**Principal’s Message**

We are more than halfway through Term 3 with great things continuing to occur. In the last few weeks it has been great to be a part of the events outlined below.

**Preschool Assessment and Rating process**

On Thursday 13th August the preschool underwent the Assessment and Rating process with the Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. This was a full day of showing a nominated assessor all the wonderful experiences our students have every day they come to the preschool and to present our documentation set out to ensure a safe, quality learning environment is provided and accessible for all students. My thanks goes to the preschool team for their dedication and commitment to the preschool and its students, with a special mention of appreciation for Mrs Kelli Blanchette who supported me through the in depth interview experienced in the afternoon. It was wonderful to showcase the exciting opportunities available to students and discuss the plans we have for future growth.

**Parent café**

This is an informal gathering of parents, carers and grandparents held each fortnight. This term we have met twice and it is wonderful to see the number of participants have grown. As well as enjoying a cuppa and cake, we have discussed aspects of the school direction and ways the community can be involved in the daily life of our school.

At the Week 4 meeting the group were able to view the 2015 – 2017 School Plan and ask questions around the impact for their children and how they could contribute to the delivery of the plan. During the meeting Week 6, we discussed the plans for Daffodil Day. The Parent Café group requested that as a school we support a charity this year. Cancer research was chosen and we will be celebrating Daffodil Day on Tuesday 1 September. During the week prior, parents will be selling merchandise before and after school as provided by the Cancer Council. On the Tuesday, students will be able to wear yellow for a gold coin donation and purchase a few items of yellow food for 50 cents each. All proceeds will be given to The Cancer Council to assist in the funding of cancer research. The next meeting is on **Wednesday morning, 2 September, 9.00am at the Breakfast Club room.** Come and join us after the morning assembly under the COLA.
**Excursions**
Stage 2, Stage 3 and the senior support students attended excursions to Botany Bay, State Parliament and the Science Centre over the past few weeks. Students have come back able to share their experiences, and to link the learning that has been occurring in the classrooms. It was very pleasing to have excellent reports from both teachers attending the excursion and staff at the places visited about the high level of responsible behaviour displayed by our students at all venues. Well done to everyone and congratulations for representing the school in such a responsible manner. Thank you to all staff who attended and spent a great deal of time in organising each of the excursions. Your professionalism and commitment should also be commended.

**Events ahead**
It is *Book week* next week so dust off those costumes and get ready to visit our parade. Although Book Week is designed to have students focus on the enjoyment and pleasure in reading, I think this year the staff are sharing that excitement. I have seen costumes arriving and have had the pleasure of listening to plans for creative and fun costume preparations. I am looking forward to seeing all the fantastic costumes on display and hope you can come to join us in the celebrations. Thank you to Mrs Kiss for her organisation and please call into the library to see the variety of books on display for purchase.

**Dancesport**
On 28th August and the 3rd September, selected Year 5 students will participate in the Creative and Performing Arts Cross Network performance and then the DanceSport Challenge competition. Congratulations to the finalists and to all the Year 5 students that displayed an excellent commitment towards learning the dances. These students will be sharing their skills with us at next week’s assembly so please come along to be amazed and proud of their achievements.

*Mrs Holt - Principal (R)*
Community Liaison Officer - NEWS

Earn and learn
I would like to thank everyone for their contribution of earn and learn stickers so far. We still have a few weeks to gather more so please bring in any you may have at home. The more stickers we receive the more equipment we will be able to choose for our children. Happy shopping!!!

Father's Day
Father’s Day is quickly approaching and in the next week a note will be sent home to all children advising parents on the day and date of our Father’s Day Stall. There will be a variety of gifts to buy for our special dads, granddads and carers so keep an eye out for a sneak peak of these gifts.

Parent Café
Our Parent Café has been running every fortnight this term and I am happy to say it’s been a pleasure. I welcome all parents and would love to see some new faces attend. On Wednesday our parents in conjunction with the staff helped organise a fundraiser for the Cancer Council (Daffodil Day) which will be running in week 7 and 8. This cause (cancer research) is dear to many of us and we hope you can come on board and help Lurnea raise much needed funds for this research.

Parent Cafe Presents ....
Tuesday 1st September 2015
DRESS YELLOW
BUY YELLOW
GOLD COIN DONATION
all proceeds go to
The Cancer Council
for research
On Thursday 13th August, 2015 the preschool underwent the Assessment and Rating process with the Australian Children’s Education & Care Quality Authority. Throughout the day, the approved assessor observed and recorded preschool practice in the following quality areas:

1. Educational Program and Practice
2. Children’s Health & Safety
3. Physical Environment
4. Staffing Arrangements
5. Relationships with children
6. Collaborative partnerships with families and communities
7. Leadership & service management

During conversation with the assessor later in the day, she made special mention of the warm and authentic interactions observed between staff and children. The preschool team worked very hard, with the assistance of Mrs Sheree Bell (our P-2 Initiatives Officer) to make the day a relaxed and positive experience for the children. The assessor will now compile a DRAFT report which we should receive in the next two or three weeks. Once we accept the report, the preschool will receive an overall rating that will inform and guide our future practice.

The University of Western Sydney, First Foot Forward Primary program have been working with our Stage 3 students throughout the year, aiming to increase their educational and career aspirations. The program is running a Family Open Night aimed at providing parents with the necessary skills to be able to support and mentor their children with their higher education goals. Parents will have the opportunity to discuss their child’s potential future in higher education with our guest speaker and University staff. The night will be just as fun as it will be worthwhile, boasting interactive workshops that explore different study options facilitated by current university students. At the end of the night dinner will be provided as well as a huge range of entertainment for the whole family!

All parents, carers and students are invited to attend the event on Tuesday the 27th of October at the Bankstown Campus. Registrations are essential; please use the link to be involved in this great event. www.uws.edu.au/primaryfamilynights

And the best part, the whole night is 100% FREE!
Early Stage 1 – Technology!

Early Stage 1 classrooms are bustling with technology tools such as iPad apps, online reading and mathematics programs. Students use the interactive whiteboard daily when working in whole class activities, QR codes to assist in guided reading experiences and listening posts to instil a love of storytelling and reading.

We create iMovies and design class PowerPoint presentations to express themselves and reflect on their own and others’ learning.
STAGE 1 – Celebrating Student Achievement

Learning Intention and Success Criteria informs students of what they are learning and how to be successful. Two stars and a wish provide an opportunity for peer to peer feedback.

Stage One students are in charge of their learning. They can use the bump up walls and cluster markers to help them understand where they need to go next in their learning.

Students are using exit slips and question stems to provide feedback on their learning.
And We’re Bound for Botany Bay!

On Monday 3 August, Stage 2 students boarded the bus, bound for Botany Bay. We were going there to see where Captain Cook first landed and learn about what life was like when Australia was discovered by the first white man. We went on a bushwalk, learning about how the Kamay people lived, the rituals that they undertook and how they used the environment to eat, build houses and use plants as medications.

At the foreshore, we saw the spot where Captain Cook first walked on Australian land and talked about the changes Australia has had in the past 200 years. We then went into the museum to see the history of the area through art as well as an original cannon used many years ago. We also saw the birds and animals of the local area and how they live in the land of Botany Bay.

We had a great time!

Stage 2 students
Stage 3 – \textit{Excursion}

On the 17\textsuperscript{th} of August, students in year 5 and 6 from Lurnea Public School went on an excursion to the State Parliament House for our new HSIE topic. In preparation of our excursion the students in Stage 3 have been very busy changing their classrooms into The House of Representatives. The classes were divided into government, opposition, minor parties and Independents. Students were remarkable in the way they debated a Bill to pass a ‘no homework’. A special thank you to Mustapha for being a strong Speaker and keeping our members of Parliament in order.

\textbf{From the students}

We made our way from the Sydney Art Gallery to the NSW State Parliament House. We met a friendly tour guide called Chris. He took us to the Lower House and explained what goes on and how they make laws. We did a mock of how the parliament passes a bill. The bill we examined was that NSW students should go to school on Saturday. We had a Speaker, a Clerk and a leader for the parties. The bill got passed in the Lower House. Once we got out of the Lower House, we met another tour guide called Charles. He took us to the Upper House.

Now we had to do the same thing in the Upper House but with different people such as the Usher of the Black Rod and The President. We learnt about the history of the Upper House. After that, we had lunch at the park enjoyed the sun.

By: Elma and Serenity
Support Unit – Excursion

Look at us having a great time learning at the Wollongong Science Centre!
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