



Cooeee!

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME TO OUR 2017 SCHOOL YEAR.

On behalf of the members of our school community, I welcome all those new to Darling Heights State School. In addition to the 93 new Prep students, we also welcome 36 new children in various grades. We know that the children and their families will quickly become part of our Darling Heights family. Also to our Darling Heights community, we welcome new staff members: Mrs Keiryn Clements, Miss Selena Courtice, Miss Caitlin Dickens, Miss Bridget Bell, Mrs Tanya Hallahan, Mr Wayne Williams. We know they will settle quickly into our school.

The start of this year has been exceptionally smooth and all credit goes to the teachers and support staff who have ensured our well-oiled machine has quickly catered for and accommodated all students. At this time, I would like to provide a special thanks to the support staff within our cleaning and grounds areas. During the past week, Lee and Jacob, Denise, Jim, Leizel, Linda, Leanne and Pauline have worked tirelessly to transform our buildings and grounds to a welcoming state. Having been closed for 5 weeks, our grounds and buildings were in need of some tender loving care, which these enthusiastic folk have provided.

This being our first Cooeee for the year, it includes many of the initial pieces of information we believe parents need to know to assist them in understanding the operations of our school. If there are any further questions that may arise or information that you would like to know about our school, please make contact with your classroom teacher, administration staff or myself.

THANK YOU FOR CHRISTMAS WISHES

I take the opportunity to pass on my special thanks to all children and parents who provided Christmas wishes and, on occasion, gifts to me at the end of the year. I very much appreciated your gestures and it makes me feel very valued at Darling Heights.

POSSIBLE CLASS REORGANISATION

2017 enrolments are currently being finalised, as are discussions with Education Queensland regarding the teachers we will finally be allocated as a result of our student enrolments. It is too early to predict the outcome as we identify children who, as yet, have not returned to school.

Can I please remind parents of the information provided at the end of last year. *"Whatever arrangements are in place for the start of 2017 are only tentative, until actual 2017 enrolments are clear"*. At the end of 2016, we could only estimate 2017 enrolments. Early indications are, that our enrolments have increased and we will need to reorganise some classes to cater for this increased enrolment.

I am asking all parents to be aware, and make their children aware, that current class arrangements are **tentative** until we confirm 2017 enrolments. Prepare them for any change and they will not be surprised if it does occur.

I apologise in advance for any inconvenience to children who may be settling with their new teacher, however, enrolments are a factor we have very little control over. All parents can expect communication as we look at making any changes.

If changes need to be made, we hope to have it done by the beginning of Week 3. In the meantime, should you know of parents who are looking to enrol children, please have them contact us.

SCHOOL STARTING TIME

This year, we have an even greater expectation that children will be at school **on time**, ready to start their day. **School starts at 8.45am.**

Lateness not only disrupts the learning of individual children, it also disrupts teachers and other students as those who are late need to catch up on what they have missed.

School starts at 8.45am and children need be here earlier than that to get ready for the day.

It is important that all parents realise that children need to be at school for the maximum amount of time available to ensure quality learning can occur. Any absence can have an impact on a child's overall learning. Students arriving at school before 8.00am are to report to CPA1 where they remain until dismissed by school staff.

Once again, welcome, to new and returning students and their families to Darling Heights State School, a truly wonderful place.

COMING EVENTS

Note the following dates in your Diary:

P&C Meeting

Last Day Term 1:
Friday 31st March

Toowoomba Show Holiday:

Thursday, 30th March, 2017

TUCKSHOP - CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

UNIFORM SHOP

Open Tuesday from 8.30am - 9.30am and Thursday from 2.30pm - 3.30pm.

YMCA O.S.H.C

0455
088
401
Or



46356308



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CHAPLAINCY FUND-RAISERS

Cruisin' Cappucino every Wednesday afternoon.

Thank you for your support.

SCHOOL BOOKLISTS

At this stage, it is hoped that all children have all necessary items as per our school booklists in order to fully participate in school activities. Booklists are still available from the office.

It is recognised that school starts can be expensive for parents, however, the longer children are without essential items, the greater the potential it has to disadvantage their learning. Should parents have any problems in accessing items on the booklist, please talk with your classroom teachers.

LUNCHES

As always, it is a challenge for parents to provide lunches that their children "want or enjoy".

We do ask that all parents, in providing healthy lunches, **refrain from sending soft drinks and lollies to school** with children. Children require well-balanced nutritious food to ensure that their energy levels convert to concentration throughout the school day.

PEANUT ALLERGIES

While on the topic of food, it is important for our school community to be aware of the fact that in society, and currently in schools, there are some folk who have allergies to peanut products. Contact with such products can cause serious allergic reactions and at worst can cause death.

We can be understanding of and supporting of these allergies in a number of ways:-

Firstly: All children need to be encouraged **not** to swap their food. Younger children may not be aware that they have allergies and as such, symptoms may come upon them with little warning.

Secondly: Parents who are sending peanut products to school, especially peanut butter sandwiches, need to tell their children that others can have serious allergic reactions if eating this food and advise them **not** to swap such food and to dispose of properly if not eating.

INSURANCE COVER FOR STUDENTS UNDERTAKING PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Physical activity and physical education, particularly contact sports, carry inherent risks of injury.

Parents are advised that the Department of Education Training and the Arts does not have Personal Accident Insurance cover for students.

Education Queensland has public liability cover for all approved school activities and provides compensation for students injured at school only when the Department is negligent. If this is not the case, then all costs associated with

the injury are the responsibility of the parent or caregiver.

It is a personal decision for parents as to the type and level of private insurance they arrange to cover students for any accidental injury that may occur.

PARKING

No parent parking or picking up of students is permitted within the school grounds. ALL 2016 permits have now ceased and will not be re-issued for 2017. If you have a special reason for needing to park in the grounds, please contact the office.

SCHOOL SAFETY ZONES

I am sure that all parents are aware that the maximum speed around schools is 40 kph. Police regularly patrol these areas to ensure that motorists abide by this speed direction.

Naturally it is important to us that motorists respect this lower speed zone as it enhances the safety of all people who are arriving and exiting our school.

Within our school zone, we also have school crossings managed before and after school by Department of Transport Staff. All children are to use these crossings and parents are encouraged to do so as well. Parents are the greatest role models for children and should they be using crossings - then children will most likely do so as well.



VEHICLES IN SCHOOL GROUNDS

By way of safety, parents are reminded that parking within the school is limited to school staff and parents of children enrolled in our Special Education Program.

Safe drop-off zones are provided in Wuth Street and Platz Street for children to enter/leave our grounds.

Ample marked parking is available in Wuth Street for parents wishing to accompany their children to the grounds.

School Crossings are marked in both Wuth and Platz Streets and must be used by parents and children.



WEARING A BICYCLE HELMET

Queensland law requires that everyone must wear a helmet when riding a bike. Helmets help protect bike riders from head injuries and can save lives. When buying a helmet it must:

- have the Australian Standards mark - TM AS 2063, AS/NZS 2063
- fit firmly and comfortably on the

person's head and shouldn't be able to move in any direction.

- have adjustable straps so there is no slack when they are fastened.
- Helmets come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours and some will fit better than others. A correctly fitted and securely adjusted helmet should not move. A helmet that does not fit correctly is unsafe and it may move or slip off in a fall or crash.



SCHOOL / BELL TIMES

Parents and children are reminded that school commences at Darling Heights State School at 8.45am. At this time, the first bell rings signalling that children are to enter classes.

The full schedule of lunch times, both morning tea and big lunch is as follows:

8.45 am	First Bell and <u>School starts</u>
10.45 am	Morning Tea
11.20 am	Signal bell to return to class
11.25 am	Class resumes
1.25 pm	Afternoon break
2.00 pm	Signal bell to return to class
2.05 pm	Class resumes
3.00 pm	End of school day

It is essential that children arrive at school on time and remain at school until school finishes at 3.00pm. Early departures from school not only disrupt the learning of the child who leaves, but also disturbs the remaining children in class.

If possible, please make medical appointments for your children outside of school hours so that they gain the benefit of a full day's lessons.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS

The school staff undertook a range of activities during our Staff Development Days on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday last week. Time was taken to look at initiatives to be completed this year and have discussions about continuing to improve the way we can provide for the students and families at our school. These were exceptionally rewarding days where outcomes will certainly improve learning opportunities for children.

SCHOOL UNIFORM/JEWELLERY

This school encourages all students to wear, with pride, our Darling Heights school uniform.

With regards to jewellery, again our expectation is, that children are permitted

to wear sleeper earrings, a watch and a religious item. As has been explained many times to our children, school is not a fashion parade, nor is it a display of how much adornment we can wear to school.

If you have any questions regarding uniforms and jewellery, please contact the office.

CLOTHING - PLEASE NAME

Each year, many items of students' clothing are lost and cannot be returned as they have not been named.

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING (INCLUDING LUNCH BOXES AND DRINK BOTTLES) NEED TO BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME. A lost property basket is situated outside the administration building and should be checked regularly as all unclaimed items are donated to charity at the end of each term.



HATS

Students are constantly reminded of the school's policy that children will wear a **brimmed hat** at all times while in the grounds. Children without hats will need to remain seated in one of the undercover areas.

SHOES

It is our school's expectation that students, at all times, wear appropriate footwear. Enclosed shoes minimise the risk of foot injury.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT - YEAR 5 AND 6

Interschool Sport will be offered in Term 1. Details and permission forms will be sent home this week. Sport will commence on Friday 5th February.

ABSENCES

We continue to thank all parents who provide notification to the school of their child's absence. As well as a legal requirement, we need to ensure that you know that your child has **not been** at school.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS / DETAILS

Please advise the office staff of any changes to phone numbers or addresses. It would be appreciated if you change either of these at any time during the year, that you notify the office immediately. Thank you.

PAYMENTS

All payments made to the office should be placed in an envelope with your

child's name, class, payment reason and amount on the front of the envelope. This assists greatly with the receipting process. Correct change is appreciated.

Should you have forgotten to pay your 2016 invoices, it is not too late to pay. Please place money in envelope and hand in at school office.

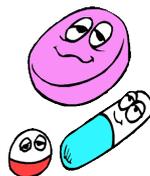
MOBILE PHONES

Should parents wish to make contact with children during the school day this can be easily done through the school office. As such, children should not have mobile phones at school.

In the case where a mobile phone may be required by a student before or after school, these phones are left in the office where they can be picked up at the end of the school day. Please ensure phones are **switched off** before handing into the office.

ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICATIONS TO STUDENTS DURING SCHOOL HOURS

Should medication be prescribed by your child's doctor and needs to be taken while at school, you need to be aware of the Education Queensland Regulations.



Education Queensland Regulations, require that,

1. **AUTHORITY FORMS** for medication **MUST BE COMPLETED** by a parent or guardian **BEFORE** medication is to be administered. These forms are available from the administration office.
2. **ALL MEDICATION MUST** be in the container from the pharmacy with clear **WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS** on the container, and must be lodged with the school office for security purposes. **WE CANNOT ACCEPT INDIVIDUAL CAPSULES OR TABLETS.**
3. Administration of that medication will be carried out by an adult staff member designated by the Principal.
4. It is the responsibility of the student to come to the office when the medication is needed. Staff cannot be responsible for chasing up students.
5. Non-prescribed medications (e.g. Aspirin, Panadol, Cough medicine etc.) should **NOT** be brought to school and **WILL NOT** be administered by school

staff.

COLLECTION OF STUDENTS

Parents are encouraged to collect their children at classrooms in the afternoon. If waiting outside classrooms, please be aware that your presence and conversation at times can distract the children and teachers. Some parents choose to wait for their children in CPA 1 each afternoon.



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC PROGRAM 2017

Welcome to the 2017 Darling Heights State School Instrumental Music Program and another year of exciting music making and learning. This year, our Instrumental Teacher will be **Mr Camillo Lanzafame**. He will be teaching all of our instrumental students as well as conducting both the Stage Band and the Concert Band.

Instrumental lessons will begin in Week 3, with brass and percussion students on Wednesdays and woodwind students on Thursdays. Concert Band will resume in Week 4. This year, Concert Band rehearsals will commence at 8.00am on Thursday mornings.

RECORDERS FOR 2017



If you have a child in Year 3, 4, 5 or 6 in 2017 they will need a **YAMAHA** recorder to participate fully in their music lessons. These recorders are on sale at the school office for **\$7.00** which is quite cheap considering they retail for about \$15.00 in most music shops.

When purchasing a recorder for your child, please beware of cheap imitations. For example, those purchased from places like Sam's Warehouse, Crazy Clarkes, K-mart and most news-agencies are NOT musical instruments. They are toys and have a very unpleasant sound which creates problems in music lessons.

CHANGE IN TRAFFIC CONDITIONS ON WUTH STREET

Please note that there is now a double continuous painted line on Wuth Street in front of the school. This line means that U-turns or any turning across this line is ILLEGAL. If you are caught crossing this line, you will be fined.

SWIMMING TRIALS

A time trial to select students to compete in the Central Zone Swimming Carnival will be conducted this Friday, 27th January at Rangeville SS.

Students born 2008 or before who have selected to trial, received a form outlining details on Monday. Permission form and money needs to be brought to the office ASAP.

Good luck to those students who have been selected to trial this Friday.

INTERSCHOOL SPORT

Term One Inter-school Sport for Year 5 and 6 students involves teams in Girls' Cricket and Touch Football and Boys' Softball and AFL.

The cost for the term will be \$25.00 which covers the cost of the bus, affiliation fees and some equipment. This money should be paid to the school office before Friday 3rd February, 2017. Interschool Sport will commence on Friday 3rd February, 2017 and run for eight weeks.

Students will be required to:

- Participate in their school sport uniform
- Wear a hat to Friday afternoon sport
- Bring their own water bottle
- Wear sandshoes/joggers for touch/AFL/cricket/Softball

Permission forms were handed out on Monday. These forms along with money are due to be returned to the office by Friday, February 3rd.

UNIFORM SHOP OPENING HOURS for 2017

Hours will remain the same as last year: Tuesday 8.30-9.30am and Thursday 2.30-3.30pm. PLEASE REMEMBER that the

uniform shop is operated by P&C Volunteers and these times may change due to volunteer availability. If you wish to sell used uniforms through the uniform shop, please hand them in at the uniform shop, tuckshop or school office with your name, address and phone number and the uniform shop volunteers will contact you regarding the finer details.

THE TUCKSHOP IS CLOSED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

The DHSS Tuckshop will not be operating until further notice, sorry for any inconvenience this may cause.

Please send your children to school with enough lunch for 1st and 2nd breaks.

Lee-Ann Fisher
(Tuckshop Co-ordinator)

YEAR 6 SHIRTS

Notes regarding the Year 6 T-Shirts will be handed out this week. If you do not receive a note, please see the senior teaching staff.

DARLING HEIGHTS STATE SCHOOL "RESPONSIBLE BEHAVIOUR PLAN FOR STUDENTS" (based on "The Code of School Behaviour")

This document was approved by Education Queensland for implementation from the commencement of the 2012 School Year. If there is any parent who would like to view and discuss this document, then please feel free to contact the school administration and arrange a mutually agreeable time to organize a meeting. The time to meet and discuss can prove very productive for all concerned.

A very important component of our "Responsible Behaviour Plan For Students" is our commitment to implementing and participating in PBL (Positive Behaviour and Learning). Those of you who attended this school last year, would be aware of the **DHSS STAR:**

Safety
Thinking

Acting Responsibly
Respect

These four values underpin everything that we do at Darling Heights. For parents who are new to the school, please contact the school administration and we will gladly spend time talking to you about PBL. Over coming weeks, we will write more about the DHSS "STAR" and how each week, we teach a different value to the students.

STUDENT BANKING

Commonwealth Bank 'Dollarmites' Student Banking

Welcome to the new year everyone. Our student banking is every Friday, except for the last day of each term. If you would like to participate in our Dollarmites Program, just go into a Commonwealth Bank and open a Dollarmites account. Once your account is opened, bring your deposit book with money into the school office before 9am each Friday & I will process your deposit & send your deposit book home with you via your class teacher. It's that simple. Happy Banking!

Jo (Student Banking Coordinator)

COMMUNITY NEWS

Please see the Noticeboard located in CPA1 for information regarding the following:-

- Soccer Registrations for West Wanderers Football Club are now open. West Wanderers is situated on the southern side of Toowoomba at Nell E Robinson Park on Hume Street, between Alderley St and Stenner St. Please visit www.westwanderers.org Once registered further details regarding Muster Day will be forwarded to you. Any questions please contact us at juniorvp@westwanderers.org
- BUNYA PARK SCOUT GROUP—Scouts Trial and Sign On Day will be held on Sunday 5th February, 2017 from 10am to 2pm. At the Bunya Park Scout Group—Mt Lofty, 21 Geoffrey St, Toowoomba. For more information please contact Alec Brown—0412 126 784 or email alecbrown1@bigpond.com.

Aussie Week



During the first week back in 2017, we are celebrating how great it is to be Australian and live in this lucky country. Different fun activities will be held over the three days of the first week. On Friday we will end the week with a great game of cricket. We are encouraging the students to dress up as their favourite Aussie Person or Aussie Icon on Friday, 27th January.

