PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE
As always there are plenty of opportunities for our students to excel at Denman PS. Last week 22 students represented our school at the Zone swimming championships. By all accounts, they did remarkably well and displayed fine sportsmanship along the way. Two of our students, namely Imogen and Indya, will now represent the zone at the Regional championships, which will take place on Thursday 3rd March at Maitland pool. Well done to everyone involved and we look forward to hearing the results from the Regional championships.

I also need to congratulate all of our cricketers, who recently took part in the Zone cricket trials. Jed and Brock will now represent the school at the next level. Well done boys!

STARSTRUCK
Congratulations to Emerson, Imogen, Lucy, Ashtyn, Lily, Sophie, Amber, Tara, Georgia, Jasmine, Will, Brock, Mason and Jed from Year 6, and Rachel and Phoebe from Year 5, who will be filming and submitting their dance audition for StarStruck this week. Good luck to these 16 students, who we hope to see represent our school at the Newcastle Entertainment Centre in June.

HUNTER SCHOOLS DANCE FESTIVAL
Auditions for students in Year 3 and 4 are underway this week. The selected students will audition for the Hunter Schools Dance Festival held at the Newcastle Panthers Club at a date yet to be advised. Good luck to all students auditioning.

THE ‘TELL THEM FROM ME’ STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY
I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with this newsletter. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.

PARENTING CLASS – 123 Magic & Emotion Coaching
This class has now been postponed until Tuesday 8th March from 10am – 2.30pm. Please see attached flyer.

2016 UPPER HUNTER REGIONAL SHOW
This event was advertised in last week’s newsletter. Our school will be entering outstanding pieces of art works, that the students are working on in classrooms. If any parent would like to submit their child’s work in other areas (ie, cake decorating, cookery, needlework, etc), please contact the Pavilion Co-ordinators or the school office, for further information.
**BUS SAFETY**  
Did you know? Every day, more than a million NSW school children travel to and from school in safety - many of them by bus. The school bus is an extremely safe form of transport for school students. Traffic congestion outside the school can increase when many families resort to driving short distances to and from school.

**Parents and carers please:**  
- Hold your child’s hand and walk together to the bus stop or bus interchange in the morning.  
- Wait as far from the passing traffic as possible at the bus stop.  
- If you cannot be with your child, organise for another trusted adult to take your place.  
- Meet your child AT the bus stop or bus interchange after school. NEVER wait on the opposite side of the road.  
- Talk with your child about what to do:  
  - if you are delayed and cannot meet them as usual  
  - if they catch the wrong bus  
  - if they get off the bus at the wrong bus stop.  
- Until they are at least 10 years old, children have not developed the maturity required to cross the road safely without holding an adult’s hand.

**BANDAGE BEAR/SRC FUNDRAISER**  
Next Friday, the 4th March, our students will enjoy an ‘out of uniform’ day in return for a gold coin donation. All money raised will be donated to the Westmead Children’s Hospital. Thank you for your support.

**TEACH YOUR CHILD TO BE INDEPENDENT**  
Can I please ask all parents to drop their child off promptly in the mornings and to wait at the front of the school in the afternoons. We are encouraging all of our students to keep themselves safe by being in the right place at the right time, and to be responsible for their belongings. At the end of the school day, the first bell rings to indicate the end of lessons. Children then have to pack their bags and make their way to either the walking lines, the bike lines or the correct bus lines. Our courtyard becomes very congested at this time of day, so please assist us by remaining at the front of the school until your child walks to you. Thank you.

**NITS/HEADLICE**  
Can I please ask all parents to check their child’s hair for headlice. If present, please treat accordingly. The only way the school can eradicate this problem is for all families to work together and thoroughly address the issue. Please see the attached information sheets. Thank you for your support.

**DEVELOPING RESILIENCE**  
At Denman PS, our students operate in a safe, supportive environment, where they learn lessons that will stand them in good stead for the future. On occasions, your child may be involved in incidences with other students, either in the classroom or in the playground. When this occurs, we encourage our students to try and deal with these incidences by ‘using their words’ in the first instance. If this doesn’t solve the problem, then our students are encouraged to ask the teacher for assist to solve the problem. By doing so, children learn to ‘bounce back’, to develop resilience and to solve problems, which are skills that they will need to learn in order to deal with day to day life in the future. When children recount events at home, it is important that parents listen to what they have to say, and acknowledge that they have been heard. However, it is also important to recognise that children relay their perception of what has occurred, which is not always factual. If parents ever need clarification in relation to a certain issue, please communicate directly with either the child’s teacher, the duty teacher or myself. We are more than happy to assist.

**YEAR 6 VISIT TO MUSWELLBROOK HIGH SCHOOL VISIT – WEDNESDAY 2nd MARCH**  
During the day, all Year 6 students will be visiting Muswellbrook High School, engaging in transition activities that will prepare them for life in High School, regardless of which school they will be enrolling at. Shortly a note will be sent home, explaining the finer details. An information parents for parents/students is also being held the same evening. Please see advert overleaf.
Muswellbrook High School

Open Night 2016

Wednesday 2nd March
Muswellbrook High School Multi-Purpose Centre & Hub

We welcome all current Year 5 & 6 students and parents to join us for:
From 5:15pm - Tours of school facilities with student, parent and staff representatives.
6:00pm - Information forum in the Multi-Purpose Centre.
6:30pm - Stalls showcasing programs offered at MHS with finger food catered by our Hospitality students in the Hub (former library).

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETINGS
Our first meeting of the year is taking place this afternoon at 3.30pm. If any parents would like to attend these meetings, please let Mrs Stephens know.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 24th Feb - Rugby League Blitz
Thursday 25th Feb - Year 4 Assembly

Next Week
Tuesday 1st March - Newsletter
Thursday 3rd March - Year 3 Assembly
Friday 4th March - Clean up Australia Day

WONDERFUL WORKERS

2 – Abby, Rory, Indya
3 – Toby, Lauren, Jeb
5 – Braith, Tristan, Kate
K – Sasha, Ruby, Gloria
6 – Mason, Isabella, Tara
1 – Jade, Payton, Matilda
4 – Jazmin, Morgan, Vinnie

FRIENDLY KIDS

Harry, Year 4 – for being a great and fair friend in the playground.

Theo, Year 1 – for including others in games

KIDS CORNER

Great Work Matilda
Year 1
INVOICES FOR SCHOOL FEES
Thank you to all parents who have paid their book/school fees. Yesterday we hoped to receive all payments. If anyone still has fees outstanding, please pay them this week. Please contact Mrs Stephens, if anyone is experiencing difficulty, please contact Mrs Stephens.

SKOOLBAG APP
Our School has our own Skoolbag iPhone and Android App to help us communicate more effectively with our Parent/Student community. We ask parents/students to install our Skoolbag School App. To install it, just search for our school name "Denman Public School" in either the Apple App Store, or Google Play Store.

ST BERNARD'S CATHOLIC PARISH SACRAMENTAL PROGRAM 2016
St Bernard’s Parish will be commencing their Sacramental Program for 2016 Term 2. The program involves instruction and reception of the Initiation Sacraments. First Reconciliation, Confirmation and First Communion. We are now inviting all catholic children who are in year three or any older children who have not already participated, to join us. Please contact Mrs Angie Carroll on 6547 1274 by 26th February 2016 if you would like your child to participate.

CANTEEN ROSTER
Wednesday 24th Feb - Jacqui McGrath & Simone George
Friday 26th Feb - Mandy Hunter & Allison Turner
Next Week
Monday 29th Feb - Chantel Blake & Pauline Frater
Wednesday 2nd Mar - Kristy Watson & Mel O’Hara
Friday 4th Mar - Lee Mills, Selina Yule & Kylie Louis

SCHOOLS CLEAN UP AUSTRALIA – FRIDAY 4TH MARCH
Denman Public School will be actively participating in “Clean Up Australia” day next week. The schools’ “Clean Up” day is next Friday, 4th March. The Schools’ “Clean Up Day” is a great opportunity for students to apply the knowledge and values of our school and community. The children are asked to bring gloves (e.g., gardening or washing up gloves).

KINDERGARTEN NRMA BUS SAFETY EXCURSION
The NRMA bus excursion provided the students with invaluable information and skills for safe travel. The students were very excited about riding on the bus and practising the activities that help to keep them safe. The students listened well throughout, and their behaviour was excellent. They are excited about finishing their entry for the colouring-in competition. All the entries will be on display in the NRMA office in Muswellbrook.

Mrs Stephens
Relieving Principal
YEAR 3 CLASS NEWS
Welcome to Year 3, where you can finally play on the primary equipment! We are off to a great start with homework, reading groups and classroom routines being well established. We have been learning about descriptive writing and how to use adjectives and similes to create imagery. It’s great to see so many children reading novels written by Roald Dahl, who is a master of using descriptive language. In History we are learning about Aboriginal culture and the “First Beginnings” in Australia. In Science Year 3 are completing a unit of work titled Feathers, Fur or Leaves, where we will be looking at the characteristics of living things. Mrs Ballard teaches Year 3 each Tuesday for Personal Development and Health lessons. We are also fortunate enough to have Mrs Ballard in our classroom every Tuesday and Thursday morning this term. She will be working with small groups and individual students, assisting them with reading, writing, spelling and completing NAPLAN preparation.

Most children are doing a great job of being responsible for their own equipment. It is very important that all children bring their own equipment to school each day. This includes lead pencil, rubber, red and blue pen, ruler (30cm) and sharpener. Children are required to have a book to read under their desks for silent reading time. This can be a book from home or library. We have ordered new home reading books for the classroom, so keep your eye out for when your child brings their reader home along with a home reading diary. Children in Year 3 should be reading quietly and aloud to an adult for a minimum for 10 minutes a day. Increasing fluency rate is a focus in Year 3 as this helps prepare children for the larger passages of text presented to them in Year 5 and 6.

Homework is distributed each Friday and returned the following Thursday. This gives families the option of getting some homework completed over the weekend. Please check that your child is writing their spelling words neatly and accurately each day, over the course of the week. Many children rush to complete their spelling words in one night, without taking the time to read the words and learn the spelling of each word. Books are generally marked on Thursday night. If they are handed in on Friday they won’t be marked until the following week. Most students now have their homework in a plastic A4 envelope labelled with their name and have received their Maths Plus Homework Text book (some fees however, still need to be paid).

Reading Groups takes place Monday through to Thursday from 9.30am – 10.00am. We always welcome parents, grandparents and friends to help during this time or anytime between 9am and 11am. Giving children 10 minutes of reading time one-on-one with an adult is one of the best classroom resources we could ask for!

Year 3 will be hosting assembly on the 3rd March and please come along to the Senior Citizens Assembly on 17th March, where we will be performing an item!!!!

We look forward to meeting you all. Please contact the school or email us if you have any concerns or questions.

melissa.whiteman1@det.nsw.edu.au caroline.saunders@det.nsw.edu.au

Thank you
Mel Whiteman and Caroline Saunders

RESOURCES FOR YEAR 3
If anyone has ice-cream containers and lids, small baby food jars and lids and magazines suitable for cutting out pictures, they would be most appreciated.