Hi All,

At this time I wish to extend my thoughts and encouragement to all Year 12 students as they prepare for their final exams, which begin on the 14th October. Please ask for support if needed.

As a framework for providing NSW curriculum-based learning programs for students from Preschool to Year 12, DSoDE has implemented the following range of support programs to support students with identified learning needs.

- Alternate Program for students in Years 7 to 10 with Literacy and Numeracy support needs
- Aboriginal Education Program
- Young Parent Program and crèche
- Autism Program
- Learning Support Team
- MindMatters which supports the positive mental health of students
- Field Service Program involving students residing in the school’s hostel as well as teachers travelling out to visit students in homes or local environments
- Satellite Education Program for geographically isolated students
- Youth Education Support Program for senior students not requiring a HSC accreditation
- Pathways HSC options
- Single course provision for 500+ students located in schools across NSW
- Comprehensive welfare structures
- Merit Award system
- Vocational Education Training Program
- Life Skills Learning Program
- Outreach Programs with centres established in Griffith, Orange, Parkes, Forbes, Bourke and Bathurst
- Dubbo Learning Centre where students attend DSoDE for lessons two days per week
- A Middle Years Program to focus on the provision for students in Stage 4 including cross KLA curricula

Each of these programs has an experienced and committed team of staff, who provide students and families with the care and services to help students achieve their best whilst enrolled in DSoDE.

As the Local Schools Local Decisions model for NSW is implemented state-wide, DSoDE will continue to respond to the educational needs of students across NSW by working with students, families, carers and home-schools to review the programs above and to provide new services to the best of our ability. There will be challenges for us to deal with as NSW schools are moving towards a different funding model. Creating resources to support the implementation of the Australian Curriculum is a significant one.

Thank you for another great term and I hope you are looking forward to the Spring holidays.

Chris Mason
The end of term is rapidly approaching. It is a good opportunity for the HSC students to make the most of their last days of formal schooling before the school holidays, which are closely followed by the commencement of the HSC examinations.

During the last week of term, the 2013 NAPLAN results will be dispatched from school to home addresses of students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 so please keep an eye out for these. The envelopes contain the student results for the national literacy and numeracy assessments conducted in May of this year. If you would like to discuss aspects of your student’s performance please contact the school. The information gathered in this assessment is used to assist in the planning for student learning across the whole school.

There have been four camps held this term, each of which has been very successful due to the exceptional planning of the teams of Preschool and Primary teachers, Secondary year advisers and residential planning teams and the huge number of staff involved in conducting lessons and supervision duties. The students all benefit enormously from the range of lessons and activities.

This week saw the school recognise National Health and Physical Education Day on Wednesday 4th September. The ever-active PDHPE Staff organised a series of activities for staff and students during the week including some “boot camp” sessions and “deskercise”. Well done and thank you to the PDHPE teachers.

Enjoy the two weeks of school holidays. All the best to our HSC students who will be close to, or may have already commenced their examinations by the time the next newsletter is out.

Lessons resume on Tuesday October 8th.

Melissa Halpin

Hello everyone,

This term is quickly coming to an end—bring on the warmer weather and daylight saving!

We have had some wonderful residential this term. All have been really successful and the students have all participated well. The Senior Residential was a busy time for the students who attended.

Year 12 students should be completing all set work and preparing for the HSC exams that commence at the start of next term. Year 11 are currently completing their final exams for their courses. Best wishes to all students and keep up the study please! Your hard work should be rewarded by improved results.

Have a great holiday everyone and enjoy the break from school work.

Regards for now,

Sue Howlett
National Water Week

During the International Year of Water Cooperation, the theme in 2013 for Australia’s National Water Week is Liveable Communities.

This campaign hopes to cultivate community understanding of water issues in Australia. For more information refer to the website www.awa.asn.au

WHAT CAN YOU DO? (World Animal Day)

1. Support endangered species programs
2. Eat more vegetarian meals
3. Do not purchase items made from animal hides, horns, etc.
4. Volunteer at local animal pound
5. Provide a healthy diet and habitat for all the animals in your care
HSC
Good luck in your HSC exams. Work hard until your last exam as 50 per cent of your final mark still has to be determined!
If you are intending to apply for early entry you should have done this online (UOW and SCU) or returned paper applications to me (CSU, UN, UC).
You should also have applied to UAC by now and included your UAC number on the paper based early entry applications.
Education Access Scheme (EAS) paperwork should also be with me by now.

Apprenticeships and Traineeships
Students who wish to gain one should be checking local papers, asking friends and contacts and registering with local Job Network providers. All HSC students should have a TFN, bank account and resume.

Preliminary
If you wish to discuss implications of dropping a subject for the HSC feel free to ring Ian Smith (5804 7067) or Tim Quayle (5804 7079).

Year 10
If you wish to discuss subject selections for the preliminary HSC course you can discuss with your student advisor or the careers advisors Ian Smith (5804 7067) or Tim Quayle (5804 7079).

Info Received
Fashion Institute – College prospectus.

Bridges to Higher Education resources
The Bridges to Higher Education initiative brings together five Sydney Basin Universities (UTS, Macquarie, UWS, Sydney and ACU), with the aim to increase participation in higher education from communities currently under-represented.
Other partners include the Universities Admission Centre, TAFE Institutes, the NSW Department of Education and Communities, primary and high schools, and various associations and bodies working with schools.
Bridges to Higher Education has produced a range of free resources, outlined below, that can be accessed online by students, teachers, parents, Community workers and others interested in finding out about higher education.
For more information about Bridges, visit www.bridges.nsw.edu.au or www.bridges.nsw.edu.au/initiative

Information for Parents
Parents video – Higher Education – it’s for everyone!
http://youtu.be/5RLn-6UD5JI
Is University for my Child? (Flyer)
Other translations available.

Ian Smith  Careers Advisor  02 5804 7067  ian.douglas.smith@det.nsw.edu.au
Greetings from the Library

The Children’s Book Council of Australia
Book of the Year 2013 winners:

**Older Readers: ** *Sea Hearts* by Margo Lanagan
Based on Scottish folktaleis of selkies, seals who turn into women, this mesmerising story is suffused throughout with mystery and foreboding, as island men progressively forsake real wives for ‘sea wives’, raising only male children.

The episodic, artfully constructed plot moves through several generations, showing different viewpoints through implication and evocative suggestion. The narrative soars with mood and emotion, driven by Lanagan’s powerful imagination, sensory language and artistic writing. This story will appeal to more intellectual readers of fantasy, both young adult and older.

**Younger Readers: ** *The Children of the King* by Sonya Hartnett
The opening pages promise a poignant and gripping novel and the reader is not disappointed. This is a complex, layered book which is masterfully written. The characters are credible and finely drawn while their actions form a cohesive, intriguing plot.

Sonya Hartnett has crafted a story set in both the recent and distant past in a fine, old, gothic mansion. A ghost story, a war story, a family story and a mystery story all combining into a challenging but engrossing read.

**Early Childhood: ** *The Terrible Suitcase* by Emma Allen and Freya Blackwood
One little girl’s going-to-school present is a terrible suitcase. Nothing goes right until the suitcase is transformed into a toolkit, a computer and can even glow. A sympathetic teacher, an imaginative mother and new school friends resolve the problem.

The theme of space resonates throughout this engaging book and the image of the suitcase whirls on the end pages like one of the planets. Charming, evocative illustrations in colour wash and pencil realistically capture the everyday world of the child and the images from her soaring imagination.

**Picture Book: ** *The Coat* by Julie Hunt and Ron Brooks
This is a wonderful duet of magic and music blended into a beautifully crafted book, which is original and creative. Brooks uses colour, space and orientation playfully and engages the reader with the story that harks back to folk tales of old.

Beginning in sepia colours, it progresses to full colour as the magic takes root. It is a story of possibility and transformation celebrating the adage that ‘clothes maketh the man’.
Greetings from the Library

Eve Pownall Award: *Tom the Outback Mailman*
by Kristen Weidenbach and Timothy Ide

This picture book imparts the biographical facts of outback postman Tom Kruse’s life in a well-written story which engages the reader. The illustrations, with their appropriate use of colour and humorous touches, augment the text with many details.

The layout and design are outstanding with different-sized fonts for emphasis, non-linear text to highlight actions, large and small illustrations and delightful design effects such as page numbers on wood. There are concluding maps and additional facts to encourage the reader to discover more.

**Book Week Celebrations during the Term 3 Primary Residential**

The theme for this year’s book week celebrations was ‘Read across the Universe’.

Primary students and staff dressed up as either something connected to Space or their favourite book character. We read stories, sang songs, played games and enjoyed a delicious space-themed lunch of pizza (planets), meat balls (meteorites), and self-decorated cupcakes (moons). It was out of this world!

Until next time,
Happy Reading!

David Strain – Teacher Librarian
*Dubbo School of Distance Education*
(02) 5804 7023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au

We value innovation and creativity
Lochlan of year 8 has reached our Merit Level. To reach this level he gained 15 Achievement Awards. He is well on his way to achieving Honour level.

Work and the Community

As part of their Work and the Community studies, Dylan L, Jesse K and Dylan M joined volunteers at the Dubbo branch of the Meals on Wheels program. This coincided with National Meals on Wheels Day. The day started with a visit to the office of Mr Peter English who explained the role that Meals on Wheels has in the community, how they operate and the importance of volunteers to ensure the program operates. The students were then teamed up with other volunteers and collected their client list and meals from Orana Gardens Nursing Home.

The boys had the responsibility to deliver meals to elderly clients with the assistance of other volunteers. They were required to identify the meals ordered by the clients and personally deliver them.

The experience gave Dylan, Jesse and Dylan a better understanding of how volunteer organisations operate and the opportunity to interact with elderly community members. All three boys participated enthusiastically in the program and represented the school with distinction.
We value, encourage and support responsibility

Preliminary Gender identity / Contradictions sculpture
Preliminary Visual Arts Students in the Residential making a Contradictory Sculpture
- They have made a feminine object - a body out of mens ties.

The title is “Tie me up”

HSC Biology

As part of the practical requirements for HSC Biology, students are required to dissect an eye and a brain.

We took our students to Charles Sturt University, where Doctor Patricia Logan had organised a workshop. The students got to work in a modern scientific laboratory looking at state of the art technology such as the cochlear implant.

This was a very valuable experience for all students. (See also front cover)
It is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of term three and preparing our Christmas packs, which will be sent out to students mid way through next term. Time certainly flies when you are having so much fun!

In Week Seven we welcomed six of our preschool students to our term three camp. This camp was based around the theme of Nursery Rhymes and included a range of engaging activities. It was also an excellent opportunity for our students to participate in a great variety of physical activities organised to celebrate National Health and Physical Education Day on 4\textsuperscript{th} September.

During this term our Preschool teachers have visited a number of their students in the Hay, White Cliffs, Bourke and Glen Davis areas. Home Visits are a very important aspect of our Preschool program and provide an opportunity for teachers to work with their students in their home environment to assess their skills and modify their programs if need be. It is also an excellent opportunity to consolidate the relationship with both the family and the students and to provide assistance to our supervisors if required.

Sue and Robyn visited students in the Bourke area in Week Six and enjoyed working with both Jack and Sydney. After a busy morning working with Sydney he showed us around his place and we watched as his Dad mustered the goats and loaded them onto the truck ready to take to Melbourne the next day. After Jack had finished his work he showed us around and introduced us to his new donkey.

\textbf{Top Left:} Sydney successfully completed this great horse puzzle. \textbf{Left:} Jack discovered more about the properties of magnetics as he engaged in this pattern activity. \textbf{Below:} Sydney’s Dad mustering goats.
2014 Enrolments
Dubbo School of Distance Education Preschool is now taking enrolments for 2014. If you know of a family in your area with a preschool student who would benefit from our program we would appreciate you passing on our details. They can contact the school on 5804 7000 or Sue on 5804 7061 for an enrolment package.

Birthdays
Birthday wishes go to the following students who will be celebrating their Birthday during October.

Mia P 8th October
Leeyah 10th October
Clay A 29th October
Jack B 29th October.

Term Four Camp.
This camp will be held during Week Four which is the 28th October to 1st November. Information about this camp will be posted to you before the end of the term. This camp will focus on transition to school. We have organized many exciting activities including a session at Kindy Gym so put the date on your calendar! Our health professionals will also be available to test your child’s hearing and sight in preparation for school in 2014.

Resources
Recently the school completed the bi-annual stock take. This is a huge task, as each item in our school needs to be accounted for. Our preschool teachers would like to thank Jan Duncan and Jenny Chapman, the two lovely ladies in our resource room, who as part of their many other jobs, look after our resources.

There were fewer resources missing this year than in previous years. We would also like to thank our Supervisors who return all their preschool equipment at the end of each unit. This assists us in keeping the resources in circulation so we can provide a wide selection for every student.

Facebook page
Don’t forget to check us out on the school’s Facebook page!

Hope that you all have a restful break and we look forward to working with you again in term four.

Sue, Hayley and Robyn
Congratulations to Jack who created this excellent wall mural as he worked his way through the Oceans Unit.
How many books do you read a year?

3

When is your favourite time to read?

Night time

What do you think makes a good book?

Learning to read

A reminder to parents to notify the school about your child’s health

We welcome information from parents about your child’s health, even if you are not requesting specific support from our school. Our school asks for medical information when you enrol your child. It is also important that you let us know if your child’s health care needs change or if a new health condition develops.

Information about allergies, medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes and other health care related issues (including prior conditions such as medical procedures in the last 12 months) should be provided to the school by parents. Please provide this information in writing to the principal. This will greatly assist our school in planning to support your child’s health and wellbeing.

Please also remember to notify staff in the school office of any changes to your contact details or to the contact details of other people nominated as emergency contacts.

We appreciate your assistance in this regard and assure you that any information you provide the school will be stored securely and will only be used or disclosed in order to support your son or daughter’s health needs or as otherwise required by law.
The end of a busy term!! We hope that all our wonderful supervisors enjoy their well-earned rest ready for a hectic term 4. We encourage everyone to spend time reading in the holidays. Not only is it a worthwhile past time, it will enable all students to maintain their skill level. A very wise lady of many years teaching experience once told me that young students can lose up to 20% of their literacy skills and knowledge in only a few weeks of non-activity!!

Also revise those maths concepts – do some cooking and have your child measure out the ingredients; get your child to tell you the time (not the other way round); sing counting songs (times tables songs) on the way into town; count the clothes as you hang them on the line! There are lots of everyday activities that will allow for fun mathematical revision (just don’t tell them that that is what you are doing!!)

Have an awesome and restful break and we look forward to speaking with you all in the first weeks of term 4.

Melissa, Rebecca, Tahlia, Averil, Mel, Vanessa, Robyn, Amanda, Leanne and Jenny

A huge thank you to a very observant Mum who spotted this fantastic Photographic Competition.

It is called Snap and is being run by the Distance and Rural Education Directorate. It is open to all students from Stage 1 to Stage 6. All necessary information can be found at the following website. Please ensure you have read this carefully before submitting any photographs. Further information will be in the next newsletter.


Above: Congratulations to Liddy who is our first primary student to achieve the Merit Award level of our merit system. A fantastic effort from a great student.
10 WAYS TO PROMOTE GOOD MENTAL HEALTH & WELL-BEING IN KIDS

1. Model good mental health habits
2. Make sure they get enough sleep
3. Encourage kids to exercise
4. Give them creative outlets
5. Provide a space of their own
6. Talk about their troubles
7. Help them to relax
8. Have two routines - weekday and weekend
9. Foster volunteering and helpfulness
10. Bring fun and playfulness into their lives

For information from Michael Grose about raising exceptional kids...

2. Visit parentingideas.com.au to find ready-to-go resources and jokes.
3. For the best parenting ideas and news, like the Michael Grose Parenting community on Facebook.com/michaelgrosexparenting.

Phone: 1800 004 484

parentingideas.com.au
The DSODE Relay for Life Team have been running numerous activities during Term 3 to raise money for Dubbo Relay for Life to be held 21st and 22nd September.

With the help of the SRC, students and staff we have made nearly $1300 - with more funds to come. Activities held during term have been a Jelly Bean Guessing Competition (Primary Camp), Crazy Hair Day (7-10 Camp) and BBQ and Busking (11-12 Camp).

We are also running a raffle with prizes totaling over $900. Make sure you look in future newsletters to find out our final total.

If you wish to donate to our team please go to http://relay.cancercouncil.com.au/2013/dubbo_district_2013/Dubbo-School-of-Dis-Ed

Left: Students helping to cook the BBQ at term three 7-10 camp
Below: Some of the dedicated DSODE Relay for Life team members

Above left: Staff having a blast at Crazy Hair Day

Left: Yum Yum!