Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to Term 2. We have certainly had a great start to a busy term!

As you are aware, our Principal, Mr David Sim has been on leave since the beginning of Term 4, 2013 as he welcomed a baby into his family. It is with great pleasure that I inform you of his return, which will take place next Monday 19 May. Mr Sim is really looking forward to returning to school and seeing all the great learning that is taking place.

From next week, Mrs Lauren Dunlop and I will return to the role of Deputy Principal – Quality Teaching until the end of the year. Mr Sim, Mrs Dunlop and I have been working closely for a long period of time and will ensure that there is a smooth transition of roles. It has been an absolute privilege for Mrs Dunlop and I to lead such a great school towards continuous whole school improvement. This is something that we take very seriously. We strive to ensure that all of our students participate in quality teaching and learning programs that prepare them for a 21st century world. Additionally, Mr Jason Clarke will resume his role of Assistant Principal – Student Success and will be available to support parents and carers with any concerns in regards to their children’s learning and wellbeing. Miss Melanie Thomas will now oversee Stage 1 and continue in her role as Relieving Assistant Principal. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Mrs Anne-Marie Nott for her time relieving as Stage 1 Assistant Principal.

We would also thank our staff, in particular, our Executive Team for their continued support to ensure that quality teaching and learning programs continued to be implemented during this time. And finally, we are grateful for the continued support our of school community while in our role as Relieving Principals. As we have stated before, strong home-school partnerships are extremely important in a child’s schooling.
Staffing

There have been some slight changes to our staffing for this term. Mrs Kerry Thorley and Mrs Kristy Longbottom received transfers at the end of Term 1. I would like to thank our two outgoing teachers for their commitment and dedication to the students of Lurnea Public School and wish them well at their new schools. I welcome two new staff members who have been appointed to our school permanently. Mrs Amy Gower has replaced Mrs Kerry Thorley on 3/4Kindness and is an experienced classroom teacher. Miss Alison Ryan is the new teacher on 2Success. We also welcome Mrs Debra Lenton as our permanent School Administration Officer who has replaced Mrs Judy Wells. We wish Mrs Wells a very happy retirement. We would also like to acknowledge Mrs Maren Meyer who has relieved in this position during this time. Thank you to the students, staff, parents and carers who have made our new staff feel welcome at our great school.

NAPLAN

This week our Year 3 and 5 students sat for the NAPLAN. These students participated in assessments in reading, writing, language conventions (spelling, grammar and punctuation) and numeracy. NAPLAN is an important part of our school calendar, but is not the only form of assessment we use to measure the progress of our students. It is important to remember that NAPLAN is a reflection of a student’s performance on one particular day, under one set of conditions. Our Year 3 and 5 students responded well to the test conditions and were encouraged to try their very best with each assessment.

The results for the NAPLAN will be issued to parents and carers towards the end of Term 3. These provide a snapshot of student achievement in comparison to all students of the same year level across the country.

Parent Café

I encourage our families to engage in the Parent Café that operates immediately after Morning Assembly each Wednesday from 9am until 11am in D Block. This initiative is an informal avenue for parents and carers to find out what is happening at our school in a friendly and supportive environment. Mrs Jamily Fares, our Community Liaison Officer, is available every week and tea/coffee and morning tea is provided. Every odd week, an agenda is planned and we run an information session that the parents have requested. I look forward to seeing new faces at our Parent Café.

Reports

All teachers are currently completing their Semester 1 student progress reports. This process involves ongoing assessment and tracks the learning development of all students. The reports that you will receive in Week 9 will be of an extremely high quality and will provide an accurate snapshot of where each student is at in their learning. As we have conducted Parent Teacher interviews in Term 1, there will be no formal interview sessions. However, if your child’s classroom teacher has any concerns, they will always endeavour to speak with you. If you require a meeting with your child’s teacher, please contact the office to make an appointment.
Cold Weather

As we move into the colder months, I remind parents about sending your children to school each day wearing appropriate attire. Thank you to the students who come to school every day wearing their school uniform with pride. I remind parents and carers that coloured jumpers are not part of the uniform. If you need to make a uniform purchase, please contact our friendly CLO Family Fares on 0467 960 428.

We have another busy few weeks ahead and I look forward to ensuring that fantastic teaching and learning occurs in all classrooms.

Lisa Stipanovic
Relieving Principal

Deputy Principal’s Update

Dear Parents and Carers

We have had a very busy and productive start to the term and there is a lot more planned to come. Thank you to Mrs Velardi – Stage 3 Organiser and Mrs Nott – Relieving Stage 1 Assistant Principal for your excellent organisation of the recent excursions. Both excursions proved to be wonderful learning experiences for our students as well as being a lot of fun.

We believe that excursions must be valuable learning experiences that are linked to the learning happening in our classrooms. Our goal is to ensure that at least 98% of students attend each of the excursions and it is a credit to our teachers that this has been achieved in our first two excursions.

Parent Café

Last Wednesday I met with some parents during the Parent Café and discussed our schools homework policy. If you were unable to attend and would like more information about homework please talk to your child’s teacher or come to the school office and see me. Our aim is to make the homework meet the needs of all students, but also be flexible enough to fit into the busy schedules that families have.

Mr Joy will be discussing the NAPLAN Assessments at the next Parent Café on Wednesday 21 May from 9:15am. Please come along, enjoy a cup of coffee or tea while finding out about the important aspects of the NAPLAN Assessments and how the results are used.
National School Chaplaincy and Student Welfare Program

Joshua Grey, who works Monday and Friday providing student welfare support, will be attending other duties from Week 4 to Week 7. Joshua is well known and respected in our school community and recently attended both of our school excursions. He has built a wonderful rapport with the students and is a positive role model for them in the classroom and playground.

Kylie Willis worked at our school last year and will replace Joshua on Fridays for 4 weeks. She will provide support to students in the classroom and the playground with a focus on promoting positive social skills.

If you see Joshua or Kylie around the school, feel free to say hello and ask them any questions about the wonderful work they do at our school. I monitor the implementation of this Federal Government initiative. If you have any further questions or concerns please see me.

Parent / Carer Tip

Good feedback is essential to promote great learning. As parents we often ask our children; “What did you learn today?” We don’t always get the response we would like. As a school we are having a major focus on providing children with success criteria that enables them to know what they have to do or make to be successful. Teachers use these criteria to give students feedback and tell them how to improve. So, the next time you ask your child about their learning, ask them “What feedback did your teacher give you today?”

Jason Clarke

Relieving Deputy Principal Quality Teaching

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

PBIS Update

The PBIS team is continuing with the weekly lessons that focus on the school rules or values that we aim to develop in the students. These lessons are put together by the team, going through what the rule/value is and looks like, while utilising the SMARTboard to create interactive games that the students actively participate in (even our Super Heroes make an appearance!)

This following is the term focus:

| Week 1 | Rule/Mantra Focus: Lurnea kids are respectful! | Value/Social Skill: Respect | Lesson Title: |  |
|--------|-----------------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------|  |
| Week 2 | Respect Teachers, peers and visitors. | Excellence, we always do our best! | Mother’s Day |  |
| Week 3 | Follow teacher directions at all times. | Importance of following directions for safety and learning. | Excellence & Bookwork Expectations |  |
| Week 4 | Lurnea kids are kind! | Super Buddies & showing kindness |  |  |
| Week 5 | We are persistent and never give up! | Persistence & Resilience |  |  |
| Week 6 | Lurnea kids are always honest! | Honesty – linked with friendships and reputation. |  |  |
| Week 7 | Tolerance: We respect everyone! | Tolerance and Cooperation |  |  |
| Week 8 | We are SAFE, RESPECTFUL LEARNERS! | Safe respectful learners, safety in the holidays |  |  |

Keep an eye out for our Super Heroes, you never know when they are coming to Lurnea Public School! I had a quick chat with Super Respectful Man the other day and he mentioned to me that there were new heroes in his team…
Schools A – Z

The Schools A-Z website has been produced by the NSW Department and Communities for parents of students attending public schools. It is an excellent resource, where expert contributors provide advice and support for you as your child progresses through school on a wide range of topics. They have also created an app that you can download to access the mobile version of the website. We encourage you to have a look at it and see how you can help your child at home. More information can be found here [www.schoolsatoz.nsw.edu.au](http://www.schoolsatoz.nsw.edu.au)

Thank you

I would like to acknowledge the hard work the teachers and students have put in this year. Our safe, respectful learners have made stepping up into the Assistant Principal Student Success role easier, alongside the support I have received from the staff. I have enjoyed it, knowing that our students exemplify the values that we hold here at LPS.

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.

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 either 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.

News from the CLO

Mother’s Day

The Mother’s Day Stall was a hit again this year! The children had an opportunity to come and choose from a variety of gifts. I would like to thank Mrs Constable, Mrs Russell, Mrs Adamson and a wonderful group of Stage 3 students - Chloe, Batul, Andrew, Jessie, Fatima and Safaa, who volunteered their time to come and make the Mother’s Day Stall an organised and cheerful experience.

Cross Country

Lurnea Public School had their Cross Country Carnival on Monday 5 May 2014. The children enjoyed themselves and there was a lot of cheering and great sportsmanship.
Migrant Women’s Group

Lurnea High School has been hosting the Migrant Women’s Group every second Wednesday and I have been fortunate enough to participate in this program. Last week’s group was a real success and participants seemed keen to invite friends and family to our next group which is next Wednesday 21 May. If you know anyone who might be interested please don’t hesitate to call 0467 960 428 for more information. We are also in the process of organising Basic English Lessons for these groups and are happy to offer these classes to community members.

Jamily Fares
Community Liason Officer

What’s happening around Lurnea?

Early Stage 1

K/1 Unity

The Kindergarten and Year One students in K/1U have been really focusing on developing their writing skills this Semester. We are focusing on writing a recognisable sentence in Kindergarten and writing four to five quality sentences in Year One. Here are some examples from this term.
Stage 1

Stage 1 has made a wonderful start to the term with all children working hard in their classes. We welcome Miss Alison Ryan to the class 2Success and Lurnea Public School.

To conclude our learning from Term 1 and beginning our Term 2 learning, all of Stage 1 went on an excursion to the city to look at Transport and Mini Beasts. 116 excited children and teachers boarded buses headed for Circular Quay. Excitement escalated as the children could see the very top of the iconic Sydney Harbour Bridge. Around Circular Quay we began to look at various forms of transport before boarding a ferry to Darling Harbour. The ferry was a major highlight for many children who had never been on a ferry before, particularly when it sailed under the Harbour Bridge and past Luna Park. After arriving at Darling Harbour, we walked around the concourse to the Imax Theatre again looking at transport. Highlights included a submarine and many water taxis. After a chocolate Billabong treat we saw the 3D movie BUGS where many children were trying to reach out and touch the trees and the mini beasts in the forest.

A highlight of this excursion was being approached by a member of the public and being told how well behaved the children were. One of the bus drivers also said that he would be happy to take these children anywhere. Well done to all of the children, you certainly did Lurnea proud on your excursion. Finally, thank you to all staff who helped make this day such a success.

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
Support

The Support Unit has settled into Term 2 and all the children are working hard. They are all participating with enthusiasm during fitness sessions four mornings a week. 3/6R have been working diligently on the book *Belonging* by Jeannie Baker and students have produced some really good reflections on belonging. In particular, Sam’s effort was wonderful.

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**BELONGING**

I love my family so much. I can kiss them every day of my life and I will do anything in the world for them.

My family and I all care for each other.

I love my school it is Lurnea Public School and my mum likes this school too. I am in 3/6R and my mum and I like me belonging to 3/6R. I really like my school because I’m learning at Lurnea and my teacher is good.

By Sam
Stage 2

Learning in 2/3 Acceptance

2/3Acceptance has made a great start to the term learning about the importance of ANZAC day. They loved hearing our guest speaker at the assembly. They talked about the poppies on Flanders Fields and expressed their learning through some art.

What ANZAC day means to me

ANZAC day means that you have to show respect for the soldiers that fought for our country. There should be peace, poppies show respect and hopefully there will never be a war again.

By Hayden

In class sport, 2/3Acceptance have been learning basketball skills. On Friday they put all of their skills together to play a modified game.
Cross Country Carnival

On Monday 5 May, students participated in the annual Cross Country Carnival. We were blessed with magnificent weather and the children enjoyed cheering their friends across the line.

Macquarie won the day, Lawson second, Blaxland third and Wentworth fourth. Thank you to all the staff that helped to make the day a success.
Easter Hat Parade

On Thursday 10 April Preschool – Y2 had their Easter hat parade from 2.00. Sixty parents, siblings and carers attended the parade to watch the children sing songs and walk around showing pride in their hats. Children had been making their hats for the past two weeks. The Easter Bunny also appeared at the parade to sing a song called Aussie Easter with all the children. The children sang a number of songs at the parade including Little Peter Rabbit and Hot Cross Buns.

Written by Jessie – 5/6T.

Happy Easter.
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TUESDAY CLASSES
LOCATION: CHIPPING NORTON
Chipping Norton Public School
Central Avenue, Chipping Norton.
Classes held in School Hall
Class 1: 5:15pm - 6:00pm
Class 2: 6:00pm - 6:45pm

WEDNESDAY CLASS
LOCATION: HINCHINBROOK
Hinchinbrook Community Centre
Cnr Whitford Ave & Partridge Ave,
Hinchinbrook.
TIME: 7:00pm - 8:00pm

THURSDAY CLASSES
LOCATION: PRESTONS
Prestons Public School
Cnr Kurrajong Rd & Box Rd, Prestons.
Classes held in School Hall
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Class 2: 7:00pm - 7:45pm

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