Dear Parents and Carers

As we near the end of Semester 1, I very much enjoy reflecting on the teaching and learning that has taken place at Lurnea Public School since the beginning of the school year.

I often have the opportunity to visit classrooms and observe first-hand the quality learning experiences that are prepared by the teaching staff each and every day. I am always excited to talk with students about their learning and see the results of their hard work and commitment.

Parent Teacher Interviews

I would like to thank the parents and carers who were able to make contact with their child’s teacher during parent/teacher interview week. We know that it can sometimes be difficult for families to come to the school for a formal meeting with the teacher, so we hope the three options for interviews that we provided were helpful.

Close partnerships between a child’s home and school will ensure consistency of message about the importance of education for every child’s future.

Staff Professional Learning

As you may know, we have had a major focus at our school over the last couple of years on providing our staff with high quality professional learning. These learning experiences enable teachers to grow in their understandings of the latest in educational research from around the world. It also provides our staff with the opportunity to hear from other expert teachers as we continue to create an environment that fosters excellence in teaching practice.

I am always humbled by the commitment my staff show towards their own learning. They are often asked to devote their own personal time to their learning and do so with a willingness that is both encouraging and inspiring.
As I have said many times before, we are indeed fortunate to have such a quality team of professionals working towards a common goal – to provide the very best education we can for your children.

Finally, as we finish the term and begin the winter holidays, I would like to thank the Lurnea Public School community for your ongoing support of our great school. I continue to feel very proud to serve this community and will continue to strive for excellence in all areas.

Have a great break – see you in Term 3 on Tuesday 16 July.

David Sim
Principal

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to another edition of our newsletter.

All Semester 1 reports were issued to all students last Friday. Academic reports are an important part of how we communicate your child’s progress to you. We hope you were able to discuss your child’s development further at the Parent Teacher interviews this week.

**Quality Teaching Visits:** We have been fortunate enough to visit each classroom again this term and see what is going on for our learners. We have been impressed with how students are able to discuss what they are learning about, why it is important and where to next with their learning. This demonstrates a deep understanding of what is being taught and how engaged our students really are in their learning.

**Professional Learning for teachers:** A professional learning culture is one in which we, as educators are committed to our own growth and development as professionals. This grows out of our deep professional desire to continue to develop our knowledge and practice and to maximise opportunities for student learning.

**Preschool and Kindergarten Orientation Sessions:** The time is fast approaching for 2014 enrolments. Please pencil the following dates in your diaries:-

- Kindergarten Orientation: Tuesday 15 October 2013 (Week 2, Term 4)
- Preschool Orientation: Tuesday 22 October (Week 3, Term 4)

Wishing you all a well-deserved winter break.

See you all on Tuesday 16 July.

Regards,

Lisa Stipanovic and Lauren Dunlop
Itchy Itchy Scratchy Scratchy!

Mention head lice and most of us instantly develop an itch. You'll find these little critters at every school across Australia - and probably the world - at some point during the year! While head lice and nits, (the eggs of head lice) are certainly annoying and persistent, they're not dangerous. Here's everything at a glance you need to know to rid your kids of head lice and nits. At a glance:

- Head lice and nits only live on human heads.
- They don't care if the hair is long or short, clean or dirty.
- Head lice are an unavoidable fact of life for all school-aged kids.
- The best and cheapest way to remove them is with inexpensive conditioner and a nit comb.
- You will need to re-treat your child several times before all the eggs will be gone.

More information can be found on the NSW Department of Health website here: http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/environment/headlice/Pages/treatment.aspx

Enrol now for 2014

Enrolments are now being accepted for Kindergarten in 2014. Our staff can help you any time with your enrolment.

For more information, please follow the link to our website:

The Sport Wrap-Up

Soccer

The Senior and Junior Soccer teams competed at the second Gala Day of the term in Week 7. The weather was perfect and the students represented their school with pride, showing excellent sportsmanship on numerous occasions.

The Senior team won 1 of their matches, lost 2 and played a friendly against Robert Townson, as one of the teams was on a school camp and therefore unable to attend. The players worked well as a team and put in a great effort against the opposition.

The Junior team showed a vast improvement this week and the results attested to this. Our ability to keep our positions on the field meant that our defence was much stronger and we had
very few goals scored against us.

All our players had strong games both in attack and defence. In the first game, Cephas was a great goalie and Blake covered the field as our centre mid. Hussein scored a fantastic goal, but we lost 2 - 1.

In the second game we came up against stiff opposition, but Ahmed was able to score a great goal in a 4-1 defeat.

Game 3 was a much closer game. Fiona had a strong game in the backs, while Shaddi worked hard in the mids. Meli and Jawad made a couple of good breaks but the defence was too strong and we came away with a nil-all draw.

Spencer and Stella held a good defensive line in our final game, while Skylar and Soukaina had a turn at striker. Thomas had a strong first half as sweeper but unfortunately, in the second half, we had a goal scored against us, resulting in a 1-0 loss.

We all really enjoyed the day and I was extremely proud of the improvement we had made as a team. I’m sure our first win is just around the corner.

Mrs Lloyd                         Mrs Soh
Junior Coach                      Senior Coach

Netball

What a Gala Day in Week 7 for the Netballers! We have an amazing team, with shooters, attackers and defenders! We started the day with a nice warm up and then a game. Our Senior team has persistence, no matter what happens in the game we never give up. What a shooter in James! We might have the next Michael Jordan on our hands. Everyone was participating and playing fair. Even when we lost, our team still congratulated the opposing team. What great sportsmanship our Seniors have. At the end of the day we won two games and drew one. Great job everyone! We would like to thank Mrs Robertson and Miss Horne for giving us the opportunity to represent Lurnea Public School.

Written by Amila and Taylor
From the Students

Gold Rush in 5/6 Integrity

What a fun term of learning in 5/6!

We have enjoyed learning about Gold and have participated in many activities to assist our learning.

It all started with Choc Chip Mining. The students got to experience how difficult mining was for the miners who used simple tools back in 1851. They soon realised that you need a lot of patience to be a gold miner. We then enjoyed eating the cookies!

We also made Gold nuggets and pieces of jewellery using clay. We saw lots of creative minds at work when designing and making the nuggets and jewellery.

We went Gold Panning at school and had to be careful of the Bushrangers who tried to steal our gold!
Pre School News

The children have been busy having fun playing, learning and developing many skills, including taking turns, listening, sharing following instructions, being responsible for their belongings and making friendships.

They have had a fantastic time as we have been involved in walks around the school. They have got to learn about seasonal change and to look at the environment first hand. The children collected things from nature including various leaves, twigs, gumnuts and bark which was later used to create artwork and learn mathematical skills including counting and sorting.

Thank you to all the families who attended the meet the teacher evening. All families are requested to fill in the additional information forms and return it to the preschool as soon as possible. If you have not received the forms please see the preschool staff.

Parents please remember to send hats, healthy snack and a drink with your child to preschool every day. The children have been involved in learning about making healthy food choices. We purchased a variety of fruit and vegetables and we cut it up to make a fresh fruit and vegetable salad which we all shared at morning and afternoon tea. It was really delicious and the children were asking for more.

Fun and Games with Support!
The students in 3/6R, 1/6F, K/6P and K/2D has a fun day – by the looks of the photos it sure was!
Our excursion to the Botanical Gardens by 1K

Yesterday Year 1 and Year 2 students went to the Australian Botanical Gardens at Mount Annan, to finish learning about shelters and the environment.

When we came to school we had our school name tags put on us in the classroom, in case we got lost on our excursion. We went on a big white bus that had large, wide, red letters that said the word Comet on its side. It was a long trip and we listened to music on the radio.

When we arrived at the Botanical Garden we ate our morning tea and then explored the Fruit Loop trail. On the trail walk we saw a T-Rex tree and a dinosaur tree that grew when dinosaurs walked the earth. This tree is an endangered plant because there are only 38 left in the world.

After that, we had our lunch and played. Some people rolled down a little hill. It was fun!

After lunch we went for a walk to look at an ant hill and a pond. We used our senses to explore the environment such as listening to the different sounds of the animals in the pond. Then we went into the workshop room to see a worm farm. The worms felt slimy and soft. They wriggled a lot.

Soon it was time to go back to school. On the way out of the Botanical Garden we stopped at the blue Eucalyptus Gum Tree. This tree has no leaves on it. It was struck by lightning and died. The people at the Botanical Garden painted it blue and now it is a special landmark at The Australian Botanical Garden. Some students from each class had their photo taken in front of the tree.

We all had a great time and were tired when we got back to school.

2Q’s Assembly Performance
**Counting is Cool!**

This term kindergarten teachers have been focusing on teaching their students how to add and subtract. We have been using lots of fun play-based activities that teach the students various strategies to use when finding the total of two numbers. These small group activities provide the children with lots of opportunities to communicate and support each other during numeracy sessions. We have seen some positive effects on children’s learning during these times including better use of mathematical language, increased social support of their peers and improved understanding of taught concepts. If you would like some ideas of games to use at home to improve your child’s understanding of mathematical tasks please come and see your child’s teacher.

**Stage 2 Wrap Up**

Wow! What a term it has been! Stage 2 has worked incredibly hard learning about the different systems that make up the human body. We have also looked at ways we can keep our bodies healthy, such as staying active and making good food choices.

In Week 5, we had our excursion to see the Sydney Symphony perform at Olympic Park. It was a beautiful autumn day, the music was lovely and the picnic and games in the park topped it all off. We are very much looking forward to the next excursion where we can again show off our uniforms and represent the school with pride.

We are looking forward to next term where we will be learning about European settlement of Australia and the impact this has had on our lives today. But first, a holiday…

See you in Term 3! The staff and students of Stage 2
Where the Wild Things Are!

Where the Wild Things Are, is a book written by Maurice Sendak. Max is the main character and he was sent to bed with no supper because he was running amuck. That night a forest grew and grew in his room and then a private boat came for Max. He was so glad. There was no time to loose. So he jumped in and sailed away, over weeks and months, nearly over a whole year.

Max found an island full of wild things. He looked into their big bright yellow eyes and they were so scared. Then he became King of the wild things. Max cried out. “Let’s start a ruckus!” The wild things went wild and afterwards Max said, “STOP’ and sent the wild things to bed. Max was lonely and wanted someone who loved him. Far, far away around the other side of the world Max smelt yummy things to eat. So he decided to leave. The wild thing said, “Please don’t leave!” We will eat you up, don’t leave we LOVE you. Max said NO! He set off to his room and there was his supper. It was still hot. Oh! And did I forget to tell you he was wearing his wolf suit.

By Aaliyah M 5/6T

This story is about Max and the wild things. It started off when Max’s mum said, No supper for you because you are running like a fox and you are naughty. Then Max went to bed. He went on adventure. He was visualising.

He was in a forest. It took him days, months and years away from everyone. When he arrived at the forest, he saw wild animals. He became their king.

After he became King, he played with the animals and had fun. When Max didn’t have his supper he didn’t give the wild animal their supper either. He could smell food. He took the Kings crown and went back home. It took him days, months and even years to get back home. When he woke up he saw he’s supper. It was a dream and he’s supper was still hot!

By Kamel 5/6T