UPCOMING EVENTS AT DARRA SS:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>P&amp;C Meetings</td>
<td>Second Wednesday of every month 2.00pm in the P&amp;C Room (beside new Tuckshop) First Meeting – Wed 8 February AGM Meeting – Wed 8 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uniform Shop in 2017</td>
<td>See the ladies in the office - mornings from 8.00am.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fridays (fortnightly) in 2017</td>
<td>Newsletters go out fortnightly.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur 2 Feb</td>
<td>DAY 8 of School – Staffing and classes are finalised based on this data collection.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 6 Feb</td>
<td>Vietnamese &amp; Chinese New Year Celebration on Parade 2.30pm in the Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8 Feb</td>
<td># Lead Principal Visit – Maria Berriman # P&amp;C Meeting 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 10 Feb</td>
<td>Religion Classes begin for students with permission forms returned</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 14 Feb</td>
<td>Swimming starts for 5 weeks. Finishes Tue 14 March.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 20 Mar</td>
<td>HARMONY DAY Celebrations at School – Afternoon session &amp; Parade</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 8 Mar</td>
<td>P&amp;C Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 31 Mar</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 18 April</td>
<td>First day of Term 2 2017</td>
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<td>Tue 25 April</td>
<td>ANZAC DAY - NO SCHOOL</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 30 April</td>
<td>Aussie Food Day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 10 May</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 2.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 12 May</td>
<td>Mother’s Day Stall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue 9 – Thur 11 May</td>
<td>2017 NAPLAN TESTING for Years 3 and 5 Students</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 15 - Fri 19 May</td>
<td>Progressive Achievement Testing – whole school</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed 14 June</td>
<td>P&amp;C Meeting 2.00pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 23 June</td>
<td>Last day of Term 2 2017</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon 10 July</td>
<td>First day of Term 3 2017</td>
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WELCOME BACK TO DARRA SS for 2017

I am certainly looking forward to a spectacular year in 2017. At the end of last year, I was advised by Mr Mark Campling, the Metropolitan Region’s Regional Director that I was required to return to Darra SS. Darra SS is my substantive position as Principal. I left here in July 2014 to undertake other work within the Region, and then at the end of 2015 I was asked to work at a school in the South East Region by the Assistant Regional Director there. As with all secondments, approval was given by the Regional Director in Metropolitan for me to undertake this work for the other region.
I cannot express how happy I am to be back at my school here in Darra. I have missed my students, my families and my staff very much. I have had a wonderful few days of meeting our new students and some of our new parents and I’m very much looking forward to getting to know those I have not yet met.

Currently, our teaching staff are as follows:

- Prep – Mrs Ngan Nguyen (Prep Building)
- Year 1A – Mrs Amanda Wenzel (E Block)
- Year 1J – Ms Jo Wood (E Block)
- Year 2B – Mrs Diana Bickham (E Block)
- Year 3RT – Mrs Sandra Ryan & Mrs Julie Taylor (C Block)
- Year 4M – Mrs Rachel McClenaghan (B Block)
- Year 4/5G – Mrs Cherie Grace (B Block)
- Year 5/6H – Ms Janelle Hicks (B Block)
- Year 6O – Mr Peter Orford (B Block)

Every school participates in Day 4 and Day 8 data collections regarding the number of students actively enrolled at the school. Once this is finalised, our staffing for the year will be confirmed and decisions about classes can be made.

Day 8 this year is Thursday 2 February. Once this information is collected any staffing or classes changes that must be made will be decided and announced to our school community. For example, if we have too many Prep students in 1 class, we may be required to make a Prep-Year 1 class.

**PARENT & STAFF BBQ & INFORMATION EVENING**

We are pleased to announce that we will hold a Parent & Staff BBQ and Information Evening on Tuesday 7 February from 4.30pm. This is an opportunity to meet members of our school community in a relaxed setting with a free sausage sizzle, followed by some information about the school year and then visits to classrooms to hear about what our students will be learning about this term and this year from the class teachers.

Please fill out the RSVP slip at the end of the newsletter to advise us for catering. Please return the RSVP to the office by Friday 3 February.

4.30pm – BBQ starts in the area outside the Tuckshop / Mingling and meeting others
5.00pm – Address by the Principal & Curriculum Leaders
5.15pm – Visits to the Classrooms & Information sharing by Teachers
5.45pm – Final Questions & Farewells for now

**QUEENSLAND STUDENT-FREE DAYS 2017**

This year’s student-free days have been set by the Department. The dates are:
- Monday 3 April 2017, Tuesday 4 April 2017 & Wednesday 5 April 2017
- Monday 16 October 2017

**DARRA SS PARADE**

We are holding our Parades on Monday afternoons from 2.30pm until 3.00pm in the Hall. We would love to see as many parents possible come along to our Parades and hear all about our achievements throughout this year.
REMEMBER TO BE SUN SMART
Sun protection is very important at this time of year. All students should be encouraged to wear hats and SPF 30+ broad spectrum sunscreen to school every day. Students should also wear hats and sunscreen during school outdoor activities. A great resource is the Queensland Government’s Sun Safety website. It has lots of helpful information about how to protect your family at http://www.sunsafety.qld.gov.au/
The Department and Darra State School takes the health and wellbeing of school students very seriously and is strongly committed to protecting school students from the harmful effects of the sun.
The Department recognises that there can be particularly hot days during November - March and has developed guidelines for state school Principals during high temperature or heatwave conditions, which include:
• modifying some school activities during the excessive heat
• postponing any outdoor or sporting activities where appropriate
• allowing increased access to the coolest areas of the school grounds or facilities
• ensuring school lunch boxes are stored in cool areas
• encouraging students to drink plenty of water and to stay out of the sun.

STUDENTS ARRIVING EARLY / STAYING LATE
We wish to advise parents that students are NOT to be at school before 8.15am or stay later than 3.30pm. Parents must arrange for Before and After School Aged Care Service. The school nearby, Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, has this service available for our staff and parents to use. Please be aware that these services incur a charge for parents for the time the student/s attend the service. Students are not able to come to school early or stay late and be unsupervised.
These programs offers supervised homework, breakfast and afternoon tea, games and activities.
If you do not wish to use the service at the school please ensure that your child/ren do not come to school before 8.15am, and stay no later than 3.30pm. Many thanks in helping to keep our students safe and healthy.

BE SUN SMART

- Put on a Shirt
- Put on Sunscreen
- Wear a Hat
- Wear Sunglasses
- Stay in the Shade

I love my SCHOOL

DARRA SS P&C
The first meeting for the year will be on Wednesday 8 February at 2.00pm in the P&C room beside the Tuckshop. If there are more people than the room can hold, we will move rooms.
The AGM (Annual General Meeting) will be on Wednesday 8 March 2017. The AGM is where all roles are declared open for new/old people to take a role in the P&C. It will be followed by a General Meeting. We look forward to seeing you
all there!! New Members are actively encouraged.

**SCHOOL TEXTS & SUPPLIES**
It is vitally important to our students learning that they have all the supplies they need to ensure the very best learning outcomes possible. However, we do understand that sometimes at the beginning of a year book orders may be late in being filled. Please let your child’s teacher know when they can expect your child to have the resources they need for learning. This will enable better planning to ensure that your child does not miss out on valuable learning. Many thanks!!

**SUPERVISION BEFORE SCHOOL**
All students must be seated in the Eating Area until 8.45am.

**EVERY DAY COUNTS AT SCHOOL**
The Department of Education and Training has a range of free resources to promote the importance of going to school, every day. Research shows that school attendance leads to positive student outcomes, and can help children to build social and emotional skills. The *Every day counts* campaign, developed with the input of Solid Pathways students, features popular footy players, including Johnathan Thurston, Sam Thaiday and Greg Inglis. Resources include an animation, comic book, dedicated website and online posters of the footy players. Check out the resources and see if you can spot some of your favourite NRL footy players — visit the *Every day counts* website ([everydaycounts.eq.edu.au](http://everydaycounts.eq.edu.au)).

**DOES YOUR CHILD REQUIRE MEDICATION DURING SCHOOL HOURS?**
If your child requires medication while at school, please ensure you request an *Administration of medication record sheet* from our school’s office. You will also need to provide us with the prescription-labelled medication in the original packaging with clear directions for its use. For more information visit the [Department of Education and Training website](http://ppr.det.qld.gov.au/education/management/Pages/Administration-of-Medications-in-Schools.aspx).

**CURRICULUM NEWS**

**TEACHING AND LEARNING AT DARRA SS**
As a new member of the Darra SS team, I would like to introduce myself! My name is Julia Bailey and my role at Darra for 2017 is work and learn alongside classroom teachers as well as providing support in classrooms for all learners. Working alongside Mrs Fairbairn, our Head of Curriculum, we will be working closely with teachers to ensure that every student at Darra State School has every chance of success. Our first major project is ensuring that all staff have a shared understanding of what the quality teaching of reading looks like. All teaching staff and teacher aides will be participating in professional learning to ensure that we are the *best teachers of reading* that we can be and that our teaching reflects the developmental needs of our learners from Prep to Year 6. Please keep an eye out in our upcoming newsletters for parent workshops on reading – we’d love to share what we do with you so that the connections between home and school are strengthened.

Ms Julia Bailey – Pedagogical Coach
Parent and Staff BBQ & Information Evening

Student’s Name: _________________________

Class: _________________________________

We would be delighted to attend the BBQ.

We will have _______ people attending.

Please return this form to the office by Friday 3 February 2017.

Looking forward to seeing you there!!