It is hard to believe that we have come to the last newsletter for the year of 2014. So much has happened this year and now we get to look forward to celebrating all that has been accomplished in the wind-down to Presentation Day on Friday December 12. We hope that students and families will join us to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of our students throughout the year and also to say goodbye to our HSC students as they begin their new chapter of life. A graduation ceremony for our Year 12 students will be taking place on Thursday afternoon, December 11 at the Savannah Room, Western Plains Zoo. Teachers will be looking forward to meeting and celebrating the end of school and the successes of our current Yr 12 students.

Presentation Day will also be an opportunity for parents and friends to view the new hostel facilities that were handed over to DSODE officially on November 19. The students will experience the new space in Week 10 for the ‘Muster Camp’ activities. The state-of-the-art kitchen facilities and extra dining/lounge space has been an exciting addition to the hostel and will no doubt have plenty of use in coming years for residential.

Staff have been extremely busy over the last few weeks preparing and writing reports for all Year 7 to 11 students, and also packing work ready for the vacation period for those students returning to DSODE in 2015. It is indeed a busy time of the year, and whilst other schools seem to wind down for the Christmas break, we seem to be still winding UP!

Staff are yet to undertake Professional Learning activities in the next three weeks, including updates in CPR, anaphylaxis and basic first aid training. All staff will be spending the last Thursday and Friday of term to develop strategies to support the new School Plan for 2015-17 and to continue working on faculty initiatives for the new year. Executive and staff have been busy throughout the term to establish our three strategic directions for the next three years: Student Learning & Engagement; Curriculum & Assessment; and Professional Practice. You will be hearing more about this as our plan develops early next year.

So, as 2014 draws quickly to an end… on behalf of DSODE, I would like to wish all students, parents, carers and supervisors a restful and relaxing holiday. Thank you for supporting the school and the staff throughout the year, and we hope that your Christmas is safe and enjoyable.

Regards,

Debbie Murray
Relieving Principal
Hello again everyone!

It only feels like yesterday that I wrote my last report - where has the term gone?! We have come to the final few weeks of the school year for 2015; these few weeks will be very busy with the Secondary Residential in Week 10 and our Presentation Day on Friday December 12. Congratulations to all students who will receive an award on this day, and also to those that have worked hard and achieved a Merit Certificate throughout the year. We would also like to acknowledge the hard work of parents and supervisors - you have earned your upcoming break!

On Wednesday November 12 our incoming Year 7 students participated in a Transition Day. This day was incredibly well organised by the Year 7 2015 Student Advisers; parents and students had a great day and went away with a greater understanding of how the Secondary school works. Thank you to all staff who helped organise this great day and also to the parents and students who attended.

We look forward to seeing students and parents at the Annual Presentation Day; for those that are unable to make it, we wish you all a safe and happy holiday break and we look forward to working with you all again in 2015!

**Jenny Donovan**
Relieving Deputy Principal

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**End of year fun in the Primary Resource Room**
This newsletter marks the end of a busy year full of fun, laughter and learning. We hope that everyone can look back on it with a sense of pride and achievement.

**Claim the Dates**

Presentation Day – 12 December                  Last day Term 4 – 17 December

**Enrolment Variations for 2015**

Do you know of a family who is considering enrolling at DSODE? Are your own circumstances changing for 2015? These changes can include stopping travelling, moving to a new school, coming home from overseas. 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 2015. As I need this in writing, I would appreciate the information via email – jennifer.ballhausen@det.nsw.edu.au Thank you.

**Term 4 Residential**

As part of the Residential, some students had the opportunity to participate in a Zoosnooz. This involved sleeping out at the Zoo, an early morning walk and then a fun day at the Zoo (although not so much fun in 42 degree heat!!). The students had a fabulous time, behaved beautifully and were absolute troopers given the weather. Well done to all!!
Who Is My Teacher?

It can be an anxious time for students wanting to know who will be their teacher next year. Unfortunately, we cannot inform families of this as there are too many movements of students and staff at the end and beginning of the year to set this. Please be assured your 2015 teacher will ring and introduce themselves to you in the first week of February.

Term 1 Residential

Identified students will be invited to participate in this residential before the end of the year. It will be held in the week beginning 9 February with the Small School Swimming Carnival on Friday 13 February. The actual duration of the Residential will be determined by the number of students attending.

Students all over the World

Welcome to our newest family who have taken up residency in Krasnoyarsk in Siberia. While we have been sweltering in 40 degree temperatures, it is a mild -18 degrees over there!!

Left: Mrs Dugan and Mrs White skyping Layna and Amalia

Communications

Using email has become the most effective way to communicate with our students, supervisors and families. It is important that you keep the school informed of your preferred email address (supervisors and families) for us to use. Students will be communicated with using their DEC Portal address.

It is also imperative that emails are checked on a regular basis. Ideally, students and supervisors should log on daily to check for any updated information and communications. For our satellite students this can easily be accomplished by logging on to a lesson a few minutes early to access your emails.

It has been a disappointing start for this term with a number of students emailing questions or leaving comments to their teachers without having checked their emails first. If they had, they would have generally found the answers they were seeking. We also advise that you need to ‘empty ‘ your mail box as it does have a limited capacity and this term in particular, I have had a few emails bounce back due to ‘Full Mailbox’.
Farewells
At the end of every year we say farewell to a number of students for various reasons. Some are moving into Year 7, some are returning home after being on the road or living overseas, moving on to other schools or for some for other reasons. Whatever they may be, we wish you well for the future and hope that your time at DSODE was rewarding, fruitful and an enjoyable time. May you take many memories of this place away with you. A special farewell to our Year 6 students: Coby, Houstyn, Isabelle, Jennifer, Jordan, Olivia, Sonya, Shara, Tasman, and Ziggy.

Holiday fun
A challenge for you all…. Can you tick every activity off every week?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Play a board game twice a week</th>
<th>Swim once a week</th>
<th>Be active everyday for at least 30 minutes (eg walk, run, ride)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Help out in the garden regularly</td>
<td>Read for 20 minutes every day</td>
<td>Write every day (eg a letter, story, post card, shopping list)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do something nice for someone else every day</td>
<td>Cook, at least once a week!</td>
<td>Be creative three times a week Eg: play music, paint, draw, craft</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Wishing all our families a lovely break, a safe holiday and an enjoyable festive season.

Hayley, Laura, Mel, Leanne, Melissa, Vanessa, Jenny, Rebecca, Amanda, Sammy, Tahlia & Sarah
along with our wonderful SASS ladies
Jan, Jenny, Ange and Judy
DSODE Head Teacher (HSIE)
Graeme Hosken

was awarded the prestigious Tony McGrane Public Service Award at the Dubbo Day Awards held on Monday 24 November at the Macquarie Auditorium of the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre.

Graeme’s award recognises his untiring efforts to promote military history and to encourage members of the community to research their family history of Diggers who served in WWI. In addition, his role in the FFFAIF, the association of the Families and Friends of the First AIF was recognised. Graeme is a founding committee member and still serves as the editor of their journal ‘Digger’ which is published quarterly.

Graeme has published ‘Digging for Diggers’, which outlines the process of undertaking research and the interpretation of war service records. Additionally he has worked on the publication of ‘Dear Da’ and ‘Four Australians at War’, both based on the diaries and letters of service men, ‘Wellington’s Finest’ and ‘Willaura’s Finest’, which present the names and stories of the WWI service men of these two towns.

The Dubbo Day Awards, are presented in November annually to mark the anniversary of Dubbo’s gazettal as a village on 23 November 1849. The Tony McGrane Award recognises the work above and beyond their usual job of one member of the community employed in the Public Service sector.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**Little Dog and the Christmas Wish**
by Corinne Fenton and Robin Cowcher

Little Dog and Jonathan are best friends. They do everything together. But on Christmas Eve Little Dog finds himself lost and alone in a busy city. How will he find his way home? Can Christmas wishes come true?

A charming and nostalgic Christmas story about a much loved little dog who finds his way home for Christmas.

**Lulu Bell and the Christmas Elf**
by Belinda Murrell and Serena Geddes

Cooking, a concert, and cricket on the beach – it’s Lulu Bell’s Christmas story! The Bell family are preparing for the best Christmas ever. There are presents to wrap, yummy food to cook and costumes to sew. But Lulu’s friends Olivia and Jo are too sad to sing in the school concert because their little cat Bonnie is missing.

Can Lulu cheer them up and help find Bonnie before Christmas Eve? Maybe a special letter to Santa will help.

**The Last King of Angkor Wat**
by Graeme Base

Tiger, Gibbon, Water Buffalo and Gecko are sitting amongst the ruins of ancient Angkor Wat, wondering which of them would have made the best king. The appearance of a mysterious visitor leads them to discover their true selves in a race to a distant hilltop.

A timeless fable full of adventure and beauty from a much-loved storyteller.

**Noni the Pony goes to the Beach**
by Alison Lester

Noni the Pony is friendly and funny. She loves going down to the beach when it’s sunny. With her two very best friends Dave Dog and Coco the Cat, and the cows from next door, it’s going to be a wonderful day.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

Regal Beagle
by Vijay Khurana and Simon Greiner

When the much-loved Queen dies with no heir, the royal scrolls are dusted off to see who must take the throne. It turns out that the throne goes to her best friend – and her best friend is undoubtedly Lucy, her pet beagle.

The book has lovely illustrations throughout, that bring the text to life, and with a flea infestation, an evil Lord plotting to overthrow the new Queen and an unlikely friendship, this is a terrific novel for emerging readers.

The Cleo Stories: The Necklace and The Present
by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood

There are two delightful stories in this book! In both of the stories Cleo uses her imagination to solve the dilemma that she is facing. Her first dilemma is that she doesn’t have a necklace like all the other girls at the party. Her second dilemma is trying to think of something for her Mum’s birthday!

Delightful, warm and irresistible, these stories show how a little girl with a big imagination can always find a way to have fun.

Happy Holidays!
David Strain – Teacher Librarian
(02) 5804 7023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au
Greetings from the Library

Presentation Day Book Sale - 12 December

Books that are old or no longer required for the library collection will be on sale for a gold coin per plastic bag full of books.

Money raised will go towards SRC initiatives in 2015. Come on over to the Library to bag yourself a bargain!

Having fun making animal masks in the library.
WOW, what a busy year we have had! The LST have completed almost 200 Personalised Individual Education Plans and conducted a huge number of student progress reviews. It has also been busy establishing new processes to prepare our school for the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) Census. This year we entered the census as a trial school but next year it is compulsory for all schools to participate so we will continue collecting information about students who receive additional support with their learning. We look forward to continuing our work with you all in this area.

As we approach the holidays I’d like to remind you of the importance of reading during the summer break. Regardless of how old you are, the benefits of reading are huge. Not only is it a relaxing pastime, it maintains current reading levels and is great for cognitive function. Evidence suggests that students who read for at least 10 minutes a day throughout the summer holidays have a better start to the school year. It has been reported that it can take up to six weeks for students to regain lost reading skills! By reading for fun in the holidays you maintain your current skills and might even move ahead. The ‘NSW Premiers Reading Challenge’ and the ‘Reading under the stars - Southern Cross reading program’ are great places to find a list of age/stage appropriate books to read.

If you’re a senior student remember to take some time out to relax, enjoy time with family and friends but stick to the goals you have set around your HSC. Establish a timetable to get your work up to date and revise work already introduced. If you are feeling on top of your course work you will begin 2015 with a positive outlook and feel ready to face new challenges.

This will make not only you but your teacher smile!!! If you need help establishing a holiday timetable, please talk to your Student Adviser and subject teachers before the school term finishes.

Have a safe and happy holiday everyone. You’ve worked hard this year to achieve personal goals and progress with learning. Enjoy a well-earned rest, we look forward to working with you again in 2015.

Kristina Powell
Learning and Support Teacher
As this is the last ‘Preschool Matters’ for 2014, the Preschool staff would like to thank our families for your commitment in completing the preschool program and your friendship throughout the year. We trust that this year has provided a sound introduction for your child’s future education. We wish you all the best for the Festive Season and may 2015 bring good health, happiness and prosperity.

On a personal note, this will be my last newsletter as I have recently retired. I would like to thank everyone for their support and friendship over many years.

During my time in the Preschool at DSODE there have been many changes; probably the most significant has been the introduction of the National Quality Framework. It has given me great satisfaction to have embedded this Framework into our current DSODE Preschool policies and practices to produce, what we all consider, to be a quality preschool program for all our students.

I wish you all the best for your child’s future learning. It has been a pleasure to have worked with you all throughout the year and to see your child develop a love of learning as well as the skills necessary for the next stage of their educational journey.

Sue Gown

Preschool Enrolments for 2015
We are now taking enrolments for 2015. If you are aware of anyone in your area that would befit from our preschool program, please ask them to contact the school, for an enrolment package, on 02 5804 7000.

Christmas Unit
For families who have requested them, Christmas units should have arrived at your place. Your Preschooler should be busily creating lots of beautiful Christmas decorations and gifts. This is a non-returnable unit, so will be ideal to complete in the time leading up to Christmas. 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 have outstanding resources.** All resources are due back at school now. Your assistance with this matter would be greatly appreciated.
Starting School
The following website has some useful information which may assist with your child’s preparation for Kindergarten next year:


Also this great website provides a range of ideas which could engage your preschooler in creative activities and stimulate their imaginations during the school holidays.  www.learning4kids.net.

Birthdays
We wish the following students a very Happy Birthday for December/ January

Max 17th December, Eileen 20th December, Zara and Matilda 30th December
Erin 8th January, Fletcher and Conrad 13th January, Kody 22nd January, Skye 29th January
We value innovation and creativity

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and may 2015 bring you good health and much happiness.

Sue, Robyn and Hayley

Preschool Matters
What is your all-time favourite book?

I love *Clever Rabbit and the Wolves*.

Hello everyone,

Term 4 is nearly over and Christmas and the holidays are almost here.

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.

The 7-11 Residential is coming up and will conclude with Presentation Day. You will have to wait until the first newsletter of next year to see the photos of the entire camp.

The Presentation Day will be a wonderful celebration. Congratulations to all students and teachers who have worked so hard to make this a great event!

The HSC results will be out soon. Make sure that you keep in touch with your teacher and return all resources that are not needed please.

Have a wonderful festive season- enjoy this time with your family and best wishes for the holidays!

See you all back in 2015

*Sue Howlett*
Year 12 leavers

- If you have received an SRS (Schools Recommendation Scheme) offer make sure you accept that offer and then change your preferences if you need to for the following offers.
- UAC round 1 preferences need to be in order by midnight of Sunday 4th January, 2015
- UAC main round preferences need to be in order by midnight Wednesday 7th January, 2015

CAREERS ADVISORY SERVICE 18-23 DECEMBER 2014

The Careers Advisory Service operates as a government initiative to meet the educational and career counselling needs of students, school leavers and their parents and carers in the period immediately following the release of the HSC results and up to Christmas.

In 2014 there will be:

- Phone-in service - this free state-wide service operates from a call centre in Senior Pathways –Secondary Education between 18-19 December and 22-23 December 2014. Telephone 1300 300 687.
- E-mail service - this free state-wide service operates from a centre in Senior Pathways –Secondary Education between 18 December and 23 December 2014. Access to the service is through the website http://www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au

Experienced careers advisers, from government high schools, staff the Advisory Service and offer a professional, friendly and impartial service. The resource Post School Options 2014-2015 - Navigate your career journey on the website supports students to consider their options. It may also be used by a parent, carer, teacher or mentor who is helping a school leaver with his or her decision making. Any enquiries, please contact Wendy Byrne 9244 5425.

SCHOLARSHIPS

CATC Design School, Scholarship Deadline 23 January 2015 – the application deadline for the CATC 2015 scholarship starting February 2015 is fast approaching. The scholarships available have a total worth of $57,000 and will be awarded to students who have a passion and flare for design. For further information or to apply visit: http://www.catc.edu.au/scholarship

Billy Blue College of Design Scholarship Deadline 23 January 2015 – the application deadline for the Billy Blue 2015 scholarship for the February 2015
intake is fast approaching. The scholarships available have a total worth of $87,750 and will be awarded to students who have a strong passion and interest in design. For further information or to apply visit: http://www.billyblue.edu.au/apply/scholarships

Macquarie University - Your students may be eligible for some of this funding. Most scholarships have a strong emphasis on social inclusion and are awarded on the basis of financial need or other hardship. Others recognise factors such as academic achievement, leadership, voluntary experiences, or sporting achievements. Find full list of scholarships at www.mq.edu.au/scholarships

Tools for Success program - The NSW Family and Community Services, Women NSW, the NSW Federation of Housing Associations, and SALT (Supporting and Linking Tradeswomen) are partnering to deliver the Tools for Success in 2014/15. The applications for the first round will be closing soon. Tools for Success is a one year demonstration project to encourage women living in social housing to move into non-traditional trades: The scholarships are open to women/girls currently living in public housing, community housing, Aboriginal housing (AHO housing, Aboriginal Community Housing or Land Council housing), or Affordable Housing; or

- Who have lived in public housing, community housing or Aboriginal housing within the past 5 years; or
- Who are a member of a household that is currently on the NSW Housing Register (waiting list); or
- Who are currently living in crisis accommodation/supported accommodation; or
- Who are currently receiving a private rental subsidy from FACS (Start Safely, Youth Subsidy or Private Rental Subsidy).

Tools for Success is offering the following scholarships to support women living in social housing:

- up to $1000 to attend pre-apprenticeship training in a non-traditional trade through TAFE, a registered training organisation or a group training organisation (50 scholarships available).
- up to $5000 to start or continue an apprenticeship in a non-traditional trade (40 scholarships available).

Please note that the scholarships are open to women already participating in apprenticeships, as long as they meet eligibility requirements.

Go to www.communityhousing.org.au/toolsforsuccess/ (02) 9281 7144 ext 207 or toolsforsuccess@communityhousing.org.au
Country Education Foundation – Provides support to rural students accessing tertiary education. Their website provides information on scholarships available. Students requesting support are asked to apply through their local organisation and application forms can be accessed at: https://cef.org.au/

Apprenticeships and Traineeships
MEGT is currently accepting applications for Apprenticeships and Traineeships for immediate start as well as in 2015. To help your students enter the workforce for 2015, they are encouraged to submit their applications today. If they do not find the job they are looking for, they can register their interest to be considered for an appropriate position when it becomes available. Or for more information about Apprenticeships and Traineeships, visit www.megt.com.au

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.

Skillset is currently looking for an apprentice for a bricklaying apprenticeship in the Dubbo area. If you are interested in this job please call me on 02 58047079 or Skillset on 02 68848100.

Tim Quayle
Careers Advisor
timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au
(02) 5804 7079
Tools for Success Scholarship

Congratulations to Year 10 student Metika who has been successful in her application for a Tools for Success Scholarship.

Tools for Success is a one year trial program to assist women living in social housing across NSW to work towards a career in a non-traditional trade. Trades are called non-traditional for women where women make up less than 25% of the tradespeople in that field.

The scholarships are open to any woman aged 16 years and over who is: living in social housing (public housing, Aboriginal housing, community housing); on the NSW Housing Register (waiting list); living in crisis or supported accommodation; or who has lived in social housing within the past five years.

Scholarships are available in 2014/15 for women currently enrolled in apprenticeships; and to women starting pre-apprenticeship training or apprenticeships.

Metika will be commencing a hospitality apprenticeship early next year. The four year apprentice chef course is a school based apprenticeship which will allow Metika to complete her schooling concurrently.

Congratulations Metika and good luck for the future.
Calendar of Events

December 5
International Volunteer Day

December 11
International Mountain Day

Do You Volunteer?

Australians are generous in the hours they volunteer. The 2014 theme is ‘Make change happen – Volunteer!’ There are many environmental groups who encourage more volunteers to join their activities.

Check the website www.volunteeringaustralia.org

Mountain Farming

Mountain Farming is the 2014 theme for International Mountain Day on December 11th with focus on the transformations in family farming in mountainous regions.

Seasons Greetings!

The festive Season is fast approaching. Give some thought to your purchasing and recycling power. Where possible, buy fresh food grown locally and in season, and only purchase the amount that you require. A massive amount of food is wasted each year.

Consider making your own gifts, wrapping paper and gift tags and cards and after the festive season remember to recycle for the next year.

A gift alternative is to donate to your favourite charities in the name of your family and friends.