



LOTA STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

2014 29 January

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Welcome to the 2014 school year, and welcome to all our new students and families. Lota State School is a small community and I know that your children will be made to feel very welcome as they meet staff and make friends, and you will be made to feel welcome by the staff and families of our school.

Every school year is special, but this one is a little more so. Not only does it mark the first year of primary education for our Prep students, it marks the culmination of primary education for both our year six and year seven students. Our year seven students hold the honour of being our first intake of prep students in 2007, and the last cohort of students to finish year seven at primary school. Our year six students have the honour of being the first cohort of students who will commence year seven at high school in 2015. Those school traditions, long held for year seven, will this year be shared between year six and seven. This includes a commemorative year seven shirt, student leadership positions and special ceremonies such as ANZAC and Remembrance Day services.

This first newsletter for 2014 will serve two purposes, Firstly as a welcome and secondly a dissemination of important information. To assist with advertising of important information I have included a term planner. Some activities/events have already been included, however please retain this calendar in a safe place (I put mine on the fridge) and add to it as important dates are communicated to you by either the school or your class teacher.

Specialist Lesson Days

Monday - Physical Education (students should wear their PE uniform) also some Library lessons are held on this day.

Tuesday - Remainder of Library lessons held on this day.

Wednesday - PE and Music lessons (students should wear their PE uniform)

Thursday - LOTE (French lessons) for students in years two to seven)

Friday - LOTE (French lessons) for students primarily in the upper years. Interschool sport for years 5 to 7.

Your class teacher will communicate your child's specific specialist lesson times.

FOR YOUR DIARY

18 th February	Information Evening
	Yrs P - 3 6:30:-7:00
	Yrs 4 - 7 7:00 - 7:30

Uniform

A very warm thank you to Mrs Heiner and Mrs Meyer who organised and opened the school Uniform Shop. This shop is organised and run by your P & C to ensure that uniforms are conveniently on site and all profits remain in the school. The uniform shop will be open each Wednesday from 2:45 - 3.30 pm.

As the teaching staff sat down yesterday for our first staff meeting for 2014, I said 'how was the first day?' One teacher remarked, and all enthusiastically agreed, 'the kids looked great in their uniforms'. I would like to sincerely thank families for ensuring all of our children were in full and correct uniform yesterday. We are very lucky to have our very own uniform shop (very rare for a small school) on our premises and it looks like it was a very busy place over the last couple of days. It is truly wonderful to see everyone in uniform and with appropriate shoes. I was not blinded by the iridescent colours I have seen in the past.

As a parent of teenagers, one entering senior school, I am experiencing first-hand the increased expectations of the wider community on children. Being organised, having all requirements for the day, wearing of uniform to school and to part-time employment. Students who have risen to and accepted these expectations do so without thinking and without wasting time rebelling against them.

I hope that our high standard of uniform presentation is kept as high as it was yesterday. Our uniform shop, for your continued convenience, will open each Wednesday from 2.45 - 3.30pm and will be run by Mrs Heiner. Hats will continue to be sold at the shop and also from the administration office.

Sport Uniform: Monday & Wednesday and Friday for Yrs 5 to 7.

Day/Formal Uniform: Tuesday & Thursday & Friday if your child does not do sport on this day.

The exception is Prep as they only wear the Sport Uniform.

P&C Meets - 3rd Tuesday of month 6.30pm (Resource Centre) - Tuckshop - each Wednesday and Friday -
Admin open 8.00am - 3:00pm

Swimming

Swimming for years 3/4, 4/5, 6 and 6/7 will be held Term 1 commencing week two. Other year levels (excluding Prep) will swim in term four.

Information Evening

Each year we hold a Parent Information Evening. The evening for 2014 will be held on Tuesday 18th February. This evening is designed for you to meet your child's teacher and hear important messages about your child's classroom expectations and other routines. Prep, P/1, Yr1/2, Yr2 and Yr3 are scheduled for 6.30pm to 7.00pm with all remaining classes commencing at 7.00pm.

Email Address

In order to publish information electronically I have set up a Group Family Email. Group emails are stored locally on my computer and are only sent by me. I also send all emails as BCC which means that email addresses are not made public. Due to a computer problem last year I might have lost some email addresses. If you would like to receive information electronically, please send me an email to ksche9@eq.edu.au I will then add you to the list.

Please feel free to contact me via email. Although I believe in electronic communication, I do still believe there is a real and authentic need for face to face or verbal communication. Should you wish to communicate verbally please do so, likewise if I feel that an issue needs to be discussed verbally (as meaning is often lost or open to interpretation in written communication - just ask the teenagers amongst us) then I will employ this form of communication.

Lunch and After School Clubs

Music - to be announced by music teacher.

Environmental Club - one day per week

Dance Club - one day per week

Drama Club - one day per week

Sport - first break each day

An end of term parade will be held four times per year (please see calendar). It is a time to showcase the achievements of students in our music, dance and drama clubs.

Parade - Tuesday 2:30pm (All families welcome)

Student Leadership Team

This year our Student Leadership Team is made up of students from year six and seven. We congratulate:

School Captains: Lily P & Taylor B (Yr7) Tighe A & Ella W (Yr6)

Oxley House Captains: Bonnie C (Yr7) Eli F-R & Sophie G (Yr6)

Flinders House Captains: Holly H (Yr7) Casey T & Mary L (Yr6)

Cultural Captains: Holly M & Nikita G (Yr6)

This year our student council will meet as a group and will perform many functions including fundraising for school activities and charitable organisations. Ms Clarkson will lead this group.

P&C

Your P&C is responsible for many of the services available to families. The tuckshop is run by a paid convenor, but relies on volunteers to work each week. The uniform shop is open throughout the term and runs by volunteers. Throughout the year the P&C hold functions and other fund raising events, and have submitted grants for larger projects. All parents are invited to the first P&C meeting which will be held in February - your P&C will provide additional communication to you via newsletters and via my group email address. We hope to see everyone there.

Parent Permission

From time to time you will receive information letters which include tear off Parental Permission sections. A reminder that all parental permission slips must be signed by a parent in order for the child to participate in the activity. Even if payment for the activity is received your child will not be able to participate without this written permission. We will be unable to make phone calls on the morning of the activity to seek your verbal permission - especially if we are taking your child out of the school.

You can, after organising with myself, enter a payment plan for all or any school activities. Please contact me via phone, visit or email to set up this plan.

A reminder

There is an old saying, it goes something like - 'there are no silly questions'. From time to time the life of a complex and evolving organisation like a school can be overwhelming and information overload is a real and present feeling. We (the staff) know what we are doing, and more often than not the children know more than we all do. However, information overload and forms of mis-communication can unfortunately come into play. I remind you that both myself, office staff and your child's teacher are available to answer any of your questions and clarify any issues for you. I am available by phone (3906 6222), face to face (please drop in - if I can't meet with you on the spot then I will schedule an appointment with you) or email (ksche9@eq.edu.au).

Regards

Ms K Schembri

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