Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a great start to the term and our students have settled nicely into their classes. We thank you for your support to allow us to finalise classes during this time. All classes have been finalised with only minimal student movement. Our ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions are next week. This is a fantastic opportunity to meet your child’s teacher and be involved in their learning for the term. More details of the ‘Meet the Teacher’ sessions are later in this newsletter.

Sadly due to unforeseen reasons, Miss Deepika Misty has left our school. We warmly welcome Mrs Kylie Walsh who has replaced Miss Mistry in her absence. Mrs Walsh has quickly developed a positive rapport with the students in 1/2L. I would like to officially welcome Mrs Jamily Fares who will be in the role of Community Liaison Officer this year. We are also in the process of employing two permanent classroom teachers. We will advise you of the outcome once this process is finalised.

**Updating Student Information**

This week all parents and carers would have received a letter seeking to update our student records. The Department of Education and Communities determines specific funding to schools based on information provided by parents and carers on enrolment forms when a child first starts school. To ensure that we have the most current information on our records, we are seeking your assistance.
To ensure that we are eligible for additional funding, could you please provide the information requested to the school office by Friday 4 April. If you are unsure, please call the office on 9607 7002 or Mrs Fares on 0467 960 428. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

Curriculum Contribution

We have many exciting excursions planned for this year. Please remember that the Curriculum Contribution is a pre-payment method that includes two major excursions throughout the year and all in school experiences. This is with the exception of additional programs such as Swim Scheme and Gala Days. Thank you to all parents and carers who have paid this contribution as it ensures that all children are exposed to these valuable learning experiences that reinforce the teaching and learning concepts in class. If you have not paid, please see the office ladies who can assist you further.

Morning Assembly

We value the importance of positive home school communication and our morning assembly is a great opportunity for parents and carers to become involved in your child’s schooling. This is an important time for announcements to be made of upcoming events, student messages and our social skill focus for the week. I seek your support in setting a good example for our students and to refrain from talking whilst the important messages are announced. It is very difficult for our students to hear messages when there are conversations between parents/carers. I thank you in anticipation for your support.

Parent/Carer Volunteers

We always love to see volunteers in our classrooms, so please see Mrs Jamily Fares or your child's teacher if you are willing to come along to your child's classroom for an hour or two. We especially would love to see some volunteers assist with the Home Reading program and our new Morning Reading program. More information on this new initiative will be sent home shortly.

Once again, thank you for your continued support and I look forward to meeting lots of our new families next week at the Meet the Teacher sessions.

Yours in learning

Lisa Stipanovic
Relieving Principal
Deputy Principal’s Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

**Meet the Teacher Afternoons**

I have been very pleased how well our staff and students have started the year. Many of you will have already met your child’s teacher by now, but even if you have, I encourage you to attend our ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoons next week. We have planned informative sessions that will give you a valuable insight into the learning and weekly organisation of your child’s class. It is always nice to put a face to that teacher that I’m sure your child is talking about all the time.

**Composite Classes**

There have been a number of parents and carers that have enquired about composite classes and how this may impact on their child’s learning. Composite classes can be formed for a number of reasons, but the main reason they are formed at Lurnea is due to student numbers and ensuring that departmental guidelines are followed in terms of how many students must be in each class. Whether your child is in a straight-year class or a composite class, I have every confidence in your child’s teacher to meet the social and educational needs of your child. The modern and individualised nature of teaching that exists at Lurnea Public School ensures that teachers plan each lesson with the needs of their individual students in mind. Our teachers are very good at assessing each child and working out what each child needs to learn next.

**New NSW Syllabus documents for the Australian Curriculum**

Thank you to the parents and carers who attended the Parent Café last Wednesday. I enjoyed my time discussing our progress in terms of the implementation of the new NSW Syllabuses for the Australian Curriculum. Last year our staff attended professional learning sessions that prepared them for the implementation of the new NSW English Syllabus and they are now implementing this. This new syllabus is a more modern document aimed at setting our children up for success in an ever changing world. Under the supervision of our Early Action for Success – Deputy Principal Mr Phillip Plumridge and our Literacy Team Leader Mrs Mary Velardi our teachers are making a seamless transition to the new English Syllabus.

Our staff have begun attending professional learning sessions to learn about the new Mathematics Syllabus that will be implemented next year. Our teachers are excited about the new syllabus documents and are working hard to make sure they are prepared and ready as each one is implemented. If you would like to learn more about the new syllabus documents and when they will be implemented I encourage to see me or visit:


**Parent / Carer – Teacher Interviews**

In Week 10 we will be having our parent-teacher interviews. This year we will be using an Internet based booking system to improve the speed and ease of booking in a time to meet your child’s teacher. For families that may not have Internet access they will be able to phone the school office or...
access the help of our Community Liaison Officer – Mrs Fares to make a booking. Stay tuned for more information to come, very soon.

Jason Clarke
Relieving Deputy Principal – Quality Teaching

What you need to know about the New English Syllabus

This year all NSW Department of Education and Communities schools will be implementing the new English K-10 Syllabus for the Australian Curriculum.

The aim of English in Years K–10 is to enable students to understand and use language effectively, appreciate, reflect on and enjoy the English language and to make meaning in ways that are imaginative, creative, interpretive, critical and powerful.

The New English Syllabus has a strong focus on the study and use of the English language. The content of the syllabus is now broken into modes of communication. They are: speaking, listening, reading and viewing, writing and representing.

Teachers have participated in many professional learning activities, both last year and this year, to prepare for the implementation of the new syllabus. Each stage team will meet for collaborative planning each fortnight to plan learning activities using the new syllabus.

We are very excited at Lurnea Public School to have new outcomes that focus on thinking creatively, reflecting on learning and student self expression. Other outcomes also include reading, writing, handwriting, spelling, speaking, listening, punctuation, grammar and vocabulary.

Phillip Plumridge
Deputy Principal - Early Action For Success - Literacy

Facebook
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
Student Wellbeing

At Lurnea, we strive to be safe, respectful learners. We have high expectations of each of the students and of ourselves and it’s important that we fuel the brain to ensure we are able to learn best!

Nutrition

The best way to start the day is with some breakfast. This can include cereals, porridge, toast with a spread, fruit smoothie, juice and fruit. According to nutritionists, this is the most important meal of the day. It sets the body up for what it needs to do. If we skip this meal, our body fades – we become tired, lack concentration and are unable to follow what is happening around us.

At 10.00am, we have ‘Crunch and Sip’. This is an opportunity for the students to feed their bodies with a piece of fruit or vegetable and drink some water. Students are able to have their water bottles in class and drink water as they need to throughout the day.

Lunch and recess are times not just for play. Sandwiches, rolls, wraps, foods that incorporate the healthy food pyramid are preferred for lunch. Snacks should include things like cheese, yoghurts, fruits – I know, we all like a treat at times, but it is best that chocolate, chips, biscuits etc, are kept as treats not as everyday foods!

Sleep

A good night sleep is another important way for children to be the best they can be. By having enough quality sleep, a child wakes up refreshed and ready for the day. They are able to actively participate in school throughout the day, no matter what they are doing.

A bedtime routine allows your child to wind down, get ready for bed and then drift off into sleep easier. Things you can do to help this include a bath for your child after dinner, reading a book in bed with the lights dimmed and spending some quiet time them before bed. It is advisable that children do not play on the computer or engage in activities using technology right before bed or watch television while they are in bed. This keeps the brain working and takes your child a lot longer to calm down and relax.

A routine needs to be in place and be consistent for it to work. By having a set bedtime around the same time each night, your child’s body will regulate its internal clock and start to prepare for sleep automatically.

Melanie Thomas

Relieving Assistant Principal - Student Success
Head Lice

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

Art Shirts

Our students love participating in Creative Arts lessons throughout the year, but with that comes the possibility that they may get paint on their uniforms. To ensure we keep the uniforms clean and free from art materials, we ask that you provide an art shirt for your child. This can be a designed art smock or simply one of your old t shirts – not too big for our littlies, but big enough so that it covers both a dress or shirt and shorts while they are completing their artwork.

Please place their name on it, send it to school where it will remain and that will allow art to continue without the stress of paint on the uniforms.

Meet the Teacher

All of our parents and carers are invited to attend the 'Meet the Teacher afternoons coming up in Week 7.

The event is happening on two afternoons:

K-2 Meet the Teacher – Tuesday 11 March
3-6 Meet the Teacher – Wednesday 12 March

We hope to see you there!
News from the CLO

There has been a change in the way the school is required to seek permission to publish photos, we are now asking for your written consent to publish. The school has sent home letters for parents and carers to fill out and sign. We thank those who have already sent back forms and urge those who haven’t to please send these forms back to school by 17 March 2014.

As a result of our participation in the Earn & Learn program sponsored by Woolworths, we have been fortunate enough to receive some great toys for our Preschool classes. We also received four soccer balls that we can add to our sports collection. Well done to all that participated in the program!

SCHOOL BANKING

School Banking has kicked off to a great start this year. We currently have 86 students registered with us and hope this number will increase over the weeks. Let’s encourage our kids to save and teach them the importance of handling money.

PARENT CAFÉ

I would like to welcome and thank all parents, carers and staff who attended the Parent Café this week. This week’s workshop was about the National Curriculum and I would like to thank Mr Clarke and Mrs Dunlop for outlining these changes and giving parents an insight into how LPS is preparing students and teachers for 21st century learning.
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:

What’s happening around Lurnea?

Early Stage 1

English in Early Stage 1

Kindergarten is off to a roaring start this term and their teachers have been busy preparing lots of fun games for them to learn their letters, sounds and sight words. Kindergarten students are starting to show skills in being active listeners to follow simple instructions and are beginning to ask relevant questions. Students are also learning to communicate suitably with their peers in class discussions.

Last Wednesday all parents of Kindergarten students were invited to a Best Start Parent Workshop. If you were unable to attend but would like some ideas on how to increase your children’s learning at home please see your classroom teacher.
Stage 1

2 Success – On the road to success in Mathematics!

2 Success students have been working extremely hard in all areas of Mathematics this term! We have been discussing and exploring mental computation during our daily “Number Talk”, as well as using our problem solving skills to answer a NAPLAN question every day. Students have worked in their Number groups to practise and improve their use of mental strategies for addition and subtraction. Some of us have already ‘bumped up’ to the next level on our Bump It Up Wall! We have also participated in a range of fun hands-on activities to develop our understanding of symmetry, length and data.

Here are some pictures of symmetrical designs we made using pattern blocks. Each of the designs has a ‘line of symmetry’. This means that one side of the design is a mirror image of the other side.

2S Transport Artwork

To coincide with our HSIE topic of Transport, we have been creating a range of artworks of different vehicles such as rockets, boats and trucks. Have a look at some examples of our talent!
Support!
FITNESS FUN!

Support Unit students have been participating in daily fitness sessions every morning from Monday to Thursday this term. These 15 minute sessions are filled with fun and engaging physical activities. The Support teachers alternate weekly to organise these activities which include a quick warm up, a short vigorous exercise and a warm down. Some of the activities include stretching, yoga, sprints, hurdles, hoop games and ball games. There is a lot of laughter, encouragement and support. Both students and teachers enjoy these sessions. Students return to their classrooms feeling alert, focused and eager to learn.

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/
Stage 3

Stage Three Scientists

This term students in years 5 and 6 have been exploring things that Sail, Sink and Soar. Focus has been placed on developing our scientific reasoning and investigative skills. We have been experimenting with different liquids to see how they react to each other, examining how to make the perfect paper airplane and have even begun building rockets!! Written by the students of Stage Three.
Stage 2

2/3A – Exploring Mathematics using Visual Arts

Students in 2/3A have been exploring the concept of symmetry using visual arts. Students needed to create symmetrical butterflies, paying close attention to shape, line and colour. We think they have turned out beautifully, don’t you?

From the Library

The Premier’s Reading Challenge has begun! Students will be given an opportunity to read and record throughout the challenge.

Keep an eye out for more information about a new trial morning reading program due to start this term.

A friendly reminder if students would like to borrow from the library they will need to bring their library bags or something that will keep the books safe.

Daniela Pintabona
Healthy Minds Healthy Learners

Each week, The Fruit Ninja will be bringing you some healthy ideas for lunch boxes. As we know, students who have a healthy diet and participate in exercise have a more active mind.

Did you know?

8 to 12 hot chips (100 g) have around 3 teaspoons of fat and 1000 kJ. Compare this to a small baked potato (100 g) with a light spray of oil that has less than ¼ teaspoon of fat and 400 kJ. The main difference is added fat, hence the added energy or kilojoules. Here is a quick, easy and delicious way to make healthy, hot chips:

**Ingredients**

- 2 large potatoes cut into chips or wedges
- 1 teaspoons canola oil
- 1 teaspoon soy sauce

**Method**

1. Place a large tray or baking dish into the oven and preheat oven to 200°C.
2. Place all ingredients into a small plastic bag and shake.
3. Take hot tray or baking dish from oven using an oven mitt, and empty bag of potato lightly coated with oil and soy sauce onto the hot tray. Discard the plastic bag. You can cover the tray with a piece of oven paper (optional). Return to the oven to cook for about 12 minutes or until the potato is golden brown and cooked, then serve.

Fresh Fruit and Vegetables – The Green Foods

Fresh fruit and vegetables are not only good for your health, but they are also good for the planet. Fruits and vegetables come in their own environmentally friendly packaging. Fruit or vegetable scraps can also be composted or used in a worm farm. You can also help the environment by choosing produce without foam trays or plastic containers.
Advertisements

Do you have a child in year 4, 5 or 6?

Have you missed out on thousands of dollars?

In 2001 the Government introduced the ‘First Child Tax Offset’ and surprisingly many Australians did not know about it and have NOT claimed any benefits.

If you have ANY child that was born between 1 July 2001 and 30 June 2004 you may be eligible to receive up to $12,500 of entitlements.

The government has a 30 June 2014 deadline on this entitlement so please email childoffset@twelve.com.au today to receive more information.

Twelve Chartered Accountants  ABN 61 712 659 747
www.twelve.com.au  Principal: Derek Nolan CA

Your Family Tax Specialist
Wanted:

Families to host a Japanese student 7th -11th or 21st -26th August 2014

Students are aged 14-17 years & speak some English.
What you need to provide:  a comfy bed (sharing a room is fine)
                           3 meals a day
                           daily transport to/from Thomas Hassall Anglican School
Families are paid $50 per night for hosting.
Students attend school on week days & enjoy family life with you on the weekend.
For further information or any questions - Tel: 9889 4366  http://www.vsoceania.com
Takashi:  ushinohama@vsoceania.com  mob: 0408 468 538

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UPDATE YOUR INFORMATION
If you have moved, or changed your telephone details, please see the friendly office staff so that we can update our information.

9607 6001