Dear Parents and Carers

Term 1 has been full of exciting ventures and sets the scene for a wonderful year of learning and achievement. I would like to thank the community, staff and students for making me feel so welcome and valued. Lurnea is an exceptional school and I am privileged to be a member of such a wonderful educational community.

Positive Post

This year we have begun a new initiative where staff are asked to nominate two students in their class that consistently display the school expectations of BE SAFE, BE RESPECTFUL and BE A LEARNER. The nomination will result in a letter from me being sent home to parents and caregivers, sharing the positive acknowledgement of their child’s achievement. We have had one lot of Positive Post mail go home this term and will see at least two Positive Post deliveries each coming term. Watch out for the great news coming your way!

Innovation Tour

Earlier this term, Lurnea PS was nominated to be one of three primary schools to share innovation in action and to showcase the current educational practices occurring in our learning environments. On Monday March 9, we had 140 educational leaders visit our school, discussing current pedagogies with staff and watching the learning occurring in our classrooms. The response from this has been overwhelming with requests from many schools to work with our staff in creating a vibrant, learning environment, as seen at Lurnea, back at their local schools.
I would like to thank all staff for their professionalism and willingness to share their skills and knowledge with other educators. I would also like to commend the students for their enthusiasm in showing others the self-directed and reflective learning that is occurring in each classroom.

**Dancesport Challenge Program**

Lurnea Public School and Condell Park Public School have been invited to be a part of an exciting initiative designed to focus on student fitness, cooperative skills and confidence levels. This initiative, **DANCESPORT CHALLENGE PROGRAM**, has been experienced across 40 schools with nearly 2000 Year 5 students eagerly participating. The program covers areas of our curriculum in a unique and exciting way.

The Dancesport Challenge Program is led by Gordon Gilkes who has had a career in competitive dancing on the international circuit. He has competed in DANCING WITH THE STARS partnering Dawn Fraser and has been teaching dancing full time since 2003. The Dancesport Challenge 2015 will occur at the State Sports Centre, Homebush on Thursday, 3 September, 2015. A selection of students will be chosen to represent Lurnea PS at this competition.

This is an a unique opportunity and following the growth mindset that is part of the culture of Lurnea PS, I encourage ALL year 5 students to try something new, develop their capacity further and reflect on their achievements. Thank you to Mr Vaccaro for coordinating this program and I look forward to supporting the students as they experience this fun and exciting challenge.

As you will see through the rest of the newsletter it has been a busy and engaging term. It has been enjoyable meeting so many caregivers already and I hope to meet more of you during the K-2 Hat Parade and at the parent teacher interviews.

I wish everyone a safe and happy holiday break and will see you all again in Term 2.

Jan Holt
Principal (R)

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](http://www.facebook.com/LurneaPublicSchool)
Dear Parents and Carers,

We have had a productive start to 2015 and are on track for another great year. Our new Kinder and Preschool students have made an excellent start. Our teachers have turned their classrooms into amazing learning environments for their students. We are also planning a number of new initiatives, many of which Mrs Holt has mentioned already.

**Parent – Teacher Interviews**

Please take the opportunity to meet with your child’s teacher next week. It is an important opportunity to get an update on your child’s progress and what they need to focus on in their learning. Feel free to ask the teacher questions during the interview, some example questions could include:

- How would you describe my child’s work habits?
- Are they displaying good behaviour in class and in the playground?
- What area of learning does my child need to make the most improvement in?
- Are the any subjects or topics that my child has made great progress in?
- Do they have friends? Do they get along with their friends?
- Is there anything I can do at home to help them with their learning?

These are just a few of the questions you could ask. The interviews are limited to 10 minutes, so it is best to be prepared and know what information you would like to know about your child before the interview. It’s not too late to book in an interview time. Just call our school office and they can help you to book in a time.

**Mrs Anne-Marie Nott – Thank You**

I would like to thank Mrs Nott for her lengthy service to the students and families at Lurnea Public School. She accepted a transfer earlier in the year and has begun working in her new school. Mrs Nott has been a member of the school executive team, a classroom teacher, Reading Recovery Teacher, and a support teacher among many other roles she has fulfilled here at Lurnea Public School. I’m sure you will all join me in wishing her all the best in her new school.

**Communication**

We are continuing to use our school website and our Facebook page to promote and share our school activities. You can also download notes and make online payments using our school website. If you haven’t visited our school website or Facebook page I highly encourage you to do so. If you need advice on finding these sites on the internet please visit our school office or Jamily Fares our Community Liaison officer and we will help you. If you
have any feedback on our website or Facebook page please let us know.

If you haven’t returned the Permission to Publish note please do so as soon as possible. We love sharing positive news stories of your children’s achievements at school, but we can’t do this without your permission.

Jason Clarke – Relieving Deputy Principal

From the Office

Office Hours

The school office hours are **8.30am-3.15pm** Monday to Friday. Any enquires either in person or by phone need to be made during these times.

Please remember the school bell for assembly rings at 8.50 and again at 8.55am. Students need to be present at assembly to hear any announcements or reminders for the day.

Late Arrivals - Students arriving after 9am

If your child arrives late to school they need to come to the front office to get a yellow slip with a parent or carer. If a parent/carer is not present to sign the late note the lateness will be recorded as an unjustified absence.

Early Leavers - Students leaving before 3pm

Parent/Carers need to come to the front office to pick up a yellow slip before going to the classroom. For your child’s safety the teachers cannot allow your child to leave the classroom without this yellow slip.

To minimise disruption to class learning, the office staff are unable to call the classroom using the internal phone. Parents need to collect students from class themselves.

We understand that at time things happen suddenly and you may be late to pick up your child from school. If this is the case please contact the office by phone so we can ensure your child’s safety. The office numbers are **9607 7002** or **9607 6001**.

Sick Calls

At times students become unwell and we need to contact parents. If you have changed your number recently could you please ensure the office has your up-to-date contact details.

For your own convenience please save the school numbers into your phone so that when the school calls you can easily identify who is calling and you do not miss these important calls. The office numbers are **9607 7002** or **9607 6001**.
Kindergarten have been exploring the unit All About Me. We studied the artist Picasso and made our own abstract self-portraits. We used pencils, crayons, markers and oil pastels. Don’t you just love them?
Welcome to 2015!

All students and teachers have made a fantastic start to 2015 in the Support Unit.

This year the team consists of Mrs Sue Riley (Relieving Assistant Principal) and classroom teacher 3/6R; Mrs Shelley Donaldson (Stage Organiser) and classroom teacher K/2D; Mrs Surekha Singh, classroom teacher 2P; and Mrs Sharyn Kingston, classroom teacher 3/6F (in Mr. Allan Rungan’s absence).

Working with these classes are an amazing group of SLSO’S Mrs Pisani 3/6R; Mrs Lovett K/2D; Mrs Clinghan 2P; and Mrs Love 3/6F.

We have begun 2015 with high expectations and all students have settled into their classes, started working on individualised goals and are beginning to make new friends.

We look forward to working closely with you to create Personalised Learning and Support Plans and differentiating the curriculum to meet all students’ needs.

Let’s work together to make the Support Unit at Lurnea Public School wonderful in 2015!
Hello there! I would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to our professional and dynamic team of teachers on Stage 1 this year. We have Miss Jenna Buttegieg (1Loyalty), Miss Kylie Vanderzanden (1Belonging), Miss Gina Crago (1/2Quality), Miss Alison Ryan (2Success) and Miss Quynh Bui (2/3Acceptance).

During Weeks 1 and 2, students were provided with opportunities to adjust to new routines, explore new classroom environments and build friendships with new peers in their classroom. Every day, it is an absolute joy to see so many confident and happy faces arrive at school ready to learn. Here is a quick snapshot of some of the engaging experiences our Stage 1 students have participated in so far!

- Exploring Living Things
- Learning Mathematics through games
- Investigation is a BIG part of our learning!

We share and celebrate learning together!
Term 1 has been very busy for Stage 3!

Stage 3 has had a fantastic start to the year with great learning opportunities and a chance to use their skills. Students have been learning about Antarctica’s environment, animal and plant life and the importance in maintaining its environment. They read a variety of texts and conducted a number of Science experiments focusing on issues related to Antarctica.

Students read the text One Small Island, to explore the impact of human factors on the environment of Macquarie Island, the closest island to Antarctica. They identified significant negative changes due to human actions, and responded by presenting a case, writing persuasive texts, for saving or protecting it.

A number of science experiments were conducted to explore how animals have adapted to survive the challenging environment of Antarctica. Students examined how salinity changes affect marine animals and how blubber helps insulate animals such as penguins and seals from the freezing temperatures.

Students read the text Kensuke’s Kingdom, which also focused on an island environment. Styles of Japanese art discussed in the text were explored. The students have created some wonderful art work using a variety of techniques. We are particularly proud of our Cherry Blossom trees. In addition, we have enjoyed and appreciate Aboriginal art that depicts the culture and values of Aboriginal people.

Stage 3 students were provided with a very engaging and moving experience through their attendance at the Liverpool City Library’s Courage to Care exhibition which celebrates the people who put their lives at risk to rescue people during the Holocaust. Very positive reports were given about how students behaved and engaged with the speakers.

The Stage 3 classes for 2015 are: 4/5 Tolerance with Mrs Velardi, 5/6 Opportunity with Miss Staunton, 5/6 Integrity with Mr Vaccaro, 5/6 Purpose with Mr Smith and our Stage supervisor Mr Joy.

We all look forward to continuing with the great start we have had this year!
Stage 2 students have been very busy this term!

In writing, we have been looking at how authors and illustrators engage their audience through the use of humour and descriptions. We have been developing our visualising skills and brainstorming interesting adjectives to improve our vocabulary.

In Maths we have participated in many hands-on activities to build our understanding of numbers and shapes.

In Science we are learning about the effect heat has on different things. Experiments are helping us with this investigation.

Meet Mr Angry Ant! He has been helping us identify different emotions and how to deal with them.

Heading into Term 2 students will be preparing for NAPLAN which occurs 12-14 May (Tuesday-Thursday of Week 4). We will be exposing them to the procedures involved so that they know what to expect on the day.

We look forward to continuing to work with our parents and carers throughout the rest of the year!

Jillian Bonham, Nicole Sliogeris, Brett Newman and Amy Gower
Stage 2 Teachers
TAKE HOME A BIG BROTHER OR BIG SISTER

Give your children the wonderful opportunity to have an international big brother or big sister by hosting one of our exceptional international students arriving in Australia in July 2015 for their 3, 5 or 10 month programs. Our international students from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Spain will live as a local, attend a local secondary school, arrive with their own spending money and comprehensive insurance cover – all arranged by Southern Cross Cultural Exchange.

Visit us at www.scce.com.au, email scceaust@scce.com.au or call us toll free on 1800 500 501, request our international student profiles, and capture the spirit of family and friendship!
If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact our Front Office staff for assistance.
Free Drop in Clinic

Saturday 18th April, 2015

Are you concerned about an aspect of a child's communication, sensory or motor development but you aren't sure if they require therapy? Do you know a child whose caregiver would benefit from additional information about assessment or therapy options?

Our FREE Drop-In Clinic may be the solution!

The 'Drop-In Clinic' is the perfect and convenient chance for families to chat freely to our experienced Occupational Therapists, Speech Pathologists or Physiotherapists without committing to therapy. Our Drop-In Clinic provides an opportunity for caregivers or professionals spend up to 10 minutes with one or more therapists to discuss a child's needs. You will gain valuable advice to determine if further assessment or therapy is indicated.

Drop-In Clinic provides the opportunity for caregivers to find out what is involved in therapy including the expected length of time a child may require therapy, what a typical assessment and therapy session will look like, fees involved in therapy and what pathways are available to assist with funding therapy.

To maximise your time our therapists, caregivers are encouraged to arrive armed with a list of questions and concerns, current medical or educational reports and any other information that will provide the therapist with an overall understanding of the child's strengths and needs.

Caregivers will also be asked to complete a questionnaire related to the child. This can be downloaded from our website www.southwestkidsclinic.com.au/downloads/ in advance or we can provide this on the day.

As time is strictly limited to 10 minute intervals, it is suggested that caregivers consider leaving additional children with a family member so that they can talk openly with the therapist.

South West Kids Clinic's next Drop-In Clinic will be held in our new Casula premises on

Saturday 18th April, 2015 (9.30 - 11.30am)

Casula Central
12C/633-639 Hume Highway
Casula NSW 2170
Ph: 9602 3377

Please contact our reception on 9602 3377 for further inquiries
Holiday Clinics

NRL HOLIDAY CLINIC @ CAMPBELLTOWN STADIUM

- Date: Thursday 15th April 2016
- Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm
- Age: 5-12 Years Old
- Cost: $40
- Giveaways: Rugby League Ball, NRL Backpack, Kicking Tee, Water Bottle, Trucker Cap

TO REGISTER VISIT PLAYNRL.COM

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