

Lenswood Primary

School Newsletter



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Wednesday, 16 November 2016

Thur, 17 November

Fri, 18 November

Arts Spectacular Show 7pm (program included)

Pupil Free day (confirmed)

From the Principal



It's been a hive of activity at the school recently. We've all been getting ready for our Arts Spectacular, and the hall is starting to look great. I'm really looking forward to tomorrow night – I'm sure you will all be really proud of what your children have achieved.

Our new garden club has been so busy! It's just brilliant to see so many parents working together with each other and the children to revitalise the school yard. All of the seedlings are looking healthy; the strawberry plants have perked up, the vertical garden is painted and planted, the

seeds around the tepee are all coming up. A limb had been pruned out of the crab apple so that the children can climb into it and some bricks removed from underneath so that it's safe if children fall. All of the kids are all really excited about the changes (as are the parents and staff).

We've also really enjoyed having Odah and Ricky here as part of the Australian Indonesian Youth Exchange Program. We've learned a lot from them as they have taught us cooking, dancing, language and about what is similar and what is different in the two countries. I have to congratulate them on the way that they have so happily immersed themselves in the school life. They have spent their time in classes watching how we teach and helping students with their learning. They have supported many students getting ready for the Arts Spectacular, they have watched students in the Master Chef challenge, they have been out in the yard playing and talking with the students just about every break time, they have prepared food for us and really been an important part of the school life over their time here. We will be very sorry to lose them as they move on to their next Australian adventure.

Odah and Ricky will leave a lasting legacy at the school, and that is the language of Bahasa Indonesian. The students have picked up the language so well, and have learned so much about our neighbour, that we have decided to teach Bahasa Indonesian here next year. It was one of the two languages that came out in our survey earlier this year, with Chinese as the other one. Indonesian is a relatively easy language to learn, and we can access an Indonesian teacher through open access. The teachers will be learning alongside the students, and we are very happy to be offering a language here at Lenswood in 2017.

The group of 18 Indonesian youth exchange participants brought a cultural performance to the school on Monday, and the students were listening intently, with the promise of souvenirs if they could answer questions at the end. It was an energetic and interesting performance, and all of the audience was invited to get up to dance with them at



the end. As they went a little over time, many parents got to watch as well!

Lenswood is a community school like many other small schools in the hills, and that brings such strength to us; we know each other, we know the students so well, and we have that real sense of



belonging. What it also means is that we are subject to fluctuations in our school numbers as the numbers and needs of our community change. All of the local small schools know this and prepare for it. As a staff we have spent a lot of time considering what is best for the learning for our students next year. We have considered class sizes, teacher expertise and how best to maximise our budget. So we have decided at this stage to have three classes next year. There will be a R/1/2 class of 23 that will have additional teacher support for literacy in the morning block, a 3/4/5 class of 21 that will have additional SSO time allocated during literacy and numeracy, and a 6/7 class of 22 that will also have additional support. All of these class numbers are well below standard classes in many other schools and our focus will be on providing individual targeted support. We believe that this class configuration will be successful and I am confident that your children's needs will be met. I am happy for you to make a time to meet with me or your child's teacher to discuss this with you.

By the way, the Education Department has conducted an audit of the vegetation at school with regards to fire safety, and they have slashed some grass, trimmed some tress and cleaned up to make us fire safe in the yard.

Overdue Accounts

Thank you to those of you who have paid outstanding accounts. Unfortunately we still have some families who have not paid their overdue accounts or approached Leah or myself regarding this. Rather than Leah or I having to chase you, we would really appreciate you contacting us to let us know when you will be paying your account. As previously stated, failure to finalise outstanding materials and services charges will result in debt collection becoming involved. We feel we are not being unfair or unrealistic with our request. Our materials and services charges were invoiced to all families in February this year, you have had over 10 months to finalise these payments. Thank you, Julia.

Tiqbiz

For the remainder of this year we will be testing an app call Tiqbiz. Tiqbiz is a communication tool to help build strong family/school partnerships which you can use on your phone, tablet or computer. Tiqbiz is a sophisticated system that is also used by Government, business and sporting associations for delivering relevant information to the community in a safe and private way. Tiqbiz enables teachers to have fast and controlled messaging to the parents of their class. Without using phone numbers or emails teachers will be able to share the classroom daily activities, photos, meeting times and reminders. It will remind parents of upcoming events, can reach one or more parents or the whole class. Initially, you can download the app, Tiqbiz, register your details and go from there. More information will be sent home in the coming days. We're just getting used to it, so please be patient, but Julia is trying to add things to it already!

Year 6/7 Canberra Trip

Students from our school will soon be undertaking an education tour of the national capital. Students will be given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia's history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government is contributing funding of \$60 per student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program towards those costs. The rebate is paid directly to the school upon completion of the excursion.

Premier's Be Active Challenge

Congratulations to our students for once again earning \$1000 in the Premier's be active Challenge. We have been selected as one of the 50 highest achieving schools.

Milly Golding, Kye Schultz, Torsten Skinner and Zoe Luke will be attending a special reception on Wednesday, 23 November representing our school. We will be using this money to subsidise archery for all our students next year in term one. Thank you to Nicola Green for driving our students.

Premiers Be Active and Reading Challenge Presentations

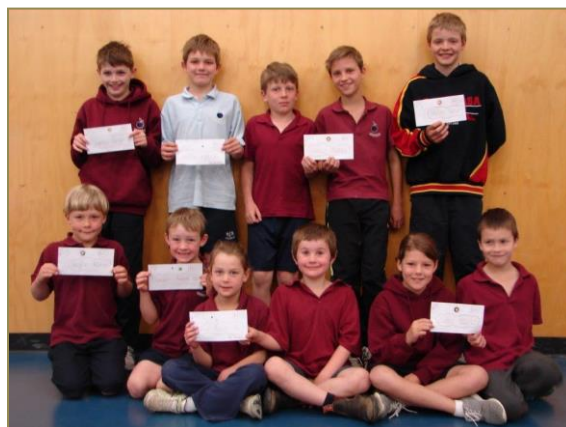
Our annual medal presentations will be held on Wednesday, 14 December in our school hall with the Be Active presentation at 10am and then the Reading Challenge presentation at 2pm.

This year will we welcome Faye Luke (Zoe's grandmother). Faye filled-in for the Lenswood Bowling Club back in 1990 and has never looked back. She is the National Training Centre Coach for South Australia and the Northern Territory; she is also the manager of the Australian Jackaroos and an integral part of the National Team. Bowling has taken her to many different parts of the world.

Rosanne Hawke is a teacher, writing workshop facilitator and story teller. She is an award-winning South Australian author. Her books include The Keeper, Soraya, The Storyteller, Mustara Taj and The Great Camel Trek (winner of the 2012 Adelaide Festival Children's Literature Award), and The Messenger Bird. Please come along and listen to our very special visitors, and see your child receive their award. All welcome.

Knockout Handball Competition

Many students have been playing handball at recess and lunch to improve their skills in this challenging sport. The grand finals were held recently and were very competitive. Singles winners were Vejay Coulter (R to 3) and Lachie Schultz (4 to 7) each receiving a \$10 cash prize. Runner-ups were James Marden and Adam Brincat-Cotton, winning \$5 each. Doubles winners were Connor Laughlin & Jaime Bartlett (R to 3), and Seth Hannaford & Torsten Skinner (4 to 7), each receiving \$5. Runner-ups were Lucy Flavell & Scott Rosenthal and Josh Martin & Sunny Trost, winning \$2.50 each. Thank you to our



SRC for donating the prizes. Special mention to the members of the sub-committee; David Martin, Michael Wilden and Oliver Stafford for organising this event and for their entertaining commentary on the day.

Knockout Tennis - Aidan and Lachie

On Tuesday 8 November we played against Trinity Gardens Primary School. It was a very challenging match, because the competition was fierce. We did very well, but sadly we lost 33-17. Thank you to Hayley Prior for driving and looking after us on the day.

Knockout Cricket - Michael and Owen M



Last Thursday we played against School of the Nativity. We batted first and started slowly, losing a few early wickets. David was our top scorer with 25, Owen made 19. They were a great team winning by 33 runs. Sadly, we did not make the grand final.

We would like to thank Melinda Martin for giving up her time to coach us and work with us at school. We have all improved and we are looking forward to the competition next year. Thanks also to John England (Ms. Read's husband) for scoring on the day.

Instrumental Music

Come and Try Session - Earlier this week students in years 4, 5 and 6 received this information. Positions are available for 2017. Students may attend the session on Wednesday 30 November at the Lobethal Primary School from 9:15am to 10:15am. Parents will need to organise their own transport for this event. If you need any further information please see Carmen.

End of Year Concert - Congratulations to Adam, Addelie, Alex, Ashton, David, Dylan P, Lachlan, Matthew, Nick, Owen C, Owen M, Riley, Soraya and William for their hard work this year. Well done students! Parents and friends are invited to attend this special concert on Wednesday, 23 November at the Lobethal Centennial Hall, Main Street, Lobethal. Students in the band, please be there at 6:30pm for a 7pm start. Entry is a gold coin donation. All donations will go towards updating equipment.

Prop Storage

All of the stage props we have accumulated and purchased over the years have been stored under our main school building. Due to the high fire risk, we are no longer allowed to store them there. We are therefore wondering if there is anyone with spare shed space who may be able to store some items until they are needed for upcoming drama productions and graduation dinners etc. Even if a few people offered to take one or two of the items it would be much appreciated. We don't have much storage at the school and we'd had to lose these props. Many are made from polystyrene so they are light and easy to store. We have columns, stars, hearts, animal cut outs, tall wooden palm trees, large plastic leaves etc. Please let me know if you are able to help out. Thanks, Darly.

Lobethal Christmas Pageant, Friday 23 December

We always participate in this special event. At our recent meeting students decided to dress-up as farm children for this year. Thank you to Sara Rosenthal for offering her trailer and vehicle. A note with all the details will come home soon. We always have many younger students involved and if you have any questions or concerns please see Carmen or Leah soon. Thanks for your help.

Thank you to.....

- Alice and Hannah for writing to our sponsor child Mengesha in Ethiopia.
- Michael Stafford for picking-up the matting for our cricket game last week.
- Damien Haese for his recent work in the school yard.
- Todd Thompson for taking students to the Woodside Kindy last week and for his work in the yard.
- Mick Brew for donating his time sourcing and delivering the new Manchurian Pear trees that we are going to train into climbing trees, and for donating the strawberry plants.

Year 7 Dinner Meeting

We're inviting all Year 6 students and parents to attend our final meeting to organise this annual event on Monday, 5 December at 7pm in our library. We are hoping all Year 6 students will be available to help on the night. If you are unable to attend this meeting please let Helen know. Also, please bring any items you have collected or purchased for this amazing night. Thanks and see you there.

Woodside Christmas Parade

Prince and Princess Parents, if you would like to nominate your child for this special event please see Carmen for the details and nomination form. This event takes place on Thursday, 22 December.

Upcoming Cake & Lunch Roster for Term 4



Week 6, 21/11/16	Cakes	Alison M & Haley M
Week 7, 28/11/16	Lunchday	Tess S & Carey H
Week 7, 28/11/16	Produce Pickup	Lisa G
Week 8, 5/12/16	Cakes	Serena F & Bron W

Play group Cakes (no nuts please)

Week 6, Friday 25/11/16 – Jacqui P (24 iced patty cakes, slices or muffins)

Happy November Birthday to:

Scott who turns 7 on the 20th, and

Adam who will be 12 on the 28th. Have a great day fellas!

