DICKSON COLLEGE NEWSLETTER
November 2014

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Graduation
Dear Students, Families and Community Members

It is a lovely time of the year to start reflecting on the many achievements of our students and staff here at Dickson College. Excellence, Opportunity and Community are the sentiments by which we live our daily lives here and I wholeheartedly believe that you can see, hear and feel this as you walk through our school and witness the work of our school community. Last week I was fortunate to be on the panel for the One Canberra Symposium where I was able to speak to 120 multicultural and multi faith leaders about the amazing culture and community our students create every day and the way in which they value each other. I was so proud to be the principal of this school community and be able to represent our community in this way.

Last Friday was World Teachers’ Day and we celebrated teachers and staff across our schools for the incredible difference they make each and every day to the lives of young people and to our community. We are very fortunate to have a team of dedicated and talented staff here at DC and many of our students gave lovely feedback to their teachers throughout the day.

On Friday 24 and Saturday 25 October we held three significant events. ‘Four Years of Fashion, a collection of work designed and constructed by our current and previous students and showcased through a brilliant fashion parade which was organised and facilitated by some of our Year 12 Fashion students was an absolute feast. The opening of the Art Exhibition which followed was also incredible and showcased the diversity and talent of the many arts students here at DC. DesignGate: A Festival of Ideas on Saturday meant the school hall was filled with stalls of jewellery, clothing, furniture and much more and was a great way to showcase the talents of our many musicians and actors who provided entertainment and provoked our thinking with their many performances throughout the day. It was a bringing together of school and community into one and I was thrilled to be part of it.

We were also fortunate to host once again, the staff and students from our sister school in Japan. Our relationship with Nara University High School is a long, ongoing and rich one which provides friendship and learning for all of us. Thank you to our many host families who took students – I hope you gained much from this experience. One of the highlights of this visit for me was being able to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country in Japanese and explain the importance of this to us as Australians. This exchange of culture makes us feel proud of our identity and brings us closer to our friends in Japan.

Since our last newsletter a significant number of Dickson College students have been awarded with Distinctions and High Distinctions in various mathematics competitions, have won the annual ACT ‘Mock Trial’ competition (for the second year in a row!), have been in a number of sporting events and have completed a VERY large number of assessment tasks. They are on the ‘home stretch’ now! Please do not forget that we are here to help so if your student is struggling and needs some additional support please encourage them to attend Student Services and see their Year Adviser!

Best wishes
Kerrie
Dickson College Japanese Program 2014
Sister School Visit
Graduation ‘DC Presents’

This year’s ceremony will be held on Monday 15 December (5.00pm for students) at The Canberra Theatre, Civic Square.

Due to our large Year 12 cohort, graduation is a ticketed event. Every graduating student will be issued with 3 tickets – one for themselves and another two for their guests. Tickets were issued in Week 12 during Clubs and Community.

Students will be given an allocated seat, however guest seating is open. Please note that both students and guests will need to present their tickets at the theatre door to gain entrance on the night.

Once we have finalized our initial seating, we may be able to provide additional tickets to those families who would like them. If this is possible we will notify students in Week 16. Please do not make any requests for extra tickets until students have been notified.

More information regarding ticketing and the organisation of the evening will be distributed to students through their Clubs and Community sessions.

If you have any questions regarding tickets for graduation, please contact Elizabeth Ahern via email at elizabeth.ahern@ed.act.edu.au
Design Gate
– A Festival of Ideas

May we offer a tremendous thankyou to all those who helped and participated in the 2014 edition Design Gate. In particular to the stallholders and students whose sense of fun and enthusiasm helped to make a great day.

Design Gate – A Festival of Ideas took place at the College on Saturday 25 October. It was preceded by a wonderful Four years of Fashion show and the opening of the DC Arts exhibition on Friday evening.

The intention was to broaden the focus of this ‘Gate’. It is to be a festival of ideas. Our intrepid UAV pilot and Robotics teacher Mr Andrew Moss held a great stall that included a highly realistic virtual experience of a roller coaster ride. The Maths faculty ran a highly successful Angles of Canberra photography competition and the English ‘folk’ and a beautiful display of children’s literature written and illustrated by DC students.

There were performances of theatre and music, the Majura Primary School Choir and the Arts Exhibition of photography, textiles and fashion, ceramics were incorporated into the event.; a veritable visual and aural feast.

The BBQ, run by Deputy Principal Mark Bishop raised funds for our Talented Sport Program teacher , Scott Eastburn’s, cancer charity Live Fit. Live Life.

Of course there were stallholders, from Tick, Tock Type’s original array of exciting jewellery made from pieces old clocks and typewriters to lamp shades by Jane Sobierajski and great guitars from Bungendore Guitars the day was a celebration of community.

We’ll running again next year and would love to hear from you. Feel free to contact me at the College any time.

Richard Manning
Arts Faculty
Art provokes. Art comments. Art inspires. In all its many forms it gives voice to thought and idea and very often defines individuals, groups and cultures. It is a vehicle that expresses identity.

The work on display at Dickson College recently gives us cause to celebrate. Not the celebration where people are ‘patted on the back’ for doing a good job, rather a celebration for the expression of idea. From the music, to the theatre to the photography, graphic design, architecture, visual art and fashion it was inspiring to witness young adults finding a voice. There was a wonderful sense of self in their work but importantly a sense of the world and compassion for others.

We hope you enjoyed the work of the students. We hope you continue to support their growth as artists. The Arts celebrate the whole human being – the intellect, the physical, the spiritual and the emotional.

We are proud to work within a community that holds the Arts as a core element in the lives of young adults.

The Arts Faculty
Kristie Mack, Kylie Foira, Nicky Mowbray, Jill Pettifer, Alison Moulang, Chris Zuber, Peter Richens, Julie Marginson, Mark Bishop, Richard Manning

It has been a busy term 4 in Drama at DC. In an unconventional setting the Experimental Theatre class performed a variety of pieces at Design Gate. There was loads of bubble wrap, broken eggshells, a bus inside the canteen, masked movement, absurd animal rights activists and an abridged history of Disney. This weird and wonderful mix was received extremely well by its unsuspecting audience.

The Ensemble Production class is just about to perform a piece at Shake It: The Northside School Spectacular. Our performance, directed by Claire Bailey and Abigail Nelson, is an extremely high energy physical theatre piece that explores a myriad of different handshakes and what they can convey.

Dickson Drama students Isabel Burton, Celine Dore and Anneka Van Der Velde are also performing some short clowning sketches with students from North Ainslie Primary and Campbell Primary.

Lastly, the Theatre for Young People class is presenting a self devised pantomime of Robin Hood to year 3 and 4 Majura Primary students. This promises to be a fun and silly way to wrap up a big year of Drama at Dickson.

Chris Zuber Drama teacher
**ARCHITECTURE SITE VISIT TO SYDNEY**

In August our Architecture students travelled to Sydney for a site visit in order to prepare for their Semester 2 Project. The students were set the design brief of developing a ‘Social Outreach’ project in Sydney Square, the narrow piece of land between Sydney Town Hall & St Andrews Cathedral on George Street. Although their project needed to offer a sense of community, it also needed to remain a thoroughfare for pedestrian traffic.

The students carried out site investigations for their site analysis and undertook some valuable hand drawing on site. We also visited ‘Paddington Reservoir Gardens’ (an excellent example of working with an existing site and respecting the history of a site) and ‘Lentil as Anything’ (a not-for-profit community organisation that practices values of respect, trust and equality and contribute greatly to society).

Our group met with lecturers at UTS to hear about the Design programs offered there and took a tour of the facilities, and at UNSW we were given a talk about the Built Environment courses by the Dean of the faculty, as well as being given a tour of their building.

After enjoying the artistic and masterful puppetry of the Lion King musical, we slept the night on the floor of Crows Nest Uniting Church as a way to thoughtfully consider the social outreach nature of our assessment project. We contributed what would have been our accommodation costs to Mission Australia’s Winter Sleepout appeal to offer support for those struggling and in need.

Our two days in Sydney were valuable, enlightening and enjoyable! Now we look forward to seeing the final solutions take form (using Industry standard software, Revit) as the students will present their exciting presentations in the coming weeks.

**DRAMA/DANCE EXCURSION**

At the end of Term 3, a group of 28 Drama & Dance students travelled to Sydney to experience a whole range of showbiz! On arriving at the Sydney bus station and walking across the road to our accommodation (convenience at it's best), we then split….. Drama went to NIDA and had a mammoth 4 hour Drama workshop where they got physical and sweaty, and expressive and excited about Drama, and worked on their upcoming production piece! Meanwhile Dance walked to Surrey Hills, via a sunny park and a class game of ‘hacky sack’, and then continued on to a fabulous Hip Hop/Funk Dance workshop, grooving to old beats by Janet Jackson.

After dinner, (and a street artist doing very well from 28 students wanting paper portraits)- we then headed to the Lyric theatre and watched the amazing ‘Strictly Ballroom’ musical. It was fun, upbeat and very enjoyable. We rushed to the stage door at the end of the performance and met up with some of the key performers (see photos).

The following day we began at Circular Quay and the 2014 Drama/Dance Scavenger Hunt took place (it is a tradition!)- a game of speed, skill and courage- from teaching random people to dance, to bringing super heroes into the fast food world, there was something for everyone. We had
a picnic lunch in the Botanical Gardens (or for some, on the way to the gardens…) and then attended the matinee of the Sydney Theatre Company’s ‘Children of the Sun’. This had a fantastic cast and intriguing story about a quirky Russian family, caught up in their domestic struggles and unaware of the trouble brewing at their door.

After leaving the Opera House, we took a leisurely stroll (and everyone enjoyed the change of pace from the Sydney sprint leg of last year) through the streets of Sydney, stopped for a food break at Pitt Street Mall and continued back to the YHA to retrieve our bags and board the bus back to Canberra.

We had a super fun two days….and now we look forward to the ‘Shake it’ Schools Spectacular in Week 14 where our Drama students will be performing, and our Dickson College Drama/Dance Showcase on Tuesday 11th November where both groups of students will be performing their own work. Please come along and watch our talented students. So till the next annual Drama/Dance fieldtrip to Sydney……

Chris Zuber (Drama teacher) & Nicky Mowbray (Dance teacher)
At the end of Week 11, on a beautiful Sunday morning a small group of Art photographers set out on a bus trip to Sydney. On arriving in Sydney we made our way straight to our first photo shoot location, Chinatown! From Haymarket, we drove to Paddington. After taking some more shots in the Paddington Reservoir Gardens we headed next door to the Australian Centre for Photography. There were numerous photography exhibitions and a powerful photomedia work about drug & human trafficking in the Middle East. We had a tour of ACP’s facilities from one of their lovely staff before heading across the road to the famous café Mickey’s for their amazing thickshakes!

We then drove across to Crows Nest Uniting, to drop our stuff (because yes, we slept on the floor...you can see a theme if you have been reading since the Architecture excursion article) and then down to Balmoral beach for a fish n’ chip dinner. That night we had the ‘Ultimate’ game of Cranium….and despite tough competition, Lili & Ellie took out the championship!

After a very hearty breakfast, we travelled to our next photo location, the Queen Victoria Building & George Street. The beautiful architecture was the subject of numerous shots before we started our walk down to Circular Quay and the Museum of Contemporary Art. At the MCA, we visited a range of very interesting exhibitions. Two in particular were, a retrospective exhibition of Annette Messager’s work (who uses photography, sculpture, drawing & kinetic elements in her art) and Martu Art from the Far Western Desert.

Our next photo shoot was the Circular Quay area, and we were planning to go on into the Botanical Gardens – but the rain began and we decided it was a wiser choice to head to our next photo shoot location- Bondi beach. There was no rain at Bondi…..but there was wind! We finished our Sydney adventure with ice cream at Bondi (you can’t really do Bondi without ice cream…..) and then retreated to the warmth of the bus for the journey home.

It was such a lovely 2 days of interesting exhibitions, laneway discoveries, fabulous locations, terrific company and great fun! Our class is now working toward their Yr12 Graduating Exhibition of black & white Photography at Wilburs from 12th - 16th November. Please see invitation below for details of opening night. Come along to see the incredible work of our students.

Nicky Mowbray
B/W Photography teacher
Fashion

Four Years of Fashion was held on Friday 24 October and opened a wonderful weekend of Arts at Dickson College. Four Years of Fashion showcased the garments created by students over the last two years, with some garments from the previous four years.

It was great to see so many people attend from our community and students paraded their garments with great style and confidence. The event kicked off with the College Jazz band, a welcome by the Principal Kerrie Heath and an introduction by Emma Macdonald, Senior editor of the Canberra Times. Georgia Lahiff and Shannon Lucas were the key facilitators for this major event, which was part of their Negotiated Study unit.

It was great to see the students work so well together and enjoy the evening; there were so many positive outcomes from this collaboration.

Quotes from students and spectators:

• Loved the music
• I was impressed by the quality of the garments
• Yesem owned the runway
• It was great to see all the students model their work with such pride
• Emma’s speech about her experiences as a model and journalist was very honest and inspiring
• The two girls introducing the parade spoke with great confidence

Keep a look out for future fashion events.

Jill Pettifer
Textiles and Art teacher
Ausdance ACT Youth Dance Festival 2014

Our wonderful Dance Fest troupe performed at the Canberra Theatre in September. Their dance piece was exciting and original and was very well received by the audience. The title of their dance was Creativity Usurped. The troupe considered how the creative domain is no longer restricted to solitary individuals and particular occupations. We have all become makers of images, stories and art - devices link us immediately to characters across the world and screens instantly show our creative exports. There has been a playful and powerful uprising in popular culture; stories have multiplied, characters have become very connected – and creativity has spread to the masses. For better or worse - creativity has been usurped!

Congratulations to the troupe for their outstanding performance. They also performed at a college assembly and the audience loved it.

The dancers will soon be visiting Majura Primary School during Clubs time to run a primary dance workshop, teaching a Year 1 class some dance moves. The dance group also ran a workshop last year and it was a very happy and enjoyable time for all!

The talented Dance Fest troupe were: Rashmi Angammana, Eleanor Blake, Aimee Brouwer, Evelyn Clark, Risa Craig, Shoumik Das, Anthea Duve, Bank Kaewmake, Tanve Kaley, Maduri Kapugamage, Samantha Kelly-Hunt, Kate Larin, Shannon MacDonald, Erik Miech, Jessie-May Nel, Layla Steed, Sammy Turner, Lucy Wilson, Laura Worden. The Dickson College piece was introduced by Brianna Steggall – thanks Brianna and congratulations everyone!

Nicky Mowbray and Lindy Hathaway
English

Guest speaker Dr Michael Walsh from AIATSIS talking to our English Language students about language, identity and regional variation.
Writers’ Camp 2014

During Week Nine 50 students from Dickson, Narrabundah and Tuggeranong Colleges ventured to Birrigai for three days of workshops and lectures centred on developing their writing ability.

Now in its sixth year, the Dickson College Collegiate Writers’ Camp brings together authors from around Australia to talk to and work with students who are interested in becoming published authors or those who are interested in pursuing a career in the publishing industry.

Day one opened with authors Luke Carmon and Mohammed Ahmad. Both Mohammed and Luke have been nominated for the “Readings Book of the Year Award”. Luke spoke about his new book “An Elegant Young Man” and also his love of poetry. He then invited the students to discuss poetry with him to engage them in complex abstract thought. The presentation proved both challenging and insightful, with many students commenting on the intellectual quality of the talk. Mohammed Ahmad followed and he spoke not only about his new book “The Tribe” but also gave valuable advice to each student about how to write and read well. The two authors then spent time conferencing with students about their own work and even edited some drafts.

David Henley followed after lunch. David’s first book “The Hunt for Pierre Jnr” was released last year by Harper to critical acclaim. His second book “Manifestations” came out this year and the final book in the trilogy will be released in 2015. David is one of the best Sci-fi authors in Australia but took time out from his busy schedule to travel to Canberra to talk to the students. His speech was genuinely fascinating, being centred on how to build a successful narrative.

Alice Grundy then spent the afternoon developing the students understanding of writing theory. Alice is an executive at Giramondo Publishing in Sydney. Her discussion on how to best get in contact with and open up a line of dialogue with a publishing house gave the students practical knowledge of how best to get their work published.

Award winning bands “Burroughs” and “The Ellis Collective” then popped out in the evening to play a gig for the now fatigued students.

At midnight, students were given the choice to attend a “how to write horror” workshop. In past years, many students complained about the lack of genuine scares. This year, this was amended with many students going to bed with spines still tingling.

Pat Grant spoke during the morning session on the second day. Pat is an award winning cartoonist and graphic novelist. He spoke about his graphic novel “Blue” and outlined his creative process. He also gave the students a frank assessment of the publishing industry. This talk proved a highlight for many of the students.

Tony Eaton (Professor of Creative Writing at UC) presented a workshop on editing. His workshop ensured many students improved their work exponentially on the second day and started to write at a professional standard. His workshop is always superb.

Felicity Packard (Screen Writer and Lecturer) spent the afternoon discussion on her new show “Anzac Girls” as well as fielding questions about her work in the television industry. Felicity was wonderfully enthusiastic and many students have already decided to study screen writing based on her seminar.

The final day is always intriguing on Writers’ Camp and this year proved no different. Students were called to the lecture theatre in the morning and each student shared something which they had written and drafted on camp. These small passages of writing were edited by a team of University students who study writing at a variety of Universities around Australia and spend the three days drafting student work. This ensures each student has professional feedback throughout
camp as many of these Uni students are already working in the publishing world. Our students spent the morning reading out their work and the calibre of their passages is a testament to the hard work of every student on camp and every teacher and helper who edited.

Tony Eaton then returned to offer some final thoughts on a career as a writer. He closed out the camp with an absorbing commentary on where best to get started.

Writers’ Camp 2014 was tremendous. I would like to thank all of the wonderful speakers, the tireless work of all the teachers and helpers as well as the bands and the staff at Birrigai for making it such a brilliant three days.

Planning for 2015 has already begun....

Toby Grundy (Dickson College English/Camp Organiser)
Some ESL classes have been working on their group oral presentations, so we’ve been learning how to work as a team. The jigsaw activity required the students to put the jigsaws together cooperatively, but without speaking! Here are some of the things learnt about team work.

- Team members need to support each other.
- Team members need to communicate
- Rules/expectations must be established early
- The workload must be shared fairly
- Team members celebrate success!!

The new international students from China have been working on their Giving Project. They joined the beginning Chinese class once a week this term to help the students practise their pronunciation and build their vocabulary. It’s been a lot of fun and the students learned from each other.
On the 23 September, ESL teachers Abby Johnson and Anna Beaver were fortunate enough to attend the Saudi Arabian National Day at the Hyatt Hotel. There was traditional dancing, speeches and an array of amazing food. The attraction of the night was the grand ice sculpture that was the centrepiece of the room. The evening was attended by many professionals from around Australia including a lecturer in International Relations from the University of South Australia. Abby and Anna wish to thank Aziz for inviting them and enabling them to experience a culturally enriching evening.
In the Foundations Program students are focusing on Literacy for Work. In practical lessons students demonstrate their ability to follow instructions and perform administrative tasks such as sorting and delivering the mail as part of preparing them for the work force. Class work involves writing a resume, cover letter and practicing applying for jobs online.

As part of the program students are involved in a work experience placement at the end of each semester. After identifying areas of interests and personal strengths, students are listing preferences for work experience.

Community Services News

Students studying the Disability and Aged Care unit tested out their mentoring, workplace health and safety and communication skills last week when they had to teach a small group of students in the food class how to make meringues or cupcakes. Both classes had a great time and learnt many valuable skills from each other.

Left to right
Sammi, Kellsie, Tyler and Miriama

Left to right
Mitch, Shoumik, Geoff, and Hussain
Rainbow Cubbyhouse

Students in the Children’s Play unit have recently worked with the children at the Majura Early Childhood Centre to bring their colourful drawn designs for their new cubby to life. The children want a ‘rainbow’ cubby and are working with our students to paint the cubbyhouse. The paint has been purchased through a joint Children’s Week grant. The students from Dickson are being assessed on workplace health and safety, working with others and communicating with clients while accessing the service units of competency from the Certificate II in Community Services qualification.
Cyber sexploitation of young people
– a special P&C forum,
Monday 24 November 2014
Dickson College

You’re invited to a special parent’s forum presented by controversial author and speaker Melissa Tankard Reist on how the internet sexualises and exploits young people, followed by a Q&A.

Jointly organised by Lyneham and Campbell High school and Dickson College P&C Associations, it’s on Nov 24 at 6.30pm at Dickson College. Gold coin donation at the door.


Below are some comments from Melinda’s website melindatankardreist.com

Melinda Tankard Reist is a Canberra author, speaker, media commentator, blogger and advocate for women and girls. She is well known for her work on the objectification of women and sexualisation of girls and efforts to address violence against women. A co-founder of Collective Shout: for a world free of sexploitation, Melinda is named in Who’s Who of Women (Australia) and World Who’s Who of Women.

Dickson College P&C
President’s Report.

This year has flown by very quickly. The main aim this year has been to focus on the Canteen, which admittedly has waned over the past 3 months. However, the ladies of the Canteen seem to be thriving. They have developed and will continue to modify the menu to meet the needs of the students and staff of the college to provide quality food choices. Congratulations ladies.

Other things we have been looking at have been the support of the Student Breakfast Club with limited progress but we will get there.

Later this year we are supporting the innovative idea from the Lyneham P&C Association of hosting a special forum here. Hopefully this will be the beginning of other such ventures. See the details in the next column.

I agreed at the last meeting (albeit without a quorum) that the P&C Association support the purchase of another table tennis table for the school. This enables the school to put the older table from the PE department into the Canteen area, which appears to be a popular meeting place now.

At the last meeting we were approached by the school to fund a school project for the maths, science and technology departments. It is this type of support that the Parent’s Association can give.

I would love to hear any feedback you may have and if you are interested in being part of the Association’s work next year, drop me a line at DicksonPandC@gmail.com.

We are always looking for interested people with different ideas, skills and input.

Lee Akauola, P&C President
Hospitality

Students are studying Café service which is the preparation of food and coffee making skills for small businesses. Alex regularly takes orders, making different styles of coffee and serving these hot to order.

Kate Wiseman-Taylor
Library

As final assignments fall due and studying for tests begins, the library is as busy as ever. Good luck to all students in these busy weeks! Please remember that all items borrowed from the library must be returned by Handback Day – Wednesday 26 November. Students can collect Clearance Forms from the library and in Clubs and have these signed by library staff and class teachers to show that all resources borrowed from the college have been returned. Year 11 students may borrow resources after Handback Day to read in the holidays.

The annual Library Writing Competition is underway and students can submit entries until 12 November. Three $50 prizes will be awarded to the best entries, which will be published in the Dickson College Library wiki and also in Glyph, the English faculty wiki. We look forward to judging the entries! Prizes will be awarded at the Year 12 Farewell Assembly on Mon 17 November.

Many ebooks and audiobooks have now been added to Oliver, our library catalogue. Government schools in the ACT now have access to these resources via OverDrive in the library catalogue. Students can access the school library catalogue from home or school via the Digital Backpack: https://backpack.act.edu.au, using their school network computer login. To read the ebooks on your own device, download the free app: http://app.overdrive.com. College students can access all resources in OverDrive, from kindergarten level to adult.

Our library fundraising this year has supported several groups - $180 for student support initiatives and $230 for the Indigenous Literacy Foundation. Our bookstall at the college’s Design Gate markets on 25 October raised $120 which will be used to purchase new library resources. Many thanks to community members who donated books. We also donated many books to Lifeline for their bookfairs. Books are special and people love reading - the last 2 bookfairs were the most successful ever! Our current fundraising will support the Mo’by Dicks, Dickson College’s own team raising funds for men’s health by growing moustaches in Movember.

Many thanks to Frances Chen, who works as a volunteer in our library and also as a relief library assistant. Frances has helped with all aspects of our busy library and we really appreciate her contribution.

Best wishes to all students for the end of the year and good luck Year 12s with your future plans!

Mathematics

Dickson College Maths Students Triumphant in Competitions

Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC)

The AMC is a highly respected 75 minute problem solving competition, which started in Australia in 1978, and has now broadened to include the Pacific and South East Asia. Twenty-one hardworking and talented Dickson students competed in the AMC in July. Although large numbers of younger students enter the AMC, most participants in years 11 and 12 are gifted mathematicians, so it is difficult to be in the top 60%. 20 of our students reached this benchmark, earning a Credit result or better. Nine Dickson students took a step further and earned a Distinction by being in the top 25%. Four more students went an amazing step further to be awarded with a fantastic High Distinction, placing them in the top 5% of a very talented group.

2014 AMC Distinction Awards

2014 AMC High Distinction Awards

2014 AMC High Distinction Awards

Maths ICAS Competition

We also achieved amazing results in the ICAS (International Competitions and Assessments for Schools) Maths Competition. Nineteen students entered, earning 5 High Distinctions, 7 Distinctions, 5 Credits and a Merit Award. We are performing well above the Australian average.

Our remarkable ICAS Distinction Winners

Back: Huon Porteous (yr12), Adrian Schmidt (yr12), (Rob Emanuel– presenter)
Middle: Rachel Pan (yr11), Bobbie Sun (yr11), Joy Liu (yr12)
Front: Tom Tong (yr11), Donghoon Shin (yr11), Frank Fei (yr12)
Absent: Frank Zhang (yr12)

Absent Frank Zhang (yr12).
Our amazing ICAS High Distinction Winners

Donghoon Shin (yr 11), Frank Fei (yr 12), Mike Tang (yr 12), Chris Hone (yr 12) Michael Robertson (yr 10)

Michael Robertson was awarded the ICAS Principal’s award for performing well above many students older than him.

Frank Fei achieved the highest mark in all of the ACT and NSW!!! He will be awarded a medal from UNSW on 28 November to recognise this outstanding accomplishment.

Frank Fei – Top ICAS Maths result for year 12 in all of ACT and NSW.

Congratulations to all our talented maths students on these superb results.
Indoor Cricket -
Wednesday of Week 10 last term was a disappointing day for the College’s indoor cricket team. The team won just the one game against Lake Ginninderra to finish the tournament in 5th position. However, the side was competitive in all other games and came close to upsetting eventual winners Canberra College.

Twenty20 –
Dickson College went into the Twenty20 competition as defending Champion. The team took on Erindale college in the first match. Erindale batted first and posted a competitive total of 92. In reply, Chamod top scored with a solid 26 and Dickson chased down the total easily. In the final, Gungahlin stood between back to back successes. Gungahlin was sent into bat and they set a very competitive 146 which could have been even more if it wasn’t for Izzy Palm taking 2 wickets off the last 2 balls of one over. This meant she was on a hat-trick but had to wait a whole over to bowl the hat-trick ball. Unfortunately Bailey had other ideas and clean bowled Gungahlin’s last batsman which meant Izzy never got the chance of a hat-trick as they don’t carry over between matches. In reply, Dickson easily accounted for the runs with Chamod once again top scoring with 42. This meant that Dickson has made it back to back championships. Well done to all who played.

Mixed Touch -
Dickson are into the finals of the Inter College Mixed touch tournament after strong wins against Hawker College 12-6 and Melba Copland 8-5. The team lost narrowly to Lake Ginninderra on Thursday (30th Nov) and are looking forward to taking on Erindale in the semi-final on Thursday the 6th of November at Dickson Oval.

Table Tennis –
Dickson students travelled to Gungahlin College for ACT Colleges Table Tennis Competition at Gungahlin. It looks like the lunchtime training paid off as all students played well. In the boys competition it was a very tough field but all the boy’s made it through to the 3rd round. Marin Ugrinic made the semi-finals for the second year running and again just missed out on progressing to the final.

It was looking like it was going to be a Dickson Doubles final however Jerry Karminga and Mikey Djordjeski couldn’t close out their semi-final against a pair they had already beaten. Thompson Stuckey and Marin Ugrinic made it to the final and made a huge 6 point come back to first lead by 4 and then lose by 2 in a very intense final.

The girls went into the competition with a little less training and faced some very strong
opponents. They finished with one doubles victory in the rounds but were unable to build on that result.

**Mixed Netball –**
Dickson entered just one mixed team in the ACT Colleges netball day carnival. The day started with an extra challenge for the shooters on both teams having to cope with extreme wind conditions playing havoc with shot accuracy. The team was looking pretty good in the first game against Narrahbundah College but got caught out of position a couple of times with some fast play. In the end, they lost game one 10-12. The second match was another close game against Melba-Copland and the result came down to shooting accuracy and unfortunately it wasn’t in our favour and we went down by 11-13. The third game was a tough match against Erindale College who clicked well as a unit and outclassed our team. The final game against Canberra College saw the team finally click into gear as the boys acquired their Netball game sense to support the great girls in the team. The game was very close but in the end Dickson was too good and won 11-9. Everyone seemed to have a really good time and it goes to show the value of mixed sports for our students.

4.5 **Insurance arrangements to cover students who are injured**

4.5.1 The ACT Government meets claims (including claims resulting from school activities or excursions) against it where there is a legal liability to do so. Liability is not automatic and depends on the circumstances in which the injury was sustained. The ACT Education and Training Directorate is an agency of the Territory which has insurance arrangements in place in order to meet such liabilities.

4.5.2 Parents should consider obtaining their own advice about insurance protection which may assist in meeting expenses if their child is injured in circumstances where there is no liability on the part of the Territory. This insurance might cover contingencies such as medical/hospital expenses, ambulance transport outside the ACT and cancellation of transport or accommodation.

4.5.3 In cases where parents or other parties wish to make a claim against the Directorate for payment of medical or other costs, or for compensation, they should be advised to write to:

**Manager**
**Governance and Legal Liaison**
**ACT Education and Training Directorate**
**GPO Box 158**
**CANBERRA ACT 2601**
SIEC / Refugee Bridging Program

Congratulations to all the SIEC (Secondary Introductory English Centre) for their participation in the Art Show. The works looked fabulous displayed in the frames and there were many favourable comments with regard to the variety and beauty of their works.

Pen drawing by Tahereh in SIEC
Science

Recently Physics, Chemistry and Biology students have had visits from Scientists in various fields of study.

Physics and Chemistry students had a visit from Professor Sheila Rowan from the University of Glasgow who is touring as the Australian Institute of Physics “Women in Physics Lecturer” for 2014. Professor Rowan’s lecture was informative and thought provoking and gave students an insight into the difficulties involved in trying to find and measure Gravity Waves.

The year 12 biology students were treated to an excellent presentation by Victor Stevens, an old friend of Dickson College. Victor has always had a keen interest in human evolution and has explored the topic further in his retirement from teaching. As a result, he has a fantastic wealth of knowledge and a very thorough collection of skulls representing our various evolutionary ancestors. He allows the students to be hands-on during his presentation, and his enthusiasm is contagious.

We have also seen slimes, glues, plastics, bouncing balls all made from reagents found in a kitchen in Chemistry this week.
Last day for absence notes is the last day of classes:

18th November 2014

Please submit all absence forms to the Student Wellbeing Centre as soon as possible.

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.
HOST FAMILIES NEEDED IN JANUARY 2015

EXPERIENCE ANOTHER CULTURE, MAKE NEW FRIENDS
IMPROVE YOUR LANGUAGE STUDIES AT HOME

In January 2015 we will be receiving exchange students from Europe (Germany, Italy, Denmark, Finland and France), South America (Argentina) and Japan. Our new arrivals will live with a host family and attend a local school for 2 or 10 months. As we plan for their arrival, we are keen to hear from suitable families who might be interested to host a student.

All students have at least basic levels of English, would attend a school in your local area and live the life of a local. Our group of students cover a wide variety of interests and hobbies. If you would like to provide your students, parents or language teachers with further information on our inbound students you can also view some student profiles on our website. Our staff members will be happy to discuss which student might be best suited to a family.

Hosting an exchange student can be a truly rewarding experience. It allows a family to experience a foreign culture first hand, be exposed to a new language and pass on a bit of our own culture. They might even make a friend for life!

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand is a not-for-profit secondary exchange organisation which is registered with education & regulatory authorities in each State and Territory. You can find out more about our organisation by visiting www.studentexchange.org.au.

If you have any questions about hosting an exchange student or would like to view profiles of students arriving from other countries, you can either respond to this email or call our office on 1300 135 331. No obligation.

Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sandra Harder Hosting Coordinator

Student Exchange Australia New Zealand Ltd

PO Box 1420, Mona Vale  NSW 1660 Australia
T: (02) 9997 0700 F: (02) 9997 0701
W: www.studentexchange.org.au
Suite 2590, PO Box 83000, Wellington 6440 New Zealand
T: 0800 440079 F: 0800 440077
W: www.studentexchange.org.nz
ABN: 49 101 489 356
A once in a lifetime opportunity to be at Gallipoli next Anzac Day

You can win a trip for two to Istanbul and Gallipoli in April 2015 by visiting the Australia in the Great War Facebook and just clicking to enter.

Competition closes 11 November 2014 so hurry to enter.

Anzac day 2015 will be a special time as we commemorate 100 years since the Gallipoli landing and being there will be an amazing experience.

www.facebook.com/AustraliaGreatWar

Competition Closes 11 November 2014