Hello Everyone

Last week students attending the Music Camp staged a concert on the last day of camp for staff and visiting families. It was such a superb show, with individual and group performances, displaying the tremendous talent of these students. This week Stage 6 students will be participating in a residential and also the HSC Seminars, which are to be held in Dubbo on Thursday 5th and Friday 6th June.

Australia Post is making changes to deliveries and costs. This may mean that mail could take 2-3 days longer to arrive at students’ homes. As we always endeavour to have students provided with work for four or more weeks, hopefully this should not present a problem. Students and families can help by returning work on a weekly basis and contacting the school promptly if they are running out of assigned work.

Just a reminder that all students, parents and carers visiting the school are required to sign in and out via the front office staff. This ensures that we have accurate information about persons on the premises if there is an emergency and also that students are properly supervised when in attendance. Students do need to make prior arrangements with teachers before attending as teachers have a large number of duties and commitments requiring them to manage their time. We are here to help all students and we need your assistance to be able to do this efficiently.

Please keep in touch and ask for assistance if needed.

Best wishes

Chris Mason

Right: Students stepping it out at the recent Athletics Carnival.
See Page 19
Hi everyone,

Since our last newsletter there has been a hive of camp activity happening in our school. We have seen students in for Primary Industries, Languages and Music camps and no doubt you will see some reports about these in this newsletter. A big thank you and congratulations to the staff who have spent considerable time and effort in planning and organising these camps for the students. Feedback from the students and some parents has suggested that the experiences and skills achieved during the workshops are well worth it.

This week, Year 11-12 are in for the residential. A variety of KLA workshops are being held for students and lead into two days of HSC Seminars hosted at the Dubbo RSL for all students in the Western area on Thursday and Friday. Our dedicated team of staff has been responsible for organising the HSC Seminars which is always a massive effort to coordinate guest speakers, including HSC examiners & markers from Sydney, accommodation, flights, programs, materials, venue and equipment for the two days. Our school has been hosting this event for the region for over 20 years now and it is a credit to our staff who work hard to bring the ‘HSC experts’ to Dubbo for our students.

If you have a Year 12 student then you will have received their HSC half yearly report by now. Currently preliminary reports are being prepared by teachers and Yr 7-10 will be ready by the end of this term.

Now is a timely reminder for parents with students who receive ‘warning letters’ for their courses. Usually these letters are simply that, a ‘warning’ that your student has not returned a certain task or a certain amount of work necessary to be on track for completing the course. Please take these letters seriously and spend the time with your student to see what is causing the issue. If a student can respond to the warning letter and return the required work, then no further action will be necessary. However, if a student does not respond to two warning letters, then they are placing themselves in jeopardy of receiving an ‘N-award’ for that course and placing their HSC Award at risk. If you have any further questions about a warning letter, then please contact your student’s teacher.

Just a reminder, if you still have outstanding NAPLAN tests at home for your Yr 3, 5, 7 or 9 student, please send them back to the school this week. They are due by June 11 if you wish your student to have an official result.

In Term 3, we have had to cancel all school residential due to the commencement of Hostel extensions. There will be some replacement Area Workshops which your students may be invited to attend, starting with Broken Hill in Week 3 and Orange/Bathurst area in Week 4. Plans are also underway for a Middle Years (Yr 7 & 8) camp to be held off-site somewhere towards the end of term. Your students will be invited to attend these events by the organising teachers.

Wishing you and your students the best for the remainder of this term…not long to go already!!
Term 2 has been a busy term! We are just over half way with staff busily writing Semester 1 reports and planning for Term 3 packing.

NAPLAN
Some of our students recently completed their NAPLAN papers. This is one of many diagnostic tools used by teachers to help assess student progress and future focus areas when programming. If you are in Year 3 or 5 and completing the papers at home, please do them and return to school asap as we need them here by 11 June.

NEW STUDENTS
We have had a huge number of new students enrol since the start of the year. We have also had a huge number leave (our enrolment is currently 105 but can change weekly!!) Since the beginning of the year we have welcomed Stacey, Makaylah, Isabelle, Douglas, Amelia, Cruz, Chanel, Jonah, Scarlett, Oliver, Wade, Hendrix, Elokin, Braydon, Mackayla, Adelaïde, Carter, Billy, Dylan, Ava, Austin, Lilly-Mae, Tannah-Rae, Tabitha, Thane, Billy, Isla, Nick, Sonia, Corey, Jessica, Mia and Oscar. This is a total of 75 new students for 2014 with approximately 20-25 leavers. With the increase in students we welcome back to our staff Amanda Hamilton.

MYALL MAIL
The Myall Mail is our annual school magazine and includes an overview of school activities, achievements and students and a selection of their work. For the primary section, we would like a photo and a piece of work from each student included. We ask parents to assist us in this regard, especially travellers and students who have not visited the school, to ensure that we have a ‘head and shoulders’ photo of your student.

Teachers will often choose a piece of work for inclusion but if students have a particular piece they would like can you please send us either the original work, an electronic copy or a photograph if it is art work. Please send one in ASAP so we can start collating.

Matthew and Mitchell at home
PHOTOS AND PRIVACY
We often like to include photos of our students in this newsletter which comes out 3 times a term, our School Magazine, our website and other publications. If you have a concern with your students name and / or image being published, please ensure that the school is aware. An email to your class teacher is the best method for this.

EMAILS
Please encourage your students to check their emails on a regular basis. Once every couple of days would be ideal. We hear that some families make a habit of checking their emails once a day following a satellite lesson. This is a great habit to be in. We also ask that parents check their emails at least once a week as this is a major form of communication between the home and school. Generally, Kinder – Year 2 students mail will also be sent to the parents whereas students in Years 3-6 are expected to be more independent and the mail is sent only to their address.

MAGGIE DENT
Here at school we all respect Maggie Dent. As quoted from her website:

*Maggie Dent is an author, educator, and parenting and resilience specialist with a particular interest in the early years and adolescence. Maggie is a passionate advocate for the healthy, commonsense raising of children in order to strengthen families and communities.*

*She has a broad perspective and range of experience that shapes her work, a slightly irreverent sense of humour and a depth of knowledge based on modern research and ancient wisdom that she shares passionately in a commonsense way.*

If you have a spare 30mins and looking for some ideas that may help you at home, have a look at her website: [http://www.maggiedent.com](http://www.maggiedent.com)

AND FINALLY
A great quote from Dr Seuss that is appropriate no matter how old or young you may be.

“The more that you read, the more things you will know.

*The more that you learn, the more places you’ll go.*”

Cheers for now, SW, VD, SD, TW, ME, LW, AH, HC, MC, LC, RM and JB
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

**Machine Wars** by Michael Pryor

When Bram Argent arrives home, and a light near the path is on, he knows it is time to scatter and hide. This is the plan his world leading techno Mum devised should her artificially intelligent (AI) inventions turn on her. These AI can use any technical device to form other Robots to take over the world. Bram knows that his Mum just needs time to devise a way to stop the threat. But will she make it? In the meantime, Bram, his new friend Stella, and their super intelligent AI stuffed duck Bob, must try to survive while a world full of ‘Bots’ try to capture or kill them to get to his Mother. With plenty of action, this techno thriller will appeal to 10-14-year-olds, particularly boys.

**Midnight Burial** by Pauline Deeves

Florence is confused. Her family says her older sister Lizzie died of fever and should be buried immediately. No doctor is called. No clergyman is present and no neighbours are asked to come. The burial happens at night. In 1860’s Australia, on a remote sheep station, the staff does not ask questions.

Life has been good for young Florence. She has her pony and her birds, her older sisters spoil her and even her very strict father often gives way to her. But after Lizzie’s burial, the atmosphere in her home changes. People are grieving, but there is much gossip. Family and staff members whisper in corners and no one will answer Florence’s questions. No one visits Lizzie’s grave. The arrival of her new governess, Susannah, a friend of Lizzie, adds to the tension. Susannah does not believe that Lizzie died of fever. With Susannah, Florence sets out to discover the true story of what has happened to her sister.

**The Ratcatcher’s Daughter** by Pamela Rushby

It’s 1900. Thirteen-year-old Issy McKelvie leaves school and starts her first job – very reluctantly – as a maid in an undertaking establishment. She thinks this is about as low as you can go.

But there’s worse to come. Issy becomes an unwilling rat-catcher when the plague – the Black Death – arrives in Australia. Issy loathes both rats and her father’s four yappy, snappy, hyperactive rat-killing terriers. But when her father becomes ill it’s up to Issy to join the battle to rid the city of the plague-carrying rats.
Greetings from the Library

New Books to Borrow

The Forbidden Library by Django Wexler

A first class fantasy novel that is compelling reading. When Alice’s father goes missing in a shipwreck, she is sent to live with Geryon and his strange household. His huge library is off limits to Alice, but what do you say to a talking cat who knows how to get access?

We follow Alice’s adventures as she falls into books and battles fairies, tree sprites, swarmers and a dragon. A wonderful adventure that students who enjoy fantasy will really love. Fast paced, funny and with great characters, it is a perfect book for boys and girls Year 7 and up.

The Wardens: Brotherhood of Thieves by Stuart Daly

A brotherhood of treasure hunters. A terrifying enemy. Five young recruits. The race is on. Caspan hates life as a thief on the streets, so he leaps at the chance to join a secret order sanctioned by the King. The Brotherhood seeks the lost magical weapons of an ancient race that will help them fight the Roon, the invading army who creep ever closer.

Defeat seems inevitable. Unless Caspan and his fellow recruits – Roland, Lachlan, Sara and Kilt – can set aside their differences and use their new skills to help turn the tide. With swords strapped to their belts, riding magical beasts called Wardens, they leave the sanctuary of their training ground for their first mission. Will it be their last?

Never Ending by Martyn Bedford

How can she live with what she did? Shiv’s best mate, her younger brother, Declan, died while their family were on holiday in Greece. Shiv doesn’t know how to live any more – she can only feel self-hatred; she is tormented by guilt.

Now she finds herself at the Korsakoff Clinic, with five other teens and young adults who are undergoing a most unorthodox therapy, which is often painful. But this is Shiv’s last chance – the clinic must help her find a way to live again. But first, their methods will make her face what really happened to her brother.
New Books to Borrow

**To See the World** by Elaine Forrestal
This is a wonderful adventure story about life on a sailing ship in the early 1800’s. Told through the eyes of Jose, the story follows the dangers and hardships suffered by all who relied on only the power of the wind to discover the world.
Beautifully told, this story has great characters and fantastic descriptions of life on board a ship, as well as vivid descriptions of the exciting places they visit. The story is based on the true voyage of the Uranie and suited to both boys and girls, Year 7 and up.

**Enmity** by E.J Andrews
A fast paced, action packed thriller set sometime in the future. The world is a very dangerous place and Nate and Hermia are thrown together with eight other teenagers to train to fight against their will. They quickly learn each other’s strengths and weaknesses and more about themselves than they realised.
In some sections the story is quite brutal with a high level of violence, although it does fit within the context of the story. A great read for senior students in Year 10 and up.

**Side Effects May Vary** by Julie Murphy
When Alice is diagnosed with leukaemia and the prognosis is not good, she turns to Harvey, her lifelong family friend (but never boyfriend), to help her complete her often nasty bucket list. Harvey would do anything for Alice as he is an amazing person who has always had a huge crush on her. With an end date in sight, they are both happy to squeeze as much as they can out of life.
But when the word ‘remission’ expectantly comes into play, Alice’s plans are thrown into turmoil. Was she only using Harvey? Is she ready to spend her life – which might now be long and normal – with him?

Until next time, Happy Reading!
David Strain – Teacher Librarian
(02) 58047023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au
FREE two day workshop and information sessions for PARENTS/CARERS of school age students on the autism spectrum

Workshop: 2014NSWPC5   Location: Dubbo

The Positive Partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, through the Helping Children with Autism package.

What will you learn?
As a result of participating in the workshops and information sessions as parents/carers you will gain:
• a greater understanding of the impact of autism on your child, both at school and at home
• knowledge about how to develop effective parent, school and teacher partnerships
• specific strategies on how to:
  • advocate for your child
  • support your child’s participation at school
  • develop an awareness of ongoing learning needs
• information about your local school system’s processes
• opportunities to network and share strategies with other parents/carers and key community members
• opportunities for discussion around a range of topics relevant to students with an ASD and their families

Some key community representatives that support families living with autism will be identified and invited to participate in the workshop with a view to supporting a community focus beyond the workshop.

Workshop details
Venue: Dubbo RSL Club
       Cnr Brisbane and Wingewarra Street, Dubbo NSW 2830

When: Two day workshop – Wednesday 25 & Thursday 26 June 2014
      Day 1: 9.00 am - 4.30 pm (Registration from 8.15 am)
      Day 2: 9.00 am - 3.30 pm

Registration opens Wednesday, 14 May 2014 and closes 2 days prior.
Registration may stay open until one day before the workshop if spaces are still available, but we strongly recommend that you register as soon as possible.
You will receive a confirmation of your registration.
Online registrations preferred: please go to the website www.positivepartnerships.com.au.

Positive Partnerships Info Line number: 1300 881 971

The Positive Partnerships initiative is funded by the Australian Government Department of Education through the Helping Children with Autism Package. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily represent the views of the Australian Government or the Australian Government Department of Education.
Languages

Another successful Languages camp was held here at Dubbo School of Distance Education with 39 participants from various schools around the state.

Five languages, French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish, were represented over the three day camp period. During the camp students participated in language-specific lessons as well as whole group activities.

The theme of the camp was based on the excursion venues to encourage students to utilise their learned language skills, from the previous day’s lessons, in real life situations. The excursion venues included Dundulimal, an old restored homestead and the Dubbo Cultural Centre. In the Dubbo Cultural Centre students also visited the Regional Museum. Language lessons were developed around the ‘classroom’, ‘selfie’, ‘furniture’ and the ‘main museum’ exhibitions.
The glowing evaluation responses from the students indicate that they thoroughly enjoyed their time at camp. Every year students hope that we will extend the period of the Language Camp as they are able to pick up many valuable skills in their language learning due to the intensive lessons provided. It is a fantastic feeling for the Languages staff when we hear that the students walk away with a sense of accomplishment. They gloat about using their language skills with others in situations that are real and relevant.

I personally would like to thank the staff who spent hours preparing for the camp, Miss Valeri, Miss Elwell, Mrs Sayers, Mrs Morley and our practising teacher Mrs Morris. I would also like to extend a thankyou to the staff and parents who supported this camp.

Anna Brain
(Relieving) Head Teacher Languages
During the junior residential this term all students participated in a technology workshop focusing on augmented reality and iPad applications.

Augmented reality (AR) is cutting-edge technology that allows for a digitally enhanced view of the real world, connecting you with more meaningful content in your everyday life. With the camera and sensors in a smartphone or tablet, AR adds layers of digital information – videos, photos, sounds – directly on top of items in the world around us.

Students worked in teams to experiment with a range of applications on iPads that utilised AR technology. One of the more popular of those was the recent DreamWorks Heroes App which allowed the students to experience an AR interaction with their favourite DreamWorks characters. Students had their picture taken with Shrek, zoomed off on an adventure with Turbo and played with Po the Panda!

Also extremely popular and a fun challenge was the Toyota 86 AR driving experience. This app allowed the students to drive an augmented car around their environment, competition was high to better each other’s ‘Thrill rating’.

This session only just touched the tip of the iceberg using this brand new technology that undoubtedly students will continue to see more of in their everyday lives in the near future.

This technology is utilised by both Apple and Android devices - More information can be found at

www.toyota86ar.com
http://www.poweredbystring.com/
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**Home visit Program**

Our home visit program is well underway with Robyn and Hayley travelling to the northern part of the state this week to visit their students in Upper Horton, Maules Creek, Ebor and Hernani areas. Sue and Robyn will travel to Cobar and Bourke in week eight to see their students in these areas. Home visits form a very important part of our Field Services Program as they provide an opportunity to access students work and build stronger relationships both with the student and their family.

**Term Two Preschool Camp**

Term two preschool camp will be conducted from the 11th -13th June, just after the long weekend. Information about this camp should have already arrived at your place and we look forward to seeing you. The theme for this camp is ‘families’. Just remember if you intend to participate in this camp you will need to have provided the school with your child’s immunisation history.

**Birthdays for June**

We wish Daniel all the best for a Happy Birthday on 23rd June.

**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.
The Importance of Play

As educators we cannot stress enough the importance of play in your child’s learning and development.

“Children need to play to develop social, emotional, cognitive (thinking) and physical skills. Play helps children to learn how to communicate with other children, resolve conflicts and solve problems. In a playful environment they are able to test, practice and refine these abilities or skills, all of which are essential to build a strong foundation for all future learning.” (ECA Everyday Learning – About Play and Learning)


Building children’s self esteem
Parents are in an excellent position to encourage a child’s self-respect and self-esteem.

Notice and comment on the child’s unique qualities, strengths and capabilities. Any desirable traits or behaviour – thoughtfulness, creativity, effort, a job well done - can and should be acknowledged by the parent. Praise is most helpful when it is specific. The parent’s comments should describe what they see and how they feel about it.

Things parents can do and say:

● Tell a child about their past accomplishments.
● Say “I love you”.
● Give a loving touch.
● Listen closely.
● Spend time with your children.
● Play and go to places with each child alone.
● Do things as a family with all the children.
● Attend important events in each child’s life…. school concert, play or soccer game.
● Write an appreciative note. Send it or leave it on the child’s bed.
● Provide opportunities for creative and intellectual development.
● Teach your child social skills.
● Acknowledge the child’s contribution to discussion or family chores.
● Say ‘thank you’ for helpful acts.
● Encourage exercise and nutrition to promote the child’s total feeling of wellbeing.
● Find positive methods to evaluate children’s efforts, ability and behaviour.

Hayley, Robyn and Sue
Recently our preschool teachers had the pleasure of visiting the John Brotchie Memorial Nursery School in Sydney along with our colleagues from the Broken Hill School of the Air. We spent two very productive days discussing ways that we could further improve our practices and share ideas between these three unique preschool centres.

Congratulations to Rafael who is the artist of the newsletter. Rafael has produced these beautiful flowers for his Mum as he completed the Mother’s day unit.
Look Who’s Been Caught Reading

Millie...

What kind of books do you like to read?

Horse books.

What is your all-time favourite book?

And why is it your favourite?

I love Fairy books.

Newsletter Co-ordinator’s Report

Hello everyone,

We have just had our Year 7-10 residential that incorporated the Athletics carnival. What a great way to spend some days at school. Look out for all of the photos. The Pre-school camp is on its way in Week 7.

The NAPLAN tests were held and were fairly well attended. The students all had a great week at school with many other activities besides the National testing!

The languages camp was excellent with everyone having such a good time and immersing themselves in their chosen language.

The music camp has just concluded with wonderful sounds overheard in the school. Well done to all who attended.

Our senior residential is now on and will coincide with the HSC Seminars in Dubbo. This is always a huge camp as it involves many senior students and single course enrolments too.

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

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

Have a great term everyone!

Regards for now,

Sue Howlett
Dubbo School of Distance Education now has its own careers website.

For information on the RoSA, VET, work experience, resume writing and much more head to dsodecareers.com

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

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.

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
The Athletics carnival was a huge success this year. The weather could not have been better and the students came along with an amazing attitude of determination and encouragement for each other, which was wonderful to see.

I would like to thank the students who participated in every event, which was a majority this year. The students demonstrated great sportsmanship and had a fantastic day.

A big thankyou to the teachers who made the day run smoothly and the parents who came along to cheer on the kids. Much appreciated.

Students participated in a number of track and field events as well as our infamous tug-o-war battle at the end of the day.

**Congratulations to the following age champions**

- **Junior girl:** Ida
- **Junior Boy:** Jack/ Phillip
- **Senior Girl:** Metika
- **Senior Boy:** Branioc

It was neck-and-neck all day between the two battling houses. But in the end, Freeman was just too good, winning by one point.

Freeman finished with 442 points, beating Macquarie with 441 points.

We have Jack, Luke, Aliya and Phillip heading to the western region Athletics Carnival in July, which is wonderful to see and we wish you all the best.

Regards,

**Annabelle Newbigging**

Sports Organiser.
2014 Calendar of Events

15 June Global Wind Day
17 June World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
22-25 July Clean Energy Week

As we say farewell to Autumn we can add the leaves to the compost heap, partake of the fresh produce to create healthy meals and enjoy a walk in the crisp air. Some may see the whales migrating along the coast.

Awareness days on the environmental calendar bring to our attention the need to be proactive everyday, everywhere in caring for our natural and urban environments where we live. Think about what you can do or the practices that you can change.

Some examples are:

- shop for locally grown fresh food
- walk instead of driving
- recycle paper, glass and plastic bottles and jars
- plant trees and shrubs that attract the native birds
- do not litter our roadways
- build a compost bin in your garden