Firstly, my humble apologies for not getting last week’s bulletin out to you, the week was very busy and the staff member who collates it was away. I am also finding a weekly bulletin a lot of repetition so beginning in 2016 our bulletins will be sent home and posted on the website each fortnight, until the end of this year I will continue to send it out each week. A lot has happened over the last two weeks, Hayley Brown-McNeil was successful at interview and has become our permanent Aboriginal Education Officer, she has a wonderful rapport with the students at Darlington and we look forward to her continued support of the school and its community. I have been notified that the position previously held by Diane Willis can now proceed to advertisement and I am currently forming a panel to interview applicants. I expect that the interview will occur later this term and the person will fill the position in the new year if everything goes to plan. DON'T FORGET THE WORKING BEE ON SATURDAY!

**STAR STUDENTS:**

This week our “Artists of the Week” are from the Frilled Necked Lizards class and Echidna class. Please check our school homepage to view the art. Each week a class updates their page on our website and this weeks class is the Scarlet Robins class, please check it out on the link below:


AND


**NRL Day Review**

*Kai C. Goes*

This Thursday the school had NRL day, where rugby coaches came in to do some games, new skills and helped kids that didn’t even know anything about the game.

Children were split up into groups so the coaches could match skills to make it fair. Every group was a fun place to be, the different groups would play fun games that evolve skills like catching, throwing, running, jumping etc.

This event was for everyone but some were unlucky and failed to hand in the note on time.
School Counsellor at Darlington Public School

Holly Bray is a Registered Psychologist and works at Darlington Public School every Thursday. Holly is a member of the school's Learning Support Team and works with this team to assist students in the areas of learning, social skills, mental health, and behaviour. Referrals to the school counsellor can be made by teachers and parents, and students are also able to self-refer to the school counsellor. Priorities for the school counsellor’s time are determined, in consultation with the school counsellor, by the principal.

The work of the school counsellor can include the following:

- Short-term counselling for students and assistance with external referrals for students requiring ongoing / long-term counselling
- Assessment of students' learning and behaviour in consultation with the class teacher and Learning Support Team.
- Assistance with developing and implementing support systems for students at school.
- Liaising with external agencies and allied health professionals (e.g. Paediatricians and Psychologists) to assist with supporting students at school.

Steps for Parent Referrals to School Counsellor:

1. As an initial step please discuss your concerns with your child's class teacher
2. If required, the class teacher will then make a referral to the school's Learning Support Team
3. Your child will be discussed at Learning Support Team meeting and an action plan devised (this plan may include referral to the school counsellor)
4. If a referral is made to the school counsellor, a referral form will be sent home for you to complete and sign and the school counsellor will be in touch to further discuss your concerns

Selective High School 2017

Application information for entry to Year 7 in selective high schools in 2017 is available at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/shsplacement

The application website link will be available from 13 Oct - 16 Nov 2014.

Applications close on 17 November 2015. No late applications will be accepted.
The Selective High School Placement Test will be held on 10 March 2015.

If you would like more information please collect a booklet from the office
Internet safety presentation helps children stay safe online

Young people today are immersed in digital technologies. They use the internet and mobile phones to socialise, study, exchange ideas and play. While online activity has many benefits, there are also risks. To help your children stay safe online, Newtown PS is hosting a Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation. Designed for parents, teachers and students, this presentation is provided by the Australian Communications and Media Authority (the ACMA) as part of a national program of cybersmart initiatives.

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation is thorough and non-technical. It covers a range of issues including:

- the ways children use the internet and emerging technologies
- potential risks for children online, such as cyberbullying, identity theft, inappropriate contact and exposure to inappropriate content
- tips to help children stay safe online.

The presentation is conducted by an ACMA Cybersmart trainer and is free of charge.

Newtown Public School is committed to helping students develop appropriate behaviours when using digital technologies, both at school and home. Our program of internet safety initiatives includes:

- Regular circle time discussions about preventing student bullying, including cyber bullying
- Use of the Australian Government’s Commission of Children’s safety resources on cyber safety
- Circle time discussions about popular websites and apps and how to use them safely and responsibly

The Cybersmart Outreach—Internet Safety Awareness presentation will be held on:
Wednesday 4th November 2015
Newtown Public School Hall
The session starts at 7pm and goes for 90 mins.
Attendance
Darlington Public School has been reviewing our attendance policy. This policy aims to improve the educational outcomes for students and has been developed in accordance with Department of Education guidelines.

Whole day absences
A small number of whole day absences are acceptable if for example your child:
  - is too sick to go to school or has an infectious disease
  - is required to attend a serious or urgent family situation (e.g. a funeral)
  - has to go to a special religious ceremony

Partial Absences
A small number of partial (or part day) absences are acceptable if for example your child:
  - is representing the school on school business e.g competing at a zone level for athletics
  - is attending a funeral
  - has been sent home because they are sick
  - has an appointment with a medical professional

What if my child has to be away from school?
If your child has to be away from school, parent or guardian must contact the school and provide a reason for your child’s absence within 7 days. To explain the absence parents and carers can:

  - send a note to the school or contact the school via the school’s email address, or
  - telephone the school, or
  - visit the school
  - log into the Darlington Public school’s App
Preschool News
Visit from the PCYC: Senior Constable Angela on Safety

Recently both of our preschool groups had the pleasure of meeting Senior Constable Angela from the PCYC who came to speak to us about safety. We began by discussing water safety and how we should never go into the water without an adult. The children pretended to put their toe in the water and then quickly run away because they were without an adult. We spoke about strange dogs and how to act if you get scared of a big dog coming your way. “Put your chin up and cross your arms, then the dog will think you’re the boss!”

We spoke about road safety and how to walk in car parks - always remembering to hold hands with an adult and look both ways. We were reminded to wear helmets when riding our bikes and scooters because they protect our heads.

The children remembered to call 000 in an emergency and also spoke about things they could do if they got lost. (Approach a shop keeper, a security guard, a mum or dad with children or a police officer if you see one.)

Outcome 2 - Children develop a sense of belonging to groups and communities and an understanding of the reciprocal rights and responsibilities necessary for active community participation
   Building relationships with police.
Outcome 3 - Children take increasing responsibility for their own health and wellbeing
   Understands the need for safety and can identify safe and unsafe situations.
Head lice

I am writing to advise you that we suspect that nits/head lice are present in the hair of some students within our preschool/school.

Please check your child’s hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health (http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/publichealth/environment/headlice/treatment.asp) a copy of which is attached.

If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended.

Further information on head lice is available on the NSW Health website (details above) or through the Department's website at http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/studentsupport/studenthealth/conditions/headlice/index.php.

I appreciate your assistance in this regard.

Yours sincerely
Liz Sinnott
Principal Darlington PS

---

Advice

Up to date information on head lice is important as there are many misunderstandings about 'head lice' and how to treat them effectively.

NSW Health has recently conducted a research project in NSW to find out more about head lice and effective ways of treating infestations.

As a result, advice from NSW Health to parents and school staff has changed significantly.

This Department has worked collaboratively with the Federation of Parents and Citizens in support of this research project.

Results of research show that:

Head lice infestations are a common occurrence, particularly in primary schools.

- about 23% of primary students have head lice at any one time
- anyone can catch head lice regardless of their age, sex, or how clean their hair is
- head lice move from one person's head to another via hair
- head lice do not survive long when they are off a human head
- head lice do not live on furniture, hats, bedding or carpet
- head lice have built up some resistance to head lice treatments
- daily combing of white hair conditioner using a fine tooth comb is effective in getting rid of head lice and eggs (nits)
- school communities may need to hold ‘check and treat’ or Nitbuster days where everyone learns about and starts treatment on the same day.

Information on effective treatment is essential to break the cycle of head lice infestation.

What you can expect from your school

Advice from NSW Health indicates that there is no need for students to be sent home or excluded from school because of head lice.

Observing students scratching their heads is not a reliable or efficient means of assessing head lice prevalence in the school.

Where one student has head lice this serves as a warning light that there is likely to be an infestation in either specific classes or across the whole school population, including staff.

Schools also provide:
ways of communicating information about head lice infestations and treatment for parents (eg through school news letters). They will also encourage students to avoid head to head contact in group activities as far as possible.

In rare cases where students are experiencing a chronic head lice infestation the school, parents and the local community may need to work together to treat the infestation. Nitbusters has been found to be an effective whole school approach.

Tips for parents in reducing the spread of head lice:
regularly check your children’s hair
teach older children to check their own hair
tie back and braid long hair
keep a fine tooth head lice comb in the bathroom and encourage all family members to use it when they wash their hair.

As infestations are particularly common in primary schools, it is best to choose a treatment that can be used over time. There is no single solution to eradication, only persistence.
**Speech Pathology Information**

**What is a Speech Pathologist?**
Speech pathologists complete a degree at university, which encompasses all aspects of communication including speech, writing, reading, signs, symbols and gestures. Speech pathologists were formerly known as *speech therapists*.

Children with communication difficulties may have difficulty understanding spoken language (*receptive language*) or expressing their ideas (*expressive language*), or both.

Speech Pathologists conduct an assessment of the child’s language (expressive and receptive) and provide recommendations for the child’s parents and school. They may also recommend ongoing therapy for the child.

(From *Speech Pathology Australia* website http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au)

**Language Difficulties at School:**

- Difficulty following directions or giving instructions
  Problems understanding questions, eg., who, what, where, when, how
- Difficulty understanding jokes, double meanings and abstract concepts
- Simpler sentence forms
- Incorrect grammar such as problems with pronouns (her/she), tense (goed/went, walk/walked), or plurals
- Difficulty remembering words, including everyday ones they know as well such as songs, nursery rhymes, days of the week, and people's names
- Frequent use of non-specific words, eg. "stuff, thing"
- Stories, both spoken and written, which are disjointed and miss details
- Difficulty breaking language into its parts, eg, identifying words in sentences or sounds in words
- Difficulty with the social rules of conversation, eg., staying on the topic, taking turns, and letting the speaker know when they do not understand
  Infrequently initiating conversation or topics. These children are often quiet and less responsive than their peers in conversation

The following behaviours are often, but not always, signs of underlying language impairment:

- Easily distracted
- Limited attention span
- Slower to respond or answer questions
- Slower to put thoughts together to express their ideas
- Seems vague or "turned off" sometimes disorganised behaviour
- Lack of planning and sequencing in actions or tasks
How to Access Speech Pathology: Information for Parents

1. Community Health

Service: Language assessment

Parents can contact their community health centre to make a referral for their child and have them placed on a wait-list

- Marrickville Community Health Centre (Ph. 9562 0500)
- Camperdown Community Health Centre (Ph. 9516 3232)

2. Private Speech Pathologist

Service: Language assessment and/or therapy

You can find a local private Speech Pathologist by entering your postcode into the following website: http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/about-spa/find-a-speech-pathologist or asking your GP to recommend a Speech Pathologist

You can get a Medicare rebate (when you see a private speech pathologist) by firstly visiting your GP and asking them to create an Enhanced Primary Care Plan for your child

- Up to maximum of five sessions can be claimed per calendar year

The rebate is currently $50.05 per session

Have a great week and remember:

“Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality.” - Dalai Lama

Liz Sinnott
Principal

PLEASE VISIT OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PAGES:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/darlington.ps.3
Twitter: @DarloPS
Email: darlington-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
Website: http://www.darlington-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/home
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20 Yr 5 Art day— Dulwich Hill</td>
<td>21 SCHOOL PHOTOS Preschool Orientation</td>
<td>22 2016 Kindy Transition #2 Talent Quest Heats</td>
<td>23 Working Bee on Saturday 24th October 9-5 Talent Quest Heats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 2016 Kindy Transition #3</td>
<td>28 School Spec Dance— First Combined Rehearsal Talent Quest Heats GONSKI talk at Newtown PS</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30 Talent Quest Heats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>2 School Spec Choir rehearsal</td>
<td>3 Stage 3 Cyber Safety Talk Parents talk at Newtown PS</td>
<td>4 2016 Kindy Transition #4 Talent Quest Heats</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6 Yr 6 at UTS Talent Quest Heats</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov</td>
<td>9 School Spec Choir rehearsal</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11 Talent Quest Final</td>
<td>12 Musica Viva</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>16 Diwali Celebration</td>
<td>17 School Spec Rehearsal</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>23 School Spec rehearsal Choir and Dance</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25 School Spec Rehearsal Choir and Dance</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27 Schools Spec performance (27th and 28th)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>30 Choir at City of Sydney Christmas event</td>
<td>1 Yr 5 and 5/6 Surf Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dec</td>
<td>7 Yr 6 Mural Painting</td>
<td>8 P&amp;C meeting</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10 Yr 6 Presentation Day and Farewell</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>14 Yr 6 Zoo Snooze</td>
<td>15 Yr 6 Zoo Snooze</td>
<td>16 Staff Development Day</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18 Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>