



Distance Education Tasmania



TOGETHERNESS: Students of Distance Education Tasmania at a "welcome day" earlier this year.

HOME AND AWAY

DISTANCE Education Tasmania (DET) serves students, ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 10, who are unable to attend a mainstream school.

This may be due to isolation, travel, medical, pregnancy and other exceptional circumstances.

The school has 349 students and uses a lot of advanced technology such as the Centra online classroom and the Moodle online learning management system by which students can receive and submit their assignments.

Students' programs are personalised, providing for different learning needs and styles.

Some of the students describe their school day:

Alice (Grade 5): I have a list of jobs that I have to

do for my school work each day. They could be handwriting, maths, art, science or a story.

Online classes that I do every week include Bookshare and Super-powered Smarties where the kids from Grades 3-6 learn as a group. I am on the SRC which meets once a fortnight.

Erin (Grade 9): A day in the life of a DET student, in many ways, is just the same as other students. We still have assignments, tasks and challenges.

What makes being a DET student different is the unique way in which we learn, being able to choose topics we are interested in and working at our own pace.

This allows us to learn

more and have fun while doing so.

DET teachers take the time to get to know us personally through "DETogether" days, home visits and regular phone calls. They get to know your likes, interests, skills and what you need help with. They teach and guide us in directions we would think impossible.

I really enjoy DET and it is great that there are no classrooms or peer pressure. I love working at home in a happy and safe environment with a great team of teachers to help me along each day.

Deepa (Grade 10): Studying with DET from India is quite different as I get to work in my own time. It gives me the opportunity to work inde-

pendently and learn to find answers by myself.

Our time zones are different so I can't attend online classes but they are recorded so I can play them back. It is a new experience for me to do most of my work online.

Sami (Grade 9): Saudi Arabia has strict regulations and good schools are expensive, so home schooling is a good option.

In Arabic countries, the weekend is Thursday and Friday. My laptop is where I do my entire work and assignments. The work is either sent to me or I can find it on the Moodle website. I live in a compound, like a private neighbourhood, with many facilities.

When I finish schooling for the day I can take a dip

in the pool or have a game of tennis if the weather isn't too hot.

Samuel (Grade 6): I check the DET portal and my emails to see what is going on at school today. I start tapping at the computer to get into maths for 20 minutes. Next, I have Bookshare on Centra.

Mum growls at me for looking out the window and not doing my work but I assure her that I was thinking about my work.

Back on the computer to do some art. I finish my drawings and take them out to the scanner. I check my emails and my folder to see if there's any work I need to finish off. I put my worksheets in an envelope ready to post.

Now I can go play in the mud on my motorbike.

School talk

What do you like best about Distance Education Tasmania?



Alice

I can do my work at the table in our caravan. **Jaidyn, Grade 2.**

I love daily P.E. with my Dad. **Thomas, Grade 4.**

We have activity days so we can all get together. **Sean, Grade 4.**

You can get up really early, finish all your school work and have the rest of the day off. **Alice, Grade 5.**



Thomas

I like not having to get up early and get home late. **Shannon, Grade 7.**

I'm learning more and I am not picked on. **Kristian, Grade 7.**

You don't have a uniform. Camp and "DETogethers" are really fun! **Abbie, Gr 8.**

I like how you don't have to rush to get dressed. **Nicolle, Grade 8.**



Deepa

All you have to do is ask and your teachers help you straight away. **Zoe, Grade 8.**

The teachers are your good friends and you can joke around with them. **Hanneke, Gr 8.**

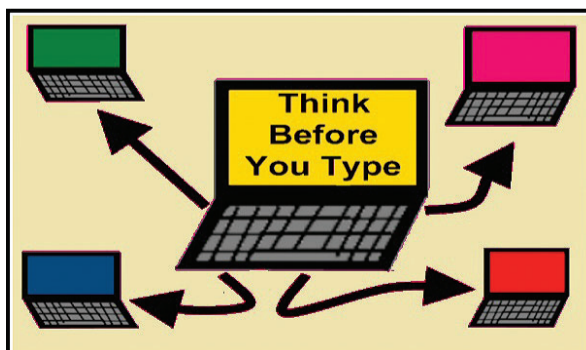
DET has made me more responsible and accountable with my time. **Deepa, Grade 10.**

Acknowledgments

THIS Mercury School Page was produced by members of the Distance Education Tasmania student council.

nie **SCHOOL PAGE PROGRAM** Ph: 6230 0736 www.mercurynie.com.au
Newspapers in Education

Can the internet surf your computer?
 Seen any viruses in your videos?
 Heard about malware in music?
 What's attached to that e-mail?
 Catch any spyware whilst surfing?



Identity theft on the internet!
 Is that website genuine?
 Who will find your facebook?
 Will the boss read your blog?
 Who did you really chat to?

STRANGER DANGER ??
JUST AS REAL ONLINE !!!
 DO YOU KNOW WHO YOU CAN TRUST ?

e - Safety

art by

Erin (Gr9) & Gracie-mae (Gr7)

Keeping Your Personal Details...
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Private !!!