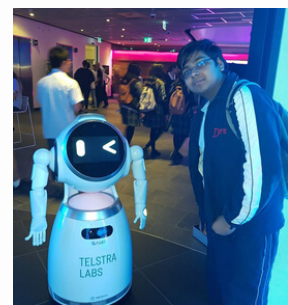


DOONSIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 4 - 2019 NEWSLETTER



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TERM 4- WHAT A YEAR!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE- Mrs. Janet Harding

Recent Events

The end of the year seems especially busy with the many ceremonies and presentations that occur to recognise the hard work of many people in our school, both teachers and students. We have been recognised in many ways this term for the outstanding work we do – both teachers and students. The High Performance Unit requested our input into a new school planning tool and our Support Unit staff was asked to provide a workshop at a Principals' Professional Learning day because of their reputation as an outstanding faculty where students achieve excellent outcomes.

2019 Achievements

There are many highlights for 2019. Students and teachers and parents and visitors have noted the improved environment with signage, air-conditioning in all rooms, murals across the school and fresh coats of paint in some rooms. We will be working in 2020 to continue to improve other areas particularly those put forward by the student leadership team – seating and shade.

Other highlights involving our students and/or staff:

- AFL national Inclusion Carnival
- Robotics Team selected for Nationals
- Yarning Circle
- Hospitality World Championships – Jessica Mackander Bronze Medal, Dianna Zola Highly Commended
- Secretary's Award for Excellence in Wellbeing – Paul Karbon
- Executive Director's Award for Middle Schools - Nagiha Sahyouni
- Support Unit presentation at NSW Principal's Learning Day
- Bring It On – 3rd Place State Championships
- Blacktown Lions Club Outstanding Achievers Award – Patrick Reen
- Victor Chang Award – Jessica Mackander, Alicia Lacson

Principals Message continued on next page-

Thank you to Staff

Never more than now am I thankful for the hardworking, dedicated team of staff here at Doonside and we should all be grateful that there are so many talented teachers and ancillary staff who, on a daily basis, enrich the lives of the students in our school. My sincere thanks to you all as you give much to our students well beyond the 9-3 teaching day.

Thank you to Parents and Community

There are a number of parents who also have made enormous contributions to our school especially Mrs Tabone, Mrs McKinder and Mrs Bruyn who have supported us in many ways this year. I would also like to extend the thanks of the school to the parents who have supported us in our endeavours to make Doonside Technology High School a positive environment where quality teaching and learning continues to be the major focus.

Please have a safe and happy Christmas. I look forward to meeting and working with you in 2020 – a very exciting year.

Janet Harding

Victor Chang School Science Award

Congratulations to Alicia Lacson and Jessica Mackander of 12 for receiving the Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute School Science Award! The VCSSA's were developed to foster and encourage an interest in science among secondary school students, with the aim of promoting careers in science as a viable and interesting career path. Well done Girls, what an achievement!



Slam Poetry

In Term 4, all Year 10 students studied 'Slam Poetry' for English. This engaging unit enabled students to find their own voice and express their views and perspectives on a number of contemporary issues that concern young people today. The students were also given the opportunity to hone both their creative and critical thinking skills to compose poems which were highly evocative and very powerful. This culminated in a Slam Poetry Champion.

Congratulations to the following students who produced outstanding pieces of Original Work and performed their poems brilliantly to an audience of their peers:

1st place- Jade Wiapo with 'Earth'

2nd place- Andrey Lazado, Emilyn Yaneza and Parmis Mirzanezhad with 'Breathe'

3rd place- Aliya Heemtote, Riya Riya and Andrea Arcilla with 'Boys will be Boys'



How to report cyberbullying material



1 Report the cyberbullying material to the social media service

2 Collect evidence — copy URLs or take screenshots of the material

If the content is not removed within 48 hours ...

3 Report it to www.esafety.gov.au/cyberbullying-complaint

4 Block the person and talk to someone you trust

If you are in immediate danger, call Triple Zero (000).

If you need to talk to someone, visit **Kids Helpline** online or call them on **1800 55 1800**, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Travel and Leave and Attendance for Students in 2020

Attendance at School

At a recent school Learning and Support meeting general attendance was discussed and highlighted as a focus for 2020. Parents of students who regularly do not attend school can have an application made to the Home School Liaison Officer or an application to the Children's Court.

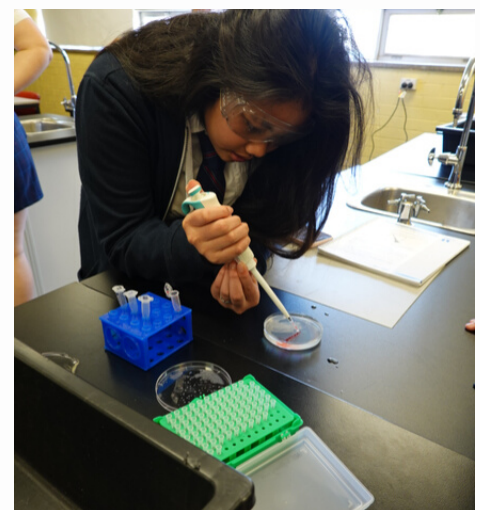
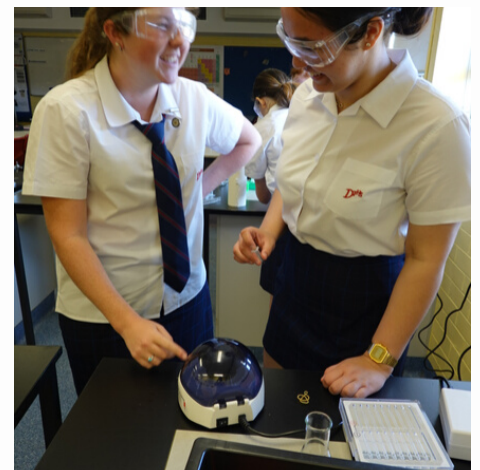
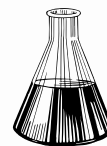
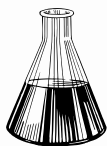
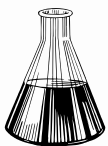
Travel and Leave

Attention parents and carers. With the end of year school holidays fast approaching, DTHS encourages you to let the school know of travel plans that may extend into the 2020 school year. If your student will **not be at school come day 1 of Term 1 2020** (28th of January for Years 7, 11 and 12. 29th of January for years 8, 9 and 10), you must alert the school of this via email, doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au or call the school on (02) 9622 2463 so we are aware of your travel plans.

Amgen Biotech Experience (ABE)

The Amgen Biotech Experience is an innovative science education program facilitated by Sydney University. It introduces students to the importance of scientific discovery through a molecular biology learning experience that links core science concepts to real-world applications. ABE mimics the research and development process used for the recombinant products that are currently available to treat a wide range of diseases, like diabetes.

DTHS students successfully carried out the steps of the genetic engineering process that is used to make insulin and other genetically engineered products. They learnt and practised the techniques and procedures that are part of this process. Students carried out some of the very same procedures that scientists use to produce human insulin in bacteria. Students were able to use micro-pipettes and the technique of gel electrophoresis correctly.



Support Unit- NSW Fire Rescue Visit

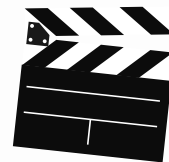
On September 16th our Year 7 and 8 Support kids had the opportunity to learn about fire safety from some of the team at Blacktown Fire Station! They had a great morning trying out some of the tools and equipment that has saved many lives. What a great chance for them to engage in their Community Access class! Thank you for the visit Blacktown Fire Station!



DTHS at AFTRS

On the 16th of September students from DTHS went to AFTRS at Moore Park to watch the films that they made based on the poems written by students at Bankstown Girls High School. Four Schools participated in the day- Prairewood High School, Bankstown Girls High School, Bonnyrigg High School, and DTHS. Out of the 4 schools, one of our very talented teams consisting of Harrison Try, Jade Wiapo, Roselina Epati, and April Mercieca won best film! These students will now have the opportunity to take part in a 2 day short course at AFTRS.

Special mention to Riya Riya who also received praise on the day!





Support Unit- Blacktown Animal Shelter Visit



On the 28th of October some of our Year 7/8 Support Unit students enjoyed a visit from Blacktown Animal Shelter for their Community Access class. During the visit they learnt about animal care, safety around animals, responsible pet ownership, cleaning up after pets and looking at the body language of animals. Looks like the students had a great day!

William Angliss Institute



On Friday the 18th of October the Hospitality HSC class of 2020 accompanied Mrs Saunders into the city for an excursion. The aim was for students to experience the William Angliss Hospitality School Environment. The day began with an early start, catching the 6:54am train into Redfern, transferring to a bus and a short walk. The students dined at Restaurant Rubic, and had a choice of; Scrambled eggs with smoked salmon, Turkish toast, hash browns and baked tomatoes. or; Baked eggs with chorizo and tomato sauce served with Turkish toast.

There were also offered a variety of beverages with most opting for the iced chocolate and the pineapple mojito.

Following breakfast students were given a behind the scenes tour of the schools facilities where they were able to ask questions regarding training packages, qualifications and menu design.

Following on from breakfast and tour, the group experienced the hospitality of "The Grounds - Alexandria". The excursion ended at Gong Cha Tea store where students purchased a range of current trends within the tea service.

A special mention to Mrs Sharma who secured the opportunity for the students and to Mrs Ross who set up the DTHS cafe in our absence in preparation for next service.





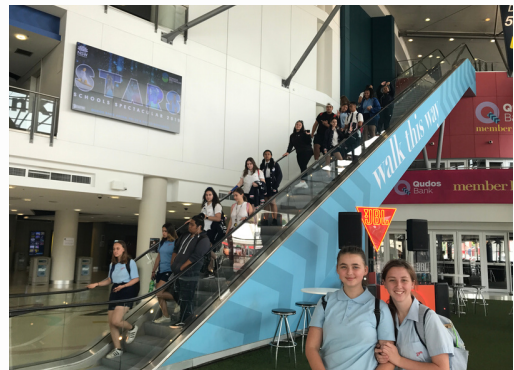
Support Unit Camp Yarramundi

On Monday the 18th of November, our DTHS Support Unit ventured out to Camp Yarramundi where they would get to spend the next two days enjoying camp life and having fun in the sun! On day one students were given the opportunity to show off their archery and rock climbing skills. The students loved every minute of both activities and were keen to see what the rest of the camp had in store for them. On day two, students had a jam packed day full of swimming, kayaking and vertical challenges. There were smiles all around and even after a massive day, the students were excited to see what day three would bring. On the last day of camp students participated in team building activities and zip lining. After a long few days the kids were very excited to come home.



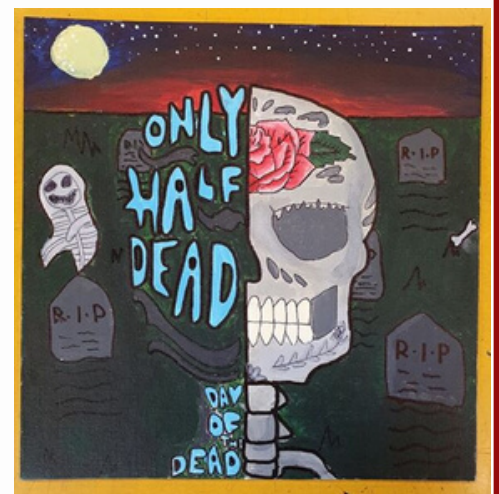
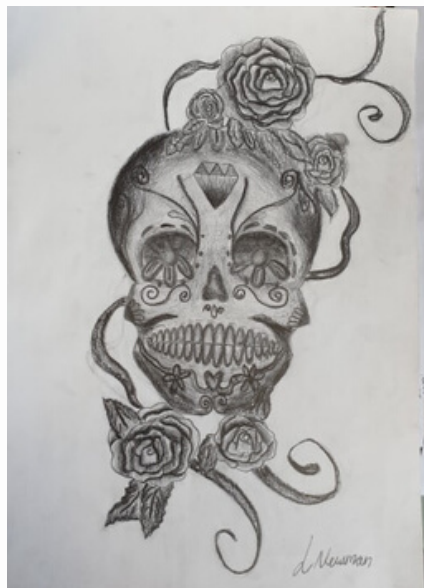
School Spectacular

Senior Music and Dance students had the opportunity to see Schools Spectacular on November 22nd. It was a wonderful concert and students and teachers were blown away! What a fantastic advertisement for Public Education.



DTHS Works of Art.

Liam Newman of Year 8 has been working incredibly hard in Ms Saywell's Visual Arts class. He finished his Day of the Dead Canvas painting and embarked on a new work and developed skills in tonal drawing. He has spent many lunches perfecting his craft and should be incredibly proud of his artworks. Liam's artworks along with other Visual Arts students will be exhibited on Wednesday Week 8 as part of the annual CAPA Art Exhibition.



Creating Chances World Traditional Games Cup

On the 26th of November DTHS competed in the Creating Chances World Traditional Games Cup. We went undefeated throughout the day, earning several bonus points for fair play, resulting in the team winning the title! Creating Chances is a coaching program designed to foster leadership and interpersonal skills. Mr. Gerard and Bay were extremely impressed with the efforts of our students today. Outstanding representatives of our school!



Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 formal was held on Tuesday the 26th of November at Oatlands House. The Doonside Technology High School staff were privileged to celebrate the occasion with a fantastic group of students. Congratulations to the graduating class of 2019!



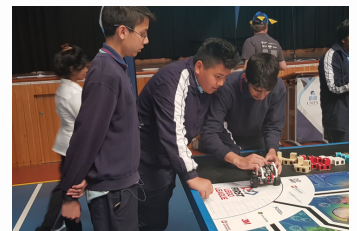
DTHS at STEAM Quake

Students from DTHS presented at the STEAM Quake evening held at West HQ. The night was a culmination of an entire year's worth of effort, where the students collaborated with 5 other Primary and High Schools in the area. Congratulations to all staff and students involved!



Lego League's Regional Competition

Students from DTHS attended the first Lego League's regional competition held at Unity Grammar, Austral. One team came equal third for the robot competition, whilst the other team managed to advance to the national tournament at Macquarie University early in December.



Wired For Wonder

Students from DTHS had the opportunity to attend the "Wired for Wonder" youth summit. They attended talks from a range of inspirational speakers, including a former CIA cyber security expert as well as Dr. Jordan Nguyen. They also participated in STEAM workshops from Microsoft and NIDA (National Institute of Dramatic Arts).



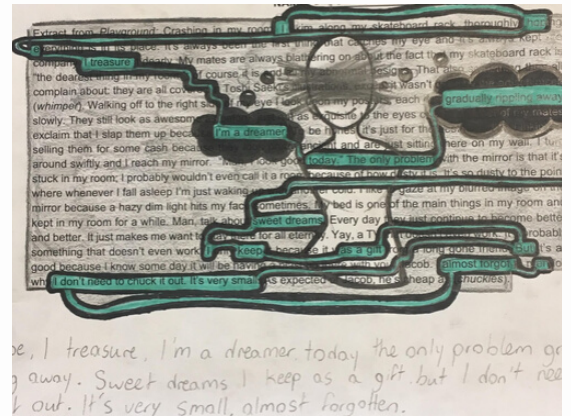
Roslyn Packer Theatre Excursion

On Tuesday the 5th of November, some of the Year 9 and 10 Dance students attended a matinee contemporary dance performance by Sydney Dance Company at Roslyn Packer Theatre. This performance included Rafael Bonachela's work '6 Breaths' and Gideon Obarzanek's work 'Us 50' which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the company. Students were provided with an opportunity to go backstage, take part in the live performance and participate in a Q&A forum with the company's artists.



Story Factory- Art Write Light Workshop

Some of our Year 10 students had the opportunity to participate in the Art Write Light Workshop that was run by Story Factory Sydney! During this workshop, the students worked on Erasure Poetry and had the chance to create their very own Blackout Poems. Story Factory Sydney were blown away by the creativity, thoughtfulness and persistence students displayed in creating artworks that will be displayed around the school as a way to bring poetry to life!



Hospitality Industry Experience

Congratulations to Year 11 Hospitality students for their exceptional work at the Colebee Centre. Students set up for a wedding reception that will cater for 256 people. Thank you to the Colebee Centre for providing students with this opportunity.



Powerhouse Museum- Sustainability Excursion

On Thursday 21st November, Mr James and Ms Tofa took 25 Year 8 students to the Powerhouse Museum for a sustainability excursion. During this day, students learnt about sustainable living, coding and exploring the grounds of the Powerhouse. Students then had a fancy lunch at Darling Harbour and walked through China Town. Year 8 are commended for their positive behaviour during this excursion.



REQUEST FOR ALL SCHOOL MAINTENANCE LOCAL TRADES PROVIDERS AND SUPPLIERS

The NSW Government has committed the largest investment in planned maintenance at public schools in the history of NSW. A record \$1.3 billion is being spent on an ambitious delivery program, focused on employing local businesses and contractors across the state.

To assist in addressing regional school maintenance issues and at the same time provide work for local trade's persons and suppliers across the Greater Western Sydney region encompassing South Western and Western Sydney, over \$100 million is being invested to upgrade and maintain our school infrastructure.

Given this record spend by School Infrastructure NSW, you are invited to an Asset Management Unit industry breakfast briefing. This will provide information to existing and new contractors on how you can get involved.

To find out more by attending our Industry breakfast register at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/industry-engagement-information-session-tickets-81879669295> or contact your AMU on 8867 9201.



Compulsory School Attendance

Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child's school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may decline to accept an explanation that you have provided if they do not believe the absence is in the best interest of your child. In these circumstances your child's absence would be recorded as unjustified. When this happens the principal will discuss their decision with you and the reasons why.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child's school principal. An *Application for Extended Leave* may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child's total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child's school principal.





My child won't go to school. What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school's learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child's attendance at school.

- Application to the Children's Court – Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child's attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department

may apply to the Children's Court for a *Compulsory Schooling Order*. The Children's Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child's full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

If a student misses as little as 8 days in a school term, by the end of primary school they'll have missed over a year of school.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Policy library*

The school leaving age:

Please visit the Department of Education's *Wellbeing and Learning* website

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 536

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 9244 512

www.dec.nsw.gov.au

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

Dates for your Calendar

Term 1, 2020

28th January - Years 7, 11 and 12 return to school

29th January - Years 8, 9 and 10 return to school

21st February - DTHS Swimming Carnival

25th February - School Photos

17th March - NSW Health Vaccinations

School Information

Address:

15 Power Street
Doonside NSW 2767

Phone:

(02) 9622 2463

FAX:

(02) 9831 5951

Website:

<https://doonside-h.schools.nsw.gov.au/>

Email:

doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Office Hours:

8:00am - 3:30pm

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