



LOTA STATE SCHOOL Newsletter

2014 13 May

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Yesterday our school and P&C combined to recognise the important role of volunteers within the school. Mrs Cleary organised a lovely morning tea and Mr Neil Symes was in attendance to present certificates of appreciation and a special P&C Leadership Award to last year's President Mrs Liz Vang. I would like to take this opportunity to give a heartfelt thanks to over 70 volunteers who give their valuable time to our school and its students. Mr Symes was certainly impressed with, and acknowledged, those volunteers who make up close to 50% of all school families.

Along with our parent and grandparent volunteers, I would like to pay tribute to the many (and growing number of) volunteers who do not have children at the school. From Ready Readers, classroom helpers and those who support the library, we appreciate all that you do for our school.

Did you know that your teachers also volunteer their time to provide additional opportunities for your children. It is certainly a fact that we are a small school, however our small number of staff provide a vast array of extra curricular activities for our students. I am sure you would find it hard to spot in any other school, two teachers who give up every lunch time to play organised sport with your children, or teachers who plan lunch clubs such as drama and dance. These teachers don't let our small size stand in the way of organising teams for readers' cup or music and dance eisteddfods. Our small numbers ensure that all students from years 4 to 7 are able to participate in interschool sport with lunch training on a weekly basis. Similarly, our teacher aide and Groundsperson source ingredients and organise our garden produce to be cooked and eaten by our students. Students at Lota don't have to wait until they enter the middle or senior years of primary school to enjoy a plethora of extra curricular activities. I would like to thank those staff who provide their time, so enthusiastically, to ensuring we are offering our students what other schools offer theirs.



FOR YOUR DIARY

20/05/14	Education Week
22/05/14	Under 8's week
22/05/14	Arts Council –The Box- 2 pm
13,14,15 May	Naplan

Illuminations Festival

I have fond memories of attending the local Spring Festival with my two young children. Our students made lanterns and together we paraded with the illumination of lanterns to guide us. This year we are invited to the Illuminations Festival to be run on Saturday 21st June. The festival organisers have made 1000 lanterns and families who would like to attend are asked to fill in the attached expression of interest. Following is important information:

Date: 21st June 2014

Time: Meet outside the old Wynnum Central State School site at 5.00pm. Lanterns, for

those students who have submitted their expression of interest, can be collected between 4:15 and 4:45.

Parade: Families will meet myself and staff outside the old school and we will walk, with our lanterns, to the Wading Pool. Once there our lanterns will be placed within the pool for all to enjoy!

Important Information:

1. Fill in the form if you would like to attend – this places your name on the list to carry a lantern.
2. All children must be accompanied by an adult before, during and after the parade.
3. Families need to collect their lanterns outside Wynnum Central school site.
4. Only children on the list will be able to collect a lantern.
5. If you change your mind please contact the school so your lantern can be given to someone else.
6. Only school children of Lota can reserve a lantern. Younger or older siblings, not attending Lota, will need to share with their student siblings.
7. Place date and information on your calendar.



As of today, Lota is the first school to have registered. Additional information to come.

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

I would like to thank Mrs Sellers who registered our school and will collate names of students who will attend and receive a free lantern.



On Friday night the staff of Lota State School, present and past, celebrated the retirement and acknowledged the contribution of Mrs Barbara Frederick. After 25 years of service to Education and Lota State School staff and students, Barbara retires to enjoy the next phase of her active life. I would like to publically acknowledge Barbara's contribution to our school and to me personally. Both Barbara and Robyn provide me with a tremendous amount of support within our little administration team. I know that if I am absent from the office it is 'business as usual'.

All the best Barbara.

New Staff

We would like to welcome Anne - Maree McCarthy to the office for the next 7 weeks. An Expression of Interest will go out for a new admin officer for Semester 2 and possibly beyond.



Cross Country

Last week I attended the Lytton District Cross Country meet at Villanova Park. We submitted a large team of students this year. Students needed to train with Mr Willis and run within a timeframe in order to be eligible for this level of competition. Well done to all students who made themselves, their family and school very proud.



Mother's Day Stall

I hope we all spent a lovely day celebrating our Mother's last Sunday. Mother's are very special indeed (Dad's I am sure to write about how special you are later in the year). Mother's fight fiercely for their children, they love and protect, pick us up when we are down, and teach us valuable lessons - some which require hard decisions to be made. I enjoyed a lovely, but quite Mother's Day.

Mrs McKenna, on behalf of our P&C, organised another successful Mother's Day stall last week. It was lovely to see lots of Dad's helping children buy that special gift for Mum. I was at a Coaching professional development during the first day of the stall and when I logged onto my computer during morning tea I was absolutely elated to read the following message emailed to me by Mrs McKenna:

I had the absolute pleasure of manning the Mother's Day stall this year. I was not required! A group of the loveliest

children I have ever met asked to help and actually ran it without my interference. I am sorry to say that I do not know all their names but Lilly and Charlie were among them. Sophie, who sold out her section and Emma who manned the cash box in the manner her Scottish father has taught her to watch her pennies were fantastic as well. It is a credit to our school in the manner these almost young adults conducted themselves both with salesmanship and kindness shown to the younger children. I am proud that my children attend such a school where manners and kindness are enhanced. I left this morning with the biggest smile on my face which had nothing to do with the profit that was made.

I also saw lots of children helping out on Friday. Thank you students - Mrs McKenna wasn't the only one who had a big smile that day.

Parent Email addresses

I have had a few email addresses which are now bouncing back to me. If you are NOT receiving email updates and information from me please send me an email ksche9@eq.edu.au so I can verify the address.

Student Information

You would by now have received, or will be receiving shortly, an envelope from the school. We ask that you fill in the forms included and read the letter for instructions. This is so we can update our student records. An increasing number of phone calls home have been met with a recorded message saying the service is no longer active. Please return these forms as soon as possible.

Children arriving at school as early as 7.30am.

It has been brought to my attention that children are arriving at school as early as 7.30 am. This practice needs to cease. The only staff members at school this early are the Groundsperson and Cleaners, and they are not here to supervise children. No child should be at school prior to 8 am (if both parents work) or 8.30 am (if a parent is at home). *The only children who have permission to be at school outside of these hours have sought permission from the principal. I will be in contact with any family whose children continue to arrive too early.*

Until next fortnight

Kim Schembri
Principal

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