Harmony Day

Congratulations to our whole school community who came together in a true spirit of cooperation, kindness and friendship last Thursday for harmony day. Each class participated in some great learning which will be on display soon. The multicultural feast which we enjoyed as a whole school at lunch was magnificent. Thank you so much to the many families who cooked such delicious food to share. Thank you also to the many parents who joined us on the day to help serve and clean up afterwards. It was a real team effort and such a great reflection of the community we have.

For the first time this year we held a special Harmony Day assembly. The assembly featured some special performances by our choir, a moving speech by Dylan in year 6 which we have published later in the newsletter and the presentation of some special awards. A special highlight was the performances by the students from Randwick Boys High School who performed the Greek Zorba dance, the Haka and a musical item. Partnerships with our local high schools are important and we were very grateful that the students and teachers from Randwick Boys joined us to perform. Their performances reflected the rich multiculturalism across all schools in our community.

As you would be aware, another important aspect of the day was our fundraising efforts for the school in a box program to support the establishment of temporary classrooms in Vanuatu for the many children who have been affected by the recent cyclone and can’t currently attend school. Our goal was to raise $500 which would be enough to fund two classrooms and 80 students. I am immensely proud to say that as of Friday afternoon we had raised $1027. Not only did we double our goal but we have now funded the establishment of 4 classrooms in Vanuatu. Well done to the whole Daceyville community. Your generosity in giving back to others is wonderful and will be most appreciated.
The **Tell Them From Me** student feedback survey

This term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education and Communities initiative: the **Tell Them From Me** student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students in Years 4 -6 to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the **Tell Them From Me** survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours next week. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and FAQs for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you **do not** want your child or children to participate, please return the form to school by **Friday 27 February**. Copies of the form and FAQs are available from the website above.

**Parent-Teacher Interviews**

It has been excellent to see so many parents in and about the school this week and last week meeting teachers for the Term 1 parent-teacher interviews. I have been involved in some of these interviews and have been delighted to share in the focused discussions about learning and individual goals. I would especially like to acknowledge and thank our teaching staff who have given up many extra hours this week to conduct the interviews. We all appreciate their efforts. If you have been unable to make an appointment, please contact your child’s teacher to arrange one. We would like to ensure we have had the opportunity to talk to all parents before the end of term.

**School Development Day Next Term**

A reminder to all parents that there is a school development day at the beginning of next term. **Monday 20 April will be a student free day and all students will return to school on Tuesday 21 April for the beginning of term 2.** Please remember that all students will be wearing winter uniform from the beginning of next term.

**Happy Holidays**

This will be the last newsletter for term 1. We would love to see you at our holiday hat parade and Easter raffle on the last day of term, Thursday 2 April at 12.15pm. I would like to wish all of our Daceyville families a happy and safe holiday break. Thank you for all of your support and hard work in ensuring term1 has been fabulous for your children and for our school as a whole.

**Celebrating Harmony Day – Dylan N’s Speech**

I was born in 2003, to a family that lived in a country called Vietnam. I grew up doing nothing but learning, learning and learning a bit more. Eventually, I got bored of studying and I wanted to do other things. But that’s when my life took a turn. My mum was awarded a scholarship to do a PhD in Australia and she could take her family along. After a lot of pondering, we decided to come here. So, on the 28th of June, 2011, my life changed forever.

When I came to Australia, I had no idea where I was going to live, which school I was going to, and what I was going to do. Each new day was an adventure. In a period of 3 months, I had moved across 6 houses. One morning, I recalled waking up and thinking, ‘Where to now?’ But those 3 months proved to be incredibly valuable. I was introduced to many new and exciting things that I would never have dreamt of doing. As it turned out, learning about things that I loved was the most important lesson of all.

The first time I came to Daceyville, it was the start of term 3. The first thing that struck me was the size of the playground. I remember thinking, ‘wow, this place is huge!’ The second thing that struck me was how friendly everyone was. It was almost overwhelming to see how warm and welcoming everyone was towards strangers. No-one made too much fuss about the fact that I was new and just accepted that I was another person to come into the school community. It was then that I realised how much I loved to be here.
During my time here, my way of viewing the world has changed drastically. I now know so much more about myself and who I am. Daceyville has played a very important part in that. I owe so much of the way I am today to the many teachers and students that have influenced me, for good and bad. I was given so many opportunities to show the best of my abilities. This school felt like it was the perfect school for me, and I felt like I belonged here. Looking back, four years later, I couldn't believe how right I was.

Harmony Day is all about sharing and celebrating all the different cultures we come into contact with in our everyday lives. Most of the children in our school have roots that lie overseas. Australia is a country of diversity and difference. After all, you don't get harmony when everyone sings the same note.

2S with Mrs Smith

As a part of our HSIE unit “Workers in the Community” 2S interviewed Miss Donna, Mr Chris and Ms Molloy about their jobs within our school. We were so grateful that they gave up the time within their busy schedules to visit us and what fun we had.

2S learnt a lot about the roles and responsibilities each one of these people play within our school and wider community. They loved the fact Miss Donna photocopies all the newsletters for the school in one hour and Ms Molloy can make her photocopies come out with staples in them from her computer but Mr Chris came with his electric drill, steel capped boots and a hammer!

I seriously think a lot of our kids have now changed their career professions to an office worker, principal and general assistant. What great role models and learning experiences we have at Daceyville Public School.

From the Library with Mrs Bowring

To mark the 100 year anniversary of the Gallipoli landing during WWI, attached to the newsletter is a bibliography of books you might like to read with your child. These books will be available to borrow from Term 2. Send in a note if you would like your child to borrow one.
Once again we are all participating in the **NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge**. All children are expected to maintain their online reading records, except year 1 whose reading will be recorded manually during Library lessons. You can access the Premier’s Reading Challenge in either of the following ways:

- Google **NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge 2015**, on the home page click *login*, students use their DET user name and password.
- Google **DET student portal, login** using student DET user name and password, select the Premier’s Reading Challenge from the link list. Click login on the *Premier’s Reading Challenge* home page.

Children in K-2 read or listen to 30 books, those in 3-4 or 5-6 read 20 books. Although the challenge finishes in August, it is important for children to get started straight away, and to record all their reading. The library has a large collection of books to choose from. You can see the list in *My Library, booklists* and then choose the appropriate level.

Encourage a love of reading with the NSW Premier’s Reading Challenge app that accompanies the NSW PRC. The app allows students to search for books on the NSW PRC booklists, record the books they read and track their progress in the Challenge.

The app is available from the [Windows Store](https://products.schools.nsw.edu.au/prc/more1.html) and can be downloaded free on any Microsoft Windows 8 device.

Happy reading

Mrs Bowring

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**Whole School News**

**Parent On-Line Payment (POP)**

It is now possible for parents to make online payments to the school for amounts owing for students, via a secure payment page hosted by Westpac. Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of our school website by selecting **$ Make a payment**

Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance). There is also a category called ‘Other’. This is to cover items not covered in the previous headings. ‘Other’ can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the **$ Make a payment** you must enter:

- the student’s name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

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Supervision Before and After School - Reminder
Ensuring our students are well looked after and fully supervised at all times is of paramount importance to us. At the moment we have some concerns about supervision before and after school. I would ask that all parents support us with the following:

- Please ensure your child is not at school before 8.40am each morning. Supervision starts in the playground from this time. The supervision area is the asphalt area and not the grass or playground equipment.
- While we understand that families like to socialise and connect with each other in the afternoons after school and we encourage this, it is important that children are not left to play unsupervised. Please ensure your child is with you at all times once they have been dismissed by their teacher and not playing in the playground – particularly on the playground equipment. We also ask that the playground is clear by 3.20pm so that it is available for Currawong After Care service who hire the grounds.
- If your child walks home or catches the bus, please talk to them about leaving the grounds straight away at 3.10pm and not staying in the playground to play unsupervised.

Holiday Hat Parade – Thursday 2 April
On Thursday 2 April we will be having a Holiday Hat Parade! All students are asked to make or buy a special, crazy or fun hat and bring it to school on or before the day. The parade will begin at 12.15 in the hall/COLA area with each class taking turns to walk around wearing their special hats. The Easter raffle will be drawn immediately following the parade. Students are to wear their school uniform. We look forward to seeing many families and friends at this event to celebrate the end of a successful first term at Daceyville Public School.

Uniform Reminder and Winter Uniforms
We are always so proud of our students when they arrive at school each day in full school uniform. Wearing our full school uniform and looking neat and tidy sets an excellent tone in the school. It fosters pride in our school and individual appearance and helps ensure children are ready for focused learning. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child is in full uniform every day. A few reminders:

- Black school shoes need to be worn by all children Monday – Thursday.
- All children need to wear a Daceyville school hat. Other hats and caps are not permitted.
- Now that the weather is getting cooler, please make sure you child is wearing a Daceyville jumper.

We will change over to winter uniform at the beginning of Term 2 – Tuesday 21 April.

Sport News
Cross Country Carnival
Please note that our annual cross country carnival will be held on Monday 30 March for all children in years 2-6. This is a change in date due to some clashes with the previously advertised date. A note was sent home on Monday with further details. All children will need to return a permission note for the carnival.

Years 2-6 Morning Fitness
Mr Hills will be starting a morning fitness program for the students before school on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. The students will break up into their house colour groups and participate in different fitness activities. The program will begin on Wednesday 18 March, Week 8 and will commence at 8:50am.

Important things to do this week
- Organise your hat for the holiday hat parade to be held on the last day of school.
- Bring in your easter egg donation for the P&C Easter raffle.

K-6 Assembly: Weeks 3, 6 and 9 @ 1.00pm in our hall. All very welcome!
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2015

LETTER TO YEAR 3 and 5 PARENTS

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12 - 14 May 2015.

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<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy (Number, Algebra, function and pattern; Chance and data; Measurement and Space)</td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

In 2014, as in previous years, the Writing task will be a single common task for all students. The 2014 Writing test will require students to respond to either a persuasive or narrative Writing prompt. However, the genre of the prompt will not be disclosed prior to the test period.

Wherever possible, schools will organise for individual students who are absent at the time of testing to complete missed tests at another time during testing week. Individual students are not permitted to sit tests after Friday 16 May 2014. Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if:

- they are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- they have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustment or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school Principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed. Please make an appointment with the Principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at [www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html](http://www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html).
Election Day BBQ – Saturday 28 March. The P&C will be running a BBQ on the day of the state election to raise funds for the school. We need as many parents as possible to help. Keep an eye out for a note we will be sending out shortly with more details.

Daceyville Parents and Citizens’ Association
There are many opportunities to help the P&C through involvement in our events and activities. All enquiries can be sent to daceyvillepandc@gmail.com
President – Belinda Targett
Vice Presidents – Dionne Cullen and Kathleen Gray
Secretary – Cassandra Bartley
Treasurer – Melissa Darke

ELECTION DAY FUNDRAISING BBQ

We are holding an election day fundraising BBQ at the school on Saturday 28 March, where we will be selling sausage sizzles, bacon & egg rolls and refreshments.

This is a great opportunity to raise funds for our school. To make the day a success we need lots of helpers. We would greatly appreciate parent and carer volunteers to help with setting up, cooking, serving & packing up etc. Any assistance you can provide will be appreciated.

The barbeque will run from 8.00am to 3.00pm. We will begin setting up at 7.30am. If you are able to come and assist for an hour or two, please write your name on the roster posted on the wall outside of the school hall or complete and return the note included below to your child’s class teacher by Friday 27 March.

Don’t forget, you can also support our Election Day fundraising BBQ as a customer. We hope to see lots of hungry Daceyville families on the day.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the P&C’s fundraising efforts.

Kind Regards,

Melissa Darke
On behalf of the Daceyville Public School P&C Association

DACEYVILLE PS - ELECTION DAY BBQ VOLUNTEERS

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☐ I am available to assist with the BBQ on Saturday 28th March at the following times:

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