Deni High News



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Issue 10 Term 4 - Week 3

Friday 28 October 2022



New Policies, Procedures And Framework To Keep Students Engaged In Learning At School.

The Inclusive, Engaging and Respectful Schools package was announced earlier this year by NSW Minister for Education and Early Learning, Hon Sarah Mitchell. It centres on three new policies and procedures and a framework that together set the guidelines for how we ensure all children can learn through public education in a safe and engaging way.

The package includes the:

- Inclusive Education Policy for students with disability (operational from Term 4, 2022);
- Student Behaviour Policy and Procedures (operational from Term 4, 2022); and
- Restrictive Practices Framework and Restrictive Practices Reduction and Elimination Policy and Procedures (operational from Term 1, 2023).

With these new policies, we want all students to

- be included in all aspects of school life and supported to learn to their fullest capability
- be supported in engaging, respectful & effective classrooms with positive and inclusive practices
- feel welcomed, valued and safe in our schools and classrooms.

Two of the policies are new: the Inclusive Education Policy; and the Restrictive Practices Framework and policy. Both clarify existing obligations, effective, appropriate and prohibited practices, and the rights of students, parents and carers. The Student Behaviour Policy replaces the Student Discipline in Government Schools and Suspension and Expulsion Policy. The key change is the approach all NSW public schools will take to address disruptive or inappropriate behaviour by a student. The duration of a suspension will be reduced along with the number of suspensions across a year. Every school will be able to draw on the support of a range of staff including behaviour specialists to address issues resulting in these behaviours in order to prevent future escalations. It does not mean, however, that students who are violent or seriously disrupt the learning and wellbeing of others will be kept at school. Any student who puts the safety of other students, teachers and staff or visitors at risk of harm – will be suspended until it is safe for them to return. We will continue to work closely with you and all our families to ensure every student has the right support at the right time to help them grow into confident, resilient adults.

BRING YOUR OWN DEVICE (BYOD)

Deniliquin High School is excited to announce that in 2023 we will be implementing Canvas, a web-based learning management system. Canvas will streamline all current learning platforms (including OneNote, Google Classroom and Sentral) so that navigation is easier for students.

Canvas will be gradually phased into Deniliquin High School. In 2023, it will be used in all Year 7 and Year 11 classrooms. This integrated learning platform is designed to support students learning in both the classroom, and at home. This system will ensure a consistent approach across the school.

To support the implementation of Canvas, Deniliquin High School will also be facilitating 'Bring Your Own Device' (BYOD) for all students in Years 7 and 11. Students in these years will be required to bring a computing device to school each day for educational purposes. A letter has been sent home to these parents outlining device specifications and technology providers where devices can be purchased at discounted price. The school also has an equity policy to ensure the BYOD program is available for all students, irrespective of their families' financial situation.

While Canvas is only being implemented in Years 7 and 11 in 2023, students in any year can engage in the BYOD program. Students will be required to have their BYOD device checked by the Technology Co-ordinator, to ensure that it meets device specifications, as well as sign the BYOD User Charter. The BYOD User Charter outlines responsibilities and expectations for use of the personal devices at Deniliquin High School.

For more information, the school's policy 'Student use of digital devices and online services procedure' can be accessed via the Deniliquin High School website.



P&C

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH DHS P&C

- 1. You can support both DHS P&C and DHS Drivers education program by nominating them as your charity of choice on your Ritchies IGA Community Benefit Program. Join up today!
- 2. P&C have a new initiative offering financial support to students who have been selected to represent the school at a state or national level in any discipline. Many students have already been offered this support!
- 3. The Drivers Education Program returned to the Deni Ute muster this year and were seen operating the information centre as well as their popular and successful breath testing service. Well done to the Drivers Education committee and volunteers.
- 4. P&C received some wonderful letters of thanks from the DHS support class after helping fund their recent excursion to the snow. Looks like everyone had a great time!
- 5. Keep saving those books for the annual P&C book stall held on Easter Saturday each year! It's a great way to clear the bookshelves and find some new books to read at the sale.

Wellbeing Matters

Mental Health Month is celebrated each year in the month of October in NSW. At Deniliquin High School we are hosting a "Its not as scary as you think" Halloween dress up day on Monday 31st of October , to raise awareness for Mental Health within our community and school. This event is being run in conjunction with the Deniliquin Mental Health Awareness Group's Halloween family event. The family event will be held in the Waring Gardens from 3pm to 6pm. There will be a sausage sizzle, stalls, prizes and a trick or treat with many businesses participating.

Mental Health Month encourages all of us to think about our Mental Health and wellbeing, regardless of whether we may have a lived experience of mental illness or not. It also gives us the opportunity to understand the importance of good mental health in our everyday lives and encourages us to seek help when needed. By talking about our Mental Health we can help to build self-awareness, reduce the impact of worry and build positive connections.

Please join us in celebrating this event by wearing your spooky outfit to school on Monday and then afterwards at the Waring Gardens for our community family event.



A Message From Aboriginal Education Officer

Wow – into Week 3 already and the final term of the school year! So many things happening, especially in community right now and our students have been right in the thick of it. Firstly, a huge acknowledgement to all our student and staff representatives who have volunteered so much of their time to keep our town safe. Particularly our SBAT team in Ty Ross-Gardam, Kobi Baxter and Coby Smith who have been hard at it over the past two weeks (and weekends) sandbagging, evacuating communities (and their mob) and being such strong leaders. We are so proud of you all.



As parts of our **Afternoons with Aunties**, our recent catchup saw us enjoy time constructing and piecing together our own family trees. This was enriched with many stories from aunts and their own childhood experiences on country. We then spent time on the bus touring the rising flood waters at Four Post and around town. Again many stories were shared of how floods effected the town through the eyes of our Aunts and the memories they have of those times many years ago.



A Message From Aboriginal Education Officer Con't

In the last week of Term 3 I was lucky enough to be at the Tirkandi Graduation where I witnessed three of our students, Waripa Miller, Isaac Wilson & Jarren Richards be awarded for their commitment and cultural growth throughout the term. Waripa was crowned 'Warrior of the Term' which recognises his leadership within the program and amongst his peers. Congratulations to Waripa – awesome effort!



Last week we had the pleasure of witnessing the very clever TJUPURRU and his Didjeribone Performance. Brisbane based International Didgeridoo performer Adrian Fabila Tjupurrula aka **Tjupurru** is a proud descendant of the Djabera Djabera tribe of the West Australia Kimberleys. Born in Port Moresby P.N.G. Tjupurru has mastered and become nationally recognised for his amazing music created by the Didjeribone – cross between the Didgeridoo and the Trombone. His 'secret' ingredient to the show, the Face Bass, kept us captivated for the 1.5hr delivery. Our indigenous students along with those from other primary schools and our Year 7's inline with the school based culture program, were invited to attend. A treat to have him in our school, thankyou!



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YR 7 CULTURE: CAPA UPDATE

Yr 7 have started Term 4 with enthusiasm and focus during their Culture - Art and Music lessons.

All classes have been continuing to delve into how storytelling plays an integral role in the passing down of Dreamtime creation stories from generation-to-generation.

Culture Art lessons have focused on students creating their own visual language that communicates their own story of belonging and culture; looking at significant places, people, events, interests and hobbies that have shaped who they are as individuals and their community.

In their Culture Music lessons, students have been continuing to learn about Indigenous artists and instrumentation while refining their performance skills.







SUSTAINABILITY 2.2

This term in Sustainability, Year 8 students have been using Microsoft Excel to analyse data they gathered from weighing calves. They have learned how to enter formulas into spreadsheets and create graphical representations of numerical information.

Many activities at the farm have been hampered by the recent wet weather. Students are still working on their sustainable vegetable gardens, by using manure from the poultry enterprise to boost the soil. Students have tracked the growth of the various seedlings and kept the area weed-free. We are looking forward to a bumper harvest towards the end of the year, due to the wet and humid weather.





U15 BASKETBALL

The Under 15 boys went up to Griffith late in Term 3 to compete against Murrumbidgee Regional High School. We drove up as a group and the boys put in an impressive effort against the bigger Year 9 students of Griffith. The team comprised of a group of year 7 and 8 boys. They put in a determined effort and came out to win the last quarter 23-16, but unfortunately lost overall in a high scoring game (85-56). The game was followed up with the beloved KFC for the trip home. The boys deserve a huge congratulations on their sportsmanship, commitment and perseverance. Thanks to Mr O'Connor who coached and to Mrs Treble who drove the bus and umpired.



Front : Henry, Tom, Chase, Brodie, Dalton. Back: Baxter, Brooklyn, Josh, Braith.

Issue 10 - Term 4 - Week 3

GREAT VICTORIAN BIKE RIDE PRACTICE RIDE

Preparation for the ride is in full swing and yesterday eleven DHS Great Vic Bike Students, staff and Sue Pitts rode out to Mayrung School and were treated to a sausage sizzle.

The staff and students of Mayrung School were very welcoming hosts. We were supported by Mr Troy & Wade Bartlett who followed in the car behind the group. The total distance was 84 kilometres and it was great preparation for the Great Vic Bike Ride which takes place on 26 November to 4 December from Koroit to Buninyong (522km) Sue Laing

GVBR Coordinator







LIBRARY READER SNAPSHOT

WHAT I'M READING; MRS LAING TITLE & AUTHOR



Bodies of Light by Jennifer Down





Thriller/Drama Hard copy book

WHY I LIKE IT

I love that it is set in Melbourne and each page makes you want to read more to find out what the protagonist is escaping from.



Available in the Library

NSW Department of Education

COVID-smart measures for schools

Information for parents, carers and students



We know that being together in the classroom is the best thing for our students' learning, growth and welfare. This term we will continue to implement several measures to allow us to prioritise both the wellbeing of our students and a consistent and productive learning environment.

Stay home if unwell

- If your child is unwell, you must keep them at home. If they are displaying COVID-19 symptoms, they should take a COVID-19 test (PCR or RAT) and follow the advice from the NSW Government on managing COVID-19 safely at home.
- Your child should only return to school when they are symptom free.

Vaccinations

- Vaccinations for COVID-19 and other viral illnesses are one of the best ways of protecting yourself, your family and the community. Vaccination is a safe and effective way to give your immune system a helping hand against many illnesses.
- All eligible students and staff are strongly encouraged to keep up to date with their vaccinations to protect their health.
- All staff working in schools for specific purposes (SSPs) are required to be double vaccinated against COVID-19 or hold a valid medical contraindication.



Rapid antigen testing

- Rapid antigen tests (RATs) should be used if your child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms.
- Students who test positive to COVID-19 are encouraged to notify their school and register their positive test results with <u>Service NSW</u> to have access to timely advice and support from NSW Health.
- Schools will maintain a reserve stock of rapid antigen tests onsite for surveillance testing purposes in the event of an outbreak.

Hygiene and cleaning

- Students are encouraged to regularly wash their hands with soap and warm water, and to use personal protective equipment as required.
- Boosted day cleaning of schools will continue on high-touch areas and other hard surfaces, door handles, lockers, light switches and handrails in stairways.



NSW Department of Education



Ventilation

- Fresh air is the most effective form of ventilation to minimise the risk of transmission.
- During the warmer months, cooling will be used together with ventilation methods to balance thermal comfort.
- All learning spaces in government schools have been checked to ensure appropriate levels of ventilation and air purifiers have been provided where needed.
- Using outdoor spaces will continue to be encouraged where possible.

Masks

- Mask-wearing is strongly encouraged where possible for all students, staff and visitors, particularly
 indoors and/or when physical distancing is not possible, and if they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- Mask-wearing is required at all times for staff, volunteers and other workers who support our students who are at greater risk of serious illness should they contract COVID-19, whether they be in schools for specific purposes (SSPs), support units or mainstream classrooms.

Visitors

- Visitors can attend school sites regardless of their vaccination status.
- Visitors who are engaging directly with students in certain higher-risk settings for school operations and curriculum delivery and allied health partners for the wellbeing of students, may be required to wear masks.

Activities

- Health and safety risk assessments will be integrated when planning activities, including excursions and overnight camps.
- Parents and carers will be made aware of the risk of exposure and will need to give permission for certain activities.

Responding to local situations

- Schools will work with the department's Health, Safety and Staff Wellbeing case management team to
 respond appropriately to local situations, including outbreaks of viral illness.
- In some cases, schools may temporarily introduce additional measures as a 'circuit breaker', including requiring mask-wearing, postponing or limiting non-essential activities and directing cohorts to learn remotely.



Learning remotely

• Schools continue to have access to digital, guided and printed learning resources to support students who need to learn remotely.

For more info, visit education.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/advice-for-families

Telephone interpreter service

If you need further information please call your school principal. If you need an interpreter to assist you with your enquiry please call the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. Tell the operator the phone number you want to call, and the operator will get an interpreter on the line to assist you with the conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

The NSW Government is committed to ensuring school operations continue while prioritising the safety and wellbeing of students and school staff.



COMMUNITY INFORMATION CON'T

