PARENT/PRINCIPAL FORUM
The first Parent/Principal Forum was conducted last Thursday and a number of representatives from our class groups were present. The first item on the agenda was to share where we are potentially going with regard to a pre prep program for our school. This program will be based around a play group concept and initially run for 2 hours per week. The intention is to provide members of our community with an opportunity for their children to interact and for the children to engage in some play and learning. The reps at this Forum have been given information about the program and will be speaking to members of our community to gauge some feedback. The second agenda item discussed was that of the DHSS student uniform and dress standards policy. As a uniform school, our P&C currently identifies what uniform is expected. Those present at the Forum have gone through the current policy and have been asked to discuss elements of it so as we can make decisions about any changes. Contentious items for consideration included those about “outlandish hairstyles or colours” and “body piercings”. We look forward to the next Forum on Thursday March 26th at 2.30pm where feedback from these agenda items will be discussed.

PAINTING OF WALKWAYS
Over the coming weeks our school walkways, and frameworks will be painted. Parents using these walkways especially at going home time, will need to be careful of this painting process.

HARMONY DAY
Last week’s Cooee made mention of our upcoming Harmony Day celebrations. A change of date has occurred and Harmony Day celebrations will be held in conjunction with our Assembly at 2.00pm on Wednesday 18th March. Further details are being put together.

FROM THE P&C

CROSS COUNTRY
All Cross Country and Fun Run fundraising forms should now have gone home. Why not ask your friends and family to sponsor you and encourage you to do some great running? Raising more than $10 will earn you a prize. The more money you raise, the better the prize. Unfortunately, ONLINE fundraising will NOT be available this time, but we are looking into the option for next year.

TUCKSHOP NEWS
Our tuckshop convenor, Lee-Ann Fisher, will be on leave during term 2 and 3. We are looking for an enthusiastic and motivated person to be our paid tuckshop convenor for this time. For more information, leave your name and number (and CV) at the school office, and we will contact you.

Until Next Week

Mark
PBL (POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING) MATTERS

The Value for this week is “Safety” with a focus on, “I play safely”. During discussions in class, teachers will reinforce our school expectations and routines which help maintain a safe and structured learning environment for all our students.

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.

READING AT HOME

Reading is an important skill which is developed through experiences with a wide variety of texts. This includes reading books and magazines, posters and charts, pamphlets and packets, letters and postcards. It also includes viewing multimedia texts such as movies and documentaries.

Children make progress at their own pace; some pick up new skills quickly and some need more time for learning and practising the new skill. All children need to be ready to learn and to have the best conditions for learning new skills. At school, teachers create safe, happy and stimulating environments where children are encouraged and praised for ‘having a go’.

You can create a similar learning environment at home with the following ideas:

- Make a regular time to read together and don’t stop reading TO your child when they can read themselves; they love listening to a competent reader.
- When you introduce a new book to your child, discuss what it could be about, talk about the pictures or text and then read it to each other. With older children, you can encourage them to make predictions and pause occasionally to confirm or reject their original thoughts.
- Read and follow directions together such as when making a recipe, or instructions for playing a game, or assembling a new piece of furniture or toy.
- Read magazines and newspapers together and talk about the pictures as well as the text.
- Listen to audio books or story tapes and watch movies together. Once you’ve seen the movie, discuss it and then read the original book together.

Most importantly…..make sure your children see you enjoying reading.

MAKING FRIENDS

Friendships are a very important part of life. Making friends and keeping friends can be a very difficult ‘job’ for many people. Children especially, may find the issue of friendship difficult and it is in fact one of the major issues that teachers deal with in a child’s social education. Some children, like adults, just have the ‘knack’ for easily making and developing strong friendships. However, for other children it can be a nightmare and they need to be taught the skills of making and keeping friends.

Often children will tell me that they have no friends. My experience tells me that in most cases, this is not the fact, but more often it is a case of a particular social situation that has resulted in them ‘falling out’ of a particular friendship grouping. Children are extremely sensitive to the dynamics of friendships and often struggle to understand how, in some cases, their actions or the actions of others, have contributed to a temporary ‘falling out’ with friends.

While there is no ‘magic recipe’ for making and keeping friends, the following are some helpful points:

- Friendships are like planting flower seeds. You need to nurture and care for them in order that they blossom.
- Sometimes, despite all your best efforts, a friend might just remain as someone you know.
- Finding and becoming best friends takes time, don’t be in a hurry to move from someone you know to regular friend and then best friend.
- What makes a good friend? Talk to someone about this and list all the things that other people do to become good friends.
- Look for groups who seem to have interests which you share or know something about.
- Helping others is a good way to make friends, but remember to be kind, not bossy.
- Be a good listener so others can tell that you are really interested in what they are saying.
- Be a positive person. Talk about other people in a positive way.
MUSIC NEWS

INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC
Don’t forget, forms need to be returned to Miss Rackemann ASAP and payment for the program is due Friday 20th March.

CONCERT BAND
Concert Band rehearsals will begin the first week of Term 2. Rehearsal times will be 8am on both Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Remember, the success of the group does depend on the attendance and punctuality of all students involved as they work together as a team. Thank you to everyone who returned notes indicating a preferred time for the rehearsals.

RECORDERS
If you have a child in Years 3-6 they do require a YAMAHA recorder to be able to fully participate in their weekly Music lesson. Please be careful not to buy cheap alternatives which are actually toys rather than musical instruments. They do create problems and have an unpleasant sound as they are generally not in tune. If your child is practising at home and they need to work on their sound, remind them to blow gently and cover the holes. YAMAHA recorders can be purchased from the office for $7.60.

Multicultural / Indigenous AFL Trial Day
Wed 18th March 5-6pm
(Rockville Park, Tor Street)

- FREE to join in for those from Multicultural / Indigenous backgrounds
- Boys & Girls of all ages
- Skill Testing session to link into AFL programs
  Including All Nations, U15 Kick Start & others

For more information:
Keith Webb 0438 890 379
keith.webb@aflq.com.au
www.darlingdowns.aflq.com.au

YMCA’s Monthly Newsletter are available on our school’s website.
www.darlheigss.eq.edu.au
Hey Y'all
I hope everyone is having a great week, and found some time to rest during the weekend. I know for me the weekend seems to end way too fast. I am just writing a quick little Chappy Update for y’all.
For the next couple of Wednesdays at the Breakfast Club Metro Church is running a handball competition. You will play one on one handball matches and the best out of 3 sets will gain a point. If you would like to test your skills and see if you can be a handball champion, come to the Breakfast Club this coming Wednesday morning. I have heard y’all there will be some prizes at the end of the handball competition up for grabs. Don’t forget about the UNO Club on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday during first break in the Library.
Sincerely,
Matt