Dear Families

Thank you for your ongoing support in all that we do at Darlington Primary to make our school the wonderful place that it is.

FAMILY SUNDOWNER

What a wonderful evening it was on Friday night – it was great to see so many families enjoying the evening. The weather was fantastic, the hot beef rolls were scrumptious and the sweets provided by the parents of our Year 6 students were delicious. It was also wonderful to see the exciting plans to develop and revamp our school playgrounds. We look forward to seeing these come to fruition over the coming months. Thanks to our P & C and staff who contributed to make this annual event a great success.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAY

At our recent School Development Day staff had a very busy day. We reviewed implementation requirements of the Australian Curriculum; collaboratively planned using the Western Australia Syllabus; developed our new Reporting and Assessment Policy and presented information gained from professional learning courses that individual staff had attended.

Staff also discussed the results of our recent Parent Satisfaction Survey. Thank you to all parents who completed this. The survey identified our strengths as a school with: strong community support and a great community “feel”; the individual support and care provided for children by our staff and the quality of individual teachers. The areas identified as needing to be addressed were: consistency in communication, behaviour management and delivery of curriculum, parent awareness of current educational trends, our approach to bullying, certain programs and the upkeep of our grounds.

Communication in all schools is often an area of difficulty. We currently provide a fortnightly email which is emailed to all families and sent through the Skoolbag app. We are currently updating our website and hope that this will be ready by the end of Term 1. We will continue to use the Skoolbag app for important alerts and reminders. Teachers are trialling various forms of communication including; the use of diaries, class Dojo and Connect.

Our School Council and P & C are vital communication links also. I encourage all parents to attend P & C meetings and / or council meetings or liaise with our P & C and School Council members. Our current School Council members who represent various aspects of our school community are: Belinda Foster (Council Chair and Early Childhood); Francine Bell (P&C); Deanne Wright (Community); Lisa Jackson (Primary) and Joanne Barrett (Parent). An Information Evening outlining the Role & Purpose of School Council is planned for early next term. Everyone will be welcome.

We are currently finalising the review of our Student Engagement Policy which will replace our previous Behaviour Management Policy. This will reflect the requirements of the department’s current Student Behaviour Policy and Procedures. The draft of this document has been presented to School Council for comment and will be made available to the school community once completed and endorsed by Council.

To assist parents with information about current educational trends, I encourage you to visit the Western Australian Department of Education’s website: http://www.education.wa.edu.au/home/detcms/portal/ and the Schools’ Curriculum and...
Standards Authority website: http://www.scsa.wa.edu.au/ These websites provide information about our departments initiatives and outlines mandatory requirements in the delivery of curriculum, assessment and reporting.

**HILLS EDUCATION COMMUNITY (HEC) EVENTS**

**PUBLIC SPEAKING**

Congratulations to the students who were selected to represent their classes at our recent “in house” competition. All children presented their poems and speeches demonstrating excellent preparation and confidence. Thanks to our judges: Mr Melrose, Chaplain Tracey and Mr Scott. Their job was very difficult. The winners were: Juniors: Sophia Morrison and Seniors: Ailyah Kuchel.

Last Wednesday 9th March, Sophie and Ailyah competed in the HEC interschool completion at Gidgegannup Primary. Congratulations to both Sophie and Ailyah for their wonderful presentations and to all the students who took part. It was wonderful to see the enthusiasm of all the students involved.

This week we have two interschool events:

**T-20 CRICKET**

Our inaugural T-20 cricket teams (Boys and Girls) were very excited and enthusiastic about taking part in this national competition at Glen Forrest Oval today. For some of our students it was their first experience of playing a game of competitive cricket in a fun and social setting. All players had to bowl and bat! Congratulations to our girls team who have now won and will represent the hills in the District competition in October. Also congratulations to our boys who got pipped by 10 runs in the final but displayed outstanding sportsmanship and conduct all day.

**INTER-SCHOOL SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Congratulations to all students selected in this team to participate at Mt Helena Primary this Thursday. Special thanks to Magda, one of our grandparents, who has been training our enthusiastic swimmers in the mornings at Bilgoman Pool. Thanks to all parents for your support with supervision and transport. Good luck to everyone. I am sure your behaviour and sportsmanship will be exemplary as always.

Thanks to Mrs Adam and Mr Scott for your coordination of both the T-20 and Swimming events this week.

**INDEPENDENT PUBLIC SCHOOL**

Mrs Woodley (Substantive Principal of DPS), Mrs D’Arcy (Manager of Corporate Services at DPS) Belinda Foster (Chair of DPS School Council) and I have recently attended briefing sessions on this initiative. Information was presented to School Council last night and will be presented to staff at this week’s Staff Meeting. As mentioned previously, it is important that the entire school community is part of the consultation process. As such an open community forum is planned for an evening in the final week of this term. More information will be provided once a date is finalised.

**NATIONAL DAY of ACTION AGAINST BULLYING**

The National Day of Action is this Friday 18 March. Teachers will be discussing with students the definition of “bullying” and the importance of asking for help when incidents occur so that we can help them to be resilient and resolve any ongoing social conflict issues they may be having.

I encourage all parents to visit the http://www.bullyingnoway.gov.au website as well as the eSafety website. There is some excellent information for students and parents relating to appropriate actions of being a good bystander and also social media matters such as:

- considering the impact of their actions when posting photos and comments;
- being ‘good’ bystanders if they witness cyber bullying;

**HARMONY DAY**

We are looking forward to our inaugural Harmony Day assembly, next Monday 21st March. Harmony Day is about celebrating our cultural diversity and remembering that “everyone belongs”. Dr Noel Nannup has confirmed his availability to open the assembly and address the students. Students have been participating in relevant class activities and there will be a selection of work on display. There will also be representatives from staff, students and parents who will share their personal stories of life in Australia. Our Harmony Day Assembly will be held in the Undercover Area starting at 8.50am.

Students are encouraged to wear:

- traditional costumes representing their country of origin
- a T-shirt which depicts their country (flag, name, map - no other slogans)
- orange T-shirt or clothing (orange is the traditional colour for Harmony Day)
- their Darlington Primary School uniform

We welcome your attendance at this wonderful assembly to celebrate the cultural diversity that helps to make our school such a wonderful place.

**EASTER BONNET PARADE**

This annual event will take place on Thursday 24th March at 8.50am. Special thanks to the P & C for their ongoing support with prizes acknowledging the great creativity of our students and parents. Further details about the making of the bonnets will be provided later in the week.

**SWIMMING PP-Year 6**

Our in term swimming will start immediately after the Easter break. Please return your child/ren’s information ASAP.

Due to the Easter break our next newsletter will be on Wednesday the 30th of March.

Have a wonderful break. Enjoy some time with family and friends. Keep safe.

Maree James, Principal
French Club

Students have been invited to join the Darlington Primary School French Club which will operate in the library each Friday on the second half of lunch-time.

This is an opportunity for them to appreciate French music, a French cartoon, French books, practice Language Perfect or just to spend some time asking the teacher more about France and the French-speaking world. From time to time there may be an opportunity to create some French craft, food or skit. With only one hour per week in the classroom studying French, this club time will allow students who wish to extend their French some special time.

Regards
Madame’ Teti

School Contributions and Charges

Thank you to all the parents who have already made payments.

If you have not already paid for your students Voluntary Contributions and Subscriptions, you are encouraged to do so.

Payments can be made in the office, on flexischools or via your child’s class teacher.

Payments can be made by; cash, cheque or EFTPOS.

(Payment by flexischools will incur a 1.82% fee)

Thank you

The Mundaring Arts Centre

The Mundaring Arts Centre is excited to announce a new partnership with the City of Swan which has enabled us to offer visual art and animation workshops in Ellenbrook and Midland from now until July. There is a full program of classes for young people, plus professional development workshops for adults.

Check out the full program of workshops by visiting www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/workshops-events/ - events/

Animation Workshops

Look out! Renowned animator, Steven Aiton is coming to Midland and Ellenbrook to share his amazing stop-motion animation skills, utilising mobile digital technology. Starting Sat 19 and Sun 20 March children are invited to join in the fun, design their own characters and create a series of looped, short films.

Visual Arts Workshops

Children aged 3 - 5 or 5 - 8 years are invited to join Louise Cook and immerse themselves in a world of imagination through a variety of painting, storytelling, drawing, printmaking, sculpture and textile activities. Parents are also encouraged to participate to share the joy of their children’s activities.

But if a little alone time is needed, there are also adult workshops with professional artists from the Swan Valley.

Check out the full program of workshops by visiting: www.mundaringartscentre.com.au/workshops-events/ - events/

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2016 JOONDALUP EISTEDDFORD—REGISTRATIONS NOW OPEN

The Joondalup Eisteddfod returns for its 28th year at Sacred Heart Performing Arts Centre 28 May—19 June 2016, culminating in a Showcase Concert on Sunday 26 June 2016.

The City of Joondalup provides the local community with a variety of events including music competitions such as the Joondalup Eisteddfod. The Joondalup Eisteddfod is a great way for local schools to be involved in one of Western Australia’s largest Performing Arts Showcases. The Joondalup Eisteddfod offers participants the opportunity to perform to a live audience, receive feedback from professional adjudicators and a chance to win a share of $6000 in awards and prizes.

Entries can be completed on the City of Joondalup Website Joondalup.wa.gov.au via the Stardom website. All entries must be received by 4.00pm Tuesday 26 April 2016.

For more information please visit the City of Joondalup website or call 08 9400 4705

IN TERM SWIMMING LESSONS START IN 2 WEEKS

Keep an eye out for swimming notes as these have all been given out to students yesterday. I have attached a scanned copy of the swimming notes to this email.

Our lessons will be for 8 days following the Easter long weekend with our first lesson on Wednesday the 30th of March.

Please remember to label everything for swimming as we always seem to have items in our lost property box when lessons are over.

Cash payments can be made to the classrooms, eftpos to the office and will soon be available for payment on: www.flexischools.com.au

Australian Government

Harmony Day
21 March

Everyone Belongs
www.harmony.gov.au

Initiative, Trust, Tolerance
The value of children’s music:

Good children’s songs are a precious educational resource. A song has twice the potential to impact as it contains both melody and lyrics. A good kids song can:

- encourage a love of singing
- help develop reading skills
- introduce poetic rhyme in a fun way
- teach a sense of rhythm
- incorporate movement with music
- be rich and beautiful – create a sense of awe
- introduce children to the sound of real instruments
- inspire children to learn an instrument
- be timeless – and like folk music be handed down to the next generation
- become a common language that can bring children together in a joyous sing-along
- integrate in to other curriculum areas e.g. drama classes, physical education (phys ed or PE)
- specific songs can be used to reinforce concepts in maths, science, history etc.
- a good song is a combination of music and poetry

Most people easily see the value in a good book, with an engaging story accompanied by engaging pictures. But consider a good song. It is an engaging poem accompanied by an engaging melody, and if on CD, with the added bonus of an arrangement of musical instruments and a voice.

Our school is proud to announce that all of the above will be incorporated in a music concert of huge proportions when Peter Combe comes to Darlington on Tuesday May 17 2016. Peter is a well known (and favourite of many) children’s songwriter who will entertain our students (and no doubt adults) with a concert here next term. There will be much audience involvement with singing, actions, clapping and moving to many of the songs.

Peter says “As an experienced ex-teacher my main aim is to stimulate and extend children's natural love of singing. Having done this now for a long time, one of my greatest joys is when a parent tells me that their child now plays the violin, sings in a choir, plays in a band, has joined a drama group etc partly because they came to one of my concerts. There is no greater reward than that.”

More details will be announced as the concert draws nearer…..the excitement builds!

Stewart Melrose
(Music Specialist)
A WONDERFUL EVENING WITH FRIENDS

The Sundowner was a lovely evening last Friday and it was great to see so many families enjoying the night. The kids seemed to have a blast dancing and generally running around! A big thank you to Jasmine and Nevin Wittber for organising and serving those delicious roast beef rolls. Thank you to Jodie and John Snow for helping on the night too.

I appreciate everyone’s help along the way in organising the evening and especially to Kym, Allison and Kylie—thankyou! Lastly thankyou Mrs James and Mr Scott for all your running around behind the scenes.

Uniform Shop

New faction polos have arrived!

$24 each — Order now through www.flexischools.com.au

SUNDOWNER

BOOK CLUBS

Another great issue from Scholastic Book Club is out now! You can order and pay online through scholastic.com.au/LOOP. Alternatively, you can place your order form and payment in the Book Club box located in the office.

If you would like to take advantage of some of the great offers in this issue, please remember that orders are due by March 21st. Any questions, call or text Melinda Peters on 0416 968 789 or email me at minkpeters@gmail.com.

Pure Western Australian Honey
Hakea Honeybrush

$10 tub
Available from the office

P & C Fundraiser