Hello Everyone,

During Term 1 students have successfully participated in camps and engaged in a wide range of educational programs. I hope you all have a relaxing and enjoyable Easter and school holiday period.

The NSW DEC is going through a period of transformation which is mirrored in many NSW state government departments. In 2014 a specialist centre is to be established in Dubbo which will eventually connect to a network of twenty such centres located throughout NSW. Students and their school communities will be able to access a range of specialist services not restricted to educational services. The centre is in the early stages of planning and I will provide further information as it presents.

In 2014 DSODE has registered to participate in the national data collection on students with disability. This will be compulsory for all Australian schools in 2015. This national data collection aligns with educational obligations to provide adjustments for students who need them under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2005. The national data collection on students with disability is based on the professional judgment of teachers about their students. Learning adjustments are determined in consultation with students, parents and carers and are detailed in the student’s personal individual education plan.

Welcome to new staff Rebecca Hill in PDHPE, Caroline Inglis in Visual Arts, Gabrielle Sunderland, Jane Welsh and Anna Kelly in Administration. On behalf of the school I extend great appreciation to Ali Cant, who has provided students and the school with such great service. Ali has been offered a permanent position in another school and hence is leaving DSODE this term.

Remember to keep in touch and call us if we can offer support during the term.

Best wishes

Chris Mason
Hi everyone,

The end of term 1 has arrived very quickly for many of us, and I know that you are already planning what you will do over the Easter break with your families and friends. We wish you well and if you are travelling anywhere... to be safe.

Since the last newsletter we have had a year 7-10 residential camp and no doubt you will see some of the activities that students were involved in throughout this newsletter. Some of the key events included the cross-country on Wednesday morning, a visit to the Cultural centre, participating in the “Save-a-mate” Program and celebrating “Harmony Day” on Friday. The residential camp was an opportunity for quite a number of our new Year 7 enrolments to participate for the first time in a secondary environment and they seemed to enjoy their experiences. Hopefully we will see them all come back next term too?

NAPLAN organisation is underway and all students eligible to sit the tests this year have been sent information for this. If you have not yet received this, please notify the school as soon as possible. Students attending the 7-10 residential will have the opportunity to sit for NAPLAN in term 2.

This week our HSC students have been sitting for their half yearly exams. We wish them all the best in their study and continued preparation for the HSC. Thank you also to the teachers who have been working hard to support these students each week.

Despite the expected holidays arriving on April 12th to April 27th (which we are all looking forward to) preparations have also begun for the beginning of term 2. Staff development day will take place on Monday 28th April, so no regular lessons will be taking place on this day. Staff will mostly be focussing on KLA planning and development of new curriculum resources on this day. Primary Camp will be in week 2 and 7-10 residential in week 3. So, it will be a busy start to the term.

Wishing you all a safe and happy Easter break. We trust that you will all return refreshed, and ready for term 2 on Tuesday 29th April.

Regards,

Debbie Murray (Relieving Deputy Principal)

Cover photo: Stephen certainly looked the part in Fireman Matt’s jacket!
Charles Sturt University (CSU) Dubbo My Day
Year 11 and 12 students interested in experiencing what university is like and the courses that are on offer are encouraged to attend CSU Dubbo’s My Day on the 17th June.

For further information and registration to attend the day, go to www.csu.edu.au/go/myday

Tertiary Information Day
Year 12 students interested in attending the Tertiary Information Day at Dubbo College Senior Campus on Wednesday 7th May need to contact Mr Quayle on 58047079 or timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au to register your interest.

The Tertiary Information Day will have a large number of the NSW universities and some out of state universities and will hopefully have representatives from the Defence Forces, TAFE, and Police Force Recruiting.

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.

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 are wanting to attend university, you need to be starting to look at which 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 Mr Quayle on (02) 5804 7079 or email him at timothy.quayle@det.nsw.edu.au
Year 9 PDHPE students have been researching places and spaces available in their local communities that they could use to be more physically active. They discovered that lack of sporting facilities is a barrier for most communities. The students were asked to write a letter to the Minister requesting funding for facilities or to start a physical activity competition in their local area.

Karin Morgan
PDHPE Teacher
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**Midnight** by Mark Greenwood and Frane Lessac
On 31 October, 1917, the 4th and 12th Regiments of the Australian Light Horse took part in one of the last great cavalry charges in history. Among the first to leap the enemy trenches was Lieutenant Guy Haydon riding his beloved mare, Midnight. This is their story.

**Along the Road to Gundagai** by Jack O’Hagan and Andrew McLean
There’s a track winding back, to an old-fashioned shack, along the road to Gundagai… The words are familiar, but the story they tell may not be. Andrew McLean’s illustrations bring to life the story of the men who went to the Great War, many of them never to return home.

**Jack’s Bugle** by Krista Bell and Belinda Elliott
When Aiden Jackson, known as “Jack”, leaves his parents’ farm to fight overseas in World War I, he is excited by the promise of travel, adventure and new friends. Although Jack’s bugle is brought home from the war by his best friend, it lies idle for years and years. Will the bugle ever be played again? Jack’s Bugle is a celebration of the music, optimism, mateship and the ultimate peace, that were part of “the war to end all wars”.

**Gallipoli** by Kerry Greenwood and Annie White
It was 1914 and Dusty and Bluey were headed for adventure. They were ANZACs, members of the Australian Light Horse, on the way to the Great War.

The story of Bluey and Dusty is a story of family and friendship. It is the story of Gallipoli.

**The Afghanistan Pup** by Mark Wilson
The Afghanistan Pup is the story of an Afgani schoolgirl fighting for her education, an Australian soldier struggling to survive, and an abandoned Labrador pup that touches the lives of both of them.

With powerful impressionistic illustrations and honest writing, Mark Wilson introduces young readers to the tragedy of war in an accessible yet realistic way, showing not just the dark side but how hope can be found even in the most difficult places.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

*The Poppy* by Andrew Plant

Stunningly illustrated using over 70 paintings, *The Poppy* is the true story of one of Australia’s greatest victories, and of a promise kept for nearly a century. On Anzac Day, 1918, a desperate night counter-attack in the French village of Villers-Bretonneux became one of Australia’s greatest victories.

A bond was forged that night between France and Australia that has never been broken. Villers-Bretonneux is ‘the town that never forgets’. What was achieved that terrible night – and what happened after – is a story that, likewise, Australia should never forget.

The 2014 Premier’s Reading Challenge

The Premier’s Reading Challenge (PRC) is available for all NSW students in Years Kindergarten to Year 9, in government, independent, Catholic and home-schools. Participation by schools and students is voluntary.

The Challenge aims to encourage in students a love of reading for leisure and pleasure, and to enable students to experience quality literature. It is not a competition but a challenge to each student to read, to read more and to read more widely.

As the PRC website is the main way to communicate with schools and parents, it is important to watch the website for information, updates and helpful tips about the Challenge. Please use the ‘Refresh’ button regularly on your navigation bar to ensure you are viewing the latest version of the website.

When does the Challenge start?

The Challenge runs from 3 March to 29 August (11:59pm) 2014. Students must complete their online Student Reading Records by 22 August (11:59pm).

How will the Challenge be coordinated in our school?

Each school participating in the Challenge has a unique PRC username and password used by the designated coordinator (Mr Strain) to register the school and students, and verify the students’ reading records.

Students must be registered before books can be recorded online. So if your child is interested in participating you can let me know your intentions in an email or telephone call and I will register your child’s name in the challenge.

*Continued over page*
Nearly the end of Term 1 and we all hope that you enjoy the up and coming school holidays.

**NAPLAN**
Families, with students in Years 3 and 5, have been sent letters regarding the planning for the implementation of the 2014 Naplan. It is important that the school is informed of your decision as soon as possible. Communication will be vital and we ask parents to keep us informed as we will them.

**Communicating with the school**
Remember we are only a phone call (or email) away if you need to discuss an issue with your child’s program. Sometimes we are not at our desk so please leave a message – we all have voice mail – and we will get back to you as soon as we can.

**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.

**Term 1 Holidays**
Term 1 ends on Friday 11 April. Term 2 commences on Monday 28 April. All primary staff will be involved in Professional Learning with a focus on Kidsmatter on Monday 28 April. There will be no satellite on this Monday.

**Kidsmatter**
Our focus for the last 3 weeks has been self-awareness. As the term draws to a close, it is a good time to have our students reflect on their learning for term 1. What have they learnt? How do they feel about this learning? What do they think they need to improve on now?

**Holiday Challenge**
A fun challenge for the kids (if they wish to partake) – email Ms B when you have finished reading a book. She would like to know the title, author and a score out of 10 and reason as to why you liked / didn’t like the book (No more than about 50 words – keep it short and sweet). And if parents would like to share their reading, our Book Club is always looking for some new and interesting books to read………..

We wish you all an enjoyable and restful break. And I think I have found the perfect quote:
Steve Maraboli

Until next time……………..The Primary Staff
During the term 1 Senior Residential, students had fun getting all ‘dolled up’ for a special formal dinner on the Thursday evening. Hospitality students had worked hard during the day to make a wide selection of canapés which were served with drinks in the COLA area.

This was followed by a two course sit down meal carefully prepared by Jan and her helpers. Year 12 Hospitality Food and Beverage students practised their food service skills by waiting on the tables during the evening.

Special guest on the night was local Dubbo girl Kennedy Tourle, Rural Fire Service Community Safety officer and 2013 Sydney Royal Showgirl. Kennedy gave a well-received talk about the RFS, the positives of growing up in rural NSW and her passion for community service. Kennedy enjoyed meeting the senior students and having the opportunity to learn more about how DE operates. All in all it was a great night.
Hello everyone,

We have just had a very successful Junior Residential. It is always really good to see our students. They seemed to enjoy all of the teaching and social activities planned. For those students who are invited, mark your Term 2 calendar for all the important camp dates!

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

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

Have a relaxing and enjoyable school holiday and come back ready and rearing to go for another busy term ahead.

Regards for now,

Sue Howlett
April 2nd is World Autism Awareness Day. If you are interested in learning more about Autism I recommend taking a look at the following website www.suelarkey.com.

Sue Larkey is a strong advocate for autistic students and works extensively with teachers, parents and carers to develop better understanding of ASD and the strategies people can use when working with ASD students. As well as including a range of useful information, Sue has many recommended resources for sale online and a fantastic newsletter that you can subscribe to.

Following are Sue’s top ten tips for understanding Autism Spectrum Disorder

1. Students with ASD don’t have to look at you all the time.
   ✓ Reason: They find looking and listening at the same time hard to do.
2. Give them time to answer any of your questions.
   ✓ Reason: They have slower processing time. Sometimes it can take them up to a minute to formulate the answer in the correct sequence.
3. If they feel pressured they will answer with stock standard answers.
   ✓ Reason: They know it will get them out of trouble quickly. This may include ‘I don’t know’, ‘yes’, ‘maybe’ and often this isn’t their true answer.
4. They often don’t “generalise” information between people and places.
   ✓ Reason: Work for teacher ‘x’ is the yellow basket but for teacher ‘y’ it is to be placed in the green basket.
5. They find organisation of their school equipment very difficult.
   ✓ Reason: They are best with one folder with everything inside. Limit the number of pens, pencils etc.
6. Limit their choices and be very specific with choices.
   ✓ Reason: They find choices overwhelming and are often concerned with making wrong choices due to their difficulties with problem solving.
7. Be as clear, concise and concrete as possible.
   ✓ Reason: People with ASD have difficulties with abstract thinking.
8. Avoid verbal overload.
   ✓ Reason: They are visual learners and verbal information takes them longer to process and retain.
9. Avoid verbal arguments by redirecting them to what they should be doing eg “Start your work”.
   ✓ Reason: They often enjoy verbal arguments.
10. People with an ASD need positive feedback to know they are on the right track.
    ✓ Reason: Because of their fear of failure they want to be Mr/Mrs Perfect.

There are many other useful tip sheets on Sue Larkey’s website.

Remember World Autism Awareness Day on the 2nd of April. This is a great day to teach children about Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and accepting difference.
During the recent junior residential an enthusiastic group of Year 7 students participated in their first Technology Mandatory class.

Students produced a timber tray under the watchful eye of their teachers as they used the drill press, bobbin sander and the disc sander.

All students were very happy with their finished result!
Several Hospitality workshops have been held during Term 1 with more to come next week. Students have been working hard to be ready for assessment - an important aspect of a VET course. Hospi students always enjoy getting together and learning new skills.
During week seven we welcomed fourteen enthusiastic preschool students to our term one camp. The theme for this camp was safety and it was great to see our students engage in such activities as road safety, water safety, fire safety and personal safety. They also attended water confidence classes at the Dubbo RSL pool each afternoon. During these sessions at the pool our pre-schoolers were encouraged, through play and shared experiences with their parents and a qualified teacher, to develop water confidence skills. During the week our students made considerable progress and it was wonderful to see each child blowing bubbles, kicking their legs and being able to swim short distances unaided.

Fireman Matt, from the Rural Fire Service, talked about the dangers of fire and showed the children how to ‘get down low and go, go, go’. He also taught them if there was a fire in a building that they needed to ‘stop, drop and roll’. Fireman Matt also brought along his fire truck and showed the children the hoses, pumps and his firemen’s uniform. Our students also had the opportunity to practise using the hoses as they squirted our pretend fires.

We would really like to thank Fireman Matt for teaching our students how to stay safe around fires.

Four sets of twins attended our first camp for 2014 - I am sure that this is a first for our preschool!

George, Henry, Conrad, Brianna, Anisha, Fletcher, Zara and Matilda.
Easter Packs
Easter packs have been sent to those families who have requested them. These activities are part of your yearly program and you will find the activities are appropriate for early learning. Teachers ask that you set aside the unit you are currently completing and focus on the Easter unit from **Monday 7th to Friday 11th April**.

Mother’s Day
These packs should arrive at your place shortly. Mother’s day is on **Sunday 11th May**. We ask that you put the preschool unit that you are currently completing aside from **5th to 9th May** so that your pre-schooler can participate in this unit. This may be the perfect opportunity to get dads involved in your child’s preschool program. This will provide dads with an opportunity to help their pre-schooler make a range of gifts to surprise their mothers on her special day.

Our Preschool teachers love to receive photographs of their students working through these activities so please remember to keep the camera handy as they are completing these packs.

Birthdays
We wish the following Preschool students a very Happy Birthday for April.

- David C 06th April
- Darcy M 11th April
- Poppy M 17th April
- Sydney M 28th April
- Jock K 27th
- Sydney 28th

We value the achievement of personal bests
Holidays
We trust that you all have an enjoyable two-week break from the 11th April till the 29th April. This is a great time to spend with your students revisiting and consolidating some of the activities that they have already completed in their preschool programs. It is also a great time to spend reading some of the many books sent in their preschool boxes.

Have an enjoyable holiday and we look forward to working with you all again next term.

*Sue, Robyn and Hayley*

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Conrad enjoyed learning how to keep safe near water.

Crossing the road safely.

Fireman Matt visits the Preschool.

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This newsletter we congratulate Max on sending in his beautiful threading.

Max completed this threading as he worked his way through his first Preschool unit.
Look Who’s Been Caught Reading

Olivia...

What kind of books do you like to read?

I like farming, riding and horse books.

What is your all-time favourite book?

Snow Pony by Alison Lester. I also like the Horse Mad series by Kathy Helidonitis and the Our Australian Girl series.

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Hello Everyone!

The SRC would like to remind follow students to please check your emails on a regular basis. Your teachers use emails to inform you of camps, school events, assessments, lessons and other important parts of schooling at Distance Education.

We understand that some students may not have access to computers every day, if this is your situation, please inform your teachers how often you will be able to access your emails.

Remember, technology plays a big part of your schooling at Distance Education and it is vital to check your emails as regularly as possible.

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SRC Student Representative Council news and views
Western Region Swimming Carnival

In 2014 it is a focus of the PDHPE faculty at Dubbo School of Distance Education to open our students to more competitive sporting experiences. The physical, mental and social health benefits of sport and physical activity experienced by students are widely published. From all levels of participation to elite athletes competing at the highest level, DSODE is supporting and catering for all young athletes.

On Thursday 6th March DSODE had two young athletes competing at the Western Region Secondary Swimming Carnival, Jack and Georgia. Jack competed very well in the 50m and 100m Freestyle events with a best finish of 3rd place.

Georgia was a stand-out performer of all schools finishing 1st in the 100m Butterfly, 100m Freestyle, 50m Freestyle, 200m Freestyle and 100m Backstroke. Georgia will be representing DSODE at the CHS Swimming Carnival at the Olympic Pool at Homebush.

Jack and Georgia competed at the Western Region Secondary Swimming Carnival.
Cross Country Carnival

The first Cross Country Carnival in DSODE’s history was successfully organised by the PDHPE faculty recently. A huge congratulations to all students who attended and competed in the schools inaugural Cross Country Carnival. I was very impressed with the level of participation and the excellent sportsmanship displayed by all students.

The positive encouragement that students displayed towards each other was the highlight of the day. Cheering on their peers and supporting their classmates, the day was made successful by the positive nature of all students.

Congratulations to all competitors and the 1st place runners now hold the school record in their respective age groups.

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Girls</th>
<th>Boys</th>
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<td>Aliya</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ida</td>
<td>Harrison</td>
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<td>14 yrs</td>
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<td>Jack</td>
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<td>15 yrs</td>
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<td>16 yrs</td>
<td>Gillian</td>
<td>Branioc</td>
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<tr>
<td>17+ yrs</td>
<td>Erin</td>
<td>Lindsay</td>
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Stretching time.

Lindsay and Mitchell
Do you enjoy bird watching?

**World Migratory Day**

World Migratory Day 2014’s theme is

‘Destination Flyways: Migratory Birds and Tourism’

This awareness day links migratory bird conservation, local community development and wildlife watching tourism around the world. Ref: [www.worldmigratorybirdday.org](http://www.worldmigratorybirdday.org)

**Have you spotted any of the herd of 125 colourful Rhinos along the Rhino Trail?**

There are five in the city of Sydney with two more in The Taronga Zoo. You will find some in Katoomba, Cowra, Parkes, Orange, Bathurst and five in Dubbo, with two more at the Taronga Western Plains Zoo.

The ‘Rhino Wild In Art’ event has raised an awareness of the critical plight and conservation of all rhino species.

Schools and artists have created ‘wildly colourful rhino sculptures’, which have been on display February through to April on the Rhino Trail. On May 14, an auction in Sydney will be held to raise funds that will go towards Taronga’s Rhino Conservation Programs. Poaching and habitat loss has led to the decrease in the number of rhinos alive today. The Taronga Zoos in Sydney and Dubbo are involved with Rhino breeding and conservation programs.