

The Dunstan Prospector

Issue 9

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COURTESY

A wee grizzle!!

One of our neighbours, Avenue Motels, has asked that students please avoid cutting through their property both at lunch time and after school.

They are concerned about the danger to their guests with pupils on bikes and skateboards.

More of concern to school was the rudeness to the owners from a few when challenged. This is very disappointing. Good manners are an expectation of our pupils and they can defuse a confrontation very quickly.

Please avoid using their access and be polite.

Thanks

CARS AND SCHOOL RULES

We have experienced some indifference to school rules with regard to vehicles and need support from home!!

A small number of pupils are carrying passengers without permission and bringing cars to school also without our knowledge.

The rules on cars are to protect lives. Students may apply for a vehicle pass if there is a need, but only for themselves.

They may not use the vehicle during the day. Our preference is for as many students as possible to use the safe bus transport.

REVISED HEALTH PROGRAMME MEETING MONDAY 30 JUNE 7.30 PM - LIBRARY

Following consultation with our community and an internal review, our Health Programme has been revised. It is important that parents are aware of the health issues addressed in this programme, hence you are invited to a meeting in our **school library** on **Monday 30 June at 7.30 pm.**

The areas where we would particularly like parental input on are: Sexuality, Keeping Safe, Mental Health and Drugs and Alcohol.

As part of our Drugs and Alcohol Policy and Education Programme, the police drug dog will be through the school at least twice this year.

The next PTA MEETING will be held 21 July
at 7:00 pm before the
FINAL FORMAL FORUM at 7.30 pm
If parents still have queries come along to L1 (in
Library)

CATCHING UP WITH EX-PUPILS



Simon Pollock 1999 - 2003 (third from right with this year's Yr 13 Geography) was at school recently sharing stories about his experiences as a VSA member last year in Vanuatu. He spoke to school assembly and senior Geography students.

Simon was responsible for setting up a sustainable woodwork workshop in the capital Port Vila. To do this he had to learn Bismala, the main pidgin tribal language, appreciate the socio-cultural differences his trainees had to cope with and restock the workshop after a disastrous loss of all tools. Simon got into this through his Geography studies at Otago University – NZ's only VSA liaison branch with Outreach programmes also in South Africa, Cambodia and up until recently in Zimbabwe.

Simon is currently completing Masters research into Alexandra's groundwater supplies and will shortly begin writing his thesis.

Incidentally, Simon is one of four ex-Dunstan geographers (in a class of 9) completing post graduate work in Geography at Otago University – the others are: **Tara Hotop** in town planning, **Olivia Smith** in childcare in Thailand and **Michi Guggenmos** in weathering at Mt Cook.

PLEASE REMEMBER

that in any potential emergency situation, eg snow / flood / severe ice, tune in to **Blue Skies FM 96.6** and **MORE FM 90.3**. They are our first call when cancelling school events or sending students home early. Students will also be asked to text their parents/caregivers.

Central Motorways will notify radio stations of bus changes/timetables.

CURRICULUM REPORTING AND ASSESSMENT

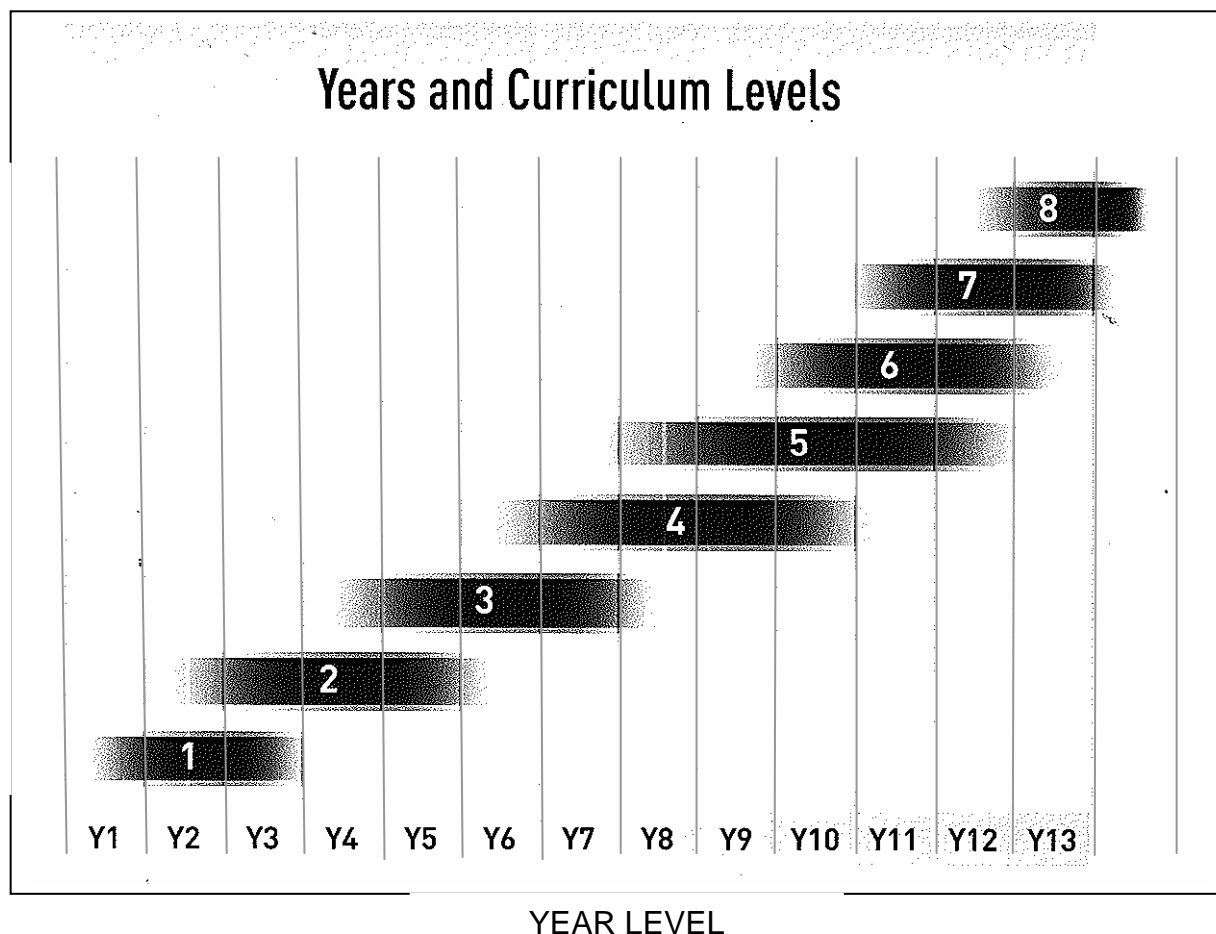
Student Achievement

Like many schools today we continually monitor new directions in teaching and learning. Our current practice is to move to provide teaching and learning that caters better to individual needs.

There has always been a range of achievement by students and our units of learning, until recently, tended to focus on one level.

At Dunstan High School we are developing units that differentiate learning and provide opportunities for all to achieve in a range of assessment tasks.

In line with this, our assessment and reporting has evolved. Our new junior reports will show the level of learning and achievement of our pupils using the revised national curriculum framework. This will enable pupils to see how they, personally, are going and how they compare to the expected national standard.



DEFENSIVE DRIVING IS COMING TO ALEXANDRA

Street Talk is an LTNZA approved advanced driver education programme covering all the essential elements of defensive driving plus preparation for your full licence test. Staged over four in-class sessions followed by an advanced assessment drive, *Street Talk* looks at what it takes to become and remain a safe driver. As an extra incentive, Street Talk also includes unit standards which can be used towards NCEA results. Completion of Street Talk qualifies for a six month time reduction off your Restricted Licence. Open to anyone holding a restricted licence for six months, the next course will start in August.

Places are limited! Ring today on 0800 STREET, that's 0800 7873438 to reserve your seat.

2008 PARTNERSHIP PLAN

PLATINUM – Breen Construction Co. Ltd, Central Motorways Coaches, Fulton Hogan Central, Paper Plus, PlaceMakers Alexandra.

GOLD - Allied Press, Alexandra Rotary Club, Budes Central Pharmacy and Bookshop, Central Betta Electrical, Checketts McKay, Cooneys Clothing and Footwear, Criterion Club Hotel, Feron Motor Court Ltd, Gas & Engineering Supplies Ltd, L J Hooker, Magnum Mac Dunedin, MWH NZ Ltd, Omakau Commercial Hotel, Otago Daily Times Print, Peter Lyon Shearing Contractors,

Phil Morris Electrical, Southland Building Society, Stadium Bar and Grill Alexandra, Stu McLeod - Courier Post, Tarbert St Dental Surgery, Terrace Distributors (1985) Ltd, The Community Trust of Otago, Tony Botting – London.

SILVER - Alexandra Avenue Motel, Brian Luff Automotive, Business & Accounting Solutions Ltd,

Currie Motors, Davis Auto Electrical Ltd, McLellan's Plumbing and Heating, Treadwell - Tyreland, Wedgerwood Joinery.

BRONZE - ANZ, Alexandra Night 'N Day, Alexandra Inspiration, Alexandra Physiotherapy, Bell's Shoes Unlimited, Geoff Weller Surveying Consultant, Grant Ward Nissan, House of Travel Alexandra, The National Bank of New Zealand, Stems Florist, The Warehouse.

FAREWELL TO OUR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

I will soon be gone, I won't be seen,
But my memories will still remain.
It's been a hazard to speak English at first,
But nevertheless I'm sure of it's worth.

With friends and family in this location,
I had fun in every station.
From skiing on the Mountain Peaks,
Until the swimming in the ice cold creeks.

Mt Aspiring. That's on it's own.
Beautiful memories I have known.
Where a good place is to hang out,
And learn what kiwis are all about.

Even so I will be gone,
My life will still go on and on.
Two more years, that at least,
I have to be in school's tease.

At last I would like to thank all of you,
Who helped to make this amazing experience come true.

Christopher Bonke



Christopher Bonke

Hey, my name is **Antonia Fleck**, but everyone calls me Toni. I am 14 years old and come from Hamburg, a big city in Germany. I came here to New Zealand for half a year, to improve my English and to get to know a new culture and country. I lived here at the DHS hostel, where I had every day a lot of fun with all the other students. But my highlights were a trip around the South Island during the holidays.



Antonia Fleck

There I got the opportunity to see a bit more from NZ. It was a trip with 30 other exchange students from all over the world. We did a lot of fun activities, eg dolphin swimming that was just amazing to get so close to so big animals, a glacier walk, paintball.... and I also did the Routeburn Track which was just beautiful!

After all this, I was on OUE Camp for five days, where I had a really awesome time. We got to know each other all a lot better and had much fun.

All in all I had a real fun time here and I'm glad to get the opportunity to come here and have such a great experience. I'm really sad to leave now, but I hope that I can come back one day.

I want to say thank you to Mr and Mrs Radka who always were there for us whenever we needed them. And thank you to all my teachers who helped me wherever they could. Also to Mr Templeton and Mrs Fitzgerald who did a lot for me and helped me to make the most out of my time here. And to my host mum Vicky, for the holidays who really made me feel like I'm a part of her family even when it was just for a short time.

Last but not least, many thanks to all the students who have been really nice and helped me a lot!

Thank you – *Antonia Fleck*

Hi, my name is **Timo Koelling** and I came last year from Germany over to New Zealand. I spent about one year in Alexandra and was one of the best experiences in my life.



Timo Koelling

The highlights of my stay were the formal just one week after I arrived, four different camps at Mt Aspiring and of course, education at Dunstan High School =)!!! I enjoyed playing soccer and basketball for DHS, even though we didn't win a single game yet.

In the summer holidays I went on the 'Spirit of Adventure' for 10 days of pure fun. I learned how to sail, made heaps of friends from all over New Zealand and saw dolphins, sharks and Helen Clark, which was quite scary.

Staying with my host family, was really nice. We did a lot of fun stuff, went on trips around the South Island. Thanks to Jim, Suzanne, Ashley, Josh and Cody Benck. Especially Suzanne deserves an award for her fabulous cooking skills. I had so much fun with my friends I made here and I feel overwhelmed about how you supported me during my stay. After all, it is quite hard to say "goodbye", especially after I had such a great time here.

I am not sure what I am going to do after I finish school in Germany but I am sure that, one day, I'll come back to New Zealand.

Thank you for making my year here so successful and special.

Timo Koelling

My name is **Carlotta Martius** but everyone here calls me Carli. I'm 15 years old and come from Hamburg which is part of Germany. I stayed here for the last half a year but now my time here is over. I'm very sad that I have to go home so soon, because I have a great host family with a really funny cat and nice friends. All of these made my time here very special and it is so hard to leave that all behind, because of my time here New Zealand is now my SECOND HOME.



Carlotta Martius

I like to go to school here, because everything is so different to my German school. Everyone here is so friendly and made my stay great. After some weeks I was involved in many sports, all the people there were always nice and explained to me everything again if I didn't understand something.

In the holidays I was on a South Island tour where I met many other exchange students from all over the world so we were sharing our experiences. During the tour I made a bungy jump and sky dived, both were great experiences I cannot do over in Germany. After the next holiday I'm back in Germany.

I'm excited to see all my friends again but also very sad because I have had such a great time and done so many things that I can never do again. I think I'll miss everything from New Zealand and get a

bit bored when I'm back in Germany because I had such a great and busy time!

So I have to say goodbye to everyone of you but I'm sure that I will come back to New Zealand as soon as possible.

Carli

Hello, my name is **Annki Rinas**. I'm 15 and come from Hamburg. That's a big city in the north of Germany. I'm here since February and leave in July. I came to New Zealand for improving my English, to get to know new people and the New Zealand culture.

In the holidays I did the Routeburn Track. It was just amazing. I felt like to be in Lord of the Rings.

Next day I flew with the Antonia and Carli (the other two German girls) to Christchurch. There started our South Island trip which took ten days. We were 30 exchange students from all over the world. We drove to Kaikoura, where we saw whales and dolphins. It was great! Quad biking in Greymouth and paintball in Hokitika was much fun, even when paintball hurt a bit.

But my highlight was the skydive in Queenstown. The weather was perfect, no clouds and the sun was shining. It was just amazing to jump 12,000 ft out of a plane.

Another highlight was the OUE camp in May to Mt Aspiring. We got to know each other better and it was a lot of fun! I'm really sad to leave now, but I'm so happy, that I took this opportunity. It was a wonderful time and I'll never forget it!

Many thanks to my host mum, Sue Park and my host sister Aliesha. Without them it wouldn't be so awesome as it was. I really felt to be a part of the family, thank you two so much, you are just amazing people!

I also want to say thank you to Mr and Mrs Radka, they were always there when we needed them and helped a lot.

But not to forget a big thank you to the students, who were so nice to me!

Ann Kathrin Rinas



Ann Kathrin Rinas

DYSLEXIA AWARENESS

Do you or someone you know have difficulty with learning?

Davis Dyslexia Correction® provides tools to overcome problems with reading, writing, and attention focus. These methods enable children and adults to recognize and control the mental processes that cause distorted perceptions of letters and words. Once students can be sure that their perceptions are accurate, they can resolve the underlying cause of their learning difficulties through methods that build upon their creative and imaginative strengths. The Davis approach is not based on tutoring or drill, but actually resolves the root causes of problems experienced by individuals with language-based learning difficulties. The Davis programme is explained in detail in the book, *The Gift of Dyslexia*, by Ron Davis.

Davis Math Mastery® provides tools to correct problems learning math. This programme is available as an alternative to the basic Dyslexia Correction programme, or can be done as a supplemental programme. Our tools for math, handwriting, and ADHD are detailed in *The Gift of Learning*.

Why is dyslexia a gift? *Dyslexic people are visual, multi-dimensional thinkers. We are intuitive and highly creative, and excel at hands-on learning. Because we think in pictures, it is sometimes hard for us to understand letters, numbers, symbols, and written words. We can learn to read, write and study efficiently when we use methods geared to our unique learning style.*

If you wish to find your nearest Davis Dyslexia Correction Facilitator, or for further information on the Program that we provide, please look at <http://www.ddapacific.co.nz>

Alma Holden

Davis Dyslexia Facilitator (Alexandra)

0274856798

CAREERS CORNER

Yr 13 had a vivacious and humorous introduction to the real life of a Med Student from three students who visited us recently as part of their Third Year Med, Community Based Health research week. Thanks for all of your insights girls. I went to their feedback meeting at the Council at 5.30 pm on Thursday too – and was very interested in how these potential GPs viewed the integration and availability of Health Care in Alexandra, across all providers.

HOT NEWS – On day two, Thursday 3 July 2008, Margaret Mills from the University of Otago's College of Education will be in school at lunch time 1 pm – 2.15 pm to talk to any interested Year 11, 12, 13 students who are considering a career pathway in Early Childhood Education. Parents welcome.

University of Otago Residential Colleges Accommodation Applications are here. Most have them. If you do not and need one, see Mrs Thom Wednesday 25 June on!

Thanks a lot, Rose Thom

LOST PROPERTY

The following items NEED TO BE collected from the office this coming week please:

- 2 backpacks – blue/black, orange/black
- Gold t-shirt
- 3 black hoodie tops
- Jacket
- Jacket with fur trim around hood
- T-shirt (black with logo)
- Hooded fleece sports jacket – double stripe across shoulders
- Gold/white/grey t-shirt
- Grey singlet – 'Crewse'
- Pencil case and diary left in T1
- Grey hooded top with caption on front
- 2 x PE tops
- Shoes
- Polar fleece
- Jandals
- Girls black trousers

Uncollected mufti items will be sent to Salvation Army for sale. Uniform items will go to PTA for sale.