Dear Darlington Families

Thanks also to everyone for your support of the Parent Information sessions held over the past two weeks. As per our Strategic Plan, we believe that our children will be successful when the school and community work together to focus on the academic, physical, social and emotional development of our children. Everything we do is evaluated in relation to the impact on student learning and social and emotional wellbeing. Please remember to liaise with your child’s class teacher if you have any queries or concerns regarding any aspect of their learning.

EVAC PRAC

Congratulations to all staff and students for an excellent Evac Prac last week. Given that our Kindergarten students had only been at school for three days, it was an outstanding achievement to have everyone in the Covered Assembly Area within seven minutes. The DFES Media unit filmed the proceedings and interviewed some students. They commended the behaviour of the students and also their knowledge and responsiveness to the importance of such procedures. It is likely that the footage will feature on the DFES website in coming weeks.

FACTION SWIMMING CARNIVAL

We are all looking forward to the Faction Swimming Carnival this Thursday at Bilgoman Pool. Thank you to Mr McCormack for his planning. Please ensure you have returned your child/ren’s nomination forms so that everyone can be included in events appropriate to their capabilities. The weather looks like being perfect. Thank you to all parents who have offered to assist on the day. Good luck to all competitors. Our Kindergarten and Pre-primary students will get in the spirit too by having some fun Faction water activities on the lawn at the ELC. I am sure it will be a great day for all.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

All students are busy preparing for our Public Speaking competition next week. Yr 1-3 will be presenting a poem and Yrs 4-6 will be presenting a 2-minute oral presentation on a topic of their choice. All classes will conduct heats to select 2 representatives for the ‘In-School’ competition on Wednesday 1st March. The winners of this day will go on to represent the school at the HEC Interschool competition on Wednesday 8th March. Good luck to everyone.

LAP CLUB

Well done to all students (and teachers and parents) who have been participating in our Lap Club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Club operates on Tuesday and Thursday mornings, from 8.35am. Students complete laps of the cross country course around the perimeter of the school site, to improve their stamina and fitness and gain points for their Factions.

CODE CLUB

Thank you to Mark McNeil who has kindly volunteered his time again this year to coordinate the Darlington Primary Code Club. This will begin next Thursday 2nd March after school in the library. There are some places available for new members. Please see information elsewhere in the newsletter.

KIND DONATION

Sincere thanks to Mrs Todd for her kind donation of a keyboard for our music resources. Her children were students of Darlington Primary in the 70’s. I am sure our students will be very appreciative of this kind gesture.
RESPECTFUL ROAD USE
Thank you for demonstrating respectful road use and being considerate and aware of our student and parent pedestrians around the school. Parents are advised that the car park adjacent to the school office (off Amherst Av) is not to be used as a drop off or pick up point for students. This is a safety issue, as the parking area is routinely used by buses delivering and collecting students for out-of-school care as well as by visitors to the school.

Please be patient and do not overtake cars waiting to enter the Loop (on Amherst Avenue) – this is extremely dangerous to vehicles exiting the Loop and the ELC. When using the Loop, please be considerate of other users by not holding up the queue if your children are not ready, and by allowing vehicles that are exiting to enter the flow of traffic, especially if they are trying to ‘go around again’.

Students and parents entering and exiting the school on Glen Road are reminded to use the crossing. This is the safest place to cross and our Traffic Warden is employed to assist you. Families are reminded to observe correct parking practises on both Glen Road and Amherst Avenue. Traffic rangers have been asked to visit the school at peak times, morning and afternoon, and assist drivers to make safe choices with road use, inclusive of speed limits and parking practices.

REGULAR ATTENDANCE
Thank for supporting your children, to maintain or improve their attendance as we focus on increasing the number of students achieving ‘Regular Attendance’. Whilst our attendance is “generally very good” the number of students who do not achieve ‘Regular Attendance’ is below our target. ‘Regular Attendance’ means students have maintained attendance above 90% throughout the school year (on average they have not missed more than one day per fortnight). Attendance lower than this, is deemed to place students at educational risk. This includes students who are absent whilst on family holidays. I appreciate that circumstances sometimes present themselves but such absences are recorded as “unauthorised”. It is critical to establish good attendance habits, as these form good habits throughout future school years. Thank you for ensuring notification of all absences is provided, as this is a legal requirement.

In closing, I look forward to seeing everyone at our annual Sundowner on Friday afternoon/evening. The weather looks like it will be perfect for a lovely summer’s evening relaxing with family and friends. Our wonderful P & C have planned some great entertainment and yummy food. Hope you can make it. Please see details elsewhere in the newsletter.

Maree James
Principal

New Members – Darlington Primary Code Club
We have five spots available in our after school Code Club. This is held in the library from 3:15 to 4:30 on Thursdays beginning March 2nd and will continue until the end of the year.

Coding creates nearly every technology we use from gaming, movies, smart phones, vehicle functions, and the web. Coding itself provides a very logical and systematic approach to problem solving and there are many studies pointing to its learning benefits for young people.

In addition to learning mathematical and computational ideas (such as variables and conditionals), students are also learning strategies for solving problems, designing projects, and communicating ideas: https://www.edsurge.com/news/2013-05-08-learn-to-code-code-to-learn

If your child is interested in learning coding, please call Mark McNeil on 0423 016 765. We can only take the first five students whose parents contact me, but we will put together a waiting list if there is enough demand. We look forward to hearing from you.

Faction Swimming Carnival
Our Faction Swimming Carnival will be held at Bilgoman Pool on Thursday the 23rd of February.

Thank you to all the parents and students who have submitted their nomination forms.

We are still needing parent volunteers from years 1 and 2 to assist with the 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!

Mr McCormack,
Physical Education
Darlington Junior Football Club

Our club promotes participation, enjoyment, fun and fitness and strives to provide opportunities for players of all abilities to reach their potential.

Darlington Junior football Club maintains a strong focus on being a social, family oriented club.

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Please follow the links.

Auskick - Pre Primary - Year 2
Juniors - Year 2 - Year 6

Enquiries 0406 497 014

Kind Regards
Emma Reid, Secretary DJFC
The Chaplaincy program is for the whole community, the Chaplain is here to support, encourage and journey with the school community. This can be achieved through individual support, through programs, and through events at the school. The role of the Chaplain is to be a listening ear to help and support students and the whole school community.

I have a letter box which is located in admin. Students can be referred to see the Chaplain through their teachers, admin and the Students Services Team. Students can also self-refer (request to see me). If you do not want your child to be involved in the Chaplaincy program can you please let the school know.

Just a reminder of what is happening this term:

Craft Group
Craft Group is on Thursday’s the second half of lunch in the library. Craft Group is for years one to six. Children can just attend as they like.

There is a selection of items for children to create with. Craft Group will start on Thursday the 2ns of March. Come along and see what you can create.

Girls Group
Girls Group is on every second Monday (even weeks) in the library afterschool. We started on Monday 20 February. It is on from 3.10pm-4.00pm.

Girls Group is for girls in Year 4-6 and will focus on self-esteem, identity, friendships and embracing who they are. Students will need permission to attend. Forms will be in the newsletter and near the Chaplains letterbox in admin. There is no cost for this program.

Zumba Kids*
Yes Zumba® will be on again this year. Yeah!

Zumba Kids® will commence in term two on Thursday afternoons. Zumba Kids® is a dance-based program for students from K-Year 6

- K-Year 3 will begin at 3.05pm and finish at 4pm.
- Year 4-6 will begin at 4.00pm to 4.45pm.

This will of course depend on numbers. Zumba kids® will be in the undercover area. Please check the newsletter for more information.

There is a small fee to attend Zumba Kids® and students will need a permission form.

Enrolment forms for Zumba Kids® will be available this term in week eight (in the newsletter).

My thought for the fortnight:

A good laugh and a long sleep are the two best cures for anything.

Tracey Buckley
School Chaplain
SUNDOWNER THIS FRIDAY – CLEAR YOUR CALENDAR!

This Friday’s Sundowner is shaping up to be a great night. We hope to see a good show of families & friends to enjoy the fruits of the P&C’s hard work. Roast Beef Rolls and Roast Veggie Rolls are now live in Flexischools (only $3.50 each) or BYO picnic. Ice cream, coffee, drinks and few extra rolls available for sale.

Don’t forget a cushion or two to soften the amphitheatre seats. Check out the fb page for updates (search for DPS Welcome Sundowner).

Lots of Helpers Needed!

Election Day Fundraiser - Saturday 11 March

Election Day is a great opportunity to raise money for our kids from a captive audience coming along to the School to cast their vote. The P&C will be running both a cake stall and sausage sizzle throughout the day.

How can I help?

Many hands make light work, there are a number of ways to lend a hand:

- Volunteer your time on the roster to help set up / staff the stall on election day any time between 7am - 3pm, or to collect/ package cakes on the afternoon of Friday 10, 2.30 - 4pm.

- Bake a cake/slice – something yummy to sell on the day – get thinking about your favourite recipes and prepare to drop off baked goodies at the school canteen from 2.30pm on Friday 10 March.

Further information is to come, including how to sign up for the roster. In the meantime if you have any questions or would like to offer your help please contact:

Sally Jackson - sally.jackson@uwa.edu.au or Roz Lipscombe - rozlipscombe@bigpond.com or 0432 369 141

FAIRY LIGHTS / BUNTING NEEDED !!

The P&C is looking for loans of fairy lights, bunting and croquet/bocce to help with the ambience. If you can lend these please label them well and drop off at the front office before Friday morning, or call Rosie 0412275518.

Ro would love some help in the kitchen on Thursday if anyone is up for a couple of hours of cooking joy! Any time you can offer would be great no matter how small. Email her at darlingtonprimarypnc@gmail.com

SCHOOL CALENDARS

Our wonderful P&C put together a school calendar for each of our families (handed to the oldest sibling) These were handed out on the last day of school. Big thank you to Lynne Dullard for this year’s edition.

We give one calendar per family. If you have received more than one can you please return an extras to the office. If you missed out on getting one, please come to the office to collect a copy.