



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

Lenswood Primary School Newsletter



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From the Principal – Leah Kennewell

Welcome back to a new school year. It's wonderful to start a new year with energetic children, happy parents and well-prepared staff. I love the sense of optimism and possibility that there is at the start of a new school year, and the rituals of new stationery, new uniforms and new school bags is always thrilling.

New students We have some new members of our school community. I'd like to welcome the new receptions; Megan Bellman, Edith Comey, Baylee Frohling, Cooper Grigg, Scarlett Hermel, Fergus Lane,

Max Marden, Heath Mason and Asha Schultz. I'd also like to welcome new students in the other grades; Thomas Christian and Dillon Macauley (Dillon wasn't here when we were taking photos so we'll put a photo of him in next newsletter). We're really glad that they are all at Lenswood and I know that you will make them and their families welcome. Making the choice for a school with both high academic achievement and excellent lived values will really help all of the children to prepare for the wider world. We will also have some other new students starting in a month or two, and I'll introduce them when they arrive.



New staff We also welcome two new staff beginning this year. John England did some relief SSO work with us last year, and he has returned to help the younger students with some gross motor skills and coordination, as well as supporting the students in the older class with sports and social skills. Jodie O'Regan will be working in the library on Wednesday mornings, and helping the r/1 class on Thursday mornings with their literacy areas of reading, writing, spelling and speaking and listening. One of the aspects of Lenswood that I think is really important is that we pay attention and respond to each child's learning needs to ensure that they leave here with the best possible education that we can provide. Spending some of our limited resources on providing extra support to students is well worth the cost, when we see what a difference that makes.

Thank you parents and carers Lenswood has high academic results, and I believe that it's when families and schools work together that we see the best in the students. We are always so grateful to you when you read to children and listen to them reading every night, when you practise their times tables with them, when you help them do science experiments at home, when you encourage their questions and get them out and interacting with the natural world. It makes a real and visible difference to their learning at school.

Next Tuesday Our traditional **Family Night** is next Tuesday. It's such an important event to start the term and gives you a chance to listen to the teachers and what they see as important in their classes this year. The r/1 class will be open 5.45, the 3/4/5 class will be open at 6.00, Darly's class as the NIT arts teacher will be open at 6.15 and the 5/6/7 class will be open at 6.30. The school will be firing up the new BBQ (very kindly donated by the Parents and Friends!) and cooking sausages, patties and onions for you. We're inviting the families with students in years reception to year 4 to bring salads to share, and parents of students in years 5 to 7 to bring a sweet dish to share. (If you have students in both groups, just pick one of the options.)

M&S Fees School fees will be invoiced to all families next week. You will see that as a result of our polling at the end of last year, we wish to advise that the Materials and Services Charge of \$280 will remain the same as last year and is now a prescribed sum, which means approval has been granted for this sum to be the 'legally recoverable amount' from all families. If you need to set up some sort of payment plan for your school fees, please see Julia in the front office.

School Card We are very aware that family circumstances change, and that the challenges of agriculture have been tough recently. The government is able to help families with the costs of education depending on your family income. If you feel you may be eligible for school card and wish to apply, you are now able to apply on-line through the SA Gov website at www.sa.gov.au. The threshold for families has increased this year so please have a read of the information to see if you will be eligible. If you are unable to access the website please come to the front office for a hard copy of the school card application form. We encourage anyone applying for school card to do so asap to minimise the rush later in the year.

Communication One of the most important things that you can do is make sure that you get communications from the school. Please read the newsletter every fortnight. It lets you know about what's important to us, what's happening and what might be coming up. There were a number of times last year when parents said "I didn't know about that" when it had been in the newsletter several times. I know that we're not always perfect either, and we will always be working on how to make sure that you are fully informed. One way that we're doing that is to use Facebook and also our communication app FlexiBuzz. We tend to show what students have been doing on Facebook, and we use FlexiBuzz for notices, reminders and news items. You are able to use the FlexiBuzz app on your phone, tablet or computer, just download the app, register, chose the school and you're ready to roll. You are also able to inform the school of student absences via this app also. There is also a link on the app to School Interviews so you can book your 3-way school interview straight from here too. Please see Julia if you have any questions. Of course, you can always come to talk to any of us face-to face, and remember that the school phone number is 8389 8278. For out-of-hours contact my mobile number is 0401 121 654 and if you have to leave a message I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Learning Interviews We will be having our parent/child/teacher interviews from Monday 12 February to Thursday 15 February. This is an opportunity to sit with your child and their teacher to discuss:

- a learning goal that you would like for your child for the first half of the year
- any academic or social concerns that you have for your child
- any particular new or existing interests that you would like to be encouraged (i.e. in science, instrumental music etc.)
- any feedback to the teacher of the school

Of course, this won't be the only opportunity that you will have to speak to teaching staff, but I would encourage every single one of you to come to a meeting during this week. As I have said above, communication is key. If none of the available times work for you, just contact the teacher to make a time that is suitable for you, them and your child. As of Friday this week you will be able to book your 20 minute

meeting via the on-line School Interviews website at www.schoolinterviews.com.au and use our unique school code **bj2uc**. If you have any trouble please see Julia in the office.

Parents and Friends Congratulations go to the Parents and Friends for the success of their Christmas raffle, which raised \$660. As I said above, they plan to use some of that to buy a new BBQ for the school, as the old one is getting a bit dodgy! They wouldn't have made so much money if all of you hadn't donated a wonderful splurge of items and sold so many raffle tickets, so thank you to all of you too. I'd also like to add my personal thanks to Lisa Golding, who was such a significant help to me and the school over that week when we had late notice that we could run a car park in Uraidla for the BUPA Challenge (which ended up being cancelled as you know). And just quickly, especially for our new families, if any mums or dads are

interested in helping out once a term to serve lunches to our students or bake cupcakes please let Julia know asap as we are short on a few helpers (or mention it to Beau in year 5 and he will let his mum Nadine know). This is a wonderful way to get to know the school and



other parents a bit better. And if you feel you may want to jump on our wonderful P&F committee, just let Julia know and she'll lead you in the right direction.



Thank you to staff I'd like to thank and acknowledge all of the staff for the hard work that they've done getting ready for your children this year. They were in at work for an extra day last week and I know that they've all put in a lot of extra hours not only last week, but over the preceding weeks too. Julia came in between Christmas and New Year to ensure that the admin side of things was in place, Nicola did a beautiful new front office display, Kylie helped to sort out resources and make sure everything was in its place, and the teachers all spent a lot of time doing professional reading and



learning over the holidays, preparing learning plans, selecting resources, and making their class room environments inviting. The effective and engaged staff here make all of our success possible.



Swimming Lessons Once again, the Dept of Education and Children Development is offering one week of swimming lessons to primary aged students. Families do not pay for these lessons, however transport to the pool and back as well as pool entry fees do need to be paid. An invoice will be sent out next week, however a Swimming Aquatic Consent Form will be sent home tonight for you to fill out and return for your child to attend the swimming lessons. Your child will not be allowed to enter the pool if this form is not returned. Swimming lessons are for our reception to year 5 students in week three this term, 12 Feb – 16 Feb. We will be leaving the school each day at 9:15ish and returning at approximately 11:45am.

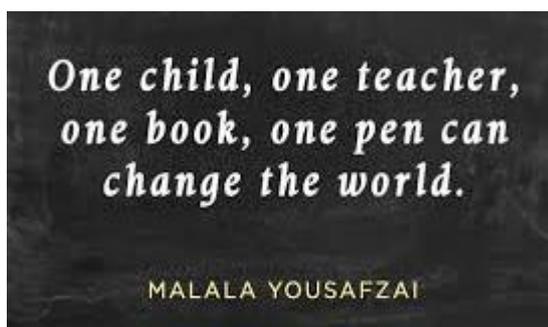
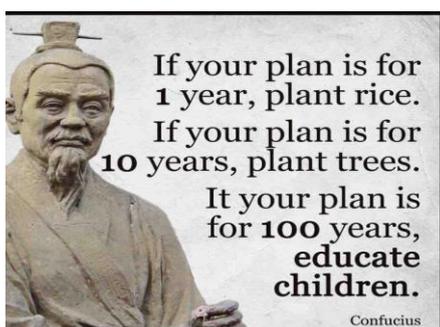
Uniforms We are sending home a uniform order today which needs to be returned by this Friday, 2 Feb. You do not need to send the money with the order as you will be invoiced for it at a later date.

Lunches Both P&F Monday Munchies and FPP lunch orders are also being sent home today. Please read them carefully and mark clearly what is required. Once again, you will be invoiced for these so do not send in any money.

Iceblocks The hot weather is here and once again iceblocks are for sale at lunch times on Tuesdays to Fridays each week in term 1 and 4. Fruit Quelch iceblocks are sold for 50c each and 10c refund when the wrapper is returned. All money goes to our SRC.

New baby We'd like to congratulate Bella Delsar and Mark Trost on the birth of their daughter Emmaline Trost, a new baby sister for Max, James, Grace and Sunny. We're pleased that it's all going well and that so many of us have already had the chance for a welcome-cuddle of your gorgeous little girl.

Quotes of the Fortnight



Upcoming Cake & Lunch Roster

Monday, 5 Feb 24 Cakes Bec Flavell

Future weeks to be advised.



Happy January & February birthdays to:

Megan B who was 5 on the 2nd of Jan, Laura M who turned 9 on the 5th of Jan,
and Leo H who is celebrating his 12th birthday today.

And to Jacob R who turns 6 on the 6th of Feb.

Enjoy your special day everyone!