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Darra State School

Steering a Course Together

Friday 11th August 2017

Uniform Shop in 2017	Open Mon, Wed, Fri Morning 8.30 – 9.00am
Every Mon	Parade in the Hall – 2.30pm. Parents welcome.
Mon & Fri	Hooked on Books – 8.15am in Library
Sat 12 Aug	P&C Meeting – Staff Room 10am *NEW*
Tues 15 Aug	P&C Crazy Hair Disco 5.30pm – 6.45pm TICKETS NOW ON SALE!!!!
Wed 16 Aug	EKKA Show Public Holiday – no school
Thurs 17 Aug	DRONE Experience for Years 5/6
Fri 18 Aug	NAPLAN Results home to Y3 & Y5 students *NEW*
Thurs 24 Aug	Book Week Parade and Ceremony *NEW* 9am – 10.15am
Fri 25 th Aug	Musica Viva \$5.40 per student P-6 (notes & payment due now)
Mon 28 th Aug	NAIDOC Week Celebrations – all students & special Parade *NEW*
Thurs 31 Aug	Father's Day Stall
Monday 11 th Sept	P-6 Parade Footsteps Performance. Parents welcome
Tuesday 19 th Sept	Woolies Earn & Learn closes
Thurs 7 Sept	Father's Day Afternoon (3pm – 4.30pm) Dad's welcome – it's for you! ☺
Fri 15 Sept	Last day of Term 3 2017
Mon 2 Oct	Queen's B'Day Public Holiday
Tue 3 Oct	First day of Term 4 2017
Wed 11 Oct	P&C Meeting 5.00pm library. Parents welcome.
Mon 16 Oct	Staff Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS
Fri 27 Oct	Day For Daniel (Red Shirt Day)
Fri 17 Nov	P&C Free Dress/ Sausage Sizzle
Mon 30 Oct – Fri 3 Nov	Progressive Achievement Testing – whole school
Wed 6 Dec	Twilight Christmas Concert
Fri 8 Dec	Last day of Term 4 2017

Welcome to Week 5 and 6 Term 3 of learning at Darra State School

It is hard to believe that we are already half way through Term 3!

Everyone at Darra State School has been engaged with learning including our teachers and school leaders.

Last week we had a visit from regional leaders who spent some time in our classrooms learning about what our students were doing and what they thought about their learning. Our teachers received some great feedback about their positive learning environments and the willingness of our students to share their learning. The key messages for us as a teaching team were to maintain the sharp narrow focus on the *teaching of reading* and to continue to ensure *consistency of teaching practice*. Michelle Preston will share how we are doing this at Darra State School in this edition of the newsletter.

SMS for student absences

This week we have launched our SMS initiative for students who are absent from school without parent notification. As this is a new platform, we thank you for your patience as we navigate our way through this new technology. Teachers do mark the roll twice per day so if your child is late, they must go to the office for a late slip.

PARENTS - If you need to collect your child early, please ensure you do so via the front office.

Thank you – our priority is to ensure that your child is safe and accounted for *every single day*.

Secret Year 5 and 6 Business.....



CONGRATULATIONS!!!

I am so pleased to announce the 10 Year 5 and Year 6 students who will be accompanying myself and Mr Orford to the 2017 National Science Week 'Drone Experience'. The successful students demonstrated creativity, independence and problem solving in their applications and will be rewarded with an exciting opportunity to learn firsthand about drones with the Qld Chief Scientist next Thursday, 17th August. I'm proud to publish the winning responses to, *'How could Darra State School use a drone?'*

'Darra SS can use a drone to see if a student is in an area where they are heard or seen or need help because they are injured' Dirujan 5/6H

'Drones can be used for taking videos and photos of events and putting them into our newsletter and website' Julie 6O

'Darra would use them to conduct experiments and collect important data about the school' Mairin 5/6H

'We could use the drones for measuring height, speed, distance, travel and time taken. Children would have fun watching them' Kya 5/6H

'For athletic days to watch the games and watch the shotput ball from the sky and high jumps and check around the school' Aliseena 6O

'If a child is lost, tree falls, animal on the oval ...math and science fun, learning gravity, air craft – a birds eye view' Chloe 6O

'We can use a drone and a camera attached to the drone so you can watch the students at playtime' Talina 5/6H

'We can use a drone for lunchtimes to make sure that all the kids are playing safely in the right areas' Sumat 6O

'Darra SS can use a drone for flying papers to teachers so students get their newsletters quicker' Michael 5/6H

'Darra State School could use a drone at the sports carnival to track the sports to put on the school web' Emily 4/5G

We look forward to sharing the outcome of this experience in our next newsletter ☺

Darra SS P&C Disco....get your **CRAZY**

hair ready!



Tickets are now on sale for the event of the term....the ***CRAZY HAIR*** Disco, Tuesday 15th from 5.30pm until 6.45 in the hall. This

is a supervised event with all students welcome from Prep to Year 6.

Tickets are \$2 per child or \$5 for a family of 3 or more.

School Opinion Survey – we seek your participation

We strongly encourage your participation in the annual suite of *School Opinion Surveys* which is open **until 25 August 2017**. All families, school staff and a random sample of students will be invited to participate. We encourage you to take this opportunity to have your say about what this school does well, and how this school can improve.

Access details for the *Parent/Caregiver Survey* have been sent home.

Survey queries or requests for translations can be directed to Michelle Preston 3716 6444 or email mpres22@eq.edu.au.

Thank you, everyone. Have a wonderful week and a relaxing Ekka Holiday on Wednesday 16th August!

Ms Julia Bailey
Principal

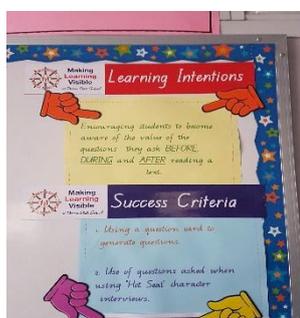
A message from Mrs Preston – Pedagogical Coach

This week our teachers have been involved in professional learning in relation to how we are communicating what is important about *reading* by what we display in our classrooms.



On Tuesday teachers went for walks through classrooms and discussed what was similar and different in each learning space. Teachers identified the importance of having consistency across the school and are currently arranging to ensure there is consistency of what is displayed about comprehension and how these strategies are taught from Prep to Year 6.

We also have highlighted the importance for us to develop and share a vision about the *quality teaching of reading*. This artefact will form part of what is displayed consistently in classrooms and will be what we work to achieve as a learning community:



The quality teaching of reading at Darra State School

Vision

'At Darra State School, we believe in using a consistent shared language from Prep to Year 6 when teaching students reading within the Australian Curriculum, using C2C assessment. We ensure a consistent use of decoding and comprehension strategies across all year levels, using the 'Big 6' as the foundation for literacy development.

We believe in using a combination of reading, writing and classroom talk pedagogical practices through a gradual release of responsibility in all learning experiences to enable students to engage with multiple opportunities to practise and become effective readers. We believe in monitoring students' reading to differentiate

our teaching through the use of the whole school approach to support diverse learners. We believe in effectively targeting teaching to personalise learning for all students in our diverse student group. Our goal is to ensure we provide timely feedback enabling all students to succeed.

Most importantly we believe in developing a love of reading and learning!

The teachers have collectively written this vision statement and we will continue to refine our teaching practice around the quality teaching of reading with the newly established Curriculum/Literacy team made up of teachers *to support* teachers.

I look forward to keeping you informed on our our reading improvement journey!

If you have any questions, I welcome your contact via phone or email mpres22@eq.edu.au.

“Learning to read is *not natural* or easy for most children. Reading is an *acquired skill*.”
Moats 1999

Woolworths Earn and Learn

Darra State School will be participating in the Woolworths Earn and Learn initiative until **Tuesday 19th September**. In



conjunction with Woolies Monier, we will be inviting you to collect stickers for every shop you do at Woolies. Our Senior Leaders will be distributing collection sheets and collecting them. Look out for your first sheet in this week's newsletter!

Chinese Day of Excellence.....a message from Mrs Taylor, LOTE Teacher

On Monday 31 July, 13 of our students from grade 6 took part in the annual Chinese Day of Excellence at Centenary State High School. This event, attended by students from 4 primary schools in the Centenary district as well as students from the high school, serves as both a reward for excellence in the study of Chinese and as an introduction to Chinese language study at high school. With activities such as tai chi instruction, paper cutting, Chinese tongue

twisters and chop stick races, an educational and fun day was had by all!



Library News.....from Mrs Brosnan

The Library is now OPEN every Tuesday and Thursday second break. Parents can also come in with their children from 8.30am every morning and until 3.15pm in the afternoon.

Book Week Parade!

We would like to invite our families to our annual **Book Week Parade** followed by a special Book Week surprise for our students!

At Darra State School we dedicate a special day to celebrate reading by bringing books to life through dressing up.

This year, we are celebrating **Book Week** on Thursday 24th August from 9.00am until 10.15am and we'd love for you to join us.

The theme for this year's Book Week is:



More details will be sent home next week.

Chappy News!

....don't forget that every Monday and Thursday morning, I put on Chappy Breakfast before school from 8.30am. This is FREE! Just come along, say hello and share in some breakfast!



I am also selling Zooper Dooper ice-blocks every Monday and Thursday afternoon for 50c each. Get them while they are.....COLD! 😊

Chappy Josh
Monday and Thursday

'Talk Less, Listen More'...an extract from Michael Hawton's book on parenting.

'Building Bonds with Your Children

As to how we can solve children's behaviour problems, it's pretty murky out there! There seem to be no clear solutions. However, by ignoring certain behaviour you are protecting your relationship with you children and preserving your attachment. Here are some ideas for maintaining and building on your attachment with your children:

1. Regularly signpost the comings and goings of your life with your kids:

- As they leave or you leave, tell them you love them;
- When they go, say goodbye and give them a hug or a kiss;
- After absences say, 'It's so good to see you!'
- At breakfast, ask them, 'What are you up to today?'

2. Regularly express interest in what they say and do, even if it sounds a bit crazy:

- Be curious, as often as you can, without judging;
- Ask them to tell you the best thing about their day and what didn't go so well;
- Talk to them about their special interests;
- If they express views that seem weird or unreal, consider if you can go along with them;
- Generally speaking, it's not a good idea to knock your children's 'hope' on the head.'

Next fortnight, we'll share more insights from Dr Hawton 😊
