotte and Nat appear at first to have much in common. But, as Charlotte gets closer to Nat and his family, she begins to wonder if perhaps he knows more about the attack than he has let on. Split Second is an action-packed thriller that shifts between the perspectives of its two main characters as their courage and their loyalties are tested to the limit. Suited to all readers 15+
The Last Girl
by Michael Adams

Everyone is connected in our modern world. But can we be too connected? What if suddenly everyone was so connected that they could hear everyone else’s thoughts? A cacophony of unbearable noise that is bound to have disastrous effects on humanity suddenly erupts… Amid an explosion of insanity and violence, the world dissolves into a catatonic state for most people. But our sixteen year old star Danby remains alert, as she can tune into other people, but they cannot tune into her. Will she and other survivors be able to revive people and allow mankind to rebuild? Can she even save her own mother and little brother? From an exciting new Australian author, this is sure to appeal to 15+ readers.

The Eye of Minds: Mortality Doctrine
by James Dashner

What if you could play video games and actually feel everything that happens to you, but know that it is all pretend and you are perfectly safe? For a true gamer this sounds wonderful – and the VirtNet lets all this happen. When Michael and his friends start hacking the code to help them win, they find all is not as it seems, and the VirtNet could be a really dangerous place. This is an action adventure story that sci-fi lovers and virtual reality gamers will absolutely love. It suits both boys and girls, and is the first in a series, but it stands alone as a great read with a definite twist in the end. Perfect for Year 9 and up.

Shipwrecked
by Siobhan Curham

When Grace Delaney and seven members of her prestigious dance school are chosen to perform a long term gig on a South Pacific cruise ship, life seems wonderful. En route to their new gig their smaller boat is met by a terrible storm and they are shipwrecked on a deserted island. What follows is an insight into human emotions in what the publishers call Gossip Girl meets Lost – which is fairly accurate. With the tropical heat rising, so are the group’s secrets, tensions and passions. Mix this with voodoo and we have a totally enjoyable and engrossing teen read. Best enjoyed by 15+ readers.
Greetings from the Library

All the Truth That’s In Me
by Julie Berry

An enthralling story of survival in a remote new settlement in an earlier time, date unknown. Where our main character Judith tells her story as if writing to the boy she loves, Lucas. They live in a religious community with strong and old fashion beliefs. Judith’s story includes kidnapping, murder, war and courage in the face of fierce adversity, made more powerful by the fact that Judith’s tongue has been viciously cut out. Can she hope to speak again and be accepted by those in her small community? Most importantly, will she ever gain Lucas’ love? A gripping story that will leave its mark on readers 14+

Shimmer
by Jennifer McBride and Lynda Nixon

Kora is a powerful genie sent away against her will. Her homeland is threatened and she’s been banished to Earth for her own safety. David’s life is in chaos and Kora might be just what he needs. But commanding a genie is notoriously tricky – especially when she’s also an angry teenage girl. Unable to move more than 100 metres apart, and with their loved ones in danger, Kora and David must learn that the best way of helping themselves is to first help each other. Some exciting fight scenes, and a mystery regarding David’s dad, make this a thoroughly enjoyable read for both boys and girls in senior levels.

Until next time, Happy Reading!

David Strain – Teacher Librarian
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au

JOIN US ONLINE WITH FACEBOOK

We value relationships within the community
Look Who’s Been Caught Reading

Olivia

How many books do you read a year?
1,500

When is your favourite time to read?
In bed at night or really early in the morning.

Where do you get the books you read from?
Anywhere!

Austin’s Visit to Black Caviar

Austin attended the unveiling of the Black Caviar Statue at Nagambie Victoria on the 24th October.

He was lucky enough to meet 3 of her owners, her Trainer, Jockey and the Author of the book ‘Black Caviar’
HSC
Year 12 exams are over but there are still a few matters to attend to. The main round of UAC closes midnight on Friday the 13th December, so make sure you have your preferences in. Remember that you need to have the university you applied to for early entry as number one on your preference list for the main round.

TAFE
If you are intending to study at TAFE in 2014 check if you need to apply for your course this year. If you’re intending to study at TAFE in 2014 check if your course is high demand as you need to apply to TAFE this year, October 30th is usually the deadline.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships
Make sure you are checking local papers and approaching potential employers for positions. Check any apprenticeship providers in your town, for example Skillset in Dubbo. Once you find a provider you need to register with them so that they can support you in finding an Apprenticeship or Traineeship. Skillset currently have a Traineeship in Dubbo for a Business Certificate III. Aboriginality is a requirement for the position.

Year 10 - Subject Selection
Year 10 subject selections are now overdue. If you have not yet returned your subject selection forms to school, you need to do this immediately or call Mr Holland on 5804 7080. If you wish to discuss career choices and subject selections please ring me.

2014 HSC students
You have now commenced your HSC year which requires you to have only 10 units. If you intend to drop one of your subjects you need to think about the impact this may have on your career choice and university eligibility.

If you wish to discuss implications of dropping a subject for the HSC feel free to ring me.

Mr Quayle has taken over from Mr Smith as the careers adviser and can be contacted by phone on 5804 7079 or by email at

timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au

For current year 12 students who have been working on their university entries Mr Smith is still at school and available to discuss any questions you may have.

Mr Quayle - 5804 7079
One of our single course students, Tyrone of Scone Grammar School, was awarded a major prize in a competition organised by the University of Wollongong.

Students were asked to submit an engineering report based around one of the modules in the Engineering Studies course. Tyrone submitted an engineering report, “Analysis of materials used in an automotive air-conditioning compressor”.

He has been invited to a Presentation Evening at the UOW where he will be presented with a cheque for $500 along with all of the other winners from across NSW. A guided tour of the university has been organised for all of the winners prior to the Presentation Evening. This is a rare opportunity for Tyrone to visit the university and see all of the engineering reports submitted by the other major prize winners.

Tyrone is “stoked” by this award. “But, to be honest, I personally don’t care about the prize money but more so the fact that I achieved something by doing what I enjoy doing and that I get to go visit the university that I have been hoping to go to for years.”

Kim Hopkins, Engineering Studies teacher.

PDHPE Yr 9 student (and learning centre attender) Melissa has recently won a local Mixed Martial Arts competition. With many strong competitors, Melissa came through with the win utilising her forehand kick as strength. Her next move from here is a grading in 3 weeks for her purple belt.
Preschool Matters

The end of the school year is fast approaching and it is good to hear that our students are having many positive experiences as they engage in their Kinder Orientation activities. We wish them all the best as they graduate from preschool and start the beginning of their formal education.

Preschool Enrolments for 2014
DSODE Preschool is now taking enrolments for 2014. If you know of anyone in your area who would benefit from our Preschool Program, could you please ask them to contact the school for an enrolment package on (02) 5804 7000. If you would like to present them with our brochure explaining the benefits of enrolling in the Dubbo School of Distance Education, please contact Sue who will email or post you out a brochure 02 5804 7061.

Christmas Unit
For those families who have requested them, Christmas units should be arriving at your place very shortly to start in week nine. This is a non-returnable unit, so will be ideal to complete in the last three weeks of this term. This unit completes your preschool program for the year and allows you to search through the school room and locate preschool resources that you have outstanding. Your deposit can not be refunded if you still have outstanding resources. All resources are due back at school now so that we can begin packing for next year’s students. Your assistance with this matter would be much appreciated.

Home Visits
Earlier this term Robyn and Hayley completed our home visit program for the year as they visited Braden, Jock and Myles in the Carinda area.

Bottom Right
Jock using his skills to match the features of the birds to the pattern cards.

Top Right,
Myles engaged skills of hand/eye coordination and creativity as he hammered different pieces of wood to create this pattern.

Top Left
Braden successfully constructed these birds to match the pattern cards.
Some suggestions to prepare your student for Kindergarten in 2014
Preparing for Kindergarten – just a few hints, for more information log on to the website http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/gotoschool/primary/startingschool.php

Parents/caregivers can do a lot to help prepare their child for Kindergarten before the big ‘first day’. Below is a list of skills that will be useful for children starting Kindergarten in 2014. We recognise that not all children will have these skills as everyone develops at a different pace, so this is intended only as a guide so that starting school may be just a little easier.
Encourage your child to attempt the things mentioned below, but don’t worry if your child can’t do all of them. Talk to the Kindergarten teacher, and together you can support and assist your child’s learning.

Language, Your child -
• talks to other people about familiar objects and events,
• answers and asks simple questions,
• makes needs known,
• follows simple instructions,
• uses books for enjoyment or for looking at pictures,
• identifies pictures in books, magazines, on television or video,
• uses a variety of things (pens, pencils, textas, paintbrushes, sticks in the dirt) to draw, to scribble or to write,
• joins in singing familiar songs.

Mathematics, Your child -
• recognises that numbers can be used to count,
• uses words such as many, a lot, more, less,
• identifies things in a group that are different,
• sees differences in shapes,
• differentiates between opposites – up and down, under and over, in front and behind, day and night.

Personal/Social Skills, Your child -
• uses the toilet independently,
• can say own name and address,
• adapts to unfamiliar settings and new experiences,
• can finish a task and tidies up afterwards,
• plays cooperatively with other children shares and takes turns,
• can sit still to listen to a story for a few minutes,
• is curious about the world,
• can share an adult’s attention with several other children
• participates in imaginative play.

Physical Skills, Your child -
• uses scissors to cut along a straight line,
• enjoys a variety of indoor and outdoor play,
• can put on and take off jumpers, shoes and socks independently
• makes and designs things using a variety of materials.
Artist of the week!
Congratulations to Lucy who has produced this excellent Aquarium Diorama as she completed the ocean unit. Well done Lucy!

Birthdays: The following students celebrate their Birthdays in December/January. We wish them all a very Happy Birthday for their special day.

December:
Rory 15th December
Lucy S. 28th December

January:
Conrad and Fletcher 13th January
Leven 28th January.

Try this great website as it provides a range of ideas which could engage your pre-schooler in creative activities and stimulate their imaginations during the school holidays. www.learning4kids.net/

Preschool Teachers, Hayley, Robyn and Sue.
Enrolment Variations for 2014
Do you know of a family who is considering enrolling at DSODE? Are your own circumstances changing in 2014? If you answered yes to either question, could you please contact Jenny Ballhausen as a matter of urgency to advise her so we can take it all into account when we begin to plan for 2014. As I need this in writing, I would appreciate the information via email – Jennifer.ballhausen@det.nsw.edu.au Thank you.

Returning Work
Just a reminder to everyone, that wherever practical, teachers would like to see return work on a weekly basis. It can become a little daunting to staff when all of the children in their class return four and five sets of work in one go. We understand for our overseas families, our travelling families and families that have negotiated a different return rate with their child’s teacher, that at times this is not possible, but please Supervisors, try to keep this in mind if you can. This is even more so in Term 4 when we are also juggling report writing and (later on) packing for 2014 classes. We would expect that all work completed by set 4.4 (Australia) and Set 4.2 (overseas) would be with their class teacher as you read this.

Claim the Dates
Last satellite lessons – week beginning 25 November
Presentation Day – 13 December
Last day Term 4 – 18 December

Caring for Resources
A huge thank you to supervisors and students who look after resources sent out to allow you to complete your school work and are returned in a condition that allows them to be sent on to other students to use. If books or equipment do get a bit grubby, it would be appreciated if they could be wiped over with a damp cloth before being returned. We expect resources to be used only for the purpose in which they are intended and they should be returned when they are finished with.

Christmas Pack
If you haven’t already, then you will soon receive a Christmas activity pack for the end of term 4. Please note that NO work is expected to be returned from this pack.

And finally
……. Even though this year is drawing to a close we are always here to talk to you if you have any concerns

Mel Egan, Amanda Hamilton, Vanessa Duncan, Melissa Cox, Leanne White, Robyn Hoy, Averil Keen, Tahlia Webb, Sammy Webb, Sarah Dugan, Rebecca Monterio, and Jenny Ballhausen
During Term 4 Metika commenced her work experience at the Western Plains Riding Centre.

She gained valuable experience in saddling, grooming, instructing and general horse care.

DSODE would like to thank Emma Ward for her support and guidance during Metika’s time at the Western Plains Riding Centre.
Students in Year 10 Elective History have to assemble ten items they would put in a time capsule that will be opened in another 50 years. The time capsule items have to represent their life as a teenager in Australia today.

Courtney from Wellington High included a photograph of her home, which is one of Wellington’s oldest buildings and businesses. She cleverly included a ‘then’ and ‘now’ perspective in her photo.

Primary Camp
Puppet Creations
International Volunteer Day

International Volunteer Day recognises the brilliant and diverse work done around the world. Volunteering with organisations that are involved with the native environment is a wonderful way to meet people while contributing to groups that need assistance. Whether it’s a ‘once a year’ national event or a regular weekly or monthly scheduled event – you will be welcomed.

The recent bushfires was an example of volunteers dealing with the challenges of the native environment. Working with animals, in community gardens, clearing rivers and coastal areas are all ways you can volunteer. Many staff at our school are involved with volunteering.

We congratulate all the students who have been volunteering in 2013.

WHAT CAN YOU DO? (National Recycling Week)

Visit your local council or community centres for list of organisations that require volunteers
If you like animals try volunteering at a local animal shelter, Wires or at a wildlife park/zoo.
If gardening is your preference – volunteer with Landcare or community gardens.
Look at websites for volunteering:

www.conservationvolunteers.com.au
www.australianvolunteers.com
www.australianvolunteers.org