Hello Everyone,

Welcome to DSODE in 2014. I hope that all our students are able to engage to the best of their ability in the range of educational programs provided by the very dedicated and talented staff of DSODE. The staff are always here to help and I encourage students and parents to contact the school regularly to seek assistance in accessing school services.

Congratulations to the primary students, parents, carers and staff for achieving third place in the Small School’s Swimming Carnival last week. A great result for our team of six students!

2014 Staff Changes: Hannah Morley and Peter Holland will be relieving as Head Teacher Secondary Studies replacing Debbie Murray, who is relieving as Deputy Principal. Welcome to newly appointed permanent staff - Emily Phimmachanh in English, Inesita Sayers in Languages and Linda Whalan in Mathematics. Also welcome Laura Carter to Primary and Denise Carmichael to the Administration Staff.

In 2014 key areas for planning in DSODE will include:

• Continued implementation of the Australian Curriculum

• Implementation of the Every Student Every School (ESES) Program to ensure students with learning needs are supported by schools in partnership with parents and carers

• Satellite expansion and the use of Adobe Connect to provide lessons for students

• Preparation for the required implementation in all schools of Local Schools Local Decisions (LSLD), the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM) and Learning Management Business Reform (LMBR). These programs will require changes in the way schools run planning, finances, learning, administration, enrolment processes and much more

• Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL) informing teacher, executive and principal support and supervision practices.

The school plan will be made available on the school’s website before the end of Term 1.

After some beautiful rain today I hope your homes and businesses have been refreshed and that the rain continues to fall as needed.

Best wishes

Chris Mason

Cover photo: Year 8 student Nicole ready to compete at the Term 4 swimming carnival. (More photos next issue)
Welcome to everyone for the beginning of the 2014 school year. For some of you it is just a matter of returning and being a school year older, but for many others it is their first Distance Education experience and we wish you a special welcome to our school community.

Well, the term has begun so furiously that the Christmas holidays seem to have been a very long time ago now. Enrolments for our school have continued to roll in over the past few weeks and have kept the ladies in the admin office very busy processing all of the necessary paperwork.

Staff returned to their first day on Tuesday 28th January to a staff development day. The day consisted of training in the Department of Education & Communities mandatory requirements for teachers including updates of child protection, chemical safety, code of conduct, and a variety of school processes that will be implemented this year. Teachers then went about their busy lives preparing lessons and material for their students this term.

This will be the first year for the implementation of the Australian Curriculum for English K-6 and for Yr 7 & 9 English, Maths, Science, and History. Teachers have been busy writing new material and collecting resources to deliver this new curriculum to students this year.

Primary students have already kick-started the year with their camp in week 3. Year 11-12 will be coming up soon, and then Year 7-10 towards the end of term. Make sure you “like” our school facebook page, where you may see some of the things our students and teachers get up to during these events.

One change that you may need to be aware of this year, is that the Board of Studies (BOS) has had a name change to BOSTES (Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards). Their function remains the same in terms of providing NSW students with the credentials of the RoSA and HSC. If you have a student new to year 10 this year (and also Year 11 & 12), it is important that your student logs onto the Board of Studies website and opens their “students online” account. This is necessary for students to gain their results for the RoSA and HSC via digital means as they will not be issuing paper copies. Students will receive further instructions on how to do this via a school memo soon. The BOSTES website is http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/ ....on the right hand side of the page, you will see a heading “eBOS online services”, and below is a link to “students online”. There will be an option to “activate your account now” which will take you through the process of gaining an account. Don’t forget to keep your PIN in a safe place as students will be required to access this service until they leave in Year 12.

This year we are also operating a new system in secondary for Student Advisers and your student will mostly likely have received a phone call from their 2014 adviser. As parents and supervisors, please make sure you get to know who this teacher is and that you let them know when something happens that interrupts the usual pattern of your student undertaking school during the week (e.g. sickness, trips away, appointments etc). Attendance at Distance Education is measured by the student’s participating in phone lessons/teleconferences/ satellite lessons/online lessons and the return of title page work each week. It is important to let them know when your student cannot attend for some reason. Just a quick email is all that is necessary.

Thank you for the positive start to the year and we look forward to working with you all throughout 2014.

Regards,
Debbie Murray (Relieving Deputy Principal)
Sunday 2nd March is

**Clean Up Australia Day**

Go to the website [www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au](http://www.cleanupaustraliaday.org.au)

- to register your own ‘Clean Up’ site
- to find a ‘Clean Up’ site near you
- donate just $2 to the campaign to assist with the cost of materials that are provided for free

**Sea Week**

The 2014 theme is

‘Sustainable Seas and Sustainable Aquaculture’.

For further information check the Marine Education Society of Australasia’s website [www.mesa.edu.au](http://www.mesa.edu.au)
Critical Satellite Education Notice

This message is for parents, carers, students and staff involved in working with students who access lessons and other educational activities via the satellite program.

Your help is needed.

Satellite lessons are being negatively impacted by unauthorised and badly timed use of the internet.

The bandwidth available to distance education is limited and shared between 10 studios and 230 home sites.

The Distance Education Technology Team is able to detect breaches and will take action to prevent impact on lessons and legitimate use of the internet service.

8am-4pm school days

Students and their families must limit use of the internet via satellite to REACT lessons and legitimate school research

- **Must not:**
  - Watch TV content from iView or any other recorded media service
  - Download movies, music, podcasts or live internet radio from any service
  - Watch YouTube
  - Download eBooks or audio books
  - Download games
  - Connect to live gaming sites
  - Upload very large files of multiple photos or movies

4pm-12 midnight school days, weekends and school holidays

Appropriate educational use of the internet service is approved. All use of the internet must comply with National Communications Regulations and NSW DEC policies

- **Ensure:**
  - Any downloads or uploads are completed by 8am on any school day
  - That you do not set up large queues of downloads that consume bandwidth out of approved hours

- **Never:**
  - Install games on the school PC without calling the Help Desk. The most critical games for example are those available on Steam, Valve and Origin sites. These games include Minecraft, World of Warcraft and many others. These games have an agent that continuously connects to the internet whether the game is being played or not. Most games also impact on the performance of the school PC and REACT.
  - The Help Desk routinely checks all PCs. When unauthorised games are found to be loaded they will be remotely deleted and reported.

If in doubt call the help desk

- Connect to lessons via software other than REACT (this includes Adobe Connect and Bridgit)

If in doubt please call our Help Desk Team on 1800 338 737
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**Paruku: The Desert Brumby** by Jesse Blackadder
A beautiful story of a twelve-year-old girl who is born into a family of horse lovers. Dad is a vet, Mum trains and breaks in horses and her sister is a champion showjumper. Rachel just loves trail riding and brumbies, so when her dad is engaged by a Sheik to catch and deliver to him twelve wild brumbies from the far north of Western Australia, Rachel is over the moon to be able to go with him.

What follows is a journey of discovery – Rachel has a wonderful feel and affinity with the brumbies but this could also lead to heartache. Based on a true story, Paruku is a terrific read for all and will be really loved by ten+ students who are horse enthusiasts.

**Coming of Age: Growing up Muslim in Australia**
*edited by Amra Pajalic and Demet Divaroren*
In this refreshing and fascinating collection, twelve Muslim-Australians – some well known, some not – reveal their candid, funny and touching stories of growing up with a dual identity.

Muslim people in Australia come from over seventy countries and represent a wide variety of cultural backgrounds and experiences. Yet we are constantly bombarded by media stories feeding one negative stereotype. What is it really like to grow up Muslim in Australia? Best suited to about the Year 9 level.

**Pirouette** by Robyn Bavati
Fate or coincidence? A nurse in an orphanage in Brazil exchanges babies to ensure identical twins, Hannah and Simone, are both sent to Melbourne, to increase their chances of meeting. Fifteen years later at a dance academy in Canberra held over the holidays the girls finally meet.

The two girls both dance. Simone has become a star, but is tired of the constant pushing by her mother and the stress involved. Hannah, on the other hand, loves dance, but has only ever done it for fun and dreams of going further.

Could they swap places? A fabulous read for 12+ girls.

**Jumping Fences** by Karen Wood
Australian rural female literature is really selling globally in the adult market and now we finally have a title aimed at the young adult market. The characters are wonderfully developed and we cheer our hero Zoe on as she tackles many rural and teenage issues. Horses, love, cattle rustlers, divorce and the outback weather troubles that cause much hardship are all handled beautifully.

In the end, Karen Wood has produced an easy to read, believable, and heartfelt novel that ties together wonderfully. A story for girls 13 and older.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**Nymph: The Love Oracles Book 1 by Tonya Alexandra**
Debut Australian author, Tonya Alexandra, is an exciting new talent who has intertwined ancient Greek mythology and modern romance marvellously well. The main character, Merope, descends from the gods to take her place in a small town, probably in modern day Greece. But she is still being pursued by Orion and other gods to become one of their many concubines. Merope has other plans and is quickly falling for the gorgeous earthling, Lukas. Will the gods allow such treachery? This is a highly readable modern day Romeo and Juliet story that is ideally pitched to the middle teen market.

**Ash Rover: Keeper of the Phoenix by Aleesah Darlison**
Phoenix, unicorns, trolls, gryphons and gargoyles, all wrapped up in an action adventure, where our hero Ash Rover must face many challenges to defeat Wizard Zadoc and free his beloved homeland Icamore from the dreaded freezing curse placed upon it.

Ash wants to do something important with his life. When he discovers a phoenix egg, he gets his wish. But the magical bird brings trouble to Ash’s village. Soon Ash is not only the unlikely Keeper of the Phoenix, he is also on a desperate quest to save his family and friends.

**Fire by Jackie French and Bruce Whatley**
One small spark brought fire awake, Winding like a small black snake, fire flickered, fire crept, flames snickered, bushfire leapt... Inspired by the bushfires that have affected many Australians, Fire is a moving and sensitive story of a natural disaster as seen through the eyes of a cockatoo.

The fire mercilessly engulfs homes and land, leaving a devastating path of destruction.

**Tank Boys by Stephen Dando-Collins**
A ripping adventure or a cold hard truth? In Tank Boys we see the First World War at the Somme through the eyes of two sixteen-year-old Australian boys, Taz and Frankie, who lied about their age to be able to enlist. The first tank versus tank encounter takes place where the huge German A7V tanks face the smaller British tanks, the Mark IV and Whippet’s. On board the German tank Mephisto is sixteen-year-old Richard Rix, and when his platoon is wiped out, he pleads for his life – to our two young Aussie soldiers. Together they hatch a plan to have Richard pretend to be a Dutch immigrant Australian. With many historical facts interwoven in the story, this is a tremendous close encounter story of such an important time in Australian, and indeed world history. A great read for 13+ boys.

Until next time, Happy Reading! David Strain – Teacher Librarian (02) 5804 7023
Hello everyone,

Welcome to 2014 at the Dubbo School of Distance Education! What an exciting year we have ahead of us all. I hope that you all had a relaxing holiday and are ready to get back into the swing of completing and returning your work.

This year starts with a full agenda of field services, home visits and residential planned so please keep your eye on the mail for notices of upcoming events.

The Primary Camp has just been held so look out for photos in the next newsletter.

A school calendar has been finalised so check your mailbags. It is a great source of information for all upcoming events – make sure you put it in a prominent place in your work area.

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

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.

Best wishes for a wonderful 2014!

Regards for now

Sue Howlett

---

**Careers**

**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.

**Year 12**

Make sure that you are keeping up to date with your studies and that you are handing in all of your assessment tasks. You should also be starting to look at and think about which direction you want to take after school. If you want to attend university, you need to be starting to look at course(s) you are interested in and which universities offer them, as well as what the ATAR was for the course in 2013.

If you would like more information about different careers try the myfuture website or the [Seek 2B](#) website for further information. Alternatively you can contact me on 5804 7079 or email me at timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au

Tim Quayle
**Careers Advisor**
(02) 5804 7079   timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au

---

**Newsletter Co-ordinator’s Report**
As we begin another school year it is good to remind ourselves of how to get the most out of our school days.

Repetition and routine are the foundations of learning. Generally speaking a learner needs to see something a minimum of three times before ‘it sinks in’, for some students it takes longer.

If we create regular routines for our students it can have a powerful effect, it makes it easier for them to focus on a task and they tend to do better with their work.

We have to help our students train their bodies and minds to work at specific intervals. There are very few events in our day to day lives that do not become routines. For example, eating our meals at regular times and going to sleep at a regular time. These events have predictable steps within them and certain objects associated with those steps. If we don’t follow established routines our bodies can react wanting more of what we’re not giving it for example, more food or sleep. Believe it or not, this is also true for learning! If we set routines around learning, the mind and body expects them to happen.

Student lessons are scheduled at the same time throughout the week not only because it is convenient but also because humans work better on schedules. Even when working at home, it is generally more productive to learn at the same time each day. Knowing that your school hours are at a certain time every day creates less procrastination and ensures tasks get completed. Others are less likely to interrupt you if they are aware of established routines and respect ‘classroom’ time. Creating a routine is not just about organising your student but about getting others in your home accustomed to the routines as well.

There will be days when you are unable to work through your normal routine, for example a trip to town for appointments or illness. This is OK, if you interrupt your routine occasionally it’s not going to hurt, just get back into your regular routine as soon as you can so you can resume your normal productivity.

A few quick tips for your student

1. Understand the commitment involved with Distance Education
2. Make sure you have the right equipment
3. Designate a learning/classroom area in your home
4. Create a daily timetable
5. Set realistic goals
6. Participate in scheduled lessons
7. Block out known distractions
8. Plan for days away
9. Let teachers know when you need help
10. Communicate with your Student Adviser/Classroom Teacher regularly
Welcome to our first Preschool Newsletter for 2014. Our preschool teachers trust that you will enjoy reading the *Preschool Matters* section in the School Newsletter “Keeping in Touch”. The school newsletter comes out three times a term. In each edition of the ‘Preschool Matters’ we acknowledge the work that our preschool students have been doing and provide information about events that are occurring in our preschool, events such as camps, home visits etc. In each issue we also try to include some information relevant to preschool families. If you have any suggestions of the things you would like to see included in this section please let your child’s teacher know.

We also encourage our preschool families to read our section on our Facebook page.

**Preschool Staff 2013**

This year our Preschool Teachers are Mrs Hoy, Mrs Cosgrove and Mrs Gown (Assistant Principal – Preschool). See below.

**Term One Camp**

Our term one camp has been planned for week seven of this term - March 10 till March 14.

The theme of this camp is **Safety** and children will be engaged in a range of safety activities during their week at camp. One of these activities is the ‘**Learn to Swim**’ lessons every afternoon at the Dubbo RSL heated pool. If you haven’t received information about this camp please contact your child’s teacher.
We value the achievement of personal bests

Preschool Matters

Camps are an excellent way to meet other children participating in our Preschool Program, make new friends as well as getting to meet your teacher.

We conduct four preschool camps during the year. To help you with your planning the dates for these camps are:

Term 1 – Week 7 (10th-14th March 2014)
Term 2 – Week 7 (11th-13th June 2014)
Term 3 – Week 8 (3rd - 5th September 2014)
Term 4 – Week 4 (27th October -31st October 2014)

Immunisation
As from the 1st January 2014 it is a requirement that all preschool students provide information regarding their immunisation status on enrolment in a child care centre. Parents/Guardians now need to provide documentation that shows the child:

- Is fully vaccinated for their age, or;
- Has a medical reason not to be vaccinated, or;
- Has a parent/guardian who has a conscientious objection to vaccination or;
- Is on a recognised catch-up schedule if their child has fallen behind with their vaccinations.

If you have not already provided the school with the appropriate documentation could you organise to send, email or fax it to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

You can access your child’s immunisation history on line at www.humanservices.gov.au. You then search for Australian childhood immunisation register. You will require your Medicare number and the first name of your child to request a paper copy of your child’s immunisation history.

Birthdays
We trust that the following students had a fantastic Birthday in January. Best wishes go to: Erin (8th) Conrad (13th) Fletcher (13th) and Kody on the (22nd) January.

Hayley, Robyn and Sue

Artist of the Newsletter

In each edition of our Preschool Matters we like to show case a piece of quality work that has been sent in from our preschool students. This not only recognises the talents and efforts of a particular student it also provides other students with an idea of what can be achieved as they work through their preschool activities.
Autism Support Group for Parents and Carers

- Do you care for someone with Autism?
- No diagnosis required, people which suspect Autism are welcome to the support group
- All parents, carers and grandparents of people with Autism are welcome to be a part of this support group
- Support group will focus on sharing information to parents, carers and grandparents with their suggestions for topics

Child care is not provided, but children are welcome to attend - parents and carers are responsible for this care.

Guest Speaker via teleconference
NSW Autism Advisor Program

The NSW Autism Advisor Program assist families to take their next step by providing information, access to funding and support to make their own decisions.

2014 Support Group will meet:
- 19th February 2014
- 16th April 2014 (may change due to EASTER)
- 18th June 2014
- 20th August 2014
- 15th October 2014
- 17th December 2014

DATE:
Wednesday 19th February 2014

TIME:
6.30pm – 8.00pm

WHERE:
Northcott, 6 Quinn Street, DUBBO, NSW, 2830

COST:
This is a FREE event

GUEST SPEAKER:
NSW Autism Advisor Program

RSVP:
Laura 02) 6882 1099
Look Who’s Been Caught Reading

Ruby...

What kind of books do you like to read?

I like books with horses.

Private Vehicle Conveyance Application Forms

PARENTS/GUARDIANS PLEASE NOTE:

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

“a) The Department of Transport will provide written confirmation of the receipt of your PVC Subsidy application form within 6 weeks.

b) If an acknowledgement is not received within 6 weeks, you should contact the PVC Subsidy Team on the telephone numbers provided below.

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

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

Your contact person at DSODE is Liz on (02) 5804 7009
Western SSA Calendar

If you are interested in trialling for these Western area sporting teams, please contact the sports co-ordinator Annabelle Newbigging on 58047158 or email annabelle.newbigging1@det.nsw.edu.au.

Have a look around this website if you would like more information: http://www.sports.det.nsw.edu.au/western/calendar/year_2014/term_1.htm

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport: Secondary Basketball - Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 10pm to 3pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date: Friday, 14th March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Bathurst Basketball Stadium Mitchell Highway Bathurst</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person: Mitch Stuckey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position: Convenor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School: Condobolin High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 6895 2333</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facsimile: 6895 3501</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notes: <a href="mailto:mitchel.stuckey@det.nsw.edu.au">mitchel.stuckey@det.nsw.edu.au</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport: Secondary Football - Boys</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Time: 10:00am to 2:00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date: Tuesday, 18th March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venue: Hans Claven Fields Bligh Street (behind Target) Dubbo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Entry: Entries close Friday 14th March 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost: nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Information: Schools should only nominate players of a reasonable standard to partake in the selection process. Individuals vying for selection must be in attendance by 10:00am</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contact person: Shane Groen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position: Convenor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School: Dubbo College Delroy Campus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phone: 6882 7955 / 0425 317 424</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facsimile: 6881 8749</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In 2014 students in years 7 and 8 along with teachers will be participating in the Premier’s Sporting Challenge.

The purpose of the Challenge is to encourage students to participate in sport, games and physical activity and to have more students, more active, more often!

Over the period from 1st May to 10th September our Dubbo School of Distance Education will be monitoring physical activity our students participate in. What we do outside school hours will also count towards the Challenge.

Each student will be issued with a Challenge log book to record their physical activity.

Supervisor support in encouraging students to be physically active before and after school as well as on weekends will encourage him/her to develop healthy lifestyle habits. You may like to join us in this venture by organising family activities such as walking, swimming and cycling.

Each student completing the Challenge will receive a personalised certificate from the Premier of New South Wales.

Physical activity is valued for its physical, social and emotional benefits. It also helps young people to develop communication skills, confidence and resilience while having fun with family and friends.

If you would like to discuss any aspect of the Challenge or make suggestions, please contact Mr Reynolds (5804 7076 or TRENT.REYNOLDS@det.nsw.edu.au) who will be pleased to talk further with you. For more information on the NSW Premier’s Sporting Challenge please visit www.schools.nsw.edu.au/psc

I know our students are really looking forward to participating in the Challenge and having fun along the way!

Yours sincerely.

PDHPE Staff
Presentation Day was held on December 13. It was fantastic to have such a strong attendance from students and parents. Certificates were awarded for excellence, outstanding achievement across the curriculum, consistent achievement, merit awards, involvement and participation in school activities and SRC membership. It was wonderful to see students proudly accepting their awards on stage.

And what a debut for the School Band! Despite having only gathered during the Residential week for rehearsal they acquitted themselves admirably and we look forward to hearing their next public performance.

Congratulations to all students who received awards.