Welcome back

Hello Everyone,

A big "Welcome Back" to all our continuing students and a very warm "Welcome to Distance Education" to all our new students. We wish you a year of enjoyable learning and hopefully great success. We have quite a few new students joining us this year and we hope that you enjoy and benefit from the experience.

Distance Education is all about effective communication. Given that we cannot see all of our students all of the time we try to keep in contact in other ways:

**Telephone:** Our main switchboard number is (02) 66810300. All teachers have a direct line. Make sure that you get to know all of your teachers’ direct numbers. If for some reason they are not available when you ring, you can always leave a message on their voice mail.

**Email:** All teachers and students have access to the Department of Education and Communities Web Server. It is one of the best ways to maintain contact 24/7.

**DE Office:** The staff who work in our Mail Room and Clerical Office are very experienced in helping sort out student queries. Call (02) 66810300.

**Stage Advisers:** These people look after a particular group of students and can provide advice and assistance. Get to know your Stage Adviser personally AND know their telephone number and email address.

**Student/teacher visits:** If you are experiencing difficulties with your work and/or you would like someone to help, ask the relevant teacher to visit. They will appreciate the invitation!

**Come and visit us:** If you are ever in Ballina we would love to have you call in. You should be able to talk to many of your teachers and also have a look at the DE.

Our main advice to all for 2015 is to keep in close contact with teachers and stage advisers and not to hesitate to ask for help at any time - we are all here to help you learn and hopefully feel happy about learning through Distance Education. Also, try not to fall behind, but if you do, once again talk to your teachers to sort it out.

Overall we want to help you in getting the best out of your education and we look forward to supporting you.

Best wishes for 2015,

Greg Armstrong – Deputy Principal Distance Education (Relieving) and Sharon Hodgson - Deputy Principal Distance Education (Acting)

2015 Camp—The 2015 SCSDE camp will take place from Tuesday 28th April to Friday 1st May. The camp is available to full time students in years 7-11. Please see the attached permission forms.
From the Administration Office

- When making a direct deposit into our WESTPAC Bank—please ensure the student’s name is entered as a reference and send us a confirmation email of payment.
- Please ensure we have your current details: mailing address, residential address, student and supervisor phone numbers (home, daytime and mobile).

SCSDE Contact details:
- Office phone: 6681 0300
- SCSDE fax: 6681 0499
- Email: sthcross-c.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Mailroom Information
- 5/2/15 Stage 5 Assessment Policy was posted to full time year 9 and 10 students

Urgent Request

To: Distance Education Supervisors

Please return resources from last year that your student/s no longer need for their studies this year.

Items such as:
- Text books
- Science kits
- Calculators
- Hockey sticks
- CDs
- DVD’s etc. are always in short supply

Your help and cooperation in this matter is very much appreciated as these resources are needed for students this year.

Many thanks

Gifted and Talented news

Welcome back for a new year and here is a bit of news that might help you with school work or inspire you. Remember to keep me updated with all your news.

Here is a report from Richmond libraries:

Discover how your local library can help with back to school needs

Richmond Tweed Regional Library has loads of information, activities and resources for students heading back to school, plus the new website means kids have access to an online public library 24/7.

If you need help with research or homework, your local library can help with information, printing, copying and scanning, access to electronic resources such as newspapers and articles, free computers, internet access and free WiFi. Find an entire encyclopedia at your fingertips with the Britannica Library, where you can conduct research, complete homework assignments and work on special projects.

Other resources for assignments and projects include the library’s online ‘Research & Study Databases’—simply visit the website and click on the Learning & Research tab. The Library also offers free online computer tutorials or head to My eLibrary Online to download free eBooks and eAudiobooks to enjoy. Discover the wonderful world inside your local library. Visit www.rtrl.nsw.gov.au.

Second Hand Book Sales

Byron Bay Byron Shire Friends of the Library is appealing for donations of books, DVDs, CDs, vinyl records and games for their Bookfest held on April 11 at the Byron Bay Surf Club. To make a donation call Janene on 0407755022 or Beryl on 0449680665 or email byronbayfol@gmail.com.

Kingscliff Kingscliff Friends of the Library Second Hand Book Sale is held each Saturday from 9.15am to 11.45am at the Kingscliff Library, Turnock Street.

Lismore Lismore Friends of the Library will be holding a Book Sale Friday 27 February 9.30am to 3.00pm at Lismore Library, Magellan Street.

As we all know, our students have a range of skills, interests, passions and talents. Sophie is a Year 8 student at Southern Cross and she had a surprising day at a surfing competition last week.

Here is Sophie’s report:

Sophia Fulton’s Victory

On the 1st of February I won the Dalton Lawyers under 16 girls Trials at Port Stephens. I am now listed as a top seed into the Dalton Lawyers under 16 girls Sandbar Cadet Cup at Newcastle.

On the day of the competition it was really big at Birubi Point. So for the under 16 divisions and the under 14s they moved it to the back up location at 1 Mile Beach. The conditions were a lot smaller there but it was a lot more protected from the big swell. I had a tough competition from most of the girls but a lot of fun.
English—Year 10 Crime writers

Just a brief note from the English Faculty for our Year 10 Crime writers. Penguin Random House are international publishers. They invite you to enter the online Crime competition. Hop on a computer and enter now, the prizes are really cool. http://www.spottheevidence.com.au/

JAMES PATTERSON
AUSTRALIA’S MOST WANTED 2015

WIN THE WORLD’S MOST THRILLING DAY. JAMES PATTERSON IS COMING TO AUSTRALIA IN 2015.
To celebrate, we’re giving one lucky reader the chance to win the world’s most thrilling day thanks to the world’s most thrilling writer. So what will it be? With a $1,000 voucher from RedBalloon, the choice of thrilling activities is yours.
25 runners-up will also receive a copy of 14th Deadly Sin, the new book in James Patterson’s gripping Women’s Murder Club series.
For your chance to win, spot the differences between three sets of images as quickly as you can. Entries close at midnight on Thursday 12 February.

EXAMINE THE SCENES

Look at the two images closely and identify the differences between them.

SPOT THE DIFFERENCES

Click on either image to register a difference. There are five in each scene.

HOW TO PLAY:

WIN THE MOST THRILLING DAY

Complete the three levels in the fastest time to go into the draw to win a $1,000 voucher from RedBalloon.

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In December, 2014, Year 9 Learning and Support student Tyson Antonie completed an artwork on a timber skateboard deck as his first art project in the individualised program. He used a variety of different painting and printing techniques. His inspiration was Manga. Tyson visited the Truck Shop in Ballina with his teacher Catherine Gibson and Belinda Schaffaer, his teacher for 2015. He was able to participate in watching Graham attach deck grip, red trucks and wheels. Thanks to Head teacher of DE TAS Steve Clayton for contributing his time to complete the securing of the trucks. With a hand shake to Steve, Tyson was able to ‘carve’ some pavement.