It’s difficult to believe that we have almost reached the end of term 1 already! So much has been happening during the last few weeks and I am sure you will spend some time reading about these events in this newsletter.

Our secondary staff have been quite occupied over this last part of term with both the 11-12 residential in Week 6, and the 7-10 residential taking place in week 8. Students have benefitted greatly with some great face-to-face workshops and activities with their teachers. A huge thank you needs to go out to all staff involved in making the time here for students worthwhile, safe and enjoyable. I know that there were some very tired students (and staff) that finished up the week.

This term I have attended the ICPA conference in Broken Hill and more recently, the Distance Education Managers’ meeting in Ballina (Southern Cross DEC). There is currently quite a lot going on in the Public Education arena, which we will attempt to keep you informed of as we move through the school year. Some of our DE schools are currently preparing for quite a lot of change as they physically move away from dual-mode schools into being more fully autonomous DE schools (similar to us here in Dubbo). We are lucky that we won’t have to accommodate such change here in our setting, but rather we get to concentrate on student learning and engagement in our existing and continuing programs.

We need to put a call out for interested Secondary parents to join our team for Parent Forum teleconferences each term. We have had some changes from last year and are asking now for secondary parents in particular, who would like to be involved, to contact the School Office Phone 02 5804 7000. Parents meet to talk about school matters, and receive information about school planning. Your valued input supports our future planning.

Our staff are looking forward to the holiday break, as I am sure a lot of parents and students are too. We are looking forward also to having Maggie Dent present workshops for us on the first day back, 20th April, in term 2. Maggie is a renowned and valuable public speaker, who will be doing a number of workshops including: “Dare to be exceptional as a Teacher”, “Boys, boys, boys! Nurturing and connecting to today’s boys”, and “Real kids in an unreal world: Building resilience and self-esteem in Today’s children”. DSODE and Buninyong School are jointly hosting this event and encouraging our local community schools to also attend. It should be a great professional learning day for all.

Wishing you each the best for the end of term break. Easter is a time that provides a wide variety of cultural significance and opportunities to a broad range of people in our school community. We wish you well as you celebrate the end of term one, enjoy the break and stay safe if travelling during this time. We look forward to seeing you all again on Tuesday 21st April.

Regards,
Debbie Murray (Relieving Principal)
Hello again everyone!

I have just been asked by the lovely Lorraine in the office to write my report for the newsletter; I was in total denial that it needed to be done- it only feels like last week that I handed in the last one. Where has the term gone?!

I’m not sure how, but we have landed in week 9. It has been such a busy term for everyone I have spoken to, I do hope the world slows down soon!

This term we have had a Senior and a Junior residential. The Senior residential was held in Week 6. We had a lovely group of students in; it was great to see some new faces joining us for the first time. During this week students had the pleasure of enjoying a formal dinner; not only did they have amazing food provided by Mrs Elliott and Jan, they also enjoyed the company of a former student- Carla Pittman. Carla spoke about the opportunities she gained via Distance Education and how the skills of time- and self-management have helped her in her life after school. It was lovely to have her back in the school and the students were all very interested in her talk.

The Junior Residential was held last week. Students participated in various activities/ lessons and had a very busy social calendar at night! Planning is underway for next term’s junior camp. Due to the high number of students we will have completing NAPLAN tests in school that week; we will need to give priority to students staying in years 7 and 9. Unfortunately some students in years 8 and 10 may miss out on an invite next term; however there is always Term 3!

As just mentioned, NAPLAN testing will be happening for students in years 3, 5, 7 and 9 next term. This testing will occur in week 4 during the Junior Residential. Information notes and exemption sheets have been sent out to all students in these years; if you do not wish for your student to sit these tests you will need to return the exemption forms ASAP. If you need any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Have a lovely Easter Break - stay safe!

*Jenny Donovan*
Dubbo School of Distance Education students are invited to take part in the 2015 Australian Mathematics Competition which will be held on Thursday 30th July 2015.

The Competition, consisting of separate papers for Junior Division (Australian schools Years 7 and 8), Intermediate Division (Years 9 and 10) and Senior Division (Years 11 and 12), aims to create, encourage and sustain interest in the study of Mathematics amongst secondary school students.

This Competition is not designed specifically for the student who has a high innate ability in the subject, even though such a student could be expected to do well. It is hoped that good average students entering the competition will find many questions within their competence, and other questions to challenge and interest them.

One of the main objectives of the competition is for all entrants to gain a sense of achievement from attempting the paper.

- Above all, the competition is designed to be a fun event. Many of the problems are set in situations to which students can relate, showing the relevance of mathematics to their everyday lives.
- All students receive a certificate showing their level of achievement and a detailed report showing how they performed on each problem with comparative statistics.

The school receives valuable data comparing our students as a group to others across the state.

To participate in this competition, the organisers charge a nominal amount of $6.00 (which includes G.S.T.).

Entries close Friday 1st May 2015

For information please contact Mrs Sonya Cox

(02) 5804 7142

or email

sonya.lees@det.nsw.edu.au
Congratulations to François who has reached the top of our merit system, Banner Level.

François joined DSODE in 2013 and has been working well, collecting 35 Achievement Awards in just over two years. In addition to his certificate we have provided François with an on-line voucher to purchase a book of his choice.

We are looking forward to 2015 being a very busy year for merit awards, as many students have already reached Excellence level and are heading towards Banner level.

François now goes back to the beginning and we hope to see him reaching this highest level once again before he completes his schooling with DSODE.

Since starting the Merit system in 2011 our school has had an astounding 30 students reach the Banner level. We look forward to many more students reaching this level in 2015.

Mrs Leigo
The Last Anzac by Gordon Winch and Harriet Bailey

To James, Alec Campbell was a hero. He was right. The old man, the last living ANZAC, and all of the Australian and New Zealand soldiers who fought at Gallipoli, were heroes. Alec, who died in May 2002 at the age of 103, enlisted in 1915 when he was just 16. He had put his age up to 18 in order to be accepted by the army and agreed to fight at the front, wherever he was needed. Heroic indeed!

James was very fortunate to meet Alec Campbell and find out about his experiences. He gives us a special view of this humble and remarkable man, the year before he died. Based on the true story of a small boys visit to meet Alec Campbell in the year 2001.

Lest We Forget by Kerry Brown

Timed for the centenary of the Gallipoli landing, this powerful story about a boy and his grandfather will help even the very young understand the significance of ANZAC Day. My granddad says there are two types of days: those you want to remember and those you want to forget…

A young boy visits his grandad and thinks about the important days in his life: his first day at school, playing soccer with his team, the day his baby sister was born. Yet through the illustrations the reader sees a parallel story of the grandfather’s experiences at war: wearing his brand new soldier’s uniform, with his fellow diggers in the field, looking at a photo of the baby he never met.

This is Captain Cook by Tania McCartney and Christina Booth

Captain James Cook loved to sail. He loved making maps (he was very good at it, too) and he particularly loved shiny buttons. In this charming picture book, little ones can celebrate the life of a great mariner and true adventurer.

Join Miss Batts and her class as they tell the story of Captain Cook with a humorous and whimsical school play that’s sure to engage the very young. We see the class act out the story of Cook: as a boy watching ships on the horizon, sailing to Canada, then to Tahiti and on to New South Wales and New Zealand (spot the escaping chicken in each of the scenes!) Kids will discover that Captain Cook was the first European to cross the Antarctic Circle and they’ll also learn that on his final journey, he never came home again.
New Books to Borrow

**The Horse Soldier** by Mark Wilson

“Bandy jerked her head. I felt her shiver and neigh to the other horses. Then a hand went up in the distance, and the soldiers urged their horses into a canter.” When the shadow of war descends on Australia in 1914, a boy and his horse set off for war in the Middle East. With water rations gone, they charge the enemy across six kilometres of open ground to reach the wells at Beersheba. In one moment of dash and bravura, both Jason’s and Bandy’s destinies are set as the battle unfolds, with heroic and tragic consequences.

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**My Gallipoli** by Ruth Starke and Robert Hannaford

From the shores of Anzac Cove to the heights of Chunuk Bair, from Cape Helles to Gurka Bluff, the Gallipoli Peninsula was the place where thousands of men from sixteen nations fought, suffered, endured or died during the eight months of occupation in 1915. For each of them, their families and their nurses, Gallipoli meant something different. Their voices emerge from the landscape and across the decades with stories of courage, valour, despair and loss.

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**My Life and Other Massive Mistakes** by Tristan Bancks

Have you ever helped your Pop escape from a nursing home? Does your teacher have a problem with his bowels? Is your sister an evil genius and criminal mastermind? Have you ever mined your teeth for cash? Do you want to know where all the lost socks go? Is there a girl or boy at school who’s desperate to kiss you? And do you know someone with the worst case of nits in world history?

I do. I’m Tom Weekly and this is the third book in my weird, funny, sometimes gross life story.

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**Lulu Bell and the Koala Joey** by Belinda Murrell

Lulu Bell’s beach holiday is about to begin! Lulu can’t wait for her holiday at Tani Beach to begin. She has a new pink surfboard and Dad is going to teach her to surf. Lulu and her friend Zac like to spot wildlife in the bush nearby.

But bulldozers have arrived and the trees might soon be gone. What will happen to the mummy koala and her joey if all the trees are taken away? Lulu needs to work out how to save the koalas’ home!
2015 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 **2 March to 21 August 2015**. Students must complete their online Student Reading Records by 21 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.

**How many books read will be required to complete the challenge?**

Students must complete a set amount to meet the Challenge, see below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Challenge</th>
<th>Number of books needed to complete the Challenge</th>
<th>Minimum number of PRC books for your Challenge</th>
<th>Maximum number of personal choice books</th>
<th>PRC booklist selection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K-2</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>K-2 , 3-4 , 5-6 , 7-9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>7-9</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>7-9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Happy Reading!**

David Strain – Teacher Librarian
(02) 5804 7023
david.strain@det.nsw.edu.au
It’s hard to believe that Term 1 is almost finished and Easter holidays are fast approaching. While holidays can be a busy time, it is important to continue to encourage children to read throughout the holidays. Evidence suggests that students who read for at least 10 minutes a day throughout the holidays have a better start to each term. It has been reported that it can take up to six weeks for students to regain lost reading skills!

Here are important reasons why reading everyday is so important for kids and adults:

- Kids who read often become more effective readers
- Reading exercises our brains
- Reading improves concentration
- Reading teaches children about the world around them
- Reading improves a child’s vocabulary
- Reading develops a child’s imagination
- Children who read are more likely to excel academically
- Reading is a great form of entertainment.

So there you have it - the benefits of reading in a nut shell. Please take time this holiday to encourage your children and even yourself to read everyday. Please note that the ‘NSW Premiers Reading Challenge’ and the ‘Reading under the stars - Southern Cross reading program’ are great places to find a list of age/stage appropriate books to read. Happy Reading!

Learning and Support Team Update

The Learning and Support Team (LST) are currently developing Personalised Individual Education Plans (PIEP) for the students identified throughout the NCCD review. In coming months, parents of identified students will be contacted by either the Student Adviser (for secondary students) or their Class Teacher (for Preschool/Primary students) to participate in the development of the PIEP for their child. Your contribution to these education plans is welcomed and greatly valued.

The LST meets weekly to discuss and review student progress. If you have concerns about your child’s progress please talk to your child’s Student Adviser or their Class Teacher. They can then determine if a referral to the LST is required.

Successful student progress at school is very much about a positive partnership between home and school. The LST look forward to continuing our work with you to realise your child’s full potential at DSODE. Have a safe and happy holiday.

Kristina Powell and Julie Messner
Welcome to our second newsletter. This term is racing by, it’s hard to believe we are more than halfway through the term. Autumn has been a welcome relief, hopefully cooler days are enticing you and your children outside to enjoy more gross motor activities within your preschool program. Cooler bedtimes are also the perfect time to enjoy some ‘snuggle buggle’ reading time with your children.

We have a very well-resourced library at DSODE and a very friendly librarian Mr Strain. We select a range of picture books from Mr Strain’s collection to send with each preschool unit, however if you would like additional picture books, or a particular title please let your teacher know. The Preschool also has an extensive range of parent support materials. If you would like to access these materials please talk to your child’s teacher.

Road Safety Kits

Safety Information Kits have been sent to each family.

Our wonderful teacher Mrs Alison Milling sourced these for our P-2 community.

We hope you find them useful, it’s always good to refresh our understanding of road safety and how we can keep our young children safe.

If you have not received a safety pack and you would like one please let your class teacher know.

Easter packs, ANZAC packs and Mother’s Day packs

In coming weeks these different packs will be mailed to you. The activities in these packs are part of the yearly program and you will find the activities are all appropriate for early learning. Teachers ask that you set aside the unit that you and your child are currently working on to focus on these packs.

**Easter Unit** from Monday 30th March to 2nd April

**ANZAC Unit** from Monday Tuesday 20th April to Friday 24th April

**Mother’s Day Unit** from Monday 4th May to Friday 8th May

We hope that you enjoy completing the activities within these units. Our preschool teachers love receiving photographs of their students working their way through activities, so please keep the camera nearby while your child is involved in preschool activities.
Birthdays
We wish the following children a very happy birthday for March

William 25th
Harry 26th

Term 2 Camp
Next term we will be having a P-6 camp during Week 3 (4th - 8th May). The theme for our camp is Earth and Space. Our preschool teachers are already starting to plan exciting activities for our camp and an information flyer will be mailed to you soon. Camps are an excellent way to meet other families involved in distance education and to meet all the teachers from the P-6 faculty. Please let your teacher know if you do not receive information about the camp before the end of this term.

Please RSVP to help us with organisation as soon as you can, a date will be identified on the flyer. Camp cannot proceed unless we have sufficient numbers.

Holidays
School finishes on Thursday 2nd April and recommences on Monday 20th April. Our teachers have training on the first day of term but will be in touch again soon after that.

As this is the last newsletter before the holidays, we’d like to wish you a happy and safe holiday full of fun and laughter. Enjoy the break from school routine and the chance to recharge before another busy term. We hope to see you early next term at our camp.

Robyn, Amelia, Alison, Kristina and Jenny
Physics Workshop

Taken at the recent residential this photo shows single course student Mikhail performing an investigation of generating an AC current.

Hospitality Workshops

This term Hospitality workshops have been held here at the DSODE Hostel kitchen and also at Bingara, Gulargambone, Emmaville and Bundarra.
In each newsletter we aim to include a piece of quality work that preschool students have sent us. This is a lovely way to showcase the talents of our students and highlight the fact that there is a range of ways to complete each of the preschool activities.

The artist of this newsletter is Rafael, who sent in this beautiful mosaic turtle which he completed as part of his ‘Oceans’ unit.

Congratulations Rafael!

Look who’s been caught reading!
Students in Years 7-10 participated in a variety of activities as part of the Term 1 Residential in Week 8. The Centenary of ANZAC was embraced as an ongoing theme throughout the week and a busy lesson timetable allowed students the opportunity to have face to face lessons with their teachers and class group.

The recently renovated hostel kitchen was well used by students studying food technology, and the Science faculty made great use of lab time by conducting a variety of experiments.

The camp was also an opportunity for students to participate in the second DSODE Cross Country Carnival. Despite the heat, the students participated well with some students recording personal best times.

Evening activities kept everyone busy beyond the regular school day – these included Fitness Focus gym, Flip Out, barefoot bowls and a movie night. During the week students were able to participate in Rock and Water activities conducted by our school’s anti-bullying committee. The week also coincided with Harmony Day – an opportunity to celebrate Australia’s cultural diversity.

Overall, students are to be commended on their great behaviour throughout the week. Planning is already well under way for an even busier residential early next term!

Ms Morley and Mr Reynolds (Term 1 Camp Coordinators)
7-10 Residential
Do you compost?


Check the website www.compostweek.com.au to learn more.

2015’s theme is ‘Biodiversity for Sustainable Development’ and the International Day for Biological Diversity is May 22.