Hi Everyone,

This newsletter will arrive to you possibly after the last HSC exam occurs on Friday of this week. Many of our full time and single course HSC students are already celebrating the end to their High School “careers” as they move forward now to plan their futures. We wish our parents good luck over the coming days as the nervous wait begins for results, but we also wish the best for all of our 2014 HSC students as they complete this chapter in their lives and move on to the next. Of course we will be celebrating their achievements this year at our Presentation Day on the 12th December.

We welcome a new staff member to our English faculty this term, Michelle Sullivan has joined the Distance Education team and is currently on a steep learning curve adjusting to the DSODE way of doing things.

Good news with our Hostel renovations as they will be completed over the next two weeks. Anticipated handover from the builders will take place on Wednesday the 12th of November. This will be an exciting new addition to our facilities and students will get their first experience in the new hostel during Muster Camp in week 10.

In Week 3, our executive staff began the process of school planning using a new DEC template and procedure. Chris Mason asked for input last term through the newsletter for parents and community to comment on what you considered our current strengths were and your “dreams” for the school in the future. The data and feedback collected has been considered in our initial planning and I wish to thank those parents who took the time to send in a response to the questions. Currently we are working towards three strategic directions, with milestones (targets) that incorporate:

1. Personalised Learning
2. Pedagogy, Curriculum and Assessment
3. Professional Practice

Whole school staff development over the remainder of this term and into term 1 2015, will focus on continuing to develop the projects for our school, which will work towards meeting our milestones and developing a school culture that reflects our vision to “provide quality learning for our future.”

Looking forward to seeing you at Presentation Day on December 12th.

Regards,

Debbie Murray
Relieving Principal
Hi Everyone,

Well, I’m not sure how it has happened so quickly, but Term 4 is well and truly upon us! In just four weeks we have already had an HSC Languages Workshop, HSC students commencing exams, a Preschool camp and lots of different field services!

Term 4 is always a busy term, with the big finale being the Muster Camp and Presentation Day. Planning for both is currently well underway! Our annual Swimming Carnival will be held during this camp; this is always a fun day and the PDHPE staff do a fantastic job in their organisation of the event. This camp will also include a transition day for students in Year 6 moving into Year 7; invitations have already gone home for this event, please speak to your teacher if you have any questions. This is always a fun day jam packed full of activities!

The HSC Languages Workshop held in Week 3 was a great success. Thanks must go to Anna Brain, Natalie Elwell and the entire Languages faculty for their excellent organisation. Nine students entering their HSC studies were given the opportunity to become exposed to HSC language skills required for the year ahead.

This year we have had 70 full time and 428 single course students complete their HSC. These students are all to be commended for completing their studies and we wish them all the very best in their future endeavours. Full time DSODE students will have their Year 12 Graduation Ceremony at Taronga Western Plains Zoo on the 12th of December; RSVP’s and payment for this event are due by the 21st November. If you are unsure about the event please speak with your student adviser.

ESSA (Essential Secondary Science Assessment) testing will occur for all Year 8 science students from the 11th November. This testing provides important feedback to our science faculty and assists in future planning in that area. Please contact your science teacher if you have any questions about this assessment.

Until next time, have a great term!

Jenny Donovan
Relieving Deputy Principal
This newsletter marks the half way mark in Term 4. Students will still be working hard in the classroom but we do recognise that in a few weeks, the intensity will ease as the wind down to end of term takes place. All students should be working hard until the end of Week 8. The last 2.5 weeks will consist of non-return activities. Over the next few weeks we ask you to please return any resources that you have finished with so they can be utilised for other students.

Claim the Dates
Last satellite lessons – week beginning 24 November
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, 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.

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’.

Sight, Hearing, Speech, Physical Tests
It is recommended that a child’s sight and hearing is tested on a regular basis – at least once every two years should be aimed for. If a child has attended the Before School Screening, we then recommend children should be tested at the end of Years 1, 3, and 5. However there are times when it should be done on a needs basis.
Sight: If your child is regularly rubbing their eyes, squinting, moving a book in and out attempting to focus on the page, complain of headaches or fuzziness on a page or that the letters look funny or you have any concerns that something is not quite right, you should have their eyes and sight assessed as a high priority. Here in Dubbo, we are fortunate to have a number of optometrists that bulk bill for the assessments including Burgan & Brennan (68843088) and Morrisons Family Eye Care Centre (68826633).

Hearing: If your child is not hearing you give instructions, gets confused with multiple instructions, appears at times to have ‘selective deafness’, may be experiencing some speech problems or you have general concerns, their hearing should be tested to ensure there are no issues.

Speech: There are certain milestones that children should be reaching during their speech development. By the age of 5 children should be confident pronouncing p, m, h, n, ng, d, k, y, w, b, t, f, g, zh, l, sh, ch, s, j, z, r. By 6 years, all of these + v. By 8.5 years, all of these + th. If you have any concerns with your child’s speech or others (outside the immediate family) have difficulties in understanding them, please consider having their speech assessed. Speak to Jenny about your concerns who can assist in organising an appointment in either Dubbo or perhaps a centre nearer to your home.

Physical: If you feel your child is at times clumsy or awkward with their large movements (running, jumping etc) or have difficulty with their fine motor skills (eg writing, threading, picking things up) then an assessment by an Occupational Therapist should be considered to ensure age appropriate development. Speak to Jenny about your concerns who can assist in organising an appointment in either Dubbo or perhaps a centre nearer to your home.

Your GP or Community Health Centre is also an excellent source of information regarding any concerns you may have with your child/children’s development.

Lilli-Mae with the tower that she designed out of newspaper.
Thank you parents for making opportunities

We do understand that at times, schooling through DE can limit some opportunities and that parents/carers need to make an extra effort to support their children’s interests.

Rose from near Mudgee, took her space-mad son Nick to Coonabarabran to meet Australian-born astronaut Andy Thomas.

She told us, “Andy Thomas gave the talk and he was so inspiring. We are so lucky to have him as an Australian who will come and talk to us for free.

He had a lot of photos which showed training, pre-take-off checks, take-off, docking with the international space station, walking in space with the Earth below, doing their work on board and even having fun.

Of course the children could relate to the photos, it brought it to life for them. Nick really enjoyed the Siding Springs observatory too - there was so much happening for children. He looked through a solar telescope which enabled you to see the sun and the exploding surface. He had his photo taken in the astronaut suit, the main telescope was open, there were people talking about how it works, what it does and we went into the main control room as well.”

What a great adventure for Nick.

Food for thought..........

The most influential of all educational factors is the conversation in a child’s home. William Temple

Have an awesome week! Don’t forget we are only a phone call away if need be,

Rebecca, Melissa, Hayley, Laura, Sarah, Tahlia, Vanessa, Sammy, Mel, Amanda, Leanne and Jenny
On World Mental Health Day October 10th, Dubbo School of Distance Education Primary Staff participated in a **ZIP IT Silent Lunch**

‘Zip It’ was a challenge where participants pledged their voice and stayed silent to help turn up the volume on the issue of mental health.

Participants gained sponsorship and donations before and during event.

The event not only included a silent lunch but yoga, fun, games, prizes and a silent auction. Part of the challenge was also put out to Jan D, one of our lovely SASS ladies to stay silent for the entire day! Those who know Jan know what an extra challenge this would be! This was something people were willing to dig deep into their pockets for and added to the fantastic atmosphere of the event!

The charity we chose to support on the day was Lifeline Australia.

We are thrilled to announce that the final tally for the fundraising campaign was $2168.

Not only was this a phenomenal amount of money that we proudly raised for Lifeline but DSODE were the top fundraiser nationally on the day and will soon receive a Simply Raw hamper as a prize for our fundraising effort.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the campaign on the day...we really appreciate your support.

Mel Egan and the Primary Staff.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**A House of her Own** by Jenny Hughes and Jonathan Bentley

Audrey is bigger than she was yesterday. Now she needs a bigger house. So she tells her dad to build her one. At the top of a tree. It is an ideal house. It has a bathtub for snorkelling, a place to drink tea, and somewhere to hide the dirty cups. The house is perfect in every way. Except for one thing…

This is a gently humorous story that explores the clash between a quest for independence and the longing for security.

**Bridie’s Boots** by Phil Cummings and Sara Acton

When Bridie receives a pair of gumboots wrapped in rainbow paper for her fifth birthday she is delighted. They are the best boots ever! Just right for splashing in puddles and twirling on tiptoes.

But when she turns six Bridie decides her boots should go on a big adventure.

**Oliver and George** by Peter Carnavas

Oliver tries desperately to get George to play with him, but George is far too engrossed in his book.

A brilliantly crafted, humorous picture book with a twist!

**Celia and Nonna** by Victoria Lane and Kayleen West

Celia and Nonna is a significant and heart-warming picture book about the special bond between children and grandparents and what happens when life changes.

Grandparents ageing is a universal experience, yet it is rarely told in picture book form. In this story, young Celia finds a delightful and positive way to navigate this confusing time.

**Go to Sleep, Jessie!** By Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood

If only Jessie would lie down. If only she would go to sleep.

But nothing will settle her… Except maybe a little sisterly know-how.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

Percy Jackson and the Greek Gods by Rick Riordan
Who could tell the stories of the gods of Olympus better than a modern-day demigod?
In this whirlwind tour of Greek mythology, Percy Jackson gives his personal take on the gods and goddesses of Ancient Greece – and reveals the truth about how they came to rule the world.

Being Jack by Susanne Gervay and Cathy Wilcox
Jack is growing up and in this final instalment he is celebrating his 13th birthday. Although Jack isn’t being bullied anymore, it doesn’t mean that life is peaceful! Instead, this time Jack has to help his friend Christopher overcome bullying. Jack also finds and visits his Dad, even though they have had no contact for years. And to top it off, he kisses his best friend, Anna. But mostly he is just living his everyday life and ‘Being Jack’.

It is a great independent story, but would be best appreciated by those that have read the earlier books in the series.

The Brer Rabbit Collection by Enid Blyton
The more Mr Lion thought about how Brer Rabbit tricked everyone, the cleverer he thought Brer Rabbit was! Brer Rabbit will never learn! He loves to play jokes, tricks and set traps for his friends – but once in a while, they beat him at his own game.

This bumper book of timeless tales of the briar patch trickster, re-told in Enid Blyton’s hugely popular style, contains over 80 stories.

The Final Years at Malory Towers by Enid Blyton
It’s nearly the end of her time at Malory Towers, and Felicity is determined to have lots of fun and games with her school friends.
But they weren’t expecting to find a thief in their midst, or be put in charge of naughty first-formers – or to see the return of a very old friend…
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!

2014 Dymock’s Book Bonus Children’s Charity fundraiser

Congratulations to year 10 student, Austin, who through his reading endeavours raised $210.00 for Dymock’s children’s charities. And because of Austin’s enormous effort and generous contribution, our school was additionally awarded a $1000.00 worth of books by Dymock’s.

Thank you Austin, a very worthy and inspirational accomplishment!

Until next time, Happy Reading!

David Strain – Teacher Librarian
(02) 5804 7023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au
As we progress through the school year, it can be a challenge for Supervisors and students to keep motivated. Below are some suggestions to help you maintain focus and fulfil attendance and engagement expectations at DSODE.

- **Revisit your lesson timetable** - Are you on track with scheduled lessons?
- **Consider your organisation** - Are you following the systems you established earlier in the school year to complete course work and return work regularly?
- **Reflect on Supervisor involvement** - Does your student understand instructions, do you review and discuss feedback from teachers, do you monitor independent practice? Have you re-negotiated goals and established clear expectations?
- ** Maintain communication** - Do you regularly talk to your Student Adviser and teachers? Do you communicate concerns and queries openly and before they become a problem?
- **Reward success** - Remember to celebrate achievements however small - completion of a challenging task, completion of weekly work, merit awards, positive interaction.
- **Allow frequent breaks** - Does the school day include regular breaks?
- **Sleep** - Are you getting enough sleep?
- **Diet** - Do you enjoy a well-balanced diet?
- **Have fun!** - Children and teenagers love to have fun. Encourage involvement in activities of personal interest and time with friends and family.

Term 4 is a hectic term for all involved in teaching and learning. It is exciting as our students work towards finalising another year in their learning journey but challenging because the calendar is full and energy is drained. Think about the information listed above and consider if there are areas that need re-focussing on to maintain motivation and build success.
Welcome to Term 4! We are not sure where the year has gone with only seven weeks of term left. By now lots of our children are experiencing Kindergarten transition days at their local school and by all accounts they are really enjoying the opportunity to get to know their new school. These days allow the children to become confident and comfortable in a new environment thus allowing for a smooth transition to school and Kindergarten next year.

We felt that the following ideas for encouraging reading would be helpful to all of our families during the remainder of this term and over the holiday break. By providing opportunities to encourage our children to become interested in reading and reading practices we are setting them up for success when they begin to learn to read next year in Kindergarten. By providing a strong basis on which to build their learning we are setting them up to be life-long learners.

Below are ten tips to encourage reading. By integrating some or all of these practices into daily routines you are setting your child up for success.

**Ten Tips for Encouraging Reading**

Reading is a complex skill which takes years for children to master. Interest is the key – the more curious children become about the written word, the greater the chance that they will want to learn how to read.

What to do to encourage reading:

- Take every opportunity you can to read to your child. Try to make story reading part of the routine of going to bed. Children who are read to frequently soon learn the language of books, just as they learnt the language of speech from their parents.

- When reading to your child, encourage them to turn the pages and discuss what’s happening in the pictures. Let them read the story back to you – ‘reading’ the pictures is fine.

- Listen to your child and encourage them to relate experiences to you. It is often said that ‘good talkers make good readers’, so ensure your child knows that what they have to say is important.

- Enrol your child in the local library and encourage them to borrow books of their own choice.

- Let your child see you reading. Children model themselves on their parents’ behaviour.

- When reading a story together, use your finger as a guide running along the words and sentences. This helps develop left to right orientation.

- Take your child to interesting places – zoos, farms and so on – to develop language about the world we live in.
Encourage children to identify pictures in newspapers and magazines.

Draw your child’s attention to the words on signs, advertisements and food packets, telling them what is written as well as pointing out the differences in the visual symbols which lead to differences in meaning.

Buy your child books and not simply for birthdays and special occasions!

**Return of Resources:**

As we are nearing the end of the school year please begin to collect and return resources that you have been enjoying throughout the year. We need to have all resources returned to school by the end of November so that we can return them and organise our equipment for next year. By doing so it also makes it much easier to organise your refunds early in the new year. Thank you in anticipation for the return of your equipment.

**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 (02) 5804 7000 for an enrolment package.

**Birthdays:**

We would like to wish:

Leo (16th October), Pippa (3rd November) and Nathan (10th November) lots of Happy Birthday excitement throughout the next two months.

We hope you all have a very special day!

**Satellite Installation:**

The Distance Education Technology Infrastructure Unit is now planning for the installation of satellites into homes of preschool students continuing their education with Distance Education in 2015. Please contact Sue on (02) 5804 7061 to organise for the satellite equipment to be installed at your place before the start of the 2015 school year.
We value innovation and creativity

Term 4 Camp:
We have enjoyed two fun filled days in and around Dubbo. The children enjoyed the opportunity to get together and play as a group. On Wednesday we spent the day at the Western Plains Zoo with a visit to the Education Centre, lots of games at the playground, a picnic lunch and the opportunity for families to travel around the zoo to view the animals.

On Thursday we visited the local town library where the children listened to a story and then completed a craft activity. At the completion of this session we moved to Victoria Pack for morning tea and a play on the equipment. Following this we had a picnic lunch and then went to the PCYC for an afternoon of Kinder Gym. The children learnt many new skills as well as having lots of fun. This is an activity that our children and their families really enjoy.

Our artist of the newsletter this month is Nathan who has been busy with his preschool work. Nathan and his family have been travelling around Australia. He enjoys painting some of the things he has seen.
What kind of books do you like to read?

I like books like Ranger’s Apprentice, action books and war, comedy, fiction and facts books.

What is your all-time favourite book?

My favourite books are from the Ranger’s Apprentice series. I like them because they have action and are set in the medieval times and because they are so well written - it feels like you are there!

Hello everyone,

The final term for 2014 has quickly crept upon us all.

I hope that you have enjoyed the holidays and had a good break.

The HSC examinations have just finished - best wishes to all of our students.

The Hostel renovations continue and will be ready by the end of term.

Presentation Day will be held at the end of term. More details will be sent out in the coming weeks. Presentation Day is a wonderful celebration of our student’s achievements!

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

Keep your eye on the 2014 student calendar. It is a great source of information for all upcoming events – make sure you put it in a prominent place in your work area.

Keep in touch with your teachers and best wishes for a great term!

Regards for now,

Sue Howlett
Year 12
Hope the exams have been going well. Your next step is to ensure that you have your preference list of courses for UAC and that you have the course that you want to be considered for the Schools Recommendation Scheme (SRS) as the first preference by midnight 2nd December, 2014.

The SRS process will only consider your number one preference for early entry to university. Below is the list of universities that accept students via the Schools Recommendation Scheme. (Remember the UNE early entry application that some of you completed is separate to this process).

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

You can have as many as nine preferences and as few as one preference and you can change your preferences as many times as you like for free. You must have your preferences for the main round offers in by midnight of Wednesday 7th January, 2015. If you have not applied to UAC yet and want to go to university you must have your UAC application in by 5pm Friday the 5th of December, 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.

If you are thinking that you want to go to TAFE next year you need to be discussing your enrolment and the course you want to do with TAFE now as popular courses will fill up fast.

If you would like more information about different careers try the myfuture website or the Jobjump website for further information. The school's login for the Jobjump website is Dubbo School of Distance Education and the login is magpies. Alternatively you can contact Mr Quayle on (02) 5804 7079 or email him at timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au
Careers

Tax File Numbers
Any student wishing to get a tax file number needs to contact Mr Quayle on (02) 5804 7079 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.

Skillset 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) 5804 7079 or Skillset on (02) 6884 8100.

Attention: Any Students currently in Year 5, wishing to attend

Farrer Memorial Agricultural High School
for Year 7 in 2016.

Parents/guardians need to register online, between 14th October and 17th November with Selective Schools to enable their students to sit the Selective Schools exam in March next year.

To register go to the Farrer website:

www.farrer.nsw.edu.au

and follow the Selective Schools link.
Last week was an exciting week for our students at the Dubbo Learning Centre with three students receiving Merit Certificates for reaching the next level.

Peta has reached the Excellence level which means she is very close to the top level of Banner Award. Lachlan and Tiffany are both on their second time around and are doing a great job of gaining levels for the second time. Tiffany looks like being the first person to reach the Banner award for the second time if she keeps up the great work.

This week saw us sending out another bundle of awards to our deserving students who have received a staggering 2904 Merit Certificates since the Merit Award system began.

More than 380 of these have been awarded to our Primary students who joined the Merit Award system this year. We are hoping to reach the 3000 level before the end of this year.

Private Vehicle Conveyance

Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy applications can now be made online.

If you are not close to public transport and need to drive a student to school, the Private Vehicle Conveyance (PVC) subsidy can provide twice-a-year payments to help you cover the expenses.

Parents and carers can now apply for this subsidy online. This is the quickest and easiest way to apply for the subsidy and online applications will be confirmed as received immediately. Transport for NSW will continue to accept paper application forms, but they encourage the use of PVC Online where possible.

As you are aware, Transport for NSW currently collects student attendance data twice a year to verify and process the PVC subsidy. The collection of this data will continue as before.

To apply online and see full terms and conditions visit transport.nsw.gov.au/pvc

Please contact Liz at DSODE if you require further information on (02) 5804 7009.
Hi everybody!

Here is an update of what’s going on with the SRC for this year’s muster camp!

1) **DSODE travel coffee cup fundraiser**
   There will be travel coffee cups for sale at muster day, they are-
   - dishwasher safe
   - 350ml capacity
   - The cups are available in blue or purple
   The cups will feature the school logo on a white band and have a white lid.

2) **Muster Camp Disco**
   Our annual school disco will be held on the Thursday night of muster camp. The theme this year is ‘Masquerade’ – so everybody needs to bring a mask! There will be games, prizes and dancing! A splendid time is guaranteed for all! We hope to see you there!

3) **SRC development day**
   On the Thursday of Muster Camp all current and new SRC members will be involved in a special day at Wambangalang to write our new SRC charter and develop goals for SRC in 2015.

That’s all for now, we look forward to a fun and exciting Muster Camp!

**Billijo**
SRC President
National Recycling Week

In every community throughout Australia, there are more recycling services being made available. Recycling can be done in homes, schools, workplaces and by everyone. Whether it’s accessing local collection services, or working with organised groups or creating your own compost heap – it’s conserving energy, natural materials and resources. Less waste going into landfill benefits us all.

Be proactive in your personal recycling by:

- **Reduce** the number of new things you purchase.
- **Refuse** to buy over-packaged goods.
- **Reuse** materials to create new items.
- **Recycle** glass and plastic bottles.