FROM THE PRINCIPAL

PARENT/PRINCIPAL FORUM
Classroom Teachers have been asked to gain the support of a Parent within their class area who will become a rep to our school’s Parent/Principal Forums. The objective of this forum is to have a group of people gather and discuss matters pertinent to our school. The information discussed will then be used to assist in the effective decision making processes of our school.

The first of our forums for this year will be this Thursday 5th March at 2.00pm. Should you be interested in being part of this Forum, please speak with your classroom teacher who is co-ordinating a rep from their area.

I always point out that this Forum is a group where discussion can occur that will lead to improved practice about our school. It is not a gathering where gripes and grievances about 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.

ABSENCE AND LATENESS
Elsewhere in the newsletter, Deputy Principal James has written about children being late and absent from school. I encourage you to please read this article and take information contained on board.

Every time a child is absent or late to school they miss out on learning. In our school I am constantly amazed at the number of children who arrive after our starting time of 8.45. These children are not only missing out on critical morning learning time, they are also disrupting the learning of others as they enter class late.

I would ask all parents to ensure that their children are at school to commence learning at 8.45am daily.

MESSAGES FOR CHILDREN
Increasingly we are receiving parental contact asking us to provide messages to children.

I point out to all parents that we certainly endeavour to get these messages through, however, no guarantees can ever be provided. Between 2.50pm and 3.00pm one day last week, no less than 8 calls were received from families wanting messages delivered to children. We do not have the staff in school to send people looking for children to give them messages. The best we can do is email or phone through messages and hope that classroom teachers receive these messages to pass on to children.

From time to time our school PA system is used to pass on urgent messages however on many occasions children are not tuned in to receive these messages.

We would certainly acknowledge some urgent issues arising, however, ask all parents to ensure that their children have suitable instructions on what they are to do of an afternoon.

WORLD CUP CRICKET TRIP
Thankyou to school staff who organised and supervised our children and parents at last Wednesday evening’s World Cup Cricket game Ireland vs UAE.

It was a fantastic experience, one that I am sure that those who attended will not forget.

HARMONY DAY
Our school embraces the celebration of Harmony Day each year. National Harmony Day is celebrated on Saturday March 21st with our school most likely hosting our celebrations on Wednesday 25th March. The arrangements for this year’s celebrations are yet to be confirmed. We look forward to sharing these with you as they are developed.

Until Next Week

Mark
POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR AND LEARNING (PBL) MATTERS

The Value for this week is, “Acting Responsibly” with a focus on, “I take responsibility for my belongings and school property”. This week’s PBL lesson will aim to remind students of the following:

Use and touch only your personal belongings (books/pens/lunchbox/uniform)
Ask permission before using belongings of others Ask to borrow
Use school items/property carefully and return item in the same condition (library books/sports equipment)

We discourage our students from bringing valuable items such as ipods, cameras and mobile phones to school. We do understand however, that a student may need the use of a phone after school. Students are reminded that if they do have to bring these valuables to school – they can be handed into the office for safekeeping and collected after school.

UNEXPLAINED ABSENCES

At Darling Heights SS we strongly encourage students to come to school each and every day. The vast majority of students have very good attendance and this occurs because most of our parents realise the importance of regular school attendance and do not allow students to be absent for minor reasons. However, there are still a number of children who have unexplained absences for an unacceptable number of days across the year. The major problem is the amount of time children are having off with what is termed ‘parent-condoned-absences.’ Things such as: a day off because of your birthday, aunty is visiting, thought we’d take the kids shopping, can’t be bothered having an argument to get them to school etc. are all unacceptable.

If children constantly miss a day here, a couple of days there, over a period of time they begin to feel disconnected from their class and their school work. One way to explain this is to imagine a jigsaw puzzle with a whole lot of pieces missing from it. Children who constantly miss ‘pieces’ of the ‘big picture’ are then forced to try and function back at school- something that is difficult for them to do, and it often becomes a pattern that sets children up for failure at school and affects their social relationships as well.

At school we understand that children do become ill and need time to recover, or that occasionally there are situations where there is no alternative but to have time off school. The important message here for parents is that every time your child is absent from school without a legitimate reason, it is costing him or her a learning experience.

If your child is away, please contact the school and let us know the reason that your child is absent from school.

“Every day counts, every minute counts”.

What sort of Start is Your Child Getting?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>He/She is only missing just...</th>
<th>That equals..</th>
<th>Which is..</th>
<th>And over 13 years of schooling that’s..</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10 minutes per day</td>
<td>50 minutes per week</td>
<td>Nearly 1.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly HALF a year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 minutes per day</td>
<td>1 hour 40 minutes a week</td>
<td>Over 2.5 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Half an hour per day</td>
<td>Half a day per week</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 and a half years</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 hour per day</td>
<td>1 day per week</td>
<td>8 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 and a half years</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Did you know your child’s best learning time is the start of the school day?

That’s when every minute counts the most!

School Starts at 8:45am
Toowoomba Multicultural Expo

Saturday 14 March 11am
Grand Central Shopping Centre

3 GOOD REASONS TO BE PART OF THE MULTICULTURAL FASHION PARADE

Join a famous Australian performing on stage - Troy Cassar-Daley, the multi-award-winning country musician, Golden Guitar Best Male Vocalist; 1995 ARIA Award for Best Country Award; 1996 Best Male Vocal Awards in Tamworth; Best Male Vocal at the 2000 CMAA Awards; 2006 and 2009 Aria Award for Best Country Album

Excitement with new dance performances and pop up multicultural shops from 9am - 5pm surrounding the stage area.

Celebrate Harmony Day by raising funds for Mercy Community Services Refugee School Starter Program with the best of the region’s cultural diversity in Toowoomba's premier retail and shopping centre.

HOW TO JOIN IN!

Reply to david.barton@mercycs.org.au and tell us you will be part of this year’s parade

Be ready and dressed in your cultural costumes in the Jacaranda Room at Grand Central by 10:30am

DON’T MISS OUT!
Multi-award-winning country musician Troy Cassar-Daley - Didgeridoo musician - Cultural displays - Cook Island Dancers – traditional and contemporary fashions from around the world and worn by community members from our vibrant migrant communities – Mujles-E Zanan Afghan multicultural shop — Toowoomba’s own Women in Harmony Choir - Aboriginal youth dance troupe - Incredible India multicultural shop – Family Arts and Craft activities - Aboriginal art shop.

The Multicultural Fashion Expo is sponsored by Mercy Community Services and Grand Central Shopping Centre, supported by Easternwell and the Toowoomba International Multicultural Society; coordinated by Ms Carolyn Taylor - Smith, Grand Central Fashion Stylist with staging, seating, music and all the colour and thrill of a fun packed program for families and community members.
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
- **Flowers to Impress School of Floristry** - Easter Classes that will be held at Flower to Impress School of Floristry during the Easter Vacation period. For prices and details call Debby on 07 46382727

DARLING HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL ON-LINE LIBRARY CATALOGUE
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www.darlheigss.eq.edu.au

### STARs OF THE WEEK

#### Year Prep/ 1 Stars
- Prep M  Samira Nowrozy
- Prep N  Tomo Wright
- Prep W  Alaa Ganim
- Prep T  Sadeel Hazim
- 1B   Reema Alahmari
- 1S  Abdu Amar
- 1M  Lachlan Widderick
- 1J  Amiteal Daniel

#### Year 2 Stars
- 2M  Ruby Hayes
- 2V  Cooper Middleton
- 2D  Patrick Vatanchiradad
- 2C  Abbie Smith

#### Year 3H Star Student
- Mawj Al-Azzawi

#### 3H Star Box
- Jayden Bryde

#### Most Improved in Spelling 3B
- Kristi-Lee Widderick

#### 3B 100% Club
- Sitav, Lewis, Darcy, Alex, Zahraa, Anton

#### 3B Quality Work Award
- Lien, Kristi-Lee

#### Student of the Week
- Kamilia Zulzamri

#### Year 4 Stars
- **Student of the Week**
  - 4B  Blake Wyatt
  - 4P  Racheal Mutoni

#### Merit
- 4R  Tanika Lingard
- 4B  Anastacia Unwin
- 4P  Batool Hussain

#### Star of the Week
- 4B  Mariam Nafie
- 4P  Kira Foxe
- 4R  Cameron Voller

#### Star on Assembly
- 4R  Aanan Shafiuddin

#### SEP M Stars of the Week
- Cody Elliot, Evan Jack-Sandrey

#### SEP AWARDS
- **Merit Awards**
  - Merit
    - Asher Peters
    - Alex McDonald
    - Jayden Lobwein
    - Philip Lane-Gessiri
    - Zenab Awedat
    - William Thorley
    - Tiba Hazim
    - Cody Elliott
    - Kayla Dodd

#### Term 1 2015 InterSchool Sport Draw Week 4 – 6th March

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Week 4 6th March</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AFL Senior A</td>
<td>1:45 Vs St Marys Queens Park 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AFL Junior A</td>
<td>1:00 vs Concordia Queens Park 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Sen</td>
<td>1:00 vs Glenvale Captain Cook 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cricket Jun</td>
<td>1:00 vs Glenvale Captain Cook 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Sen A</td>
<td>1:45 vs Rangeville Captain Cook F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Sen B</td>
<td>1:45 vs Glenvale Captain Cook A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Softball Jun B</td>
<td>1:00 vs Glenvale Captain Cook A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Sen B 1</td>
<td>1:00 vs Concordia Martin Luther 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Sen B 2</td>
<td>1:00 vs Sacred Heart Martin Luther 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Jun B 1</td>
<td>1:45 vs Concordia Martin Luther 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Touch Jun B 2</td>
<td>1:45 vs Sacred Heart Martin Luther 1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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