



Government of South Australia  
Department of Education and  
Children's Services

# Lenswood Primary

## School Newsletter



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**Wednesday, 12 April 2017**

Thurs, 13 April  
Mon, 1 May

Sports Day, last day of term, early dismissal 2:15pm  
Term 2 begins

### From the Principal – Leah Kennewell

#### What a term!

I would like to share some of my report from the Governing Council last night. In eleven exciting weeks, we have established classes and the delivery of curriculum, and we have also;

- started learning Bahasa Indonesian
- changed our 3-way meetings to involve parents more in creating goals for the students
- had a whole school focus on space, had the astronomy dome and had the Astronomy Society show us treasures of the night skies (the school paid for this)
- began a whole-school Friday session on science, technology, engineering, arts and maths (STEAM) which has been particularly successful for kids to learn design, problem solving, resourcefulness, modification, persistence and being able to articulate those things
- had a specialist teacher come to work with the classes in STEAM with a focus on math and art (the school also paid for this)
- started woodwork on Friday afternoons with two parent volunteers
- enjoyed swimming lessons and aquatics camp
- acknowledged Harmony Day with whole-school activities
- enjoyed a week of archery which parents also participated in
- had knock-out cricket and tennis, as well as the Courier Cup swimming carnival
- had a strong (and very polite!) contingent of students compete in the Hills Athletics Day
- ate yummy snacks and treats that the year 6/7 class have been making for their fundraising canteen
- celebrated the choir getting an "A" for their assessment
- began designing the sculptures for the Lenswood Centenary

and there is still Sports Day tomorrow!

I would like to acknowledge the support that parents give us with transporting students, repeatedly listening to choir songs, cooking, fundraising and volunteering in many ways. However, very few of the activities listed above would occur without the active organisation, participation and goodwill of the teachers and support staff. Really, all that the teachers are required to do is teach the learning areas and subjects using some agreed ways of teaching. They do so much more. I know that the teachers spend considerable amounts of their own time planning for engaging learning targeted at individual student needs, they follow current research on how best to help students learn, they collaborate with other teachers in other schools and they work so hard to make Lenswood an exciting and vibrant school. They push the students to achieve success, and I'm sure you don't know how much of their own time and money they spend after hours and on weekends striving for your children. Of course, none of us are perfect and we welcome constructive feedback. All of our staff make every effort to improve outcomes for all students. If you want the proof – just look at our NAPLAN results!

*Have a safe and joyful Easter and a great holiday with your families.*

## **Assembly and Playgroup**

To make the logistics of sharing the hall on Fridays easier, the school assembly and the playgroup will be on alternate weeks. So the school assemblies will be in weeks 1, 3, 5, 7, and 9. The playgroup will be in weeks 2, 4, 6, 8 and 10.

## **Parking around the school**

We also had a conversation at Governing Council last night about parking around the school. We understand that we don't have a lot of parking available and being on blind corners doesn't help either! I'll share this again in the first newsletter of next term, but I do want you to know that we will be running a trial that includes;

- Using the metal stairs at 'the front' of the church area for a kiss and drop zone
- Not using the staff car park as a kiss and drop zone
- Leaving the car parks on the road for parents with infants or toddlers who are spending just a handful of minutes dropping of their children at the school
- Using the car park at the back of the church for parents, volunteers and visitors who are staying longer at the school

We know that the car parking lines need repainting and we are following that up. We also know that the 90 degree parking fits smaller cars better, and that the angled parking fits larger cars much more easily. I think that all the parent's lives would be made easier if you could try to park where you fit best. We'll get some signs made up as soon as possible to help you with this.

## **A Suggestion from Governing Council**

Over the years we have had many working bees, and it has been wonderful that a small dedicated group has come time and time again to contribute to the school community. However, it has become a bit unfair that it is the same few parents every time. We know that families have many commitments on weekends, and that the dates that we choose don't always suit everybody. So Governing Council is trialling a system that many kindys use. Carmen B.C. has collated a list of the tasks that are normally done during working bees. The Governing Council is asking every family to volunteer for one of those tasks. They are colour coded so that you have a rough idea of when they need to be done. Some tasks might need more than one family to get them done. In this way, you can choose what your family will be responsible for. You can also do the task at a time that is convenient to you, be that over a weekend, after school, or over a couple of sessions. We're going to put out the sheet on the long table for you to put your names down tomorrow, and the Governing Council is hoping that most tasks will have names by them by the end of sports day.

## **Certificates and Awards**

We have had some feedback from parents regarding fewer students receiving awards and certificates. It has been a real dilemma for us, as we know many parents and some students value them, but the educational research here in Australia shows that giving certificates can be harmful for the learning outcomes of both the students who get the awards and the students who don't. Many of the parents here have also talked to me about the division that it can create between siblings at home, and how it can create a culture of competitiveness and jealousy both at school and at home. Governing Council last night endorsed the approach of the school to send postcards home to students who have shown exceptional improvement in their learning or effort, students whose behaviour has been particularly inclusive and welcoming, and students who have followed the school values to a high degree, as well as students who have shown initiative, resilience, motivation and persistence. That means that there is still an acknowledgement of what we are encouraging, and students have been very excited to receive a post card addressed to them – for many it is the first mail that they have ever received. It also reduces the embarrassment for students who don't like a public acknowledgement, and it is an authentic way to support literacy!

## **Sports Day**

The Sports Day Programme has been sent home with your child today. This year, as you are all aware, it is the 100th anniversary of the naming of Lenswood so we thought we would have a few changes at sports day to celebrate this. The tabloid events in the morning are variations on games students would have

played in years gone by. We are doing the circuit in sacks, tossing welly boots, throwing quoits, racing with eggs and spoons and using targets. We will be having a father/son, mother/daughter, student/grandparent tug of war. The sprints, relays and hurdles will also be slightly different. We will be racing in year levels this year and the relays will be the fastest girl and fastest boy in each year level in a R/1, 2/3, 4/5 and a 6/7 relay (we have done this so all year levels can be represented).

The weather for tomorrow looks beautiful, the perfect day. We look forward to seeing as many parents, grandparents, friends, brothers and sisters out supporting and cheering on our students.

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### **P&F**

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The P&F committee are supplying a bbq lunch for our Sports Day tomorrow. If you have already returned your order please remember to bring money on the day to pay for it. If you have not returned your order you will still be able to purchase lunch on the day. The P&F will be supplying watermelon and apples to the students at recess free of charge, and will have tea, coffee and cake available to purchase at recess for the adults. If anyone is able to bake some cakes, slices or cupcakes for tomorrow the P&F would love some more donations, just bring them into school tomorrow morning.

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### **SAPSASA Athletics Day**

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On Monday, 10 April a group of 4/5/ and 7 students headed over to Oakbank Area School for the SAPSASA athletics events. The students competed in shot put, high jump, discus, long jump 100m, 200m, 800m sprints and relays. Our school came fourth overall (after score adjustments). Our students all competed

extremely well and were great sports people. They all did an excellent job of representing our school and their behaviour was absolutely stunning. We would like to thank all of the drivers and people who helped or came to support our students.

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### **Thank you**

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The athletic students would like to say thank you to Bronwyn Skinner for her help with setting up the athletics team, transporting and being our photographer. We would like to thank past pupil Cooper Skinner for officiating in the sprints and Ms B-C for officiating the relays. We would also like to thank Todd and Nikola Thompson, Alicia Bartlett, Helen Lane, Helen Mason, Melinda Martin, Kylie Kleemann and Bronwyn Wenham for transporting students.





## Sovereign Hill Camp

This year our year 4 – 7 classes will be heading to Sovereign Hill in Victoria for an amazing 5 day camp. We have been to Sovereign Hill in the past as a school and it really is an amazing, educational experience for our students and adults alike. We will be travelling by coach on Monday 4 Dec and returning on Friday, 8 December. The cost will be approximately \$480 per person. We would like to make you aware of this now so you can start to budget for this expense.

## Term 2 Whole School Excursion – Mr Stink

In week 3 of term 2, Tuesday 16 May, our years 1 – 7 students school will be travelling by bus to the Barossa Arts and Convention Centre to see the production of 'Mr Stink' as part of the Dream Big Children's Festival 2017. 'Mr Stink' (based on the book by David Walliams) is a story about a lonely little girl who meets a homeless man. The cost of the performance is \$15 per child for which a note and invoice will be sent home next term. The cost of the bus to and from the performance will be paid for by the school in this instance. We feel the reception students are a little too young to attend this performance and will be staying at school with Leah for the day.

And just for your information, 'Mr Stink' the movie will be shown on the television this Friday night at 7pm on channel 23 if you're interested in having a look.

## Quotes of the Fortnight



"A POSITIVE ATTITUDE CAUSES A CHAIN REACTION OF POSITIVE THOUGHTS, EVENTS AND OUTCOMES. IT IS A CATALYST AND IT SPARKS EXTRAORDINARY RESULTS."

WADE BOGGS

# Happy April Birthday to:

*Edward Mason who turns 9 on the 17<sup>th</sup>,  
Monique Teagle who will be 12 on the 27<sup>th</sup> and  
Angus Green who turns 8 on the 28<sup>th</sup>.  
Happy Birthday to you all!*

# Community News

**Parenting after Divorce and Separation** - separation and divorce can be a stressful and challenging time for parents and children. It can put children at risk for emotional and behavioural problems, poor academic achievement, and ongoing relationship problems. Parents also may also experience increased depression, anxiety and stress.

It is important that families have access to evidence-based preventative interventions. Researchers at the University of South Australia and The University of Queensland are developing an online intervention to support parents during this transition. They are encouraging parents to have an input into what is important to go in the program and what their needs are. Interested parents can learn more about the study and complete a brief online survey at <https://exp.psy.uq.edu.au/pads>

Old scholar **Laura Schultz** at the Mt Barker Show winning the champion pairs.

