From The Principal

Last Friday I met with our Dungog Community of Schools Principals to discuss activities and arrangements for 2015.

One of the exciting initiatives will be the introduction of a ‘Virtual Gifted and Talented’ program that will be launched this year. The program is made possible by a successful funding submission through the DEC’s Rural and Remote Strategy which will see students across our community of schools come together online through the Connected Classrooms in each school.

We will also be a pilot program for videoconferencing via Microsoft 365 which the DEC has recently secured rights to use. This is uncharted territory and we will be working with the DEC’s selective virtual secondary school, Aurora College.

One of the other initiatives is aimed at bridging the transition from Stage 3 to Stage 4 in Mathematics. A team from feeder primary schools and Dungog High will work on a project to address this matter.

Another initiative is our Interschool sports visits during Term 2. These will be held each fortnight during the term. This involves students in Years 5 and 6 travelling to, and hosting, students from our community of schools for sport and social visits as another means to ease the transition to high school.

Our SRC have chosen to support the Dungog Relay For Life by holding our own ‘Mini Relay 4 Life’ next Tuesday, 10 March. Students have been grouped in teams of 4 for the event and each team will be looking for just 5 sponsors (for the team).

Half of all funds raised will go to the Cancer Council through the Dungog Relay For Life with the other half being split between our Tanzanian sponsor child, Maurin and O’Briens Freddo, our sponsored koala.

Thank you to Steph Richardson for spreading the large pile of mulch over the new garden bed.

Regards,

Graeme
Canteen News

This week I have been lucky enough to receive some really lovely feedback about the canteen and some of the items we sell. It seems our frozen pineapple rings have become very popular and now some families are keeping them in their own freezer for snacks after school! Such a healthy refreshing snack on a hot day.

We are now half way through term 1 and I’m starting to put together a warm and nourishing winter menu... pumpkin soup with toast fingers and hot Milos being on the top of my list. If you or your child have a great idea for a cold winters day lunch or recess please let me know, new ideas are always welcome!

The fried rice is still unavailable, hopefully we can get some more in stock very soon.

Thank you to our wonderful parents; David, Tracey, Heidi and Eleesha for volunteering your recently, I bet your little people loved having you there!

Regards,
Emma Maslen

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 6th</td>
<td>Dungog League Tag Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 9th</td>
<td>K-1 excursion to Paterson Pre-School</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 10th</td>
<td>P &amp; C meeting &amp; AGM</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April</th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 3rd</td>
<td>Good Friday - School Holidays start</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 20</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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| Tuesday 21    | All students return for Term 2 |

**STUDENT OF THE WEEK AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>Sam Maslen</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Wil Burgmann</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/3</td>
<td>Jackson Lambert</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Connor Fernance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Lilly Gillespie</td>
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**CLASS AWARDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kinder</th>
<th>Jorden Bates for always trying and never giving up.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Deegan Holding for following class routines and being organised.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Marshall Parker for taking responsibility for his own learning.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 3</td>
<td>Harriette Hopkins for taking pride in her writing tasks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 4</td>
<td>Lincoln Mitchell for being a focused and hard working student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 5</td>
<td>Alec Grainger for being an organised responsible student.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Year 6</td>
<td>Brendan Lambert for asking “great” questions.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Keeping Gates Closed
Please shut the gates. During the day, the school gates are closed to ensure that all of our students are safe and that risks are minimised. At present, we need to be extra vigilant with closing the gates, including the staff car park gates, to manage the safety of some of our younger students. We do ask that, if the gate was closed when you came upon it, then please close the gate once you have passed through. If in doubt, please close the gate.

Staff Car Park
The school car park is for staff parking between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm each day. This is due to Work Health and Safety policy and the limited access to the car park. During these hours, parents and caregivers are asked to park on the road and enter the grounds through either of the two, safe pedestrian access gates. We thank you for your understanding in this matter.

VACY PUBLIC SCHOOL PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION INC.
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Association will be held on Tuesday 10th March 2015 at 7.00pm in the Vacy Public School staff room. The business of the meeting will be: Election of office bearers: President, Vice President (x2), Secretary, Treasurer. Consideration of changes to the Constitution of the Association
All parents and caregivers are members of the school P&C and are cordially invited to attend.
J Thompson

Sorry Day @ Dungog High School
Last Wednesday, the Year 6 students along with our other Aboriginal students and their buddies, had the pleasure of attending a ‘Sorry Day’ at Dungog High School.

While we were there we heard about the life stories of two Aboriginal Elders who were taken from their families and about how it has effected their lives. We also listened to stories, painted and danced. It was a very rewarding day for all.

Kindy News
This week's news topic for kindergarten is "My House". Please check news note for details. Last week I enjoyed listening to news items about "My Favourite Toy", well done Kindergarten!
Thank you to those students who returned home readers in homework bags yesterday. Today homework bags will go home.
Best Start reports are complete and will go home today, please contact me if you would like to discuss the report.
I can't believe this is our sixth week of school! Student have settled into routines and we are learning lots!
We have two excursions next week. On Monday we are visiting Paterson Preschool for a performance and next Friday we will be going to Gresford Show. Please ensure all notes and money are returned ASAP.
NEW App Update!

Oz Phonics

Cost: $2.00 - $4.00   Ages: K-4

The Oz Phonics app range is being used by teachers, parents and speech pathologists alike. These apps aim to improve phonics recall, reading and spelling skills using a variety of games like memory and find-a-words. There are a range of these apps available, so finding the one that meets your child’s needs is easy.

Year 7 Placement in a Selective High School 2016

Selective High School Placement Test to be held from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Thursday 12 March 2015. Applicants for Year 7 placement in a selective high school in 2016 are required to take the Selective High School Placement Test to be held from 9.00am to 1.30pm on Thursday 12 March 2015. The test centre for students from your school is:
Maitland Grossmann High School
Cumberland & Dixon Sts MAITLAND EAST NSW 2323

Needed

The Before and After School Care committee are still on the lookout for someone to plaster and fit out the old sports shed as it will be used to store the BASC sports equipment. If you know of someone who would be interested, please let them know that the BASC would welcome them quoting for the job.

AN INVITATION TO CARERS

Do you provide care and support to another person? You are invited to Carer Connections Take the Opportunity to Connect with other Carers and listen to our Guest Speaker!

Guest Speaker:
Kathie Nickerson, Clinical Nurse Specialist
Hunter Integrated Pain Service (Hunter New England Health)


Venue: East Maitland Bowling Club, Bank Street, East Maitland

Time: 10.00am – 12.00pm

Cost: Free - includes Morning Tea

When: Monday 23 March 2015

RSVP: Wednesday 18 March 2015

For more information or to Register Contact:
HNE Carer Education & Support Program – Hunter on: 4921 4895 or 1300 887 776 or Email: Educare-Admin@health.nsw.gov.au (We ask that you RSVP for catering purposes)
Having Fun with Sport in School