The annual Gold Award picnic was held by the SDEHS Learning and Support Team and the Ernst & Young Research and Development Team on 28 November 2014 to celebrate our students’ accomplishments throughout the year. Students, supervisors and staff from SDEHS and Ernst & Young had the opportunity to renew old friendships and establish new friendships, as the students and staff formed teams to compete in a variety of challenges and games, starting with the Mummy wrap contest. Teams were given a roll of toilet paper and the task of mummifying one member of their team, with hilarious results. Other games included ‘Christine says’, dodge ball and a hilarious game of heads and tails.

A mouth-watering lunch was kindly provided by the Ernst & Young team, and the Smiggle prizes were generously donated by Mark McInnes from the Just Group. The Learning and Support Team would like to thank Mark and the whole R & D team from Ernst & Young for their support of our students at this annual event.

To guarantee an invitation to the 2015 picnic, students will need to achieve a Gold Award. All students are encouraged to start working towards this goal by earning 30 school Achievement Awards.
Welcome to the new school year 2015!

2014 was a year of many successes and challenges and 2015 is already shaping up as one of more successes and challenges. You can read more about our 2014 successes including the HSC in this newsletter.

Challenges always inspire us to find new and better solutions to old ways. There have been many systemic changes and initiatives implemented by the Department of Education and Communities, including the new Learning Management and Business Reform (LMBR) and the new Resource Allocation Model (RAM), which have impacted on the way we do business in management, administration, and staffing. The Great Teaching Inspired Learning initiative is based on research showing that quality teachers are crucial for achieving an overall improvement in student learning outcomes. Quality professional learning for teachers is needed. At the local level, these initiatives are making an impact for the better on our teachers and hence on student achievement and outcomes.

In 2014 our focus was on Student Wellbeing and Student Engagement. Revised processes and procedures were implemented across the school to enhance our support structures for student wellbeing and engagement and we have already seen an increase in student engagement across the school. Learning Hubs have been established on the Central Coast and in South-West Sydney where students can drop in and connect with teachers and other students weekly. The SRC is well established and has given students valuable opportunities not only to connect but also to develop leadership skills. The first SRC meeting for 2015 is scheduled for Thursday 5 March to plan for Harmony Day on 20 March. All students are of course welcome to attend both events.

According to research (Hattie, John 2008, Visible Learning: A Synthesis of over 800 Meta-Analyses Relating to Achievement), three of the ten most effective influences on student achievement are feedback, teacher-student relationships and teacher professional development. Research shows that quality teachers are crucial for achieving an overall improvement in student learning outcomes. Human connections are very important for building and strengthening teacher-student relationships, and for building quality feedback to enhance student engagement and success.

Our theme for 2015 is “Connections”. This means much more than communication, which simply provides an exchange of information. Making quality connections between teachers and students is about understanding and supporting one another and about the human side of people working together as teachers, students, parents, administrative staff and the local community.

When we all work together it’s amazing what that collaborative effort can achieve. We become a team all working for a common goal, sharing the load, building the culture, trust and helping one another so that the final outcome is far better than could possibly be achieved by any of us working in isolation. So I wish you all success for the rest of the year and look forward to our challenges and hearing about our shared successes.

Before signing off, I would like to once again acknowledge and thank our amazing staff, both teaching and non-teaching. We all look forward to making those connections with you to ensure that every student counts and every student achieves their very best.

Julie Kennedy
Co-Principal

The Board of Studies Teaching & Educational Standards offers a number of Disability Provisions to students who may have certain requirements to enable them to successfully complete their Higher School Certificate examinations.

If you were granted HSC Disability Provisions in 2014 you will need to apply again for this year.

For more information, or to request an application form, please phone:

Christine Cato / 9383 0296

Teachers and executive staff often get jobs at this school through selection procedures, including interviews.

Every selection panel has a parent representative who has attended a 2 hour training course.

Are you interested?

I am seeking nominations from parents who may be interested in taking part in this important process.

If you are interested, please ring me at school or send me an email at the school email address:

Sydneyh-d.School@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you.

Mark Piddington
Principal

Disability Provisions 2015
Higher School Certificate
Congratulations to the following students on the completion of the HSC 2014 and their successful admission to university or other tertiary courses.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Course/Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Janelle Bazouni</td>
<td>Dip Management Benchmark College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph Burton-Harris</td>
<td>Moto racing in USA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amy Christian</td>
<td>Dip Arts Extended University of Western Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Claudia Delic</td>
<td>B Vis Arts &amp; Design Australian Catholic University (deferred) continuing with tennis career</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emily Dinale</td>
<td>B Biodiversity &amp; Conservation Macquarie university</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lavinia Foster</td>
<td>TAFE Cert 4 aged care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alexcia Hallal</td>
<td>B Social Science University of Western Sydney (deferred)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elysia Hargreaves</td>
<td>B Exercise Physiology University of New South Wales AAA Scholarship $4000 for academic excellence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angela Kumar</td>
<td>Creative Writing Open Colleges</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirah Maddox</td>
<td>Dip Journalism Macleay College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kowen Moodley</td>
<td>Nursing St Leonards TAFE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faith Mrljak</td>
<td>B Fine Arts National Art School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mario Norus</td>
<td>B Med Science University of Western Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brendon Rees</td>
<td>B Interactive Media AIT (Academy of Information Technology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camilla Smith</td>
<td>B Nursing Notre Dame University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tayarra Smith</td>
<td>Children's Services OTEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joshua Thomas</td>
<td>B. Arts Communications (Journalism) University of Technology Sydney</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Luke Williams</td>
<td>USA cycling sponsorship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to the following students, who were nominated for the prestigious showcasing of student excellence by both the Department of Education and Communities and the Board of Studies Teaching and Educational Standards NSW.

**Music: ENCORE**

James Julian will perform his Premiere Rhapsodie in the Concert Hall, Sydney Opera House on Monday 9 March.

**Textiles and Design: TEXSTYLE Exhibition** – Eleanor Stone

Eleanor’s inspiration derived from the 1930’s Art Deco period, the smoking suits of Christian Dior and Japanese decorative art.

**Design & Technology: designTECH Exhibition at the Powerhouse Museum**

Lillika Rogers-Fauske

Her major project draws attention to unsustainable levels of consumption and waste generation in our throwaway society. She made an eye-catching costume from waste objects to convey a message about the importance of re-use and recycling. The paper waste objects were discarded maps from the Fenner School of Environment and Society at the Australian National University. Due to technological advances in cartography the School’s extensive map collection had become redundant. The costume took shape after many hours of laborious folding and sewing paper maps.

Nicole Sutton Year 12 participated in Salute to Australia 2015. She joined members from Padstow Park Singers/Georges River Music Ensemble and sang at Bennelong Point at the Opera House on Australia Day. They were positioned around the foreshores of Sydney Harbour and on the HMAS Canberra for the ceremony.

Jasmine Baric and Justin Julian were winners of large silver trophies from NSW Secondary Schools Concerto Competition 2014. This was the 32nd annual competition and was adjudicated by Paul Dean, Director of the Australian National Academy of Music, Melbourne.

Congratulations to Mitzi Gardner on being awarded a Certificate of Excellence for contribution to the NSW Public Schools Symphony Orchestra.
The SDEHS Student Representative Council (SRC) continues to flourish with the enthusiastic participation of an ever increasing group of keen and willing students. It is delightful to see students gaining in confidence and forming friendships through frequent attendance at these meetings.

We warmly invite all of our home students to attend the first SRC meeting of the year, to be held at school on 5 March 2015 from 11.00am to 1.00pm.

The focus of our meeting will be to finalise the program and organise the SRC’s members’ roles in our Harmony Day event to be held 20 March.

All students are welcome to attend SRC meetings, which are chaired by our President, Lizzie Cyrill Curran, and Vice President, Hayley Watts. We also have a terrific executive made up of Jazmin Miller, Raphaella Revis, Melanie Nowakowski, Mitchell Wilmot and Jack Sexton.

If you have any questions about our SRC, please call or email Lisa Keating 9383 0393, Julia Ruhl 9383 0231 or David Moss 9383 0434, to discuss.

Study days are a great opportunity to meet your teachers and brush up on topics that might be giving you difficulty. They are also a good way to meet other students who are also facing the challenges of distance education.

The next Year 12 Mathematics Study Days (all levels) will be held on Thursday 5 May and Wednesday 15 July.

The Year 11 Study Days will be: Tuesday 10 March, Friday 5 June and Wednesday 12 August.

Please save these dates in your diary and RSVP when you receive your invitation to attend. We look forward to seeing you here at SDEHS soon!

’SDEHS Careers’ can be found on the Sydney Distance Education High School website. The site contains information relating to RoSA, HSC, Post School Options, Work Place Learning, Work Experience and more.

We subscribe to a number of career services which enable students and parents to be kept up to date with careers news and events. Instructions on how to access these sites will be sent to students in Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 via their DEC email address within the next few weeks. To ensure you are aware of opportunities available to students check your DEC email account regularly.


How can students apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015?

Students can now apply for a TFN online (www.ato.gov.au) and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post Office.

If you require further information you can phone 1300 130 282 between 8:00am and 5:00pm Monday to Friday.
Welcome to all for the new school year. At the library we encourage students and supervisors to visit, borrow and ask about our resources and services. We can be contacted by phone on 9383 0270.

You do not need to fill in separate forms to be a library borrower. Once enrolled at our school you have borrowing rights.

Our elearning site Using your school library includes information about library borrowing, contact details and research and study skills as well as a section for the HSC English Area of Study: Discovery.

To access Using your school library go to the URL http://elearning.sdehs.nsw.edu.au/course/view.php?id=361

Use your elearning password to log in and you will discover a wealth of information.

The 2015 Premier’s Reading Challenge opens on 2 March. The challenge is open to students in years 7–9. If you would like to participate please contact the library.

New books in the library

Did you know that you can join the State Library of New South Wales for free and online? The library has study areas, an amazing World War 1 collection suitable for Modern History as well as many other HSC resources.

Go to: http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/ Under the heading How do I...? use the drop down menu to select get a library card. HSC students can also look at the section titled research for my HSC.

Book Review

The Miseducation of Cameron Post, Emily M. Danforth

“Funny, heartbreaking, and beautifully rendered ... A new classic.” – Curtis Sittenfield.

The Miseducation of Cameron Post begins with a bang. “The afternoon my parents died,” narrates 13 year old Cameron, “I was out shoplifting with Irene Klauson.” This vivid juxtaposition is the epitome of the two themes that will dominate the entire book – guilt, and desire.

Cameron Post is as American as apple pie, and before this fateful afternoon, her biggest worries were the summer heat and kissing Irene Klauson in the farmyard loft. However, soon Cameron is living with an elderly grandma and conservative Christian aunt. Cameron’s traditional life – swim meets, school assignments and the cinema – contrasts with her secret life – cigarettes, alcohol, and the beautiful Coley Taylor – to give the reader insight into the identity crisis Cameron is experiencing.

Cameron’s misadventures are sometimes sensual, sometimes hilarious, sometimes melancholy. The lessons she learns about consequences, society, and cruelty are very much applicable today.

Danforth creates a stifling atmosphere of warm weather and heteronormativity. You will not expect each turn of events, and the daring ending will leave you wanting more.

I highly recommend this book to students in years 10–12, or anyone who understands the struggle and heartbreak of being the odd one out.

Lizzie Cyrill Curran, Year 10
The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey for HOME students only

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes, and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 9 March and 2 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers of home students only about the survey will be sent to you shortly. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by Friday 27 February. Copies of the form and FAQs are also available from the website above.

Julie Kennedy/Co-Principal

NEW school website

SDEHS is reviewing the school website to improve the design and to add new features. The website is a vital communication tool to provide students, parents, carers and supervisors with information, news and important links. We would appreciate honest feedback on our current website and how it could be improved.

Please take the time to answer this short survey. Here is the link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/sdehswebsite

The survey will open between 23 and 27 February 2015.

Ian Tobitt
Head Teacher (Technology: Systems and Support)
Two learning hubs have been set up to support communication, student engagement and learning for SDEHS home students closer to their homes. They are safe learning environments in community settings, where students can attend to receive help with their school work.

Students can also organise to meet with their teachers or welfare, transition or careers team members for individual support at the hubs.

Both hubs operate between 9.00 am and 3.30 pm each TUESDAY of the school term. Please see below for information on where our Learning Hubs are located.

If you would like any further information please follow the links provided below or give a call to our Learning Hub Coordinators:

Lisa Keating: 9383 0393  
Duncan Gerdes: 9383 0235

**Central Coast Learning Hub**  
[http://tinyurl.com/ofuffmt](http://tinyurl.com/ofuffmt)

Located at: 93 McMasters Road, Woy Woy  
(In the Peninsula Community Centre opposite Rogers Park)

**South Western Sydney Learning Hub**  
[http://tinyurl.com/prhdmj](http://tinyurl.com/prhdmj)

Located at: Corner of Oxford Road and Cumberland Road, Ingleburn  
(Entrance on the right hand side, in the School of Arts building next to the library)
Keeping your kids healthy

At a glance:

- Get your child to help pack their lunch box so they are more likely to eat what’s in it.
- Try to include protein in your child’s lunch box to keep them full and energetic.
- Exercise is vital in helping manage weight, keeping muscles strong, helping their hearts and lungs develop, and improving their hand-eye coordination.
- Wash your hands regularly to avoid germs.
- Cough into your elbow, not your hands.
- The healthiest drink options for kids are water and milk.
- Look after your child’s emotional health too – try not to overschedule them, having some ‘down time’ is important.

Dr Martine Walker

How Parents Can Help Their Secondary School Student With Their Learning

While parents are often involved in their teenagers’ sporting, musical or dramatic activities, parental support of their adolescent children’s studies can be also beneficial, particularly to academic performance. Research shows that children are more likely to succeed if parents are involved in their learning. Henderson and Mapp (2002) found that ‘the more families support their children’s learning and educational progress, the more their children tend to do well in school and continue their education’.

The strategies for parents to help secondary school aged students achieve their potential should be developed with the children, and hopefully will be independently adopted by the students when they reach their final years at school. It’s worthwhile noting that each strategy is related to the child’s learning, as this sends a very positive message that the parent is engaged and interested in the learning process.

Strategies can be found at the following:


Learn more this year about how students can improve their results and be more efficient and effective with their schoolwork by working through the units on www.studyskillshandbook.com.au. Our school’s access details are:

Username: forsdehsonly
Password: 50results