UNICEF Day

In July, Shuvakamana School in Nepal sent a “token of love” to SDEHS. This gift was to express the appreciation of the staff and students in Nepal for the support and relationship which has been developing between the schools over the past two years. Our students have been exchanging handwritten letters, several teachers have visited the school and our staff raised funds at a lunch held at the end of last year to provide the school with an Internet compatible TV and science equipment. In June, while teacher Julia Ruhl was visiting the school, a teleconference took place between our SRC students and some of the students in Kathmandu. During our UNICEF Day activities, our Principal and the SRC accepted this gift, presented on behalf of the Shuvakamana school by Julia Ruhl.

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“We had a great day with lots of activities. Some interesting information was presented through video and speeches about UNICEF’s work around the world and the lives of school children in Africa & Nepal.

We did cardboard city making, singing the Tanzanian anthem in Swahili, African mask making and played airhockey and table soccer.

Malla Nunn, a well known author, gave a very inspiring and funny talk about her life in South Africa and how she became a writer and what it’s like as a profession.

We wrote letters and did drawings to send to our ‘sister’ school in Nepal.”

Ruben, Nelson and Lillian McKenna
Principal’s message

What do we need when we have more than 1550 students, more than 200 teachers, more than 200 schools where we teach single courses, and just so much communication with so many other schools and community organisations from Wollongong to Newcastle and out to the Blue Mountains – and sometimes beyond? Plus, more than 8000 individual weeks of work for all the courses we teach?

We need experts for reception, finance, budgeting, assets management, wordprocessing, desktop publishing, printing, photocopying and database management.

We need experts for student records, from enrolments to leavers and everything in between.

We need elearning specialists for online course development, our intranet and website.

We need expert staff to support faculties and all of our work in the library.

We need shopping experts, who place Schools eProcurement Orders … try out that one when you next do your shopping!

We need expert email monitors and managers.

We need expert technology support and professional learning.

And we need a post office … well, actually we call it our mail room, but it is bigger than many post offices!

We also need expert staff to help maintain our properties and keep our school such a beautiful environment where we can all work.

And our expert specialists need intelligent solution skills, smart thinking and creativity … we need teams working with other teams in a very large and complex school.

We need commitment to public education: staff working together to support our students, our staff, our school community.

We call them SASS.

Thank you to all our School Administration and Support Staff.

The first week of September was SAS Staff Recognition Week and the theme was Stepping up to the Challenge.

And we are blessed to have such a wonderful SASS … just who we need to work with us all for the challenges … now and in the future!

Best wishes,

Mark Piddington

Principal

Good luck Year 12!

On behalf of all staff, I wish you the very best for your HSC examinations.

Mark Piddington

Principal

Secretary for a Day Program

Congratulations to Lizzie Cyrill Curran (Year 9) and Sean McKenna (Year 11) who were chosen to participate in the NSW Department of Education and Communities 2014 Secretary for a Day program as Director Public Schools for a day.

The Secretary for a Day program is an important component of Education Week 2014. It gives talented student leaders first hand experience of what is involved in running a NSW Government department and its various offices.

Chosen based on both their written application (outlining leadership experience, personal qualities, area of interest and what they hoped to learn if selected) and their Principal’s endorsement, the students shadowed Director, Public Schools, Lyn McShane on Monday 28 July. We are very proud of the commitment that both Lizzie and Sean have shown towards student leadership at Sydney Distance Education High School through the Student Representative Council and other leadership programs.
Mitchell Kilduff won gold in the 100m Butterfly and silver in the 200m and 100m Freestyle at the Para Pan Pacific Games in Pasadena, USA. Congratulations Mitchell!

Jasmine Baric Year 8 was the junior winner taking out the Barbara Cran award and $1000 prize money at the Ku-ring-gai Philharmonic Orchestra Concerto Competition for playing the violin.

Lucy Mclanett Year 11 is a member of the Australian team for the Junior Pan Pacific Swimming Championships that were recently held in Maui USA. She won gold in the 4x100m Freestyle relay, bronze in the 50m Freestyle and 4th in the 100m Backstroke. Congratulations Lucy!

Paris Whittaker and Holly Wawn

Surfing with a heavily strapped ankle, after winning the NSW State Cup final with her U18A soccer team, Paris continued to shine at the NSW State School Surfing Titles held at Port Macquarie in July. Placing 4th overall in the Under 19 schools final, Paris and her team mate Holly Wawn (Avalon), were also awarded the Mark Richards Shield as the champion school team in their age division. Holly secured the overall event win.

Paris progressed into the U18 girls’ final of the NSW State Junior Titles after convincing performances at Lighthouse Beach. This guarantees Paris a top 4 placing in NSW and entry into the Australian Junior Titles to be held in Western Australia later this year.

Next stop for Paris is the Australian Surfmasters - Open Women (Coffs Harbour) followed by the Rip Curl Gromsearch and Subway Summer Surf Series.

Photo courtesy Smith/SNSW

The Learning Hub in Woy Woy is certainly a hub of activity and productivity for our students on the Central Coast. Earlier this term, five students from Year 7 and Year 8 came together at the hub to be involved in a Visual Arts workshop. Throughout the workshop, students explored sculpture as an expressive medium and produced a stunning collection of bird sculptures. Students explored the idea of using recycled resources by using cardboard boxes as the constructive material to create their sculptures. They then incorporated collage on the surface of the sculpture using textured and patterned paper.

The group took their sculptures outside to create an installation of the life like creatures. They worked collaboratively to arrange the ‘flock’ of bird sculptures in a natural grassy setting. Students had the opportunity to use the digital SLR camera to photograph the installation and their individual artwork.

The students were enthusiastically engaged in the learning activity and enjoyed coming together as a group to work with their peers.
Girls’ Day Out

Monday 15 September 2014
10:30 am - 1:00 pm
Strike King Street Wharf
22 The Promenade
King Street Wharf

Girls’ Day Out

Strike King Street Wharf 22 The Promenade
King Street Wharf

RSVP
by Wednesday
10 September 2014
Contact: Madeleine Mangos
(Supervisor of Girls)
Phone: 9383 0332
Email: madeleine.mangos@det.nsw.edu.au

Sydney Distance Education High School

Mentoring for Girls
Morning Tea

On Friday 29 August Emma Burdekin, Sarah Thomas, Richelle Alcock and I met Mrs Mangos and Ms Erichiello for a lovely Morning Tea and Cake Decorating Session.

We were given a slab of Madeira cake, our fondant and food colouring, then we set to work to create our masterpieces.

As the photos show, we were able to be as creative as possible. It was a really enjoyable morning, bonding with each other and having the opportunity to express ourselves creatively in such a unique way.

Eloise Wright Year 10

SRC News

Highlights
- Students prepared SRC activities to be run by SRC on UNICEF Day
- Raphaella Revis attended via Adobe Connect—a first, but we will have other students attending via Adobe Connect at future meetings
- Elections for SRC executive. Congratulations to our student leaders who gave speeches and were voted to represent the SDEHS SRC as Executive members from Term 4 2014 to Term 4 2015
- Thank you to our 2014 SRC Executive and particularly to our 2014 President Sean McKenna

President: James Gollan
Vice Presidents: Hayley Watts and Lizzie Cyrill Curran
Junior SRC Executive (7 & 8): Raphaella Revis, Jazmin Miller, Jane
Intermediate SRC Executive (9 & 10): Mitchell Wilmot, Jack Sexton, Lizzie Cyrill Curran
Senior SRC Executive (11 & 12): James Gollan, Hayley Watts

Well done to all students.
Lisa Keating and Julia Ruhl

Monthly Visual Arts Workshops

The last Stage 4 Visual Arts workshop was a huge success, with students collaborating with one another to construct a cardboard city. The art workshops have allowed students from Years 7 and 8 to come together to share the experience of learning new skills and knowledge in Visual Arts.

There are 3 more art workshops left this year, so don’t miss the opportunity to meet your classmates and learn some new art making techniques!

All workshops start at 10.30 am and finish at 12 noon.
- 17 September - Resin casting with Angela
- 29 October - Mixed media with Marie
- 26 November - To be confirmed

If you’re interested in coming to one of the last 3 workshops, please send in your permission note.

Central Coast students, watch this space for Stage 4 Visual Arts workshops at the Central Coast Learning Hub.

Careers News

Would you like to receive the latest Careers News on what interests your son or daughter? Would you like to quickly find information to help them with their choices?

Go to www.jobjump.com.au and watch the 3 minute video on the top right hand corner. Our school’s password is: stallion.

For more information on how to get the most out of this website, email our Career and Transition Adviser, Deborah Hodges at deborah.hodges@det.nsw.edu.au.
During Book Week we were very lucky to have the author Malla Nunn as our guest speaker. Apart from being an award winning film maker, Malla has written a series of crime fiction novels set in South Africa during the apartheid era and is currently writing a young adult novel.

Malla connected with the author spirit within me. She said things which I found to be true on a deep level. She talked about things that sounded similar to my own experience like how you have a brilliant idea in your mind, but that it is hard work to get it out of your brain and typed into a manuscript. This is so true. I was really surprised to hear her say that a famous author had to work hard at getting her brainchild onto a piece of paper. I felt relieved and satisfied that someone else has the same trouble and now I know it is a normal problem for authors and story writers. I am really glad I sat in on the Author Talk. It has actually made me feel better about all the other writing I have to do, like in History, and that it is normal for it to feel like hard work, because it is.

Jack S. Year 9

Trivia

Be the first SDEHS student to correctly answer the following FIVE questions and email your responses to: david.tracy@det.nsw.edu.au – the first correct entry received wins your very own Sydney Distance Education High School COFFEE MUG!

1. What is the ‘Matilda’ in Waltzing Matilda?
2. What kind of tree did the ‘Jolly Swagman’ camp beside?
3. What is Australia’s largest inland city?
4. How many ships were in the First Fleet?
5. What is the floral emblem of Australia?

Congratulations to Elysia Hargreaves of Yr 12 who was the first to answer all five Trivia questions correctly from the last Newsletter – well done Elysia!

The answers to the questions from the last newsletter were:

1. In Monopoly, the green set consists of Bond Street, Regent Street and Oxford Street
2. UNESCO stands for United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
3. Marshall Bruce Mathers III is better known as Eminem
4. Paul Keating was Prime Minister of Australia during the years 1991-1996
5. Earth is located in the Milky Way Galaxy
Year 10 subject selection

Even if at this stage you don’t think a university career is on the cards for your child, it’s important for students to give themselves as many future options as possible. Today’s Year 10 students will quite possibly have several careers over their working lives, including jobs that don’t even exist yet.

At a glance:

- Year 10 students are asked to select subjects for the following two years.
- Students should choose subjects they are interested and engaged in.
- Some universities hold open days/nights to discuss Year 10 subject selection.
- Even if your child is unlikely to go to university, it is wise to include subjects which will keep their options open.
- Speak with the school’s careers adviser about your child’s strengths, plans and options.
- Find out if there are Year 10 subject selection events being held at a university near you.

Subject selection at a glance

Your child will be asked to choose from a combination of subjects and levels which meet unit requirements for both the HSC and the Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR).

1. Your child will be able to select a mix of subjects from the two types of courses – board developed and board endorsed. Both can count toward the HSC, but only board developed courses are considered by the UAC when calculating your child’s ATAR.

2. An eligible subject selection for both the HSC and ATAR must include the required number of units of mandatory board developed courses (most are worth two units each) and the following combination in both Year 11 and 12:
   - Two units of English
   - Six units of board developed courses (with three courses of a minimum of two units each)

3. To achieve an HSC your child will need to complete at least 12 units in Year 11 and at least 10 units in Year 12.

4. The HSC is made up of two kinds of marks:
   - school-based assessment – based on assessment of tasks and tests, and
   - the examination mark – based on the HSC examination.

What’s an ATAR?

- ATAR – a number between 0 and 99.95 with increments of 0.05 – is calculated by the UAC and helps universities rank applicants for selection.
- Your child is ranked by overall academic achievement in the HSC in relation to that of other students.
- Your child’s ranking is calculated on scaled marks from the courses mentioned in point 2, which includes their best two units of English and their best eight units from the remaining courses.
- Students receive their ATAR notice at the same time as they receive their HSC results from the Board of Studies (typically in December).

In Year 10 students are asked to select subjects for Years 11 and 12. Here are some tips to help your teen choose well.