



Welcome back to another year which is looking to be full of great learning opportunities and experiences. The highlight of the year will be a tough one to determine with both the Canberra Camp (Term 1) and School Production (Term 4) happening!

Positive Numbers to Start

We are very pleased that the school year has started with 132 children returning or commencing. 42 of these are secondary which is an all time high for Dowerin DHS. There are several student new to the school and our students and staff are already making them feel welcome.

Goodbye and Welcome

After 3 years keep our gardens in great shape, Mr Ross has decided to hang up his rake and shovel. He kindly worked over the holiday period to make sure the school was looked after. We would like to thank Mr Ross for his hard work and willingness to support students, staff and school development during his time with us and wish him all the best. We also thank and farewell our Cleaner Jo-elle Jones who has taken another position related to her training as a nurse.

If you have noticed the oval isn't looking too good, we have a plan to reinvigorate it (its been struggling for a while) so keep your eye out for improvement there. We are fortunate that Mr Darrell Kennedy has joined us for three days during first term while we run the process to employ a permanent gardener. On his other two days, Mr Kennedy is a gardener at Goomalling Primary school. He has already made an impact on the grounds.



We are also pleased to welcome Miss Shahn Howard as

WHAT'S ON?

Feb 5-14	PP -Year 6 Swimming Lessons
Feb 17 6.30pm	School Board Meeting
Feb 26 7.00pm	P and C Meeting—Staffroom
Feb 28	Faction Swimming Carnival

THANK YOU!

- ◆ Daven Petchell and Rob Proud for their work at the school over the holidays... check out next week's Snippets to see what they did!



the Year 5/6 teacher. She comes with great ideas and terrific IT knowledge so I have no doubt there will be a very engaging year ahead for our students.

Miss Howard is already building teamwork and problem solving strategies in her classroom!



STAFF STARTED LAST WEEK

The Admin team headed back to work a week ago and the staff last Thursday. The power outages interfered with our plans a little but we still got through a lot of work....just not exactly what we planned. We unpacked the new Department documents that will guide our strategic direction over the next 4-10 years and our Focus areas in the next 12 months. We also reflected on research about teaching practices that have high impact on student outcomes and discussed the aspects of these that we could improve. Electronic resources were reviewed and we committed to more effective ways to store and share documents with each other. Finally, we had a session with a TV4Education presenter to make sure we were all ready to take advantage of our new online video resource and library cataloguing system. Of course, teacher collaboration was also an important part of these two days.

