Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This term has begun with a flurry of activities and events that have involved our whole school community here at Darlington State School. We had beautiful weather for our school photos and they will be available to purchase this week. The children look very smart in their uniforms and the backdrop of our lovely garden enhances and focusses the photo on the children’s faces beautifully. We are so fortunate to have a professional photographer in our local area.

Our ANZAC service was led by the senior students and they conducted themselves with grace and respect and we were very proud of their efforts on the day. It was really wonderful to see so many of our community attend the event at our school and share the morning tea provided by our parents.

We also hosted the Christmas Creek Cross Country this year. This is the first time the event has been held at our school for a very long time. We trained hard, had a lot of fun and continue to train for the athletics carnival which will be held later this term. I would really like to thank all the parents who came along and made this training time successful. Children of all ages ran quite considerable distances up the road and along the river with mums and dads and little Penny and Jules coming up the rear. I have had such a wonderful time. However I owe a great deal of gratitude to our team leader Jane Hohl for getting our school across the line in first place! Thank you also to Sue and Ian Harrison for allowing us to use their property and for slashing the paddock regularly for us to use.

The school review team came on the 3rd and 4th of May and they were able to speak to quite a few parents about our school. Thank you for making them feel so welcome. The school will be sent a report in the coming weeks and it will be put on our web page for you to read. The reviewers were very impressed with our efforts here and will make some recommendations that will assist us make a strategic plan for improvement over the next four years.

Leadership Day last Friday, was also an enjoyable event. Mr Euan Murdoch impressed the children with his stories of going to school in a very small country school like ours. He inspired our children to dream of the future that they would like to lead and impressed them with the desire to reach for their goals. His relaxed approach made the children feel very comfortable and we would like to thank Mr Murdoch for attending our special day. We would also like to thank Virginia West for her words of wisdom for our senior leaders.

NAPLAN is now complete and school life will be back to normal again. The children worked hard and I am very certain that they are pleased that it’s all over! The athletics carnival is on the 16th and 17th of June at the Hillview Memorial Grounds. This year there will be a slightly different format to the program so that the days are not quite so rushed. On Thursday the 16th there will be field events, the 800m race and the heats for the 200m which only involve the older children and on Friday the 17th the track events will take place which will involve all year levels from prep to year 6. Ball games will not be held this year and parents are invited to participate in a parent relay. So parents, back to run club and sprint training with Jane on Wednesday and Friday mornings!

Kind Regards
Claire Roberts

12th May 2016
The children have been having a lovely time in Science with Miss Steph learning about living things and their environment in which they survive in. They looked at Liquid Amber trees as part of this research. The seniors have planted 8 Liquid Amber trees in our carpark to provide a beautiful entrance into our special school and future shade.

BACK ROW: Sally Cameron, Madison Loweke, Mia Loweke, Kade Pocock, Khalim Lindner
FRONT ROW: Tylar Rogers, Fred Cameron, Jaxon Hohl, Tommy Martens, Max Hohl and Miss Stephanie Olsson
Dance Fever Multi-Sports have started their gymnastic program every Friday with the students.

Miss Page has been doing Sculptures with the children. They have started creating sculptures by making an armature (which is a basic design of what they would like to create for their final sculpture). They are studying animals and incorporating their own personalities into their designs.
Miss Leigh and Miss Theresa have been having a great time teaching the Prep's their numbers, letters, patterns and shapes.
IMPORTANT DATES:

Parade: **MONDAY** 16\(^{th}\) May at 2.45pm

14\(^{th}\) of May at 5pm Channel 7 'Creek to Coast' will air which is the program the children went to Mount Barney to participate in last term – Nature Play. If anyone misses this it will be available to view on the Creek to Coast website after the 14\(^{th}\).

Christmas Creek Sports Day will be held on Thursday 16\(^{th}\) July over at the Hillview Hall grounds

P and C NEWS

I would like to thank everyone for their MASSIVE efforts over the last two months with baking and supporting our school. First we had the ANZAC day celebration then we hosted the Christmas Creek Cross Country which was a lovely extra fund raiser for us. We made $770.00.

Leadership day was a success and thank you to everyone that provided a plate of food to share.

Arts in the Olive – What can I say, it was a fabulous day with a few hiccups but we all managed to push through with a HUGE thanks to Nat and Jodie Overell for allowing the school this amazing opportunity to raise money for our children ! Can't thank you enough guys ! We raised $1800.00.

Another big thank you to Barry and Fran Issac who made our beautiful mailbox.
Fish Awards

**Play** – Mia Loweke & Tommy Martens
**Make Their Day** – Albie Watt, Sophie White, Chevy Agafonoff, Tylar Rogers & Max Hohl

Dragon Award

**For March** – Jaxon Hohl
**For April** – Madison Loweke

Proud Moments

**Competing in the 2016 Christmas Creek Cross Country** – Fred Cameron, Max Hohl, Madison Loweke, Sally Cameron, Alex McGhee, Jaxon Hohl, Khalim Lindner, Tommy Martens & Kade Pocock

**First Aid Support** – Tylar Rogers

**Water Station Attendants** – Mia Loweke, Tommy Martens, Oscar Martens & Kade Pocock