The 2011 school year commenced on Monday 31st January. Our newest students in Wattle 10 have had a terrific start to school. Each day they are learning something new and have already learnt lots of new sight words and sounds. They love mathematics and enjoy working together in class.

Our busy term has also included our School Swimming Carnival, which was a great success despite the heatwave conditions. Our school won the Port Stephens Zone Swimming Carnival, we had five students represent our zone at the Regional carnival.

In March students were able to watch a visiting performance called “The Bremen Town Musicians.” This was a highly entertaining show that was loved by all the students.

Our students have also been hard at work planting vegetables and herbs in our vegetable patch. Our garden group even tried their hand at making fresh pesto. From all reports, it was very tasty.

Student Parliament has started with plans for new goal posts to be installed in the playground in the near future.
This year Dungog Public School has commenced a trial of separate boys and girls classes in years five and six. The Girls class is Banksia 1, whilst the Boys class is Banksia 2.5.

Each class is enjoying the benefits of having a learning program that closely caters for their learning styles and needs. Whilst the students enjoy being in separate classes they also love getting together for other activities and challenges.

Banksia 1 have been studying Antarctica and were fortunate enough to have a visit from Mrs Campbell who was able to share her photos from her holiday to Antarctica.

Banksia 2.5 built a Scarecrow for the Newcastle Show, each student had a role to play and the completed product was very impressive indeed. Our scarecrow will return to school shortly, where it will join our Picasso Cow on display.

The two classes have also joined together for a Mathematics Challenge Day and for Sport and PE activities.

In the last week of term our senior students are away on camp at Riverwood Downs. Whilst they are away they will undertake Peer Support Training in preparation for presenting our Peer Support Program later in the year. Many mums and dads are also joining their children at the camp to help out and have a great time.

Many of our senior students are involved in Portfolio activities that are run by the Parliament Ministers. These activities help keep our school running smoothly as well as promoting student responsibility.
Signing Comes to DPS

Come to a morning assembly at Dungog Public School and you will see our students and staff learning sign language. During term one we have learnt to sign 36 different words or phrases that we can use around the school.

Students lead the way
Each morning either the Principal or a student introduces a new word or phrase to sign and revises previous signs. Student competitions are held to decide which student introduces the signs at assembly, we also have a class competition each fortnight to find the best signing class. During our Monday assemblies, Mrs Smith leads our community singing and also teaches us new signs to use when we are singing.

26 students have also received a certificate for excellence in signing this term.

Can you work out these signs?

SWIMMING

2011 SWIMMING CHAMPIONS
14 STUDENTS REPRESENTED AT ZONE, 5 STUDENTS AT REGIONAL AND 2 QUALIFIED FOR STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

CRICKET

OUR BOYS CRICKET TEAM PLAYED THEIR FIRST MATCH AGAINST PATERSON PS. ALTHOUGH THEY WERE NARROWLY DEFEATED THE BOYS PLAYED WELL. TOM HUDSON TOPPED SCORED WHILST HARRY BOORER COLLECTED 5 WICKETS. TOM AND HARRY WERE ALSO SELECTED TO REPRESENT OUR ZONE AT THE REGIONAL CRICKET TRIALS.

MRS WELLARD

AFTER 33 YEARS OF TEACHING MRS WELLARD RETIRED AT THE END OF TERM ONE. SHE WILL BE GREATLY MISSED BY ALL THE TEACHERS AND STUDENTS AT DUNGOG PUBLIC SCHOOL. WE WISH HER ALL THE BEST IN HER RETIREMENT AND LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING FROM HER IN THE FUTURE.
So much has already happened at our school in first term and there is still much more to come!

This year our students are participating in Starstruck, they will be performing in the Dance and Choir sections. We are all looking forward to seeing them perform.

Our veggie patch continues to grow, we have 6 different garden beds which will soon be bursting with yummy vegetables. Each week our students help keep the gardens watered and weeded.

Our students have excursions planned to Sydney and Canberra for later in the year.

Next term will be a busy one for sport, our Cross Country Carnival will be held early in the term. The school also has teams entered in the State Knockout competitions for Soccer, Netball, Rugby League and Touch Football.

Our preparations are underway for the Film Festival Street Parade with this year promising to be a Wiggly event. Students will be able to dress as their favourite Wiggle or Wiggles character and follow the Big Red Car along the parade.

Keep an eye on the school website for photos and information about school events.

www.dungog-p.school.det.nsw.edu.au