Dickson College NEWSLETTER

Mar 2014

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Last Day Term 1
Monday 28 April
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Friday 11 April

Last Day Term 1

Monday 28 April

First Day Term 2

DICKSON COLLEGE
excellence opportunity community

DC
From The Principal

It is difficult to believe that Term 1 is nearly at an end!

The students of Dickson College have absolutely excelled all of my expectations in their ability to work incredibly hard, to produce high quality and well organised assessment items and to contribute to the community life of the College. The time at College is incredibly short and two years goes so fast but I have witnessed students in every area of the school embracing the experience and really engaging in the learning. Our students and our staff make me very proud to be associated with this school.

There has certainly been a lot of ‘action’ this term. This has included:
- an enhanced partnership with Northrup-Grumman in support of our Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Program and the Connections Summit which is taking place on 1 April and will see UAV experts from ACT and beyond along with politicians and media, converge on Dickson College for a day;
- Andrew Moss being selected to present a paper on the UAV work of Dickson College at an International Conference in Boston;
- the initiation of the Master Planning Process for Dickson College which will see a three month period of consultation and community engagement around the development of a five year building plan and a series of future concept drawings for the future of the College (details will be emailed out separately in the near future);
- the development, through Austrade, of a partnership with Wenling Xinhe High School in Zhejiang, China with the expectation that we will sign a sister school agreement in the near future;
- a large number of student excursions and performances (a very large number!!);
- the development of a significant partnership with the University of Canberra which will create a new model of teacher education for the ACT;
- the development of a partnership with the Australian Catholic University to support an evidence based approach to teaching and learning, particularly for young people at risk;
- the appointment of a new Parents and Citizens committee and new Board Members; and
- Dickson College staff and student involvement in a number of activities to support our community including World Happiness Day, Harmony Day and Relay for Life.

Every day is full of interesting and engaging activity here at Dickson College but I am always mindful that every individual student is the most important person in our community. If you would like to discuss any aspect of our work please do not hesitate to get in touch and make an appointment with me through the front office.

I will be holding some informal ‘meet the principal’ drop in sessions next term as well. These are an opportunity for a completely informal discussion about any issue or even just a chance to say hello. If you would like to stop by for a chat, my office door will be open until 6.30pm on Monday 28 April and Tuesday 29 April.
European Trip
April 2014

On Saturday 5th April, 24 students and three teachers will be flying halfway around the world to London. From London, they will be travelling to Amsterdam, Munich, Salzburg, Venice, Verona, La Spezia, Cinque Terre, Florence and Paris before returning to Canberra on the 24th April! The itinerary is jam packed with trips to various museums, theatres, art galleries, landmarks, and other exciting cultural experiences!

Recently, the Eurotrip team organised a successful Trivia Night to help fundraise for the trip. We would like to thank the following businesses and families for their generous donations and contributions for that fantastic evening:

The Butcher Shop Dickson
Zambrero Gungahlin
TallaTango
Student Flights
Golden Nails and Spa, Belconnen
Dominos Belconnen
UC Fit Gym
IGA Ainslie
Framed Like That
Trevs@Dickson
As Nature Intended
The Larin Family
The Izurieta Family
The Muir Family
The Wilson Family
The Hayward Family
The Strudwicke Family
The Jopling Family
The Mordek Family
The Gill Family
Soraj update and a thankyou

I know many of you are keen to hear about Soraj, our young man that walked across the stage last year to get his year 12 certificate in his new prosthetic legs. He is doing well but very busy studying at CIT. He is doing a course on Community Studies and this will give him the skills required to be a wonderful advocate. He is a frequent visitor to the school and as he told me last week “I need to keep a check on my family”. I want to acknowledge the kindness of one of our Dickson families. Brittany Olde is a year 12 student and she talked to her family last year about our fundraiser for Soraj. Her mother, Debra, has a business in Queanbeyan (Elements: face and Body) and with the generosity of her clients she raised over $600. This donation will help Soraj pay for the silicone liners that he needs to replace each year on his prosthetic legs. Our sincerest thankyou to the Olde family and to their Queanbeyan clients.

Harmony Day at Dickson College

Friday March 21st was Harmony Day and as the website tells us it is ‘a day of cultural respect for everyone who calls Australia home – from the traditional owners of this land to those who have come from many countries around the world.’ At Dickson College we often say that “everyday is Harmony Day here “ – we work hard to create a culture of respect and empathy. But we did make a bit more of an effort on Friday. At recess time we created a Harmony day banner. Jill Pettifer (art / textiles teacher) worked with the Secondary Introductory English Centre (SIEC) students to lay the background down on the banner – there was a lot of frantic sewing and gluing in the days leading up to Friday. At recess Dickson College year 11 and 12 students had the opportunity to add their own messages – answering the question “What does harmony mean to you”. The words peace, friendship, kindness and love were frequent.

At lunchtime we increased the pace – and the Dickson College PE staff organised a ‘staff versus student’ game of futsal. Many thanks to John Forrest who organized the young SIEC students – and organising 50 excited futsal players is not easy! The students snuck in a goal near the siren - leaving the staff keen for a re-match.

Many thanks to all the staff and students for making it such a fun day.

Ros Phillips
SIEC
Refugee Bridging Program
United Nations International Day of Happiness: 20 March

Dickson College celebrated with some happy events:

• Courtyard concert with some great musicians, organised by Pete Richens. Thanks to the wonderful performers - Risa Craig, Tristan Davies, Vendulka Wichta, Morgan Bell, Kahlil Perusco, Brittanee Olde, Bradley Cronan, Lucas Tatnell, Jack Shi, Waireka Te Meihana and Bridget Arundell.
• Violin and guitar performance in the library many thanks to Justin Bailey and Brandon Reed for their inspirational performance.
• 3D glow-in-the-dark badge-making in the canteen and fun with virtual reality glasses, organised by Andrew Moss and the IT students; Matt Parnell, Noah Ingham, Stephen Horsburg
• Free sausage sizzle in the courtyard
• Happy snaps around the college

It was most definitely a happy day :)

Acts of happiness:

http://actsofhappiness.org/
Live happy magazine:
http://www.livehappy.com/
College Bank Account Details
Westpac
BSB 032-777
A/C 00-1201

Dickson College Sports Bottles
Dickson College 750ml Recyclable Sports Bottles which actually remove CO2 from the earth’s atmosphere! These bottles are made from fibres of sugar cane, the most photosynthetic efficient plant on the planet!

The bottles are moulded and printed right here in Australia and as they are a plant derivative material, they are fully recyclable!


They are available for $5 from the Front Office.

‘Puppetry Techniques for TV’

4-week course Wednesdays, 7-28 May 2014

Students will be equipped with professional puppets and learn techniques to make their own group YouTube film clip!

What’s included:
- Operating professional puppets
- puppetry techniques for TV
- improvisation & performing
- creating a group puppet YouTube film clip
- TONS OF FUN!

Classes for ages 8-12 @ 4:30pm-5:30pm
Classes for ages 12-18 @ 5:30pm-6:30pm

DICKSON COLLEGE,
ONLY $40 per student

Dickson College students receive 20% OFF!
To get discount, please book online by 11-04-2014 and use code: DICKSONSTUDENT
Media

Congratulations to Isack Hoppitt, year 12 who recently won two awards for his short film ‘Chicken!’ in the ‘Lights! Canberra! Action!’ 2014 Short Film Festival. The two categories Isack won included Best Under 18’s Film and Best Student Film. His film was showcased during the Enlighten Festival on Friday, 7 March and featured fellow Dickson college students: Aidan McDonough (as the Chicken), Isack Hoppitt, Zac Marshall & Callum Lawrence as cast members. The music was created by student Toby Purtle. ‘Chicken!’ can be viewed at the link:

http://www.youtube.com/ (look for ‘off grape productions’):

Drama Production

This semester 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.

It is obviously a confronting piece of theatre as it deals with a real and traumatic event. The play draws on hundreds of interviews of the inhabitants of the town conducted by the theatre company in the two years after the murder. With over sixty characters this piece is something that the class is really sinking their teeth into. It promises to be a very special piece combining direct-to-audience performed monologues, news reports, physical theatre and multimedia in a web of short linked scenes.

The Laramie Project is set to be performed on the 4, 5 and 6 June. Tickets will go on sale next term.

ARTS

Congratulations to Gabriela Izurieta, who is in year 11 at Dickson, was nominated for BEST YOUTH ACTRESS IN A FEATURED ROLE IN A MUSICAL and BEST DANCE PERFORMANCE BY AN INDIVIDUAL OR ENSEMBLE (both as Lion in The Yellow Brick Road, Classical Ballet Centre Canberra). The presentation of awards was in February.

You can find more information here:

Fashion & Textiles

Students from Fashion Textiles and Society are studying cultural and historical clothing from different countries.

We were fortunate to have Aman and Marjan, from the Secondary Introductory English Centre (SIEC), speak to the students about their cultural dress and religious aspects from their country of origin, Iran. Thankyou to Aman and Marjan for giving our students an insight into your culture and beliefs.

The photograph shows Aman, Sophia, Nicole, Marjaan and Evelyn.
ARCHITECTURE SITE VISIT TO JERVIS BAY

On the morning of Monday 24th February our Introductory Architecture class & Advanced Architecture students set out on a site visit to Jervis Bay. Travelling in the Dickson College bus, with the lovely Mark Bishop as our driver for both legs of the trip, we took the route through Nerriga and stopped at Huskisson for vegetarian burgers at Pilgrims before heading to our accommodation at the University of Canberra Field Station.

That afternoon we headed to the designated site – the beautiful Green Patch - currently a campsite within Booderee National Park. It is a spectacular area encompassing beach, gentle hills of grassland, marshy areas and a rocky outcrop. As one of the students commented; it is ‘very Australian’. Apart from offering students the potential of working with different environments it also has the extra challenge of coastal climatic conditions, which bring a set of different concerns that need to be taken into account.

The students are designing an Eco Resort with two different sized accommodation lodges and a main building on site. During the site visit the students were split into small groups to do a couple of important workshops. The first one was based on the work of land artist Andy Goldsworthy. The students were required to create an installation work using the natural objects that they found on site. The natural environment needs to be the stimulus for their concepts and final design of the Eco Resort. In the second workshop students were asked to build a structure that would withstand the climatic conditions at the coast. To ensure the integrity of the structure, the students needed to address issues such as uplift from winds, rising damp & unstable land surfaces. Materials were given to the students to create small models on site. Great discussions were had regarding the factors that must be considered and innovative solutions to each of the problems. Students were also given time to explore the site, make decisions on the exact location of their lodges, take photographs, do initial sketching and observe the changing light during the day.

Everyone worked together in small food groups to share a plate of goodness towards a delicious buffet dinner on the Monday night. We had both an enjoyable and highly productive two days in Jervis Bay. We now look forward to seeing the fantastic designs that these talented students will arrive at for their Eco Resort design solution.

Nicky Mowbray
Architecture teacher
English & Languages

Nelle’s line 5 Responding to Literature class. English@DC

Balloon fun on International day

Poetry, milk and cookies sharing session

Excerpts of student poem selections including Kia, our Finnish exchange student

POETRY

Another way of looking at the world
Another way of expressing your identity and your experiences
Another way of thinking

"My Daddy is a Soldier"
My daddy is a soldier
He’s often away to come for all country
where he has to train
I really miss my daddy
and I do not know what he does
but he helps other people
and he helps our country

The Importance Of A Sister
A sister is someone who loves you from the heart
No matter how much you argue you cannot be
She is a joy that cannot be taken away
Once she enters your life, she is there to stay.

A friend who helps you through difficult times,
Her comforting words are worth much more than
A partner who fills your life with laughs and smiles.
These memories last for miles and miles.

When she is by your side, the world is filled with
When she is not around, your days are full of
A sister is a blessing, who fills your heart with love.
She flies with you in life with the beauty of a dream.

A companion to whom you can express your feelings.
She doesn’t let you get bored at family dealings.
Whether you are having your ups or downs,
She always helps you with a smile and never

With a sister you cannot have a grudge.
She is an essential part of your life.

Father, I’m here,

on the other side of the world
and I sing

Pappadudu pa dada dapa
don’t be afraid,
Mother, I will take care of you...

Kite runner essay

The kite runner is an entertaining

The kite runner is an entertaining

It was a beautiful day for a kite flying.

"When the kite is flying high, the world is

I grew up with Kite, and now I take care of

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Japanese

Top Photo: All Japanese class excursion to see The Wind Rises by Miyazaki, 13 March.

Bottom photos x 2: Second year Beginning class continue the tradition of our Cluster Brothers and Sisters project by presenting formative assessment to Campbell Primary’s Year 3 students, 11 March.

Latin

At this stage both the Unit 1 and Unit 3 classes, are progressing steadily, and are absorbing large amounts of information, both linguistic and cultural. Their increasing range of vocabulary and understanding of grammar is enabling them to read more interesting passages of Latin, despite their increasing difficulty.

The Unit 1 class have completed their first two assessment tasks, on prepared and unprepared translation, cultural background and grammar, finding, surprisingly, their linguistic work easier than their comparatively simple background work on ancient Roman country life, the position of women and slavery.

The more advanced Unit 3 students have also completed their first assessments. They have been introduced to three of the four Latin past tenses and various ways of expressing time and place – more complex than in English. Their reading is increasing in interest, amount and complexity, and their cultural study has included the work of Roman government and public service.

Our next assessment item, a Research Assignment, will be set in Week 8; students should have ample time to complete this (without necessitating holiday work) before its due date in Week 12 (next Term).

Anne Rose Latin teacher
Australian War Memorial Excursion

Learning happens both inside and outside of the classroom. The excursion to the Australian War Memorial gave us many opportunities to look at the life of an Australian soldier in war. Students were particularly impressed by the interactive modern war exhibition “The Afghanistan Story”. Here soldiers’ recounts were seamlessly blended with video footage and art works. The class is currently working on a creative response task on fiction and non-fiction accounts of war.

Line 5
Literature of War and Peace
Claire Sandrey
Foundations for Independence

How clean is our environment?
The students in the Foundations for Independence Program are studying a unit on health as part of the Life, Leisure and Learning course. The students have collected sample swabs of a number of items in their daily environment such as computer keyboards, mobile phones and furniture. The plates will then be used to determine the different types of bacteria in our environment and the role we all play in keeping ourselves safe and healthy from bacteria. Thanks to Glenda for preparing and growing the agar plates and for assisting with the experiment in our classroom.

Students and staff enjoyed attending the Dickson College Cafe, eating sandwiches, frittata and drinking hot chocolates.
The Foundations Team

Careers

Erica and Lia in the careers office welcome parent and student enquiries into careers and future pathways-related fields such as work experience, apprenticeships, employment, university applications, post-school training options and more! Students can make appointments to see us through the Student Wellbeing Centre. Parents can email or call us on the contact details below.

If students are interested in doing work experience this semester, the placement dates will be either the 23-27th June or the 30th June-4th July. We encourage any student interested in taking up this opportunity to make an appointment with Lia as soon as possible to ensure we have enough time to make the placement.

University applications information: University applications for 2015 will not open until early Term 3. The careers advisors provide in-depth information to Year 12 Tertiary students at this time about how to maximise the success of their applications. Students (and parents) are welcome to make an appointment to see Erica or Lia individually if they would like specific advice.

Entertainment Book Fundraiser
Dickson College will again be selling Entertainment Books as a fundraiser for Student Support. Last year we raised $1000 to assist with Soraj. We aim to help other students in need so please support us with this fundraiser.

Please order online at the following link. https://www.entertainmentbook.com.au/orderbooks/23245a
Select ACT or if you want it for a family member who lives in elsewhere select their State. They make fantastic gifts, especially Easter for Mother’s day.
**STUDENT OPPORTUNITIES**

Students studying subjects in the Humanities faculty have access to a wide range of opportunities which allow them to expand their learning and experiences beyond the classroom. Here are some highlights from Term 1.

Legal Studies students attended Parliament House question time and the High Court.

On March 14 representatives from the US embassy came to the college and gave a presentation on the influence of Jazz and hip hop on popular culture and the American Civil Rights movements to students studying various subjects such as Music, English, Global Studies, Legal Studies and Business. The presentation was very engaging and informative.

Year 12 Psychology students attended a performance of One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest at the Canberra Theatre.

Legal studies students welcomed a guest lecture by Crown Prosecutor, Helen Roberts who works for the NSW DPP. She gave an overview on the criminal trial process, and the role and duties of the Crown Prosecutor.

International Relations students investigated the crisis in the Ukraine by participating in a mock United Nations Security Council.

**UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES**

Interested students are invited to attend a full day of talks and presentations, showcasing the wide range of study opportunities in Asia Pacific Studies at the ANU Asia Pacific Day on 9th April.

Students are also invited to attend the Youth InterACT forum for young people aged 15-25 on 11 April at the ACT Legislative Assembly. The forum is held as part of National Youth week and the theme this year is ‘Our Voice, Our Impact’.

Students who are interested in participating in either of these events need to see Leica Burt in Humanities ASAP as nominations close for both by the 4 April.

Students studying Small Business & Marketing will be selling a wide range of products that they have marketed to the school community in term 2. All profits will be donated to the student wellbeing fund to benefit students in other aspects of school community.

Humanities Team
The seven ESL classes have completed their first assessment items.

The Tertiary Level 5 class have just completed their formal debate assessment. The topics were: same sex marriage, genetic engineering and euthanasia. The three topics were passionately debated with arguments from all speakers were well researched and presented.

In the Tertiary Level 3 class students have completed work around the themes presented in the movie The King’s Speech. Students are currently researching information on different mental health and developmental conditions. It has been interesting comparing the attitudes and treatments available to us in 2014 Canberra to those in the 1930s.

The Level 1 classes are developing their skills in grammar and paragraph writing. Students have completed their paragraphing test and are in the process of researching careers for their oral presentations.

The Accredited classes are reading a novel called Sadako and the thousand paper cranes after delivering an oral presentation on a celebration. They persuaded their audience that their celebration was the only day that deserved a public holiday.

The International Students are enjoying life at college. The local students are welcoming, friendly and supportive. The staff and students at Dickson College certainly do help to create a truly inclusive community.

The ESL teaching team at Dickson College have established the ACT College ESL Professional Learning Network. We are proud to be part of such a strong teaching team that is recognised by other professional organisations and happy to share our teaching experiences with other schools and colleges.

Evie Kollas, Anna Beaver and Tabatha Kellett
It is great to see so many students in the library researching, reading, borrowing, browsing and working on their assignments. Desktop & netbook computers are in high demand and many students have connected their own devices to the wifi network. We endeavour to keep all students connected. Any password problems are fixed promptly in the library or referred to Jessica Smith, our IT officer.

Our college library has a wide range of resources including many online links at our website: http://dckclib.wikispaces.com. We also encourage all students to join Libraries ACT (the ACT public library service). Membership is free and you can join online. Students 16 years and over do not need their parent’s signature. Students should also create a PIN number for their library card, as this enables them to access the excellent full text online databases with thousands of articles from quality journals, magazines, newspapers and reference books.


Here are just some of the online resources (library card number & PIN number needed):

AUSTRALIA / NEW ZEALAND REFERENCE CENTRE - Articles from hundreds of journals, newspapers and reference books such as: Scientific American, New Scientist, Time, National Geographic, Australian Geographic, The Age, The Australian and overseas newspapers.

ACADEMIC SEARCH PREMIER - World’s largest full text database with articles from over 4000 journals, magazines and newspapers. Covers all subject areas – sciences, humanities, law, environment, business, arts, literature...

GROVE ART - Excellent resource with many links about art and artists.

LITERATURE RESOURCE CENTRE - Biographies, bibliographies and criticism of 120,000 authors, including over 800 Australian authors. Many online links. Also try Literary Reference Centre.

HISTORY REFERENCE CENTRE – World’s most comprehensive full text history database for secondary students & undergraduates. Full text from hundreds of books & history journals.

HEALTH & WELLNESS RESOURCE CENTRE - Encyclopedia, journal and newspaper articles. Also try Consumer Health Complete.

ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA -- Excellent articles, thousands of images & videos, over 300 000 articles from respected journals and magazines and links to authoritative websites updated daily.

LIBRARY PRESS DISPLAY & AUST/NZ NEWSSTAND – Many newspapers. Also try Times Digital Archive.

READING – Try Fiction Connection, Books & Authors, Good Reading, Spine Out, TumbleBook Library (eBooks for kids).

GOOD GUIDES – Ratings of tertiary institutions & courses.

Also in eResources: OverDrive eBooks and eAudio - Books can be downloaded to various devices (library card number and PIN needed). A great selection! http://ebooks.library.act.gov.au/B7AZB7ED-DAD4-4099-ASC5-9779577AD837/10/50/en/Default.htm


We look forward to helping students access useful information within our library & beyond!

Mathematics

Pi Day Competition
20 people entered our inaugural pi memorising competition. It was held on the 13 March, as the American date is 3.14. Mike Tang came third with an amazing 268 digits. His friend Frank Zhang out-did him with 500 digits. Donghoon Shin then recited 314 digits, and wanted to stop there but Caroline coaxed him into reciting more, so he chose to recite 500 digits, thus sharing first place honours with Frank.
They were joined by Joshus Yanitsas, Huon Porteous, Ashleigh Grimmer and Adrian Schmidt for a pie pi party, where they were presented with their certificates by Peter Thamm, the Australian pi memorising champion. The best were awarded t-shirt, scarf and bookmark prizes. Well done to everyone who had a go. How many will enter next year on 3.14.15?

Mathematics Assessment
All classes will have completed an assignment and a mid-semester test by the middle of week 8. Students should discuss their progress with their class teacher. If a student is feeling anxious about the level of work in the maths course they are currently enrolled in, they should come to the maths staffroom to discuss their concerns with me directly.

Coming Maths Competitions
- The Australian Mathematics Competition will be held on the 7th of August and we encourage all those studying tertiary maths courses to give this competition a go. It costs $5.50 to enter.
- The ICAS maths competition is a high level maths problem solving event that will be run on the 12th of August. The entry fee for this competition is $8.
If students want to enter either of these prestigious competitions, they need to collect an entry form from the maths corridor and then take the form and entry fee to the front office. Please ensure entries are submitted this term to guarantee a position.

Calculators
All students enrolled in our Maths Methods and Specialist Maths courses are expected to buy a graphics calculator to support their work and assessment in maths. We recommend the CASIO fx-9860G AU Plus model that can be purchased for $170 from the front office of the school. Teachers will help students to learn different functions of this calculator as the course progresses.

Clare Byrne
Executive Teacher Mathematics
Outdoor Ed
A number of students have just completed the Multi-Sport Adventure program where they completed a day rock climbing and a day trip to Sydney where they went white water rafting and wakeboarding. Students are also attending two Scuba diving trips in Week 8 & week 9 where all students will attain their Scuba Diving Licence with PADI. Next term sees a Sea-Kayaking and Mountain Biking trips take place, see the guys in PE for more info!

TSP Rugby
The boys have been competing in a number of tournaments, the Rugby League 9s, the Rugby Union 7s and the John Allen Cup. With mixed results, the boys have showed great determination and team spirit on and off the field and are preparing for the Stephen Larkham shield to be played later in term 2. Anyone interested in playing, please come and see Dave. In other rugby news, Brumbies players Jesse Mogg and Jack Whetton visited Dickson College to meet students and play some touch football with the TSP Rugby Students. Raiders players Anthony Milford and Jack Ahern both met with the boys during the College Rugby League 9s comp, if the boys were a little star struck!

Our girls rugby team also had an enjoyable day out at the College Rugby 7s, narrowly going down to Gungahlin College in the play off for fifth and sixth place.

Year 11 Exercise Science
Students have been working on the Circulatory system which has included a heart dissection and students measuring blood pressures before and after physical activity.

Year 12 Exercise Science
Students are studying Exercise Physiology this term. During the past 2 weeks these students have participated in Recovery Techniques at the AIS and Bikram Yoga to understand how athletes are affected heat.

Donate Life Walk
On a cold wet morning, 25 Dickson College Students and 5 staff members participated in the DonateLife walk. The walk was a 5km walk around Lake Burley Griffin starting at 7am and its purpose was to raise awareness of organ donation.

Relay for Life
A number of staff and students are participating in the Cancer Councils Relay for Life walk. The relay involves keeping a baton moving around the AIS track for 24 hours. It’s not too late to sponsor or join the team, by following the link https://secure.cancercouncilfundraising.org.au/registrant/startup.aspx?langPref=en-CA&locationID=43571 click the SPONSOR or JOIN button on the left hand side and then use the team search to donate to Dickson College.

College Sport
Girls AFL, netball and both girls and boys futsal are coming up in the next few weeks, make sure to see Scottie or Craig if you are keen to represent the College in any of these sports.

Volleyball
ACT Colleges Volleyball competition at Civic pool started with some excellent results with Dickson 1 Girls - Xin Xin McMahon and Beth Mason demonstrated their power and experience playing amazingly and won the girls division.

The boys competition had some big guns and both our teams came up against Lake Ginninderra 1 in the Semi finals. Dickson 2 - Abbas Ghulam (SIEC) and Wes Faulkner won in a very close match, coming from behind. Dickson 1 - Max Richardson and Will Faulkard went down to the eventual winners in their semi-final but won the match for the Bronze place. Dickson 2 played against two very tall AIS players in the final and despite a very strong start Dickson lost the match by five points. Great results for girls and boys teams unfortunately none of our mixed teams made the finals but had a great time.

Boys and Girls Basketball
The boys basketball team has come up against some very strong opposition this year losing their first match to Gungahlin College and then playing Lake Ginninderra (2) the following week in a close match, the boys displayed a much better team performance and narrowly lost by 8 points. The boys then travelled to Hawker College where they totally under estimated their opposition and payed the price losing a very winnable match. The boys were unable to play their final pool match and unfortunately did not make the finals.

The girls basketball team got off to a flying start beating Gungahlin College in a very well constructed team performance with very little experience. The girls second game was against Melba-Copland where the girls were dominated by height and size and lost in a physical encounter 30-12. The girls get the chance to redeem themselves this Thursday when they face Melba-Copland again in a rematch. With some smart play and good team work the girls should be able to turn this result around.

Up and coming Sport
Next Wednesday the 2nd of April sees the girls AFL team compete in the Giants Cup. The following Monday the 7th of April we see Dickson College send their biggest Lawn bowls ever to the ACT Colleges Lawn bowls competition at Deakin West.

Good luck to all our teams playing in upcoming events.

Dickson College PE Team
The Dickson College Science Faculty hosted talks by five renowned scientists recently in the Antill Theatre in the second Dickson College Science Symposium. More than 300 students, including students from Lyneham High School, attended stimulating talks throughout the day in a range of areas including Nuclear Physics, Neuroscience, Genetics and Chemistry. Attendance was high and so was participation from our students. Our students asked a range of excellent questions to all speakers. The atmosphere in the theatre was lively and one could almost feel the learning occurring throughout the day.

At lunch time 35 North Ainslie Primary School year 6 students were wowed by Dickson science students who led them through a variety of exciting science demonstrations and a sausage sizzle. The North Ainslie Students were well behaved and genuinely engaged with science. We look forward to seeing them at Dickson College in years to come.

The DC Science Faculty would like to thank the following academics for spending their valuable time to share their research areas with our students:
Professor Chris Goodnow
Associate Professor Catherine Morgans
Associate Professor Kristen Pammer
Professor Edie Sevick
Dr. Greg Lane

The DC Science staff were delighted to have enthusiastic helpers on the day of the Symposium and would like to acknowledge their assistance. Dickson College students - Jamilla Asfour, Caspian Jacobsen, Laura Warden and Tommy Tong acted as MCs throughout the day and did an excellent job in introducing our scientists to the audience. Furthermore, Eddie Hanssen, Rashmi Angammana, Kloe O’Brien, Elina Akouna, Jeremy Wang and Luis Wu ran several cool chemistry demonstrations during lunch for our year 6 guests from North Ainslie Primary School; their explanations were clear and their enthusiasm contagious. We would also like to thank the teachers of North Ainslie Primary for bringing some bright and friendly year 6 students to Dickson for science fun.

The Science team
Oceanography and Biology Excursion

On Wednesday 26 March, oceanography and biology students went to Sydney for the day. The purpose of this excursion was to visit Sydney Sea Life Aquarium, and to see a double feature at IMAX, Forces of Nature and Great White Shark 3D. Oceanography students will study volcanoes and earthquakes next term, and with the WA government’s ongoing shark cull, the shark film was extremely topical. It was a long day with a very early start and a late finish, but was also a very enjoyable day for both teachers and students 😊.
How Assessment Works at Dickson College

This time of the year is always stressful for students, especially those in Year 11. The first assessment item has been completed in most subjects and the second one is imminent. This is a feature of the ACT system, which has a process of continuous assessment rather than a substantial exam like the HSC in NSW. All teachers are aware of the stress and distress this can cause for students. We all know that by learning the skills to cope with deadlines and peak load times students will be at an advantage when they go on to further study, and for life in general, but how do we help people to survive this process?

The teachers at Dickson are friendly and approachable. The first port of call for a student who is under undue pressure should be the classroom teacher. Sometimes it is possible to reschedule a due date, especially if the whole class is affected and negotiations can occur early in the assessment process. This is where a study planner also becomes an invaluable tool. If used wisely it will help a student to anticipate the busy periods and can encourage an early start on the work. No assessment item that is produced solely on the night before it is due will be as high quality as one that is thought about for a length of time, allowing polishing and reflection to be part of the process.

When a significant issue arises for a student that makes it impossible to complete work on time it is important for the student to tell someone in the Student Wellbeing Centre and to arrange for an extension. This could be an illness like glandular fever or a family crisis that affects the study environment for the student. If the situation is medical it is helpful if documentation can be provided. Sometimes a note from home can help to validate situations that we classify as misadventure. Extensions are not handed out lightly, because that would not be fair to other members of the class who have done the work on time, but students will not be penalised unnecessarily for situations that are beyond their control.

Students who are well organised can submit a draft of work for feedback from the teacher. There is also the Tutorial Hour that operates in the Library every Thursday afternoon, where various teachers are available on a voluntary basis to help students with hints about how to approach an assessment task, and where to go for further information.

After work has been handed in it is marked by the teacher. In many subjects this involves moderation across more than one class, which will involve several teachers in agreeing on a common standard. The process of ranking students requires a high degree of professionalism from all our teachers and we pride ourselves on our accountability and the transparency of our processes. Teachers will be happy to explain to the student how they have done the marking and ways that work can be improved.

At the end of the assessment period the reports you receive from the teachers will give you insight into the performance of your student in relation to the rest of the group. Hopefully you will see an increase in confidence as they achieve the degree of success they deserve. What else can you do as a parent? Firstly, attend Parent Teacher Night and talk to the teachers. Secondly, if you perceive a problem, contact the Student Wellbeing Centre and make your concerns known. Lastly, but most importantly, support and encourage your student. We all need the support of our family, even if sometimes we don’t like to admit that fact. One day they will thank you.

Student Wellbeing Centre personnel:

Executive Teacher Student Wellbeing – Sara Morgans  6205-6476
Executive Teacher Assessment – Juliette Bornas  6206-6475
Year 12 Coordinator (surnames A – L) Brooke Cooper 6205-6453
Year 12 Coordinator (surnames M – Z) Josephine Kim 6205-6453
Year 11 Coordinator (surnames A – L) Claire Sandrey 6207-2226
Year 11 Coordinator (surnames M - Z) Lex Warfield 6207-2226
Transitions Program – Ruth Pickford 6205-6449

Student Wellbeing

If you are concerned about the welfare of the student in your care please contact Student Wellbeing for an appointment today on: 6205-6426.

Parents and Carers: we need your email address for our absence notification system. Please ring us on 6205-6426 with your details.

Sara Morgans
Executive Teacher Student Wellbeing Centre
From Your P&C

THE COMMITTEE

On the 24 March 2014 the AGM found 7 people brave enough to attend the meeting where positions are spilled and filled.

Don’t worry it is now safe to attend meetings. All positions have been filled except the P&C Council Representative. The positions are:

President: Lee Akauola
Secretary: Stephen Milnes
Treasurer: Gary Huang
Public Officer: Gary Huang

As we are all new to the Dickson College P&C the previous members have indicated that they wont abandon us so we are in good hands.

THIS YEAR – TECHNOLOGY and FEEDBACK

One of the jobs this year will be to obtain some feedback avenues so that parents can find out what is happening and have their say in the P&C without actually attending a meeting. We need to find out what it is the community need and how we can facilitate this.

Unfortunately, there doesn’t appear to be anything like Facebook, Twitter etc for the P&C. Is this an appropriate mechanism to receive feedback from the community? If so, how do the P&C set up accounts and what is the best way to monitor these?

Can someone help please?

EVENTS – SCHOOL COMMUNITY WEEK 19-24 MAY

The ACT Council of P&C are giving us a reason to party!!!! Who would like to party and how?


So if you have any suggestions, ideas, comments or compliments please email DicksonP&C@gmail.com. Let us know your great ideas.

Lee-Ann Akauola