Dear School Community,

Let’s hope that the effects of this year’s *dreaded winter cold* are receding. There have not been too many students or staff at 100% since the beginning of Term, so let’s hope that some nice Spring weather is just around the corner to rejuvenate us before our upcoming camps and excursions. Please check the calendar for information regarding upcoming camps and excursions.

Nearly two weeks ago now, the school hosted our annual *Opera Cluster Day* with Tungamah, Devenish, Longwood and Broken Creek Primary Schools attending. We had a fantastic day including an operatic performance of Hansel & Gretel by Opera Australia, a BluEarth student wellbeing session, a stroll around the water tank to view our white-capped mountains and a visit from Paralympian Cyclist Stuart Tripp. The weather and student behaviour was great and all students thoroughly enjoyed the activities offered throughout the day.

Our *Sporting Schools Partnership* with Dookie Primary School has continued into its last week this week with more activities planned for Terms 3 and 4. Troy and I will attempt to give parents as much notice as possible to ensure after-school arrangements can be made well in advance. Our AFL clinics hosted by Mark Lambourne have been great in building on children’s skills and understanding the game of AFL 9’s in preparation for an AFL Cluster Day at the end of Term. After-school Hockey has also been successful and I thank Dookie Primary School for hosting these activities. This arrangement is common-sense in regards to location, but requires DPS staff to be present and to lock up the school when finished. Please make sure we are picking up attending students on time.

Our ‘*Among the Gum Trees*’ science unit has progressed through our ENGAGE phase and is now in EXPLAIN. Students have identified four trees in our schoolyard to monitor animal/insect activity, plotted the trees on maps, learnt about the gum tree life-cycle, investigated the oils that eucalypts produce, dissected gum leaves, gumnuts and flowers, observed these under microscopes and recorded all of this in their science journals. Rosalie and I are beginning to see much improved Science Journal entries, an improved science vocabulary, increased interpersonal skills as part of our collaborative learning teams and an improved ability to think scientifically in order to experiment and test ideas. We are very excited to see this progression and it reinforces to us the importance of continuing our science program and preparing our students for the jobs of the future.

Tomorrow we are hosting the ‘*Dookie Children’s Centre*’ as part of Science Week and our Transition program. We will have 9 pre-school fun group children attending including some from the Hamilton and McNeill families. This will provide an opportunity for potential students and families to visit the school, to have some fun and to meet our students.

On a final and much sadder note, I would like to let you all know that our Senior Advisor, Michael Small, passed away unexpectedly on the weekend. It has taken everyone quite by surprise and on behalf of our school community I would like to thank him for his contribution to our school and pass on our condolences to his wife and fellow Senior Advisor Jennifer Small. Many of you got the chance to meet Michael when he was able to visit our School Council in preparation for the most recent Principal Appointment and he has visited the school on numerous occasions. Despite his heavy workload, he was always available to help me at the drop of a hat and he will be missed by those he has guided and helped.

Thanks for Reading, Adam Cleary – Principal.

* * Teamwork * Curiosity * Enthusiasm *
CALENDAR

AUGUST
• Tues 18th - Open Day Dookie Children’s Centre
• 24th to 28th - Cluster Camp
  (DOXA Urban Camp: Grades 5 - 6)
• Wed 26th - MARC (Library)

SEPTEMBER
• 1st to 4th - Cluster Camp
  (15 Mile Creek: Grades 3 - 4)
• Wed 2nd - School Council meeting
• Mon 7th - MARC (Library) swap
• 8th to 10th - Mt Hotham Camp (Whole school)
• Fri 11th - Athletic Sports
• Tues 15th - AFL 9’s Cluster Day
• Wed 16th - School Photos
• Fri 18th - BPACC Performance ‘The Owl’s Apprentice’ / Last day of term 3

MUSIC STUDENTS
Please note that closing date for S.Y.I.A. (Shepparton Young Instrumentalist Award) is this Friday, August 21st at 5pm.
Please ensure that if your child is wanting to be a part of this great opportunity that entry is completed on time.
More information is available on the Riverlinks website.
For any queries, contact me on 0427 981 575.
Please notify me once entry is done, either by text or email: h.rankin2@bigpond.com

EGGS
Our chooks have been quite productive, so we have a special sale for this week only of eggs @ $3 per dozen.
Please call at the school to collect some.

HOT DOG/DIM SIM LUNCHES
Student lunches will continue to be run on Wednesday this term.

DOXA CAMP (Grades 5-6)
DOXA Camp is fast approaching and we require all forms and the payment of $210 to be returned as soon as possible.

15 MILE CREEK CAMP (Grades 3-4)
The cost for 15 Mile Creek Camp has been finalised at $200 per student. Could you please organise the payment of this amount as soon as possible.

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Gum Tree Locations

'Good Looken Chookens'

Candy

Milly

Ivy
Opera Cluster Day