Week 9 and we are three weeks away from the end of a very exciting and busy term. There is a lot of information in this newsletter so please take the time to read this bulletin from front to back, don’t forget the extra attachment this week. Thank you to everyone who volunteered their time to the working bee this weekend—our school looks great and our community is wonderful.

Boring works along the Darlington PS boundary are due to commence next Wednesday 26th March (if the rain holds out). John Holland will establish a safety buffer with John Holland personnel present on site to act as spotters (all have had their Working With Children Checks)

**STAR STUDENTS:**

Our students represented Darlington PS at the Regional Swimming championships and every child who competed did so with a wonderful enthusiasm that we are very well known for. Congratulations to each and every swimmer, you did us all proud. One swimmer in particular has made it to the State swimming championships (first time for us for many years) Matilda Thompson—you are a super star!!!

A huge thank you to everyone who offered help when we couldn’t find the video camera last week. A special thank you to Michelle and Brett Robinson for their very kind donation of a small lightweight video camera (with a tripod). I know it will get LOADS of use at Darlington. Our community ROCKS!

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS:**

Online payments will be live tomorrow (fingers crossed). With this newsletter I have included information for parents on how to pay school payments online.

Parents can still pay with cash or eftpos at the office if needed.

**PLEASE NOTE:** YOUR PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE AT LEAST 2 DAYS BEFORE THE DUE DATE SO THAT WE CAN ENSURE YOUR PAYMENT HAS BEEN PROCESSED BY THE BANK.

**THIS IS PARTICULARLY IMPORTANT FOR SUSHI ORDERS. ANY ONLINE PAYMENTS FOR SUSHI MUST BE MADE NO LATER THAN TUESDAY NIGHT.**
Tickets for the Trivia Night are now on sale through the office. Please return this form with payment as soon as possible to guarantee your spot on the night.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Please tick</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>I would like to organise our own table and purchase a whole table’s worth of tickets – (10 seats @ $25 each = $250)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>I would like to purchase ____ tickets and will organise a table with others who have bought individual tickets – ($25 each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Table organiser ________ (if known)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☐</td>
<td>I would like to purchase ____ tickets and would like to sit at an unassigned table – ($25 each)</td>
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| Name:      |                                                                 |
| Number of tickets: |                                                                 |
| Contact email: | (to send tickets to)     |
| Phone:      | (In case there is a problem)                                      |

**Payment Details:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>□ Cash</th>
<th>□ Cheque</th>
<th>□ Bank Deposit</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Please include correct money in an envelope with this form</td>
<td>Please make cheques payable to &quot;Darlington School and Community Association&quot;</td>
<td>Account name: Darlington School and Community BSB: 732-023 Account Number: 000542113 Reference: Your name</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2014

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2014 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 13 - 15 May 2014.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 14 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 15 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar</td>
<td></td>
<td>(Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td></td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:
- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html).
Parent Interviews

This year parent interviews are being conducted at the end of Term 1. This meeting will look at learning goals, students’ strengths and areas for improvement. Having the meeting earlier in the year will provide more insight into the needs of each student.

The Semester 1 Report will be sent out at the end of Term 2 with the Feedback to Parents information sheet.

**Interviews will be held in Weeks 10 and 11.**

Teachers will have a sheet outside the room to allocate interview spots. Interviews will be 15 mins in duration.

**Interview times**

- 8:00am—10:00am and
- 1:30 pm—5:00pm

Parents may write their names directly onto the sheet or return notes to teachers and they will write names up. Times can be confirmed by checking the sheet. If the requested time is taken the nearest timeslot available will be given.

**Interviews Week 10**

Wednesday 2nd April - Year 5/6 Frill Neck Lizards and Year 5/6 Goannas

Thursday 3rd April - Year 1 Frogs and Year 1 Turtles

**Interviews Week 11**

Monday 7th April—Kindergarten Echidnas and Kindergarten Owls

Tuesday 8th April— Year 3/4 Geckos and Year 4 Koalas

Thursday 9th April—Year 2 Dingoes and Year 2/3 Platypus

Name: ____________________________  Child: ____________________________  Class: ________

Time/s: ____________________________
Last chance to audition for the choir *Voices of Sydney*

*Voices of Sydney Choir* (formerly Sydney Region Choir) is an auditioned and official DEC choir for public school students from Years 5 – 12, with great performance opportunities.

If you would like to sing, and would like to sing in a choir, and

If you would like to perform in great events (including the 2014 Schools Spectacular)

Then come along to a weekly rehearsal before the end of this term and join the rehearsal.

Tuesday afternoons at Sutherland Public School. 4.00pm-5.30pm (Deb and Therese)
Thursday afternoons at Darlington Public School 4.30pm – 5.45pm (Kipi and Helen)
Please ring, text or email to find out more - or turn up to a rehearsal and meet the choir.

Heather Causley Manager- 0400 808 603  causleys@bigpond.net.au
More information on the website [www.sydneyregionarts.det.nsw.edu.au](http://www.sydneyregionarts.det.nsw.edu.au) – Music Programs
Sydney Region Choir (the 2013 information is still current for this year).

Homework for little kids

Schools develop homework policies with the help of teachers and parents. These are used as a guide and are based on common sense. If you find homework is becoming too much or is too difficult for your child, have a chat with your child's teacher.


Helping your child to become a good speller

What do you do when your child is struggling with spelling? Should you let your child use a spell checker, for instance? Here are a few tips and techniques to make spelling easier.


The working bee:

We got a lot done at the working bee on Sunday! If you have a look around the school grounds, you will notice that lots of native plants have been added, the ground has been weeded, vertical garden has been put up and winter crop put in.

Parents, please make sure to keep the children off of the newly planted areas to give the plants a chance to get established. A big thank you to all the families that came and put in such a huge effort!

Kyong and Nic.

Have a great week and remember:

“You have brains in your head, you have feet in your shoes, you can steer yourself any direction you choose” – Dr Seuss

Liz Sinnott
Principal

Please visit our P&C Facebook page:
Darlington Public School P&C Association on Facebook:
[https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/)