FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME TO OUR 2015 SCHOOL YEAR.

On behalf of the members of our School Community, I take the opportunity to welcome all those new to Darling Heights School. Besides the 84 Prep Students so far enrolled, we also welcome 40 new children in various grades. We know that the children and their families will quickly become part of our Darling Heights family. Also to our Darling Heights family, we welcome new staff members: Mrs Sally Conolly, Miss Karen Grieve, Mr Paul Keen, Mrs Angie Johnson, Helen……… And Elizabeth White as well as welcoming back Mr Awlyn Powell from leave. We know they will settle quickly into our school.

The start of this year has been exceptionally smooth and all credit goes to Teachers and our Support Staff who have ensured our well-oiled machine has quickly catered for and accommodated all students. At this time, I would like to provide a special thanks to the support staff within our cleaning and grounds areas. During the past week, Lee, Brett, Giles, Denise, Linda, Gladys, Pauline and Lorene have worked tirelessly to transform our buildings and grounds into a state where they are welcoming to our children. Hāving been closed up for 5 weeks our grounds and buildings were in need of some tender loving care, which these folk have provided.

This being our first Cooee for the year, it includes many of the initial pieces of information we believe parents need to know to assist them in understanding the operations of our school. If there are any further questions that may arise or information that you would like to know about our school, please make contact with your Classroom Teacher, Administration Staff or myself.

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS WISHES

I take the opportunity to pass on my special thanks to all children and parents who provided Christmas wishes and on occasions, gifts to me at the end of the year. I very much appreciated your gestures and it makes me feel very welcome at Darling Heights.

POSSIBLE CLASS REORGANISATION

2015 enrolments are currently being finalised as are discussions with Education Queensland regarding the teachers we will finally be allocated as a result of our student enrolment. It is too early to predict what will result as we chase up children who as yet have not returned to school.

Can I please remind parents of the information provided at the end of last year which was that whatever arrangements we put in place for the start of this year would only be tentative until we finalised our actual 2015 enrolment. At best, we could only estimate how many students we would have and early indications are that our enrolments have increased and we will need to reorganise some classes to cater for this increased enrolment.

I am asking all parents to be aware and make their children aware that current class arrangements are tentative until we confirm 2015 enrolments. Prepare them for any change and they will not be surprised if it does happen.

I apologise in advance for any inconvenience to children who may be settling with their new teacher, however, enrolments are a factor we have very little control over. All parents can expect communication as we look at making any changes.

If change needs to occur, we hope to have it done no later than the beginning of Week 3.

In the meantime, should you know of parents who are looking to enrol children into primary schools, please have them contact us.

SCHOOL STARTING TIME

This year we have an even greater expectation that children will be at school on time ready to start their day. School starts at 8.45am.

Lateness not only disrupts the learning of individual children, it also disrupts teachers and other students as those late make their way in and then have been caught up for what they have missed. School starts at 8.45am & children need be here earlier than that to get ready for the day.

It is important that all parents realise that children need to be at school for the maximum amount of time available to ensure quality learning can occur. Any absence can have an impact on a child’s overall learning. Students arriving at School before 8.00am are to report to CPA1 where they remain until dismissed by School Staff.

Again, welcome, new and returning students and their families to Darling Heights State School, a truly wonderful place.

Until next week,

Mark
SCHOOL BOOKLISTS
At this stage, it is hoped that all children have all necessary items as per our School Booklists in order to fully participate in school activities. Booklists are still available from the Office.

It is recognised that school starts can be expensive for parents, however, the longer children are without essential items, the greater the potential it has to disadvantage their learning. Should parents have any problems in accessing items on the booklist, please talk with your classroom teachers.

LUNCHES
As always it is a challenge for parents to provide lunches that their children “want or enjoy” to eat.

We do ask that all parents in providing healthy lunches refrain from sending soft drinks and lollies to school with children. Children require well-balanced nutritious food to ensure that their energy levels convert to concentration throughout our school day.

PEANUT ALLERGIES
While on the topic of food, it is important for our School Community to be aware of the fact that in society and currently in schools, there are some folk who have allergies to peanut products. Contact with such products can cause serious allergic reactions and at worst can cause death.

We can be understanding of and supporting of these allergies in a number of ways:

Firstly: All children need to be encouraged not to swap their food. Younger children may not be aware that they have allergies and as such, symptoms may come upon them with little warning.

Secondly: Parents who are sending peanut products to school, especially peanut butter sandwiches, need to tell their children that others can have serious allergic reactions if eating this food and advise them not to swap such food and to dispose of properly if not eating.

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.

PARKING
No parent parking or picking up of students is permitted within the School Grounds. ALL 2014 permits have now ceased and will not be re-issued for 2015. If you have special reason for needing to park in the grounds, please contact the Office.

SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES
I am sure that all parents are aware that the maximum speed around schools is 40 kph. Police regularly patrol these areas to ensure that motorists abide by this speed direction.

Naturally it is important to us that motorists respect this lower speed zone as it enhances the safety of all people who are arriving and exiting our school.

Within our school zone we also have school crossings manned before and after school by staff. All children are to use these crossings and parents are encouraged to do so as well. Parents are the greatest role models for children and should they be using crossings then children will most likely do so as well.

VEHICLES IN SCHOOL GROUNDS
By way of safety, parents are reminded that parking within the school is limited to school staff and parents of children enrolled in our Special Education Program.

Safe drop-off zones are provided in Wuth Street and Platz Street for children to enter our grounds.

Ample marked parking is available in Wuth Street for parents wishing to accompany their children to the grounds.

School Crossings are marked in both Wuth and Platz Streets and must be used by parents and children.

WEARING A BICYCLE HELMET
Queensland law requires that everyone must wear a helmet when riding a bike. Helmets help protect bike riders from head injuries and can save lives. When buying a helmet it must:-

- Have the Australian Standards mark - TM AS 2063, AS/NZS 2063
- Fit firmly and comfortably on the person’s head and shouldn’t be able to move in any direction.
- Have adjustable straps so there is no slack when they are fastened.

Helmets come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours and some will fit better than others. A correctly fitted and securely adjusted helmet should not move. A helmet that does not fit correctly is unsafe and it may move or slip off in a fall or crash.

SCHOOL TIMES
Bell Times: Parents and children are reminded that school commences at Darling Heights State School at 8.45am. At this time, the first bell rings signalling that children are to enter classes.

The full schedule of lunch times, both morning tea and big lunch is as follows:

- 8.45 am First Bell and School starts
- 10.45 am Morning Tea
- 11.20 am Signal bell to return to class
- 11.25 am Class resumes
- 1.25 pm Afternoon break
- 2.00 pm Signal bell to return to class
- 2.05 pm Class resumes
- 3.00 pm End of Day

Our School Day concludes at 3.00pm.

It is essential that children arrive at school on time and remain at school until school finishes at 3.00pm. Early departures from school not only disrupt the learning of the child who leaves but also disturb the remaining children in class.

If possible, please make medical appointments for your children outside of school hours so that they gain the benefit of a full day’s lessons.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS
The school staff undertook a range of activities during our Staff Development Days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week. Time was taken to look at initiatives to be completed this year and have discussions about continuing to improve the way we can provide for the students and families of our school. These were exceptionally rewarding days where outcomes will certainly improve learning opportunities for children.

CLOTHING - PLEASE MARK
Each year, many items of students’ clothing are lost and cannot be returned as they have not been marked.

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING (INCLUDING LUNCH BOXES AND DRINK BOTTLES) NEED TO BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE CHILD’S NAME. A lost property basket is situated outside the Administration Building and should be checked regularly as all unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term.
**ELECTION DAY**

The P&C will be holding a Sausage Sizzle and Cake Stall this Saturday 31st January during the Election at The Hall. Helpers from 7.00am would be appreciated for the Sausage Sizzle and donations of cakes, slices and biscuits would also be accepted gratefully.

Foom trays are available from the tuckshop and any donations can be dropped off before 3.00pm Friday afternoon. Please see Lee-Ann in the tuckshop.

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**INTERSCHOOL SPORT - YEAR 5 AND 6**

Interschool Sport will be offered in Term 1. Details and permission forms will be sent home soon. Sport will commence within a fortnight.

**HATS**

Students are being reminded of this school’s policy that children will wear a brimmed hat at all times while in the grounds. Children without hats will need to remain seated in one of the undercover areas.

**SHOES**

It is our school’s expectation that students at all times wear appropriate footwear. Enclosed shoes assist with the minimisation of foot injury.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM/JEWELLERY**

This school encourages all students to wear, with pride, our Darling Heights school uniform. This uniform is on sale through the Uniform Shop which is open on Tuesdays from 8.30am until 9.30am and Thursdays from 2.30pm until 3.30pm. If you have any queries please contact the ladies at the Uniform Shop.

*With regards to jewellery, again our expectation is that students at all times wear appropriate footwear. Enclosed shoes assist with the minimisation of foot injury.*

**ABSENCES**

We continue to thank all parents who provide notification to the school of their child’s absence. We require this to ensure that we know that you know that your child has not been at school.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS / DETAILS**

Please advise the Office Staff of any changes to phone numbers or addresses. It would be appreciated if you change either of these at any time during the year that you notify the Office immediately. Thank you.

**PAYMENTS**

All payments made to the Office should be placed in an envelope with your child’s name, class, payment reason and amount on the front of the envelope. This assists greatly with the receipting process.

**MOBILE PHONES**

Should parents wish to make contact with children during the school day this can be easily done through the school office. As such, children should not have mobile phones at school. In the case where a mobile phone may be required by a student before or after school, children have been asked that these phones are left in the office where they can be picked up at the end of the school day. Please ensure phones are switched off before handing into Office.

**ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS**

Should medication be prescribed by your child’s doctor and need to be taken while at school, you need to be aware of the Education Queensland Regulations. Education Queensland Regulations, September 88 require that, before medication is administered:-

1. **AUTHORITY FORMS** for medication MUST BE COMPLETED by a parent or guardian BEFORE medication is to be administered. These forms are available from the Administration office.

2. **ALL MEDICATION MUST** be in the container from the pharmacy with clear **WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS** on the container, and must be lodged with the School Office for security purposes. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL CAPSULES OR TABLETS.**

3. Administration of that medication will be carried out by an adult staff member designated by the Principal.

4. It is the responsibility of the student to come to the Office when the medication is needed. Staff cannot be responsible for chasing up students.

5. Non-prescribed medications (eg. Aspirin, Panadol, Cough medicine etc.) should NOT be brought to school and will NOT be administered by school staff.

**COLLECTION OF STUDENTS**

Parents are encouraged to pick their children up at classrooms in the afternoon. If waiting outside classrooms, please be aware that your presence and conversation at times can distract the children and teachers. Some parents choose to wait for their children in CPA 1 each afternoon.

**INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2015**

Welcome to the 2014 Darling Heights State School Instrumental Music Program and another year of exciting music making and learning. This year our Instrumental Teacher will be Mr Camillo Lanzafame. He will be teaching all of our instrumental students as well as conducting both the Stage Band and the Concert Band.

Instrumental lessons will begin in Week 3, with brass and percussion students on Wednesdays and woodwind students on Thursdays. Concert Band will resume in Week 4. This year, Concert Band rehearsals will commence at 8.00am on Thursday mornings.

**2015 CLASS PHOTOGRAPHS**

The Photographs will be taken on Wednesday 20th and Thursday 21st May. You will be advised of costs & final arrangements closer to the date. Any queries can be directed to Mr James Leach (Deputy Principal) on Telephone number (07) 4636 8333.

**LIBRARY BOOKS**

A number of books are still to be returned from last year. If you have found any during the holidays would you please return them.
SWIMMING TRIALS
A trial to select students to compete in the Central Zone Swimming Carnival will be conducted at Rangeville State School Pool. Only swimmers who can swim 50 metres and are aged 9 years or older are eligible.
When: Friday 30th January 2015
Where: Rangeville State School Pool
Transport: The bus will depart school at 8.30am noon and return at 11.00 am.
Cost: $6.00 by Thursday 29th January 2015

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS for 2015
Hours will remain the same as last year:
Tuesday 8.30-9.30am and Thursday 2.30-3.30pm. PLEASE REMEMBER that the Uniform Shop is operated by P&C Volunteers and these times may change due to volunteer availability. If you wish to sell used uniforms through the Uniform Shop, please hand them in at the Uniform Shop, Tuckshop or School Office with your name, address and phone number and the Uniform Shop Volunteers will contact you regarding the finer details.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
The Tuckshop opens for its first day for 2015 on Wednesday 04.02.15.
Normal operating days are Wednesday, Thursday and Friday opening between 8.15am-2.00pm.
A new menu will be sent home on yellow paper this week.
The Tuckshop is in desperate need of volunteers to continue its service to our school. So please, if you have an hour or two or three to spare, come & have a chat with me (I won't bite!), and find out how you may be able to help.

YEAR 6 SHIRTS
Notes regarding the Year 6 T-Shirts will be handed out this week. If you do not receive a note, please call into the Uniform Shop to get one.

RECORDERS FOR 2015
If you have a child in Year 4, 5, 6 or 7 in 2014 they will need a YAMAHA recorder to participate fully in their music lessons. These recorders are on sale at the School Office for $7.60 which is quite cheap considering they retail for about $15.00 in most music shops.
When purchasing a recorder for your child, please beware of cheap imitations. For example, those purchased from places like Sam’s Warehouse, Crazy Clarkes, Kmart and most Newsagencies are NOT musical instruments. They are toys and have a very unpleasant sound which creates problems in music lessons.

DARLING HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL
“RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN FOR STUDENTS” (based on “The Code of School Behaviour”). This new document was approved by Education Queensland for implementation from the commencement of the 2012 School Year. If there is any Parent who would like to view and discuss this document, then please feel free to contact the School Administration and arrange a mutually agreeable time to organize a meeting. This time to meet and discuss can prove very productive for all concerned.
A very important component of our “Responsible Behaviour Plan For Students” is our commitment to implementing and participating in SWPBS (School-Wide Positive Behaviour Support). For those of you who attended this School last year, you would be aware of the DHSS “STAR” - Safety Thinking Acting Responsibly Respect These four Values underpin everything that we do at Darling Heights. For Parents who are new to the school, please contact the School Administration and we will gladly spend time talking to you about SWPBS. Over coming weeks, we will write more about the DHSS “STAR” and how each week, we teach a different value to the students.

STUDENT BANKING
Student Banking is done each Friday and is a Fundraiser organised by the P&C. Should you wish to start an account for your child, please either:
1. Go to any Commonwealth Bank Branch to apply and inform them your student attends DHSS OR

Bank books are to be delivered to the Office before school on a Friday to allow for processing.
Children receive tokens for each deposit and then exchange for great prizes.

TENNIS COACHING
Robert Williams ~ TCA-TCAQ-TQ-TA-ACC Advanced (Level 2) updated
Wednesday (lower grades from Prep) 11am -11.30am
Thursday (higher grades) 11am -11.30am 6-8 pupils - 30mins - $60.00 per term (family discount) - minimum 8 week term.
Term 1 commences Wednesday 2nd February, 2015.
For further information, Ph Robert on Mobile 0413488303 or Home 4635 5655.

COMMUNITY NEWS
Please see Noticeboard for information regarding the following:-
• YMCA - Ph. 0455 088401 or 46 356308
• Valleyes Juniors Sign on will be held this Sunday from 10.00am until 1.00pm at our Pillar Street grounds. Bring your Birth Certificate if you have not played for

RELIEF TEACHER AIDES WANTED
We are looking to extend our pool of relief Teacher Aides. If you feel this is something you would be interested in please submit a one page resume stating your experience and availability to be part of our Staff. All our Teacher Aides are replaced immediately whether that be Prep, SEP, ESL or mainstream. Please also advise if you have a preference for a particular area. Interviews will be called within the next two weeks which is mainly designed to be a “meet and greet” for us to check out your suitability for our School. Please drop your resume to the School Office no later than Friday 6th February.