Dear Families

Congratulations to Eilidh (year one) who received the first bronze sticker for the year and to Luke (Prep) and Thane (Year one) who received the second and third bronze stickers. Well done to these students.

This Monday marked the commencement of the very successful Prep to Year Two reading program. As I circulated amongst each classroom as this program commenced I noted many parents volunteering their time to ensure this program can be as individualised as possible for the students; extremely engaged students and reading groups which started within minutes of the programs commencement; support staff and volunteers who knew what was expected and how to support the teaching of reading. Thank you to the teachers who have organised this program, and Mrs Cummings who provided valuable parent information to our volunteers. I look forward to your children working hard with their reading and reaping the benefits of a wonderful program such as this.

Safety Drill

Last week on parade I discussed with the children our sirens for a whole school evacuation (move to the end of the oval) and lockdown (stay in the room and secure the doors and windows). Families can read our complete evacuation and lockdown procedures by either contacting me for an email or hard copy. Alternatively, the document has been uploaded to our website. Today we held a lockdown practice and I was thoroughly impressed with the children's reactions and ability to follow the procedures explained to them. Our Preps, as they do every year, continue to astound me with their impressive listening skills and maturity.

IMPRESSIVE

I was thoroughly impressed yesterday as I approached parade and looked up to see our four student leaders in full formal uniform. I would like to thank our student leaders and their parents for ensuring that our leaders look professional as they undertake their duties as our year 6 and 7 leaders.

Reminder Asthma Puffers and Spacers

If your child has a diagnosis of Asthma then you need to fill in a Medical Plan which can be obtained from the office. Additionally, your child can either bring their own puffer (and spacer if needed) to school - students in upper grades can keep their puffers within a string bag in their classroom. Please contact the school office if your child needs an asthma puffer and work out the best plan. All staff received training in asthma first aid during the pupil free days.

Before and After School

A reminder to families about our morning procedures:

1. Your child should start coming to school just prior to 8.30am.
2. If you have a need for your child to be at school prior to 8.30am then you need to contact me via phone, email or meeting.
3. Children must remain seated in their eating areas prior to the 8.30am bell.
4. Once the 8.30am bell rings they are permitted upstairs or into classrooms (check with your teacher for individual requirements)

Prep students must be escorted by a parent, or other responsible adult nominated by the parent, to their room from 8.30am onwards. Parents are welcome to stay until the bell to commence classes has sounded.
After 8.30am students from Year 1 to 7 may play downstairs. They may play handball under the buildings or in front of the year 6/7 rooms or talk with their friends. We limit the amount of running games and students should not be running underneath the classrooms. The playground equipment is out of bounds prior to school and children of any age are not permitted to use this equipment.

After school we have numerous parents stay and supervise their children whilst they have one last play for the day with their friends. All children who remain at school after 3pm must be supervised by an adult and are the sole responsibility of their parents/responsible adult.

**Extra Curricular Activities**

We are very lucky at Lota to have staff who organise and run extra-curricular activities for our students. We offer:

- **Lunch time sport**  Yr3 to 7  Mon to Fri (Mon -Thurs during interschool sport)
- **Drama**  Miss Holley - Term 1 Yrs 5/6/7
  Term 2 Yrs 2/3/4
  Term 3 Yrs P/1
  Term 4 All Year Levels
- **Dance**  Mrs Cleary -  Thursday Seniors Term 1
  Juniors Term 2
- **Environmental Club**  Mrs Mulheran - Monday 11:15
- **Music**  Mr Allen -  Choir - Wed 3- 3:45
  Choir  Thur 1.45 – 2:00
  Ukulele  Thur 3-3:45

**Student Council**  - Student Leaders  Tues 11:00

I am also discussing after school tennis coaching and the possibility of Yoga lessons. I will keep you informed.

**GREAT RESULTS GUARANTEE**

Please see attached to this newsletter an information sheet on the Great Results Guarantee. Please take the time to relax with a cup of tea and read through this information, and research further through the EQ website. This is an exciting opportunity for this school and I would like to hear from as many parents as possible regarding this initiative.

I am holding a parent information session on the Great Results Guarantee and tabling our proposed agreement for community consultation.

You can:

1. Attend the Parent Information Session – Tuesday 18th February 5.30 to 6.00pm in the Library. The proposed agreement/plan will be discussed and tabled. Families are then given time to read the agreement/plan and submit any ideas etc.
2. Receive a copy of the agreement/plan via email and submit any ideas etc to me.

**PREP TO YEAR 2 READING PROGRAM**
Information Sheet for Families

Lota State School will receive just over $60 000 to support the literacy and numeracy development of students at our school. This forms the Queensland Government’s Great Results Guarantee initiative.

This information sheet sets out the following:
• Information on the Great Results Guarantee – and where to find additional information.
• Process for developing an agreement.
• Consultation of staff and community.

What is the Great Results Guarantee?
The Great Results Guarantee is an agreement between state schools and the Department of Education, Training and Employment, and Independent Public Schools and their School Councils, to improve learning outcomes for Queensland students. The agreement makes schools accountable for improving student performance and encourages schools to engage with their communities around how the extra funding should be spent to achieve the best results at a local level.

The guarantee is that every Queensland state school student will either:
• achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level;
or
• have an evidence-based plan, developed by the school, in place to address their specific learning needs.

Where can you find additional information?
2. One page fact sheet attached to this information sheet.
3. A more detailed information sheet found on the official DETE website. Also available in paper form from the office.
4. Attendance at a Family Information Night, Tuesday 18th February, 5.30pm-6.00pm in the Library.

Process for developing an agreement
Education Queensland has provided schools with the following process (written in steps) to support the development of the agreement. I have listed our response to those steps.

STEP 1
Review strategic documentation (ie school data profile, Annual Implementation Plan and school priorities for 2014 etc)

School Response:
Curriculum Leaders and I have reviewed all key documents, including our schools data profile on student achievement. This process occurs each year as we ascertained our priorities for the year.

STEP 2
Curriculum Leaders and Principals select key areas for improvement as identified through the step 1 process.

School Response:
After viewing each key document our priorities for student achievement will be: spelling, phonics, reading and multi-step problem solving in maths. This does not mean that all other areas of the curriculum are not equally important. It simply means that these are the priorities for the Great Results Guarantee at Lota.

STEP 3

P&C Meets – 3rd Tuesday of month 6.30pm (Resource Centre) - Tuckshop – each Wednesday and Friday - Admin open 8.00am – 3:00pm
Principal consults with curriculum leaders and Assistant Regional Director to select evidence-based research strategies and targets for your identified key area.

**School Response:**
On Tuesday 11th Feb all staff will be provided with our key areas for improvement and will be asked to audit student achievement against those areas. This auditing provides the curriculum leaders with valuable information on student achievement and program of support will be identified.

**STEP 4**  
Consult with key school community members on proposed guarantee.

**School Response:**  
After the curriculum leaders draft a proposed agreement, I will hold a parent information session on Tuesday 18th February from 5.30pm to 6.00pm. This time is immediately preceding your classroom visits at the parent information evening.

At this meeting I will discuss the Great Results Guarantee, how we identified our key areas for improvement, how we identified student needs and the programs we propose to support student learning.

Families are encouraged to discuss their thoughts and ideas with either myself or a curriculum leader at any time during this process.

Alternatively, after receiving the proposed agreement, families are once again encouraged to discuss their thoughts and ideas with either myself or a curriculum leader.

After the consultation process the proposed agreement may be refined and submitted to Education Queensland.

**Step 5**  
All guarantees are to be submitted by 28th February 2014. Upload of the agreement onto our website.

**School Response:**
The timelines are tight and any delay in submitting the agreement may result in a delay in receiving funds. I encourage families to:

- Contact me with any questions, queries, thoughts, ideas etc from the time you receive this information sheet, and/or the proposed agreement at the parent information evening.

**A VERY IMPORTANT NOTE:**  
An initiative such as this is amazing and not one which comes around too often. In addition, programs and processes put in place must be able to be sustained over time and become part of practice. Our focus must always remain on the children and what they need and must be gleaned from analysis of student performance and achievement data. Programs put in place must come from sound evidence-based research.

Sometimes programs such as this generate more questions than answers. Please come to see either myself or a Curriculum Leader (Mrs Albrecht, Mrs Blanch or Ms Holley) and we will endeavour to answer, or find the answer, to your question.