

Top Of The Hill

Newsletter of Duval High School









The 2012 Captains and Prefects



**Newsletter
No.14**

**31 October
2011**

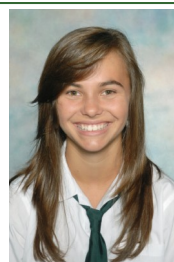
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Captains



Bruce Wilson



Gabrielle
Stevenson

Vice Captains



Ashley Cain-Grey



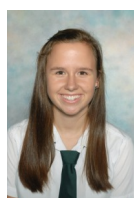
Brittany Baker



Eleanor Beck



Taylor Hopwood



Lucinda Logan



Charlotte Ritchie



Madeleine Ryan

Prefects



Andrew Bartik



Matthew Barton



James King



Dylan Perryman



Reece Rowbottom

DATES FOR THE DIARY:

- ◆ Monday 7 November 2011 Year 11/12 Geography Excursion, until Friday 11.
- ◆ Monday 7 November 2011 School Certificate Exams: Tuesday 8, Thursday 10.
- ◆ Wednesday 16 November 2011 P & C Meeting, Staff Common Room 7.00pm.

Welcome to Term 4

They used to say that Term 4 was always the most relaxing term of the school year. Things were always more mellow, so they said, in the run-up to the end of the year and the growing excitement of the coming Christmas holidays. I wonder where those days have gone? Year 12 of 2011 are, of course, sitting their HSC exams, with all the attendant stress and worry they create – for their teachers too! In their final week of school last term, the students raised \$4020.35 at their Fundraising Day, from which they donated \$2900.00 to the Accident and Emergency Ward at the Armidale Hospital, and \$1000.00 to the school as their school gift. This will be used to help pay for the improvements to the school entry, including the new DUVAL metal lettering for the facing wall.

Meanwhile, the incoming Year 12 is already deeply engrossed in their first term of the HSC course. Parents will be aware that the successful candidates for the incoming Prefect group of 2012 were announced at the Year 12 Valedictory on the 23rd of September. To allow us to formally recognise these students, we will be presenting the Prefects once again at our assembly on Friday the 4th of November, commencing at 12.45pm. You may not be aware, however, that the Prefects attended a Leadership Training Day at Thalgarran Environmental Education Centre on Friday 28th of October. As a result of the activities undertaken on that day, the Prefects themselves elected the Captains and Vice-Captains who will lead the school in 2012. The Captains and Vice-Captains will be formally announced and presented with their badges at this assembly.

Year 10 is in the build-up phase of preparation for their School Certificate exams, the last such set of external exams to be held. They are also the first Year 10 to come under the new school leaving age legislation, which means that, unlike their predecessors, they no longer finish school a week earlier than other years, but that they are expected to attend school until the last day for all students, Friday 16th December.

We recently had our biannual audit in the Vocational Education and Training (VET) subjects of Hospitality and Metals & Engineering, with many areas of commendation, but also some areas for improvement which we are already working on. Meanwhile, Ms Cullen, Mr Boon and their enthusiastic team have been busy conducting the transition process for Year 6 into Year 7, leading up to the Year 6 Orientation Day on Thursday 3rd November. This is always a great day, and I'm really looking forward to seeing all of the Year 6 students here, learning about Duval High School. On another high note, the school choral group and selected musicians and vocalists also travelled to Sydney for the Celebration Choir at the Sydney Town Hall – Ms Pearson and Mr Ryan tell me that they were very proud of the conduct and performances of our students, and I congratulate them all! Our new key program, Positive Behaviour for Learning, progresses slowly but consistently, with more staff being trained, and student involvement increasing. The SRC has already been involved in a matrix-forming session. The committee meets on Wednesday (Day 3 of the timetable) at 3.30pm in the staff common room, and any interested parents are most welcome to come along.

Finally, I was surprised and delighted to receive a donation of \$650 worth of gift vouchers (at the Armidale Tree Group) from the recent Class of 2001 Year 12 reunion, to help us purchase native trees to replace those being removed from the playground for safety reasons. A \$50 voucher from Robin's Kitchen was also donated, and was gratefully received by the Food Technology teachers.

Stafford Cameron

P & C Matters

Two P&C meetings have been held since our last report and there are a number of items to bring to the attention of the school:

The Year 12 Valedictory was recently held at the school and we want to thank the canteen staff and volunteers for providing great catering. The canteen is seeking more parent volunteers, but more on that later.

One of our members, Charlie Winter, has been working with Armidale Dumaresq Council and Crown Lands to arrange for the repair to Munro St (the dirt track on the southern side of the school) and its conversion from a road to an access way. This will greatly improve the appearance of the school - thanks Charlie.

Congratulations to Brandy Ritch for winning the Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) competition with an iPod prize provided by the P&C.

Just a reminder for parents that there is a "Contact Us" link on the school home page <http://web2.duval-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/main/html/> which can be used as one way of communicating with and sending feedback to the school. If you struggle to receive a paper copy of the school newsletter, you can send your email address to the school office and ask them to include you on the list which informs you electronically of each newsletter and provides a URL address.

Finally, the canteen does a great job but we do need more volunteers (even for the next month or so) and we encourage anyone with a few hours or more to help out as a way of helping your child and the school. It is also a way of getting to know the school and staff better. If you are available please contact the Canteen Chair, Suellen Simpson, through our P&C email: duvalhighschool@pandcaffiliate.org.au.

2011 Mathematics Competitions

This year saw a record number of students participate in the Australian Mathematics Competition. The competition requires students to answer a number of problem based questions, some of which are multiple choice and some free response. Students performed well and the following outstanding results were achieved:



Distinction Certificates:

Thomas Browne (year 8), Oliver Bruhl (year 8), Lindsay Symons (year 8), Justin Bullen (year 8), Syed Ali Ahsan (year 8), Somyata Jhorar (Year 12), Karina Siems (Year 12)

Credit Certificates:

Tom Bate (year 7), Ava Byerlee (year 7), Faith Dennehy (year 7), April-Rose Doyle (year 7), Scott Lucas (year 7), Winona Rumble (year 7), Courtney Sim (year 7), David Wilson (year 7), Georgia Ball (year 8), Jol Choct (year 8), Rachel Dawson (year 8), Riley Finlayson (year 8), Fariyah Islam (year 8), Eleanor Logan (year 8), Samuel Munday (year 8), Madeline Reckord (year 8), Alexis Reid (year 8), Brandy Ritch (year 8), Ben Schutte –Malouff (year 8), Aleisha Singleton (year 8), Erin Bourke (year 9), Morgan Rowbottom (year 9), Bernie Schaeffer-Model (year 9), James Browne (year 10), Matt Clark (year 10), Alex Malcolm (year 10), Giselle Model (year 10), Sam Oliver (year 10), Anil Rajanathan (year 10), Josh Targett (year 10), Alex Wojno (year 10), Michael Wojno (year 10), Eleanor Beck (year 11), Nicola Traise (Year 12).

Prudence Award: Syed Ali Ahsan (for the most consecutive correct answers).

We also had 3 students sit for the **ICAS Mathematics Competition** and had two credit certificates awarded to Rachel Dawson and Brandy Ritch, both of Year 8.

Congratulations to these students and all other students who took part. These competitions are open to ALL students and are an excellent challenge and a great item to be able to place on job or scholarship applications!

Miss Gow

Homework Centre

Duval High School's Homework Centre is up and running.

The Centre runs on Tuesday afternoons 3.30pm to 5.00pm in room 103. Students are provided with afternoon tea and transport home. The Centre is supervised by teachers from a variety of faculties to provide support for any questions asked or help required.

It doesn't matter if your child is in year 7 or year 12, any student with homework, a project or assignment, assessment task or who just wants to ask some questions about school work can take advantage of this terrific opportunity.

All welcome.

Open Boys Cricket vs Guyra.

On Monday 24 October the 'new look' Duval Open Boys cricket team travelled to Guyra for their opening match of the 2011/12 Davidson Shield Competition.

This was a very different looking side to the one that came third in the state took the field with six year 12 students now unavailable.

Undeterred, the Duval side sent Guyra into bat and were forced to wait until the 23rd over before making their first breakthrough. After this wickets fell regularly, however to Guyra's credit they batted out their full 40 overs to finish at 9 for 135. Wickets were shared amongst the bowlers with Joe Teege (1/29), Dean Heffernan (2/24), Luke Marshall (1/21), Hayden Freeman (2/25) and Michael Dawson (3/12) all sharing the spoils. Anil Rajanathan 'kept' very well taking three catches.

Guyra's opening bowling was very strong and Anil and Michael batted admirably to keep their wickets. Anil fell in the 14th over but Captain Luke Uphill played solidly and he and Michael managed to reel in the total themselves. Luke finished on 37 not out while Michael's fine 85 not out, ensured he took out 'man of the match' honours.

Duval will now meet either Armidale High School or Glen Innes in the first game to be held in Armidale for this team in over a year!



Anil Rajanathan batting in the game against Guyra.

Super 8s cricket

The Duval year 7 team had a win against Armidale High School. The best performances went to Jake Whitely, Cooper Hague and Harrison Lawler. The best rookie performance went to Daniel Cherry.

The year 8 and 9 team played O'Connor and unfortunately lost. The best performances were by Lewis Wheatley and Rory Sutherland. The best rookie performances were by George Prokop and Paul Dunn.



Daniel Cherry



George Prokop



Paul Dunn

Best Rookies

Inter-school lawn bowls competition

Thursday 13 October, 9 boys from years 7, 9 and 10 went to the Armidale City Bowling Club to represent Duval in the inter-school lawn bowls competition.

Duval was equal first, along with Armidale High School, with four wins and two losses. However we lost on a count back and came second. Second place paid \$250. The money was used to purchase a Duval High School bowls team uniform.

Congratulations to Reece and Morgan

Reece and Morgan Rowbottom have recently qualified to represent the North West in water polo. They will compete in Alstonville and Taree in November. Good luck to the both of them.