



The Phoenix NEWSLETTER

Dapto High School

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Thursday 5th February 2009

Term 1 Week 2

A smooth start is truly appreciated.

Skilful planning in 2008 and lots of co-operative students and parents and staff members have ensured our academic year has commenced energetically and with few disruptions. Parental support is particularly appreciated. In the main, students are arriving well ahead of our 8.30am deadline, well equipped and in full school uniform; thank you.

Facility improvements.

Over the recent break a number of minor building projects have been finalised.

- The library portico's roof has been rebuilt.

This will eliminate leaks that have previously damaged student bags.

- The lift roof has been rebuilt.

• A new dispensary has been built attached to our Support faculty's staff room. This area will facilitate distribution of therapeutic medicine, blood tests and the like. This project has also improved conditions for our hard working Support staff.

Positive comments about the 'look' of our school are appreciated; much has been done, much remains to be done. Community members, families, individuals who would be prepared to take on the care of a particular part of the school are encouraged to make contact. **Mr Wagg** and **Mr Gasseling** who look after our grounds [thank you] have an endless list of jobs to be done; groups caring for a particular garden would make a real difference. The recently announced federal funding of additional repairs and maintenance will doubtless provide further opportunities to enhance student/staff amenity and learning/teaching.

Y11 Crossroads seminars.

Our Y11 students explored a number of complex and adult issues this week in their first 'Crossroads' seminar. Issues of drug use, mental health sexuality, legal responsibilities were all approached. HT PD/H/PE **Ms Meredith**, her team and her guest presenters deserve recognition and thanks.

Canteen volunteers: heroes!

Ms Kerrie Phillips is delighted with the positive response to our invitation to parents and community members to become involved in our canteen. Your work is greatly appreciated and crucial to the efficient running of our canteen. All profits from our canteen are returned to our school and used to improve learning. Thanks are due. 3-5 additional volunteers would be marvelous, once a week/month/term.

DANIEL Colella Y11, artist and designer.

Daniel took the initiative last week to design a banner for our Y11

Advanced English blog. **Mr Moore** was delighted with both the quality and the initiative shown. Members of this class are using this blog to share learning and resources, keep track of homework and assessments. Well done **Daniel**.

Senior Quad needs more seating.

In an effort to further improve our Senior Quad, DHS is seeking donations of sturdy outdoor seating. Please be in contact if you are able to assist. Our Y12 students are actively involved in this project. Well done.

Andrew Fitzsimons
Principal

SWIMMING CARNIVAL

The Dapto High School swimming carnival will be held on Monday 16th February. All students are encouraged to attend and to participate in the carnival. The carnival will be a house competition and students are encouraged to wear house colours and be part of the school spirit.

The swimming carnival will be compulsory for years 7 and 8. Students will be given a permission note in week 2 and this has to be returned by Monday 9th February. There will be formal lessons at school for years 7 and 8. Any student that can not swim on the day for any reason will still attend and be a helper. They will not have to pay entry fee to the pool. There will be novelty events on the day and all students will be able to swim in non-competitive events.

All other year groups will be competitor only and **students not attending the carnival will have normal lessons at school.**

All students attending the carnival will go to normal roll call and then walk to the pool. The carnival will finish at 2pm and students will be dismissed from the pool.

Pool entry in \$1.80. Students are encouraged to bring hats, sunscreen, sunglasses and their lunch, however canteen facilities will be available. Students are not to bring valuables such as mobile phones, MP3 players etc. as their safety cannot be guaranteed as staff cannot supervise these.

I look forward to seeing all students attending the carnival and parents are most welcome.

Yours in swimming,

Mr Cattle PDHPE Teacher

SCHOOL PHOTOGRAPHS 2009 & ID/LIBRARY CARDS

School photographs will be taken on Tuesday 24 February (week 5). Please ensure you are at school on the day & in full school uniform & do not have large/noticeable pieces of jewelry on or t-shirts under school shirts etc. A catch-up photo day will be held in

the library on Friday 29 February

All students will receive a new library card with their ERN (Enrolment Registration Number). If you miss getting your school photo taken and do not get a library card your old one will not work.

There is a new look to our school photos this year & they are sure to be fantastic.

D Ridley

Teacher/Librarian

GIRLS' NIGHT IN 2008

GEAR UP GIRLS 2009

Due to the huge success of our 2008 fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research we are now taking up the challenge of raising funds for O.C.F. (Oncology Children's Foundation)

Dapto High School is entering a team in this women's charity cycling event on Saturday 7th March 2009. There are two rides available:

1. 15km loop around Olympic Park, entry fee \$45
2. 55km ride from Cronulla Beach to Olympic Park, entry Fee \$60

Money raised goes to the O.C.F. helping children with cancer. The event is open to all women (mothers are welcome). You need a pushbike and helmet. Please refer to the website for more details:

www.gearupgirl.com.au

Miss Law

Girls Supervisor

DRAMA

"West Side Story", on 21st February the IPAC will be hosting a production of West Side Story. The musical is loosely based on Romeo and Juliet and is starring one of our fabulous Dapto talents, **Ryan Johnson** (Yr11). Anybody interested in attending the Saturday matinee is advised to see **Miss Gilbert** before the 13th February.

Renee Gilbert

Drama Teacher

"Drama and Theatre Comes Alive!" as part of Year 11 studies in drama, students must study the Elements of Production. This year, Year 11 will be producing and performing a play to be performed toward the end of Term 2. In the mean time if anyone has any old clothes, makeup or items that could be suitable props for the Drama Room, please feel free to donate them to **Miss Gilbert** and her performing artists. Until then...watch this space for performance updates!

Year 11 Drama Class

STUDENTS MAKING GREAT TEACHERS

Our first canoeing session for the 2009 year revealed some amazing results. Two of our returning paddlers, **Brett Taylor** and **Evan Perkins** took it upon themselves to teach a newbie, **Joshua Savill** the art of rolling a kayak. They proved to be good teachers and he an excellent student, within 40 minutes he was performing hand-rolls with style. Amazing! Keep up the good work guys.

Mr John Wilson

TAS Teacher

YEAR 7 MATHEMATICS CLASSES 2009

All Year 7 classes are unstreamed except for Mathematics. Year 7 students were placed in a Mathematics class on the basis of advice provided by the student's Primary School. A test will be undertaken in approximately 4-5 weeks by all Year 7 students on the first topic. The results of this test combined with the student's application and effort in class will be used to reassess the class placement of all Year 7 students. If you wish to discuss this matter further, please contact **Helen Clancy**, Head Teacher Mathematics via email on Helen.Clancy@det.nsw.edu.au or by phoning Dapto HS 0n 0242 611416. **Mrs. Clancy** **HT Mathematics**

Parents of Year 7 students who provided the school with their email address at the end of last year should have received several emails from **Darcy Moore**, managing DP. If you would like to be added to the distribution list, please email Darcy.Moore@det.nsw.edu.au and **Darcy** will ensure you are kept updated about Year 7 events and issues. If you provided an email address but have not received emails yet, please email **Darcy** to be successfully added to the list (quite a few emails 'bounced').

Also our Year 7 blog is receiving many hits and comments: <http://year72009.wordpress.com/>. Information about the Year 7 Peer Support Camp will be posted at the blog in the coming week.

Mr Darcy Moore

Deputy Principal

PS LEADERS EXTRAORDINAIRE

Dapto High is very fortunate. We have a wonderful **Peer Support Program** that is support by a great group of Year 10's. Last week, the first day for our 183 Year 7's, the Peer Support leaders came to school to welcome them and to assist with their first day at High School. They arrived fresh from their holiday in full school uniform, to lead the Year 7's in small groups, through a variety of activities, meeting people and showing them around the school identifying important places. We were impressed with the Leaders dedication and commitment. The rest of Year 10 was not due back from their holiday until the next day. The group of wonderful young men and women is lead by **Mrs Steel** our Peer Support Coordinator. Well done everybody!

Jennifer Mehmedovic

Tristan Bendyke

Jordan Paterson

Adam Olds

Jamie Oakes

Jake Bridgewater

Leah Sykes

Andrew King

Amelia Fennell

Jarrold Van der Veen

Amy McClumpha

Jonathon Apostolovski

India-Rose Savini

Blake Thompson

Jessica Barnes

Josh Sigmund

Mel Hampton

Brynton Shephard

Jordann Gallagher

Brett Taylor

Maddie Bretag

James Wishart

Taylor Jones

Steven Hall

Jessica Smith

Blake Duggan

Allison Gummow

Allen Buchan

Kate Oliver

Ben Walker

Ricki-Lee Donovan

Brendan Haiser

Ebony Ford

Michael Ford

Lauren Gummow

Clay Smith

Stacey Potts

Jesse Fogg

Shannon Hensen

Ryan Nigro

Mikaela Gambuzza

Tom McLackland

Shanae Ingram

Justin Mendygral

Karina Blacklock

Matthew Nakken

Stephanie Kates

Bryce Gerrey

Grace Darragh

Scott McBain

Alycia Coupe

Jarrold Bailey

Samantha Donovan

Ben McCracken

Carolina Krstanoski

Jye Myers

Shawni Scott

Josh Vaartjes

Carly Shumack

Sean Morgan

Karly Whitehead

Jarrold Clarkson

Morgan Williams

Jarrold Wise

Teira Humby

Gemma Smith

Shayna Graham

Aimee Wren

Rachel Daffara

Pieta Gill

Mariaha Reitzer-Parks

THE IMPORTANCE OF SLEEP

Getting a good night's sleep is one of the most important things we can do for optimal learning. A lack of sleep affects our short term memory and our ability to focus on tasks. Researchers all agree that for adolescents and young adults, they need about nine hours sleep per night for concentrating, for remembering what they learnt yesterday and for feeling positive about themselves. As young adults move through the senior years, they have the extra stresses of part-time work, other activities and socialising. These are all good things but balance is very important. Be kind to yourself and get that sleep!!!

Ms Fiona Kyle

HT Welfare

DIARY DATES

Friday 6 th February	University "Discovery Day"
Monday 16 th February	Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 17 th February	P & C Meeting 7 – 9 pm
Friday 20 th February	Yr 11 Biology Field Trip Zone Swimming
Tuesday 24 th February	Parent Learning Support 6-8pm School Photos
Wednesday 25 th February	Year 6 Open Night
Friday 27 th February	Clean-up Australia Day Catch Up Photo Day

KEEP THOSE SCHOOL RECEIPTS

New financial tax benefits were introduced in the financial year of 2009. Tax benefits will cover spending on laptops, home computers and computer-related equipment such as printers, USB flash drives and expenses associated with running your computer, home internet connections, educational software including word processing, spreadsheet, data base and presentation software, internet filters and antivirus programs, textbooks and other learning material, study guides and stationery and prescribed trade tools such as tools for a school-based apprenticeship.

The refund will not cover school fees or a range of other expenses such as uniforms, extracurricular activities, tutoring costs and the cost of equipment for activities such as sport and music. It also does not cover costs like school building levies, library fees, donations, transport and levies on subjects such as woodwork, art or home science. You can find out more from the tax office at www.ato.gov.au or by phoning 1300 720 092

PRE-LOVED CLOTHING

Thank you to all those parents who have donated clothes for our clothing pool. We are always happy to receive uniforms that students have out grown. Items can be left at the front office or the Home Economics Department.

Mrs Gill Ryan

TAS Department

VALENTINE'S DAY

"Sweet For My Sweet" as everyone knows, Valentine's Day is coming. At Dapto High we will be celebrating it a day early with "Sweet for my Sweet". Students are urged to buy a flower and/or a lollipop to give to their Valentine or even as a nice gesture for a friend. All proceeds will go towards the building of shelters in the school. Flowers and Lollipops are available to order at lunch times in the canteen area.

The SRC Team

THURSDAY GOLF

Thursday golf winners for last weeks nearest pin competition were 1st Zac Winston and 2nd James Fisher.

Mr Dave Bateman

HSIE Teacher

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

David Eames was commended for his performance in his Vocational Education and Training Course in 2008. David received the Award of Excellence in the Children's Services Course.

Mr John Chamberlain

Careers Adviser

G'DAY USA

Narelle Hogan will host an information evening for students in the school library on 10th February, 6-7pm. The opportunity to visit the USA in January 2010 will be discussed. More information is available by contacting Darcy.Moore@det.nsw.edu.au

TAFE/TVET

All students who are doing a TVET course at TAFE will start classes next week. Thursday classes at Dapto TAFE start 12th February at 2:00pm for i.e. Animal Care. Check Career door for all your details.

Ms Margaret Crump, Mr John Chamberlain
Careers Advisers

WOLLONGONG JUNIOR CHESS CLUB

2009 Summer Sunday.

Junior Chess Tournament (under 18 years)

When: 10:00am Sunday 8th February

Where: Cringila Community Centre Hall

32 Lake Avenue, Cringila.

For further information contact John Mazziari on 4283 3080 or mazziari@swiftdsl.com.au