Dear Families

Strategic Plan for 2016
Staff are currently endorsing the Strategic Plan for 2016. Our planning links closely with the Strategic Plan for WA Public Schools 2016-2019 and also the ‘Focus 2016’ document.

The four priority areas of the strategic plan:
- Success for all students
- High quality teaching
- Effective leadership
- Strong governance and support

All schools are required to address these areas. They will be the focus of all discussions and planning at the classroom, learning team and whole school level. More information on how we will achieve our school targets will be shared with the community later this term after the plan has been endorsed by School Council.

P&C Association
Our P&C plays a vital role in supporting our school and over recent years has raised significant funds for the students to experience and participate in many programs and activities. These have achieved great results for our children. I was pleased to meet some new parents at the first P&C meeting for the year last night. I look forward to working closely with the P&C this year as they undertake the many plans discussed for 2016.

Road Safety around the School
I am grateful for the care that is shown by our families when dropping children off in the morning and collecting them after school. Parking is extremely limited at Darlington and it is very important that drivers adhere to the road rules and are aware of other cars and children moving around the school and footpaths at these highly congested times. Our traffic warden, Carol, is a valuable part of our school community. She assists many of our children and families who cross Glen Rd each morning and afternoon. To maximise the safety of all children and parents can I please ask all parents and children to cross the road safely using the Children’s Crossing.

Thank you to all parents who use the loop to collect students. Please observe “driver etiquette” to ensure traffic flows effectively at this collection point. Also, please be reminded that the parking area at the early learning centre is reserved for parents who have children in either K or PP and need to park in this area as they are required to collect their children from the class-room.

Faction Swimming Carnival
This Yr 1-6 school event is next Thursday 25th February at Bilgoman Pool. Please ensure you have read all the communiqués from Mrs Paula Adam (Phys Ed Specialist) and returned the information required. I am sure it will be a great day and I look forward to seeing many families cheering their children on.

Our K and PP students will be having their own “Faction Carnival” morning with tabloid activities involving water. I’ve no doubt that will be a lot of fun too.
Hot Weather
Please be assured that modifications to the teaching and learning program are implemented to support our students during long periods of hot weather. Thanks to all staff for their support of our students last week, and again today, in that less than pleasant weather!!

We are very fortunate to have all classrooms with air conditioning and I am sure our students appreciated the opportunity of having some cool respite in the library and classrooms during break times.

Remember to check your term planners and school calendars for upcoming events.

Student Leadership
It was a pleasure to watch and listen to our student leadership speeches on Friday 5th February. The quality of their presentations was outstanding. Each student who spoke displayed great courage in front of their peers and commitment to their role. Thank you to Mr Scott who co-ordinated the process and will lead the student council during 2016. Faction Captains were also. Our Faction Captains have a number of key responsibilities over the year managing sports equipment, assisting staff and leading their faction throughout the year’s sporting calendar. Library and Art Monitors have also been selected to assist staff with the set up and pack up of these two areas in our school. Congratulations to those students who were elected into leadership positions.

Student Leaders at Darlington PS
Congratulations to all those students who nominated, and congratulations to the selected students. All students are to be commended for their wonderful speeches and leadership. Whilst we cannot recognise all students in formal leadership positions, we encourage and value leadership in all our students at Darlington PS.

In 2016 we recognise the following students in Leadership positions:

**Student Councillors**
Talia B, Cooper B, Jemma H, Aliyah K, Asher M, Sammy S

**Faction Captains**

**Class Representatives**
Brooke H, Toby O, Sidney R, Room 3 TBA

**Art Monitors**
Mackenzie C, Charlie N, Jasmine P, Casey T, Jana W

**Library Monitors**

Congratulations to all of our 2016 Student Leaders
Letters and Sounds at Darlington

It’s been over a decade since converging research on beginning reading instruction has led to a clearer understanding of the skills that lead to success with reading and writing and how children learn to read. The five key skills identified are phonological awareness, letter-sound knowledge (phonics), fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. (Australian National Inquiry into the Teaching of Literacy, DEST, 2005).

At Darlington Primary School we are also responding to the resounding research around Synthetic Phonics Instruction Programs. Always looking for the most effective ways to teach and meet the needs of our students we have been using Jolly Phonics successfully for a number of years. To further support the needs of our students, staff in the Early Learning Centre (ELC) and in Year 1 have begun to undertake professional learning in ‘Letters and Sounds’ - an evidence based multi-sensory systematic phonics instruction program. The research supporting this program along with anecdotal evidence from other WA schools, indicates that Letters and Sounds works to develop our children as critical readers, as well as decoders and it can be used alongside our Jolly Phonics resources.

Last year the Literacy Committee directed a large amount of spending to extend the PM readers from the ELC, into Year 1 classrooms and we also purchased a number of the Dandelion (Phonics Based) readers to support our young students in learning to read. This year we will continue to build on these resources moving into Year 2 and 3, to support the fantastic phonics based learning programs at Darlington.

For any inquiries about your child’s literacy contact the classroom teacher. If you have a query about the School Plan at Darlington please Contact, Nicki Hill – Deputy Principal.

Fundraiser for Yarloop

Many thanks to all who contributed to the “Y” money chain last Friday. Over $370 was raised. I spoke directly to the Principal of Yarloop Primary, who was very grateful for our kind donation. The donation has been placed in the Lord Mayors Appeal fund.

Faction Swimming Carnival

Our Faction Swimming Carnival will be held at Bilgoman Pool on Thursday the 25th of February.

Thank you to all parents and students who have submitted their nomination forms. We are still needing a number of parent volunteers to assist with junior races, place judging and ribbon presenting. If you are able to assist even for a short time it would be much appreciated.

Looking forward to an exciting day down at the pool!

Ms Adam, Physical Education
Relationship Australia’s upcoming courses

**Parent-Child Connection** - Wednesday 9 March x 4 weeks - 6.30-9pm $50 per person/$75 per couple
Raising children should be one of life’s greatest experiences, but as any parent knows, it is not an easy task. People with children under ten are invited to this four-week course to learn new skills, feel better about their parenting and gain confidence. For further information please 6164 0200.

**Successful Single Parenting** - Wednesday 30 March – 6.30-9pm $25.
People become single parents through a range of life choices and circumstances. Parenting alone is different in many ways compared to a two parent household and can have its difficulties and challenges. Whatever the challenges it is important to live your life in ways that shows your children you are happy. This will help them accept and value their lifestyle. If you are a single parent and are through that initial break-up stage this course will provide strategies that will help you develop a close and special relationship with your child. For further information please 6164 0200.

**Understanding Stepfamily Relationships** – a weekend course 1 2 3 April - $75 per person/$120 per couple.
Stepfamilies and blended families operate in a different way to intact biological families. The dynamics of a stepfamily are more complex and there is a need for special understanding and management from both biological and stepparents working together for a healthy stepfamily growth to happen. For further information please 6164 0200.
Head Lice Check
Please be aware we have had some recent cases of head lice. Please check your children and treat if necessary. Children with head lice are required to have their hair cleared of lice before returning to school.

This can be achieved by using an insecticide product purchased from the local pharmacy and used according to the manufacturer’s instruction. This must be followed by physically removing the lice from the hair after the recommended time period using a special nit comb.

Hair will need to be checked on a daily basis for the following 10 days to ensure that all lice and eggs have been removed from the hair. Refer to the Department of Health, head lice fact sheet at www.public.health.wa.gov.au

Art Room Help
If you would like to help out in the Art Room. I am always appreciative of parents who can assist with mounting the children’s art work.

This can be done Mon/Tues morning 8.30—9.30am in the Art Room, or at another time (in another venue) to suit you.

If you can help please see me in the Art Room Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday or leave a message at the office.

Thank you
Helen Bycroft

Darlington Auskick and Junior Footy Registrations for 2016

Auskick and Junior Football registrations for 2016 are now open online.

Please see Darlington Junior Football Club website for details. There will also be a Registration Day on Sunday 21st Feb from 9am at Darlington oval. Online registrations are encouraged. Fee payments can be made on Registration Day or via Internet banking (see website for account number and please use your child’s surname as the reference).

Cost is $90 for Auskick and $100 for juniors. New members welcome. Boys and girls encouraged to play.

For any enquiries about registration please contact:
Maddie: registrar@darlingtonjf.com.au
General enquiries to:
Andrea: president@darlingtonjfc.com.au
Due to the overwhelming sales late last year and early this year our Polo stock was wiped out!!

Unfortunately due to being manufactured offshore the production times on Polos are around 3 months and they were expected to arrive last week but they have since been pushed back a further 2 weeks!

Many apologies to those parents who are patiently waiting on Polo’s.

Please be assured that as soon as they arrive we will deliver them to your child’s classroom or if you would like to make other arrangements contact us by email at dpsuniform@gmail.com

In other news, our new Faction Polos have arrived and will be available at a cost of $24 as of Friday this week!! Those in Green faction will be pleasantly surprised with the new colour!!

We are currently phasing out our old Faction T-shirts at $5 (which is well below cost) to make room for our new Sun Smart Polos. These will still be permitted to be worn as part of the uniform this year however as of next year they would only be permitted to be worn during sport sessions and not as part of regular uniform.

Order now through www.flexischools.com.au

Consider buying a larger size to use as an Art shirt to help us recoup some of the costs with the changeover!!

Regards,
Jasmine Wittber
School Banking Day Changes!

After six years of holding school banking at Darlington Primary on a Friday the day is changing!

From next week, banking will be held on a Thursday instead. Dates are therefore banking as usual this Friday 19th February and then Thursday 25th February and every Thursday after.

We have a range of exciting rewards this year with the theme being Outback Savers and a great competition to win an adventure holiday with a trip to Australia Zoo. Children will automatically be entered into the competition when they make 15 deposits by the end of term 3. Most children will get two entries if they bank regularly!

It is easy to start your child off with school banking and the best way is to take your child’s birth certificate and some ID for yourself to a branch and open a Youthsaver account.

The bank will open the account immediately and your child can start banking the next week at school.

Every deposit with the school earns a 5% return which is paid directly to your P&C.

Come in and see Janine or myself this Friday or every Thursday after to find out how to start your child/ren with saving habits that may last a lifetime. School banking is held in the school Library from 8.15am to 9am every week.

Jodie Snow, School Banking Coordinator.
School Sundowner - All Families Welcome
5pm, Friday 11 March

The P and C warmly invites all families to come along to the annual Sundowner on the school oval. This event is held at the beginning of each year and is an opportunity to catch up with and meet school families.

This year there will be a juke box and games. Families can bring a picnic or pre-order hot beef rolls. Cold drinks will be available on the night. The year 6 class are doing delicious desserts as a fundraising activity for their own projects.

Exciting plans for the redevelopment of the school grounds will also be available to view at the Sundowner, and you can identify which grounds projects you think are the highest priority to get underway.

This year's Sundowner will be coordinated by Steph Scott, who will need some willing helpers with setup from 4pm, running games and with the pack up afterwards. If you can lend a hand contact Steph Scott at brendon.steph@iinet.net.

Hope to see you there!
CLASS FRIENDSHIP LISTS

The P&C coordinates Class Friendship Lists at the beginning of each year. The idea is that names and contact details for each child can be made available to their classmates, and to P&C representatives to enable parents and children to contact their classmates outside of school (e.g. for play dates and parties) and occasionally to disseminate P&C information. Some classes also like to arrange parent get togethers or school holiday park catch ups.

The information you provide is not compulsory and you should only include details you are happy to share with the children and parents in your class. We ask that you take a few minutes to fill out this form and return it to your eldest child’s class or the office. The details will be collated and class lists will be emailed out to you by the parent representative for your child’s class.

If preferred, you can email the information below to Anna McDonald at mcdonald.clan@bigpond.com

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INFORMATION FOR CLASS FRIENDSHIP LIST

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Please complete your preferred contact details below with option of adding second parent/carer details

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Initiative, Trust, Tolerance