

Top of the Hill

Newsletter of Duval High School



Geddes Gets Going

Newsletter
No. 4
19 March 2015

Inside this issue:

Page 2

Principal's News

Page 3

Duval Interact Club

Parent/Carer Email

Request

Work Experience

Opportunity

Page 4

School History

McIntyre House

Page 5

Sports News

Page 6

Sports News (cont)



Last week was a busy one for Year 10 student, Stuart Geddes. Firstly Stuart represented New South Wales in two events at the Australian Junior Athletics Championships, which this year were held in Sydney. In the Under 16 3000m he placed 9th in a time of 9:35.25, and in the Under 16 200m Steeplechase he placed a fantastic 5th in a time of 6:37.76. Both these times were personal bests for Stuart and his Steeplechase time also qualifies him to contest this event at next year's Australian Junior Championships in Perth.

If that wasn't enough action, Stuart then returned to Armidale on the weekend to play rugby for the Northern Inland Under 15 team against teams from the Hunter, North Sydney, South Sydney, South Australia and the ACT. There were ten players

from Armidale schools in the team: 8 from TAS, 1 from O'Connor and Stuart from Duval. Stuart was then selected in the Central North Under 15 team which will compete at the NSW Country Rugby Championships, where he will be hoping for selection in the NSW Country U15 team. We are proud of your achievements, Stuart!

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ◆ 23-31 March> Year 12 Half Yearly Exams
- ◆ 24-27 March> Year 7 Warrumbungles excursion
- ◆ 24-27 March> Year 8 Moonee Beach excursion
- ◆ 2 April> Last day of Term 1
- ◆ 21 April> First day of Term 2 for students
- ◆ 27 April - 1 May> Year 11 Exams
- ◆ 12-14 May> NAPLAN



How do we ensure we are
focussed on the learning?

L2L CORNER

*Publication of this newsletter is made possible through the generous support of the
Duval High School Parents & Citizens Association.*

PRINCIPAL'S NEWS

You will have noticed that this is a time of change at Duval High School and in education in general. There have been a series of wide-ranging reforms in both Australian and NSW education systems, all aimed at increasing your children's chances of doing well at school, and of having better life chances after they finish. Everything that happens within the Department of Education and its schools has been reviewed and reformed from the ground up, and these reforms have meant a radical change in the way schools operate.

For us, the main changes have been in the introduction of National Standards for teachers and principals, a gradual process of accreditation for teachers, a complete restructure of the way schools are funded and resourced, and a major change in both the way we plan for the future and then report on the success of those plans. Here at Duval we are working our way through all of these changes, with the most important thing we're doing right now being the New School Planning Process.

In this process, it's not just about me as Principal writing up the plan, it's not just the teachers, it's not just the P&C, but everyone in the school community has the opportunity to be involved in setting the direction for the school over the next 3 to 5 years. Most students have already had an input into this plan, either directly or indirectly. Part of this has been through data analysis of things like attendance, subject selection, discipline records, results in external tests and competitions and so on. However some of the students have also directly contributed to the development and creation of the new Duval High School Plan through their writing and interviewing activities in English.

As a result, your thoughts and dreams for the future of this school have been used to help create a shared vision for the next three to five years, and what we all hope the school will look, feel and be like then. However this is only the start, and we will continue developing this plan over the months and years to come. If parents would like more of a say in the new plan, I urge you to go to the school website, where you can find more details about the plan, as well as a chance to take part in a survey about student wellbeing and engagement. This is only the first

of several surveys we are doing this year to make sure we get it right.

Of course, there are some other changes going on. Our new Deputy Principal, Mrs Rosner, will commence duty on Monday, 23 March, and she will be making it her business to get to know all of the students as quickly as possible, in a positive way of course! We also congratulate Mr Peter Harris, our Head Teacher of PDHPE and TAS, who has been successful in securing secondment to the Department as a regional Road Safety Consultant, and who will therefore be leaving us for a while. However he assures me he will be back, so don't fret! Mr Harris' success and our reduced enrolment numbers this year will lead to some timetable and staffing changes which we will inform you of as they occur.

Another change takes the form of an opportunity for all students. A few years ago there used to be a fantastic program run by the Department called the Premier's Volunteering Challenge. Under this program, students who contributed to their community through volunteering for community service programs, or just helping out around the town, could be recognised for their efforts. The awards and certificates these students received were incredibly powerful when it came time to put together their resumés for employment. Sadly, the government saw fit to close this program down, and for the last couple of years, those students with a strong sense of social justice and a desire to help out those less fortunate in the community have had no recognised platform for doing so.

Now, however, there is a new opportunity and it is being offered here at Duval first out of all the schools in Armidale. Most of you will know about the service clubs which operate in Armidale: Rotary, Lions, Quota and Zonta, to name just a few. Most of these service clubs are aimed at older people, but what if there was a service club that allowed students to work together on projects to make our community a better place? This club is called Interact and, although it is sponsored by and part of the worldwide Rotary organisation, it is intended just for high school-age students who want to make a difference. The Rotary Club of Armidale Central is sponsoring the formation of the Duval High School Interact Club, and we are delighted to have this opportunity to involve our students

in worthwhile community projects. For further information, please see the Interact article below.

Stafford Cameron

DUVAL INTERACT CLUB

The inaugural meeting of the Duval High School Interact Club, as described at the school assembly on Friday, 13 March, will take place in Room



215 at lunchtime on Tuesday, 24 March. 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!

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>



Parent / Carer Email Request

Please provide your email address so that the School Careers Adviser may contact you with news and information regarding your child's career education.

Simply email ana.hardman@det.nsw.edu.au your child's or children's names and current year and you will be added to a parent distribution list.

Thank you kindly

Mrs Lana Hardman
Careers Adviser
ana.hardman@det.nsw.edu.au



Work Experience Opportunity

**Monday, 1 June to
Friday, 5 June 2015**

As part of the Year 10 Career Education program our students have the opportunity to participate in a work experience program. All students have been given an information package outlining procedures and relevant documentation during the last couple of weeks.

Work experience is organised with the purpose of assisting your son/daughter to gain skills and knowledge in an occupation or industry of their choice. It is an opportunity for students to develop work related skills and form networks within our local community.

Benefits of work experience

Work experience can provide:

- insights into what a job involves
- structured, supervised, hands-on experience
- useful work skills that are recognised in the workplace
- confidence in their ability to learn and become competent at new tasks
- work/life skills, such as communicating effectively, or working in teams
- a chance to demonstrate how they can contribute in a work environment
- an understanding of the world of work
- an opportunity to demonstrate commitment and reliability
- a new referee to add to their resume
- an employment opportunity - either casual, part-time or full-time

We seek your support in encouraging your son/daughter to participate in this valuable program. In order for this program to run smoothly the school will need notification of your child's involvement and their completed student placement record returned by 1 May 2015.

If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call our Careers Adviser, Lana Hardman.

SCHOOL HISTORY

In History we are learning about the importance of exploring our connections to the past so that we may better understand our present. I would like to share something special about my family history which relates to the story of our school.

My great-grandfather, John Goldsmith, was the first principal of Duval High School in 1974. He was a very welcoming Principal and loved to talk to students.

Before the school opened, he organised many competitions including the creation of the school motto (Learning to Live) and the designing of the school badge. Mrs Joan Gates won the school badge competition and Paul Makeham won the school motto competition.

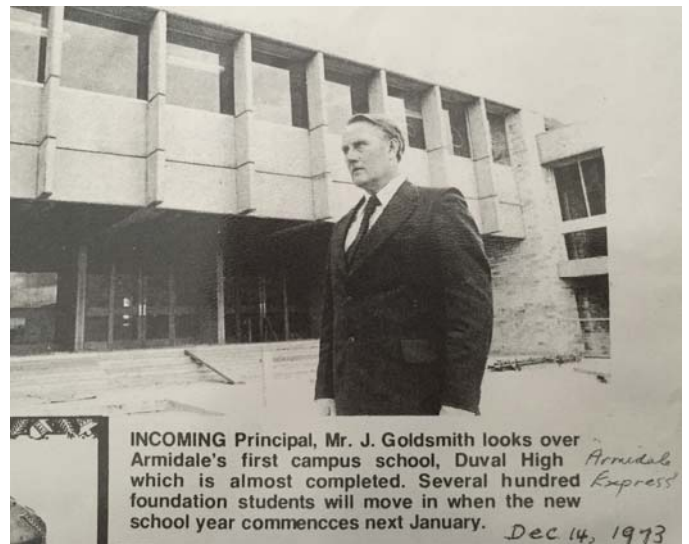
When the school opened, there were 22 teachers and 420 students.

Amongst the many things my great-grandfather organised, one in particular was a government funded tutor system for Aboriginal students. He enjoyed organising the Walk 'O' Run from the school to Mount Duval. He started the run by shooting the gun, and then he would participate himself. He enjoyed coming to the sports carnivals and liked watching the students play music. He loved organising the ANZAC Day ceremony at the school as he was a returned soldier from World War II. After he retired in 1981, the students requested that the back sports oval was named the 'John Goldsmith Sports Field'. This was a great surprise for him.

Not only was my great-grandfather the first principal, but my dad was school captain in 1994, and both my mum and my aunty completed year 12 at Duval. Because of this, I look forward to following in their footsteps as I begin my journey at Duval High School.



Lucy Portell 7C



WHO ARE OUR SCHOOL HOUSES NAMED AFTER? IN THIS ISSUE WE FIND OUT ABOUT 'McINTYRE'

William McIntyre (1830-1911), school inspector, was born in County Antrim, Ireland and was educated at the Normal Training College, Dublin.

In 1856 the New South Wales Board of National Education induced him to migrate with free passage and half-pay on the voyage. On his arrival he became inspector for the Hunter River district. In 1859-60 he was principal teacher of the Fort Street Girls' School and in 1861 was appointed district inspector of the northern district, which included all the colony north of the Hunter Valley. Travelling via the north coast he established several schools. Soon after reaching his headquarters in Armidale McIntyre enlisted the support of 'many of the gentlemen of the town most distinguished for talent and liberal views'. He helped to establish 45 new schools so that 55

were functioning when he left the district in 1868.

McIntyre normally travelled some 3,500 miles (5633 km) a year in his large district and tried to visit each school twice a year. In 1863 he almost drowned when his horses were swept away while trying to cross a flooded river.

Taken from Australian Dictionary of Biography, Volume 5, 1974

SPORTS NEWS

Cricket - Junior Toad Cup



The inaugural Junior TOAD (**T**AS, **O**'Connor, **A**HS, **D**uval) Cup Twenty20 cricket competition was played over the last two Friday nights.

Players from Years 7 to 9 from the four high schools competed under lights at the Sportsground in a new initiative, supported by the Armidale Cricket Association.

Game 1 saw Duval compete against O'Connor and the Duval team fielded superbly to restrict O'Connor to 73. In reply, Duval's openers of Marley Lynch and Kareena Dawson managed a 50 run partnership which allowed Duval to complete a reasonably comfortable victory.

With TAS having beaten AHS in Game 2, the final was played the following week between Duval and TAS. Once again Marley and Kareena got Duval off to a good start, however on their dismissals Duval were unable to form any significant partnerships. The team finished on 53, which TAS chased down reasonably comfortably, however Duval did snare a couple of late wickets.

The competition as a whole was well supported and played in good spirits. Many positive comments were received on the event and all teams should be pleased with their efforts. With a 'young' team compared with the other schools the future looks bright for Duval cricket.

Swimming

Congratulations to our students who competed at the North West swimming trials and were successful in gaining selection on the North West team to compete at the NSW Combined High Schools Swimming Championships to be held in Sydney on 26-29 March.



Ben Barton
17+ years
100m Breaststroke



Jacob Freeman
15 years
100m Butterfly
100m Freestyle



Heather Girard
12 years
100m Breaststroke



Nyah Golding Fussell
16 years
100m Butterfly
100m Breaststroke
Open Medley Relay
Open Freestyle Relay



Kimberley Rowbottom
16 years
100m Freestyle
100m Backstroke
200m Freestyle
Open Medley Relay
Open Freestyle Relay



N'Dea Rumble
16 years
50m Freestyle
100m Freestyle
100m Breaststroke
Open Medley Relay
Open Freestyle Relay



Winona Rumble
17+ years
100m Freestyle
100m Breaststroke
100m Backstroke
100m Butterfly
200m Individual Medley
Open Medley Relay
Open Freestyle Relay

Target Shooting

On Sunday, 15 March three of Duval's target shooters competed against the Highland Hunting and Target team from Glen Innes in an interclub challenge held at the Armidale Pistol Club Range. Students Karl Simpson, Alex Rogers and Kolja Drydale-Cech all competed well on a very blustery day with some great results. Armidale won the trophy on the day. Karl shot the smallest group of 0.119" and was overall winner with a minute angle score 0.504". Congratulations on your great shooting Karl. Both Alex and Kolja shot well with Alex being very consistent on the day. All senior competitors were very complimentary on the Duval students' skill and behaviour. Well done!

LOWES
SCHOOL UNIFORMS

SHOP ONLINE FOR ALL YOUR
SCHOOL UNIFORMS

Please visit
www.lowesschoolwear.com.au

**FREE SHIPPING
FOR ORDERS OVER \$100**

Register online and receive a
DISCOUNT ON YOUR FIRST ORDER