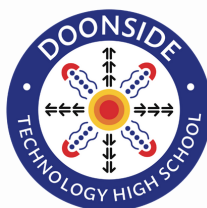


# DOONSIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 4 - 2020 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. And especially in comparison to the non-existent assemblies, presentations and events that would usually occur throughout the year. We have missed them.

Despite the absence of congregations, we have been recognised in many ways this year for the outstanding work we do – both teachers and students.

### 2020 Achievements

There are many highlights for 2020. Our congratulations for these prestigious State Awards to staff:

Ms Sharma – The Secretary's Award for an Outstanding School Initiative – RoSA @ Work

Mr Gerard - The Secretary's Award for Excellent Service

Ms Sahyouni – The Minister's Award for Excellence in Teaching  
Student Scholarships awarded:

Tahlya Bush – Harding Miller Scholarship

Kelly Javier – ABCN Scholarship

# Principals Message Continued

I would also like to pay tribute to the students who have initiated and conducted social justice and recognition days this year. Despite the many difficulties, these have been an absolute success – Wear it Purple day, White Ribbon Day, World Teachers' Day, RUOK Day, Jeans for Genes Day, Foodbank Food Drive, National Day of Action Against Bullying and the Starlight Foundation fundraiser. Our Student Leadership teams are remarkable people and DTHS is a great community who always looks to give back to those less fortunate. The efforts of these students make us very proud.

## COVID Update

Inside there is a document 'Draft Planning guidelines' for schools for 2021. Some of the restrictions will stay and some have changed. Whilst adults are able to come into schools, there will still be restrictions as to who and why.

## 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 load.

## Thank you to Parents and Community

There are a number of parents who also have made enormous contributions to our school especially Mrs Castle, 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.

## Attendance

School starts in 2021 on the following dates:

Staff Only – Wednesday 27th and Thursday 28th January

Year 7, 11 & 12 and Peer Support Leaders – Friday 29th January

Years 8, 9, 10 – Monday 1st February

If you know that your child will be late returning to school, can you please let the school know as soon as possible. The funding we receive is determined by the number of students who are attending school by the end of Week 2. We can include your child if we know he/she is intending to return.

## New School Plan – Community Consultation

It is important that the school consult with the local community about the new school plan 2021-2024. We have done some extensive analysis and have asked some parents and other community contacts and are now preparing a detailed plan around 3 areas;

### *Strategic Direction 1 – Student Growth and Attainment*

- Whole school Literacy with added emphasis on HSC Writing
- Whole School Numeracy
- Attendance

We will be seeking some feedback from our parents and carers and providing you with more detail. Please let us know if you have questions or comments.

*Janet Harding*

### *Strategic Direction 2 – Quality Teaching*

- Assessment
- Feedback
- Differentiation
- Explicit Teaching

### *Strategic Direction 3 – Student and Community Engagement*

- Parent & Community Partnerships
- Developing leadership for students and staff



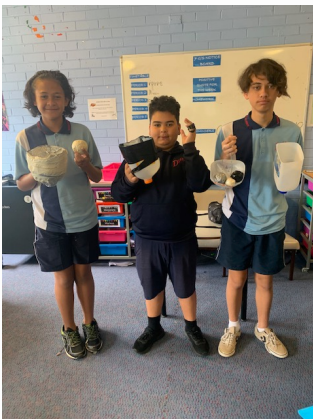
# White Ribbon Day 2020

White Ribbon Day is apart of a global social movement working to eliminate gendered violence. With a vision that hopes to see a nation where every woman is free from all forms of men's violence and abuse. This Year at DTHS the school wore white and had a BBQ fundraiser to raise funds for White Ribbon Australia. Students also versed Teachers in a game of volleyball, with the teachers coming away with the win!



## Year 7 Sustainable Sports

Year 7's PBL is focused on sustainability this term, with 7G creating sports equipment that can be used in a PE lesson to improve specific sports skills from re-usable and recyclable materials, they made equipment for Strike Tag, Ball Toss, Golden Child and Badminton. Well done 7G!





# ***Football NSW- International Day People with Disability (2020)***

Football NSW- International Day People with Disability (2020) Students from the support unit participated in a variety of coaching workshops delivered by Football NSW at Valentine Park to celebrate International Day People with Disability.



## ***Year 7 Rewards Day***

Year 7 students enjoyed their rewards excursion on Thursday the 3rd of December at Sydney Zoo today. Students engaged in an Aboriginal workshop where they learnt about aboriginal culture, traditions and beliefs. Thank you to Ms Sergil and Mr Bleakley for organising this excursion.





# Year 7 2021 Orientation Day

On Tuesday we welcomed our 2021 Year 7 students for Orientation Day. We look forward to seeing our Year 7 students in 2021!



## 2021 Captains Induction Ceremony

On The 30th of November, our 2021 School Leadership team were officially announced in front of an intimate school assembly due to COVID19 restrictions. Thank you to the parents who attended and previous school captains Christina and Jess for their encouraging words for our future leaders. There is no doubt that these incredible young people will do amazing things for the school, staff and Doonside community. Congratulations to our Senior Leadership Team.

Captains - David Soriano & Aliya Heemtote  
Vice Captains - Harrison Try & Tyler Geddes  
Prefects - Poasa Tuinakelo & Desiree Pamplona  
SRC Coordinators - Pauline Tofa & Matt Metzke





# Passion Project

## Go Karts!

This year, students engaged in a passion project to build a go kart. Well, they have done it!! There was two groups of students, the first group designed and build the frame, engine mounts, pedal controls and steering.

The second group completed the seat, fuel tank, steering wheel and front axle, foot controls and paint. The school purchased the wheels, axles and motor, everything else was designed and fabricated here at Doonside Technology High school. This project offered students an opportunity to work as part of a team and learn skills such as design , critical thinking and problem solving as well as basic fabrication skills that they can use in real life situations. I would like to congratulate in particular Charlotte Heath, Adam Vassallo, Adrian Camilleri, Manraj Singh Bhamra, Sardonyx Pakoti and Joshua Joaquin for their outstanding commitment to this project.



## Year 9 Industrial Technology Metal

Congratulations to all Year 9 students in Industrial Technology Metal for an outstanding year in the workshop. Students have been learning a variety of fabrication skills such as cutting threads, welding, forging and lathe operations. This term they have been working on a collapsible shovel.

A special mention for the following students for their commitment to learning and striving to achieve their best in this course: Udai Rai, William Quinones, Adrian Camilleri, Liam Newman,





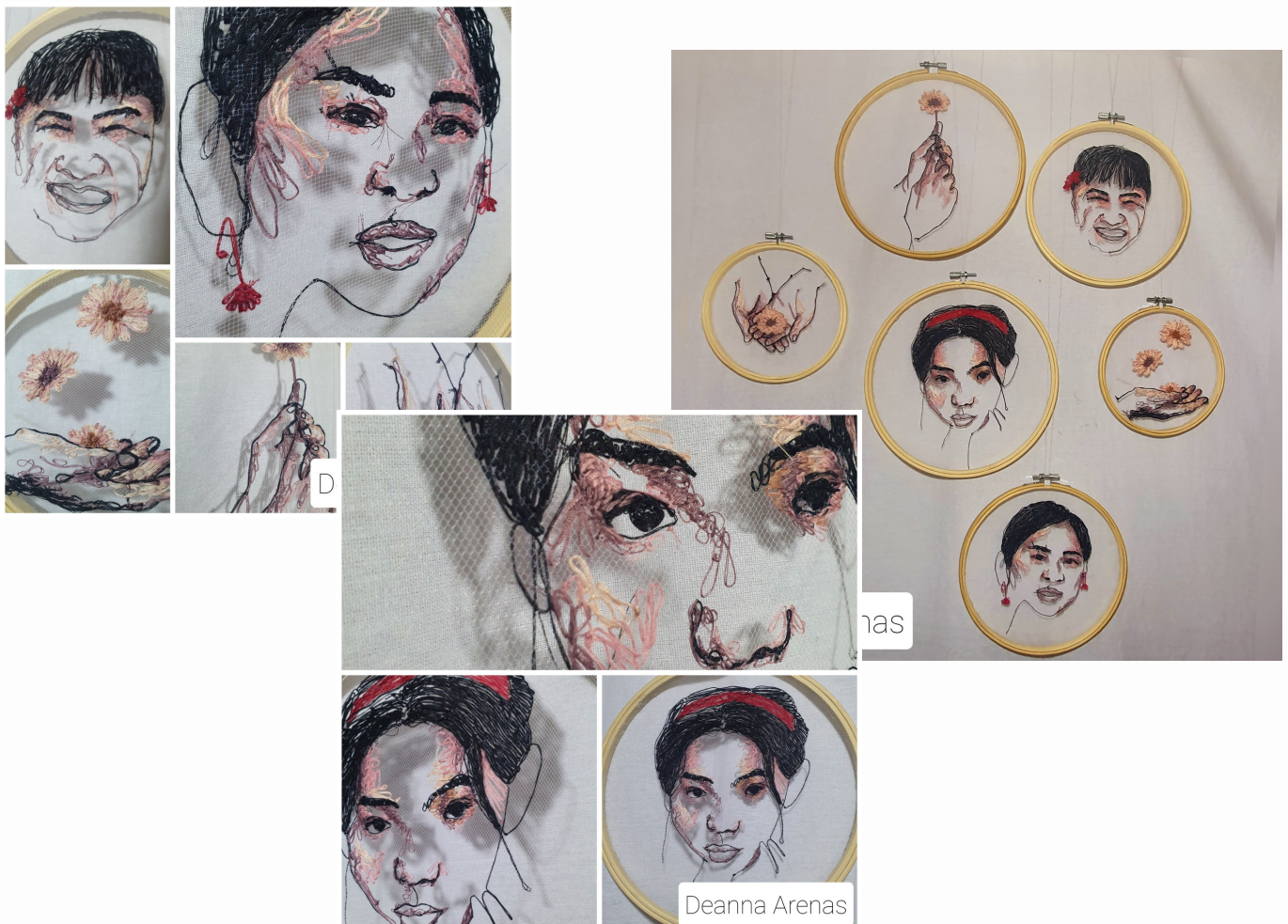
# Deanna Arenas

## ARTXPRESS Success!

A massive congratulations are in order for Deanna Arenas who has been very deserving selected to have her work exhibited at not 1, but 2 Galleries as part of the 2021 ARTEXPRESS Exhibition. Her work, "The thread that binds us", has been selected by the curators of The Armory Gallery at Sydney Olympic Park and Grafton Regional Gallery. This is an absolutely phenomenal achievement and we are so incredibly proud of her!

For those who don't know, ARTEXPRESS is an annual exhibition of exemplary artworks created by students for the HSC practical examination in Visual Arts. It represents the outstanding standards and diversity achieved by Year 12 Visual Arts students in New South Wales schools. 8678 completed the Visual Arts course in 2020, of that, a couple of hundred are nominated for ARTEXPRESS, from there, less than 100 are selected to be a part of the annual exhibition. It is an incredible honour to be nominated for this prestigious exhibition, even more so to be selected by the curators from various galleries around NSW.

Attached are images of Deanna's work, the photos do not do the intricacies, details and concept that is imbued with tradition and connection, justice.





# ***DTHS Pacifica Day 2020***

40 Pacifica kids were given the opportunity to participate in the first DTHS Pacifica Empowerment Day. These include things like, traditional faa'samoa siva, maori self discipline skills, gratitude circle and aiga thanksgiving. We had the pleasure of two university lecturers speak to our kids about staying in school and tertiary education opportunities with the PATHE program. It was an amazing day filled with a lot of laughs, food and good vibes.

Massive THANK YOU to Meta Tuisini our CLO who organised food and cultural groups. You are an inspiration for all Pacifica students and the wider community.



## ***Year 12 Formal***

After 13 years of school, Year 12 enjoyed their last night at a DTHS event, their own Formal!

Students seemed to have had a fantastic night, as you may have been able to see from pictures!





# Year 12 Graduation

Congratulations to the Graduating class of 2020! After the crazy final year of schooling of which these resilient and empowering young people endured while undertaking their HSC, it is with pride we can look back and reflect on the Year 12 Graduation and celebrate!





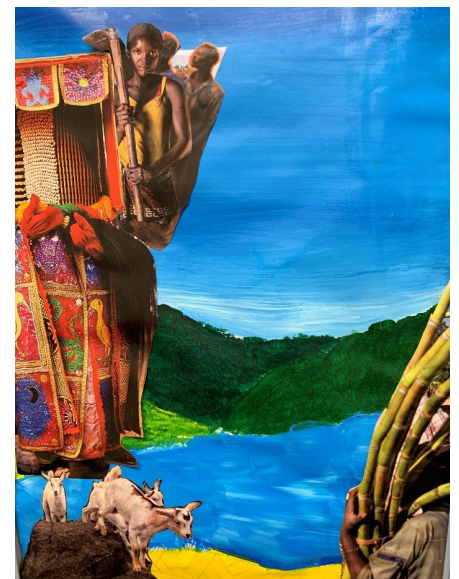
# ***DTHS Mural***

During this semester much progress has been made in completing the Doonside High Community Mural. Many students have assisted in this project but special mention must go to the Year 11/12 Support Art students: Millie Cavendar, Erica San Pedro and Sarah Taguaiga. They have done a fantastic job.



## ***Year 8 Support Visual Arts***

8Y have worked on various projects this semester – painting, collage, photography and clay work. They have learnt how to create a painted landscape, which incorporated perspective and blending paints to create tonal variations. Once their paintings were finished they selected images to collage onto their landscape to create an environment.





# Support Unit Online Concert

Blacktown City Council- International Day People with Disability Concert The theme for 2020 International Day People with Disability (IDPWD) is "Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World". Noah Moananu, Sarah Tapuaiga and Madeline Horvath performed a singing item and our creative 7X students from the support unit did a dance performance for the Blacktown City Council- IDPWD Concert which was streamed online across the broader community.



## 7G Food Truck Sculptures

7G designed, and created these food truck sculptures after having been tasked with a project wherein they needed to come up with a plan to bring people together through the designing of a business and menu for a food truck. Students collaborated together to design, construct and paint these sculptures, showing casing their skills, understanding of the elements of art along with their creativity and ability to work collaboratively to problem solve. The end results are fantastic.





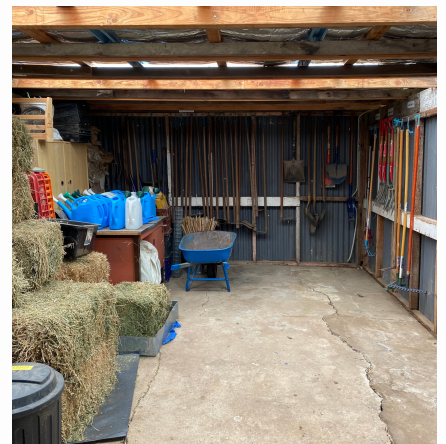
# Tractor Safety with Year 10

Year 10 Agriculture students have been busy learning to ins and outs of tractors. This includes Tractor Safety and how to operate and drive one! It's real world learning for them and will help them refine their driving skills before they get behind the wheel of a real car.



## Converted Shed to Classroom

It's been a busy Term down at the DTSH Farm! As a way to get students to include the outdoors in their learning Ms. Vishnu has converted a shed into a classroom. This classroom will be used to immerse students in their learning, this paired with a freshly tidied Tool Shed will help the students with their practical and theory lessons in the new year!





# Outstanding Attendance in 2020

Congratulations to all students this term there has been a 1% increase in student attendance compared to Term 3. Throughout Term 4 we have celebrated attendance through weekly attendance awards. Regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. This year 17 students achieved 100% attendance and we would like to congratulate these students on taking ownership of their education. These students will be rewarded at the presentation evening and invited to the Principals Morning Tea in Week 9. Overall, in 2020 students at Doonside Technology High School had increased the percentage of students above 90% of the time by 8%. Therefore in 2020, 60% of students had a attendance percentage of 90% or higher compared to 2019, 52% of had a attendance percentage of 90%.



## Why attendance matters

When your child misses school they miss important opportunities to...



Learn



Build friendships



Develop life skills

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)



## Days missed = years lost

A day here and there doesn't seem like much, but...

When your child misses just...

they miss weeks per year

and years over their school life

**1** day per fortnight



= **4** weeks

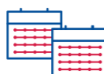


= Over **1** year missed

**1** day per week



= **8** weeks



= Over **2.5** years missed

[education.nsw.gov.au](http://education.nsw.gov.au)



# 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](http://www.dec.nsw.gov.au)

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NSW Department of Education and Communities

# Dates for your Calendar

Term 4, 2020

January 29th, Week 1 - **First day of Term 1 for Years 7, 11 and 12**

February 1st, Week 2 - **First day of Term 1 for Years 8, 9 and 10**

**Please note that event dates may change.**

## School Information

**Address:**

Power Street, Doonside NSW 2767

**Phone:**

(02) 9622 2463

**Website:**

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

**Email:**

[doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au)

**Office Hours:**

8:00am - 3:30pm

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