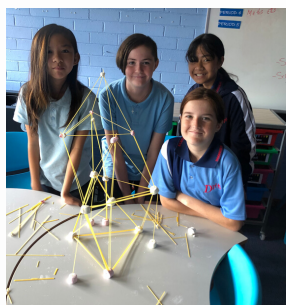


DOONSIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 1 - 2020 NEWSLETTER



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TERM 1- WELCOME BACK!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE- Mrs. Janet Harding

Success has been a major word in our school this term. This has been through the many efforts of a wide range of teachers and students:

- Jessica Mackander's selection to compete at the World Skills Competition
- Tahlya Bush was interviewed for a prestigious magazine AEL (Australian Educational Leader) and her interview has been published in the latest edition- See inside
- Tiana Robinson and Patrick Reen received Blacktown Lions Club awards.
- SRC and their leadership in developing plans to improve the overall environment of our school. So far we have:
 - Ordered 8 water stations to replace the bubblers
 - Ordered more hand soap containers for the toilets
 - Investigated adding hand driers in toilets
- Ongoing improvements in the school planned for 2020
 - More air conditioners
 - Painting
 - Upgrade planned kitchen in hall
 - More seating for classrooms and outside
- AFL National Inclusion Carnival again planned locally
- Year 10 Peer Support Leaders working with Year 7

School Plan 2020

We have plans to focus on the following as a school this year:

- Creating student and class profiles
- Attendance
- Writing + Reading
- Creating a dedicated numeracy team
- New ways of engaging students in learning
- Leadership of staff and students
- Anti Bullying strategy- STYME

One of the new ways of teaching and learning is Project Based Learning or Design Thinking- Preparing students for tomorrow, engaging them today.

You will hear more and more about this as teachers and students work together to develop this as an integral part of our teaching and learning programs. Schools are using the teaching method of project based learning and are making this choice for two reasons:

- When school is more exciting, students learn better
- When school teaches students more than basic information skills, they are better prepared for their future.

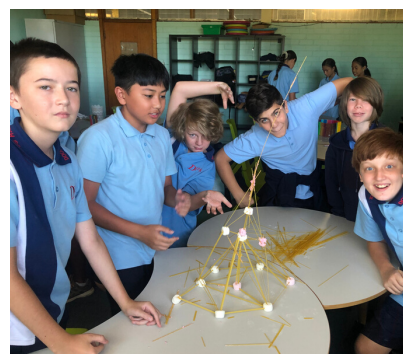
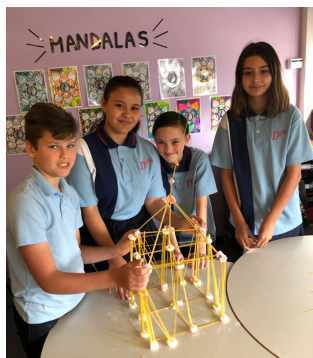
Please note that due to COVID-19 Social Distancing, certain events featured on the back page of this newsletters letter may be postponed or cancelled. We will be sure to inform parents and carers as soon as the information is accessible.

Janet Harding

Principal

Welcome Year 7 2020

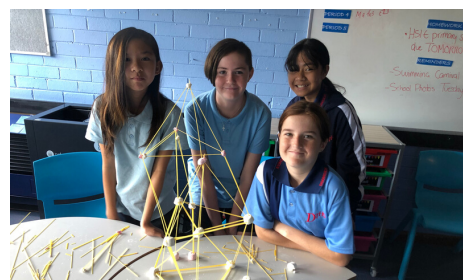
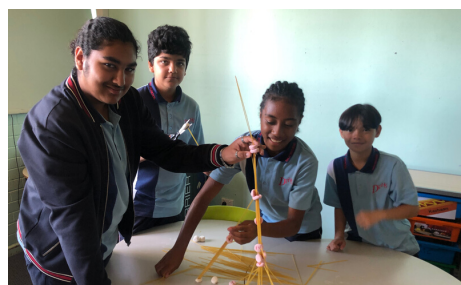
Year 7 students have spent the first term of high school becoming familiar with their new school, developing new skills, meeting new friends and teachers. The transition from Year 6 to Year 7 has been a big change for our Year 7 students and they should be commended on the way they have embraced the change.



Year 7 Life Education

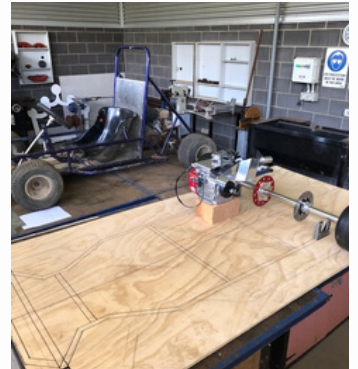
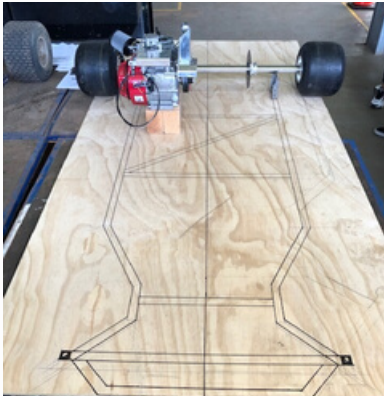
The Life Education program in Year 7 focuses on teaching our students the importance of the Doonside Technology High School's (DTHS) CORE values to succeed in both high school and life. The DTHS CORE values consist of Community, Ownership, Resilience and Empowerment. In one of our Life Education lessons Year 7 students built marshmallow and spaghetti towers in small groups. During this activity, students learnt that success is dependant on demonstrating the CORE values, team collaboration and problem solving skills.

Beria Sergil
Year 7 Year Adviser





Passion Project - Go Karts



Year 9 Passion Projects are well under way in TAS with Mr Navarro and his class excitedly building a Go Kart from scratch. Progress is a little slower than Mr Navarro hoped for with the class only having their first lesson in Week 2, however, he is confident that with the enthusiasm and strong work ethic students have displayed they should be testing driving before you know it!.

Food, Glorious Food - Passion Project.

The kitchen is the place to be! Year 9 students undertaking a passion project - Food, Glorious Food demonstrated safe and hygienic food handling skills whilst learning the finer art of garnishes. Students were taken through their paces to produce van dyke'd oranges, orange baskets and strawberry fans. The garnishes were then turned into fruit salad, served with ice-cream.

Year 9 Food, Glorious Food Passion Project learnt the finer art of pasta making under the watchful eye of Chef Ethan - visiting from the Carrington Hotel Katoomba. Students love being able to taste their learning!

Future lessons include decorated cakes, high tea buffets and much more... stay tuned!



International Women's Day

On Monday the 9th of March, DTHS celebrated International Women's Day. This day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for accelerating women's equality. Ms Garrety, Ms Tomagra and the Pride Girls hosted an assembly and raised funds through a bake sale for the women's charity - Share the Dignity. Thank you to all staff and students who supported the event. A special thank you to the Year 12 cohort and their Year Advisers, Mr Brown and Mr Marques for organising the International Women's Day banner as a school gift.



International Womens Day- Leadership Conference

On March 5th, two Year 11 students, Aliya Heemtote and Andrea Arcilla went to Upfront! - A leadership conference for International Women's Day held at NSW Parliament House with their teacher, Connie Tomagra. Students met politicians and learnt about equal representation in politics and all occupations.



DTHS Swimming Carnival 2020

Throwback to our whole school Swimming Carnival. Students had the opportunity to competitively race or participate in the lizard lane to earn house points. Congratulations to Bruce who are our house champions for this carnival! Well done to our swimmers who represented DTHS with pride at the Mt Druitt Zone Carnival. We look forward to seeing some of these swimmers in the upcoming Sydney West carnival.



Mt Druitt Cup- U15s

On Tuesday 25th February, the Boys U15s Rugby League team competed in the Mt Druitt Cup. The day saw DTHS finish first within their pool, with wins against Shalvey Campus and Rooty Hill HS. As a result, DTHS progressed to the final where they went on to defeat Plumpton HS, 6-4, for the Mt Druitt Cup. Miss Twaddle and Miss Kelly would like to extend their congratulations to the team on their efforts, determination, and performance throughout the tournament. Overall, the team performed admirably throughout, playing with pride and spirit, and most importantly, playing for each other. Special congratulations to Uati Faletolu, Waka Faletolu and Phillip Tautu for being selected to represent the Mt Druitt Zone in the Sydney West Rugby League Championships.



EEC- Baby Shower

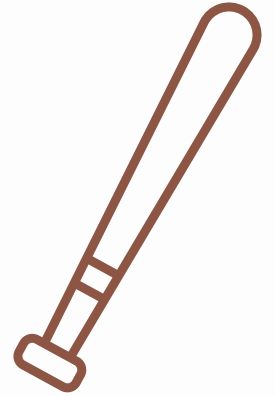
Year 11 Exploring Early Childhood students celebrated the unit: Pregnancy and Childbirth with a baby shower. Students were put through their paces with changing nappies, a round of trivia, guess the song title and many more games. A shout out to Vicky Ross who was instrumental in the layout of the room and for her food preparation. A special thank you to our special guests: Mrs Janet Harding (Principal) and Mrs Liz Siope (Head Teacher Administration).





Open Girls Softball Knockout Comp

The Open Girls Softball team won 10-6 in the first round of the Softball knockout competition against Rooty Hill High School. MVP to both our School Captain and Team Captain, Jessica Mackander. Thanks to Daniel Robinson who assisted in coaching as a part of his VET Sports Coaching course.



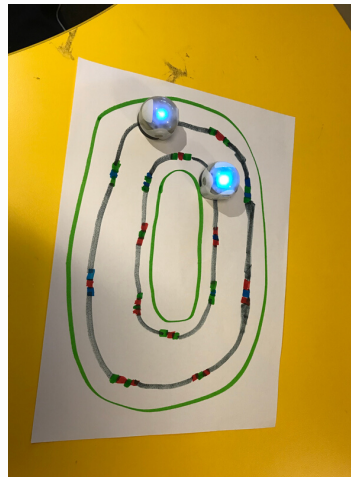
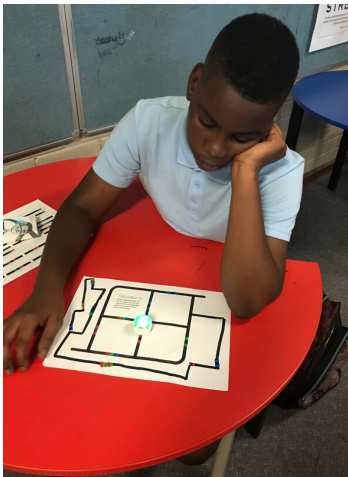
Parramatta Eels Rep Team

Congratulations to Eloisa Seve (Year 12), Chelsea Austin (Year 11) and Summah Terare (Year 11) on being selected for the Parramatta Eels Representative Team. All three girls will feature in the Tarsha Gale Female Rugby League Competition this season.



Year 7 2021- Open Night

On Wednesday 26th February 2020, prospective parents and carers of Year 7 2021 attended our Year 7 Open Night. The night was a huge success with families participating in team building activities, touring our facilities and visiting our wonderful Year 7 homerooms to see the fantastic learning happening at Doonside Technology High School.



Year 7 Paddock to Plate and Robotics

Ms Vishnu has been busy with her Year 7 classes learning about both robotics and Paddock to Plate Agriculture! Isn't it amazing to see how well young minds engage with interactive classwork? They have done some impressive work!



In League in Harmony

Year 10 Leadership students have been participating in the program "In League in Harmony". The program provides leadership skills through focusing on inclusion and diversity. Big thanks to Joe Galuvao for working with our students over the last 6 weeks. The students are looking forward to Gala Day next week! Thanks also to Deputy Mr Webb for joining us in some rugby drills.



Jessica Mackander

Jessica Mackander of Year 12 will be participating in the World Skills Competition in Food and Beverage! She will be competing against all students studying a Certificate II in Food and Beverage at TAFE, this includes students from Catholic, Government and independant schools!



Attendance

In 2020 attendance has become a focal point at Doonside Technology High School, with a target of increasing the number of students attending school 90% or more of the time. The attendance team have been working to support students and families in their endeavour to increase overall attendance. This has been achieved through a number of initiatives that are currently being implemented this year. Some of these initiatives are listed below:

- Attendance slips distributed in roll call for any unjustified absence
- Morning Transportation
- Regular meetings with the attendance team, students and families to celebrate good attendance and provide support when needed.

We currently have a large number of students with an attendance percentage of 100% for 2020. These students have been acknowledged and celebrated with a weekly raffle at our whole school assembly. Congratulations to these students! If you would like to acquire more information about our initiatives or discuss your child's attendance, please contact Mrs Siope to arrange an appointment.



Open Girls Basketball

The open girls basketball team did themselves and the school proud in their game against Model Farms High School. Most of the girls first started learning the game last week and went up against a team with several rep. players. The girls didn't take a backward step all game, competing every position and learning many aspects of the game by playing it. They held the opposition scoreless for 10 minutes in the second half and despite a phenomenal shooting performance from Emma McKinlay and some of the longest ever attempted netball shots from Tara Aquilina went down to a more experienced side. Along with several juniors who played up in the opens age group, the girls showed the never give up team spirit that is

Doonside.
Well done girls!



“My favourite thing would be how supportive the teachers are, they always try to accommodate for student wellbeing as well as help us achieve our academic success.”



Student: Tahlya Bush (Year 9)
School: Doonside Technology High School (NSW)

Tell us a little bit about yourself, what do you enjoy doing and what is your favourite subject at school?

My name's Tahlya Bush and I'm 15 years old, currently in Year 9. At school, I am a positive member of the school's SRC team, and I also play a big role within my grade's leadership group. My favourite subjects are Art and English. I just enjoy being creative in Art and just being able to do what I want. In English, I just enjoy writing. In the future, I plan to go to University to become a primary school teacher. I've always loved little kids and enjoyed playing and working with them, and I have my little siblings whom I take care of. There are four of them and I'm the oldest. I have a job right now, I work with little kids at Little Plaster House in Bella Vista. We run parties, like birthday parties, for little kids who want to paint plasters.

What is like to be a student at this school?

As a student in Year 9 at Doonside Technology High School, I feel very included and welcomed by all staff and students. My favourite thing would be how supportive the teachers are, they always try to accommodate for student wellbeing as well as help us achieve our academic success.

Imagine you are a principal - what would you do differently to improve things for yourself and your classmates?

If I was the principal, to improve things for my schoolmates, I would like to see more spaces and tables for other grades around the school. As of now, there is only space for Years 11 and 12. I would also like to add more bubblers around the school as there is only one working system right now.

You mentioned that you are a member of the SRC, do you feel like you have the chance to speak up and share ideas at school?

As I am a part of the SRC, yes, I always have the chance to speak up and share my ideas and thoughts. But for the students who would rather not talk openly about their ideas to improve the school, each grade has a leadership group and this further allows students to communicate with their classmates in the leadership team, making sure everyone's thoughts are heard.

I think that's important because some students may not want to talk to the teachers about what they want done around the school such as what they think we need. And, instead, may prefer to talk to someone they're close to, someone in their grade or class. They might feel more inclined to speak to them.

What can teachers do to make you feel more heard and supported?

At our school, as of now, teachers already make a great effort to ensure that the students feel heard and supported by valuing suggestions and opinions. We also have the student leadership team across Years 7 to 12, which allows students from each grade to suggest ideas to classmates, and those ideas can be further passed on to teachers. Furthermore, for teachers to make sure everyone feels heard and supported, the school could implement an online page for students' suggestions.

Which kind of classroom environment suits you best?

I find I learn better in a quieter environment, I like working alone, it's easier for me to get the work done. And I find it more efficient when I do more hands-on activities because I am really creative and like thinking out loud.

Tell us about a learning experience you had that was outside the norm?

We fundraised for Stewart House the other week. We sold cookies, milkshakes, raffle tickets, and we also had a Christmas concert. And I was lucky enough to make the milkshakes for everybody. This was effective because it was something new and was a different experience for everybody. It was a fun and engaging way to raise money. Each grade came together as a school community, allowing us to improve our school morale. This was also a different learning experience as each year group from the SRC got to try something new and work together. So we got to work with people from Year 11 and Year 7.

What was the hardest thing?

We were responsible for the money, and also had to help and take care of everyone who came.

What excites you about the future?

I'm going to finish Year 12 here, at Doonside Technology High School, and then after school I am going to University to become a primary school teacher as I enjoy teaching little kids. I might go back to my primary school to do some work experience next year.

Fast Forward Yr 12 Conference day

Year 12 students attended the Fast Forward Year 12 Conference Day. Students engaged with program staff and industry leaders through a series of informative and interactive sessions focused on different career opportunities. They enhanced their knowledge of career choices and areas of study.



Assessment Policy and Procedures

Years 12, 11 and 10 have now received their assessment information and due dates calendar.

Students attended sessions with Head Teacher Senior Studies (Mr. Manvir Singh) where the Assessment Policy was explained including information about how to apply for illness / misadventure if a student is absent on the day of a task due. I encourage parents and carers to read and discuss the information with their children.

Careers Corner

Jobjump is a careers website that can help you find the answers to your questions. It's fun, fast and easy to find what you want in a couple of clicks.

<https://www.jobjump.com.au/>

To use Jobjump go to the 'I'm new' tab, click on the school – Doonside High School and use the password 'green'.

Students, parents and carers are able to make use of this website in their research for careers and how to get to their desired career paths.



DTHS Introduces STYMIE!



Stymie is an anonymous harm-reporting tool that proactively supports students to report on bullying, illegal activity, depression, anxiety, family violence, self harm, planned fights and other covert behaviours. Stymie helps schools overcome the bystander effect by enabling their students to report incidents of harm, safely and anonymously. Stymie does not receive or store the notifications, they are encrypted and sent directly to the school.

Once the notification is made, the school receives the information via email, and responds accordingly. Stymie does not see or keep copies of notifications.

Each Stymie notification is to be investigated within 24 hours of receiving the email. This means a member of the well being team - Year Adviser, Assistant Year Adviser, Youth Worker or Head Teacher Wellbeing will make contact with the student involved in the report and devise a solution to assist them.

All students took part in a presentation from Stymie, around the impact bullying can have on young people. Students were also given a seminar on how to make a Stymie notification to report harm occurring to themselves or a friend.

For any questions pertaining to Stymie, please call the school and speak with Mr. Gerard, Head Teacher Wellbeing.

P&C Coffee and Cake- Postponed until further notice



DTHS would like to invite you to
attend

P&C Coffee and Cake

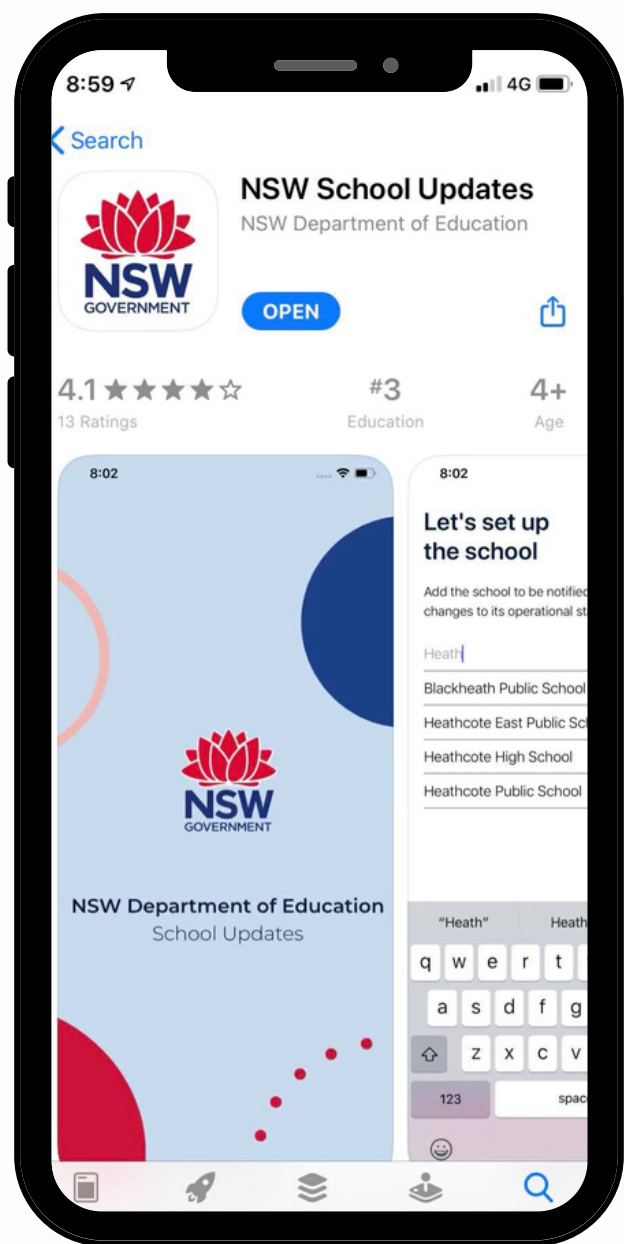
3:00pm - 4:00pm
Tuesday 24th of March

Join our Principal, Ms. Janet Harding
to discuss our 2020 school
priorities and what we are doing
about bullying at DTHS.

See you there!



NSW School Updates- Department of Education App



The Department of Education's first ever app – the 'School Updates' app for parents – was launched last week by the Minister for Education and is now available for download.

The free, opt-in app is another way for parents and carers to receive information about their child's school (or schools).

Users can download the app and sign up to receive an alert if the school they have pre-selected is non-operational (and another when the school is operational again).

When the user interacts with the notification, it opens the app and provides a link both to the school's website – where they may be able to get more information – and to the Department of Education's school safety page.

The development of the new app comes in the wake of the 2019-2020 bush fire crisis and, more recently, flood impacts. The app complements existing efforts by schools and the Department of Education to ensure families are provided with timely, accurate information in a crisis.

At the peak of the bush fire crisis, in November, there were up to 20,000 people accessing the school safety page each minute – and there have been more than 1.35 million visitors to that page alone in the last four months.

The School Updates app simply replicates information already provided on the school safety page but with the advantage of providing immediate push notifications for schools selected by users. At this stage the app provides only basic information about public schools, but there is potential for the functionality to be expanded over time.

The app is available for both iOS and Android users.

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

The NSW Department of Education is introducing proactive measures to limit the impact of COVID-19 in our schools.

Our schools have adopted social distancing measures including cancelling assemblies, excursions, travel, some events and conferences.

All major arts, sports and initiative activities and events will temporarily be ceased until further notice. This includes whole-school sporting events and inter-school events involving three or more schools.

Current advice from the Australian Government is:

- All travellers to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.
- A ban on cruise liners from foreign ports arriving at Australian ports for 30 days.
- Any confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded until they are medically cleared to return.
- Close contacts of a confirmed case of COVID-19 will be excluded for 14 days since last contact with the confirmed case.
- Students and staff who have returned to Australia and have shown no symptoms during the 14-day home-isolation period are able to return to school or work.

NSW Health has processes in place to identify any close contacts of cases confirmed in Australia. A close contact is a person who has spent significant time either face to face (15 minutes) or in an enclosed space (2 hours or more) as someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. It is advising these close contacts about not attending work, school or early childhood and childcare services.

The Department of Education continues to work closely with NSW Health to monitor and respond to developments and to ensure the safety and wellbeing of students and staff.

Consistent with current guidelines, children, students and staff who are unwell with respiratory illness should remain at home until symptoms resolve. In accordance with our current practice if any student becomes unwell we will implement our infection control guidelines and follow the advice provided by NSW Health as appropriate.

For more information, visit NSW Health @ <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/>

Dates for your Calendar

Term 2, 2020

7th May - U14s Boys Buckley Shield
12th May - U16s Panthers Trophy RL Boys
14th May - U15s Panthers Trophy RL Boys
19th May - Passion projects GWS Giants Visit
19th May - DTHS 2020 Athletics Carnival
21st May - 2020 Greater Western Sydney Career Market Excursion
22nd May - 2020 Mt Druitt Zone X-Country
26th May - Girls Panther Trophy
2nd June - NSW Health Vaccinations
18th June - 2020 Zone Athletics Carnival

Please note that the following event dates may change.

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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