Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to another exciting edition of our school newsletter. We are almost at the end of a very stimulating year of learning, a year that has seen our many students grow and learn in preparation to move into a new year of schooling.

**Kindergarten Orientation sessions**
This term, we welcomed many new and familiar families to our school at our Kindergarten Orientation sessions. It was fantastic to see the many happy faces of our 2014 Kindergarten students. The transition sessions have been a great opportunity for the children to become familiar with our fantastic school. Parents and carers will receive a letter in the mail advising them of their child’s Best Start interview and starting date by the end of the term.

**Reports**
At the end of this term, your child will receive their Semester 2 report. Your child’s report will provide you with a comprehensive overview of your child’s strengths and areas for improvement in all Key Learning Areas.

**Aboriginal Mural**
We are excited to finally reveal our updated Aboriginal mural outside the Kindergarten room, which was a project during our NAIDOC Week activities in Term 3. Students and staff worked tirelessly to revamp an original mural which needed some TLC as it had weathered and deteriorated over the years. We wanted to make sure that the mural was respectfully given a face lift and with the artistic skills of local Aboriginal artist, Uncle Roy alongside Aunty Jennie, Miss Jones and students who worked to give the mural a new lease on life.

They learnt about traditional Aboriginal art and about the stories associated with it. A big thank you to all the students, Uncle Roy, Aunty Jennie and Miss Jones for all their hard work. It certainly makes a positive improvement in our playground. Be sure to drop by and have a look!

**Upcoming Events**
As always, the end of the school year is a busy time. We encourage you keep up to date with our Facebook page and our website for information about these exciting occasions.

Feel free to contact the office at any time if you need any further information.

We are certainly looking forward to Presentation Assembly, the Gold Award Ceremony and the Year 6 Farewell. Exciting times!

Until next time,

Lauren Dunlop and Lisa Stipanovic

Relieving Principals

To our new students:

Serenity 4J Suliana 5/6O Martina 1K Salanieta 2S
Samuela 3P Anita S 5/6I Ethan 4J

From the Deputy Principal

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are in for a very busy, yet exciting end of term! Our first evening Presentation Assembly, Year 6 Farewell and Gold Awards Assembly are among just a few of the events that will be held as we finish off the year. As we head into the final weeks of this year please keep yourself up to date with everything that is happening by regularly checking your child’s bag for notes, checking our Facebook page and visiting our website.

I had the pleasure of visiting our Stage 1 classrooms recently to see how we are implementing our writing programs. The children and their teachers impressed me with their motivation to learn and the language they were using to describe the important features of their writing. The teachers are doing a wonderful job of demonstrating to the students what they must do to produce quality pieces of writing and explain to them why it is important. Whilst in the classrooms I was really happy to see many of the student providing each other with feedback on how well they had achieved the success criteria set by their teachers. The children did this in a respectful way and celebrated the learning successes of their classmates.

Last Friday I had the privilege of going to the South-Western Sydney Aboriginal Student Achievement Awards. This ceremony was held at the University of Western Sydney’s Campbelltown campus and we were fortunate enough to have three of our students presented with awards. Well done to Kyrell, Ryan and Marcus who achieved awards for their excellent achievements at school. The boys were deserving of these awards and represented themselves and our school with pride throughout the ceremony.
Next year the National Curriculum for Literacy will become mandatory and our staff have been working hard to prepare themselves and our students for this change. There are exciting changes in the new syllabus documents that mandate what content, skills and knowledge teachers must teach. The new syllabus documents will help us to ensure that our 21st Century learners learn the critical aspects of literacy that will ensure they are successful in an ever changing world.

The last five weeks will continue to be important learning weeks for your children. Our teachers have prepared programs to maximise the remaining time they have with your children. Please ensure that they attend as many days as possible between now and the end of the year. Every day is a learning day!

Jason Clarke – Deputy Principal (Relieving)

Student Wellbeing Update

IMPORTANT ROAD SAFETY INFORMATION

Remember: Children do not have the ability to think about road safety like adults.

Therefore: Children up to at least eight years old should hold an adult’s hand in a car park, on the footpath and when crossing the road. Children between eight and at least ten years old should be closely supervised by an adult in the traffic environment and should hold an adult’s hand when crossing the road.

It is vital for your children’s safety that you minimise the dangers your children encounter traveling to and from school.

- NEVER call to your children from across the road. Teach them to wait until you come to them. Talk with them about what they should do if you are not there on time.
- Always slow to 40km/h when travelling in an operating school zone.
- Always obey parking signs as these signs help save children’s lives.

Safety messages to discuss with your children

Children can help reduce risks by learning and following some simple rules.

- Click Clack Front ‘n’ Back when in a car.
- Use the footpath-side door when getting in and out of a car.
- Hold a grown-up’s hand when on the footpath, in a car park or crossing the road.
- Stop! Look! Listen! Think! when crossing the road.
- Cross the road at a pedestrian crossing where possible.
- When getting off a bus wait until the bus has gone before using a safe place to cross the road.
• Always wear a helmet when riding a bike and don’t ride on busy roads.

The links below contain more details on important information about keeping your children safe while traveling to and from school.


John Joy Assistant Principal
From the CLO

Annual Raffle @ LPS

We would like to thank the business' that have supported our raffle by donating prizes or vouchers. The fantastic array of prizes has been coordinated by Jodie Dearne and we thank her for all her efforts – she has managed to donate prizes herself!
From the Students

Stage 1 Excursion – Places Past and Present

On Thursday 7 November, students from 2S, 2Q and K/1C visited the Wollondilly Heritage Centre. We participated in 6 different activities. We visited an old school and sat in the old desks to write on a slate board. In the factory we helped to sort and pack the eggs and the apples. We learnt about how people used to wash, dry and iron their clothes before washing machines and dryers were invented. We listened to a real coal miner talk about mining. In the old cottage kitchen we looked at refrigerators and stoves from the past, made butter and breadcrumbs, and ate pikelets. We also did some Aboriginal painting.

By 2S

At the school I learnt that they used a slate board and a slate pencil to do their work - Mohamed H

I learnt that in the olden days there was no electricity - Eva

I learnt that in the past they had no washing machines. They had to scrub very hard to get the dirt out of their clothes - Areebah
Stage 1 Excursion – Places Past and Present

Last Thursday, Stage 1 travelled by bus to Elizabeth Farm at Rosehill to learn about many things ‘Past and Present.’ The homestead on Elizabeth Farm is about 200 years old and is still owned by the McArthur family.

First we learned to play games that children used to play in the old days, such as, skittles, hula hoops, and quoits. It was fun playing in the garden. Next we wrote our names with a quill and ink. It was a bit messy and hard to do. We are lucky we have pencils to use.

Then we washed some clothes. We had to rub the clothes with soap and then wring them out with our hands because they didn’t have washing machines. It was hard work. After that we looked in their gardens. They had lots of fruit and vegetables growing because they used to grow all their food to eat. We saw banana and tomato plants. We saw how they cooked things in their kitchen and had a look at where they kept food cool, which was under the house in the cellar.

We liked hearing about the stories of what the McArthur family did. They didn’t have TV and they liked to play the piano. They also had bells in each room so they could call the servants to come and serve them tea. On the way home we watched a funny movie. It was very hot but we loved learning about the old days.

By 1/2L
We’ve been to the zoo, zoo, zoo, how about you?

On Friday 25 October, the Kindergarten children, teachers and support staff embarked on our greatly anticipated excursion to Taronga Zoo. It was delightful to board the bus and listen to the chatter of 51 excited students. When we arrived at the zoo, we quickly headed to the Seal Show where we ate our morning tea and had a big drink. After being entertained by Mya and Marley (the seals), each class started on their own navigation path around the zoo. During this time, we were fortunate enough to see a variety of animals and learn about the importance of conservation. After a busy 3.5 hours of walking, talking, and viewing the animals, we made our way back to the bus. As the final head count was done to ensure each of the 51 tired troops were accounted for, the teachers toasted each other with a high-five to celebrate a wonderful excursion.

I would like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of all teachers and support staff in making the day a huge success for the Kindergarten children at our school. The children were all commended on their outstanding behaviour. They did a wonderful job positively representing Lurnea Public School and a great day was had by all.

Mrs Blanchette

*Below are just some of the Information Reports and Recounts children wrote following our excursion to the zoo!*

Houda KU

Lusiane KH
Keira K/1C

On Friday I went to the IGA. I like the IGA because of the sea lion show because they can but their head into the sea lion pool. I went up his and the sea lion down into the pool.

Huang K/2D

I Friday I go to the zoo I saw 3 elephant. They walk slow and fun.

Taylah K/1C

Information Report

Name: Monkey

Appearance

- The monkey has a down the ant
- Down eyes
- The monkey has...
A bit of this, a bit of that – voila, a simple machine!

On Wednesday 30th October, Stage 2 went to the Powerhouse Discovery Centre with Mr Sullivan, Mr Jay, Mr Joy, Mr Vaccaro, Mr Chadha, Miss Hayman, Mrs De Leo, Mr Warren, Mrs Love, Mrs Riley, Mrs Pisani, Mrs Singh, Mrs Clinghan and Mrs Banerji.

We arrived at school at 8:15, marked the roll, and left at 8:30. The trip took 45mins to get there and while we were on the bus we were singing, playing 'I spy' and Spotto.

When we arrived at the excursion, the first group went in the centre, and the other group went to have lunch make rockets and play some fun games. When the first group was done, the second group went in the discovery centre.

While we were in there we got to learn about different machines and how they worked. In one of the rooms we got to touch simple machines, and draw our own machine to get apples off the tree.

Finally, we finished in the centre and went back to school about ten minutes before the bell rang. I think it was a great experience for me. My favourite machine was the Mouse Trap maker.

Blake 4E

Floor, beam, high bars = Gymnastics!

The students in Early Stage One have been participating in a gymnastics program. Practising body movement and control, and demonstrating different ways the body can move by composing and sequencing simple movement patterns. We have been exploring different ways of bending, twisting, turning and stretching. These are a few pictures from our Friday sessions!
Stuck On You!

This term, students have been studying Electricity and Magnetism. This has involved lots of hands on activities which have been fun!
How Everything Went So Wrong – a narrative

Today is the 26 of September 2008, the day that everything changed. Two years ago, the day my sister Ava turned 16 and I turned 14 was the last day of my normal life. To tell this story I have to go back a long time. My mother was a happy woman, with a happy husband and two happy healthy children. Me and my sister were doing well in school, my dad had a great job and everyone got along. On the day of our birthday, my sister went out with her friends. Later on that night she was in an accident…she didn’t make it. It has taken a toll in the whole family, dad and mum haven’t stopped fighting since.

I woke up this morning, I can hear screaming. I get out of bed and look in the mirror, I look just like her, Ava. I share her dark brown eyes, shiny black hair and pale skin. What’s even scarier is we are more alike in personality. I walk down the stairs to our old fashioned kitchen. It smells like dust, but despite that is cozy. I look at my mum, she used to be extremely fit with a beautiful olive complexion, thick blond hair and green eyes. Now she’s hunched over with wrinkled skin, her hair is almost completely grey and very thin. I look over at my dad, he’s usually pale skin is red with rage. He used to have thick brown hair which, now, like my mum’s is also grey and his hazel eyes are filled with sadness. The stress isn’t good for either of them.

Even though they try to hide it, I know they were fighting. I need to get out, at least for a couple of days. After breakfast I walk up the stairs, pack my back pack with some food I stole from the kitchen, a jacket, a book a, my phone and a small pop-up tent. I told my parents I was going to a friend’s house. I don’t have any but they don’t know that.

I go to the forest, it’s about a 15 minute walk. The forest is cold, damp and a little bit eerie but it is the only place that has offered me any comfort. I quickly set my tent up and then read a book for a while. I eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich for lunch. I wander through the forest for a while and when I get back to the tent I fall asleep. I had a dream I was running through the forest with a pack of wolves after me. I come to a cliff I have sat at many times before, and I jump off. Instead of falling into the water I am caught by a strange creature. It looked like a man but it was made of clouds. I got a warm feeling that I haven’t felt in ages. I feel a warm breath across my neck and I wake up in my tent. I can smell something disgusting and the animal is growling. There in the opening of my tent is a wolf.

I threw a can at the wolf, it stumbles back and I make a run for it. I go the exact way I did in my dream and I know the cliff is not very far away. When I reach the cliff I jump off without hesitating. I land in the cold icy water. I turn and I can see a boat and I swim towards it. I row myself to a nearby beach that is walking distance from my home. When I get home I tell my parents what happened. They realise that their fighting forced me away and nearly got me killed. After that day my parents never fought again. We were that happy family I never thought we could be again. It was the best day of my life.

By Taylor 5/6G
Advertisements

Lurnea PS Annual Raffle!

Lots of great prizes for all ages!

A prize for the student who sells the most tickets

Tickets are just $1 each!

2013
Lurnea PS Annual Raffle

You’ve got to be in it to win it!
We have a range of prizes to be won in our annual school raffle!
They include restaurant vouchers, kitchen appliances, toys, beauty products, wildlife family tickets and many more.

Tickets are just $1 each or 15 for $10.

Prizes will be drawn on Monday 9 December 2013 at the Presentation Assembly. Winners will be announced on Tuesday 10 December.

For more information
Please contact the school 9607 6001
Christmas Family Night

Thursday 5th December
6pm – 8pm

- Santa’s Little Helper Kids DIY
- Meet Santa in store
- Jumping Castle
- Face Painting
- Light Refreshments provided

Bookings essential – for more information or to book speak to a team member in-store.

Bunnings Warehouse

FREE