Well, we have hit week 6 already. All classes (except for 2 Dingoes) have had their parent information meeting and teachers report that many parents attended, thank you for making time in your day to attend these meetings. At the start of this week we received an email congratulating us on significant gains in our NAPLAN results compared to similar schools, an excerpt is on page 7 of this bulletin. It just proves how hard the staff, students and parents of Darlington PS work at making this school a great place to learn. Well done everyone!

**STAR STUDENTS:**

*Each week a class will update their page on our website so look out for the link in next week’s bulletin. We do have an “Artist of the Week” from 1frogs, please check our home page out to view it:*


**REMINDERS:**

- **Nits**—please treat your child/ren
- **P&C activities**—welcome morning team, garden bee, and meeting
- **School uniform**—prices included inside—new order form coming soon

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR OUR PARENTS:**

We have had reports of children needing treatment for nits/headlice. **PLEASE** check your child/ren and treat them accordingly, if we all do it this week it will eradicate the problem. Review treatment information on the back page of this bulletin.
ANIMAL BOX comes to Darlo

"Animal Box is delivering fresh, healthy meals to our school every Thursday and Tuesday. Jump online at animalbox.com.au and check out the menu for this term. They have a great selection of hot and cold main meals starting at $3.50 per meal. Snacks start at $0.95, while water and nudie juices are also on offer.

Orders are made online and cut off at 8am on the day of delivery. Knowing how busy mornings can be, we recommend going online the night before with your children and placing your orders then. This will avoid potential disappointment through accidentally missing the 8am cut-off time.

Pictures, ingredient lists, allergen considerations and detailed nutritional information panels are provided for the entire menu - So you will know exactly what your children will be eating this term.

Animal Box will deliver the lunches at 12.40pm on canteen days. The lunches will come clearly labelled with your child’s name, year and class in a brown paper bag; with a serviette and biodegradable fork or spoon (if required).

You need only create one online profile per family and please remember to include your child’s class name when you first register. If you have any questions, please give the friendly team at Animal Box a call on 02 8015 5019, or send them an email at welcome@animalbox.com.au"
Keeping your kids healthy

At a glance

- Get your child to help pack their lunch box so they are more likely to eat what's in it.
- Try to include protein in your child's lunch box to keep them full and energetic.
- Exercise is vital in helping manage weight, keeping muscles strong, helping their hearts and lungs develop, and improving their hand-eye coordination.
- Wash your hands regularly to avoid germs.
- Cough into your elbow, not your hands.
- The healthiest drink options for kids are water and milk.
- Look after your child's emotional health too — try not to over-schedule them, having some ‘down time' is important too.


WELCOME MORNING TEA— parents and carers

Dear parents and carers,

The P & C would like to invite all parents and carers (both new and old members of our community!) to a welcome morning tea. Come along, have a cup of coffee or tea and a bite to eat, meet other Darlington parents and carers and find out how the P & C supports the school.

When: Thursday 5th March, 9 - 10.30  
Where: School Hall

RSVP darlingtonpandc@gmail.com or 0423022676 to Marianna Koulia

Marianna Koulia
P & C President on behalf of the Darlington Public School P & C

Futsal is back on! Indoor soccer (free) every Sunday at the Ultimo Community Centre, across the road from the Ian Thorpe pool. It's free, did I mention that? Under 7’s at 10am, over 7’s at 11am. It's a great way to find out if your kid is keen on the “beautiful game”. Meet other parents and find out all about the sport...

So what can I do through the App?:

**Change Details**

Complete the “Change Details” option on the app and this will generate an email directly to the Darlington Public School office.

**Information required:**

- Student Name
- Class
- What details have changed
  - NEW home phone number
  - NEW mobile phone number
  - NEW email address
  - NEW address
- Your details
  - Parent Name
  - Contact Phone Number

SUBMIT
**Parent tips for helping kids**

**Primary and High school**

**Good number sense**
Maths is a numbers game but for some students - and parents - the figures don't add up. Here are some strategies to help kids to work out sums in their heads in a way that makes sense to them.

**Primary school**

**Reading with your child at home**
When your kids see you reading and writing in everyday life – whether reading for pleasure, sharing a story with them or making a shopping list – it teaches them that they are useful skills. Here are some things you can do at home to help your kids with reading.

**High school**

**Does multi-tasking reduce focus?**
Can your kids really study while updating their Facebook page, listening to their music players and messaging their friends? Research shows dedicated study time without distractions produces better learning and a greater ability to retrieve information. Find out more: [http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/homework-and-multitasking-can-it-be-done](http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/technology/using-technology/homework-and-multitasking-can-it-be-done)

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**This Friday, 6th March,** the Garden Club will be planting up the beds in the front courtyard and in the preschool area. We will enlist the thumbs of preschool kids in their area but would welcome community help with the front courtyard. Here are some of our tasks:

- top up the no-dig beds with manure and straw and plant them up with winter crop such as lettuces, beetroot, onions, snap peas.
- relocate the vertical garden to a more suitable spot; repot plants
- revive the worm farms: these little guys are kinda starving and need food NOW. Feel free to bring kitchen scraps such as fruit peels, veggie scraps, teabags, coffee grounds, crushed eggshells (no onion, garlic, chilli, dairy or citrus) and drop them into the top bin. You can do this anytime this week.

We will work from 9-11am but feel free to come and go as you please. Don’t forget your sun screen, hat, and water. Contact Kyong 0430 800 404 or Nic 0414 891 181 for more info.

We need more helpers this year so if you can’t make Friday but might be able to do another day on the watering roster please let us know.

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Darlington Public School Community Garden
Hello parents and carers,
Each year students in Year 3, and above, are invited to join Training Band by attending a blow test to assess student suitability on an instrument. Instrument recommendations are also based on student choice, and the need to create a balanced band. Richard Brus, the band conductor, will facilitate blow tests on available instruments.

There will be blow testing on Wednesday 4th March.
If you would like your child to attend the blow test and join Training Band in 2015, please complete the Expression of Interest form found at: http://dnnbands.wordpress.com/ and email it to <richardbrus13@gmail.com>
You may also pick up a copy at the office and drop it off. You will find more comprehensive information about the band program on the website as well.

Welcome to all new (and returning) Parents and Carers at Darlington Public School,
You’ve made a great choice sending your child to Darlo!

The school has an active parent body that are keen to help improve the school in any way we can. The School’s Parents & Citizen Association (P&C) meets once a month (2nd Wednesday of the month) to coordinate our efforts.

The P&C has two main goals:

1. To promote the interests of the school and strengthen community spirit by bringing parents/carers, citizens, students and teaching staff into close co-operation.
2. To benefit the school through fundraising and volunteering.

Last year we raised in excess of $15,000, with a fete, trivia night, raffles, BBQs, pizza & pyjama night and more. We also held a very successful working bee, helped raise and resolve issues around the school and most importantly had a lot of fun doing it all.

Next P&C meeting:

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<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 March, 6-7:30pm</th>
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<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Library</td>
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<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Everyone is invited</td>
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<td>Why</td>
<td>Because you want to support your school</td>
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Please come join us at the next meeting or if you can not make it but would like to be on the P&C emailing list please email darlingtonpandc@gmail.com
For more information on Darlington P&C please visit our website and join our Facebook group:
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/?fref=ts

Darlington P&C executive:
President - Marianna Koulias
Vice President - Viv Smith
Treasurer - Nichola Jephcott
Secretary - Heather Clement, Anna Butler
Non-Office Bearers - Jen Burn, Kim Bell-Anderson, Rae Cooper, Rebecca Shanahan, Ifeanna Tooth
Moving into Year 7 in a NSW government school in 2015—as your child’s primary school education is coming to a close, it is time to think about which school your child will attend next year.

In NSW, students are required to continue education and training, gain full-time paid employment, or a combination of education/training and employment until at least age 17. All students must complete Year 10 of secondary education.

The Parent and Carers guide provides information about the different types of government secondary schools to help you decide which school you would like your child/ren to attend. Please complete the Expression of Interest form included within the guide and return to the office by: **Wednesday 18 March, 2015**

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**School Uniform**

**Our Uniform**

Our school uniform has been designed with the student’s comfort as our main concern. The fabrics chosen are easily laundered and the main garments may be purchased from a range of stores as well as our front office. Watch out for our new order form in next week’s bulletin.

**Hat Policy**

It is compulsory for students to wear hats when playing in the playground. They may only wear a red Darlington school hat. These are available from the front office in 3 styles. Baseball caps are not allowed.

**Merchandise**

While parents are free to purchase their child's uniform from any source, merchandise showing the Darlington Logo may only be purchased from the front office.

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<tr>
<th>Pricing</th>
<th>Hats</th>
<th>Tshirts</th>
<th>Skirts/Shorts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Legionnaires $6</td>
<td>Short Sleeve $20</td>
<td>Culottes $35</td>
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<td>One size fits all</td>
<td>Sizes: 4-16</td>
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<td>Round Brim $12</td>
<td>Long sleeve $25</td>
<td>Ponte Pants (girls) $30</td>
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<th>Bags</th>
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<tr>
<td>Library $12</td>
<td>Jumper $25</td>
<td>Trackpants (unisex) $25</td>
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<td>4-16</td>
<td>Hoodies $30</td>
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The International Competitions and Assessments for Schools (ICAS) are independent skills-based assessments with a competition element. Commonly referred to as the UNSW tests, ICAS is unique, being the most comprehensive generally available suite of academic assessments and school tests for primary and secondary school students. The assessments comprise eight Digital Technologies tests, eleven English tests, eleven Maths tests, eleven Science tests, five Spelling tests and ten Writing tests.

A new ICAS test is developed annually for each subject in each year level by our team of subject matter experts. All ICAS tests are reviewed by experienced teachers to ensure that they accurately assess students’ skills and are relevant to what they are learning at school. Some schools use ICAS as a placement test. Other schools use ICAS results as a component of a student’s overall academic achievement for the year. While still others offer ICAS as a psychometric test to better understand what students can and can’t do at a point in time.

Each test is sat at the student’s school and is invigilated by teachers under normal examination conditions. Administration Guidelines are provided to the schools with the ICAS papers to ensure that the same conditions are afforded to all students sitting ICAS.

Over one million student entries are accepted from over 6,300 schools in Australia and New Zealand annually. In addition, students from over 20 countries including Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Singapore, South Africa and the USA participate in ICAS each year.

We at Darlington PS would like to offer the opportunity for your children (in year 3-6) to sit some of the assessments, the cost of entry is approximately $8.80 and the assessments occur in June, July and August. We have registered for the assessments and will forward information closer to the assessment dates.

A cause for celebration: (part of an email we received this week)

Dear Principal

The Australian Curriculum, Assessment and Reporting Authority (ACARA) is responsible for Australia’s national reporting program, which includes My School.

ACARA intends to update My School/2015 on Thursday 5 March 2015.

Based on My School data, and using a methodology explained below, your school has been identified as demonstrating above average NAPLAN gain compared to schools with similar students. This gain is deemed to be statistically significant and worthy of highlighting and acknowledgement.

To identify your school as demonstrating this above average gain compared to schools with similar students and to deem this statistically significant, ACARA employed a methodology that considered three key factors being:

1. Your overall gain compared to previous years;
2. Your gain compared to schools with similar students based on the Index of Community Socio-Educational Advantage (ICSEA) level; and,
3. Your gain compared to other students at similar NAPLAN start points.

As part of My School communications planning, ACARA held a media briefing today, Monday 2 March 2015. The media briefing included journalists from the major metropolitan media.
2015 Ethics Classes

All children who have already applied for ethics classes have been given a place and parents who supplied email addresses have been notified by email.
Stage 1 (Year 1&2), Year 3 and Stage 3 (Year 5&6) classes begin next Tuesday 24 February at 2.00pm.
The Year 4 class will begin as soon as its teacher completes training – I will advise when this class is due to start.

I would like to express a big vote of appreciation to Kate Concannon Texiilake, Darlo’s first ever ethics teacher, whose schedule has prevented her teaching this year. Kate’s contribution kick-started ethics classes at Darlo and gave our 2013-2014 senior students opportunities for ethics discussion before starting high school.

Interested in teaching ethics or coordinating the program?
We are still looking for parents/community members who’d like to teach ethics at Darlington, and this year I will be stepping back from my coordinating role. If you’d like to know more, please don’t hesitate to get in touch: email me at rks@wideopen.net.au, or go to www.primaryethics.com.au.

Rebecca Shanahan, Ethics Coordinator

Out of the mouths of babes...
"I like that I get to relax and listen to great stories. Then we get to talk about them. It’s different to our other classes". - Lara, Year 2, Gordon East Public School

"In ethics, we learnt that people are different and that’s OK.” - Student, Year 3, Pennant Hills Public School.

“It’s a fun way to learn things and your opinion matters in ethics.” - Student,

NITS/HEADLICE — please check

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

Have a great week and remember: “One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world”. - Malala Yousafzai

Liz Sinnott
Principal

PLEASE VISIT OUR P&C:
Darlington Public School P&C Association on
Facebook:  https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/
Email: darlo.parents@hotmail.com
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- **January 26**: Australia Day
- **January 27**: Staff Development Day
- **February 26**: Zone Swim Carnival
- **February 28**: P&C Welcome morning tea
- **March 28**: Selective HS placement test
- **April 28**: Expression of Interest - Year 7 DUE BACK
- **April 30**: Good Friday