DICKSON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER

August 2014

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Important Dates
Tue 2 & Wed 3 September
AST
Thursday 4 Sept
Yr 11 AST Trial
Monday 8 Sept
Maths Test Day
Board Meeting 5pm
P&C Meeting 6.30pm
Supporting Students
Semester 2 is certainly well underway here at Dickson College and you will notice our students are already focused on assessment tasks. This semester is a short one with only 16 teaching weeks available so it is imperative that students are managing their time effectively. If you are concerned and think extra support is needed for your child, please contact our Student Wellbeing office immediately so we can identify ways in which we can help!

Planning for Our Future
The Dickson College Roadshow, showcasing the early ideas for our school master plan, was ‘on the road’ last week. We exhibited our plans and spoke to our local community at Dickson, Hackett and Watson shops. As our handouts say...

We are planning for our future and looking at ways that we can shape our school to grow even stronger connections with our community. In particular, we look forward to building our links with the families and students of our local preschools, primary and high schools who will eventually be part of our college community.

New Look Canteen
I have been delighted by the response of our students to the new look canteen which includes a fantastic mural by local artist ‘Byrd’, a selection of comfy sofas, cushions and rugs, some café seating and a table tennis table. The canteen space is buzzing! Thanks to our Student Leadership Group who suggested some of the changes, John our Business Manager and Leonie our Building Services Officer for making it all come together!

Feedback for Our Staff
I am very grateful to have an incredible staff here at Dickson College who truly are committed to supporting every student to reach their goals. Often teachers hear from parents who are concerned about their students (which we absolutely encourage) but I have noticed in the college sector that teachers don’t often have the opportunity to receive positive feedback from busy families. If you have something fantastic or positive to share about a teacher or administrative/support team member at our school would you please take a few minutes to email your feedback to info@dicksonc.act.edu.au. I know our team would be thrilled!

Kerrie Heath Principal

We are excited by the feedback and ideas people were discussing with us. If you have a great idea about how DC can become even more relevant to the community and provide the highest possible standard of education to our students we would love to hear from you at info@dicksonc.act.edu.au.
Parent-Teacher Evening

Monday 15 September 2014
4:00pm - 8:30pm

All parents/guardians are welcome
Staff welcomes the opportunity to talk to all parents at Parent-Teacher Evening.
Staff will be available at different times during the evening.

Please arrange an appointment time using the online booking system. Information on how to book will be included with term reports which will be mailed prior to Parent-Teacher Night.

We would be particulary pleased to meet with parents where reports indicate that progress is of “some cause for concern” or “unsatisfactory.” This would give us the opportunity to discuss with you some possible strategies for future improvements.
Attention ACTION Bus Users

Dickson College received the following information from the Director of Public Transport regarding changes to Action Bus School Services.

On Monday 1 September 2014 a new ACTION bus network, including a new school services network, will commence.

As this new ACTION school services network may affect many students we are providing four weeks’ notice to schools, students and parents to help them prepare. Please find attached a letter which contains information about the changes and where applicable, specific information regarding the changes affecting your school.

Full details of the new school bus services and regular routes which will service schools are now available on the ACTION website www.action.act.gov.au. A dedicated schools information hotline is available on 6205 5033 (Monday to Friday, 8am - 5pm) until Friday 12 September 2014.

We have included extra information from ACTION below.

Your new school services network starts on Monday 1 September

Along with the new bus network, our schools network is also changing on Monday 1 September.

The new schools network has been developed over the past 12 months, with all routes, services and patronage being reviewed. As a result, some school routes have been redesigned or merged as part of our commitment to providing a more direct, frequent and enhanced bus network and to increase network efficiency.

For some routes where patronage levels no longer support a dedicated school route, students can use the regular route services. Approximately 59% of school student boardings are already on regular route services.

Getting ready for the new network.

ACTION can help get you prepared for your children to head back to school using the new network. From route change details, to checking and topping up MyWay cards, latest fares and bus safety tips, everything you need is here on the ACTION website.

1. Have a look to see if your school route has changed

To find out details of the changes to schools services from the current network to the new network by school name, check out the School Route Changes By School page.

2. Familiarise your with the new Network 14 school and regular routes

All new school service routes are now available on the Network 14 School Route Services page. If your route has changed to a regular network route, those network map routes can be found on the Network 14 Regular Route Services page.

3. Check everything is OK with your MyWay card

Now is the time to organise a new or replacement MyWay card and to sign up for Autoload. Find out how to get the most out of MyWay.

4. Remind your children about the bus safety rules

You mind want to make with a few journeys with your child on regular bus routes and give them tips.

5. Keep in touch with ACTION

To keep up to date with ACTION news and important service information, sign up for our email alerts. We’re also on Facebook and Twitter.

If you have any further enquiries call our dedicated schools hotline on 6205 5033, available Monday to Friday 8am – 5pm until Friday 12 September.
Step into the Limelight, the Territory’s creative and performing arts showcase event for public schools began in 2007 and has grown to become the largest youth Arts event in the ACT. More than 1600 students from over 65 public schools from Pre School to Year 12 have worked closely with professional artists, tertiary institutions and arts organisations to develop outstanding artistic works of art.

The aims of Step into the Limelight are:

- Promote ACT Public education through the Creative Arts
- Provide enriched learning experiences for students
- Provide quality teacher professional development through collaboration
- Showcase a range of quality art works inclusive of all school sectors.

Most recently the Limelight Art Exhibition was held at the ANU School of Art Gallery 29 July–9 August 2014. This exhibition was curated by our very own Alison Moulang and most ably assisted by Julie Marginson, also our very own! This amounted to hanging over 300 hundred pieces from 27 schools and Colleges. An amazing job and many thanks to you both.

The exhibition incorporated work from Dickson College’s Visual Art and Textiles and Fashion students examples of which are include below.
A number of Year 11 students also participated in the Wool4Skool design competition, celebrating 50 years of the Woolmark brand, this iconic symbol has been placed on more than five billion products worldwide. The challenge was for the students to design an outfit inspired by the 1960s, 70s, 80s, 90s or current era using Australian Merino Wool.

The Printmaking students having been working on reduction relief printing techniques to get a better understanding of the processes involved and helping each other. This photo shows the students working in pairs.
**Media Movies**

Last semester, media students worked tirelessly to produce an array of short films and scenes which were showcased on Wednesday 6 June in the Anthill Theatre. This event allowed students an opportunity to watch their work on the big screen with an enthusiastic and engaged audience of friends and family. The films demonstrated a range of original ideas, utilising a variety of genres and locations to create stories that successfully dealt with a range of situations and themes. Thank you to all those that attended and we look forward to a bigger turn out for the next Media Movies night.

**Step into the Limelight Film Festival 2014**

Congratulations to Anneka van der Velde and Katie Urquhart whose film ‘Mug Shots’ has been selected to be shown at the annual Step into the Limelight Film Festival 2014. This event will be held on Tuesday 19 August commencing at 7pm at the National Film and Sound Archive ARC cinema. If you would like to attend this event please RSVP by Friday 15 August to Limelight@ed.act.edu.au to confirm your ticket.
40 hr Famine

Students have been fundraising for World Vision 40Hr Famine. The students have been selling cakes and other sweet baked goods.

If anyone would like to get involved with raising money for the 40Hr Famine please talk to students in the Student Leadership Group/Global Studies students or Ben Godwin (Humanities).

Year 12 Formal

Is on Thursday 4 December at the National Convention Centre. Stay tuned during clubs and assemblies for all the details.

Thank you for your support of Dickson College Student Support fundraiser last year. If you haven’t already and wish to buy a book, please click the link below. We need to sell 31 more books to reach our target. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Please forward this to your friends and family.

Order online now at: www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23245a
English

This is the short semester, with only sixteen academic weeks of college, and our students are already completing their first assignments for the term. Students undertaking Tertiary English have chosen units such as Children’s Literature, North American Literature, Speculative Fiction, Crime Fiction, and Romantics, Rogues and Reformers. Accredited English offerings include Australian Identity and The Journey.

Writers’ Workshop and Advanced Writing students are excited about the upcoming three day camp at Birregai 15-17th September. Whilst there, students will participate in workshops led by Tony Eaton (head of writing at University of Canberra), acclaimed script-writer Felicity Packard (writer of “Underbelly”) plus publishers and award-winning authors. This is a fantastic opportunity for Dickson College students to hone their skills, develop their own pieces and find out what it means to be a writer from industry professionals.

Languages

Latin

The enduring Roman influence is reflected pervasively in contemporary language, literature, legal codes, government, architecture, engineering, medicine, sports, arts, etc.

(If we removed all the words drawn directly from Latin, that sentence would read: ‘The’) Unit 2 students are consolidating their Latin grammar – they will soon have covered all six noun cases – and, importantly, their Latin vocabulary. They have been reading passages in Latin covering the ‘Aenead’ the epic poem by the important Roman poet Vergil, which deals with Rome’s legendary original founder Aeneas, and his journey from Troy to Italy. Their first assessment item, covering prepared translation, background and grammatical analysis is approaching, in Week 5. Our practical research assignment will be on Roman cuisine and entertainment, and will be set later in the term. Their more advanced grammar is enabling Unit 4 students to cope with more complex Latin passages on Roman everyday life & entertainment in the time of Julius Caesar, and the Ides of March are fast approaching… The practical research assignment for this Unit will be on ‘defixiones’ (Roman Curses…)

Anne Rose
Latin Teacher
Japanese

On 6 August, our beginning Japanese 4 class commemorated Hiroshima’s peace day at 9.15am Australian time, which would have been 8.15am Japan time, the exact time the first atomic bomb was dropped on Japan during the Second World War. In WWII two atomic bombs were dropped on Japan, killing thousands and tearing apart many families. In current times we often hear and see evidence of conflict and today was a reminder given the situations around the world right now, of the devastation and needless suffering of so many as result of war. We learned the history of the peace ceremony and we all reflected during a minute’s silence. We look at history to get a greater understanding of war and conflict to prevent history repeating itself. Current year 12 student Pat who went on the DC Japan Trip in 2013, strongly encourages anyone to visit Hiroshima, a city that has been reborn, yet remains a symbol of resilience and peace around the world.

Beginning students enjoying a guest lecture from advanced Japanese student on education in Australia and Japan

A BIG THANK YOU! The Dickson College community would like to sincerely thank the Bacchetto family who have hosted our Japanese Teaching Assistant Mr Toshro Ijichi over the past term. We are immensely grateful for the generosity of Bob (staff) and his family for providing such a wonderful experience for Toshiro and enabling our assistant program to be so successful. Heartfelt thanks from Japanese students and Nelle the Japanese teacher. Toshiro has moved to his new host family whom we would also like to thank. The Brodie family have generously offered to host Toshiro for Term 3. We would also like to thank the Shi (Amy, Year 12, Ellen, Yera 11) family in advance for their hosting of Toshiro in Term 4. It is wonderful to have such supportive learning community.

Nelle Horsington Japanese Teacher

Continuing Japanese students begin a unit on travel
Foundations for Independence

Community Services (VET)

This semester students are undertaking units in Children’s Play or Disability & Aged Care.

Children’s play is focusing on children’s development in the areas of physical, social, emotional, psychological, language, cognitive and creative development. This knowledge gives students who may become early childhood educators a realistic expectations of when children may reach developmental milestones. Nichola Perry, manager Children’s Services for Majura Early Childhood Centre spoke to the class about the importance of understanding developmental milestones and the implications in an early childhood setting. She demonstrated the use of checklists in her centre. Students are visiting the centre this week for an induction and will follow up with working with children at the centre on Friday mornings.

Photo: Jamila and Selina on completion of their Job Ready Program. Selina enjoyed writing job applications and creating a resume. Jamila said she enjoyed gaining real life work skills.

In English students are focusing on practical literacy in the workplace. This unit involves identifying and describing signs in the workplace and what they mean. They demonstrated their knowledge through creating a PowerPoint presentation. In previous weeks students worked on communication skills used in the workplace. In Maths students are working on measurement and looking at length including perimeter and area.
The Constitutional Convention

The Constitutional Convention was held from the 31 July to the 1 August, 2014. The Convention consisted of Year 11 Legal Studies and Politics students from several schools engaging in a number of activities to broaden their understanding of the Australian Constitution. Over the two days, six of us from Dickson College listened to keynote speakers, held debates and participated in a mock referendum. Our focus question for the referendum was “Should the Commonwealth Parliament have specific powers to legislate for the environment?”

So that we could make an informed decision, day one of the Convention was spent at the National Archives, where we toured the building and heard from a professor of law and a 1980s environmental activist. Day two was held at the Legislative Assembly, where the main discussion regarding the proposed amendment to the constitution took place. Keynote speakers Shane Rattenbury MLA and Alistair Coe MLA opened the debate regarding the pros and cons of the issue. After further debate we then held the mock referendum for constitutional change. The outcome, which brought a close to the convention, was no; the Commonwealth Parliament should NOT have specific powers to legislate for the environment.

The Convention was a lot of fun and provided the opportunity for us to broaden our experiences. We also met many like-minded people who were able to give us new perspectives on politics and debate that we hadn’t thought about before. The event also allowed us to expand upon our legal and political knowledge of the Constitution.

Scott Bridges talk on the Middle East

On Thursday 31 July, Scott Bridges gave a talk to the Conflict & Issues in the Modern World class. He is the author of a book, 18 Days: Al Jazeera English and the Egyptian Revolution and was working in the region at the time of the Libyan war as a journalist for Al Jazeera English. His talk gave a general overview of the Arab Spring, and more specifically he explained to the class the role of Al Jazeera and the media in the region.

Scott’s intriguing and informative talk from an insider’s point of view was much appreciated by the students.
Library

Good news for all ACT government schools – we now have OverDrive ebooks and audiobooks! The selection committee of teacher librarians has been busy choosing relevant resources for all schools – a variety of fiction and non fiction. As a college, we have access to all resources from K – Year 12 and adult.

OverDrive ebooks and audiobooks can be accessed on computers and most devices (iPads, iPhones, Android and Windows). Students can access OverDrive via Oliver, our library catalogue. Currently, Oliver is only available at school (under the Student Shortcuts icon), but by the end of the year Oliver will be available from home, via the Digital Backpack https://backpack.act.edu.au

To borrow an ebook, students open Oliver and search for the item, then open the record for the item and click the download button: Borrow OverDrive ebook. The library already has over 50 ebooks, besides those in OverDrive. All ebooks are identified by a tablet icon in the Oliver catalogue.

Libraries ACT, our public library system, also supplies ebooks and audiobooks via OverDrive. You need a library card and PIN.


Book Week is celebrated around Australia this year from 16 – 22 August and this year’s theme is Connect to reading. The Children’s Book Council of Australia announces the Children’s Book of the Year Awards in various categories, from Early Childhood to Older Readers (suitable for high school and college) http://cbca.org.au/awards.htm

To celebrate Book Week here in our library, we will have a trivia quiz each day, with prizes for the first correct answer for each question. Questions include literature, films, science, popular culture & general knowledge. We will also have quotes and first lines from novels – ready for students to identify the source. And of course there are lots of wonderful books to read, browse and borrow!

Our book display will focus on science – both fiction and non fiction - to tie in with National Science Week which is also celebrated 16 – 24 August http://www.scienceweek.net.au/ There will be lots of interesting events on around town including: Space oddity with astronaut Chris Hadfield; Science in action careers day; Future cop and the ANU science carnival.

A great month to connect to reading!

Mathematics

Change to testing policy in maths.

In the interests of being fair to all students and to further ensure the integrity of our tests in maths, we have decided to alter our current maths testing policy. This change will support greater consistency in policy and practice system-wide.

The change means that students must now sit the mid-semester and final tests on the scheduled day. A medical certificate should be obtained if a student is sick on the day of the test or during the period immediately prior to the test and this should be submitted to Student Services. The student will be expected to complete the test in class on their return to give the student and teacher a guide to their mastery of the course material to that point. However the student’s mark for the missed item will be estimated predominantly on performance in other assessment items across the course in that year.

This change will take effect from this semester. Please feel free to contact me if you wish to discuss the implications of this change further.

Clare Byrne
Executive Teacher Mathematics
During week 3, 36 Outdoor Education students traveled to Thredbo for a 3 day skiing and snowboarding adventure. With the season being one of the best in the last 30 years and 3 days of sunshine it made for an amazing experience for our students.

All students not only improved their snowboarding and skiing skills but also represented the college in a way that we should all be proud of.

The highlight of the trip for most students was meeting Olympic Gold Medallist Torah Bright on the slopes (picture 2).

CONGRATULATIONS
Dickson students Julian Lolicato, Jordon Adams and Wes Faulkner competed in the Interschool Snowsports Championships last month.

Congratulations on some great results!
Secondary Introductory English Centre (SIEC students participated in the ‘Step into the Limelight’ exhibition which was held at School of Art Gallery recently. The students who had their work represented were Jing Wen CHEN, Pam JUNMUSIK, Nook KONGWIRAT and Narges SHARIFI. Here is a picture of Jing Wen at the exhibition with her artwork.

Jill Pettifer (SIEC Art Teacher)
Science

Physics

The Y12 Physics students studying Engineering and Fluids are currently designing and constructing lightweight bridge with only a single support touching the ground. These highly innovative students are busy getting the bridges ready for submission in week 9, with the best bridges being placed on display for viewing around the college, so watch this space for coming pictures.

Chemistry

Titrination Practicals
Student Absences:

Advice for students, parents and carers

The Student Wellbeing Team would like to remind parents and students that it is important to submit absence forms as soon as possible after the absence. A note explaining an absence must include at least the following:

- The date the student was away
- The reason the student was away
- If the student was only away for part of a school day, the time of arrival and/or departure.

“Due cause with adequate documentary evidence” (ACT BSSS) and a “reasonable excuse” (ACT Education Act 2004 Part2.2 10A (3)) are required for students to explain absence from class.

Examples of a ‘reasonable excuse’ for a child’s absence may include:

- illness, including recovery from major illness, injury or medical condition
- medical or dental treatment
- bereavement
- religious or cultural observation
- sanctioned extended absence in relation to children of travelling families, attendance at court or other legal hearings, or meetings associated with hearings
- participation in sanctioned debates, eisteddfods, sports, musical or theatrical productions not directly arranged by the school, or
- participation in interstate, national, or international sporting event or equivalent.

Examples of what is not considered a reasonable excuse include:

- having to work, driving lessons or a driving test (students are expected to prioritise their education and arrange part-time jobs and other commitments around their school timetable and study schedule)
- sleeping in
- missing the bus
- studying for a test or completing homework or assignments
- long bus travel as they live far from Dickson College

Notes that just say the student was absent without providing a reason are recorded as unexplained absences as the reason for the absence has not been given.

If a student has too many unexplained absences in a unit they will be deemed ‘not assessable’ and will receive a V-grade for that unit.

The ACT Board of Senior Secondary Studies policy on attendance states:

“Any student whose attendance falls below 90% of the scheduled classes/contact time/structured learning activities in a unit, without having due cause with adequate documentary evidence will be deemed to have voided [v-graded] the unit.”

Please contact the college on 02 6205 6455 to discuss student attendance and progress. You can also send us an email: info@dicksonc.act.edu.au or visit us online: www.dicksonc.act.edu.au.

Victoria Margrain Student Wellbeing Coordinator