As we enter week 7 we do so with a spring in our steps due to our successful Numeracy growth for 2014. What a wonderful pat on the back for the staff and students of Darlington PS to be recognised for all our hard work. Well done Darlington!

From 23rd March until 2nd April we will be holding parent/teacher interviews, your child’s teacher will send a note home this week or next asking for you to nominate a time you would like to meet to discuss your child’s progress.

We have Selective High School test on Thursday this week and Harmony Day next Friday (20th March).

Before we know it Easter will be upon us!

STAR STUDENTS:
Each week a class will update their page on our website so look out for the link in next week’s bulletin. This week’s stars are Geckos—who have been studying Different Materials and their Properties:

REMINDERS:
- **Nits**—please treat your child/ren
- **P&C activities**—11th AGM at 6pm
- **School uniform**—new order form coming soon

**NITS/HEADLICE — please check**

Please check your child’s hair for nits/lice tonight using the methods recommended in information from NSW Health. If you find any eggs or lice please commence treatment as recommended. This can be found at:

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
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](http://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 nuddy 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](mailto:welcome@animalbox.com.au)"

---

**HOW IT WORKS**

Follow the simple steps below to have your child receive our nutritious, creative lunches and snacks at school!

**Step 1** Create an account at [animalbox.com.au](http://animalbox.com.au)

**Step 2** Order your child’s nutritious lunch online for delivery to their school

**Step 3** Your order is made and delivered to your child in time for lunch. Easy!

**Mains from $3.50**

**Snacks from $0.95**

Now accepting [VISA](https://www.visa.com/), [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com/), [MasterCard](https://www.mastercard.com/)

Order online before 8am on the day of delivery

Questions? Call us on: 02 8015 5019

[ANIMALBOX.COM.AU](http://animalbox.com.au)
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:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When</th>
<th>Wednesday 11 March, 6-7:30pm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where</td>
<td>Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who</td>
<td>Everyone is invited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why</td>
<td>Because you want to support your school</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Dear parents and carers,

Reminder: The Darlington P&C AGM will be held on Wednesday March 11 in the School Library starting at 6pm followed by a shorter version of our monthly meeting.

You need to be a financial member to vote in the P & C election at the AGM and you can join before the meeting for $1. There are some positions on the executive that we need to fill for 2015 so there is no time like the present to come along and get involved!

If you are not on the P & C mailing list but would like to stay informed, please email darlingtonpandc@gmail.com with the subject line: ADD ME.

Thank you
Marianna Koulias
On behalf of the Darlington P & C
Joining the **Mimosa Recorder Ensemble 2015**
Darlington P.S.- Part of - **Mimosa Festival Of Instrumental Music [FOIM]**

Dear Parents and Musicians,

Positions are now open for the Mimosa Recorder Ensemble 2015! This is our 10th continuous year of participation. The Mimosa Recorder Ensemble is a Music extension group that caters to a wide range of talents – from beginners to advanced players. The ensemble is created each year to provide an opportunity for children to participate in a high level performance environment. This culminates in a massed recorder ensemble performance at the Sydney Opera of over 700 recorders from all over N.S.W. The recorders are also accompanied by a variety of very experienced secondary students, professional musicians and the Massed String Ensemble. Being part of the Mimosa Recorders gives the students and the audience a snapshot of the very best Primary and Secondary music ensembles in N.S.W.

**REHEARSALS BEGIN** on **THURSDAY AFTERNOON 12th March** in the Music Room at 2:40pm (for **PRE-AUDITIONED CHILDREN WHO HAVE ALREADY RETURNED THEIR NOTE!**)  
Children come to the Music Room ready to begin at 2:40p.m.  
The Rehearsal concludes by 3:30pm

**Positions still vacant!**

**Descant 1 Rec** - 4 x places (children who have been playing for at least 1 year)  
(Auditioning Wed 11th March at 2:30pm in the Music Room)

**Descant 2 Rec** - 5 x places (beginner recorder players usually from Y4)  
(Jointing notes will be given in the Music Lesson time)

Descant 2 players – will have a special rehearsal from **SECOND LUNCH 2:30 until 3pm Fridays.** Starting Friday 13**th** in the Music Room. This group is essentially a beginners group and I will need time with them to do a special intensive recorder learning program that they will need to follow up at home. The program is called “Beginner Recorder Lessons ~ Progressive” from the website learntoplaymusic.com

The URL is > [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul7XVJ0qfNM&list=PLuF_UlmB1JSdSh92pvAYjnNDcYXFKbTHkJ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul7XVJ0qfNM&list=PLuF_UlmB1JSdSh92pvAYjnNDcYXFKbTHkJ).  
The Descant 2 group will start working with the Thursday (2:40) group early in TERM 2

**WHAT IS INVOLVED in Recorder Ensemble (i.e.Term 1 - Des 1, Treb 1&2, Ten, Bass)**

**Punctuality**—Members need to be set up in the Music Room at 2:30 p.m. ready to start by 2:40 pm. Lessons will conclude by 3:30p.m.

**Practice**—I have asked the children to practice each piece at least 5 times between rehearsals. All players could benefit from visiting “Beginner Recorder Lessons ~ Progressive” mentioned above

**Bring with them**—Recorder, Music, Pencil and Rubber. Please ensure that your child brings ALL of these things to rehearsal and performances. Please DO NOT leave these belongings in the Music Room

**Manners**—Consideration for other people’s learning is a high priority in the rehearsals so that effective use of the time can be maximised. There are times when sections of the ensemble have to be patient while the conductor helps other sections or individuals. Being in the ensemble is a privilege and it involves listening, thinking, playing, feeling, interpreting, mathematics, concentration, relaxation, observation, anticipation, skill, correct breathing and posture – with all of those things happening there should be little time for unnecessary talk.

**Performances and Rehearsals**

**June** Mimosa Preliminary Rehearsal and Op Hse Ticket Bookings

**August** Mimosa Concert Rehearsal and Acacia Concert
FEES and SUPPLIES
1: Fees will be $50.
2: For this all Acacia Ensemble Members will be supplied with
   E] A Tee – Shirt  F] Descant 2 (beginner) players receive a “FREE” recorder
3: Opera House seats cost $41 for adults and Concession/students $34
   Available 22nd June from 9 a.m. [details re purchase will come later]

Graeme Sandstrom                                           Liz Sinnott
Conductor                                                  Principal

Please DON’T PAY YET (an official Membership note will follow)
Return To Mr Graeme Sandstrom (or Office if Mon or Tues)
Mimosa RECORDER ENSEMBLE
Expression Of Interest – Please return to the Office ASAP.

My child _____________________________________ in
Class ________________________ is interested in auditioning for –
1. The Bass Recorder          [Yes] ____________________
2. The Tenor Recorder         [Yes] ____________________
3. The Treble Recorder section [Yes] ____________________
4. The Descant 1 Recorder section [Yes] ____________________
5. The Descant 2 Recorder section [Yes] ____________________
If your child is selected they will be given a form with information similar to
what is stated above.
Parent’s Signature _________________________ Date ____________________
Contact Details: Email___________________________________________
       Mob. ____________________________________________________
*I would really like a parent (or 2) to help out this year with the view of
eventually running the group in future years.
*If you are interested in participating in helping please leave contact

EASTER HAT PARADE—Thursday 2 April
Come on everyone—lets get started on our wonderful Easter creations.
Hats will be made at school so send along all the "bits and bobs" your child wants on their hat.
A note will come home shortly with more details.
Watch this space ….
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.

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.

Garden Club News:
- Our worms in the worm farms are hungry and looking to chow down on some food, people! If you don’t have a compost bin at home but want to reduce waste going into landfills, bring your veggie and fruit scraps to school to feed our worms in turn, they will turn the scraps into beautiful worm wee and castings (poo), which will help to fertilise our school garden. It’s a win-win!
- Worms love: all kinds of fruit and veggie peelings, such as banana, apple, mango, carrot and cucumber peels, to name a few. Cut them into small pieces so they can be converted quicker. They also love crushed egg shells, tea bags and coffee grounds.
- Worms don’t like onions, garlic or citrus so keep those at home. No meats or dairy (except egg shells).
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

Inspiring ways to build your child's imagination

At a glance
- Developing your child's imagination gives them an appetite for learning.
- Making up stories with your kids helps to build their imagination.
- Talk to your child instead of letting the TV do the entertaining.
- Give your kids regular downtime with the computer and TV off.
- Let your young child paint the sky green if they want to.

For more ideas visit:

BOOK CLUB—DUE 16th March

Great ways to build your child’s reading skills
- Try reading with different voices, lots of emotion and invented sound effects.
- Ask your child which parts of the books they found exciting, funny or different.
- When kids use the internet they need skills and knowledge that are different from those found in books.
- When doing homework, tell your child not to copy information word for word from books or the internet.
- Encourage your child to join the NSW Premier's Reading Challenge.
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**

### 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Pricing</th>
<th>Hats</th>
<th>Tshirts</th>
<th>Skirts/Shorts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legionnaires $6</td>
<td>Short Sleeve $20&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 4-16&lt;br&gt;Long sleeve $25&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 4-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Culottes $35&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 4-16&lt;br&gt;Ponte Pants (girls) $30&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 6-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One size fits all</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Round Brim $12</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small/Medium/Large</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bags</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Library $12</td>
<td>Jumpers $25&lt;br&gt;4-16&lt;br&gt;Hoodies $30&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 4-16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trackpants (unisex) $25&lt;br&gt;Sizes: 6-14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 Texilake, 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

---

**Freedom Ride 50th Anniversary**

You are invited to the Freedom Ride 50th anniversary celebration featuring Paul Kelly and Troy Cassar-Daley to be held on 20 March, 2015 on the front lawns, University Place, at the University of Sydney. This is a free event and everyone is invited to come and join us in the celebration. We hope you can make it.

---

**KEEP OUR KIDS SAFE**

A timely reminder that:

- double parking:
- parking in NO Standing
- parking in No Stopping
- parking in Disabled zones (unless you display the necessary card)
- over double yellow lines
- U Turns near crossings

ARE ILLEGAL AND DANGEROUS

---

**PLEASE VISIT OUR P&C:**

Darlington Public School P&C Association on

**Facebook:**  [https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/253101788067191/)

**Email:**  darlo.parents@hotmail.com

<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>J anuary</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>