dcnews

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IMPORTANT DATES
Fri Nov 11 - Remembrance Day
Mon Nov 14 - Farewell Assembly
Wed Nov 16 - Testing period begins
Wed Nov 23 - Year 12 Breakfast, Assessment Handback Day
Mon Nov 28 - Year 12 Formal
Fri Dec 2 - DCHS Graduation

NOVEMBER 2016
Dear Parents and Carers,

Last week Dickson College Celebrated its 40th Birthday. There were many events that attracted a range of participants and different audiences. We had a Trivia Night, a Cabaret Night, a visit from our sister school in Nara, an Open Afternoon, a Cake Cutting Ceremony, a Fashion Parade, and an Art Exhibition. It was a fantastic celebration for the college community and I sincerely thank all the students, staff, parents, and community members who took part in these events.

Marking 40 years of being a secondary college for years 11 and 12 has also allowed us to reflect on the progress the college has made over the years. From changing from a year 7 to 12 High School to a Year 11 & 12 College in 1976 with the implementation of the ACT’s own version of the Senior Secondary system. To the proposed closure of Dickson College in 2006 by the ACT Government in its ‘Renewing Schools towards 2020’ statement, and the subsequent overwhelming support from the ACT community to keep Dickson Open. I have no doubt that it is the strong community support that has helped the college to achieve the strong position it finds itself in today. In 2006 the College had approximately 550 students, today we are home to over 850 students from diverse backgrounds and have many programs that cater for this diverse range of needs.

It is worth noting when we reflect on Dickson being one of the original four ACT Colleges (the others were Narrabundah, Hawker and Canberra), how groundbreaking Hedley Beare’s vision for the ACT system was. His vision broke away from the Year 12 HSC and VCE board based summative exam models, to a system of ongoing semester by semester assessment. The change also allowed for more system and teacher flexibility in regards to curriculum and assessment in order for schools to address the local needs of their students.

When I was cleaning out my office in the most recent term break (first chance I have really had to tidy anything after 12 months in the job), I came across a two volume set of ‘Saving Dickson College’. These books were collated submissions from the school community by the then Board Chair Sally Rose. The two volumes feature many reasons why the college needed to be kept open in 2006 and why Canberra’s inner north needed to have a local college. It also features ideas for the college’s future, such as the implementation of innovative and challenging courses such as Global Relations, which have helped Dickson remain vibrant over the last 10 years.

Right now our college is calling out to students, staff, parents and community members for new ideas that could help Dickson College in the future. We have just begun a process that will support and develop new ideas and future innovations that will address problems in our school and wider community. This is a deliberate strategy to enable more engagement in our school community, to further develop the college into a more exciting place to learn and work. To support this initiative, the college is allocating a fifty thousand dollar budget, named the Innovation and Enterprise fund, to develop educational programs that enable and activate student, staff and community innovation. Everyone can contribute ideas that will help make Dickson great well into the future and they can do so by following the link on our website or Facebook pages. We know there are 100’s of bright ideas for DC…WHAT’S YOURS?
Year 12 Graduation Ceremony 2016
This year’s ceremony will be held on Thursday 15 December at 5.30pm (5.00pm for students) at The Canberra Theatre, Civic Square. On the same day, students also meet at the Canberra Theatre for a rehearsal and issuing of ATARs at 1.00pm – an exciting time!

RSVPs needed now please
Please ensure that you have completed the Graduation Invitation (Google Form) emailed to you on 14 October. We need your RSVP as soon as possible so that we can verify numbers attending. If you did not receive the invitation email, please contact Lindy Hathaway or call the library 6142 0146. Students can also collect printed invitations from the library if invitation emails were not received.

Collecting tickets
Tickets are now available for collection from the library. There is no cost for tickets. Every graduating student who is attending the ceremony will be issued with 3 tickets – one for themselves and another two for their guests. Students and guests will need to present their tickets at the theatre door to gain entrance on the night.

Extra guest tickets
Extra tickets requested can be collected from the library from 7 November. More information about Graduation will be distributed through Clubs or ask Lindy in the library. We are looking forward to this special night!
Lindy Hathaway
Graduation Organiser
lindy.hathaway@ed.act.edu.au
6142 0146

40th Birthday Celebrations
The Dickson College Mighty Cabaret...Thing!

Much fun was had last night at the DC Mighty Cabaret...thing. Joel Herbert as a crowd favourite and Rachel Armstrong, Georgia Bennett and Caleb Campbell are real work talents to look out for. Bands are clearly alive and strong at DC with original works by Triumvirate (Will Klep, Jonah Nelson and Oscar Linkson) and Juice (Patrick Foley, Tobias Marriott and Evan Marshalsey) played with energy, enthusiasm and great musicianship.

It was great to see DC DC dance their stuff this year and it wouldn’t be a Cabaret..thing without the idiosyncratic and the inimitable Jason Sarossy.

Matthew Howes provided moments of magic, Renne Radojkovic and Callum Richens gave us some beautiful tunes and rich harmonies and Merryn is clearly a hippy punk rocker and of course there was Mr Charlie Roper and unique MC humour :)

It would be remiss if we didn’t pay thanks to Vince, Mostyn, Kelly, Pete and, on debut, Linda, for the awesomeness that was the URS Brothers and Sisters Band..thing and of course studnets Ash Ballat, Oscar Linkson, Jack Taylor, Callum Richens, Oskah Dunnin, Merryn Byrne and Jason Sarossy.


It could not happen without Pete Richens who did a simply wonderful job putting all the sound together. Cheers!

Hope I haven’t forgotten anybody – Arts you’re just terrific. Thanks.
THE DAILY NEWS

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER - Since 1879

JOEL ROCKS DICKSON CABARET!

“UPTOWN FUNK” COVER VERSION A HIT!

Thursday 27 October 2016
Canberra, Australia

An evening showcasing the musical talent of Dickson College students, the loudest applause was saved for Joel Herbert. His enthusiastic rendition of the Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars hit, “Uptown Funk”, had the audience clapping and singing along. This eclipsed Joel’s performance of the Justin Bieber hit, “Girlfriend”, at last year’s cabaret.

Piano playing

Farishta getting ready to walk out
Textiles and Fashion

Students are busy finalising their practical work with only a few weeks to go. They also worked well together putting the final touches on the fashion parade and art show. The photograph shows Tierney drying off her fabric, which she printed at Megalo. This fabric has now been transformed into a furnishing fabric for a chair and cushions. Watch the next newsletter for the resultant works!
PE

Inter College Volleyball Finals

Boys
1. Galen Barritt
2. Daniel Clink
3. Joe Poretti
4. Chris Pesic
5. Samson Williams
6. Meric Woodbridge
The “misfits” went out in straight sets but did manage to score a few points against a red hot Lake Ginninderra team that boasted a number of Australian Volleyballers. Super-coaches Ryan and Brooke did their best to motivate the boys but were outdone on the day. Next time for sure!

Girls
1. Chelsea Souter
2. Felicity Yates
3. Sophie Ingham
4. Emily Oglive
5. Rachel Armstrong
6. Emily Corkery
7. Myah Jettah
8. Sakshi Ranabhat
9. Amy Heiden
10. Asta Witt
The Girls team had a great semi-final win in straight sets against Melba Copland but then got dusted by the Australian (Lake Gininnderra...again) girls team in straight sets. A huge thank you must go to Kelly and Eli for their efforts in looking after the girls’ team this year!
Inter-College Mixed Touch

1. Dean Medved
2. Hamish Dawson
3. Tom Fretwell
4. James Butz
5. Jibou Forfanah
6. Daniel Hawker
7. Ally Porter
8. Amy Heiden
9. Jamie Stewart
10. Kelly White
11. Savannah Sithideth

The team took on Canberra College on a beautiful Thursday afternoon in round 1 of the inter-college mixed touch competition. The mighty DC team ran away with a 7-3 win :)

School Girls Rugby
Lily Pearson represented travelled to Sydney last Thursday (8 September) to take on CHS. The girls had a tough day at the office losing 0-60 which isn’t a true representation of just how close it was. Lily was one of the standouts with a number of turnovers and damaging runs.

Girls Badminton
Thursday 15th September
1. Sonesh Sonesh
2. Elizabeth Spall
3. Asta Witt
4. Tara Gilfillian
5. Maddie Vu
6. Sakshi Ranabhat
7. Lelyan Gethya
8. Ledya Gethya

The girls’ badminton team had a great day out at Canberra College, competing against Lake Gininnderra, Melba Copland, Hawker and Canberra College in both singles and doubles. Maddie and Sakshi made it through the day undefeated. The other girls had mixed results but were very competitive. A special mention must go to Asta and Tara who helped out Canberra College when they were short (even if they did beat Dickson College).
NYC Touch Championships
Sunshine Coast Stadium
Tuesday 13 to Sunday 18 September
1. Dean Medved
2. Hamish Dawson
3. James Butz
Languages

Open High School Partnership

One of Dickson College's important partnerships is with "Open High School" based in Randwick, Sydney. Open High School is a NSW Department of Education secondary distance education school offering courses in 12 languages to students in years 9 to 12. We have several students enrolled in their distance program, studying Greek and Spanish. One of these students, Tim Marshallsea – Dutton, has been nominated to participate in their ‘Imagination Young Leaders Seminar’ in November. Tim studies Spanish. Tim will be a wonderful ambassador for Dickson College and we are very proud of his involvement.

Ros Phillips
Executive Teacher Languages / ESL

Tim (in green) with a friend he made on a recent trip to Mexico
What a term! Japanese staff and students would like to thank the broader Dickson College community for hosting our guests from Nara, Japan in October. It has been another wonderful celebration of youth exchange and the energy and bilingual laughter has cemented this event as the highlight of our Japanese academic year. We were fortunate to welcome Minister Shane Rattenbury, Director General Natalie Howson and Network Leader Judy Hamilton during our formal event to welcome the Nara delegation including the Chancellor of Nara University and the Principal, staff and students from Nara University High School. Thank you to all the wonderful helpers who made this possible, and a particular thank you to Farishta, Maya and Miriam for their art, Sandra, Luke and Tilly for their bilingual speeches and Callum and Renee for the wonderful music.

In other thank yous, I would like to acknowledge the following families for hosting Misato, our Japanese Teaching Assistant in the later part of this year: Barlow Family, Rundell Family, Young Family. Misato has a farewell party at lunch on Monday, 14th November to which all students are invited.

On that same day, at 5:30pm in the Antill Theatre, we welcome all interested families whose children are enrolled in Japanese at Dickson College in 2017, to attend the first family meeting for the DC Japan Trip 2017. Please contact janelle.horsington@ed.act.edu.au for more information if you have not already received an email regarding this enrichment opportunity.

We wish all our graduating Japanese students the very best in their future studies and travels and thank them, our ‘sempais’ for their contribution to our learning community.

Nelle Horsington
Nara University High and Dickson College celebrate Sister School Agreement during 40th Birthday celebrations
2017 Host Families Needed

In 2017 our school will again be hosting a volunteer Japanese Language Teacher’s Assistant (JTA) from Kagoshima University in southern Japan. During their stay they will be assisting in Japanese language classes while also hoping to also improve their English skills.

JTAs are home stayed within the school community and pay a contribution towards food and board of $170 a week to their host families. Assistants need their own rooms but can share the family bathroom. This program has been used in ACT schools since 2004 and is of great benefit to both the Japanese program and to the families who become involved. We find that families really enjoy this experience as it allows them to expand their knowledge and understanding of Japan and its’ people as well as contribute to the corporate life of the school. This is an ideal way to encourage your children to engage with Japanese language and culture and make lifelong friends.

We are therefore seeking expressions of interest from families who would be willing to host our JTA for a period of 8-10 weeks in Terms 2 – 4.

If you are unable to host for a longer term but are interested in offering weekend stays, emergency back up or the occasional social activity please also email Nelle janelle.horsington@ed.act.edu.au

In your email, please indicate which term you would like to host and the best email address and mobile phone number for your family. This program relies heavily on the support and hospitality of the school community and your generosity is much appreciated.

Nelle Horsington
Japanese Language Teacher

DC Japan Trip 2017

Who: All students enrolled in Japanese in 2017 and families

When: Monday, 14th November 5:30pm-6:30pm

Where: Antill Theatre, Dickson College

Why: Information session: itinerary, deposit, questions

If your family has not yet received an email, please see Nelle in N39
Library News


Good luck to all students in these busy final weeks! Please remember that all items borrowed from the library must be returned by Handback Day – Wednesday 23 November. Students can collect Clearance Forms from the library and in Clubs and have these signed by library staff to show that all resources have been returned. Year 11 students may borrow resources after Handback Day for the holidays – or use OverDrive in Oliver and download some ebooks or audiobooks!

The annual Library Writing Competition is underway and students can submit entries until 4 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 14 November.

OverDrive ebooks and audiobooks in Oliver library catalogue
These are a great free resource funded by the ACT Education Directorate. There are over 5000 ebooks and audiobooks available with some great titles for summer holiday reading. College students can access all OverDrive resources in Oliver, from kindergarten level to adult – fiction and non fiction. Oliver library catalogue is in the Digital Backpack – available online anywhere from the Dickson College website home page or at https://backpack.ed.act.edu.au
Search for an item (ebooks have a tablet icon), click on it and click Borrow. For personal devices, download the OverDrive app at http://app.overdrive.com The Digital Backpack also contains Google Classroom, Google Drive, Gmail (school account) and Office 365 (Word, Excel, PowerPoint etc). All work is saved automatically to the cloud and accessible from anywhere.
Thank you to our wonderful volunteers! Many thanks to Alex Dane from the Foundations class, who works for an hour each week as our work experience student. Alex helps in many library tasks and is always friendly, polite and eager to assist. We wish him every success for the future. Thanks also to Nick Byrne from the LSU who has also started work experience with us. We really appreciate his skills and help. This year we were again very lucky to have Frances Chen, who works as a volunteer each week in our library and also as a relief library assistant. Frances helps 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!

STEM News

The ICAS Maths Competition results have come in and our students are awesome. Our year 11 students are above average for Australia, and our year 12 students are smashing it. Overall we earned 9 credits, 2 distinctions (Andrew You and Jennifer Sun- year 11) and 3 high distinctions (Katrina Gibbins, Eric Hall and Richard Yang- year 12). Michael Robertson (year 12) also earned a high distinction, but as his result was the top in all of the ACT and NSW, he will also be awarded a medal!

Year 11 students enjoying their ICAS and AMC certificates. Year 12 will receive their D and HD

The Australian Mathematics Competition (AMC) results were also amazing. 8 credits, 6 Distinctions (Robert Ma, Dan Wu and Sophia Zhang year 11, Eric Hall, Charlotte Yu and Ivy Wang year 12) and 4 high distinctions (Andrew You year 11, Katrina Gibbins, Erica Wang and Richard Yang year 12). The high distinction winners were invited to the Canberra AMC awards night, where Michael Robertson was acknowledged as being a medal winner in the AMC. Michael will be presented with his AMC medal by the Governor General.
ANU innovation challenge

8 students in year 12 participated in the ANU Innovation Challenge on 16th and 17th of September. Students had two sessions of workshop by industry sponsors and decided what they will conduct research on, come up with design solutions and gave their pitch in front of all the participants. One team of Marco Alberto, Eric Hall, Tyler Hengst and Harsh Malik focused on the use of water to produce reliable power during monsoon season, as well as serve as a backup water supply for the village. The other team of Kate Gibbins, Lauren Nelson-Lee, Michel Robertson and Bvash Sharma designed ACTIVE: Adapted Cognitive Therapy in Virtual Environments, an innovative new initiative that combines the STEM research of virtual reality with exposure therapy to create an accessible and engaging method of treatment for those with social anxiety. There were only two other teams from colleges amongst about 20 teams from ANU students. One of the university teams designed a stove with a fennel shaped top and a chimney attached to stop prevalent infant deaths due to harmful gas out of the fuel that the villagers are using. Students reported that they had enjoyed the experience of attempting to solve real life issues and felt the enthusiasm of the participants.

Maths Awesome Day

Dickson And You is a chance for our students to share their awesome mathiness with the next generation of mathematicians. Please let Caroline know if you want to write some questions and/or mentor a team of year 8 and 9 students. MAD-DAY will be on Wednesday
UAV outback challenge

At the end of term three, a team of Dickson students called the Quadcopter Crew travelled to Calvert, west of Brisbane to compete in a rain soaked UAV Outback Challenge. The Challenge is a competition in which students use a UAV - a drone - to drop an epipen to Outback Joe, a farmer who is suffering an anaphylactic attack. 18 teams from around Australia, the US and China completed. Unfortunately the Dickson team came well down the order in 15th place. While the team did exceptionally well in the technical aspects of their flight, including scrutineering and their report, technical problems kept cropping up in their flight and they were not able to accurately drop the epipen. However, developing the quadcopter from scratch was an enormous challenge and the team learnt an incredible amount while also setting the team up for next year’s competition. The team would like to thank Northrop Grumman for their financial support as well as Kathryn Williams from Northrop Grumman and Canberra UAV for their advice and support.