



The Phoenix NEWSLETTER

Dapto High School

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Thursday 12th February 2009

Term 1 Week 3

Attendance is key!

The third week of term and an average of over 60 students have been away from school over the past 5 days. Put simply, this pattern is damaging the learning at our school. Individual students miss out when they are away from school, whole classes miss out when dedicated teachers make an effort to assist those students when they return. Analysis of 2008 HSC and SC results emphasises this pattern; students with poor attendance often obtained poor results. All teachers are considering this correlation, students and their families are asked to do likewise. Formalising Learning Partners p (x) in our diary is one essential strategy to reduce the adverse impact of any day away.

The 'Tuck Tree' is thriving.

Y7 students and their Year Advisors participated in our traditional tree planting ceremony on their first day of secondary school. Students are charged with looking after this Toona Australis [Red Cedar] for the next 6 years and then bringing their grandchildren back to sit under it in due course. This year **Ms Sandra Tuck** [née **Proctor**] assisted. The 'Tuck Tree' will in due course, shade hard working Maths students, and recognise in part, the 40 years **Ms Tuck** has spent at our school. Stay strong Miss!

Farewell Ms Tuck.

Members of the wider Dapto community are invited to honour **Ms Sandra Tuck** on Saturday 7th March, 2009 6.30 for 7pm Murphy's Bar & Grill Princes Hwy, Unanderra \$45 per person (includes gift). **Ms Tuck** commenced work in our Mathematics faculty in 1969; please contact our main office if you would like to attend.

Y6 Open Night.

Prospective students and their families are invited to attend our Y6 Open Night on Wednesday 25 Feb. Activities will commence in our main hall from 6.00pm and finish about 8:30pm. Staff and current students will be on hand to answer questions and to guide. Y6 Advisors **Ms Renee Gilbert** and **Mr Shane Wood** are looking forward to meeting their new charges. Please mention this event to friends and neighbours.

SRC Mufti Day to assist Victorian schools.

Students with a donation for schools damaged in the recent bushfires are urged to 'dress sharp' on Friday 13 Feb 2009. A number of schools have been seriously damaged; hundreds of students and their families have lost their homes, friends and family. Dapto High School is joining communities right across the country to do what they can to assist. Dig deep team!

P & C Meets All parents are invited Tuesday 17 Feb 7-9pm Library. Our enthusiastic P&C is looking forward to welcoming new members.

There are lots of opportunities to ask questions and become involved in the school's operations.

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 have been given a permission note which should have been returned on 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. The helpers 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 is \$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

Envelopes have been handed to students; return them on photo day with money. 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 jewellery 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

GEAR UP GIRL 2009

Gear Up Girl is coming! (7th March). Start riding your bike now to make sure you are ready. Riding increases your fitness and tones up muscles. Let's build on the success of Girl's Night In (2008) and join us for a fun day in Sydney. You must register on line.

www.gearupgirl.com.au

See **Ms Law** for details.

Miss Law

Girls Supervisor

UNIVERSITY OF WOLLONGONG "DISCOVERY DAY"

Forty four Year 12 students took part in the "Discovery Days" program at the University of Wollongong on Friday 6th February. Students were able to experience the life of a uni student and attend lectures in various faculties. The crew from Dapto High found it all fun and informative. **Michael Bunten** was noticed sitting near the front in one lecture asking questions and answering ones that were put to the class. We are sure that all of our students were just as keen.

Mr Chamberlain

Careers Adviser

BOOK REVIEW

Twilight - the new legendary vampire romance sending audiences insane for more. Those that have seen the new movie or who haven't should READ THE BOOK! It is excellent, truly a credit to the author, Stephanie Meyer. Although most guys don't like romance books, this is an exception. At first I was sceptical about reading it (thanks to all the girls in my French class, who went on about how good it was until I finally gave in and read it) I was amazed about how good it was. It is about Isabella Swan, who is new to the dull town of Forks. She falls in love with the vampire Edward Cullen, not knowing the extreme danger that she has put herself and the others around her in. Be sure to read the preceding book, New Moon.

Steven Hall

Year 10

SEYMOUR THEATRE

On 7th February **Miss Gilbert, Amy Vaughan, Lachlan Wood** and myself went to the Seymour Theatre Centre in Sydney to see a production called ON STAGE. There were top performances and an exhibition from the 2008 HSC drama students from NSW. It was very helpful and amazing to see what can be achieved by the drama students in Year 12 next year.

Blair-May Brocklesby

Year 11

ASTHMA (FRIENDLY SCHOOLS)

Back to school – Don't forget about your child's asthma!

Dapto High has been recognised as 'Asthma Friendly' To achieve this status we have taken significant steps toward creating a safer and healthier environment for students and staff with Asthma.

Early February, just after school goes back, is the time of the year when children are most likely to have a flare-up of their asthma, so it is important that parents keep an eye on their children's asthma, ensure they take their prescribed preventer medication regularly and that they always carry their reliever medication with them. It is vital that asthma in children is properly managed in order to avoid asthma emergencies. Symptoms in young children may include wheezing, persistent coughing or shortness of breath. If these symptoms do not respond to the child's reliever medication or if reliever medication is needed every day, we are encouraging parents to take their children immediately to a doctor. Parents also need to ensure that the school their child attends is fully aware he or

she has asthma. Although asthma is mild in most children, it can be serious and even life-threatening if it is not properly managed, so it is important that anyone with asthma sees their doctor regularly and develops an asthma action plan so they know what to do when their symptoms worsen. There is so much to think about when returning to school. It's often difficult to remember everything. Make sure it's not managing your child's asthma appropriately that you forget! Ensure that you see your GP for an update on your child's asthma and be sure to supply our school with an updated Asthma Action Plan. If parent have any questions, they should call the Asthma Information Line on 1800 645 130 or speak with their doctor.

ask@asthmansw.org.au

NSW U15 CRICKET TOURNAMENT

On 6th December, 2008 I travelled to Brisbane as a member of the NSW U15 Female Cricket Team, to compete in the Cricket Australia National Titles.

We were undefeated through the week, playing against QLD in the final at Alan Border Oval. It was a tough match but NSW was victorious. It was a great experience that I will never forget.

Stefanie Daffara

Yr 8 (all rounder)

SANDRA TUCK'S RETIREMENT DINNER

Sandra has been teaching for 40 years. She commenced her teaching career at Dapto High School in 1969 as **Miss Proctor**. Over this time she has influenced many students as their Mathematics Teacher and Year Adviser. **Sandra** has also been a supportive and encouraging colleague to many teachers. Come along and join **Sandra** in celebrating her retirement and 60th birthday.

When: Saturday 7th March at 6.30 for 7pm. **Where:** Murphy's Bar and Grill. Princes Hwy, Unanderra.

Cost: \$45 per person (includes gift).

Contact Helen Clancy 0428 848 580 or

clancy.helen@det.nsw.edu.au

Pay: Dapto High School, C/- PO Box 866, Dapto 2530 by Thursday 5th March 2009 (please make cheques payable to Dapto High School).

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

TAX FILE NUMBERS

In order to work, open a bank account or apply to university, it is a lot easier with a Tax File Number (TFN). If you work without a TFN your employer is going to withhold almost half of your pay.

Year 9 students will be issued with information about applying for their TFN at a year meeting soon. Students in other years should go to the career's office and pick up information to be shared with their parents.

Mr Chamberlain

Careers Adviser

DIARY DATES

Monday 16th February	Swimming Carnival
Tuesday 17th February	P & C Meeting 7 – 9 pm
Friday 20th February	Y11 Biology Field Trip Zone Swimming Y11 HSC AMOW to be completed
Tuesday 24th February	Parent Learning Support 6-8pm School Photos
Wednesday 25th February	Year 6 Open Night
Friday 27th February	Clean-up Australia Day Catch Up Photo Day
Tuesday 3rd March	Year 7 Welcome BBQ

BUSH FIRE APPEAL SRC MUFTI DAY – FRIDAY 13TH FEB

A mufti day has been organised by our SRC for this Friday, 13th. The day will help support the Victorian bush fire appeal. A gold coin donation would be greatly appreciated to help out the hundreds of students and families in Victoria who have lost homes, friends and families. Dress in appropriate mufti clothing, which includes enclosed shoes.

DAPTO PHYSICAL CULTURE

Dapto Physical Culture Club is a low cost, non profit dance club for girls 3-16 years and ladies 18 years and over. We will be holding our registration day from Wednesday 4th February at Heininger Hall, Dapto.

Enquiries can be made by calling **Kathy on 0413 616 778** or **Belinda on 4261 9241**

ST JOHN'S YOUTH CLUB

There is a new Catholic Youth Group beginning at Dapto, aimed at teenagers attending high school in Years 7 – 10. To be held in the annexe opposite the entrance to St John's Church, Friday at 7 – 9 pm, sign in at 6.45pm. Cost will be \$3 per person. The first night will be on 27th February and will run in school term time. For further information contact Peter or Suzanne Wilson on 4261 5622 or just turn up on the night. Looking forward to seeing you there.

26 ACU (AUSTRALIAN ARMY CADETS)

The Australian Army Cadets provides young Australians with the opportunity to learn, develop and practice many interesting, fun and valuable skills – especially leadership. It is the only government sponsored youth group in Australia. Why not join us and become a new member of the 26 Army Cadet Unit (ACU) at Wollongong? The 26 ACU has a long and distinguished history of service. Any interested students can come along to a parade at 6pm with their parents for a detailed information presentation. For more information contact Aaron Pickering on 4228 3698 or see website at www.26acu.com

TAFE NSW ILLAWARRA INSTITUTE

Shellharbour Campus, Course Vacancies, “Basic Computers” on Fridays 11am to 2pm for 18 weeks.

Dapto Campus, Course Vacancies, “Work Opportunities for Women - Introduction to Retail” includes Basic Computers, Senior First Aid and Work Placement – 2 days a week in school hours. There are no TAFE NSW administration fees attached to these courses. For further information contact:

Kathy Finigan 4221 8939

STUDENT EXCHANGE INFO NIGHTS

Learn about student exchange WEP Australia at one of the FREE information sessions at Bowlers Club of NSW, 95-99 York Street, Sydney on 18th February and 1st April from 7.30 – 9pm. Students can choose from over 20 countries to live and study with the support of a host family, school and community. Explore new opportunities beyond the classroom. WEP Australia is a not-for-profit student exchange organisation.

VIKINGS JUNIOR RUGBY CLUB

2009 Registration evenings.

When: February 6th, 13th and 20th

Time: 4.30pm until 6.30pm

Where: Vikings Oval (Cnr Corrimal and Swan Streets, Wollongong).

Further information contact **Merrick Mildenhall 0412 522 442**, **David Gilmour 0419 690 509** or **Len Diggins 0413 618 931**

www.vikingsjruc.rugbynet.com.au