Dear Parents and Carers

Today I had the pleasure of attending the Lurnea Public School 2013 Extravaganza! And what a show it was….

We were taken on a journey through time and saw many shining examples of student talent and staff creativity. We had performances by all students, the choir and our dance groups. The costumes were dazzling, the music was inspiring and the message was clear – Public Education is a celebration of student achievement – now and in the future!

I am always amazed when I watch these types of performances – the time and effort that is put in to showcasing our students is a tribute to the quality of the teachers we have at Lurnea Public School.

My thanks to everyone involved including our Stage Organisers and Miss Thomas for helping our students put on such a great show!

Staff Retirement

I was recently advised that Mrs Julie Petrie would be formally retiring from Lurnea Public School following a recent period of leave.

Many of you will have known Mrs Petrie for many years as she supported the teaching and learning of our smallest students in the preschool. Mrs Petrie has made a significant impact on the lives of many children and families over the years as she carried out her duties in assisting and supporting the preschool teacher.

I’m sure you will join me in wishing Mrs Petrie well in her retirement.

A recruitment process will be conducted during Term 4 to fill the position of School Learning Support Officer – Preschool.
NAPLAN

If your child is in Years 3 or 5, they will receive their NAPLAN progress reports early in Term 4. Please have a look at the information included and contact the school if you need any further clarification.

It is important to remember that NAPLAN is an assessment completed several months ago that provides a snapshot of your child’s ability at a particular moment in time. As a school, we use this information to help us set targets, goals and priorities.

Warm Weather

As the weather continues to warm up, it is important for us to provide a few reminders:

1. All students MUST be wearing a school hat during break times. Without a hat they will have restricted play areas.
2. Please send your child to school with cold water every day – a frozen water bottle is a great way for students to keep cool.
3. All students are expected to wear full school uniform including appropriate shoes and shorts. Parents will be contacted if your child attends school without their uniform.
4. It is important to apply sunscreen to your children every day before school. We will provide sunscreen at school for outdoor activities like PSSA.

Finally, I would like to wish you all well for the Spring holiday period. Term 3 has been a very busy term, but I have been impressed with the unrelenting focus we have as a school towards providing the best highly quality educational experience we can.

Thank you for your continued support.

David Sim
Principal

To our new students:
Farqad 3A, Byron 5/6G
Parris 4J

Medical Forms

To help us update our medical records of all of the students at LPS, it is greatly appreciated if parents could complete the medical form that has been sent home and return it to school. Extra notes can be found in our front office and if you need any assistance to complete the form, our friendly office staff are always available.
Dear Parents and Carers

Term 3 has been a fantastic time for our school - We have seen lots of innovative teaching and learning in all areas of the school, especially in the area of Creative and Practical Arts.

Brilliant Book Parade

The Annual Book Parade is always an exciting event at Lurnea Public School. We had a record number of students dressed as their favourite book character and parade around the COLA. We also had special visits from Willy Wonka and an Angry Bird! A big thank you to Mrs Kiss and Miss Thomas for their efforts in organising 2013’s Book Parade and the Book Fair. Stay tuned for more photos later in the newsletter.

Exciting Extravaganza

Words cannot describe the joy generated by the Extravaganza that was held today. There are no negatives to such an event and it will be embedded in your child's good memories of school forever. We would like to thank all the parents and carers who did so much work in preparation for this occasion - your continued support is appreciated. Our gratitude also extends to our wonderful staff members. They have worked tirelessly for months to make today so special.

Importance of Regular Attendance

It is extremely important for your child’s learning that they attend school as much as possible. If your child is not able to come to school it is a requirement that you notify us of the reason for each absence. If there are problematic circumstances that are making it difficult for you to get your child to school or get them to school on time, please contact Jason Clarke (Assistant Principal – Student Success) or Leanne Hedger (Community Liaison Officer) and they may be able to provide some support.

Updates

We are in the process of updating our medical record system to ensure we have the most up to date information on your child’s health. To do this, we need our parents and carers to complete the medical health form that can be found on our website. If you have any questions, please come in and see our friendly office staff.

Wishing our school community a great end to Term 3 and an enjoyable Spring break.

Regards,

Lauren Dunlop and Lisa Stipanovic

“Quality teaching in a safe and respectful learning environment.”
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:

Kindergarten & Preschool 2014

Save the Date

Kindergarten 2014 Orientation
Tuesday 15 October 2013 (Week 2, Term 4)
9:30am-11am

Preschool 2014 Information session
Tuesday 22 October (Week 3, Term 4)
3:15pm-4:30pm

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

Annual School Raffle

We are excited to offer our community the opportunity to purchase tickets in our **Annual School Raffle**.

There are some fantastic prizes to be won including vouchers for La Rumbla Restaurant, Taronga Zoo, Featherdale Wildlife Park, Casula Powerhouse, National Maritime Museum, Mounties, Big W, Woolworths, Target, Jay Jays, Pearl Nails, plus jewellery, a watch, electrical appliances, home wares, toys, Bunnings gift baskets, DVDs from Griffiti With Punctuation, pamper pack from Mandy's Heavenly creations, soap packs from Coolah Creations, hair accessories and MORE .... You've got to be in it to win it!!

There are so many prizes on offer, purchasing just one ticket gives you a good chance of winning something special!

**Tickets will go on sale at the School Performing Arts Extravaganza on Friday 13 September 2013 in the School Hall. The raffle tickets will be sold for $1 each or three for $2.**

The Raffle will be drawn at our Presentation Assembly on **Monday 9 December**. Winners will be notified on Tuesday 10 December.

A book of fifteen Raffle Tickets will be sent home with students in Term 4, together with a full list of prizes. You may choose to collect your book(s) before the end of term to sell to family and friends in the holidays. Alternatively, you may wish to purchase the book yourself for $10. All money raised will go towards the purchase of iPads for our students to access apps in literacy and numeracy and the internet for in-class activities and research topics.

A very big **thank you** to Jodie Dearne for her tireless efforts in sourcing donations for the Raffle and to Natalie Constable, Val Sapienza and Alison Russell for their support in putting the raffle tickets together. Your hard work and commitment to our students is appreciated by the Lurnea community.
Father’s Day Stall

The Father’s Day stall was a great success, raising $560 which will be spent on technology to benefit our students. We hope that all our dads, grandads and carers enjoyed the gift that was carefully chosen for them and had a lovely day celebrating with their families.

A very big thank you to our Stage Three students who demonstrated excellent leadership skills and worked tirelessly to make the day enjoyable for their fellow students: Judy, Abir, Batul and Amila from 5/6O, Rahma, Mariah and Andrew from 5/6I and Yohan, Jasmin and Diana from 5/6T.

Also a special thank you to the parents who were involved in the selection and organisation of gifts and for assisting with the stall on the day. Your support is truly appreciated!

Parent Cafe

We have received very positive feedback from parents who attended the Information Sessions on Maths and Focus on Reading this term.

Coming up in Term 4 we have a Session on Helping Your Child with Reading at Home planned in Week 2:

- Date: Wednesday 16 October 2013
- Time: 9.15 – 11.00 am
- Venue: D Block

We also have guest speakers coming in to run sessions on two excellent programs for families:

- Home Power Savings Program – how you can save money on your electricity bills
- Saver Plus Program – a matched saving program $1 for $1 to help you save for your children’s education.

Keep a look out for flyers advertising the dates early next term.
PBIS Update

SST Residential

The members of our Student Success Team, Senior Executive as well some staff from Mount Pritchard East Public School spent last Friday and Saturday morning refining our support processes to better able us to assist students with additional needs. We also deepened our knowledge and understanding of the Disabilities and Discrimination Act 1992 and Disability Standards for Education. Our team has a relentless focus on ensuring equity for all students and supporting teachers with their professional learning as much as possible. We were able to share ideas and successes with the staff from Mount Pritchard East Public School, which was a valuable learning experience.

School Counsellor

Jeffery Reid our current school counsellor is relieving at a different school until the end of the year. David Arnault will replace Jeffery at our school and he has shown a great dedication to supporting children and their families o Lurnea PS throughout this term. If you have concerns or think your child would benefit from seeing our school counselor, please see Jason Clarke in the front office for a Parent Referral to Counsellor Form. David is very skilled and has supported children with resiliency skills, grief and loss, assessing learning difficulties and liaised with paediatricians and other external professionals to name just a few of his tasks. David works at our school on Mondays and Thursdays and also provides valuable advice to our Learning and Support Team and our Student Success Team.

PBIS Lessons

We have almost locked in our Supported Play and weekly focus areas for next term. I have appreciated the feedback and ideas I have received from parents and carers in the way of ideas and things our students need to learn and would benefit from in our PBIS Lessons. As a result of this feedback, important life lessons have been added to these interactive lessons. If you have any feedback, questions or ideas concerning what you would like included in these whole school lessons, please come and see me or email them to the school – lurnea-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au. Our aim is to make these lessons valuable, relevant and set our students and school up for success in a positive way.

Focus On Reading

Last week I presented a small overview of Focus On Reading to the parents, carers and family members that attend our Parent Café. Focus On Reading is a highly effective professional learning package that we have implemented over the last three years to improve teaching and learning of reading – comprehension skills. If you would like to see the presentation please visit our school website at: http://www.lurnea-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/curriculum-activities/focus-on-reading-program. Feel free to come and see me if you would like to ask any questions or to arrange a meeting with your child’s teacher to learn more.

Jason Clarke
Assistant Principal -Student Success
Our Book Week Parade was held on Monday 2 September under the COLA where we had an amazing number of students dressed up! Lots of effort was put into creating and putting together some fabulous outfits, even teachers got into the act – did someone see Willy Wonka? Thank you to all parents and carers for your support of the parade.
Extravaganza!
From the Students

Students in 4E have been participating in **SOLE sessions**. **SOLE** stands for **Self-Organised Learning Environments**.

SOLEs have strong foundations in research and are based on the philosophy that children have the capacity to guide their own learning while participating in the learning of others. Students are given a ‘thick’ question to answer – one that needs to be thought about, discussed and researched. For instance, a recent question posed was: **What was life like for people in the early years of British settlement?**

Students work towards responding to this question in small groups of their choosing, using a device with Internet access.

During SOLE sessions, students develop their research skills, critical thinking, social skills and the Super 6 comprehension strategies in order to complete these tasks. Students have been producing answers of high quality while demonstrating organisational and collaborative thinking skills.

Introduction of Mr Vaccaro

You may have seen me around the playground in the past couple of weeks. My name is Chris Vaccaro and I’ve just been lucky enough to join the Lurnea Public School community. I’ve taken over 4J and will be with them until the end of the year. In my time, I hope to build positive relationships with all in the school and hope to meet not only the parents and caregivers of my students, but as many members of the Lurnea community as possible. So if you see me in the playground, please don’t hesitate to come up and say hi!

As for 4J, we have been learning about British Colonisation, writing information reports, as well as reading in groups and mathematics. I hope to support all my students learning and help them extend their understanding in all KLA’s by providing them with engaging learning experiences.
Stage 3 Learning

Miss Thomas has been busy introducing SOLE (Self Organised Learning Environments) in the classrooms of 5/6 Integrity and 5/6 Opportunity. The SOLE lessons are based on the premise that all students are learners and can drive their own learning, as well as those around them. Students work in groups of 3 or 4 to answer a question.

They work together to research the question, use technology effectively and then present their findings to the class. The questions have included: Did dinosaurs really exist? and why do our eyes cry when we are sad? The students have thoroughly enjoyed these lessons, showing a deeper level of comprehension as well as engagement.

Maths Talk!

Research has shown that students talking about maths to each other is a major contributor to their development. Stage 3 have been focusing on the concept of reasoning – that is, not just telling someone the answer, but also the strategy they have used to solve the question and why. This has enabled students to see others perspectives, to talk about efficiency when answering questions and to work collaboratively.
Preschool

The children have had a lot of fun this term. They have been learning about Aboriginal culture through stories and cooking activities. Aunty Jennie showed the children how to make Johnny Cakes, which were delicious.

We have also been focusing on the natural environment. The children have been gardening and concentrating on the life cycle of plants by growing their own seedlings, taking care of them and seeing what happens. Please come and visit our new fruit and veggie garden.

Many parents have been asking what we do for school readiness. Preparing children for school is embedded in everything we do in our day including the following:

- **group time on the mat:** including news and story time to encourage concentration, language and social skills.
- **writing area:** encompasses learning the correct pencil grip, writing style and direction, posture, letter and sound recognition, rhyming skills and blended sounds.
- **indoor play:** including a variety of cognitive, fine motor and manipulative activities which are available for children to choose what they would like to participate in. This encourages children’s social skills, decision making and their ability to function independently in the classroom.

The children have shown a great interest in the beach, so we will extend on this interest next term. If you have anything related to our topic, please bring it in to share. It could be photo of when you visited the beach or a shell your child might have brought home. We will also discuss water safety and what precautions we need to take when we are at the beach.

**Reminders:**

- Make sure your child has a hat every day.
- Keep your child’s snacks and fruit cool by using an icepack in their lunchbox.
- Make sure you have filled in an enrolment form for Kindergarten for 2014 for your child.
- Information regarding transition to school have been placed in your child’s pockets make sure to read it and ask questions if you need.
- We still request family photos for our family tree.

**Wow! What a term in Early Stage 1..**

As Term 3 draws to a close, the teachers in Early Stage One would like to thank our wonderful and supportive families for their help with our Extravaganza preparations. We are so pleased to say, that every student has brought something from home to help make our performance a huge success. The students have been working so hard, both in the classroom and during rehearsals. We look forward to seeing you all on Friday and hope you enjoy the hard work that has gone into making this a memorable occasion.
Sports Report

Soccer

The final Winter Gala Day for the year was held on Friday August 30. The Junior and Senior teams played four games of soccer on a very warm day. Luckily, we had plenty of water and sun screen on hand. Both teams managed a draw but were outplayed in their other games. The teachers were very proud of the conduct of our students and the sportsmanship shown towards each other as well as the other teams. All players, especially the Juniors, have learnt a lot about the importance of holding their positions and playing as a team.

Well done to Fiona, Stella, Soukaina, Jawad, Thomas, Blake, Cephas, Ahmad, Ahmed, Shaddi, Meli, Spencer and Hussein in the Juniors and Hamoudi, Ben, Jade, Ali, Andrew, Dani, Yohan, Jordan, Corey, Ibrahim, Darlene, Liana, Mariah, and Eddie in the Seniors.

Mrs Lloyd and Mrs Soh

Netball

On 18 August we had girls and boys from years 3 to 6 represent our school at the Netball gala day at Minto. We played 5 different schools and 9 games between us, with mixed results. All students had a great time and enjoyed the warm weather.

Thank you to all the students who attended. The behaviour was impeccable and it was a pleasure taking you to this event. Thank you to our supporters and to Mrs Carter for her help in umpiring on all 4 gala days.

Congratulations –

Juniors – Sharlize, Samah, Jessie, Alanna, Brooklyn, Maiya, Natalie, Teresia and Diolo.

Seniors- Jade, James, Batul, Amila, Chloe, Steve, Rachel, Kaylea and Taylor, Abdullah.

Until next time!

Marlee Horne

Donna Robertson
Liverpool Zone Athletics Carnival 2013

The Liverpool Zone Athletics Carnival was held at the Crest at Georges Hall on Thursday, 22 August 2013. Lurnea Public School was represented by 43 students from Year 2 to Year 6.

Congratulations to Mariah Toa for being selected to represent the Liverpool Zone at the Regional Athletics Carnival held at Crest at Georges Hall on Wednesday, 12 September 2013. Mariah participated in the Shot Put event where she threw an astonishing distance of 8.44m and has now been selected to be a representative in the State Athletics Championships. We wish you well in the upcoming carnival Mariah.
Advertisements

What is MLC Tennis Hot Shots?
MLC Tennis Hot Shots is an exciting tennis program for kids aged 10 and under. Using smaller courts, racquets, and low-compression balls, the program makes learning tennis easy for new players.

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- Kids are ready to play as soon as they can swing a racquet
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2013 KARI GALA DINNER
Venue: The Cube, Campbelltown Catholic Club
Date: Saturday, 19th October 2013
Time: 6.30pm - 11.30pm
Dress: Evening wear
Ticket: $45.00

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Upcoming Dates

Friday 20 September  Last day of Term 3
Monday 7 October  First day of Term 4 for students
Monday 14 October  Stage 3 Excursion to the Powerhouse Museum
Tuesday 15 October  Kindergarten 2014 Transition Visit

If you have any questions about anything that is happening at the school, please contact the office on 9607 6001 or come in and see one of our friendly office staff.