

Top of the Hill

Newsletter of Duval High School



Newsletter
No. 5
2 April 2015

Welcome to our Deputy Principal

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I'm Mrs Sandra Rosner, coming to Duval High School from Southern Cross K12 School in Ballina where I was officially Head of English, Drama and Film, and did quite a bit of work relieving as Deputy Principal over the last few years. It was a very large and complex school with Primary, Secondary and Special Education sectors as well as a huge Distance Education centre. In my first few days at Duval I have been overwhelmed by the friendliness of staff and students in welcoming me to the school.

I look forward to working positively with families and

teachers to support our students to achieve the best academic success possible to set each and every one of them up for a secure future.

I am also very concerned with wellbeing and with supporting kids to become well-balanced and respected members of society. In light of this, for the moment I will be focusing on getting kids to class promptly and ready for learning as well as on respectful interaction with both teachers and peers. I look forward to working with you for the benefit of our kids.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ◆ 2 April> Last day of Term 1
- ◆ 21 April> First day of Term 2 for students
- ◆ 22 April, 7pm> P&C AGM in Staff Common Room
- ◆ 27 April - 1 May> Year 11 Exams
- ◆ 12-14 May> NAPLAN
- ◆ 19 May, 5.30pm> Parent Information Evening Years 5/6
- ◆ 21 May> Athletics Carnival
- ◆ 1-5 June> Year 10 Work Experience



What are manners?
Why is it important to use
them?

L2L
CORNER

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Duval High School Parents & Citizens Association.

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

Thank you all for a fantastic term of hard work and learning! I have been very impressed with the quality of assignments and projects being completed by our students, and especially with the contributions they have made to the creation of our New School Plan, which will go live on our website from Day 1 of next Term. The letters I received from the students were truly enjoyable to read, delightful in their maturity and deep thought, and I for one was extraordinarily motivated by their hopes, dreams and aspirations for the future of our school! Students who wrote about their hope that they would look back on their school days and remember a whole series of "high school highlights," "epic stories" and "innovative learning" had a tremendous impact on me. It was wonderful to be reading students' letters to the Principal – maybe we should make this a regular thing. Well done to all of those students and to their parents for their input as well.

Extracurricular activities have also been in focus this term, with successful excursions to Moonee Beach and the Warrumbungles, and strong school representation at the Armidale Autumn Festival. Meanwhile, auditions and preparation for our musical, "Guys and Dolls," have begun and it looks like being a wonderful activity. Many thanks to our P&C for supporting the school in this enterprise.

It looks like the weather is finally going to turn cooler, and therefore it's time for me to make my annual plea regarding uniform. Interestingly, the abovementioned student letters to the Principal had three very dominant themes - more and better technology, a more attractive learning environment, and more strenuous and effective enforcement of the uniform code. So, as the weather turns, please reinforce the school's agreed uniform with your child. It is a broad, reasonable and flexible uniform code, and there is plenty of room for individuality without resorting to unacceptable items like hoodies and jeans!

I would like to wish all of you a happy and safe break, and look forward to seeing all students again when they return on Tuesday, 21 April. Please note that we will be holding our school Anzac ceremony on Friday, 24 April, but also that all students are invited to participate (in full

school uniform) in the Armidale Anzac Parade on Saturday, 25 April, mustering in Curtis Park from 10.00am for a 10.30am parade and 11.00am service in Central Park.

Stafford Cameron

DUVAL HIGH SCHOOL YARN UP SESSION

for Parents/Carers of Indigenous Students

either

Thursday, 23 April, 3.30 - 4.30pm

or

Friday, 24 April, 9.30 - 10.30am

School Staff Common Room

It is an opportunity for you as a parent/carer to be informed of school procedures and also for you to be able to play an active role in your child's education.

P&C NEWS

The P&C welcomed several funding requests from staff at our first meeting for 2015. We have, thus far, been able to fund:

A start-up amount for the DHS musical	\$2,640
White boards for the English Dept	\$650
Digital theatre subscription for	
English/Drama	\$942
'Show-me' boards for Mathematics	\$386
10 x double lockers	\$2,500
30 x History textbooks	\$1,721

Our school is indeed fortunate to have a successful canteen, the main fundraiser for the P&C, run by wonderfully talented women who always appreciate any help fellow parents can offer. Give the school a call any time!

A big thank you to everyone who pitched in for the sausage sizzle at the twilight swimming carnival.

The P&C's grant application for a match-funded capital works project has been submitted to the DEC. We await notice and are hopeful of success, so stay tuned!

Think 'sun smart', think HATS! Bottle green surf and bucket hats in various sizes are available for sale at the school for \$16 each - a uniform item keeping our students safe in the sun. Thank you to Binnie Niemeyer for this initiative.

The clothing pool at school has a number of second-hand good quality items for anyone needing uniforms. Please ask at the school office.

A great way to be involved, get to know how our school ticks, and partner with our dedicated teaching staff, is to come along to P&C meetings and lend a hand when you can. It could be grant writing, canteen assistance, working bees, representing the P&C on a school committee - anything really which has the interests of the school community at heart. Bearing that in mind, the AGM for the P&C is just after school returns for Term 2, on **Wednesday, 22 April at 7pm**. All are very welcome to attend.

P&C committee

DUVAL INTERACT CLUB

If you are interested in being part of a service club for high school students, and participating in some volunteer projects to assist either the school or our community, please come along to the next meeting on **Tuesday, 28 April**.



For more information about Interact, and what it can do for our community, check out these links:

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/exchange-ideas/club-connections/interact-clubs>

<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/learning-reference/learn-topic/interact>

<https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/join-leaders/rotaract-interact-and-ryla>

<https://www.youtube.com/user/InteractOfficial>

TERM 1 MUSIC UPDATE

Once again a busy and successful term for all the music students.

- Ellen Vince-Moin has received a callback for featured artist for Schools Spectacular.
- *Bohemia*, our new senior rock band, has made it into the YouthRock finals in Sydney during the holidays - featuring Emily McDonnell, Callum Dowling and Dimitrios Basoglou. Look them up on YouTube.
- Community Music Performances: Autumn Festival and Seniors Concert.
- Music Excursions: Sydney HSC Encore, Years 10 and HSC Music Days, and *Idea of North* vocal workshop.



Duval students in the four-member band, *Bohemia*



Students performed at a Seniors Concert - Armidale Bowling Club

Encore, Sydney



“BOUNDLESS PLAINS TO SHARE”

In Year 10 History Elective this term, we have analysed the impacts of civil war in nations such as Sudan, Iraq, Afghanistan and Uganda. We have examined the causes of conflict and the human toll. We have considered why and how people have continued to risk their lives, seeking refuge in relatively safe places such as Australia. We have also investigated the individual journeys of refugees such as comedian Anh Do, scientist Dr Karl, and 7'7" basketballer, Manute Bol. Students have submitted some first-class assessments, including the following speeches by Thandi Ndhlovu and N'Dea Rumble.

Multiculturalism by Thandi Ndhlovu

Multiculturalism is a concept that refers to the co-existence of two or more cultures together within the same society. It is about tolerance and understanding of different cultures and knowing that they're all equally important and that each culture brings to society something unique and different. Therefore, multiculturalism is worth preserving, it is worth recognition and it is worth embracing.



Presently we are living in a world that is globalizing, where people are highly mobile, moving from one continent to another, from one country to another and from one region to another for various reasons, some of them being:

People move for voluntary reasons in pursuit of better employment opportunities and/or better living standards.

They want a change of scenery

But others are forced migrants and here we are talking about refugees. The idea of being a refugee leads to multiculturalism in those countries where refugees come to seek asylum.

Look at Australia. Australia is a multicultural society and this is mainly because of the number of refugees that have been coming to this country for a long time. This includes people who came from Vietnam in the 1970's and refugees of the first and Second World War. These are people who were migrating as a result of political persecution or fleeing from wars.

These people enrich our society. They make our country more diverse.

When refugees come to Australia, they often come with different cultures, different life styles and different religions. And when they co-exist, we talk of a multicultural society. We don't become poor because of multiculturalism, in fact, multiculturalism enriches us all because people who come with different cultures and religions come with a different way of looking at life.

They contribute to innovation in society and bring new ways of doing things. They enrich us. Everyone who is a part of a multicultural society contributes to the wellbeing of society in one way or another. We are richer when we are diverse. Every culture has a way of looking at the world that contributes to our ability to innovate and be creative.

When we have refugees coming to this country, we shouldn't look at them as pests or people who are coming to deplete our resources and be a burden on the society. We should see them as people who are bringing riches to who we are. Because they have experiences. Experiences of resilience. For instance, some refugees have gone through war, trauma and torture.

But they have survived those adversities. We have something to learn from them. So we have to look at them from a positive perspective. And that's a part of what multiculturalism is, a positive way of embracing diversity and people just as they are.

This idea of multiculturalism is especially relevant in the Australian context. This is because Australia is a migrant country. Everyone in Australia, other than the indigenous Australians of course, has a migrant background. We've all come from somewhere else and Australia is one of the richest countries in the world in terms of cultural diversity. So every culture matters.

Every culture enriches our society, especially the cultures of refugees. Refugees have a culture, they have a language, they have a way of life, they have knowledge systems and they have ways of solving problems and challenges. And we can continue to benefit from that if we continue to embrace a multicultural view of a society.

In 1999, the National Agenda for Multicultural Australia put forward the following statements:
'multiculturalism is a matter for all Australians'
'the development of a multicultural society will benefit all Australians'
'we must be multicultural to be national'
'take away multicultural Australia and you have nothing'

Racism by N'Dea Rumble

*People are people no matter
their skin*

*People are people and are
born without sin*

*There are no different colours
only different shades*

*We don't really notice for days and days
It's when we grow up we notice the change
Between people and people and shades and
shades*

*This certain thought shouldn't change with age
We are who we are no matter the colour
And we should all learn to love each other*



When we are born we are told to trust and accept each other. We were not born with particular attitudes and beliefs, so why do we have them now? A lot of our attitudes are shaped when we're young. When we heard our family members or friends express racist opinions, it's common that we would take on those views ourselves. These racist opinions can take many different forms, from abusive language to discriminatory treatment. The problem is that, unless we do something about it, they can stay with us for a lifetime.

Australia has always prided itself on giving all of its citizens a fair go. Although Australia generally has a reputation of being a successful example of an integrated and tolerant multicultural society, racism still and always will live in our society in both conscious and unconscious ways. Australia has always been multicultural, but now in the 21st century, this diversity is not as cherished as it should be. Of Australia's population of around 22 million, almost 5 and a half million immigrants have settled here in the past 50 years. 20 years ago, immigrants said that the best thing about coming to Australia was its welcoming and hospitable people, but the latest UN study shows that migrants who arrived in Australia after 2000 say that they like the free lifestyle in Australia, but they do not like our attitudes, saying we're not the

caring and friendly people we think we are.

A key feature of racism in Australia is denialism. Such denial may be a genuine response that suggests a lack of understanding that an act may be racist. However, there are also deliberate falsehoods, misinformation or evasion. Suggestions of racism may also be dismissed as an overreaction, where people think that telling a racist joke, for example, should be taken as just a bit of fun. Ultimately, racism is a denial of human relationship. Yet for many people it remains almost invisible, unnoticed except when violence is involved. Those who do not experience it often fail to understand how profoundly offensive it is.

On the whole, Australia might be tolerant, open-minded society that is supportive of multiculturalism; certainly the majority of us do not experience racial discrimination. But is near enough good enough? Human rights do not belong only to the majority and we cannot be satisfied just because the majority is protected. Human rights belong to each and every one of us, and the government must ensure those rights for each and every one of us.

Racism is too much of an issue to be overridden by one person, but if all Australians are willing to break through the barriers or racism, we will create an ideal society in which everyone can live without fear of racial discrimination. The key to tackling racism is the youth of the present. The youth of today are the politicians, lawyers and teachers of tomorrow. Educating the young children of today, will lead us one step closer to having a prejudice free society in the future. We need to teach them that no one is the same, we are all different, which is what makes us all so special. This uniqueness is one of the many keys to combating racism. None of us is the same, so it's the differences we need to cherish, not the similarities. We all look different, speak differently, and were raised differently. We all have different stories to tell, experiences and dreams to share. The sooner we realise this, the sooner we can overcome the high walls of racism.

Year 7 @ Warrumbungles

"It was amazing! All the views and great environment! I can't wait to go back if I'm a peer leader."

"It was very educational and I learnt a lot. Great experience and loved the views of the mountains."



"I really enjoyed the Warrumbungles. It was an amazing excursion. I loved spending time with my peers and enjoyed all the walking we did. It was so much fun camping and doing everything for ourselves. It was a great experience!"



"It was an amazing experience and everyone had so much fun getting to know each other better."

Moonee Beach Year 8 @



"It was the most awesome camp we've been to - not too physical. We loved the beach and scenery and there were lots of fun activities - orienteering was the best and night-time with the movies, marshmallows, milo was great!" **Nyanuie and Vashnavi**



"We saw amazing stuff like dolphins and jellyfish off Mutton Bird Island. Ethan and I also got chased by a huge dog." **Nathan W**



"I nearly blew up the gas cooktops. I didn't know Mr Lacey could move so fast!" **Hadi**



"I learnt how to do really cool knots and the camp area was really clean and I had the best time! I can't wait to go on the Year 9 camp!" **Olive**



"There is no doubt that Moonee Beach is a very different excursion to the Warrumbungles. I won't say that it was better or worse, but just different. I thoroughly enjoyed all the activities, including sandcastle building where my group made a life size Barbie doll. I loved learning new skills and taking in different information. It was a wonderful trip and one not to be forgotten." **Georgia Vaughan**