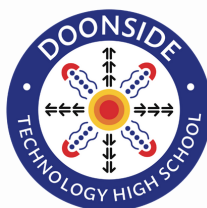


# DOONSIDE TECHNOLOGY HIGH SCHOOL

TERM 1 - 2021 NEWSLETTER



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## TERM 1 - WELCOME BACK!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE- Mrs. Janet Harding

Welcome back to school in 2021. It is very pleasing to be able to get back to normal school and to be able to greet and talk to parents on site again. We are very keen to see more parents at school this year and part of the big plan for our school is to find ways to gain opinions and ideas from parents and carers so that they feel more of an important part of their student's education.

Term 1, Wednesday 24th March 3-6pm, was to see the first of our parent invitations with an opportunity for all to come and chat to teachers about how each student is progressing. This was postponed to week 3 Term 2, May 5th because of the Floods. This will be a very different evening with a coffee cart and pizza food truck, both of which will supply free drinks and food to all. I hope to see you there.

A new program being implemented for 2022 is the creation of a STEM Elevate class in Year 7. Selection of students for this class will be based not only on their academic record but also their abilities and interest in areas such as creativity, problem solving, team work, mathematics, science and technology. Applications available online on the school's webpage, through request via email to the school at;

[Doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au](mailto:Doonside-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au) or from your local primary school

# Principals Message Continued

## School Plan 2021 - 2024

Our new School Improvement Plan will focus on the following for the next 4 years :

- Literacy and Numeracy
- Attendance
- Writing with specific concentration on HSC
- Improved assessment and feedback to and from students
- Improved student agency and greater student leadership opportunities
- Better engagement with our parents, carers and wider community

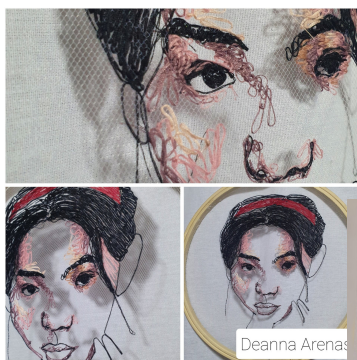
## School Improvements

We have in the pipeline, plans to improve the environment of the school so as to make it more engaging for students. A most important part of this is the importance of student voice in approving the designs for the wall art. Our first graphic will be on the front wall of the school as you enter the building – it is our welcome to all.

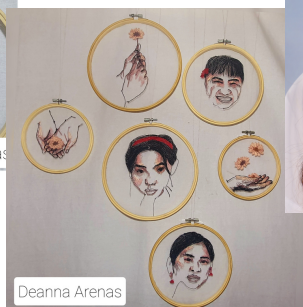


## Major Student Success

Success has been significant for CAPA with the exhibition of Deanna Arenas' HSC art during the term at the Armory Gallery in Homebush. Our congratulations to her and her teachers for their guidance and mentorship.



Deanna Arenas



Deanna Arenas



*,Janet Harding*



# 2021 Swimming Carnival

On February 12th DTHS had our annual Swimming Carnival at Mt Druitt Pools. It was a fun day for all staff and students with many of our talented swimmers advancing on to Zone and further! Thank you to Miss. Harrison for organising the day and well done to all students who participated!



# Athletics Carnival

On March 11th students from DTHS headed down to Blacktown International Sports Park for our annual Athletics Carnival. What a great day filled with sports and smiles!



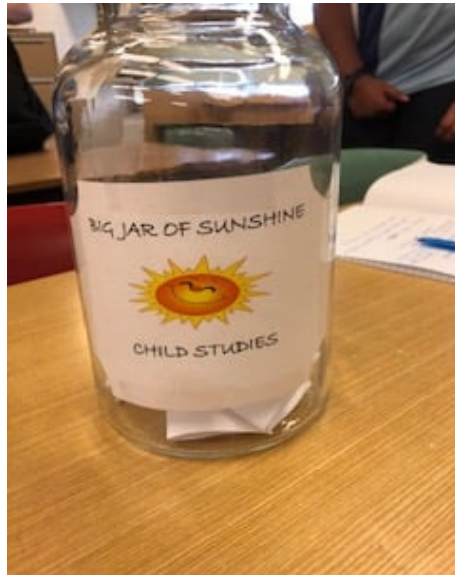


# Getting started in Child Studies

After a hiatus DTHS stage 5 students once again have an opportunity to study Child Studies. Students were excited to be greeted with their 'Bursting' with excitement welcome treat.

Students have created their P.A.G.E document (plans for achievement, growth and excellence) and are focused on their learning.

Students participate in positive psychology activities and share what they are grateful for via the Big Jar of Sunshine.



## Pacifica fun day

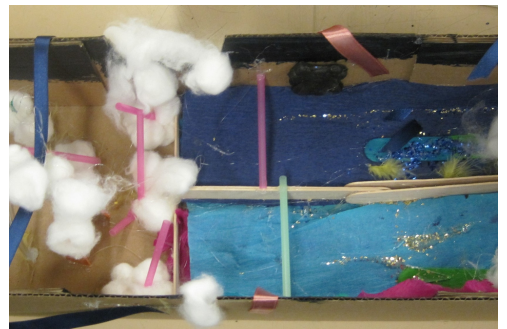
On the 24th February, Pacifica students enjoyed a day of fun at Fairfield's Aquatopia. The selected students participated in group work activities and collaborated as they planned their 2021 visions. Massive shout to Bay and Shane for taking the students to and from the venue, Meta for his exceptional organisation skills and Ms Tofa for supervising on the day. Pacifica students had an amazing day and are looking forward to smashing their learning goals this year!





# ***Dream Nursery***

Year 9 Child Studies have had fun preparing their dream nurseries for the unit 'Preparing for Parenthood'. Using a range of materials, students created hand made furniture for their model nurseries, from cots to change tables and much more.



## ***Girls in STEM***

Students from Year 8 and 9 attended a STEM/Science Panel talk on the 11th of February as part of International Women and Girls in STEM/Science Day. They listened to Australia's Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley, Associate Professor Alice Motion from University of Sydney, Sarah Reeves Astronomer and Science Curator at the Powerhouse Museum who talked about their careers and experiences as role models in the field of STEM/Science. The event was hosted by SBS and NITV STEM journalist and proud Wiradjuri woman.





# International Womens Day

We've been inspired by the voices of the amazing young women in our school after our International Women's Day Assembly. We also raised money for Wash House - a resource providing support for women in our community. On March 9th, we participated in an amazing event run by Wash House called Fierce and Fearless that sparked Courageous Conversations about being an active bystander, speaking up against disrespect against women.

We are so proud of the Grow and Pride girls for working together to build a strong community of women supporting other women.



## CORE Cafe

The brand new CORE Skills class has had a very successful Term One! The class engages in a modified curriculum, focusing on teaching students the skills required to be successful in the workforce. These include the ability to think critically and creatively and communicate and collaborate effectively. These lessons are taught in a practical sense, hence the class has been on several bush walks and run a weekly cafe program where they serve their delicious meals to staff! Congratulations to all involved.



# ***Touch Football NTLS***

In week 7, five of our students from the support unit represented the Sydney Rebels at the Touch Football NTLS (the national competition) in the All Abilities Division. The students represented the school brilliantly and demonstrated the CORE values day in and day out. It was an excellent opportunity for these students and their performance as a rookie team was very impressive.

We came second in our pool division to the 2020 grand finalists placing us in the tier 1 semis. In these semi finals we played teams who contained representative players, and life long touch football players in comparison to our kids who had started to learn the game 3 weeks ago. One of our games was live streamed with commentary on the game. Click the link below to see a very impressive Junel/Leua combination resulting in a try!

<https://youtu.be/lbQB0RXw-4U>

We are pleased to say that the students placed fourth in the country. This is an incredible effort particularly given that touch is a complex game.

Well done to all of our students who participated!



## ***Microsoft's International Imagine Cup***

Students from grades 7-11 participated in Microsoft's International Imagine Cup Junior 2021 competition. In this Hackathon, students had to leverage Microsoft's Artificial Intelligence systems and come up with a pitch to solve a problem in an area such as global warming/pollution, cultural heritage preservation and humanitarian action.





# Hospitality News

Service to customers is an important component of the Hospitality - Food and Beverage course, and the staff at DTHS support the students by attending and ordering from our café. In 2020 students adapted to the Government's Covid Safe Service of Food. New guidelines and hygiene requirements have well prepared our students for Work Placements within the industry. The introduction of Uber encouraged more customers and proved successful.

This term Year 12 will complete all their service periods in DTHS Café and will hand over the operation of the café to our current Year 11 Hospitality class led by Ms Sahyouni. Ms Sahyouni has passion and has many years of industry experience which will benefit students. With her inside knowledge the students will learn all about industry before their Work Placements. Ms Sahyouni has made some exciting changes to the menu and recently ran a mini Café to prepare Year 11 who will be running the Café from Term 2.

Last year gave limited opportunity for students to be involved in catering for functions so let's hope that this year brings our Year 11 students many opportunities to showcase their skills.

Congratulations to Year 12 Hospitality students who have passed 'Service to customers'.





# ARTXPRESS

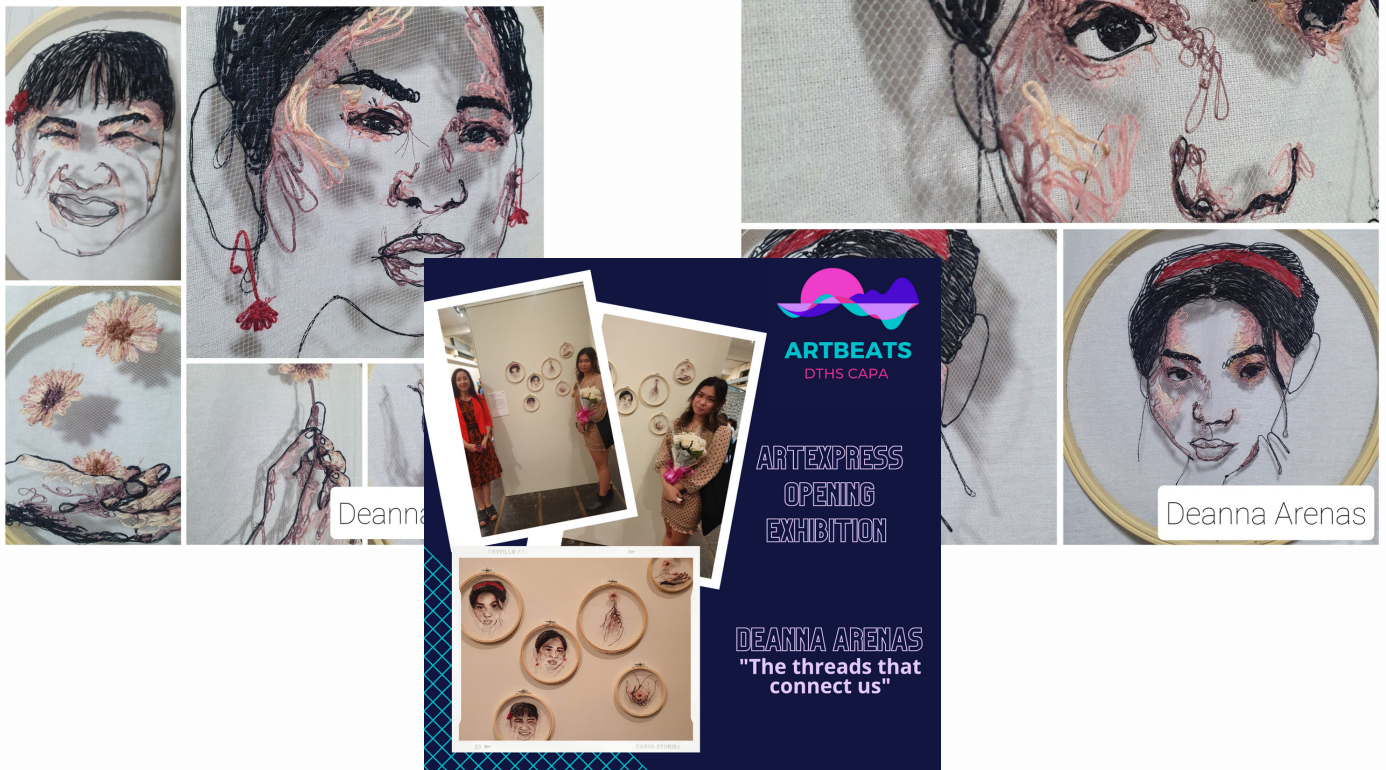
## Opening Exhibition

On the 1st of March, Miss Saywell and Mrs Tislovich attended the opening of the Annual ArtExpress exhibition at Newington Armory to celebrate the amazing achievement of Doonside's 2020 Alumni Deanna Arenas and her body of work, "The threads that connect us". Deanna achieved a Band 6 for Visual Arts in the 2020 HSC and her work was one of 59 works selected for the prestigious ArtExpress exhibition. Only 59 students out of the 8678 who completed the Visual Arts course in 2020 were selected to have their works shown at the Newington Armory, so we would like to once again congratulate Deanna on this wonderful achievement.

Danielle Gullotta, the curator of the exhibition met with Deanna and Miss Saywell, praising Deanna for her success and the impact of her work.

"Your work and title inspired me in the curation of this exhibition, the power of the language you used in the your title was the inspiration for "Threads of Connection". To see such beautiful intricate work in the textiles expressive form is powerful as it elevates the traditional female art forms and brings it into a contemporary setting, connecting the audience with the work while also providing a connection to and between the other artworks in the exhibition"

Deanna Arenas's 2020 HSC Body of Work - "The threads that connect us" is on exhibition now at the Newington Armory at Sydney Olympic park. The gallery is open for free entry from 10am - 4pm from the 2nd of March until the 25th of April.





# Red Feb

DTHS held a Red Feb fundraiser on February 11th. Funds were raised through a mufti day and the sales of beaded bracelets. The funds raised today will be donated to Heart Research Australia and Heart Kids. Thank you to Ms Sergil and Mr Bleakley for organising this fundraiser.





# Year 8 Hook Day

Year 8 engaged in a hook activity for their cross-curricular project for Science, PD/H/PE and Digital Technology. Mr Navarro showcased his Holden Kingswood One Tonner and informed students about the internal and external safety features, including tyre tread, air filter, water and oil.



# Year 12 Car wash

Our awesome Year 12 students had a great time at their car wash fundraiser. The students did a fantastic job washing the majority of our staff's cars to raise funds for their Formal and Graduation.





# Support at Nurragingy Reserve

On the 10th of March a few of our Year 7/8 Support students spent their day at Nurragingy Reserve as part of their Community Access class to learn about Community Resources and Signs



## 2021 Western Sydney Oztag Gala Day

DTHS students took part in the Western Sydney Oztag Secondary Schools Gala Day at The Kingsway, St Marys for the fifth year running.

The school fielded Boys and Girls Open teams to take part in the competition. Both teams fielded a large number of younger junior students to make up numbers and, with grit and determination, both teams finished quarter finalists which surprised everyone.

Congratulations to both Bella Austin (Girls Open) and Liam Newman (Boys Open) for being nominated best and fairest. Furthermore, congratulations to the leading try scorers Bella Austin (Girls Open) and Zechariah Makatule-Fineanganofu (Boys Opens). Also special mention to Tyron Mortimer & Chelsea Austin for their outstanding leadership in captaining their respective teams.

All students showed sportsmanship and were positive representatives of the school values.





# National Day of Action Against Bullying

Thank you to all students who took part in the National day of Action Against Bullying on March 19th! The theme for 2021 is "Take Action Together" which is what the students are spelling out in the photo below!



## Fun in Science!

Some of our Year 10 Students have been working hard on their Science project-based learning! They have demonstrated fantastic knowledge and effort in building their Roller Coasters and understanding the principles behind them!



# ***Attendance in Term 1 2021***

Thank you to all those students who have been trying really hard to keep their attendance above 90% this term. We applaud your efforts!

We have consistently maintained our attendance data at around the 85% mark this term for the whole school. Well done!

A big congratulations to the winners of the 100% weekly attendance this term. Being at school each day can affect both your academic and social wellbeing in positive ways. Being at school each day helps you stay connected with your friends and teachers.

We look forward to having another term of great attendance!

## ***Senior Studies News***

### ***Term 1 Workshops***

#### **-Senior Studies Skills**

This term, Elevate Education, ran a study skills session with Year 11 and Year 12 students. The session focused on helping students identify changes and improvements they could make to their approach to their studies, in order to maximise their results in their final years of school. The main areas covered with Year 11 were working effectively and dealing with distractions, managing time effectively and planning for their assessments. Year 12 focused on making brain- friendly study notes on a regular basis and using a wide variety of study techniques to suit individual learning styles.

Parents and carers are encouraged to review the handout from the session with students and discuss main areas identified where changes need to be made.



#### **-Fast Forward Conference**

Year 12 Fast Forward participants attended the online conference, where they engaged with industry leaders through a series of informative and interactive sessions focused on different career opportunities. Students enhanced their understanding of the post school choices and areas of study.





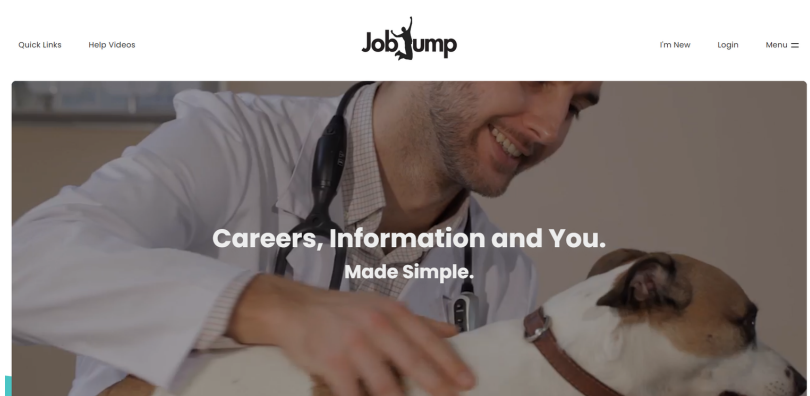
### -Stress Management and Resume Writing

Year 12 students attended after school workshops with BACC, Head Space and Wise Employment. The workshop presented by Head Space aimed at empowering the students to find the positive points in negative situations and cope effectively with stress. Wise Employment explained the importance of skills based resume and worked with the students to generate a resume.



### -Finding Careers Information

Job jump is a careers website for schools where you can find answers to make your career happen. There is information about subject selection, post-school opportunities and work experience opportunities. Year 10 students have registered during their careers class. Parents can access the website by going to: [www.jobjump.com.au](http://www.jobjump.com.au) (Password: turtles)



# Dates for your Calendar

**Term 2, 2021**

April 2nd, Week 10 - **Last day of Term 1**  
April 19th, Week 1 - **First day of Term 2 (Week A)**  
April 26th - April 30th, Week 2 - **Dental Clinic**  
April 26th - April 30th, Week 2 - **Dental Clinic**  
May 10th, Week 4 - **Zone Cross Country**  
June 4th, Week 7 - **Zone Athletics**  
25th June, Week 10 - **Last day of Term 2**

**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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