Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Lurnea Public School for 2013! We are so pleased to see all our students return from their summer holidays looking happy and healthy. I trust that you enjoyed the time with your children.

I would like to make a special welcome to the parents, carers and families of our new Kinder students. You have made an excellent decision sending your children to Lurnea Public School and we look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

Welcome also to the many other students and their families who have enrolled at our great school towards the end of last year and at the beginning of this year. We have seen a significant increase in enrolments and we are very happy to have each and every one of you!

Welcome to New Staff

We have had a number of new staff begin at Lurnea Public School in 2013. I welcome each of them to their new role including:

1. Luke Fleming – Stage 3 Teacher
2. Shelley Donaldson – Special Education Teacher
3. Phillip Plumridge – Assistant Principal
4. Emily Skola – Stage 2 Teacher
5. Clare Wojcinski – Stage 3 Teacher
6. Joanne Lovett – School Learning Support Officer
7. Marion Assagaier – Instructional Leader - Numeracy
8. Cris Brisigotti – Instructional Leader - Numeracy
9. Jo Petakis – Instructional Leader - Literacy
10. Cathy Alfaro – Instructional Leader - Literacy
11. Jean Carter – Home Reading Coordinator
Swimming Carnival

As you may know, I have made the decision this year to join a number of our local schools to participate in a ‘racers only’ swimming carnival. This means we WILL NOT be holding a traditional primary swimming carnival in 2013.

There are a number of reasons for this decision. However, the main reason is the rapid decline we have seen in recent years in the numbers of strong swimmers at our school. Only having a small number of children who are able to compete in races means that the races themselves aren’t very challenging and children are often racing alone or with one other child.

This also means that we have the rest of the students – 200 or more children – who are not participating in formal races. As such, they are waiting long periods of time to participate in short sessions of novelty activities. This can become a challenging situation to manage as students become understandably unsettled and bored throughout the day.

In 2013, we have decided to concentrate our efforts on Swimming Scheme. Our plan is to support as many students as possible to participate in the scheme with a view to growing a stronger base of competent swimmers at our school. I will review the option of a traditional primary swimming carnival annually. I wish the students who are attending the racing carnival well. I have no doubt that you will represent our school with pride.

Uniforms

My thanks again to our entire school community for embracing our new school uniforms. As you know, I have allowed a period of transition where students are permitted to wear either the new school uniform or the old one. As this period draws to a close (end of Term 1 2013) I encourage any parents who are yet to finalise orders of the new uniform to do so as a matter of priority.

Please make contact with our Community Liaison Officer Mrs Hedger on 0476 960 428 if you have any further questions.

Curriculum Contribution

As our school community knows, we are always trying to think of ways to provide the best possible education for all students. The Curriculum Contribution is an innovative approach to paying for excursions and school activities throughout the year. Our aim as always is to have 100% participation for all students.

We ask for a one-off contribution at the beginning of the year that will cover the cost of 2 MAJOR EXCURSIONS AND ALL IN-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES for each student.

Once you have paid the contribution, we will not ask for any more money for excursions or activities ALL YEAR! The only exclusions are Swimming Scheme and PSSA sport.

Please make your contribution as soon as possible.

Final thoughts....

As always, it is important for me to let you know that it is our hope at Lurnea Public School to provide the best educational outcomes for your children as we can. However, we can only do that with your support.

Please keep the school informed of your family circumstances, as you feel appropriate. If there are changes in living situations, custody arrangements, phone numbers, addresses or any other details you think might be
important for the school to know, please contact the school office and let us know.

Once again – welcome back to a new year of learning.

Have a great week.

David Sim
Principal

From the
Deputy Principals

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to another great year at Lurnea Public School! We have had a fantastic start to the year will all of our students settling in their temporary classes. As Mr Sim mentioned, there may be some students who change classes next week due to an increase in our enrolments. If your child is one of these students, you will receive a phone call and a letter home to inform you.

Our teachers have all spent a great deal of time ensuring that their learning environments are neatly presented, organised and engaging for the students in their care. You will have the opportunity to visit your child's classroom at the Meet the Teacher afternoons. This is a great opportunity to meet your child’s teacher, view their work, see where they sit during class and meet other parents/carers. You will find more information with the dates and times later in this newsletter.

It has been lovely meeting our new Kindergarten students and seeing their excitement for learning. Kindergarten is an extremely important time in a young child’s life. It is a great time to develop new routines and help your child become aware of school expectations and practices. Ensuring that your child has their backpack the night before, their uniform is out all ready to go and any notes or homework are packed in their bag. This helps to eliminate the last minute rush prior to school in the morning and any anxiety that your child may feel. For more useful tips and information, head over to www.schoolsatoz.nsw.edu.au or even download their App.

All Kindergarten students have completed their Best Start assessment and the teachers will use this information to develop individualised, appropriate learning activities. You will hear more information on Best Start at the Meet the Teacher afternoon.

As you know, we highly value the partnership between home and school. We acknowledge that home/school connection is important in ensuring that our students have the best possible experience at school and thrive in their learning. Throughout Week 3, you would have received a letter informing you of the different ways in which we communicate with parents and carers. In particular, our Facebook page which has almost 500 hits per week.

We are always striving to improve the level of communication that we provide, and as such, have developed a parent survey in regards to our communication. We would really appreciate if you could take a few minutes and complete the survey, either the hard copy attached to the letter and return it to school or via the
SurveyMonkey link. We look forward to your replies and will use the information to further improve our correspondence with our school community.

And finally, our Home Reading program will commence in Week 5. We encourage you to sit with your child for 10-15 minutes each night and read with them. Mrs Jean Carter will be coordinating this program this year, which operates out of S Block (behind the canteen). We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Kristina Angelovski for all her efforts with the program in 2012.

Until next time,

Lisa Stipanovic and Lauren Dunlop

Deputy Principals

Student Wellbeing

We are a nut free school!

In our school, we have students who have an allergic reaction to nuts. To ensure their health and safety, and those of others, we ask that you do not send your children to school with anything containing peanuts, peanut butter or nut products. This initiative has been developed by the NSW Department of Education and Communities and one in which Lurnea Public School abides by.

For more information can be found here:


Newsletter Editions

Our exciting newsletters are published in Weeks 3, 6 & 9 each term. The first edition will be printed for each of our students as well as placed on our website. All subsequent editions will be found on our school website - http://www.lurnea-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/

We also have a facebook page where you can keep up to date with all information going on around the school at the touch of your fingertips. This enables the school to alert you to happenings at the school and links to our website. Our facebook page can be found here - http://www.facebook.com/LurneaPublicSchool
Meet the Teacher

Come along and meet your child’s teacher in 2013!

Classes in Years 3 – 6 will meet on Tuesday 26 February from 3.15 – 3.45pm and Kindergarten to Year 2 including all Support classes will meet on Wednesday 27 February from 3.15 – 3.45pm. Both meetings will begin in the Library and then move to individual classrooms. These meetings will detail expectations of the classes including routines, home reading, Library and units of work that will be studied throughout the year. If you have specific questions about your child, please contact the school and make an appointment.

Swim Scheme

The Department of Education and Training School Swimming Scheme is an intensive learn to swim program, which develops water confidence and provides students with basic skills in water safety and survival. The Scheme is conducted over two weeks. Each daily lesson runs for 45 minutes.

Students who have not reached a satisfactory standard of water safety and survival skills, and are unable to swim 25m confidently unaided in deep water, are eligible to participate in the School Swimming Scheme. The Scheme focuses on weak swimmers in Years 1, 2 and 3 but also provides for weak swimmers in Years 4 to 6 students with special needs and students new to Australia are also encouraged to participate.

Instruction will take place at the Whitlam Leisure Centre, in Liverpool.

The Swim Scheme program will run daily for two weeks starting on Monday 18 March (Week 8, Term 1) to Thursday March 28 (Week 9, Term 1). The total cost of the program is $80.00 per student.

For more information, please visit the front office or our website for a permission note.

School Captains

Our school captains for 2013:

Vice Captain: Shayla Gibbs
Captain: Mahmoud Ahmed
Captain: Mariah Toa
Vice Captain: Hayden Johnsen
News from the CLO – Leanne Hedger

Uniform Shop

We are very excited to see how smart our students look as a whole in their new uniforms and we thank all of our parents and carers for supporting the change and enabling the smooth transition from the old into the new uniform.

The Uniform Shop has been very busy and we thank parents for their patience with those items that have been out-of-stock due to the overwhelming demand.

The Uniform Shop is available to parents every day, however, in 2013 it will open from 1.30pm on Fridays. Uniform Order Forms are available at the Front Office and parents have the option of either sending in an Order Form with their child or placing their order at the front office.

The Commonwealth Bank School Banking program includes an exciting Rewards Program designed to encourage children to get into the habit of making regular savings. If you would like your child to participate in the School Banking program and they do not already have a Dollarmites Account, please drop into any branch of the Commonwealth Bank and the staff will be happy to open an account for you.

Please remember, School Banking day is Wednesday and bank books should be dropped into the money collection box at the front of the school administration block before 10am.

Stewart House

Stewart House is a charity that supports young children in need from across New South Wales. Our school supports the charity by collecting used clothing for the Stewart House School Clothing appeal.

Shortly your child will bring home a Stewart House plastic bag. If you have any unwanted used clothing that you would like to donate please return your bag to the school by Tuesday, 27 May. If you would like another bag sent home, please do not hesitate to contact the school office. Thank you for supporting this worthwhile charity.

Photo Permission

From time to time the school has the opportunity to promote the wonderful achievements of our students and its programs to the wider community. This may involve the use of a student’s photograph or their work for the School Newsletter, School Website, School Facebook page or promotional brochures and posters.

If you DO NOT wish your child’s photograph or work to be used for this purpose, please notify the school as soon as possible by completing the attached permission note.

Parental permission will always be requested for specific events that involve the media such as the newspaper or television.
Welcome to 2013!

What a start to 2013!
The students in our Support Unit have had a great start to the new year, enjoying our classmates, making new friends and trying their best!

Welcome to Stage 3!
Stage 3 would like to welcome back all the students to school for this year. We would like to welcome Mrs Wojcinski and Mr Fleming who have had a great start to the year with their classes along with Miss Agostino and Mrs Velardi.

We would like to welcome the new students to our Stage. We are looking forward to being positive role models to all the students in the other grades. We can show the others students how to be safe, respectful learners on the playground and inside the classroom.

The first day back we were very nervous because we didn’t know who our teachers were going to be, however, we were very excited because we couldn’t wait to see our friends again after the holiday break.

We are already in Week 3 and have started learning about Antarctica, developing our Exposition writing skills and trying our very best to improve our ideas.

We will be looking forward to seeing our parents at our Primary Assemblies throughout the year.
Stage 2

Welcome back everyone for what is sure to be a busy and exciting year at LPS. Everybody in Stage 2 has made a fantastic start to the year by getting to know their teachers and classmates and setting new learning goals. Students in each class have also been learning about their new class names, which state the values by which we live and learn at Lurnea.

The Stage 2 classes for 2013 are: 3 Acceptance with Ms Hayman, 3 Purpose with Mrs Banerji, 4 Justice with Ms Skola, and 4 Excellence with Mr Sullivan.

We can’t wait to share with everybody some of the brilliant things we’ll be getting up to this year. Here is a peek at what we have been up to so far…

Stage 1

Stage 1 students are looking at the HSIE topic ‘Identifying Us’. This unit looks at the groups they and others belong in and the benefits of belonging to a group. These picture puzzles have been created by the students, showing a piece of themselves at a time.

After the welcome back, and the settling into our new classes, we have been straight back into our learning. In groups we have been developing our literacy and numeracy skills under the watchful eye of our great teachers – Mr Gathercole, Ms Thorley, Miss Adle, Mrs Longbottom and Mrs Marahaj. We look forward to a great year!
Welcome to Kinder!

On Monday 4 February, the teachers in Early Stage 1 officially welcomed the 'littlest' people of our school community. This was both a special, and reasonably dry-eyed, occasion for many of our Kindergarten students and families. Throughout the morning, Kindergarten students progressively arrived at their classroom and waved goodbye to loved ones before engaging in a fun-filled day of play-based learning.

Over the past few weeks, Kindergarten students have been busy getting to know their teacher, familiarising themselves with classroom routines and learning the school rules. Through our dynamic and student-centred program, students have also been introduced to letter-sounds, sight words, number, computer technology and the concept of cooperating with others in small groups. It is anticipated by establishing positive behaviours and attitude for learning, children will begin to build a solid foundation for their school life.

Finally, we would like to welcome all our families to our school community. We have many exciting events planned for students in Early Stage 1 and look forward to sharing in the many achievements, milestones and memories that are sure to be created throughout your child’s first year at Lurnea Public School.

Kelli Blanchette, Jessica Ross, Corrin Archer
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The following services are available:

- Copying old home video tapes from VHS, VHSC, SVHS, Video 8, Hi 8 and Mini DV formats to DVD, preventing further picture deterioration as the present quality will remain the same as the day it gets copied across DVDs, will make watching home video tapes through a VCR or Camcorder connected to the TV a thing of the past.
- Creation of digital images from scanning photos, black and white and colour negatives, slides, text documents and burning of images to CD or DVD.
- Scans for PowerPoint presentations to celebrate a special birthday or anniversary. Digital photo frames, Canvas prints, DVD TV slideshows, Publication work, Web sites, Exhibition prints and posters, Archives.
- Restoration of discoloured (yellow), faded, stained, scratched and torn photos and slides.
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Homework Help Centre
Wednesday afternoons from 3.30 – 4.30pm
George Bates Hall
Cnr Hill and Wonga Roads Lurnea
Contact: Lisa on 9600 0600

COMMUNITY UNITY DAY
KARI Aboriginal Resources Incorporated is hosting a fun family community event for all to attend. Activities include:
Rides for all ages Cultural Workshops
Loads of Information Stalls Face Painting
Entertainment Free food stalls
When: Sunday the 17th of February 2013
Where: The Whitlam Centre,
90a Memorial Ave, Liverpool 2170
Time: 11:00AM—3:00PM
FREE EVENT ALL WELCOME
If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact our Front Office staff for assistance.
PERMISSION FOR THE USE OF CHILDREN’S PHOTOGRAPHS OR WORK

From time to time the school has the opportunity to promote the wonderful achievements of our students and its programs to the wider community. This may involve the use of a student’s photograph or their work for the school newsletter, school website, school Facebook page or promotional brochures and posters.

If you DO NOT wish your child’s photograph or work to be used for this purpose, please notify the school as soon as possible.

Parental permission will always be requested for specific events that involve the media, such as the newspaper or television.

Permission to use your child’s photograph or work can be withdrawn at any time by simply contacting the school office or our Community Liaison Officer, Mrs Leanne Hedger.

If you have any questions or concerns about this request, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Hedger on 0467 960 428.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Lauren Dunlop and Lisa Stipanovic
Deputy Principals

David Sim
Principal