Darlington Bulletin

Darlington Public School
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Website: www.darlington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

What’s on?

17/3 - St Patrick’s Day
18/3 - 1F and 1T excursion to Powerhouse Museum
19/3 - 2D excursion to Powerhouse Museum
19/3 - Sydney East District Swimming Carnival
26/3 - Harmony Day
2/4 - Autism Awareness Day
4/4 - TRIVIA NIGHT
9/4 - Years 5/6 ANZAC service at Hyde Park

WEEKS 10/11
Parent/teacher interviews

Week 8 is upon us and staff are busily preparing for parent/teacher interviews. We as a staff have decided to hold individual interviews in Term 1 rather than Term 2 so that families can have information earlier in the year rather than mid way through. Interviews will occur in weeks 10 and 11 (the week is determined on staff availability) and full reports will continue to be delivered at the end of Term 2. We have deadlines to meet in terms of Dance and Choir for the Schools Spectacular and are busily getting prepared. Swimming on Fridays has been very successful and from all reports the children are improving tremendously.

I have had a number of parents request information regarding the NSW syllabus for the Australian Curriculum. I have included a link for you to view the syllabus documents:
https://detwww.det.nsw.edu.au/australiancurriculumnsw

Parents have also asked me about FREE maths and literacy websites, after asking a few people I have discovered two sites to assist parents needing free support for their children’s literacy and numeracy:
http://www.scoop.it/t/hoverboard

On behalf Of Darlington Public School I like to thank Owen Hirschfeld’s mother, Ifeanna, for her wonderful donation to the school - a Fender Squire Electric Guitar. It’s a great instrument. I have seen some excellent guitarists use these instruments professional such as Ray Beedle, one of Australia’s best, who performs regularly at the Peaches Night Club in Newtown using a Fender Squire.

Thanks Ifeanna!
Graeme Sandstrom

A huge thank you to Rebecca Shanahan! Rebecca organised for bike racks to be delivered to the school for the Golden Grove St entrance.
Thank you Rebecca.

Darlington Public School P&C meet at 6pm on the second Wednesday of each month.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS:
Online payments are coming shortly, due to delay in notification online payments will need to be made 2 days before day due.
Dear Parents,

Due to the popularity of the dance ensemble groups, we will form three groups instead of two. This will enable me to give each student more individual attention and instruction during the class. The new rehearsal times will begin Monday March 24th 2014.

Junior Ensemble (Year 1 - Year 2) will rehearse at lunchtimes 1pm-1:30pm
Intermediate Ensemble (Year 3-4) will rehearse after school 230pm-330pm
Senior Ensemble (Year 5- Year 6) will rehearse before school 8am-9am

The junior and senior ensemble groups are open to all students interested in dance and performance. Students will attend weekly rehearsals to build upon their dance technique and performance skills in contemporary, modern and jazz dance. All students who commit to Ensemble groups will be expected to attend rehearsals every week. Students must have long hair tied back, arrive to rehearsals on time and show exemplary behaviour.

We have a busy few weeks coming up for all ensemble groups. We are currently working towards a dance to be filmed as part of the audition process for School Spectacular. We will also start new routines to be auditioned via film for the Regional Dance Festival by the end of Term 1.

If you have any queries please feel free to email me or contact me at the school on Mondays.

Yours sincerely,
Melissa Barnard
Darlington P.S. Dance Teacher
Melissa.Barnard@det.nsw.edu.au

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**National Assessment Program - Literacy and Numeracy 2014 Test Dates**

Dear Parent or Caree

The test dates for the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy for all students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9 will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Test name</th>
<th>Includes</th>
<th>Date of test</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions test</td>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td>Tuesday 13 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing test</td>
<td>Persuasive writing task</td>
<td>Tuesday 13 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading test</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Wednesday 14 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy test (Years 3 and 5)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There is one numeracy test for Years 3 and 5. (No calculator allowed.)</td>
<td>Thursday 15 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Numeracy tests (Years 7 and 9)</td>
<td>Number, Algebra, Function and pattern, Measurement, chance and data, and Space. There are two numeracy tests for Years 7 and 9. (Calculator allowed followed by non-calculator.)</td>
<td>Thursday 15 May 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catch-up day</td>
<td>For students who missed a section of the test or were absent on a particular day.</td>
<td>Friday 16 May 2014</td>
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</table>
Last week the P&C held the Annual General Meeting and a new executive was elected consisting of:
President: Luci Temple
Vice Presidents: Viv Smith, Marianna Koulias
Treasurer: Nichola Jephcott
Secretary: Heather Clement, Anna Butler
Non-office bearers: Ifeanna Tooth, Kim Bell-Anderson, Rae Cooper, Jen Burn, Rebecca Shanahan.

We thank last year’s executive committee for all their hard work, and welcome their continued involvement, whether it be attendance at P&C meetings, working on a subcommittee, helping out with fundraisers, or supporting the school & teachers directly.

Michael Keating summarised achievements made by parents at the school over the past year, including: incorporation under the P&C Federation; farewelling Colleen with the gift of a trip to the US; MADfest; fundraising BBQs & stalls; online fundraiser, movie mayhem, support for Mabo Day and NAIDOC celebrations, ongoing work by the Garden subcommittee in planting, harvesting, and integrating gardening into kids learning; ethics classes; pedestrian crossing duty; and advocacy in relation to the Sydney University Abercrombie precinct development.

Many thanks to all the parents who organised or helped out, as well as those who got involved with the school in other ways, such as helping out in the classroom, on school excursions, or by running an interest group (such as the Photography Club).

WHAT DO YOU CARE MOST ABOUT?
During my involvement at Darlo I’ve noticed that there are no shortage of parents with great ideas on how to improve things at the school for our kids. Many a conversation at birthday parties, play dates, and barbecues involves one or more people saying something along the lines of: "What they should do is...". We all have our own bug bears - an issue that we really understand or care about, and are frustrated if it’s not addressed.
However, the difference between the ideas that get turned into reality versus those that never go further is whether someone cares enough to not only talk about a problem but to put their hand up to become part of the solution, to say "I’m going to make this happen."

Once that first person steps up, others rise to support them, and that’s how things get done. Our achievements last year, and every year, can only be accomplished through the efforts of many parents volunteering their time and energy.
So we would like everyone to think about the one thing they’d like most to see improved or changed at Darlington, and whether they care enough to help make it happen.

If you do care, and are able to help, please get in touch with the P&C, school, or one of the below people - working together to improve the school experience for our kids.

GET INVOLVED!
Garden Subcommittee: Seeking volunteers to help out with the garden working bee this Sunday. Regularly meets Friday mornings. Contact Kyong at kyongaroo@yahoo.com or Nichola at nichola@biocore.com.au
Trivia Night: Seeking volunteers to help out with the trivia night fundraiser. Contact Heather Clement: heather@fixylady.com.au or 0431 217 302
Sydney Uni Development Subcommittee: Seeking volunteers to help out with advocacy issues to minimise the impact of the development on the school kids. Contact Maya Saric
Ethics Classes: Seeking volunteers to teach ethics class. Contact Rebecca Shanahan: rks@wideopen.net.au
Pedestrian Crossing Duty: Seeking volunteers to help children cross the road safely. Contact Rebecca Shanahan: rks@wideopen.net.au
Student engagement activities/ clubs: the school has indicated that what they would love most from parents is our time, particularly to enable the school to run extra activities (e.g. photography club, chess club, writing club, computer club) as was trialled fourth term last year.

If you have a passion, interest or ability for something that you could share with a group of enthusiastic students please talk to Liz Sinnott.
Sushi orders: seeking volunteers to help collate and count sushi orders on Wednesdays. Contact: school front desk.
We are seeking organisers for the below:
- Working Bee. Co-ordinate with principal to set a date, wishlist of working bee tasks, identify costs, purchase of materials, manage volunteers, etc.
- Playground Taskforce. Co-ordinate a small group of like minded parents to work with school/principal to identify school needs, consider playground options, identify best solution, funding requirements, possibly apply for a grant, etc.
- Halloween School Fete. Co-ordinate with principal to set a date, co-ordinate parents to run various stalls, promote the event, etc.
- Movie Mayhem. Co-ordinate with principal, teachers & parents to organise the Mother’s Day/ Father’s Day event/s.

Got your own idea you’d like to make happen?
Contact the P&C to gain support to get your idea up and running, or come along to a P&C meeting (second Wednesday of every month, 6pm, in the school staff room).

darlo.parents@hotmail.com
https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/?fref=ts
NEW THIS YEAR – BE A PART OF THE LIGHTING UP OF SYDNEY HARBOUR – VIVID HARBOUR

CRUISE - (Find out more: www.vividsydney.com)

23rd May, 24th & 25th May, 30th May, 1 June then 6th, 7th or 8th June 2014

www.tribalwarrior.org
Phone: (02) 9699 3491
Email: sales@tribalwarrior.org

Above image by: www.smh.com.au

Secure your ticket to enjoy Vivid Sydney as you have never experienced it before. Enjoy the hugely popular immersive light installations and projections with your family on a 2-hour cruise this coming June long weekend.

Refreshments and drinks are available from our on-board bar. Come and enjoy this family friendly event.

The boat departs from Eastern Pontoon in Circular Quay

TICKET PRICES

 Adults $25.00
Children $15.00
Family $65.00

*Two adults and two children
Is your child gifted, talented, intelligent, curious, creative and filled with promise?

WE CAN HELP YOU!

An invitation to participate in a series of innovative workshops at UTS

Further Details:
2014 Program Dates:
March 22/23rd
June 7/8th
August 9/10th
October 25/26th

Cost:
$90 (+ GST) per day
or $165 (+ GST) per weekend

Time:
9:30am-3:30pm
(Saturday and/or Sunday)

Workshop Categories:
Year 3/4, Year 5/6 and Year 7/8

www.inspirationeducation.com.au | 1300 677 336
Garden club working bee!
Sunday, 23 March, 12 - 4pm
If you have some spare time and want to get your hands (as well of those of your kids) dirty, come along to the working bee to help in planting out our autumn crop, potting up plants for our vertical garden, and general maintenance and tidying-up. Bring your hats, water, sun screen. If you have questions, feel free to contact Kyong 0430 800 404 or Nic 0414 891 181.

2014 homework planner
The best homework help you can give your child is to teach them to be organised. Print out the 2014 homework and study calendar, which includes key dates and school holidays. Stick them on the fridge and above their desk.


Maths A to Z
Brush up on some of the maths terms your child uses in the classroom. The Maths A to Z glossary provides straightforward explanations and illustrated examples.


Have a great week and remember:

“Do not train children to learning by force and harshness, but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.” - Plato

Liz Sinnott
Principal

PLEASE VISIT OUR P&C FACEBOOK PAGE:
Darlington Public School P&C Association on Facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/