FROM THE PRINCIPAL
PRINCIPAL/PARENT FORUM
The first of this year’s Principal/Parent Forums is scheduled for Thursday 5th March at 2.00pm. For those Parents new to our school, the objective of this forum is to have a group, where informed comment about this school can be shared, offered and gained. The information discussed will then be used to assist in the effective operations of the school. School staff are currently looking for a parent rep from each of our classes to join our forum. If you are interested in being part of this Forum, please mention this to your child's teacher. I would like to point out that this Forum is a group about discussion and advising the Principal and it is not a forum where gripes and grievances about the school, staff, children or other parents will be aired and shared. It is not a place where personal matters are discussed; matters either of an individual nature or those of others.

P&C AGM
The P&C AGM is the 23rd March not 23rd February as was incorrectly advised in last week’s Cooee.

STATE WIDE PRINCIPALS’ CONFERENCE
On Thursday and Friday of this week, I will be attending the Queensland Schools State Wide Principals’ Conference in Brisbane. I look forward to hearing of current initiatives in State Schooling and an opportunity to hear from our new Education Minister, Ms Kate Jones, about how they see State School education in Queensland going.

WORLD CUP CRICKET TRIP
Our best wishes to students and family members who will be travelling to Brisbane tomorrow as part of our school’s trip to the World Cup Cricket game, Ireland vs United Arab Emirates. We feel sure they will have a great experience.

SCHOOLS APP FOR PARENTS TO USE
Recent School Opinion Survey Data indicates parents are looking for more school information to be delivered electronically or be available online. Only 82% of parents surveyed indicated that they think the school provides useful information online and although 88% agreed that the school keeps them well informed, we believe we can do better and seek to improve this.

An App we have implemented is the Department’s QSchools mobile app which includes an exciting ‘push’ notification feature which offers a direct communication channel from our school.

To be able to receive important messages instantly to your mobile device (push notifications):
1. Download the QSchools app from your app store.
2. If you already have the app, please ensure it is up-to-date, as out-dated versions will not receive notifications.
3. Make sure you have found our school and made it a favourite.

You are now ready to receive important school messages direct to your mobile device.
We look forward to you receiving information from our school.

QSCHOOLS APP IN USE
On Tuesday there was a fire in an unoccupied unit across the road from the school. Emergency Services Vehicles had blocked much of the road in front of the school and we were able to send out a QSchool App advising parents of the congestion and, if picking up their children from school, to come into the classrooms to do so. A great example of how this App can be used. On Friday we were able to send out a message letting parents know that school was open contrary to many of the incorrect reports that were circulating around Facebook and other communication channels. Another great use of the App.

If you are a part of this QSchool App you will receive these messages when they go out.
PBL (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND LEARNING) MATTERS

The Value for this week is “Respect” with a focus on, “I put up my hand and wait for my time to speak”. During discussions in class, teachers will reinforce our school expectations and classroom routines which help maintain an organised and structured learning environment for all our students. Students know that they are expected to:
- Put up their hand when asking or answering questions
- Use the one-speaker rule – only one talker at a time
- Use inside voices when speaking in the classroom
- Ask permission to leave (to go to the toilet or get a drink)

CHILDREN AND LEARNING

At the very centre of the school’s work is the individual child. We know a lot about children and how they learn. Through this knowledge, teachers plan for your child’s educational needs and development. We know:

- Children are special: Children truly have a marvellous variety of abilities, interests and characteristics that make each one special. This uniqueness deserves the respect of every parent and teacher.
- Children need time to be children: We should not hurry childhood. Too many pressures, too much emphasis on using every minute productively, on achieving maximum results, can rob children of their right to live fully as children.
- Children pass through stages: As each year passes, they develop new ways of thinking and solving problems; they are able to manage their feelings and their social skills are developing. Children reach these stages at different times. In any one class, teachers have to make allowances for a wide range of maturity levels, interests and readiness to tackle new challenges.
- Children want to know: Children are naturally active, curious, creative, searching individuals. They are born learners; learning is what they do best. By the time they start school they have learnt a language and that is a fantastic accomplishment!
- Children have needs: Children need love, acceptance, limits on their behaviour, challenge and success. These all help them to grow and develop their abilities to the full.
- Children need expectations: Children tend to live up, or down, to the expectations of important people in their lives. They thrive on high expectations and as long as they are supported through their mistakes, they learn that successful learning often requires considerable risk-taking.
- Children need to play: Play is a child’s natural way of learning about the world and their place in it. Through informal play, they create meaning, stretch their imagination, practice social skills, try out ideas and learn how to cope with problems.

PBL MEETINGS

Each fortnight, we have a PBL Meeting at 8am in the school Library. Our goal is to have representation from a cross section of all year levels and parental input and presence would be greatly appreciated. The next meeting will be Tuesday 3rd March (8am – 8:30am).

A special thanks to all parents who take the time each week to sit down and talk to their child/ren about the week’s Value and focus. If any parents have any queries or concerns or wish to discuss anything, please feel free to contact Mr James Leach (Deputy Principal) on 46 368 333.
MICHAEL GROSE PARENTING IDEAS FOR THIS WEEK

Here are 5 golden rules to guide you along your parenting journey in 2015:

1. **Build confidence**
   With so many parents reporting that they have a child experiencing anxiety, it would seem that we are currently experiencing a crisis in children’s confidence. It would also seem that we have somehow forgotten how to absorb children’s fears, insecurities and anxieties, and instill a sense of confidence that these can be overcome. Using a mixture of coaxing, coaching and cajoling parents need to find a way to impart in children a sense of courage to put themselves in new or potentially awkward social situations; to have a go at activities where failure is a real option; and to contribute to the wellbeing of others, which reduces anxiousness and fear.

2. **Build developmental knowledge**
   Many challenges parents experience with their children are due to a developmental mismatch. That is, parents raising their ten year old as if they are eight. The nuances of parenting are age-related, yet due to inexperience we so often don’t read the cues. Recently, I witnessed a mum and dad tearing their hair out trying to communicate with their nine-year-old son. For the first time he was saying no to them. They thought him stubborn and disobedient. I thought him normal, as nine can be a problematic age, where usually malleable children suddenly start changing. Puberty is stirring. When this couple’s second child turns nine she will experience the benefits of her elder brother paving the way and breaking her parents in for her.

3. **Swim against the tide**
   Listen to talkback radio, read the headlines of a newspaper or watch a current affairs TV program and you’ll realise that, right now, we live in an incredibly judgemental society. Parents are harshly judged as well. Allow your kids to walk to school and you risk being judged as negligent. Drive your kids to school and you risk being told that you are spoiling them and neglecting their physical wellbeing. It takes a strong parent to swim against the tide of popular opinion. It also takes a strong parent to deny her child say a mobile phone when every other child has one. It helps to say, “This is the way we do it in our family.”

4. **Be brave**
   Perhaps the biggest challenge facing parents, and their children, is the ability to let go of their parental reigns and give kids the freedom they need to develop autonomy. It’s relatively easy to develop children’s independence at home as the stakes aren’t as high. If they can’t cook a meal then you just have to do it for them. However, developing children’s independence outside the home is a different story. Granting kids freedom has an element of risk; that’s why parents need to be brave. Having the courage to let go is a basic requirement of parenting. It won’t stop you worrying, but that’s part of the game.

5. **Add emotional intelligence to your parenting mix**
   With kids experiencing mental health challenges at a depressingly high rate, it’s time to add some emotional intelligence to the parenting mix. While many schools are now introducing emotional and social programs on the curriculum, it’s important that parents develop a deep understanding of how emotions work: how emotions can be recognised; how they can work for us and against us; how we can regulate our emotions so they don’t overwhelm us; and how to recognise and respond to the emotions of others. These sound like life-changing skills that if learned, are capable of impacting significantly and positively on future generations.

For more of my Parenting Gold and if you want to take the fast-track to parenting success in 2015 then join Parentingideas Club. We have an exciting year ahead planned for Club Members!

Email: office@parentingideas.com.au Website: www.parentingideas.com.au
COMMUNITY NEWS
Please see Noticeboard for information regarding the following:
- YMCA - Ph. 0455 088401 or 46 356308
- Kiyua Performing Arts - Dancing and Performing Arts every Saturday morning in the DHSS Hall from 9am. Recommencing Saturday 7th February. Call Sheridan on 0412135925

DARLING HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL ON-LINE LIBRARY CATALOGUE
You can access the school's library catalogue at home or at school.
Just click on or type in the following link to take you there.
You can search our catalogue but there are also links to other catalogues and webpages.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS
Our EAL/D Parent session is this Friday 27th February from 2pm to 3.00pm

STARS OF THE WEEK

Year Prep/ 1 Stars
Prep M  April Bernal
Prep N  Miracle Mutoke
Prep W  Charlee Cortina
Prep T  Jesse Mack
1B  Ezekiel Kavuala
1S  Logan Wilkie
1M  Emily Tagituimua
1J  Willem Dekeyser

Year 2 Stars
2M  Tansie Hayward
2V  Chindia Azemikhah
2D  Jakira Suey
2C  Owen Hernon

3B Student of the Week
Tanahya Esler

3B Quality Work Award
Darcy Shelton

3B Star Student
Anton Williams

3B Assembly STAR
Diana Donovan

3B Most improved in Spelling
Kristi-Lee Widderick

3G Student of the Week
Omer Dafny

Year 3H Star Students
Sienna Carr

3H Star Box
Elisabeth Briggs

Year 4 Stars
Student of the Week
4R  Marwa Alrashed
4B
4P  Maddison Callaghan

Merit
4R  Ibrahim Salim
4B
4P  Ellah Withers

SEP AWARDS
Merit Awards
Riley Barlow
Jayden Lobwein
Joshua Roberts
Zulaikha Nowrozy
Tiba Hazim
Gregory Simmons
Nikki Glozier

Student of the Week
Levi McClelland

SEP M Stars of the Week
Ayuen Pach, Zulaikha Nowrozy

5/6 Stars of the Week
5/6 A  Gemma Forsdike
5/6 B  Mena Alabdullah
5/6 C  Natasha Musumba
5/6 D  Kathleen Boland
5/6 E  Fizza Hussain
5/6 F  Abdulrahman Alhuwaydi

TERM 1 2015 INTERSCHOOL SPORT DRAW WEEK 3 – 27TH FEBRUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Week 3 27 February</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL Senior A</td>
<td>1:45 Vs St Thomas Mores Queens Park 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Junior A</td>
<td>1:00 Vs St Marys Queens Park 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Sen</td>
<td>1:00 vs Fairholme Captain Cook 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Jun</td>
<td>1:00 vs Fairholme Captain Cook 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Sen A</td>
<td>1:45 vs St Marys Captain Cook F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Sen B</td>
<td>1:45 vs St Marys Captain Cook B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Jun B</td>
<td>1:00 vs St Marys Captain Cook B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Sen B 1</td>
<td>1:00 vs St Anthony Nell E Robinson B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Sen B 2</td>
<td>BYE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Jun B 1</td>
<td>1:45 vs Darling Heights Nell E Robinson B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Jun B 2</td>
<td>1:45 vs Darling Heights Nell E Robinson B</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COMMUNITY NEWS
Please see Noticeboard for information regarding the following:

- YMCA - Ph. 0455 088401 or 46 356308
- Kiyua Performing Arts - Dancing and Performing Arts every Saturday morning in the DHSS Hall from 9am. Recommencing Saturday 7th February. Call Sheridan on 0412135925

DARLING HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL ON-LINE LIBRARY CATALOGUE
You can access the school's library catalogue at home or at school.
Just click on or type in the following link to take you there.
You can search our catalogue but there are also links to other catalogues and webpages.

PARENT INFORMATION SESSIONS
Our EAL/D Parent session is this Friday 27th February from 2pm to 3.00pm

STARS OF THE WEEK

Year Prep/ 1 Stars
Prep M  April Bernal
Prep N  Miracle Mutoke
Prep W  Charlee Cortina
Prep T  Jesse Mack
1B  Ezekiel Kavuala
1S  Logan Wilkie
1M  Emily Tagituimua
1J  Willem Dekeyser

Year 2 Stars
2M  Tansie Hayward
2V  Chindia Azemikhah
2D  Jakira Suey
2C  Owen Hernon

3B Student of the Week
Tanahya Esler

3B Quality Work Award
Darcy Shelton

3B Star Student
Anton Williams

3B Assembly STAR
Diana Donovan

3B Most improved in Spelling
Kristi-Lee Widderick

3G Student of the Week
Omer Dafny

Year 3H Star Students
Sienna Carr

3H Star Box
Elisabeth Briggs

Year 4 Stars
Student of the Week
4R  Marwa Alrashed
4B
4P  Maddison Callaghan

Merit
4R  Ibrahim Salim
4B
4P  Ellah Withers

SEP AWARDS
Merit Awards
Riley Barlow
Jayden Lobwein
Joshua Roberts
Zulaikha Nowrozy
Tiba Hazim
Gregory Simmons
Nikki Glozier

Student of the Week
Levi McClelland

SEP M Stars of the Week
Ayuen Pach, Zulaikha Nowrozy

5/6 Stars of the Week
5/6 A  Gemma Forsdike
5/6 B  Mena Alabdullah
5/6 C  Natasha Musumba
5/6 D  Kathleen Boland
5/6 E  Fizza Hussain
5/6 F  Abdulrahman Alhuwaydi