

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the 'Create to Advocate' exhibition?

On Thursday the 26th November at 7.15pm, we are proud to invite you to our 'Create to Advocate' exhibition. This will be a great opportunity for you to come and see the fabulous creation that the Year 9's are working on in order to raise awareness of the Millennium Development Goals and the issue of global poverty. Each student has chosen a specific goal to reflect on in their work - it may be about extreme poverty in the world, preventable epidemics such as AIDS, lack of educational opportunities for children in the third world, the lack of maternal health care and the high mortality rates of children in the poorest countries of the world. All these issues and others are at the heart of the Millennium Development Goals.

Come along and support your son or daughter as they seek to raise awareness about these important global issues. A more detailed invitation will follow in the weeks to come, but please put this date in your diaries now and invite other family and friends!

There will also be an opportunity to view other work created by the Year 9's throughout the year in their elective classes. This will be a great community night to come and be involved in.

Narelle Sketcher

How are the new Year 9 Student Absence Procedures working?

Hopefully by now you are aware of the need to contact the Admin Office at the Year 9 Centre to notify us of your child's absence from school. Thank you to those parents who have remembered to do so. It is important that we can account for each student on a daily basis. We trust that the fridge magnet has been a useful tool, with all the relevant details available at your fingertips.

What's Coming Up:

- River Experience Group 1: 26-30th October
- River Experience Group 2: 9-13th November
- Exams: 30th November-2nd December
- Student Celebration Evening: 20th November
- End of Year Activities: 8-9th December
- Term 4 Finishes: 2:30pm 10th December

Newsletter Online

Did you know that you can also access this Year 9 newsletter online? View the Networks Newsletter page at donvale.vic.edu.au.

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Year 9 BBQ



## Student Input—Community Service Week

“I did the gardening section of our Community Service with Mr Southwell. On these trips our group went to some people’s houses that were in need. I thought this activity was good for a few different reasons. One person had a sick child and didn’t have the time or energy to do the gardening, another had been having some back operations and hadn’t gotten out of the house for a while and also could not do the gardening. I think these trips were more rewarding in that you saw the results after you had finished the jobs. We turned old messy looking gardens into nice clean looking ones, and not for someone paying us either. The actual act of helping someone in need is very rewarding straight away. This also brought the group together. I now know all of the guys that were in my group when I only knew two or three before. So in serving the community we created a community.” *Matthew Mathieson*

“For the Community Service I did the ‘cooking for the needy’: it was a worthwhile experience and I enjoyed it a lot. I think it made a difference to the people receiving the food, the first person who received the cooked meal was very grateful, and that made me feel good that I helped someone. I believe that a small difference can make a big difference, and the community service has made me think about helping out in a soup kitchen in the future.” *Lorna Rynhoud*

## Curriculum Update

This term the Year 9 students begin a new unit of work, entitled ‘**Future Shock, Future Shift**’. One of the questions we are contemplating is ‘Can Science Save the World?’ One of the major concerns in the future is *water*.

Students will engage in a variety of learning activities in Coresplore, including a case study of the history and management of the Yarra River; language study of issues and print media, focusing on the water crisis; geography skills on field trips and ‘futures thinking’, which involves deliberate envisioning and thinking about what our world should look like in the future. As with all our course work, Christian perspectives are closely and specifically interwoven into the tasks and discussions.

In the middle of this term, the students will employ their critical thinking skills, geography skills and data collection skills on a River Experience on the Yarra. Our river has suffered badly in the past and continues to need careful management. The River Experience will allow students to see this first hand and to discover some of these aspects of the river for themselves.

As is customary for Year 9 at Donvale, exams will take place at the end of term. There will be a period of revision in classes before the exams take place. However, students need not wait for revision to be conducted in class. The exam in Coresplore will focus specifically on the learning undertaken in Experiences in Renewal (Term 3) and Future Shift, Future Shock (Term 4). No work from Semester 1 will be examined in the Coresplore exam.

Kathryn Delaney

## OAT Cooking Project



## What’s happening in ...

### Earthprobe

During my Eco-op, Backyard Blitz this term we have been reaching out to the community a lot more through our gardening services. For backyard blitz every week this term we have been going around to the houses of wealthier families and helping fix up and clean their garden. For our services, we were charging \$25 an hour. We then spent the money we earned, on plants, herbs and vegetables which over the next few weeks we will be planting in people’s houses who need encouragement and who probably wouldn’t have the time to buy them themselves.

It’s been really fun and rewarding receiving money for our gardening services and it’s really great to know that the money will be used to help our community. I am really looking forward to planting the herbs and vegetables we bought, into someone’s garden and helping them out. People are always so appreciative of what we do and it’s great to know that they understand what we’re doing and they want to support us.

*Amy Fraser*

## Back Yard Blitz

