Where did the year go!! 2014 has pretty much come and gone and the last newsletter is an opportunity to celebrate another successful year and then turn our focus to important family time over the Christmas period. The College has enjoyed a stable and successful year with our community working well in our partnership to ensure our students succeed. We have had outstanding results throughout the year including excellent NAPLAN and VCE results.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish all our families the very best for Christmas and the New Year. I hope you all have a wonderful break and we are looking forward to a successful 2015. To the students and families who leave us I can wish you all the success in your future paths and hope you achieve all your goals.

This time of the year it is important to celebrate our successes and I encourage all students and parents to reflect on the successes of 2014. It is important all families take the time to go over the student reports when they are available. If parent’s wish further information please feel free to contact relevant teachers for extra feedback.

PRESENTATION EVENING/VALEDICTORY DINNER

I will publish all Award winners from the Presentation Evening and Valedictory Dinner in the first newsletter next year. There will also be a further recognition of excellent 2014 performances at an Assembly early in 2015.

THAILAND TRIP

Our 19 adventures continue their 4 week trip and we have been in constant contact with the teachers in charge. It has been great to see the commitment of the student helping painting at an orphan and building at an elephant sanctuary. The group gets back on December 20th and we look forward to sharing photos and stories with the community next year.

GRADE 6 ORIENTATION DAY

On Tuesday December 9th the College conducted its Orientation Day for the 2015 Year 7 group. The large group of 154 Grade 6 students attended and they had a great day getting a taste of Secondary College life. Our new parents also attended an Information Evening and have begun the partnership we hope will build success for the students over the next 6 years.

I look forward to starting a successful 2015 on Friday January 30th. Merry Christmas to all members of our community.

Shane Wainwright
Principal
FROM THE GENERAL OFFICE...

A REMINDER TO ALL PARENTS OF THE FOLLOWING DATES;

• The office will close at 4:30pm on the 18th December 2014

• Book collection day Thursday 22nd January 10am – 3pm If you do not come and collect your book order they will be returned to Campion (Landmark) and put back on the shelves, you will then have to go and pick them out manually.

• General office will open 22nd January 2015 – 9.30am – 3.30pm

• General office will be open 23th January 2015 – 8.30am – 4.30pm

• Monday 26th January (Public Holiday)

• Tuesday 27th January Office opens from 8:15am -4:30pm as per usual.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our families for their continued support this year and wish you a safe and happy Christmas break.

Krystal Murray is the epitome of a Girl Guide. In November this year, Kyrsalt was presented with the renowned B.P Award. B.P stands for ‘Be Prepared’ or ‘Baden-Powell’ – the brother and sister duo who started guides and scouts. Kyrsalt is the first Drouin guide to receive the award in a decade. To earn the award, Kyrsalt had to accomplish a variety of activities. One of her significant endeavours was raising money for people affected by the Black Saturday bushfires. Kyrsalt has been in Guides since she was six years old so it has taken her seven years to work toward achieving this award, now she has hung up the sash and joined Rangers and Cadets. The award was presented at the Drouin Guide Hall where most their meetings are held and most of the awards are handed out.

By Lily Weston
The final celebration for the Class of 2014 was the Valedictory Dinner which was held at Lardner Park on Wednesday, 18th November.

There was a general buzz around the room while students and their families arrived and everyone looked fantastic! With over 300 students, their families, staff and special guests in attendance, the evening went off without a hitch.

Each student was presented the Valedictory Package which included their Graduation Folder complete with their careers folder along with a reference from the College, their final school report, 90 plus card, the Graduation photo, the Year 12 Yearbook and a special gift from the Parents & Friends Association.

There were awards and scholarships aplenty with many different students being recognised for their academic achievement, dedication to their studies, special talent, upholding of the College values or being an all-round great student.

We wish each and every Year 12 student the very best for their future endeavours. Come back and visit us soon.

The Senior School Team
On the 8th and 10th December, 40 students from Years 7-12 participated in the Drouin Secondary College Band Tour. The tour consisted of performances from the Mixed Ensemble, Choir, Drum Crew, Guitar Ensemble and various rock bands.

The students performed at four schools, Drouin, Drouin West, Drouin South and Longwarry Primary School. The primary school students really enjoyed each of the performances and appreciated the effort of the Drouin Secondary College students in learning and playing the music for them.

Congratulations to all the students on the tour for great performances, but also on their excellent behaviour and leadership skills. A big thank-you to all the schools for the opportunity to perform, and to our music teachers, Mr Damon Jay, Mr Oliver Bellingham, Mr Troy Sheers and Mrs Adie Perry for organising the tour.
CAREERS NEWS...

Unique Student Identifier (USI)

From 1st January 2015, anyone who wishes to undertake nationally recognised training delivered by a training organisation will need to have a Unique Student Identifier (USI).
This includes studying at TAFE or with a private training organisation, completing an apprenticeship or skill set, certificate or diploma course.

A USI account will contain all nationally recognised training records and results from 1st January 2015 onwards. When applying for a job or enrolling in further study you will often need to provide your training records and results. One of the main benefits of the USI is that you will have easy access to these records throughout your life.

Once you create your USI, you will need to give this to each training organisation you study with.

All students at Drouin SC who are enrolled in a VET course in 2015 must create their USI prior to commencing their course (whether first or second year) in 2015.

To create a USI:
- Open the website www.usi.gov.au
- Select the ‘Create a USI’ link and follow the steps.
- Agree to the terms and conditions.
- Follow the instructions to create a USI- it should only take a few minutes.
- Upon completion, the USI will be displayed on the screen
  - If you are currently in Year 10, 11 or 12, please take a screen shot of your number and upload it into Moodle -> Careers and Pathways 2015 -> VET.
  - If you are currently in Year 9, please take a screen shot of your number and upload into Moodle -> Year 9 LG

Of course, keep a copy for yourself.
Please contact the Careers team if you have any queries.

Academic Excellence for Japanese Studies

On Saturday, 6th December, Shannon Thoonen of Year 10 was awarded a certificate and medal of academic excellence for his achievements in his Japanese studies for 2014 through the Victorian School of Languages. Kentaro Shimoda, the VSL Japanese language teacher, presented Shannon his award on the day. Congratulations Shannon!
Kemizo Excursion

On Friday, 28th November, all of the Year 7 classes got rewarded with an excursion to an indoor fun centre called Kemizo. It was a good experience for all of the Year 7s. We all worked together to help people who weren’t the best at rollerblading. The rollerblading was really fun even though most people fell over at least once.

There was also laser tag, a sky walk and rock climbing. The laser tag was really fun. Each corner you turned someone else would be right there shooting at you. We didn’t get a chance to climb the rock wall, but the people who did really enjoyed it. The skywalk was scary for most people but it was really easy to do.

After our three hours were up at Kemizo, we went and had lunch and a run around at one of the Pakenham parks. After a short bus trip home we finally got to DSC. We had a long day of getting bruised and falling over, but everybody had a great time.

We would like to thank Mr Cahill for organising the event and all of the teachers who helped out. We had a great time.

By Hannah Rieschieck and Jake Smith
Year 7 Highlights

- Coming to the school and meeting 7B. **Braydon Norman**
- When I got on stage and danced with the band Iron and Clay. **Colby Wilson**
- Meeting my fellow classmates. **Ebony Mudie Wilson**
- Meeting ‘Grumpy’. **Tyson Murray**
- Seeing all my friends in Year 8. **Hannah Foenander**
- Meeting a real life author. **Indi Petrov**
- Camp was great fun and I made plenty of friends. **Tyler Simpson**
- Making friends. **Krista Jinnette**
- Finishing it. **Lachy McKay**
- Making friends with people I never thought I would be friends with. **Brooke Pearson**
- Although starting high school has many changes it is a fun thing that helps us mature and learn. I have loved meeting new people, making new friends and having many different teachers. High school is a very different environment which makes us more aware of our surroundings. The most different things to primary school are the classes: such as Wood Tech, Drama and Foods. Even though they are different, they are really fun! **Ali Leishout**

Year 9 French Excursion to Aux Batifolles

On Friday, 28th November, the Year 9 French class caught the train into Melbourne for a cultural experience.

We checked out the graffiti in Hosier Lane, we visited the Myer Christmas Windows and then we jumped a tram to Fitzroy to Aux Batifolles, a quaint little French café. We interacted with the staff in French, putting into practice language we learned earlier this semester when we did a unit of work on Food.

We ate escargots for entrée, boeuf bourguignon or poulet chasseur for mains and profiteroles or crêpes for dessert. It was delicious!

We enjoyed our excursion – we had a lot of laughs, we saw some interesting things and we learned a lot.
On Tuesday 9th December, we welcomed 155 very eager and mostly excited Grade 6 students from our local primary schools to Drouin Secondary College for their Orientation Day in preparation for Year 7 in 2015. It was a jam packed program, full of lots of interesting sessions, making sure the Grade 6 students has a taste of what life is like at DSC as a student here at the College.

The students started the day with a presentation by Mr Wainwright, Ms Gentle, Mrs Allen and two of our 2015 College Captains – James Williams and Emily Webster in the Auditorium. The students where then divided up into their classes for Year 7 and met their 2015 Learning Group (LG) teacher along with their Year 7 student helpers and went off to their first session.

In the first session, they spent time getting to know their LG teacher and all of the other students who will be in their class in Year 7 next year. They worked out how to use their combination lock, learnt about the College House system, and got the opportunity to ask lots of questions about life as a secondary school student.

In the next sessions, the students went on a College tour which was conducted by current Year 7 students, and after the tour, the students experienced a range of subjects which are on offer here at the College including Science, Moondah, Wood Technology, Science, English and Art.

At lunch time, the Grade 6 students were treated to a free sausage sizzle, which was kindly organised by Mr David Hobbs, our College Chaplin and prepared by a group of volunteers from the Drouin Presbyterian Church.

After lunch, the students spent a session either in the gym playing a variety of sports, or some chose to have a swim in our pool, and then spent some time gathering up their belongings and saying goodbye to their new friends and LG teacher.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people involved in making this event such a success. We had over 45 staff involved in either running a student session during the day or presenting at the Orientation Day evening session for the parents, as well as 36 Year 7 students who spent the day with the primary school students.

We look forward to working with our new students and their families in 2015.

Mrs Rosemary Allen
Year 7 Level Leader

Orientation Day Reflection...

A volunteered group of year 7’s got to lead around a wonderful bunch of pre high schoolers. As a group we took a leadership role in guiding the grade 6’s around the school. We showed them our wonderful facilities and quality teachers. They got to go around to different classes so they could experience what we are going through. They go to meet their learning group teachers and their fellow classmates as they were learning about our school.

The year 6’s got to experience science at its finest. They got to do a bunch of experiment which included: Burning bubbles filled with gas, melting a boiled egg, popping balloons filled with gas with fire and many, many more. They got to have a free sausage sizzle and they also go to have a P.E session or swimming. They also got a tour around the school from us which helped them understand the school a bit more and now they will feel a bit safer and they would know what to do and where to go.
In Kanchanaburi, the students participated in a significant visit to the Thai Burma Railway, where 100,000 POWs died during World War II from 1942 - 1945. Many POWs were from Australia, Netherlands, America, and Asia, and 6982 are buried here, with nearly 2900 Australians. The museum, run by an Australian Rod Beattie, provided an excellent understanding of the reasons, lead up, conditions, and hardships the men endured. In the Cemetery, students and teachers laid a wreath, and the "Ode" was said by Lachlan Crampton (2015 School Captain). It was a very moving and significant experience for all to be standing on the actual site of the POW camp and remembering their hardships and determination. 

Gita Walker
Thailand Tour Coordinator
Over 52 million words were read by Year 7 students during 2014!

A special mention goes to the following students for each reading over one million words:

Jade Baker - 4,029,273 words
Natasha Cameron - 3,051,624 words
Spencer Phillips - 2,703,889 words
Jeremy Stewart - 2,255,837 words
Hannah Foenander - 1,935,016 words
Krystal Murray - 1,909,681 words
Corey Taylor - 1,647,047 words
Cayden Deszcz - 1,630,671 words
Charlotte Foenander - 1,465,365 words
Austin Mackay - 1,386,742 words

It was pleasing to see so many students in Year 7 improve their reading habits.

Close to nine million words between 17th October and 11th December and 147 quizzes were completed successfully.

The 147 quiz takers were:


Thank you for supporting your child’s reading.

DSC English, SURFF and Library Staff
On Wednesday 18th November, the boys in the Drouin Secondary College Leos Club donated money in a “Cheque Presentation” to three organisations of the local community. Over the year the boys have raised close to $3000, donating to The Variety Bash, Drouin CFA and now the Warragul Youth For Christ, Warragul Food Bank and Drouin RSL. The boys have had BBQ fundraisers and helped at the Drouin Lions Antique Show and Garden Show at Lardner Park.

The Leos Club has been an enormous success, with many boys working side by side with the Drouin Lions members and learning valuable skills in public speaking and running formal committee meetings. The Leos Club has been active at Drouin Secondary College for the last two years and with 38 members next year, it looks to continue very strongly. Thank you to the Drouin Lions Club for all their time, support and guidance; this relationship benefits young people’s development, community awareness and greater understanding of humanity.

Gita Walker
Leos Coordinator
### COLLEGE DATES

#### WEEK 12

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<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>18/12</td>
<td>College Environment/Community Day</td>
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<tr>
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<td>19/12</td>
<td>Final Day of Term 4</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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#### 2015

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#### WEEK 1

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<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Labour Day Holiday</td>
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Contact Hrs: 8.15am – 4.30pm  
Ph: (03) 5625 1002  
Fax: (03) 5625 1297  
Email: drouin.sc@edumail.vic.gov.au