Hello Everyone

The end of 2015 has arrived. It has been a very productive year with multiple camps, field trips and lessons conducted over a variety of technologies. Students have submitted thousands of pieces of work and engaged in so many different activities. Students, supervisors and families are encouraged to attend the Presentation Day at 10am on Friday 11th December. The presentation will occur in the Buninyong Hall located on the same site as our school and will be followed by a morning tea held between the Administration Building and the Library. It will be a day of celebration and provide the chance to finish off the school year before the Christmas vacation.

The 2015-2017 School Plan has been published on the school’s website and I encourage people to become familiar with the plan. Updates will be made in Term 1, 2016. During Term 1, we will also be seeking input from parents via both the primary and secondary parent forums to assist the school with future planning and decision making. If you are interested in participating please email christine.mason@det.nsw.edu.au or deborah.murray@det.nsw.edu.au

Congratulations to Sally Egan, who received the Brock Rowe Award for Excellence in Teaching Geography in Schools - a great honour and achievement!

Congratulations to Dave Brazel for receiving the Excellence in Teaching Award from the Institute of Industrial Arts Technology Education for his outstanding contribution to the profession and his students. 2015 marks Dave’s 50th year of teaching – an amazing contribution to public education.

Welcome to new teacher Lenore Braithwaite, who has transferred to DSODE as a permanent teacher of Geography, History and Music. Lenore has already been employed here as a temporary teacher for more than 12 months and we congratulate Lenore on her appointment.

We also wish to acknowledge the fantastic work of several teachers, who are taking retirement at the end of 2015 - Sandy Strahorn, Helen Hosken and Fran Philipson. Thank you for your wonderful dedication to the students of Dubbo School of Distance Education.

We join our students in eagerly awaiting HSC results, which will be released next week and wish them all the best. Please contact your teachers for support and encouragement as they would love to hear from you.

Finally together we wish you all a very Happy Christmas and New Year. We hope you have a wonderful holiday and look forward to seeing you in 2016.

Christine Mason
Principal

Debbie Murray
Deputy Principal

Jenny Donovan
Deputy Principal
We value learning as a lifelong process

Look who’s been caught reading!

Tom

Dubbo School of Distance Education - NSW DEC
What Do You Wish For? by Jane Godwin and Anna Walker

All the children in the street are writing down a special Christmas wish. But what is Ruby’s wish? What does she wish for at Christmas time? Ruby thinks of all the things that make Christmas special…

From this much-loved creative partnership comes a sparkling and beautiful story, full of the wonder of Christmas, the magic of wishing, and the timeless dreams of a child.

Eye to Eye by Graeme Base

Imagine you could soar high in the sky with an eagle or dive into the deep with a majestic blue whale.

Come eye to eye with some of nature’s most impressive creatures as Graeme Base takes you on a richly illustrated journey of imagination and possibility.

Being Agatha by Anna Pignataro

When her relatives get together, it’s clear that she doesn’t quite fit in. And when she starts kinder, she realises just how different she is to everyone else. Then one day Miss Tibble, the kinder teacher, tells her class that like a snowflake, everyone is special in their own way.

Then she asks each child to tell her how they might be special. Agatha cannot think of a single way she is special, so she sneaks away to hide. When the whole class searches for her, and are quite upset about her absence, she leaves her hiding spot. Then several students suggest why Agatha is special. And, in the end, everyone agrees that Agatha is the best at being Agatha!

Ollie and the Wind by Ronojoy Ghosh

Sometimes the best things appear out of thin air. The wind blows all day on Ollie’s island. There aren’t many people around, but there’s lots of space to play.

One day the wind steals Ollie’s hat. Then it darts away with his scarf. But is the wind just naughty, or is it trying to tell Ollie something?
Before You Were You by Edwina Wyatt and Bren Luke
Before you were you and before I was me, a big lemon tree was swaying… ‘Before You Were You’ is a narrated family tree, celebrating adventure, imagination and the road that leads us home.

Unique artwork complements the theme of precious moments in the lives of different generations with rhythmic text which aids predictability in reading.
Year 12

You must have your preferences for the main round offers in by midnight of Wednesday 6th January, 2016. If you are not eligible for an ATAR but would like to go to university in 2016 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

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. If you need assistance in finding Apprenticeship or Traineeship please do not hesitate to contact me.

Tim Quayle
Careers Advisor
My name is Travis and I am in year 8 at DSODE. Earlier this year I joined my local squadron of Airforce Cadets. To date I have already had experience flying a glider, learning about aviation, service knowledge, drill (marching), discipline, communication, navigation, team work and team building, safety procedures as well as many other things.

I enjoy cadets because I have met some wonderful people and I get to learn heaps of new things outside of my normal schooling. Cadets is also great because it is helping me to build my confidence.

At cadets in order to be promoted to the next level above basic where I am at the moment I must take notes on parade nights and study hard in preparation for exams. I am happy to report I have been doing really well. I wanted to share this with everyone as I am proud to be an airforce cadet and I hope it will open some doors for me in the future.

Regards
Travis
A special hello to all our preschool families! It’s hard to believe this is our last newsletter for 2015. Term 4 has progressed very quickly and ended with a wonderful residential week. We have just enjoyed five action-packed days with special visits in class time from Hayley and Amelia. The preschool children have each enjoyed a range of indoor and outdoor activities, a fabulous water confidence program at the RSL and some kindergarten transition classes. It’s been a very successful week full of fun and it was lovely to see the children grow in confidence throughout the week. Thank you to those of you who travelled into the school to take part in this important part of our program.
The preschool staff would also like to thank all of our preschool families for your commitment to the preschool program and your friendship throughout the year. We wish you all the best for your child’s future learning. It’s been a pleasure to work with you all throughout the year and to see your child develop a love of learning as well as the skills necessary for the next stage of their educational journey.

Preschool enrolments for 2016
We are now taking enrolments for 2016. If you are aware of anyone in your area that would benefit from our program, please ask them to contact the school for an enrolment package on (02) 5804 7000.

Christmas unit
For families who have requested them, Christmas units should have arrived at your place. Your pre-schooler will be busy over the next weeks creating lots of beautiful Christmas decorations and gifts. This is a non-returnable unit, so it will be ideal to complete in the time leading up to Christmas. This unit completes your preschool program for the year and allows you time to search through the school room and locate any preschool resources that you have outstanding. All resources are due back at school this term. **Your deposit cannot be refunded if you have outstanding resources.** Your assistance with this would be greatly appreciated.

Starting school
The following website has some useful information which may assist with your child’s preparation for kindergarten next year.


The website listed below also provides a range of ideas that may engage your pre-schooler in creative activities and stimulate their imagination over the holiday period.

www.learning4kids.net
Finally, special congratulations to all our beautiful preschoolers who have completed their 2015 preschool year with us. We hope that you will enjoy your transition to kindergarten and continue to develop your love for learning.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy, healthy 2016.

Kristina, Robyn and Alison
Wow, what a busy year it has been for all! Who can believe that the summer holidays are only just around the corner?

The Learning and Support Team (LST) have had a particularly busy year with collecting and reviewing Personalised Individualised Education Plans (PIEP). PIEPs continue to provide important information which inform teaching practices and ensure that the individual needs of each student are catered for. Thank you to parents for your valued contribution towards the completion of PIEPs. The team has also had a busy time in Terms 3 and 4, gathering information for students who have been identified as having a disability. This information has been added to the National Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD) which informs practices within our school setting.

The LST has continued to meet every week throughout the year to review student referrals and work with Student Advisers and teachers. We make important teaching and learning recommendations to improve students’ engagement and learning outcomes at DSODE.

Please take some time out before the holidays to reflect on the past year and to clean up your work areas, review student reports and identify any areas of learning that can be improved for next year. Making personal and learning goals now can mean a fresh perspective and start for 2016. The LST encourages you to seek advice from your child’s teacher (P-6) or the Student Adviser (Years 7-12) if you have any concerns relating to your child’s learning and transition to the 2016 school year.

On behalf of the Learning and Support Team we would like to wish the 2015 Year 12 students all the best for the future. Please have a safe and restful holiday.

*Julie Messner and Kristina Powell*

*DSODE Learning and Support Team*
This newsletter marks the end of a busy year full of fun, laughter and learning. We hope that everyone can look back on it with a sense of pride and achievement.

**Claim the Dates**

- Presentation Day – 11 December
- Last day Term 4 – 16 December
- First day 2016 - 28 January (teachers return 27 January)

**Enrolment Variations for 2016**

Do you know of a family who is considering enrolling at DSODE? Are your own circumstances changing for 2016? These changes can include stopping travelling, moving to a new school, coming home from overseas. If you answered yes to either question, could you please contact Jenny Ballhausen as a **matter of urgency** to advise her so we can take it all into account as we are beginning to plan for 2016. As I need this in writing, I would appreciate the information via email – jennifer.ballhausen@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you.

**Summer Reading Fun**

In this newsletter is an article I found that may give some of our families with young children some ideas of quality books that can be read and shared with your children. It may also serve as inspirations and ideas for Christmas gifts! We are all of the opinion that one can never have too many books nor have them read too many times!!

**Who Is My Teacher??**

It can be an anxious time for students wanting to know who will be their teacher next year. Unfortunately, we cannot inform families of this as there are too many movements of students and staff at the end and beginning of the year to set this. Please be assured your 2016 teacher will ring and introduce themselves to you in the first week of February.

**Farewells**

At the end of every year we say farewell to a number of students for various reasons. Some are moving into Year 7, some are returning home after being on the road or living overseas, moving on to other schools or for some for other reasons. Whatever they may be, we wish you well for the future and hope that your time at DSODE was rewarding, fruitful and an enjoyable time. May you take many memories of this place away with you. A special farewell to our Year 6 students Adelaide, Buster, Chanel, Clayton, Daniel, Erin, Ella, Jacob, Jasmine, Jye, Kade, Kaitlyn, Liam, Lisa, Mackayla, Maddix, Remington, Stacie, Terri, Teyarl, Thomas, William and Ylee
**Holiday fun**

I am reprinting this from last year due to the positive comments I received!

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Play a board game twice a week</td>
<td>Swim once a week in a 25/50m pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help out in the garden regularly</td>
<td>Read for 20 minutes every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Do something nice for someone else every day</td>
<td>Cook, at least, once a week!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help out in the garden regularly</td>
<td>Read for 20 minutes every day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook, at least, once a week!</td>
<td>Be creative two or three times a week (eg play music, paint, draw, craft)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Help out in the garden regularly</td>
<td>Write every day (eg a letter, story, post card, shopping list)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cook, at least, once a week!</td>
<td>Be creative two or three times a week (eg play music, paint, draw, craft)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

*Hayley, Ali, Mel, Leanne, Melissa, Vanessa, Jenny, Rebecca, Amanda, Robyn, Averil, Mel, Kristina & Sarah*

along with our wonderful SASS ladies,

*Jan, Jenny, Ange and Judy*
Summer Reading Fun

This selection is a small suggestion of books students starting Kindergarten in 2016 may enjoy. It is also applicable to students in currently in Kinder, Year 1 and even Year 2.

Read to your child as much as you can. These suggested books are all highly engaging for young children, they have quality language and play with words and ideas.

Read the same book to your children many times because with each reading children become more familiar and learn from the repetition. Can you read to your child three times a day?

This is not a definitive list; it has been compiled as a starting guide for interested parents and caregivers. Your local library, school library and bookshops are also full of inspiration.

Rhyming and Word Play

- Hairy Maclary series by Lynley Dodd
- What the Ladybird Heard by Julia Donaldson
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- Room on the Broom by Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler
- Waddle Giggle Gargle by Pamela Allen

- Mr McGee by Pamela Allen
- One Fish Two Fish by Dr Seuss
- There’s a Wocket in my Pocket by Dr Seuss
- Mr Brown Can Moo! By Dr Seuss
- Fox in Socks by Dr Seuss
- Where is the Green Sheep by Mem Fox
- Boo to a Goose by Mem Fox and David Miller

- The Very Cranky Bear by Nick Bland
- Fancy Nancy by Jane O’Conner
- Noni the Pony by Alison Lester
- Each Peach Pear Plum by Janet and Allan Ahlberg
- Piranhas Don’t Eat Bananas by Aaron Blabey
- Edward the Emu by Sheena Knowles
- Kangaroos Hop by Ros Moriarty and Balarinji
Summer Reading Fun

Books with great language and mathematics fun!
- The Very Hungry Caterpillar by Eric Carle
- The Rabbit Problem by Emily Gravett
- One Ted Falls Out of Bed by Julia Donaldson
- 100 Things by Masayuki Sebe
- Chicka Chicka 123 by Bill Martin Jn
- 365 Penguins by Jean-Luc Fromental
- Mr Archimedes’ Bath by Pamela Allen
- Ten Blue Wrens and What a Lot of Wattle by Elizabeth Honey
- One Very Tired Wombat by Renee Treml

Books for Early Readers
- Elephant and Piggie series by Mo Willems
- Green Eggs and Ham by Dr Seuss
- The cat in the hat by Dr Seuss
- Hop on Pop by Dr Seuss
- I Went walking by Sue Williams and Julie Vivas
- Grandpa and Thomas by Pamela Allen
- This and That by Mem Fox and Judy Horacek
- Imagine by Alison Lester
- Why I Love Australia by Bronwyn Bancroft
- Rose Meets Mr Wintergarden by Bob Graham
- How the Sun got to Coco’s house by Bob Graham
- Starting School by Jane Goodwin and Anna Walker
- All Through the Year by Jane Goodwin and Anna Walker
- Today We Have no Pans by Jane Goodwin and Anna Walker
- Amy and Louis by Libby Gleeson and Freya Blackwood
International Mountain Day
theme for 2015 is ‘Promoting Mountain Products for Better Livelihoods’.

Raising awareness of the value and importance ecologically and economically of mountains throughout the world is the focus for this event.

As the summer holiday season approaches ensure you have your bush fire survival plan in place.

If you are outdoors take your litter with you.

Please leave water out for your pets.

Enjoy the festive season, happy holidays and please do some recycling!