From The Principal

Arts
CAREERS
English & Languages
Foundations
Humanities
Information Technology
Library
Mathematics

PE
SIEC/Refugee Bridging Program
Student Wellbeing Centre
Technology & Hospitality

May 2014

Monday 9 June
Queen's Birthday Holiday

18- 23 June
Crossline Testing

Monday 16 June
P & C Meeting 6:30pm
From the Principal

Last night was the Dickson College Open Night for 2014. Each year this is an opportunity for future, potential students to determine whether or not we can meet their learning needs. However, each year the night becomes so much more than that and last night was truly a celebration of all that makes our wonderful school so special. Our students volunteered in droves to speak, cater, meet and greet, perform, discuss subject areas and share their knowledge and wisdom with future students and their families. Our staff ensured that our school was looking fantastic, that student learning was at the forefront and that more than 1000 visitors were guided, informed, fed, entertained and made to feel exceptionally welcome over the evening. I wish to personally extend my thanks to all who were involved at every level of preparation and on the evening.

There were many comments from our guests about the positive feelings they had walking through our school and about the incredible young people we have here.

There were some key messages from last night which I wanted to share with you all as I feel that they describe the commitment we have to our students and to our community.

These are:
- that we believe that every young person at our school is incredibly important and special,
- that the best environment for learning is one in which people feel they belong and so ‘belonging’ does not need to be earned at Dickson College, it is a given and a right,
- that every individual is great at or passionate about something and that if we can find what that ‘something’ is we can give every learner the confidence and courage to take on new challenges,
- that we are committed to offering a wide range of choice in curriculum at Dickson College,
- that we have a significant focus on teaching as a profession here and on every teacher being a reflective, high quality educator,
- that we work hard to maintain an environment in which wellbeing is paramount, and
- that we want to work in partnership with families and our community to support the learning of every student at Dickson College so that they can achieve their best.

Thank you to all involved in last night and to our wider community who share our vision and support Dickson College in their conversations and in their actions.

Best wishes
Kerrie Heath
Australian School Climate Measurement Tool (ASCMT) survey

We at Dickson College are continually interested in gaining information that will assist in school planning and making decisions on an informed basis. To this end, the school in partnership with the Australian National University and the ACT of Education and Training Directorate is surveying staff, students and parents/carers. The aim is to gather information about the school’s social climate, day-to-day experiences, the strengths of the school and the future challenges. This survey will take place this term (Term 2, 2014). You will receive an email from the school with a link to the survey and students will complete the survey at school.

We hope to discuss the findings of the survey with you at a future time and feel that gathering this information annually is important in ensuring the quality of the relational and wellbeing climate of the school for staff, students and parents/carers.

If you require any further information please contact Mark Bishop or Kirk Zwangobani.

Why is this survey important?

In all three surveys designed for students, staff, parents/carers there is a particular focus on Relationships, Connection and Engagement.

These three areas have been demonstrated as being critical to school success and ongoing improvement. Depending on whether you are a student, staff member or parent/carer the items assessing these three main areas focus on different aspects.

No-one at the school will be able to know how an individual student has answered the survey questions. When looking at responses and writing reports, ANU researchers will not have access to any identifiable or re-identifiable information, so that all the reporting of the findings of the survey will be anonymous.

Staff/Parents/Carers: Will generate their own code number based on providing answers to a range of questions. These questions can be asked again in the future leading to the use of the same code number. The code number is designed so that a person is not identifiable. At no time will an individual’s responses to any items be identified in the reporting of the findings.

What will the information be used for?

The information students, at this and other schools, provide may be of use to better understand what makes schools really successful. This information will also be used to write policy documents and research journal articles so a wide audience can understand better what makes schools a success for staff, students and parents/carers.

Australian and international research demonstrates that school climate has an impact on student learning and wellbeing outcomes. Measuring elements that contribute to school climate, particularly those elements that most directly relate to student learning and wellbeing outcomes, will allow school leaders to prioritise and monitor their school improvement efforts across learning and wellbeing areas.
EX-STUDENT DICKSON COLLEGE

It is always good to hear what our ex students are achieving in life. Rose O’Dea will become the third female ever, after fellow goal umpires Katrina Pressley and Chelsea Roffey, to officiate in the AFL. Rose who is studying her honours in Biology at the Australian National University, also attended North Ainslie Primary, Lyneham High and Dickson College.

You might like these articles on Rose O’Dea, a former pupil.


Master Plan – ‘Student Ideas Wall’

Come and give us your ideas and your opinions on the future shape of Dickson College.

Located between the two Deputy Principals’ Offices, the purple ‘Student Ideas Wall’ is an opportunity for you have input into the Dickson College Master Plan Process.

On the wall, you can view initial ideas, and add your feedback via post-it notes supplied.

Simply write down your ideas, and stick them on the wall!

A date for your diary:

Year 12 Graduation 2014

Monday 15th December

5:00pm for 5:30pm

The Royal Theatre,

National Convention Centre

Constitution Avenue,

Canberra

Information will be provided through the newsletter and Clubs and Community groups throughout the year.

Rose O’Dea officiating her first AFL game.
On Sunday 5 April, 24 students and staff departed Dickson College for a long journey to Europe.

Our first stop was London, where we had the opportunity to visit many museums and tourist hotspots such as the Natural History Museum, Buckingham Palace, the British Museum, the Tate Modern, the Victoria and Albert Museum and Shakespeare’s Globe Theatre where we participated in a *Romeo and Juliet* workshop run by one of the actors at the Globe! We also visited the Warner Bros Studios where we spent three hours on the set of Harry Potter and marvelled at the costumes, special effects, models and props from the film series. In the evenings, we got the opportunity to see *Matilda* and *Once the Musical* on the West End. Many Whovians were particularly excited at the chance to meet Arthur Darvill after *Once the Musical* as we got his autograph, a photo and a little dance with the talented actor/musician!

Next stop was Amsterdam where we headed straight to the beautiful Keukenhof Gardens and had a delightful bike ride near a clog factory and windmill. The next day, some students went to Delft to see how the beautiful Royal Delft pottery is made while others when to Nemo, the Science Centre in Amsterdam, and a tour of the Royal Palace in Amsterdam. In the afternoon, we all met up at the Rijkmuseum for some more art culture. On our last day at Amsterdam, we went on a boat cruise along the canals before visiting the sombre Anne Frank’s House.

That night we caught an overnight train to Munich which was an exciting experience! When we arrived in Munich, we were given a tour of the centre of town and tasted the local delicacy of a "schmalznudel" for breakfast!
We then went on a tour of the Olympia stadium where there was a Sparta Challenge event and we watched participants jump over a fire to the finish line! After the stadium tour, we found ourselves at BMW World, looking at the latest auto-technology at BMW.

In the afternoon, we visited the Nymphenburg Castle and its hunting house. In the afternoon some students went to the Pinakothek museums to immerse themselves with the art galleries on offer in Munich while others relaxed in a community park and played various games like hacky sack and leapfrog! On our last day of Munich, we visited Dachau, which was the first concentration camp that was used as a model for others during World War II. It was a sobering experience seeing the conditions and learning about the treatment of those detained.

Our next stop was Salzburg in Austria, where we went on a Sound of Music tour, visiting the key film locations from the movie and re-enacting some of the most memorable scenes! We also visited Mozart's birthplace and the incredible Hohensalzburg Castle, which is 937 years old!

Before we knew it, we said “so long, farewell” to Austria and departed for an Italian adventure starting with a day in Verona, checking out ‘Juliet’s balcony’ on our way to La Spezia. We had a relaxing day in Cinque Terre, visiting the five colourful villages along the coastline and we watched the gorgeous sunset against the backdrop of a picturesque endless sea. Soon, we were off again, this time to Florence! No visit to Florence is complete without a visit to the Duomo and the Accademia to see Michelangelo’s magnificent David sculpture made out of marble. Being Easter, it was only appropriate to have an Easter egg hunt at the Boboli Gardens! On our last day in Florence, some students went to Pisa and took creative photographs with the Leaning Tower, while others stayed in Florence and watched the amazing fireworks display to celebrate Easter Sunday! That afternoon, we boarded our flight to our last European destination – PARIS! The flight was particularly special to one of the students, Chloe, who celebrated her 16th birthday that day by joining the pilots in the cockpit for the landing into Paris!
Despite having only two full days in Paris, we managed to squeeze in a visit to the Lourve, shopping along Champs Elysee and seeing the Arc De Triomphe, going up the Eiffel Tower, exploring MontMarte and Sacre-Coeur, a river cruise along the Seine, a tour of the Palace of Versailles, a Henri Cartier-Bresson exhibition at the Centre Pompidou, a visit to Notre Dame and sought refuge from the rain at Shakespeare & Co, where many students fell in love with the books and the ambience of the shop (which our musical prodigy Jose contributed to with his piano solo upstairs!).

After the many kilometres we would have walked during our three week journey, it is safe to say that it was all worth it, as we took as many opportunities as possible to broaden our knowledge, expand our experience and open our eyes to the world throughout this incredible excursion. It’s quite amazing to reflect back on all the things we saw and did in only just three weeks!

To help us remember, we set up a Facebook page: www.facebook.com/DCEurotrip2014 to share our experiences with friends, family and the community.

Videos of our trip are also on YouTube at the following URLs:

**CANBERRA-SYD-LONDON:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAtiWB0Jc2vk

**AMSTERDAM-MUNICH:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RjsDnm6BpGM

**SALZBURG-LA SPEZIA:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rZF2ST0Ko7g

**CINQUE TERRE:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qt4EwpxUc7E

**FLORENCE-PARIS:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hlCANWpqeLM

Last but not least, we’d like to thank everyone for their support! A special thank you to Brooke Cooper and Chris Zuber for volunteering to drive the bus to Sydney and back, and also the following businesses for sponsoring us:

'As Nature Intended' Belconnen; IGA Ainslie; Trevs Dickson; UC Fit Gym; Brumbies; 'Framed Like That'; Dominos Belconnen; TallaTango; Student Flights Belconnen; Golden Nails & Spa Belconnen

Mark, Nicky and Betty
**ARTS**

**Drama**

This term the Drama production class will be performing *The Laramie Project*, an American play by Moisés Kaufman and the Tectonic Theater Project. The play depicts a community's reaction to the 1998 murder of gay University of Wyoming student Matthew Shepard. It explores how one hateful event can bring out the best and worst in community.

Performance dates 4 to 6 June Antill Theatre Dickson College Adult $10 Concession $5 Bookings please call 62056455.

**Fashion & Textiles**

Fashion, Textiles and Society students are preparing fabrics, inspired by different cultures, for inclusion in their textile items. Inspiration has been drawn from Aboriginal, Japanese, Peruvian, Indian, African and Persian cultures.

The picture shows a silk organza fabric, using Japanese Shibori dyeing techniques.
**Social and Community Work (VET)**

Students studying Social and Community are currently visiting residents at Goodwin Village Ainslie. Under the direction of the activities coordinator Rachel, students spend time talking to residents, playing carpet bowls and participating in arts and crafts. These visits allow students the opportunity to develop core skills in communicating with others, working cooperatively and following policies and procedures. These visits will continue each fortnight for 2014 school year.

Our students are been invited to participate in free initiative created by carecareers which gives students the opportunity to gain first-hand experience in the disability and community care sector. Students will attend a half day workshop on Friday 23 May 2014 at Northside Community

**WORK EXPERIENCE**

Time is running out to organise a work experience placement for Semester 1. Students are able to attend work experience in Week 19 (23-27 June) or Week 20 (30 June – 4 July) this semester.

Participating in work experience is a very valuable opportunity for students to investigate possible future pathways, gain experience for their resume or even gain employment. Students also receive 0.5 points towards their

Year 12 certificate for a completed week of work experience. Please book an appointment to see Lia or Erica in the Careers Office before the end of Week 16 in order to organise your placement.

Dickson College would like to thank the following employers who have already agreed to host work experience students this semester:

- ANU Quantum Science Research
- Bentleys of Canberra
- Canberra Imaging Group - Deakin
- Canberra Southern Cross Club - Woden
- Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club - Yarralumla
- Capital Racing Stables
- CCS Maintenance
- Department of Physics - ANU
- Emmaus Christian School
- Exclusive Images Photography
- Gentech Automotive and Performance
- Gerald Slaven Holden - Belconnen
- Grantley Perry & Sons
- Gungahlin Lakes Club
- IGA Everyday (Florey)
- Inspire Centre - University of Canberra
- Kaleen Primary School
- Keirs - Dickson
- Leonardo’s Uni Salon
- Lyneham High School
- M & M Kitchens & Joinery
- Magnet Mart (Gungahlin)
- Majura Early Childhood Centre
- Majura Primary School
- McDevitt Painting
- McDonalds (Mitchell)
- Professional Paint and Panel
- Quick Response Fire Protection
- Target - Civic
- The Little Learning School
- The Mark Agency
- If your business or place of employment would like to host a work experience student from Dickson College,

Lia McKerihan and Erica Brown
Having your work published is a dream for many young writers. This dream came to fruition for three aspiring writers from Dickson College, Sarah Holroyd, Hamish Jackson and Alice Beecham, when their work was published in the Litlinks Anthology. The Litlinks creative writing competition is held every year by the English Teachers’ Association, ACTATE, and it is a wonderful showcase for our students’ work. Written pieces which the students completed as assessment pieces were drafted by their teachers, honed by the students and polished until they were glowing and suitable for publication. A committee of English teachers then chose a representative piece from each school and college to go forward for selection as finalists. This year, Alice Beecham was selected as one of the final five contestants in the ACT senior section. Here is an excerpt from her story:

**Glass and Porcelain**

*Despite his rain coat, wind and water had gotten to him. A cup of tea, George decided, was exactly what was needed right now. Mr Jones knocked a doll from its shelf. He tried to catch it, but the doll glanced off his outstretched arm, and into the next room. Porcelain doll met porcelain tile with a satisfying crunch.*

English Line 5 Class, Responding to Literature are studying “Educating Rita”. The class photos show the silent play reading after studying the play to focus on the non-verbal aspects of our characterisation; an entertaining classroom full impromptu speeches for interactive orals in the blue sky classroom.
Japanese

Photo 1  Artwork by student accurately depicting our beginning 1 class

Photo 2  Our new Japanese Teaching Assistant Toshiro teaching about his hometown.

Photo 3  Beginning 3 excursion to a Japanese family home- thank you Kudo Family

Photo 4  Visiting guests to our Japanese tutorials on Thursdays 3pm - 4pm
ESL

We have been very fortunate this term to have a pre-service teacher from the University of Canberra, Luni Xu, working alongside us as part of her Master of Teaching degree.

Students in ESL A have been immersed in a documentary about the environment. They have worked on understanding Global Warming, its effects and how we as individuals can make a positive contribution. The up-coming assessment is a written response to a film relating to an ice age.

The level 5 class prepared an interpretive response to Does My Head Look Big in This? by Randa Abdel-Fattah. The following excerpt is from a class activity. Students were required to write a speech on ‘belonging’ as it relates to them and their experiences at Dickson College.

“The philosophy of Dickson College is excellence, opportunity and community. I am an ESL student studying in Australia and I have found this to be true. In the past two years, I have joined two maths competitions, a chemistry competition, a pi recitation competition, UAV programme, work experience and school leadership. I have volunteered at the multicultural festival and taught reading at North Ainslie Primary School. For students who need help, there are tutorial classes available for us. Students have good relationships with their teachers. The school leadership group is about listening to student leaders to improve the quality of college life. In this group, I have a chance to have face to face conversations with the principal. I believe, if you are looking for a school that not only teaches knowledge but also a life lesson, Dickson College should absolutely be your first choice.” Mike T

HOMESTAY HOSTING – AN ENRICHING OPPORTUNITY

Evie Kollas, Tabatha Kellett, Anna Beaver and Luni Xu
Foundations for Independence

Foundations Open day

The Foundations Program recently held an open day for students looking to enrol in our learning support unit and learning support centre. Our current students lead the afternoon meeting and greeting families and giving them a tour of the school and its facilities. We were delighted to watch our student’s leadership qualities.

Students are currently preparing for work experience placements towards the end of term. After identifying and contacting workplaces students are planning what they will wear, what activities they will undertake and how they will travel to and from the worksite. We appreciate the following businesses in their ongoing support McDonalds on the federal Hwy, Keirs in Dickson, Holden Belconnen, Majura Early Childhood Centre, Pegasus, IGA Florey and Wilbur’s Café, Hackett.

Foundations Art and Photography

The Foundations Art and Photography class has been working extremely hard again this term! They’ve completed beautiful paintings based around personal interests and been taking loads of photographs around the community. The students have attended excursions to the Australian Botanical Gardens and the National Gallery of Australia and are looking forward to taking photographs at the National Arboretum and Sculpture garden in the coming weeks. A group of enthusiastic hard workers is the only way to describe this group of artists.
**Project ABLE**

Students in the community services classes participated in this brilliant workshop to explore careers in the disability and community care sectors. It was a wonderful opportunity for students to work in groups to explore their skills and abilities that match the broad range of care careers. Students also gained skills to promote positive perceptions of people with disability and an understanding of inclusion and participation for people with disability in the community. The six staff at Northside Community Services ran the program and shared their career stories with students. This was a very powerful part of the workshop as students could ask questions about training and qualifications and the personal rewards staff get every day from working within the community sector.

Please see Jenny Cowell in N4 if you would like to participate in the next project ABLE group booked in for Friday 13 June from 9.30-1:00pm.
**Humanities**

**Legal Studies**

**Tales of court room drama**

On Friday 4 April, students in the Crime and Justice unit were lucky enough to have Ms Helen Roberts come to speak with them. As a Crown Prosecutor with the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) Helen has a vast array and depth of experience in criminal law and was able to give the students a real insight into the workings of a criminal trial. In particular, the special obligations and responsibilities of prosecutors at trial.

Helen told many anecdotes from her time as a prosecutor and her ‘down to earth’ and friendly manner ensured students were engaged. When responding to questions and speaking of her own experience, she was also careful to dispel myths about, the popular ABC drama ‘Janet King’.

Students reported that they appreciated hearing about the criminal law from the perspective of someone currently working in the field.

Helen was in Canberra for a matter in the High Court the previous day and we very much appreciate her time and effort in coming to the college to talk to the students.

“Having a real life prosecutor taking the time to speak to us was a great experience…She was quite inspiring.” Abby

“[It] was very in depth about reality vs television shows.” Ruby

“All the examples she gave us helped put everything about the criminal law into perspective.” Julie

“Helen Roberts, pretty much a slightly taller brunette Liz Ahern, gave us a personal insight on what it is like to be a Crown Prosecutor.” Heather.

“Helen told us about a lawyer’s obligations to their clients, confidentiality. It was a very interesting presentation that gave us an insight into what it is like to be a crown prosecutor.” Lance

**Psychology**

As a part of their studies into the psychological theories of persuasion, several of our Year 11 Psychology students participated in fundraising activities for charity throughout the term. Students raised funds for the Canberra Blind Society and AFFIRM (the Australian Foundation for Mental Health research). The students raised more than $600 collecting donations at the local Dickson Shopping Centre and in the process and were also able to put a few of the techniques of persuasion studied in class into practice.

The students agreed that it was a fun and valuable experience that gave them a deeper understanding of the live experience of psychological theory.
Our warm and cozy library is attracting lots of happy students researching, reading, browsing and working on assignments.

Many of the desktop computers have been upgraded and the netbooks are in great demand. With the college’s migration to the SchoolsNet computer network, students are appreciating the ease of a single login (forgotten passwords can be reset with library staff and teachers). Dickson College supports BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) and many students connect their devices to the wifi network by following the wifi guide. With the new network, students will have to reconnect their devices. Students can now access Chrome as a web browser, as well as Internet Explorer.

We have recently implemented an online video delivery system – TV4Education. Selected educational TV programs (MP4 files) are collected into our TV4Education website:


Students have been given password details via Clubs and information is also in the shared T:drive. Programs can be viewed on computers and various devices, at home and at school and are best viewed in Chrome or Firefox web browsers. Teachers may embed links to programs in Edmodo, where students can also access them.

Programs are selected from free to air and Foxtel and are ad-free. They include documentaries, series and movies. See the full range of programs available for our selection: http://www.tv4education.com/PCP_tv4education/default.aspx?pageName=HomePage

However, you cannot view programs at this website. If students or staff wish to view a program, they can contact library staff and we will move that program into our Dickson College collection. TV4Education will be a very useful and accessible video system for the college.

We also encourage students to use the library’s growing collection of digital resources in the shared T:drive>common>Library DC. These include:

- ebooks - 50 non fiction ebooks covering social and environmental issues
- Weblinks – hundreds of websites in all subject areas, selected for students
- Hot Topics – links to full text newspaper articles on current topics
- eNotes – many study guides for English novels and plays

We are also adding to our print collection with quality non fiction and fiction books and these are just as popular as ever! We continue to provide quality resources within and beyond the college library to support our students.

Dickson College Library: http://www.dckclib.wikispaces.com

Student Work

The photos show a selection of student maths assignment work from term 1.

Clare Byrne
Executive Teacher mathematics
**School sport**
School sport this term has had a great start with some very good results and a large number of students representing the College.

The first all-day carnival of the term was the boys AFL. The boys started the day with a very tough game against Marist College and played with one player down in the first half. The boys were still finding their positions in this match and for some they were working out how to play the game. In the end the boys lost 38 to 10. For their second match the boys kicked into gear and played some really good footy, losing a close match to Boys Grammar 37-32. The boys went on to win their final two matches against Canberra College and Gungahlin College. All the boys played extremely well and had a very good day out.

**Intercollege sport**
In intercollege sport this term we have the boys and girls futsal and the girls’ netball running on Thursday afternoons. The highlight so far goes to the girls’ futsal team consisting of Emma Bestek, Lauryn Hyde, Emma Kirk and Tjnaya White who played an entire match with one player down and no substitutes. In this match the girls worked extremely hard and put in a huge effort to beat Melba Copland 7-6 in a nail biting game which saw our girls win in the last second. Well done to all four of girls. The girls play Gungahlin next in their final pool match and with a full squad should be hard to beat.

The boys Futsal team has had some very tough, narrow losses against the two Lake Ginninderra teams. The boys played Melba Copland last week and came away with a 6-1 win on a very tough court to play on. The boys play Hawker College at home next and then a final pool match against Gungahlin College later in the term.

The girls’ netball team has only played two games so far and have had one win and one loss. The girls lost the first game to Melba Copeland by 1 point and then had a huge win against Hawker College 38-11. The girls play Gungahlin next week.

Upcoming sporting competitions include boys and girls touch football and boys soccer, good luck to all the teams representing the College.

**Sports Studies** – Dickson College Sports Studies classes are currently teaching North Ainslie Primary School students physical activity lessons for the next 5 week.
Tertiary ODE Students at Mt Ainslie

Sea Kayaking Batemans Bay

Scuba Diving at Jervis Bay

Mountain Biking Thredbo

Girls PE class at Boxing

Knee Boarding at Cables Wakepark Penrith

Tertiary ODE Students at Mt Ainslie
Australia21 will be hosting a youth roundtable on Refugee and Asylum seekers in Canberra on Thursday 29 May 6pm-9pm for 40 young people (aged 18-30). This roundtable will provide an opportunity for young people to freely voice their perspectives and ideas for future Refugee and Asylum Seeker policy in Australia. Participants will engage in interactive dialogue and activities with their peers and four invited experts to consider future visions for Australia.

Australia21 will be involved in synthesising youth perspectives from the roundtable into a short summary to feed into an expert roundtable to be held by Australia21 in July.

For more information about this event, and to register please go to: http://www.australia21.org.au/young21-archive/young21-2/youth-roundtable-on-refugee-and-asylum-seeker-policy/#.U2hglIleyKW8 and for further queries contact lisa.petheram@australia21.org.au
Extra support for Year 11 students
The transition from high school into college is an exciting and sometimes difficult time. Here at Dickson College we have a dedicated Transitions Program for students experiencing difficulty. This program is available to students for up to 4 hours a week and is held in its own flexible learning space. We also offer a Tutorial Hour in the Library each Thursday from 3:00pm to 4:00pm. Teachers across a range of disciplines volunteer their time to assist students with their homework and assessment. For more information please phone Victoria Margrain on 6205-6476 in the Student Wellbeing Centre.

The Student Wellbeing Centre assists all students to enjoy success at College. Student Wellbeing staff provide support for students, their parents, carers and teachers. We are happy to see students and parents on a drop-in basis, but it is wise to book an appointment. Call us on 6205 6447.

Wellbeing Team
Executive Teacher: - Victoria Margrain 62056476
Year 12 Advisors: - Brooke Cooper and Josephine Kim
Year 11 Advisor: - Claire Sandrey and Lex Warfield 62072226
Psychologist: - Shireen Manocha
Assessment & Certification: - Executive Teacher: Juliette Bornas 62056475
Administration: - Sharon Butler 62056426

Attendance
Students new to Year 11 sometimes have difficulty understanding the impact of absences on their time at College. If a student has too many unexplained absences, they will void the unit (V grade) which means they get no unit points for that subject. As a Year 12 Certificate requires 17 points, the absent student may find they don’t have enough points to graduate in two years.

Communicating with parents is important to us. If a student’s attendance record is causing concern, Dickson College has the following processes in place:
• Each Monday afternoon, an automated email or SMS attendance alert will be sent to parents if a student has missed 4 or more individual lessons during the previous week. This process starts in week 3. Please phone us if you receive an attendance alert.
• If a student has many absences in a particular subject, the relevant classroom teacher will contact parents.
• Pastoral Care teachers will phone home or email if the students in their Club class has missed four or more absences in any given subject.
• The Student Wellbeing Team will also contact parents/guardians if attendance is an ongoing concern.

We hope that this systematic and thorough set of processes will ensure that no parent is without knowledge of their child’s attendance at school.

If a student is required to be absent from college for an extended period a Year Advisor or Pastoral Care teacher can liaise with classroom teachers to organise for work to be sent home. It would be appreciated if family holidays could be arranged during term breaks, so as not to disrupt learning and assessment.

Leave of absence forms are available from our office and also from our website – it may be that
some students have missed class for legitimate reasons and neglected to fill in the appropriate leave form. Please contact us if you wish to discuss attendance.

Assessment
Students will be required to complete a number of assessment items throughout each semester. The assessment schedule for each unit studied is given to the student at the beginning of each semester in a unit outline. Students will need to provide appropriate evidence acceptable to the College (e.g. a medical certificate) in order for Student Wellbeing staff and subject teachers to make alternative arrangements for assessment if they are absent for any assessment item on the day it is due.

Parents will be notified by mail or email if a student fails to submit an assignment. Please ring the Student Wellbeing Centre if you receive an assessment alert.

A special assessment timetable will operate at the end of each semester, and students are expected to be available during this period.

A student can be granted special consideration or status in a case of prolonged absence that extends over the period of a term and which affects academic progress (such as in the case of chronic sickness).

Students have the right to appeal against their assessment if they think they have been unfairly treated.

School Psychologist
The psychologist is Shireen Manocha and she is available five days a week to discuss a range of issues with students and parents on a confidential basis. Issues can include adjustment to College, personal and social concerns, family matters and health, learning difficulties, special education needs, attendance and community helping agencies. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Shireen directly or via the front office of the College.

Student Wellbeing – dealing with stress
Dickson College Wellbeing Centre runs a Tutorial Hour every Thursday in the College library. A teacher and a teacher librarian are always available to help students with assignments and time management. Oral presentations are a regular form of assessment in many subject areas. Students who experience difficulty with speeches and presentations involving an audience can take part in a Dickson College Spoken Word Club which will operate from Week 3 onwards every Thursday afternoon from 3pm to 4pm. Please ring 6205-6426 for more information.

Victoria Margrain Executive Teacher
Student Wellbeing Centre
Technology & Hospitality

Giving Project - Bring Calyn Home

Students in the Hospitality and Foundations for Independence Programs have raised $350.00 for Calyn, a seven year old boy who heroically saved the life of his four year old brother by pushing him out of the way of an oncoming 4WD. Tragically Calyn has suffered a brain injury and needs a lot of therapy in preparation for him coming back home to live with his family. Our students put their barista skills to the test making hundreds of coffees and hot chocolates to raise the money. They demonstrated great teamwork, practical skills and compassion for a young child doing it very tough through this community based giving project.