As we approach the end of this year, not only are preparations well underway for 2017, but we are also looking to ensure that this year finishes as smoothly as possible. Some relevant details are as follows.

CONTINUING ENROLMENTS FOR 2017
We are currently formulating classes for next year. As always, at this time of year, a number of families return overseas after the completion of USQ studies, move due to family or work commitments or just have a vacation. Therefore, it is really important that we know if your child will be here next year.

If you are returning in 2016, after an overseas trip, and will not be here on the first school day of 2016, please advise the school in writing of your anticipated date of return. This helps us to ensure that adequate staffing is in place for next year.

Sincere thanks for your co-operation in these matters. Please feel free to contact the school administration on 4636 8333 should you have any concerns.

CLASS LISTS
Our intentions are to have class lists organised in the last week of school, prior to moving up day.

MOVING UP DAY
On Tuesday of the last week of school, we will host Moving Up day. This is an opportunity where children move to their 2017 year level and undertake welcoming activities. If known, children will work with their 2017 class teacher or, on some occasions, year levels may organise activities across the whole grade. The Year 6 students will attend high school on this day for orientation (State High Schools ONLY).

BOOK DROP-OFF DAY
As was the case last year in the week before school started, we allocated a time where parents could come in with their children and drop off their books and stationery requirements into their new classrooms. We are yet to finalise the time for this, however, it will either be on Wednesday 18th or Thursday 19th January from 2.30 - 3.30pm.

PREP FOR 2017
Children for next year will be allocated to their class from day one. Final arrangements for classes will be made once we have established how many Prep children we have. Can I remind all parents that Prep, for the first week, is a half day program with children going home at 1.00pm. The remainder of the day is used by Prep teachers to host interviews with parents.

AT STATE CRICKET
Commencing last Saturday, I am involved as the coach of a Darling Downs boys cricket side at the 2016 State Championships which is being held in Charters Towers. This is certainly a great opportunity for me to be involved with one of my passions, school sport and especially cricket. During my absence, Mr Chris Gilbert will act as Principal. Should you require anything, please do not hesitate to contact him or one of the deputies.

CAROLS BY GLOWSTICK
Just a reminder that Friday evening is the DHSS annual Carols by Glowstick. This is a huge event on the school calendar. I am aware that classes, as well as the band and choir, are busily practising a range of items. A barbecue will operate from 5.30. Cooking will begin from around 4.00 so any volunteers would certainly be appreciated. Contact Chappy Bec. via 46 368 333.
FROM THE DEPUTY
Rule of the Week
The focus for this week is SAFETY. The rule of the week is, “I keep myself safe at school”. One of our biggest challenges is preventing children running on the concrete, and in a school this size, concrete is everywhere. Kids being kids, just have to RUN. However, running on concrete and around buildings can have dire consequences, not only to the runner, but also for the innocent person who collides with the runner. Each week teachers plan a multitude of activities designed to teach children how to be SAFE AT SCHOOL.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
December
02 (AM): Years 3-4 and SEP M Swimming Fun Day (9.00 depart, 12.00 return)
02 (PM): Years 5-6 and SEP S Swimming Fun Day (11.30 depart, 2.30 return)
02: Carols by Glow Stick in the Hall
05: Prep – Year 2 and SEP J Swimming Fun Day
     (Prep and SEPJ 10.45 -12.50, Year 1 12.35 – 2.30, Year 2 9.10 – 11.00)
     Year 5/6 Graduation Disco
06: ’Move Up’ morning (classes go to their 2017 locations until morning tea)
07: Year 6 Graduation and Annual Prize Ceremony (11.30 for a 12.00 start)
     Report Cards issued.
08: End of Year Class Celebrations
09: Clean-Up Day

2017 CLASSES
Planning is underway towards the establishment of classes for 2017. This process is most effective when we are aware of:
- Those students leaving.
- Those students going overseas and not returning for the start of the new school year. (Should complete a form at the office).
Classes should be finalised prior to “Moving-Up Day”.

SCHOOL ABSENCE NOTIFICATION SYSTEM
From the beginning of 2017, as part of Education Queensland’s “Every Day Counts” initiative it has been mandated that all Queensland State Schools advise parents/carers when their child is absent without explanation as soon as practicable on that day.

In response to this, Darling Heights State School will be introducing an Electronic Absence Notification System. Through this system, parents/carers will receive an SMS if their child is absent without explanation. When your child is away it is important that you notify the school before 10am on the day of absence otherwise you will receive an SMS.

As with all systems, errors can occur. We ask that you please be patient while we work to make this service as effective as possible for the Darling Heights State School community. If you receive this SMS when your child is away, you simply need to reply to the SMS with your child’s name and a reason as to why they are absent. We also ask that families ensure their contact details are up-to-date to ensure this notification can be delivered to the appropriate person.

We thank you for your cooperation during the implementation of this new system.

SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM
Congratulations to the Senior Boys Basketball Team who won six of the seven games played in the Friday Night Competition this season. The team only formed last term and was expertly coached by Mrs Greendyke and Matt George from Humridge. Keep up the great training boys. Well done and thank you to the coaches for all their hard work.
Year 5/6 GRADUATION CEREMONY
Year 5/6 Graduation and Award Ceremony and Announcement of 2017 School Leaders is Wednesday the 7th December.
11.30 for a 12.00 Start. DHSS Hall.
All 5/6 parents, carers and families welcome.

Recorders for 2016
Yes it’s that time of year again when we are beginning to look at booklists for next year. If you have a child in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6, they will need a YAMAHA recorder to participate fully in their music lessons. These recorders are on sale at the office for $7.00 (subject to change) 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 the Reject Shop, Kmart, Officeworks and most newsgencies are NOT musical instruments. They are toys and have a very unpleasant sound which creates problems in music lessons.

CHRISTMAS STALL
Monday 5th and Tuesday 6th December
In the Function Room
Lots of gifts for everyone
Check with your classroom teacher for your visit time
Prices from 50 cents - $10.00

CAROLS BY GLOWSTICKS
On the 2nd of December we are going to have our annual Carols by Glowsticks.

As in previous years, we will have many performances from each year level as well as from our school band and choir. In addition to our Sausage sizzle and Glowsticks there will be a Christmas Photo booth. For a gold coin donation you will be able to take a professional Christmas photo with your family using a number of Christmas props before and after the performance.

All money raised will go towards the school Chaplaincy Program.

Entrance is free and everyone is welcome to join.

MUSIC TOUR
Our Concert Band and 5/6 Singers are off on their annual Music Tour this Thursday (1st December). We are visiting both Drayton Villas and Yukana. Unfortunately we had planned to visit Glenvale Villas but it didn’t work out. If your child is involved, they will need to be in school uniform on the day. They will need a hat, water bottle, music, instrument, morning tea and either lunch or money to buy lunch from McDonalds.

THE GARDEN CLUB
The Garden Club would like to thank Lisa from the Toowoomba Regional Council’s Nursery for coming out to Darling Heights last week and sharing her knowledge about planting seedlings and making cuttings with the students. The students are learning many new valuable skills that they will always have. Thank you to the Council for supporting us. If you still have your free plant vouchers please consider donating them to our Garden Club for next years projects.

Love Star Wars - Well join the Holiday Fun at Toowoomba City Library on Saturday 14 January between 9.30am and 2pm for the Free Star Wars Day. Come and enjoy laser tag, face painting, console gaming, a scavenger hunt, a Star Wars quiz and a Star Wars escape room, and stencilled tees (BYO t-shirt). Sounds like a lot of fun and lots of prizes to be won. So see you there and until then - May the Force be with you.

YMCA After School Care 46 356308
**TUCKSHOP NEWS**

This is the tuckshop’s final week of operation for the school year. As a result, we are winding down and there may be some items out of stock or unavailable. I apologize for any inconvenience that this may cause. But on a good note, there will be several menu items at a reduced price. Below are just SOME of the reduced items:

- Fried rice, pasta Bolognese, chicken curry, sausages and mash and savoury mince on toast: reduced from $4.00 to only $2.00!
- Pizza muffins will be reduced from $2.50 to just $1.50 and the garlic bread buns will be selling at $1.00 - not $1.50!
- Please note that there will be a variety of little sweet muffins and cake slices for sale at 1 piece for 20 cents or 2 pieces for 30 cents.

Wednesday and Friday meal deals will operate as usual. The Thursday meal deal will consist of sausage rolls ONLY. As usual though, other food items may be ordered.

Apple and orange juice pop tops will be sold for $1.00 instead of $2.00.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support through the school year.

Please enjoy the long break! Happy holidays.

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**UNIFORM SHOP NEWS**

Price increase – Chairbags will increase to $20 @ 2017

**Uniform Shop Extended Opening Times 2017**
- Tuesday 17.01.17: 9am – 1pm
- Friday 20.01.17: 9am – 1pm
- First day back at school, Monday 23.01.17: 8.30am – 10.30am
- Tuesday 24.01.17: 8.30am – 10.30am

Normal opening hours apply thereafter:
- Tuesday 8.30-9.30am & Thursday 2.30-3.30pm
- Please note: The Uniform Shop is run by volunteers who need to settle their own children back into school too. Every endeavour is made to open on time. Please be patient.

**Used Uniforms:** If you have second hand uniforms you wish to sell (on consignment), please leave them in a bag at the office or drop them into the Uniform Shop with your name & contact details & someone from the Uniform Shop will contact you with further details.

The Uniform Shop will be closed Thursday 8th December.

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**Star Students**

**SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT AWARD**
- 3H Awards
- STAR BOX: Shoaib Muhammad Hassan
- STAR STUDENT: Ali Seena Nouriz Ali
- 100% SPELLING: Ahmed, Dominic, Farah, Francis, Luke, Patrick, Ruqayah, Pratyush
- 100% MATHS: Francis, Isabel, Luke, Patrick, Ruqayah, Pratyush
- 100% CLUB: Joseph, Maddison, Frank, Areej, Lucas, Tansie, Harrison, James, Shakana, Ryan, Pheonix, Samuel, Haozhen, Nehemiah
- MOST IMPROVED: Divine, Sarah
- SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT: Sarah, Divine
- STUDENT OF THE WEEK: Frank Dufty

**Merit Awards**
- 3G Farah Al-Sandooq

**SEP AWARDS**
- SEP J Asher Peters, Alex McDonald, Zenab Awedat, Kyle Maloney
- SEP M Ayuen Pach, Jack Brown
- SEP S Madison Powell, Lena-May Smith, Ethan Boutell, Kayla Dodd