

Monday

13 March 2017

Term 1 – Week 8



MHS Newsletter

Mudgee High School – Locked Bag 2004, MUDGEE NSW 2850

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A Member of the
Cudgegong Learning
Community



SEE OUR WEBSITE
FOR THE FULL
CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Coming Events:

- Mar 16 – Parent/Teacher interviews, Yrs 8,9,10 4pm – 7pm in the Gym
- Mar 27 – P&C Annual General Meeting - 7pm in the Library (Horatio Street entrance)
- Mar 30 - Apr 7 Yr 12 ½ yearly exams

This issue:

- Principal's Message
- Awards
- Swimming Carnival Report
- Science competition
- Basic equipment
- PBL focus – Anti bullying week
- Languages – course information
- 2015 & 2016 MHS Mirri Magazines for sale
- Tell Them From Me student survey
- Community Announcements
- Sponsor – Glencore

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

A dark joke among principals that I've heard on more than one occasion revolves around decision making that may get you on the front page of The Telegraph. The sensational nature of tabloid journalism – the pressing need to print material with the power to move others to instant outrage – makes such an appearance one to be avoided where possible.

By way of complete contrast, there is the relationship that our local schools have with our own press; radio station 2MG, the local television stations when on the patch and, of course, The Mudgee Guardian. The coverage we receive from our local media is seldom less than first rate and produced to inform rather than incense.

On Tuesday 8 March, Sam Potts from The Mudgee Guardian covered the official handover of the refurbished Douro Street facilities – our administration area. I have included Sam's report in case you missed it.

What I need to make clear, however, is that while the handover has occurred, all administrative services – front office services – continue to operate out of the library, accessed via Horatio Street.

Final works are still underway on the refurbished area, including the provision of a gate between the Support Unit entrance at the western end of B Block, additional works within the Admin Area itself and some remedial work to the new pavers where there has been a small amount of settling and movement.

So bear with us a little longer, as I know it will all be worthwhile in the end.

Mudgee High facelift complete

SCHOOL

MUDGEE High School officially unveiled the upgraded 'face' of their school with a handover ceremony on Tuesday morning, following an extensive refurbishment of the Douro Street entrance and administration area.

The Douro Street entrance has been the school's administration area since 1973, prior to that it was in their present day library – which it fittingly returned to temporarily while works were being completed.

The last major refurbishment the office received was in 2000 when it

was expanded.

Mudgee High School principal, Wayne Eade, said that the project was important because it's the face of Mudgee High School and the point at which most the community access the school.

"It's the customer interface, and the parents, carers and others who have business with the school will see a brand new look," he said.

"There's the very distinctive entrance, the huge covered area at the front and you're directed through the blue entryway, along all new paving to the office area.

"And while the new

trees are quite small they will eventually be a very green area.

"Plus the new electronic noticeboard, which is far more up to date because it takes about 10 minutes to change, and they're rotating to advertise multiple events coming up at Mudgee High School.

"Which is just another way to communicate with parents and the wider community about what's going on here at school.

"So it's a nice blend of amenity and attractiveness."

– SAM POTTS



JOB DONE: The official handover of the upgraded Douro Street entrance of Mudgee High School signaled the completion of the major refurbishment.

There is a basic law in economics called Goodhart's Law, named after the economist, Charles Goodhart.

Goodhart's Law contends "When a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure."

Basically what this means is that when individuals or organisations take actions to alter the outcome of a policy designed to gauge an effect that policy loses its validity.

Education is not immune to Goodhart's Law.

In 2008, the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) tests were introduced. The NAPLAN tests were heralded as a means by which a record of student performance in the areas of reading, language conventions, writing and numeracy skills for their particular year level could be gauged. The cohorts tested each year have been 3, 5, 7 and 9.

The tests themselves can only be taken once in each of the years mentioned – unlike say a driving test where there is the opportunity to re-sit a test should one be having a “bad day” – and only test an easily quantifiable set of skills and abilities. But none of these things should be troubling as the tests were designed to provide merely a snapshot of performance against a set of criteria reported as national minimum standards. They were designed to serve as a diagnostic tool in an armoury of tools teachers have at their disposal to gauge where the kids in their care are at with regard to literacy and numeracy. They were designed to provide schools with independent evidence of individual and group progress.

... and then somewhere along the way, NAPLAN succumbed to Goodhart’s Law. The *My School* website – a set of league tables that purportedly reports on school performance relative to other schools – kicked off at 1am on Thursday 28 January, 2010. *My School* provided the press and other commentators unfettered access to data that would show who the educational winners were and, more importantly when writing a tabloid piece, reveal the losers.

But do the tests provide a fair comparison? The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA), the group targeted with the tests administration, permits schools to exempt students “from one or more NAPLAN tests if they have significant intellectual or functional disability or if they are from a non-English-speaking background...” allowing schools to skew their results by excluding those who may score poorly.

At Mudgee High, ALL students in Years 7 and 9 are encouraged to attempt the tests, including students from our Support Unit, as we recognise NAPLAN as just another diagnostic tool to assist us in improving the literacy and numeracy of our students.

From where I sit, NAPLAN’s greatest strength is the value adding data it provides. A school with a lower than average Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA), like Mudgee High, that consistently demonstrates above state average value adding for students moving between Years 7 and 9 can be proud of what it is achieving.

We don’t shy from NAPLAN. We take our students achievements seriously and are looking at ways in which to further boost their literacy and numeracy results. At the end of the day, however, we also realise that NAPLAN is merely a diagnostic set of tests that students will take twice in their high school days.

It was never meant to be nor is it an all-encompassing test of a school’s worth nor indeed any child’s worth.

I think Charles Goodhart would understand.

Until next week!

Wayne Eade
Principal

TERM 1 WEEK 7 AWARDS

P&C: Yr 7: Mariah Burnicle-Tavita, Yr 8: Isobelle Field, Yr 9: Lachlan T Mitchell, Yr 10: Bowdee Riley-Shaw, Yr 11: Will Toovey, Yr 12: Nicholas McDonald

SRR Award: Connor McNeill – Yr 9

SWIMMING CARNIVAL REPORT

On Friday the 24th February Mudgee High School held their swimming carnival.

It was a balmy 36 degrees, however, most students found shade or were well protected by hats and sunscreen. It was nice too see family and friends attend throughout the day to add their the support.

Thank you to the Business House relay teams that continually support our Year 12 fundraising, and well done to the Police team for winning.

The aim this year was to increase the level of participation and attendance on the day. It was fantastic to see many students participate in at least one event and get valuable House points.

Congratulations to Wentworth for being the winning House on the day. It was the closest result in many years with only 50 points splitting 1st to 4th.

Congratulations to the following students for being awarded Age Champions:

AGE CHAMPIONS

AGE DIVISIONS	GIRLS	BOYS
12 years & under	Kasey Hayes	Jaiden Roach
13 years	Sammi Atkinson	Samuel Couch
14 years	Isabella Shearman	Jed Hayes
15 years	Charli Hayes	Lachlan Roberts
16 years	Karen Aylett	Timothy Rava
17 years & over	Macy Morley	Henry Whiteside & Nicholas McDonald

Good luck to the Mudgee High school representatives over at Western Trials next week.

SCIENCE COMPETITION

The University of NSW Science Competition will be held on Tuesday 30th May. This is an engaging and challenging international competition, which is a great way for students to test themselves against other students from across Australia and other parts of the globe. Students who would like to enter this competition give your name and \$9.00 to the office. For more details see Mrs Laidlaw in the Science staffroom.

BASIC EQUIPMENT

Parents, please ensure that students are bringing basic equipment for school. Too many students claim they cannot do work as they don't have the correct equipment. A blue or black pen, pencil, eraser and a ruler are required many times each day. Students know that coming prepared is part of being responsible in the class room.

LANGUAGES

With the departure of Ms Kim last year, Mudgee High School has welcomed Mr Saunders into the role of Japanese teacher. He brings to the position the experience of having lived in Japan for 12 months and has many interesting stories to share.

All classes studying Japanese have made a pleasing start to 2017 and are settling into the task of learning a second language. We particularly welcome all Year 7 students and look forward to seeing their skills develop throughout their year of mandatory study. We are also thrilled to see the continuing support for the inclusion of Japanese into the V.I. curriculum with Ja03, Ja05/25 and Ja07/27 classes running in Years 8-10. We also have a Year 11 combined Continuers and Beginners class.

Course Information

Classes follow a path of learning that is topic based with emphasis on the development of the key communication skills of Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Learning is student centred and aims to build confidence within each individual to communicate in Japanese.

Stage 4 Semester One Topics:

	YEAR 7	Ja03
TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to Japanese/Japan▪ Greetings/Introducing Yourself▪ Getting to Know You▪ Numbers▪ Introduction to Hiragana	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review – Meeting people and Introducing Yourself▪ Review Counting▪ Where are you from?▪ Family▪ Pets and animals

Stage 5 Semester One Topics:

	Ja05/25	Ja07/27
TOPICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Introduction to Katakana▪ Food & Drink – Likes/Dislikes▪ Calendars and Dates▪ Hobbies and Interests▪ Places and Activities - Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Time and Leisure Activities▪ Talking about the Past▪ Locations and Describing – Housing▪ School

All students will have received an assessment schedule that will outline the timing and types of assessment tasks that will be completed and used to determine the standard students have reached this semester. This is a very important information sheet and students should use it to plan their revision and to ensure they complete tasks on time. We encourage all parents/caregivers to read these documents and to contact us at school if they have any questions. It is hoped that parents/caregivers will be able to assist in this planning process and they will be duly contacted if their student fails to meet the minimum requirements.

Another very important factor in a student's learning is the bringing to class of the required equipment. Every student has been informed of the basic requirements for the subject. We ask that all parents be aware of the following points:

- All students require a covered, all-lined exercise book.
- All students need to bring to class a red pen; a blue or black pen; a pencil; a plastic/wooden ruler; scissors; and a glue stick
- All students are required to have some system (diary/device) to record homework tasks and assignments

JAPANESE CULTURE

Year 7 students this year will be exposed to many typical Japanese cultural practices. In particular, they will study a major festival every month. Classes have already learned about Setsubun and are currently learning about Hinamatsuri. Ask your child what they know about these interesting rituals. In honour of Setsubun, students made their own 'oni' masks in class.



Ms Date and Mr Saunders

MHS MIRRI MAGAZINES FOR SALE

The school office has 2015 and 2016 school Mirri magazines for sale at the office.

TELL THEM FROM ME STUDENT FEEDBACK SURVEY (TERM 1, 2017)

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many other public schools in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the *Tell Them From Me* student feedback survey. The survey 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.

More information about the survey is available at: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au>

The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide us with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours in Weeks 10 and 11 of this term. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey will shortly be sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, the consent form will have an "opt out" option. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from: <http://surveys.cese.nsw.gov.au/information-for-parents>.



Tell Them From Me student survey

Frequently Asked Questions (parents and carers)

Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation

1. What is the *Tell Them From Me* student survey?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey asks questions about factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other outcomes. It aims to help improve the learning outcomes of students. The survey is designed to measure, assess and report insights from the student point of view at the school and system levels. The focus of this NSW survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.

2. What kind of questions will the survey ask?

The survey questions relate to the following 18 measures for **primary schools**:

Participation in sports	Behaviour at school	Effective learning time
Participation in extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Teaching relevance
Sense of belonging	Interest and motivation	Teaching rigour
Positive relationships	Effort	Experience of being bullied
Valuing school outcomes	Skills and learning challenge	Advocacy at school
Positive teacher-student relations	Expectations for success	Positive learning climate

The survey questions relate to the following 22 measures for **secondary schools**:

Participation in sports and extra-curricular activities	Homework behaviour	Expectations for success
Feeling challenged in class	Academic self-concept	Behaviour at school
Experience of being bullied	Truancy	Sense of belonging
Interest and motivation	Effective learning time	Aspirations: finishing Year 12, University, TAFE
Positive relationships	Effort	Teaching relevance
Wellness	Valuing school outcomes	Positive learning climate
Teaching rigour	Advocacy at school	Advocacy outside school
Positive teacher-student relations	-	-

3. How have schools been selected to take part?

The survey is open to all NSW government schools at no cost to them. Your child's school has decided to participate.



4. How will taking part in this survey benefit my child's school?

The *Tell Them From Me* student survey will provide school principals and school leaders with insight into student engagement, wellbeing and effective teaching practices at their school, from the perspective of students.

Data collected from the survey responses are quickly compiled into reports for school leaders. Principals can then use this information to help them identify emerging issues and plan for school improvement.

5. What does my child need to do to participate in the survey?

The survey typically takes less than 30 minutes and is conducted entirely online through a secure website operated by the survey developers, *The Learning Bar*. Schools will make computers or laptops available so that students can complete the survey during school hours.

6. Does my child have to participate?

No, participation in the survey is optional. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable, he/she can choose to stop the survey at any time. The majority of questions in the survey can be skipped. Parents/students have a right to apply for access to, and correction of, a student's information.

7. Will the school be able to identify my child from their responses?

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will not be made available.

A small number of staff in the department's Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) will have access to individual student responses for the purpose of state-wide

analysis. Individual students' data will be held on a secure server with access strictly limited to CESE researchers. The researchers are interested in trends only – not in individual student responses. No student will be identified in any publication. No school will be identified unless they have given permission.

8. What sort of analysis will be done on the survey data?

Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days. School leaders can use the data to better understand the experiences and views of students at their school.

CESE will undertake state-wide analysis of the survey data in conjunction with existing student data held by the department, including performance data.

The results will help all schools better understand the relationship between wellbeing, engagement, effective teaching and student learning. Results from CESE's analysis of this data will also help teachers and principals discuss what works to improve student outcomes. This supports the department's continuing focus on quality teaching and leadership. The data will be retained for future analysis to help us better understand the nature of student engagement and wellbeing over time.

9. Can all school students participate in the survey?

The primary school survey is designed for students in Years 4 to 6. Schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in these Year groups to participate. Secondary schools are encouraged to allow as many students as possible in Years 7 to 12 to participate.

10. When will the *Tell Them From Me* survey happen?

The surveys will be conducted in all participating schools at the end of Term 1 and (optionally) Term 3/4.



What is CESE?

The Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation (CESE) is part of the Department of Education.

CESE has been established to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and accountability of education in New South Wales.

CESE will identify and share what works, creating new opportunities to improve teaching and learning across all of education.

More information about CESE is available at: www.cese.nsw.gov.au

What is *The Learning Bar*?

The Learning Bar specialises in research-based design and facilitation of student assessments and survey solutions for both primary and secondary students. The in-house research team led by the President, Dr J Douglas Willms, undertakes extensive projects used in the school system to effect national policy. It is against this research that the survey, *Tell Them From Me*, has become the largest national school survey in Canada, used in nine of the ten provinces. More than 4,500 schools and 3.5 million Canadian students have participated in the survey over the last twelve years.

Dr Willms holds the Canada Research Chair in Literacy and Human Development and played a lead role in the development of questions on student engagement for the OECD's Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA).

For purely administrative purposes, *The Learning Bar* will also have temporary access to identifiable student responses to the survey questions. Other than *The Learning Bar* and CESE researchers within the department, identifiable student responses will not be disclosed to any other person or body other than as required by law.

More information about *The Learning Bar* is available at: www.thelearningbar.com

If you have any questions about the parent survey, please contact CESE via email: TTFM@det.nsw.edu.au or by telephone: 9561 8056 / 9561 8370.

PBL focus

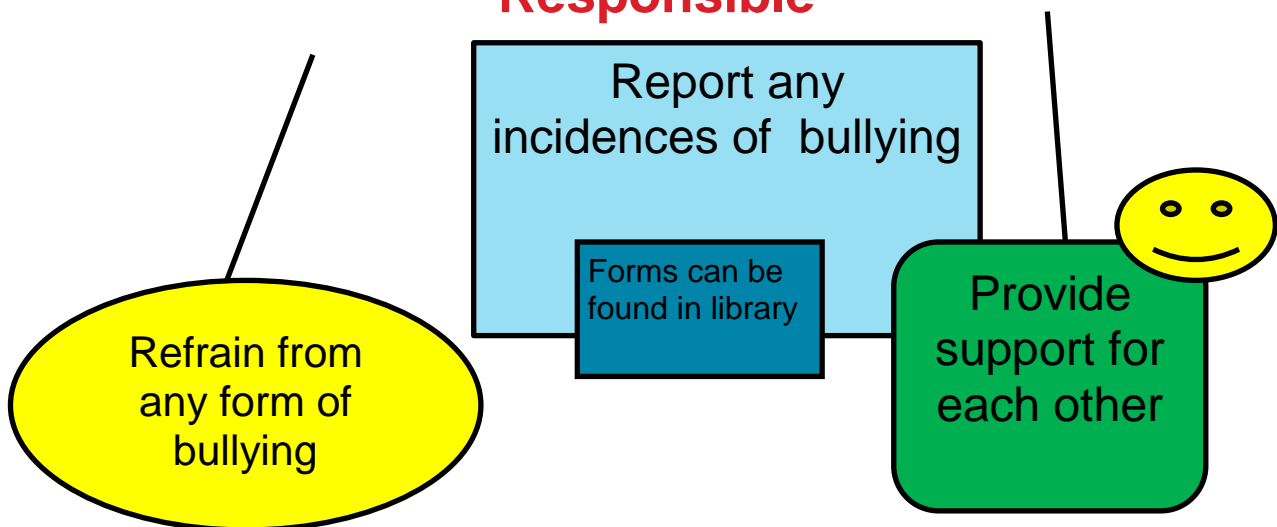
Anti bullying week

What is bullying:

- Put downs or insults, name calling, damage to a person's property, deliberate exclusion from activities, deliberately embarrassing someone, physical threats, any form of cyber harassment, physical harm.

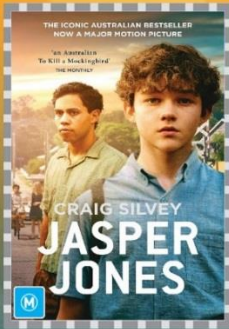


How you can be Safe , Respectful, Responsible



TOWN HALL CINEMA

*** SHOWING April 7th 2017 – 7:00pm ***



ONE SESSION ONLY

2017 PRELIMINARY HSC TEXT

PURCHASE TICKETS FROM: TICKET PRICES

- Mudgee Library – Mon 3rd to Wed 5th April between 4:00pm and 6:00pm
- School Youth Councillors
- Trivia night – Thurs 6th April
- Cinema door (if not sold out)

Adults: \$15.00
Children/Concession: \$10.00
Children under 5 years: Free

CASH SALES ONLY

For more information, visit www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au or like Mudgee Town Hall Cinema on Facebook



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MWRC Youth Council



Combined Rotary Clubs of Mudgee

TOWN HALL CINEMA

*** SHOWING April 8 & 9 2017 ***

Tickets available online from Monday 27th March

Buy Lion Tickets @

<https://www.trybooking.com/PCLN>

Buy Monster Trucks Tickets @

<https://www.trybooking.com/PCLS>



SESSION TIMES

Lion
Saturday April 8 4:30pm
Saturday April 8 7:30pm
Sunday April 9 4:30pm

Monster Trucks
Saturday April 8 11:00am
Saturday April 8 2:00pm
Sunday April 9 11:00am
Sunday April 9 2:00pm

TICKET PRICES

Adults: \$15.00
Children/Concession: \$10.00
Children under 5 years: Free

Tickets available online from Monday 27th March 2017 or at the door (if not sold out prior).
For more information, visit www.midwestern.nsw.gov.au or like Mudgee Town Hall Cinema on Facebook

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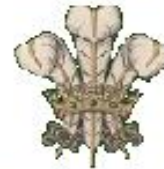
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THE 37th GULGONG



PRINCE OF WALES EISTEDDFOD
2017

COMMENCES: (SUBJECT TO No. OF ENTRANTS)

DANCE: Sunday 30th APRIL 2017

SPEECH: Friday 19th MAY 2017

MUSIC: Wednesday 24th MAY 2017

Gala Concert Friday 26th May 7pm

The Eisteddfod is open to ALL and is a wonderful opportunity to participate in a range of arts alongside others of your same age or ability, including beginners!

ENTRIES CLOSE

DANCE: 19th March 2017, 11:59pm

SPEECH: 2nd April 2017, 11:59pm

MUSIC: 2nd April 2017, 11:59pm

(NOTE: Late entries will not be accepted)

Further Information:

Copies of the 2017 Syllabus and the Entry Form are available on the website:

www.gulgongeisteddfod.com

Preferred entry is via:

<http://www.stardom.com.au>

where the 2017 Syllabus can also be accessed.

Free Trial Classes

EP PHYSI



Classes back 15/2



CUDGONG VALLEY
physical culture

Classes back 14/2



MACQUARIE RIVER
physical culture

WEDNESDAY'S MUDGEE CLASSES
Perry Hall Studios
18 Perry St (Upstairs Studio)

4.00-4.45.....3-8 yrs
4.45-5.30.....9-12 yrs
5.30-6.15.....13-16 yrs
6.15-7.00.....Ladies
7.00-7.45.....Seniors

TUESDAY'S DUBBO CLASSES
St Johns Primary School
138 Sheraton Rd

4.00-4.45.....3-8 yrs
4.45-5.30.....9-12 yrs
5.30-6.15.....Ladies
6.15-7.00.....Seniors

info@physicalculture.net.au
0417 225 948



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MUDGEE & DISTRICTS MOTORCYCLE CLUB

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THE MUDGEE SOLDIERS CLUB LIMITED

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8-APRIL
20-MAY
5-AUGUST
21-OCTOBER

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ARENA-X RACING

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RACING STARTS AT 9AM

Family fun

St John's Anglican Church, Mudgee

FAMILY BUSH DANCE

Saturday 18th March

7pm - 10pm

In the St John's Parish Hall
(Corner Church & Short Streets next to the Brewery)



Get out those dancing boots, invite your friends, and kick up your heels to the music and calling by the 'Stringy Bark Band'.

Come and join in this fun family evening.

Adults \$10 / Children \$5 (school age)

Includes a light supper

Bookings preferred (for catering)

Information & bookings contact:
Heidi Craig - 6372 0999
Judy Kurtz - 6373 5266
Helen Greenwood - 6372 9848

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