Keeping in Touch
Newsletter No. 5 2013

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Hello everyone,
We have just had our year 7-10 residential that incorporated the Athletics carnival. What a great way to spend the week at school. Look out for all of the photos. The Pre-school camp is on its way in week 7. The NAPLAN tests were held and were fairly well attended. The students all had a great week at school with many other activities besides the National testing! The languages camp was an excellent camp with everyone having such a good time and immersing themselves in their chosen language. The music camp has just concluded with wonderful sounds overheard in the school. Well done to all who attended.

Great concert to finish on too! Our senior residential is coming up and will coincide with the HSC Seminars held in Dubbo. This is always a huge camp as it involves the majority of our senior students and single course enrolments too.

Please look after all of the resources that have been sent out to you and return them as soon as you have finished with them so that others can use them too.

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

Have a great term everyone!
Regards for now,
Sue Howlett
Hi Everyone,

I can’t believe we have passed the halfway point of term 2 already! We have had such a busy term that you tend to not notice the weeks going by. The last few weeks have seen our students participating in a variety of residential activities. I was excited when the year 7-10 students came to visit because they brought with them some much needed rain for Dubbo! I have to congratulate them on their resilience to persist with athletics training and other activities that led them to the athletics carnival on the Thursday. I was privileged to be able to go down to the oval and take some photos of all the action taking place in the only little bit of sunshine we seemed to get during the week. In week 4 we had the languages camp and our hostel was filled with students from all around the region. They had a great three days concentrating on honing their speaking skills for Spanish, French, German and Japanese. The students spent time in class and away on excursions to the Botanical Garden district and Taronga Western Plains Zoo. Week 5 saw more students in for the music camp which culminated in a concert on Friday afternoon. It was a credit to all students and staff who worked hard for three days to produce some excellent performances…we need to watch out for them in future episodes of ‘The Voice’, or ‘X-factor’ I am sure! This week is the Senior residential and already I have seen many Yr 11 & 12 students participating in some valuable classes leading up to the HSC seminars on Thursday and Friday.

Once the residential have passed, teachers will be busy moving into the phase of report writing for semester 1 …something to look forward to for the end of term. As parents and students, it is important to see what achievements have been made and to reflect on areas for improvement in the future.

During these few weeks we have also had a number of new staff join us. Aleisha Reeves has joined us to work in PDHPE and some English, but will soon be doing some HSIE work later this term. We welcome this week, Julee Hunt to the English faculty from her previous school in Lightning Ridge, and starting next week will be a new graduate, Monique Farmer in PDHPE. Hollie Jones has joined us in Admin and one of her immediate tasks is to assist in posting new events on our Facebook page and to work on building some promotional and information materials for DSODE which are sent to our parents, students and other community stakeholders.

On Friday of week 5, we farewelled our student teacher from Sydney University, Leah Sakr. Leah has gained some valuable teaching insights into delivering via distance education. She practised her teaching skills for 4 weeks in the Languages faculty. We wish her well in her exams and studies leading up to graduation later this year.

In week 8, a number of our staff will be away in Sydney attending the annual DE Symposium. This is a great opportunity for teachers from all the DE schools in NSW to come together to learn new strategies and ideas to be developed for assisting our students, and to share resources across the wide range of KLA networks that have been established (18 networks so far).

Thank you all for your consistent and hard work during the term so far.

Regards,

Debbie Murray
Acting Deputy Principal
The DSODE athletics carnival this year was a great success. The numbers were down on the day but the competitive and supportive spirit by the students definitely made up for it.

We would like to thank all the students who made the carnival such an enjoyable day, their fantastic efforts of participation in every event and encouragement of each other was very much appreciated.

We were very lucky with the weather as it held off until one of the very last novelty events, the teachers vs students relay. (Maybe that’s why they got in front of us).

Congratulations to the age champions:

Year 7 Girls – Elaura  Year 7 Boys – Shaun
Year 8 Girls – Zoi   Year 8 Boys – Joshua
Year 9 Girls – Metika  Year 9 Boys – Branioc
Year 10 Girls – Erin  Year 10 Boys – Damien

Thank you again to all students, teachers and parents for your wonderful participation on the day. Your support and encouragement of one another made for an outstanding carnival.

Megan Shanahan and Annabelle Newbigging
Sports Coordinators
Look Who’s Been Caught Reading

Toby...

How many books do you read a year?

100

When is your favourite time to read?

11 o’clock

What do you think makes a good book?

Cars

Private Vehicle Conveyance Application Forms

PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE NOTE:

It states in Section 7 on the information sheet accompanying the Application form that:

a) The Department of Transport will provide written confirmation of the receipt of your PVC Subsidy application form within 6 weeks.
b) If an acknowledgement is not received within 6 weeks, you should contact the PVC Subsidy Team on the telephone numbers provided below.

c) Failure to contact The Department of Transport may affect the commencement date of your PVC Subsidy application."

Telephone: 02 9891 8900
Fax: 02 9891 8985
Toll-Free: 1800 010 123
Website: www.transport.nsw.gov.au
Email: pvc@transport.nsw.gov.au

Your contact person at DSODE is Liz on (02) 5804 7009
THINK.EAT.SAVE. Reduce Your Footprint

is the theme on 5th June for the 2013 World Environment Day.

‘Sustainable consumption is all about ‘doing more and better with less’ through reducing resource use, degradation and pollution while increasing the quality of life for all’ www.unep.org/wed/

DON’T LET OUR FUTURE DRY UP

is the theme on 8th June 2013 for World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification

‘we are all responsible for water and land conservation and sustainable use’ www.unccd.int

What can you do?

Be aware of the environmental impact of the food choices you make and make informed decisions. For example buy locally grown produce to reduce the foodprint miles and buy organic to reduce the use of chemicals.

2013 Calendar of Events

International Year of Water Cooperation

International Year of Quinoa

June 5 World Environment Day
June 8 World Oceans Day
June 17 World Day to Combat Drought and Desertification
Important information for HSC students

For all 2013 HSC students, the *2013 HSC Rules and Procedures Guide* provides critical information about all HSC procedures. Students have been provided with a hard copy of this booklet but if it has been misplaced, it can be accessed on the Board of Studies’ website at


The HSC written examination timetable has, this week, been sent out to all HSC students. This timetable can also be accessed on the Board of Studies’ website


HSC students should also activate their **Students Online account** now if they have not done so already and view their personal HSC details including their personal exam timetable.

Needless to say, it is most important that all HSC students are aware of the correct dates and times of each of their HSC examinations. It is important to contact their student advisor if they are uncertain of anything.

Woolworths Earn & Learn

Until Sunday 9th June 2013, when you shop at Woolworths remember to **ask** for your Woolworths Earn & Learn Stickers

Our number of stickers collected so far (4,800) is a long way below what we received last year (26,600).

Stickers need to be sent in to school by Monday 15th July.

Our school will be able to redeem these for educational resources (books, sporting equipment etc.)

*Thanks for your support!*
Greetings from the Library

New DVDs to Borrow

**Hugo - Rated ‘PG’**
Welcome to a magical world of spectacular adventure! When wily and resourceful Hugo discovers a secret left by his father, he unlocks a mystery and embarks on a quest that will transform those around him and lead to a safe and loving place he can call home.

**Croker Island Exodus – Rated ‘G’**
When the Japanese bombed Darwin in 1942, 95 Aboriginal children from the Stolen Generation, along with their missionary carers, were trapped on Croker Island, 200 kilometres off the Northern Territory Coast. Their only route to safety was by boat to Barclay Point, then across Arnhem Land by foot, canoe and truck. They reached their final destination, a Methodist farm just south of Sydney, 44 days and almost 5000 kilometres later. Seventy years on, the now-elderly travellers look back on their epic journey and fractured childhoods.

**Fantastic Mr Fox – Rated ‘PG’**
Mr and Mrs Fox live a happy home life with their eccentric son Ash and visiting nephew Kristofferson. That is, until Mr Fox slips into his sneaky old ways and plots the greatest chicken heist the animal world has ever seen.
Based on the beloved, best-selling book by Roald Dahl, Fantastic Mr Fox is family fun at its finest.

**Ramona and Beezus – Rated ‘G’**
Ramona is a little girl with a very big imagination and a nose for mischief. Her playful antics keep everyone in her loving family on their toes, including her older sister Beezus, who’s just trying to survive her first year of high school.
Through all the ups and downs of childhood, Ramona and Beezus learn that anything’s possible when you believe in yourself and rely on each other. Based on the best-selling books by Beverly Cleary.

**Lost and Found – Rated ‘G’**
Once there was a boy and one day he found a penguin at his door… he didn’t know where it came from or who it belonged to. The penguin looked sad and the boy thought it must be lost. So he decided to help it find its way home, even if that meant rowing all the way to the South Pole… an animated film inspired by the best-selling book by Oliver Jeffers.
Greetings from the Library

New DVDs to Borrow

Jock the Hero Dog – Rated ‘PG’

*Jock the Hero Dog* is a family animated adventure that tells the heart-warming, coming-of-age story of a young man and his best friend, a lovable and fearless dog named Jock.

The story takes place in the beautiful outback of South Africa. Through a series of life-lessons and bonding experiences, Jock, the runt of the litter, grows to become a beloved and trusted companion, a bold adventurer, and a living embodiment of the power of courage, self-belief and redemption.

The Pirates! – Rated ‘G’

*The Pirates!* When the infamous Pirate Captain is shunned once again by his rivals Black Bellamy and Cutlass Liz, he sets his sights to win the coveted Pirate of the Year Award!

With his trusted dodo, Polly and rag-tag crew at his side, the Pirate Captain will need to battle a diabolical queen, save a young scientist and never lose sight of what a pirate loves best: Adventure!

Little Charley Bear – Rated ‘G’

Little Charley Bear is a playful and energetic little bear. He is caring and thoughtful, curious and adventurous.

He loves finding ways to make himself and others laugh. Includes: 9 episodes.

Dinosaur Train – Rated ‘G’

Learn about all different types of dinosaurs with Buddy and his family! Board the wondrous Dinosaur Train to travel and explore the world inhabited by these amazing creatures. Includes: 10 episodes.

The Very Best of ABC for Kids – Rated ‘G’

The very best of ABC for Kids is included on one DVD.

Students enrolled in Languages at DSODE participated in our annual Languages Camp, from 22-24th May. More than 50 students of Japanese, French, Spanish, Italian and German travelled from across NSW to attend the camp.

All students participated in intensive language classes, which included diverse activities such as a German fashion parade, French songs, and Japanese grammar and speaking games. Students commented that the best thing about the camp was getting to meet and get to know other students who are also studying Languages and to practice speaking their language with others face to face.

Senior students also attended an HSC Workshop to prepare for the HSC written and speaking exams. Evening activities included a ‘get to know you’ night where students performed short plays using both English and their language, and an international themed quiz night.

**Japanese Gardens**

On Thursday afternoon we walked to the Japanese Gardens. We listened to presentations about sustainability and the importance of trees in Aboriginal Culture by Community Engagement Officer Rachel Carney and Karen Hagan, Education Officer at the Dubbo City Council. Each language group had many animated conversations about different cultural traditions that exist around the world. An article was published about the excursion and its links to the new Australian Curriculum in Dubbo’s local newspaper, the Daily Liberal.
Excursion to Taronga Western Plains Zoo

On Friday we visited the Taronga Western Plains Zoo, where we were very fortunate to see the baby rhino which had only been born at the zoo two days prior to our visit. Students walked around the zoo in their language groups and practised describing the animals in their language, as well as giving each other directions in language. Mrs Downs provided detailed information about each animal in English, having been a previous volunteer tour guide at the zoo for many years.

Thank you: grazie, merci, dankeshōn, arigato, muchísimas gracias to all Languages teachers for organising such a great camp!

Miss Elwell, Mrs Brain, Mr Freeman, Ms McPhail, Ms Sansey, Mrs Downs, Ms Sakr, Mrs Cant, Mrs Leonard and Mr Shepley.

Thank you also to our overnight supervisors and staff who volunteered their time to help with catering. We also farewell student teacher Leah Sakr from the University of Sydney. Leah has been teaching Spanish and French with us for four weeks this Term, and we wish her all the best with her future studies and teaching career.

Lucy Langham
Relieving Head
Teacher Languages
Term 2 Continues…

What a busy few weeks we have coming up. Preparation is well underway for our Senses themed camp in week 7 (Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th) and all teachers are busy marking all of the fantastic work which is being sent into school. Preschool teachers are continuing the home visit program with another trip up north to catch five more students in week 5.

During week 3 this term Robyn and Hayley travelled up to the Ebor/Grafton area and had the opportunity to work with Daniel, Lucy, Frederick and Leeyah. Thank you to all of the families for their wonderful hospitality. We hope they enjoyed the visit as much as we did.

**Right:** Leeyah created a very colourful necklace.

**Left:** Daniel carefully cut along the various lines to create a puzzle.

**Below:** Lucy really enjoyed the magnetic patterning game.

**Below:** Frederick built a very sturdy and symmetrical building.
Every week, right across New South Wales there are lots of busy preschoolers engaging in their DSoDE preschool program. The following images are just four examples of creative play-based learning our pre-schoolers engage in every day.

**Above:** Jack created this puzzle for Mrs Maher to complete. He wanted her to take a photo to show him she was able to do it. Jack’s excellent careful cutting proved a challenge for Mrs Maher!

**Above Right:** Bridie is exploring her sense of touch as she manipulates the colourful shaving cream blobs. What a fantastic way to explore colour mixing Bridie!

**Centre Right:** Jeremy’s bubble print has been transformed into monster infested water. Great imagination Jeremy!

**Right:** David has creatively explored concepts such as colour mixing and symmetry while creating this fold-a-blob. Wonderful creativity David!
Sometimes we find that the most relevant and rich learning begins with a guided activity from your preschool program but extends past the planned scripted task. Often these activities end up somewhere completely different from where they began. This is okay, and even encouraged. The learning that occurs during this process is driven by your pre-schooler’s interests and curiosity. Don’t underestimate the learning that occurs along the way, the end product is important but so is the journey!!

The Dubbo School of Distance Education Preschool department covers a vast majority of New South Wales. Creating a sense of belonging within our school community is something we strive for each year and as you can imagine it is a challenge. We are always coming up with new ideas and ways in which we can enhance our preschoolers’ ability to feel as if they belong, with limited face to face contact. Our preschool t-shirts have to be one of the most effective strategies we have developed so far. The t-shirt is a concrete item which belongs to them and has a direct connection with their preschool.

Below is a photo taken of Alice and her brothers and sister all wearing their DSoDE preschool t-shirts.

*Left to right: Claire, Ryan, Oscar, Alice.*

Take care,

*Hayley, Robyn & Jan*
Our students were joined by Elijah in Fiji via Skype.

Stage 5 students joined the camp on Thursday and our focus became developing a performance program to present in concert on the Friday. Students amazed the audience with a range of solo and group performances including ‘A Way Back’ which challenged students rhythmic skills through changing time signatures. Another first for this camp was a group acapella choir performance singing an African piece: ‘Siyahamba’.

We would like to thank students, parents and teachers for their wonderful cooperation and attendance at our concert. A special thanks goes to Liana Leigo and our school SASS staff for their organisational support during the camp.

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### Merit Certificate Leader Board

Currently we have:

23 students who have reached the

**MERIT LEVEL (15) Achievement awards**

8 students who have reached the

**HONOUR LEVEL (25) Achievement Awards**

3 students who have gained

**EXCELLENCE AWARDS (30) Achievement Awards**

AND 2 Students who have gained

**BANNER LEVEL (35) Achievement Awards**
Term 2 has been a busy term!

**NAPLAN**

Some of our students recently completed their NAPLAN exams. This is one of many diagnostic tools used by teachers to help assess student progress and future focus areas when programming.

**MYALL MAIL**

The Myall Mail is our annual school magazine and includes an overview of school activities, achievements and students and a selection of their work. For the primary section, we would like a photo and a piece of work from each student included. We ask parents to assist us in this regard, especially travellers and students who have not visited the school, to ensure that we have a ‘head and shoulders’ photo of your student. Teachers will often choose a piece of work for inclusion but if students have a particular piece they would like can you please send us either the original work, an electronic copy or a photograph if it is art work. Please send one in ASAP so we can start collating.

**PHOTOS AND PRIVACY**

We often like to include photos of our students in this newsletter which comes out 3 times a term, our School Magazine, our website and other publications. If you have a concern with your students name and / or image being published, please ensure that the school is aware. An email to your class teacher is the best method for this.

**THE PRIMARY WORK AREA**

Wow! We are very spoilt at the moment to be surrounded by beautiful art work displayed in our office area. The art work was part of term 2 camp activities and feature’s beautiful bright *Wassily Kandinsky* inspired circles!
KIDSMATTER

Since the launch of KidsMatter at DSODE, staff have been busy training in **COMPONENT 1: A POSITIVE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.**

Component 1 aims to promote positive relationships and help children and families feel connected to school.

At DSODE we:

- Provide staff training and information about the KidsMatter framework
- Audit what we do well to support families and work out what other things can be done to support families to feel connected to school
- Plan activities that focus on Component 1 philosophies
- Distribute the e-newsletter to families with information for parents and carers

Keep an eye out for further KidsMatter Primary information and resources in upcoming newsletters.

For more information visit [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)

*Mrs Egan*
Relieving Assistant Principal
We value relationships within the community
We value innovation and creativity