

# Hilltop News

## DIMBOOLA MEMORIAL SECONDARY COLLEGE

**"DEEDS NOT WORDS"**



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Anne Gawith – *Principal*.

*President* – Lisa Polycarpou, *Vice President* – Mandy Withers

*Treasurer* - Sally Klinge, *Parent Reps* – Teresa Smith, Neil Zippel, Kerrie Clarke, Lynley Robinson

*Community Rep* - Tony Schneider

*DET Rep's* - Lyndon Kuhne & Suzanne Thomas, *Student Rep* – Jessica Revell, *RSL Rep* – Charles Rees

December 19<sup>th</sup> 2017

"DMSC is a Child Safe school"

*Respect*

*Honesty*

*Excellence*

*Care*

*Freedom*

### IMPORTANT DATES

**Dec 19 Awards Night 7pm DMSC Hall**

Dec 20-22 Clean up at school

Dec 22 Last Day of Term 4

### 2018

Jan 29 DMSC Office Open

Jan 30 Year 7, 11 & 12 Students commence

Jan 31 ALL students attend school

### A message from our Principal.....

Tonight we have celebrated the many achievements of DMSC students from throughout this year. While not every student has been invited to cross the stage, I would like to congratulate all of our students who have attended school every day and exhibited a positive attitude towards their learning. It is this commitment to education that makes our school a great place.

This year, we have had a renewed focus on attendance and congratulations to the students who have received 100% Attendance Awards at the end of each term. Thank you to Assistant Principal, Sally Klinge, the Year Level Coordinators and Kaye and Donna in the office, who have been relentlessly chasing up any absences. We will strive to further improve our attendance rates in 2018 and I ask every family to support us by always sending your child to school. (Unless of course they are ill!)

As the year draws to a close, I would like to formally thank every parent/carer/guardian, who has supported their son or daughter at Dimboola Memorial Secondary College. Schools cannot function effectively without support from the whole community. To the local businesses and organisations who have worked with us this year, I sincerely thank you too. We are fortunate to have many established relationships with local groups and I hope to build on those next year.

To our enthusiastic volunteers – who may be MATES mentors, canteen helpers, those who help at Aths and Swimming, maintaining our Avenue of Honour, or an in-class Maths helper – we sincerely thank you for willingness to support our school.

To the teachers and support staff who continue to work to deliver the best outcomes for students – thank you. Your tireless efforts are appreciated and I look forward to further developing our professional expertise in 2018.

The school has been wonderfully supported by a dedicated School Council – thank you to President, Lisa Polycarpou, parents, Teresa Smith, Mandy Withers, Kerrie Clarke, Neil Zippel and Lynley Robinson.

Thank you also to RSL co-opted member Charles Rees, and community co-opted member, Tony Schneider. Our student representative this year was Jessica Revell, and she was a great advocate for the students. I would also like to acknowledge the DMSC staff members who willingly give of their time – Sally Klinge, Lyndon Kuhne and Suzanne Thomas. All of these people who have been members of School Council have the betterment of DMSC at heart.

Finally, well done to the students who value and utilise the opportunities that DMSC provides. As stated above, there have been a tremendous amount of achievements this year, in a wide range of endeavours; however there have also been innumerable successes for those students who tend to fly under the radar – and may be never singled out for a specific award or accolade. Particular mention to our outgoing School Captains, Remi Kuhne and Kynan Clarke – you have been wonderful leaders and ambassadors for our school and I have no doubt that you both have exciting and successful futures before you. To all students – thank you for your collective efforts and I am confident that 2018 will bring continued success. I am immensely proud of you and our school.

## Farewell to Staff

On Friday, we will be officially farewelling several staff members.

**Mrs Suzanne Thomas** will be retiring at the end of this year. Commencing here in 1976, Suzanne has been a teacher of Food Studies – formally known as Home Economics – and she has also taught in other subject areas, including Maths and VCAL. Dimboola Memorial High School was Suzanne’s first teaching job and she has made many contributions and impacted on many students’ lives in the last 41 years. For the last nine years, Suzanne has been a Leading Teacher, taking on various roles including, time-tabling, daily organisation and VCE coordination. We know Suzanne already has some travel plans in place for next year and we wish her well as she commences her retirement.



**Mrs Megan Vercoe** joined the DMSC staff in 2002. This school was also Megan’s first and she was employed to teach in the Science area. Over the time Megan has been here, she has developed her skills in other areas, culminating in her promotion to Leading Teacher at the start of 2016. Responsible for coordinating VET and VCAL, Megan has also been in charge of teacher professional learning. Megan and her family are moving to sunny Queensland – a dream that they have harboured for many years. We wish them well as they start a new life in a new state and we thank Megan for her contributions to DMSC over many years.



**Ms Debbie Moar** will be leaving us to take up a position at St Brigid’s College in Horsham. Being a former student, Deb is very much part of the DMSC fabric and we will miss her easy-going nature and creative flair! Commencing here as a teacher in 2005, Deb has taught Art, Studio Art, Visual Communication, Humanities, VCAL and others! For the past few years, Deb has worked here at school for half the week, while also employed at the Horsham and Regional Art Gallery for the other half. We have been fortunate to have someone with her connections and expertise on staff.



**Lyndon Kuhne** is another former DMSC student who returned some years later as a staff member. Lyndon was employed as an Aide in 2009, as a Paraprofessional for two years, and then as a graduate teacher from the start of 2012. He has taught predominantly in the technology area, but has also had VCAL and STEM classes and has worked as a Year Level Coordinator and Community Connections Coordinator. This year, Lyndon's youngest child Rianna, has also completed her schooling at DMSC, so we farewell the Kuhne family as well. Lyndon is taking up a position at Horsham College and we wish him all the best as he embarks on this next chapter in his professional life.



**Lachlan Watts** is moving home with Rach and the girls, to be nearer to their families. Lachy joined the staff here in 2010, taking on the role of Phys Ed and Outdoor Ed teacher. In his time, he has overseen a wealth of sporting events and organised and attended many camps. Lachy has always established great relationships with his students and his unflappable nature is well known amongst the staff. It is wonderful for Lachy and Rach and their girls to have the opportunity to be closer to family, we know he will miss us, but also enjoy the new opportunities that lie ahead.



**Julie Elliott** is retiring at the end of this year. Julie started as an Education Support staff member in 2001 and has over this time, worked with many, many students. Julie's calm and quiet manner has meant that she has been a wonderful Aide, providing gentle encouragement and reassurance to the students with whom she has worked. We wish Julie well for the future and know that she and Wayne will both enjoy the freedoms that retirement affords.



**Tim Ivett** – another DMSC graduate, is leaving us for love! Tim has worked at the college for eight years and has taken on any IT role that has been thrown his way. All staff agree that we have been fortunate to have such a calm and accommodating technician – one who completes every task with a smile. Tim will be commencing in a similar role at the Jennings Street, Autism School in Melbourne and he and Emma will be taking up residence in Geelong. We thank Tim for his efforts here at DMSC and wish him well for the future.



**Birte Niemeier** has been our German Language Assistant this year. Arriving to Australia in the middle of our summer, Birte commenced work both here at DMSC and at Rainbow P-12 School in early February. Birte has fitted seamlessly into our German classes and the students have been most fortunate to have her here. We thank Birte for her work at our school and we wish her safe travels home and hope that she may come back and visit us some day.



**Norm McClean** officially retired from DMSC some years ago, however we now farewell him from the role of instrumental music teacher; a position he has filled for several years. Norm has patiently worked with a wide range of students, encouraging and supporting them to continue with their musical endeavours. We wish Norm and Marlene all the best as they fully embrace their retirement.



While it always sad to farewell staff, it is also exciting to welcome new people into our school. They bring with them enthusiasm and new ideas and I am confident that the staff we have already secured for next year, will settle in and love their time at DMSC.

We welcome:

- Justin Chilver – teaching staff
- Jake Anders – teaching staff
- Kirra Webster-Lawson – teaching staff
- Donna Baldock – Education Support staff

We have some existing staff members adjusting their time fractions so we do not need to replace all the staff that are departing.

Finally, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and I hope you have a happy and healthy New Year. See you in 2018.

Anne Gawith  
Principal



### *Christmas Waste Collection*

As your regular Waste Collection falls on Christmas Day, this collection will now take place on

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> of December.**

This includes the Townships of Rainbow, Jeparit, Dimboola & Kiata, as well as Rural Runs that are normally done on a Monday

As the trucks may come at a different time, please put your bins out for collection **the night before – Monday 25<sup>th</sup>.**

All other Collections including New Year's Day remain on their scheduled day.

*On behalf of all at Wimmera Mallee Waste we wish you a most Joyous and Merry Christmas. We look forward to again providing your waste and recycle collection service through 2018.*

Collection Enquiries -- 53 951 377

**FREE COMMUNITY EVENT**  
**Dimboola's Night Swim**  
**POOL PARTY**  
**FRIDAY 5TH JANUARY 7-10 PM**  
**@ THE DIMBOOLA POOL**  
**BBQ / DRINKS / MUSIC / FRUIT / GAMES**  
**DRUG & ALCOHOL FREE EVENT**  
**CHILDREN UNDER 12 MUST ATTEND WITH AN ADULT**  
Proudly Sponsored By  
Hindmarsh Shire Council, Wimmera Health Care Group, Victoria State Government, Freeza



### Filing cabinets for sale!

We have several 4-drawer filing cabinets that are surplus to requirements. If you would like to purchase one of these for the nominal price of \$30, please contact the office on 53891460.



Calling all gamers - 12 -18 YRS

**G A M E  
O N**

JOIN US FOR SOME FOOD,  
DRINKS + GAMING FUN!

**24** JANUARY **FREE EVENT**  
WEDNESDAY  
4-9 PM  
DIMBOOLA COMMUNITY  
HEALTH CENTRE  
(SCHOOL STREET)

Please RSVP to Beau at headspace Horsham on 5381 1543  
or email: beaul@headspacehorsham.org.au

Wimmera Health Care Group | headspace Horsham



2018 – School Year – Starting Dates

Staff Return – Monday January 29 – Office Open

Year 7, 11 & 12 Students commence – Tuesday January 30

**ALL students attend – Wednesday January 31**  
(This includes all VCAL students)

The staggered start to the year will provide the Year 7s with a settling in day. On this first day, the Year 7s will be assisted with organisational matters, school familiarisation and there will also be pastoral care activities run in conjunction with the senior students.

VCE and VCAL classes will also use part of their first day to attend to administrative matters and will have sessions on study habits and expectations of the senior school.

**Please note that all VCAL students will be expected to attend on both the Wednesday and Thursday of the first week. A special program will be delivered.**

If you have any queries regarding this arrangement please contact the school. 5389 1460



