The school term is nearly over and the Spring holidays are welcome for everyone I’m sure. Year 12 are preparing for their HSC examinations next term and I wish them all the very best. The hostel expansion is progressing well and this newsletter will keep you posted on its progress and when it can be used again. Thank you to all staff and students who planned and have participated in area workshops this term. These were held to replace the camps usually run in Dubbo.

For Term 4, I am taking leave and Deborah Murray will be the relieving Principal for the duration of my leave. Jenny Donovan will act as relieving Deputy Principal whilst the current Deputy Principal remains on leave. Please contact Debbie or Jenny if you need support from the Principal or Deputy Principal.

Best wishes for the remainder of 2014 and I hope to see you again in 2015.

Hello everyone –
This term is quickly coming to an end-bring on the warmer weather and daylight saving! Spring is here and Dubbo is looking good!

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.

Home visits and area workshops have been happening while the hostel is out of action.

Please look after all of the resources that have been sent out to you. Return them as soon as you have finished with them please 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 holiday everyone and enjoy the break from school work.

Regards for now

Sue Howlett
Hi everyone,

Term 3 is all but completed already and the school year seems to be passing extremely quickly. I know that it seems that way for our HSC students now that their official school year has ended and they head into preparation for the HSC exams in term 4. We wish them all the best and hope that they can recall all the necessary elements of their hard work and learning during the exam period. Good luck also to the parents of our Year 12 students, as we realise that this can also be a somewhat stressful time for you as you support your students.

By now all parents should have received the NAPLAN results from this year’s test for Year 3, 5, 7 & 9 who sat the test back at the beginning of term 2. The NAPLAN results are just a “snapshot” of your child on that day, measuring skills in literacy and numeracy. Teachers at DSODE will be accessing that data to support your student in the areas indicated which need further development. Please ring the school if you have not yet received the NAPLAN letter for your child.

Our hostel extensions are on target and the building is looking great. Providing the weather stays fine, we should be on target to complete the project in time for Muster Camp at the end of term 4.

Chris Mason and I recently attended a professional learning day in Sydney which took us through the new DEC School Planning process for 2015. Early in term 4, our executive will be undertaking a planning day to start this new process that will cover our school planning for the next 3 years. The last newsletter mentioned the role that parents could play in this process and we value your input into making our school a better place for our students.

This week 3 staff members attended the AADES Conference (Australasian Association of Distance Education Schools) as DSODE representative in Sydney. It was a great opportunity to see and hear what other States are doing in Australia, and New Zealand with distance learning. Our team presented, with other teachers from Sydney Distance Education High School, on a 12 month project that has been developing a teacher training resource that models effective ways of creating online courses for students. This resource links with the Professional Teacher Standards and will be helpful for both new and existing teachers in DE for developing new online materials for students. Our staff will have access to this resource in early 2015.

As Chris has already mentioned, I will be leaving this chair to sit in a much bigger one for next term, so I will be leaving this report for the future in the capable hands of Jenny Donovan. We are looking forward to the busyness of what term 4 always brings for our school.

Wishing you all a fantastic holiday, drive safe if traveling during this time and we look forward to seeing all of your refreshed faces back at school on Tuesday 7th October.

Regards,
Debbie Murray
During week 5, students in Year 7 and Year 8 travelled to the Wambangalang Environmental Education Centre for a three day Middle Years Camp.

Over the 3 days students considered the theme “My space, Your Space = Our Place, Working together towards Sustainability”. Students participated in activities to promote teamwork, consider aboriginal perspectives, and increase their awareness of sustainable practices.

Some of the favourite activities enjoyed by the group were archery (everyone managed to hit the target!), the low ropes course, and the hike to Turtle Rock (which despite being quite challenging, was really rewarding to make it to the top – what a view).

Students explored ways their families and themselves could become more sustainable, considering strategies such as shorter showers, installing solar panels, etc. The group also discussed ways in which the school could develop more sustainable practices and even considered some great fundraising ideas for the SRC.

On one morning we baked our morning tea (a delicious gooey chocolate brownie) in a solar powered oven and had a camp oven cooked kangaroo stew with damper for lunch. At night we enjoyed storytelling and made smores around the campfire.

Everyone enjoyed themselves and said it was a great camp.

Thank you to Ms Morley for organising the camp, and Mr Hart, Miss Head and Mr Smith for supervising all of the activities. Thank you also to Sue, David and Fiona at Wambangalang EEC for allowing us to stay and for your wealth of knowledge about aboriginal culture, biodiversity and sustainability.
Our artist of the newsletter this month is Rachel.

Rachel has been investigating the colour green while engaging in the secondary colours unit.

What a fantastic drawing Rachel!

DSODE School Polo Shirts

Polo shirts with our school logo embroidered on the left chest are available in a range of colours and sizes (see below) including children’s sizes.

To order please contact


by phone 1300 88 26 26

or email

sales@embroidmedubbo.com.au

$32 each

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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!!

Visiting Dubbo

We love it when our students are in town and come to visit. We welcome the chance to show you around the school, visit the library to borrow your own books, discuss any work issues, and for some families, even meet you face to face for the first time!! We do ask, however, that you ring to let us know you are coming so we can make time for you. It can be disappointing for students to visit and have their teacher unavailable. It is also a school procedure that ALL students and families MUST sign in at the front office. The front staff will then ring down for your teacher/s to come and meet you in the foyer.

Congratulations Tom

Tom F recently competed in the Western Region Athletics carnival in Dubbo. He ran like the wind to finish 4th in the 100m 9yrs boys race. This was one of the closest finishes for the day. A huge effort and a VERY fast time of 15.46 seconds!
A HUGE thankyou to families who have begun sending in work and photos for our Myall Mail – the annual school magazine. The deadline is fast approaching for contributions. We need a head and shoulder photo of students and a piece of work. Space is limited so if it is a long piece of writing then an extract only may be included. You may think about a photo of a piece of art work, completing a science experiment or something else. Photos and work will only be published if permission has been granted by parents/carers. It is a wonderful keepsake of your child’s year at DSODE and we encourage all students to be included.

**Contributions will NOT be accepted after 10 October.**

**Enrolment Variations for 2015**

Do you know of a family who is considering enrolling at DSODE? Are your own circumstances changing for 2015? These circumstances could be ceasing travelling, returning to Australia, selling up and moving into a town. If you answered yes to either question, could you please contact Jenny Ballhausen to advise her so we can take it all into account when we begin to plan for 2015. As I need this in writing, I would appreciate the information via email

Jennifer.ballhausen@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you.

**Food For Thought……..**

From the Melbourne Declaration on Educational Goals for Young Australians (Dec 2008) – a Commonwealth document that underpins the new Curriculum and available on line for all to read.

**Goal 1:** Australian schooling promotes equity and excellence

**Goal 2:** All young Australians become successful learners, confident and creative individuals, and active and informed citizens

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

Melissa, Rebecca, Laura, Hayley, Tahlia, Sarah, Mel, Vanessa, Sammy, Amanda, Leanne and Jenny
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

One Minute’s Silence  
by David Metzenthen and Michael Camilleri
In one minute of silence you can imagine sprinting up the beach in Gallipoli in 1915 with the fierce fighting Diggers, but can you imagine standing beside the brave battling Turks as they defended their homeland from the cliffs above… In the silence that follows a war long gone, you can see what the soldiers saw, you can feel what the soldiers felt. And if you try, you might be able to imagine the enemy, and see what the soldiers saw, you can feel what the soldiers felt. And if you try, you might be able to imagine the enemy, and see that he is not so different from you… A moving and powerful reflection on the meaning of Remembrance Day.

The Raven’s Wing  
by Frances Watts
On the eve of her fifteenth birthday, Claudia is unexpectedly summoned to Rome by the father she hasn’t seen in ten years, a wealthy and powerful senator. She finds herself with both a new family and a luxurious new home in the capital of the world’s greatest empire. But Claudia soon discovers a contest of power and ambition is secretly being waged – and she is the prize. Torn between two rivals for her hand in marriage, she must choose between her duty and her heart… a choice that could have deadly consequences.

The Protected  
by Claire Zorn
When 14 year-old Hannah’s older sister Katie dies in a car accident, her family is torn apart. With an injured and guilt ridden father and a very depressed mother, Hannah’s life couldn’t get any worse. But why is Hannah’s life starting to turn for the better? Surely new boy Josh, who thumbs his nose at authority, isn’t taking a real interest in her. Or is he?
Written with language appropriate to the storyline, The Protected is best suited to those students 15+

The Other Teacher: Hey Jack!  
by Sally Rippin
Jack is really nervous. His teacher is going to be away for a whole term! How will he cope with this change? When Jack first meets his new teacher, Miss Anna Capaldi, his nerves get even worse. And when she suggests they go outside instead of learning in class, he is really worried. He thinks that they won’t learn a thing. But after a day of singing outside with his class, maybe Jack was wrong about Miss Anna Capaldi – maybe they will learn something after all!
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

The Year it all ended
by Kirsty Murray
This novel follows the lives of the Flynn family from Adelaide, who has one son and four daughters, and how the war affected them all, but particularly those left behind. The story mostly follows the youngest Flynn daughter, 17 year-old Tiney (Martine). Whilst small in stature, this remarkable girl’s strength shines through, as she sees and copes with life in the war’s aftermath. In particular, she struggles to cope with the death of her brother on battlefields far away. Ultimately, she travels to the battlefields of France and Austria in an attempt to find some closure. Will Tiney find hope and love to sustain her and a reason to be happy again. An emotional book for 15+ girls that takes an insightful but different look at war as, rather than concentrating on the terrible conflict and the soldiers who fought it, it follows the family members of a soldier that have been left behind.

Are you seeing me?
By Darren Groth
Written by a Brisbane born author, now living in Canada, who ties both countries together in this excellent coming of age road trip novel. Told in two alternating viewpoints, those of twins Justine and Perry. Justine is the sole caregiver for Perry, who is on the autism spectrum, after their father died from cancer a year earlier. Justine plans to meet up with their mother who abandoned their family when they were four years-old and didn’t contact them again until two years ago. The story tackles separation issues, particularly whether Perry will go into an assisted living facility, relationship problems, and many other situations involving Perry’s condition. But most of all, the story follows two wonderful people moving into adulthood. Dotted with excerpts from a diary that their Dad had written since they were both born, this adds insight, warmth and, at times, tears. A marvellous novel for all teenagers.

Spud & Charli by
Samantha Wheeler
Does your imagination ever run wild? Charli is at riding camp, where her dream is about to come true – she will finally learn to ride a real live horse. But when show-off Mikaela picks the horse Charli wants, her heart bungees to her toes. Instead of the beautiful palomino Razz, Charli’s stuck riding the massive retired racehorse Spud. And what about the bats that fill the night sky? Don’t bats spread deadly diseases? Riding camp isn’t turning out the way Charli planned, especially when she finds herself in the middle of a life-threatening disaster.
Moon Attack: Jake in Space – Book 1
by Candice Lemon-Scott
A great new futuristic sci-fi series for kids that is full of adventure and suspense. Jake is an eleven year-old boy who lives on a space station on Earth – and life on the space station is very different to the lives of normal eleven year-olds today! When Jake is told that he has to go to remedial space car driving school to get his licence, he isn’t happy. All his friends will find out. But when you have failed your driving test 30 times and every other eleven year-old drives, what else is there to do? Jake meets some new friends at the driving school on the Moon but one pupil, Henry, who just doesn’t seem quite right. Can Jake figure out why? Full of action and mystery, boys and girls 8+ are sure to enjoy this book.

How to save the Universe in Ten Easy Steps
by Allison Rushby
All is normal in Cooper’s life as preparations are underway for his gross-out 10th birthday party, to be shared with his super-straight twin sister Molly. Well, that is until Cooper uncovers the truth about his life – that rather than being his twin sister Molly is in fact an Alien. Si is his dog Jack and many other people in his town – all there to protect Cooper who is destined to save the Universe. Maybe that’s why Molly is always watching him? Could it explain the strange clock in his head that tells him the exact time? This is a fast-paced and wacky intergalactic adventure that is a whole lot of fun. It will appeal mainly to boys aged between 9 and 12.

Until next time,
Happy Reading

David Strain - Teacher Librarian
02 5804 7023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au

The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.
- Dr Seuss
What kind of books do you like to read?

I like books that are scary and sad as well as adventures and romantic novels.

What is your all-time favourite book?

Harry Potter

Name a favourite character from a book you have read.

Hermione Granger from the Harry Potter series
During Term 1 Residential camp at Dubbo School of Distance Education 40 students participated in the Save-a-mate Program, delivered by the Australian Red Cross. This program has been designed to educate students on the risks associated with drug taking and alcohol use, and enable them to recognise the signs of overdose and provide first aid if the situation ever arises. At the end of this course students were awarded a Certificate of Participation and Red Cross CPR Statement of Attainment. This week we are proud to be able to present our students with these long awaited certificates.
We have continued with the completion of many Personalised Individual Education Plans since the last newsletter. Thank you to the families who have been involved in the creation of these documents, we really value your participation and contribution. The finalised document will be mailed to you for review and signing. Please send a signed copy back to school for filing.

Term 3 has been a very productive term and a great amount has been achieved. The LST meets every week to discuss referrals and review the progress of students who require learning support. If you ever have any concerns about your student’s engagement and progress with their school program please discuss them with the relevant student adviser or subject teacher.

Enjoy the holidays. Term 3 is a busy, long term and the September/October holiday is a welcome break for us all. Enjoy the time to recharge and relax.

Kristina Powell

“Wellbeing, at the heart of good teaching and learning”
Preschool Matters

What a fantastic term we have had! We have finished home visiting all of our preschool families this week. The preschool teachers have all been very excited and inspired by the home visit program this year. We realise that it must be daunting and slightly nerve wracking welcoming us into your home. We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to come into your home and work with your pre-schooler. We enjoy every second of the home visits especially having the opportunity to strengthen the relationships with our preschool families.

In week 6 Robyn and Sue had the chance to visit David, Skye and Erin. What a fantastic week! We hope these families enjoyed our visit as much as we did.

Sue & Hayley were lucky enough to travel north in week 9. We visited Rafael and Max. Thank you for the warm welcome and the special time with yourselves and your pre-schoolers.

Outdoor Music Station

Have you considered creating an outdoor music station for your children to explore music making? When we were visiting Rafael last week he showed us his ‘Musical Banging Station’.

We thought it was a fantastic way to allow your pre-schooler to explore and begin to make sense of musical concepts in an outdoor area where they can make as much noise as they like. While engaging in an outdoor music area your pre-schooler has the opportunity to begin to make sense of high/low sounds (pitch), loud/soft sounds (dynamics), organising sounds (composition), long/short sounds (duration), hitting instruments with different objects (tone colour) and making a variety of sounds by hitting, scraping and shaking (expressive techniques). As well as these musical concepts and skills just mentioned, music exploration engages and strengthens much more of your pre-schooler. The article below outlines many more benefits for your pre-schooler.
Music matters
Psychologists, neuroscientists, and experts in early childhood development have demonstrated that music does more for children than bring them joy; it helps their brain cells make the connections needed for virtually every kind of intelligence.

When young children are consistently engaged by music in an age-appropriate, socially accepting environment, they benefit at many levels:

• **Early Literacy.** They gain the phonological processing, spoken language, and comprehension skills that are the foundation of reading.

• **Quantitative.** They build the spatial-temporal and reasoning skills required for math, science, and engineering.

• **Social-Emotional.** They develop social and emotional skills that are essential for school readiness—like the ability to regulate their responses and relate to others in complex ways.

• **Physical.** By moving and dancing to music and playing simple instruments, children improve their gross and fine motor skills.

• **Creative.** Activities that encourage freedom within a fun and friendly structure spark children’s creativity and provide inspiration.

And of course, they develop a lifelong love of music! 

Here are some more examples of what other outdoor music stations could look like.

**Birthdays**
We would like to wish Mollie (1st), Natasha (17th) & Amelia (21st) lots of Happy Birthday excitement throughout this month of September. We hope you have a wonderfully special day!

**2015 Enrolments**
Dubbo School of Distance Education Preschool is now taking enrolments for 2015. If you know of a family in your area with a preschool student that may be eligible to explore preschool via distance we would appreciate you passing on our details. They can contact the school on 5804 7000 for an enrolment package.
Year 12
For the students who are eligible for an ATAR you should have now received your UAC login and pin number. If you have not received it, ring UAC straight away. Make sure that you register with UAC as soon as possible, as the registration fee will increase on the 30th September, 2014. If you are not eligible for an ATAR but would like to go to university in 2015 please contact me, as there are pathways to university for non-ATAR students.

Once you have registered with UAC you will be able to enter your preferences. You will need to add at least one preference when you register. You can have as many as 9 preferences and as few as 1 preference and you can change your preferences as many times as you like for free.

When you register you will also be able to nominate yourself for the universities early entry program known now as the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS). The following universities will be using UAC’s schools recommendation scheme to determine which students they will offer early entry to university.

- Australian National University
- Charles Sturt University
- Griffith University
- La Trobe University
- Macquarie University
- Southern Cross University (are also using their own STAR early entry program)
- University of Canberra
- University of New England
- University of Technology-Sydney
- University of Western Sydney

Other universities have their own early entry process. Please contact me if you are looking at attending another university for information on their early entry process. Not all universities have an early entry program.

University of New England (UNE) is also running their own separate early entry process. If you are interested in applying directly to UNE for early entry please contact me as soon as possible so that I can complete the online application for you.

For the Schools Recommendation Scheme you will also need to put the university and the course that you want early entry to as the number 1 preference for the early round offer on 4th December, 2014. If you are given an offer in the early round you will need to accept this offer to secure a position in that course and at the university you selected. You can then change your preferences to try for a position in a different course and/or university in the main round offer. To do this you will need to move the course you accepted early entry too off your preference
list altogether or move it to position 9 on your preference list. If you would like more information about different careers try the myfuture website or the Jobjump website for further information. The schools login for the Jobjump website is ‘Dubbo School of Distance Education’ and the login is ‘magpies’. Alternatively you can contact Mr Quayle on 58047079 or email him at timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au

Tax File Numbers
Any student wishing to get a tax file number needs to contact Mr Quayle on 58047079 or timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au, so that he can post you out the forms. In completing the forms please make sure that you do not make any mistakes, as the Australian Tax Office will not accept these forms.

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 in Dubbo Skillset. Once you find a provider you need to register with them so that they can support you in finding an Apprenticeship or Traineeship.

Skill set are currently looking for an apprentice for a brick laying apprenticeship in the Dubbo area. If you are interested in this job please call me on 02 58047079 or skill set on 02 68848100.
Springtime is here! Warmer and longer days are to be enjoyed. We share a photo of the blossoms on the school’s Manchurian Pear trees. They are a beautiful sight to see.

You can be proactive within the natural environment in the month of October, by getting involved in the Aussie Backyard Bird Count. Visit the [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org) website to learn more about getting involved in your own backyard or local park. The website also provides loads of information and assistance with identifying Australian native birds.