



LOTA STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

2014 22 July

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Term three is already upon us and the school calendar, attached for your reference, is filling fast.

I hope all families enjoyed their break and are rested and ready for another busy term. My holiday was certainly very quiet, as I get ready for my long service leave during the last three weeks of this term. I will let everyone know who the Acting Principal will be once this information is confirmed.

I am sure that you read your child's report card and were pleased with their achievements to date. Report cards take many weeks to write as teachers take great care in providing you with written reports on what your child learnt and how they achieved. I always believe that the spoken word is important and provides lots of information to families about their child. I encourage all families to discuss aspects of their child's report with their teacher. The next formal opportunity for parent-teacher interviews will be last two weeks of this term, however you can always make an appointment with your child's teacher.

You may be tempted to flip past the front page of the report, however it is a wealth of knowledge and provides families with a detailed description of the academic achievement standards. Your child's academic achievement is decided by how well they perform against a set of clear achievement standards outlined in all key learning areas. These achievement standards are based on the Australian Curriculum standards and are the same for each state school in Queensland.

ONLY GREEN JUMPERS ARE TO BE WORN TO SCHOOL

Students operating at achievement level, (they are achieving at year level standard) would receive either a 'satisfactory' (yr1-3) or 'C' grade (yr 4-7) or 'working with' (Prep). I would like to draw your attention to another important standard; this is the 'effort'. Students who may not achieve A or even B standard, but have excellent or very good effort will likely go on to maintain that effort and do well. After being here for 13 years, and keeping up with many past students along the way, effort is a great indicator of future endeavours. I am sure that we all know that high achievement results, but coupled with little to no effort, does not bode well for the future. It is imperative that students engage with the learning process and try their very hardest, even though sometimes the journey can be difficult. This sets them on a pathway for great success in later life as they strive for what they wish to achieve.

Mrs Blanch has finalised our Student Achievement Tracking Data for all classes and teachers will receive a copy of this to inform their continued professional judgement about students. As a staff we continually analyse student achievement and look for ways to increase student performance. There are two key documents which I encourage you to ask your class teacher about. These are:

Student Achievement Tracking Data – gives information about how your child is achieving across various key learning areas.

Class and Student Differentiation Plan – provides information about how teachers are differentiating (modifying) the curriculum to support and extend student learning.

Finally, on report cards, you would notice gold or silver (purple and green silver) stickers. Gold stickers are for purely academic achievement of the highest level. Silver stickers are for other reasons including continual high achieving effort across all learning areas, continual high level of behaviour, achievements outside of academia. Please note that I am unable to write on the report cards, as these are an official document and must be issued without additions or erasure.

Curriculum Priority for term 3

Our staff curriculum priority for staff meeting professional development will be Maths Problem Solving. Education Queensland has produced a wonderful array of resources and support material to assist with the teaching and learning of more complex word problems which require students to work through a multiple step process to answer these problems. Please feel free to discuss this further with myself or a curriculum leader (Mrs Blanch or Mrs Albrecht).

Chaplaincy at Lota

Some of our families may be following the news regarding the High Court decision and Chaplaincy in Schools. I have received various information which states the Chaplaincy Program will continue this year and into next year with additional information to come. This means that our program is 'business as usual' and very highly regarded at Lota. A new process developed by Scripture Union, the employing body for the majority of Chaplains, is to upload a Chaplaincy information sheet onto our website. This was developed this year and will be uploaded as soon as possible. A copy is attached to this newsletter. This term Aaron will continue in the role of Chaplain at our school for two days per week (Mon/Thurs). His main focus for those days is:

- Support within PE lessons (as Mrs Neville states – this is not a teacher aide position. PE is not always every child's most preferred subject and Aaron provides a wonderful service in talking with individual students, encouraging them to have a go and providing that general support so the teacher can teach the lesson).
- In class support for teachers.
- Supporting individual children as per school request.

- Mentoring students before, during and after school.
- Linking families with outside support agencies.
- Investigating a Photography Club

Aaron provides general support to every student and students may be referred to him by either staff or families. Should you wish support for either your child or family please contact Aaron or the school.

ENROLMENT 2015

I am already planning enrolment for 2015. There will be three key dates for enrolment information.

1. Lota State School Open Day – Thursday 28th August (9.00-11.30) – open to all year levels. The school will be on show that morning and more information will come to all families. The P&C will cater morning tea.
2. Prep Information Evening – Wednesday 22nd October (6.30pm – 8.30pm) – open for Prep families and others if they wish to come along.
3. 2015 Prep students experience a morning in Prep – Thursday 23rd October - the 2015 Prep students experience the morning session (9am-11am) in Prep. Our P&C will be catering for the morning tea.

If you know of anyone who would like to attend either, or all, of these events could you please ask them to contact the school for further information.

Invitations have been sent out to all families who have expressed an interest for 2015 enrolment. If you have a Prep child for 2015 and would like to attend these events please contact the school as RSVP is essential for catering purposes.

During the third event (2015 Prep students experience a morning at Prep) the P&C will organise a morning tea for the parents. I would like to ask current Prep parents to come along and join this morning tea. It is always nice for new families to speak with Prep parents. The morning tea will commence around 9.30am and conclude just before 11am. Please place this on your calendar.

New P-1 Playground

I have been successful in the first round application of an Education Queensland SSS Grant. I applied for the grant to upgrade the P-1 playground as the wooden structures are becoming dated. Due to the timelines of the application the playground will not be installed until the June/July holidays next year. However, when installed, it will look absolutely fantastic and the students will enjoy using the facility.

PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM

Our term 3 Peer Support Program commences next Tuesday at 2pm with groups meeting each week for the duration of the next 8 weeks. You would be familiar with the groups if you attended the middle session of our Athletics Carnival. Each child in the school is assigned to a small group of around 12 to 14 students across each year level. Each group is led by a student in year 6 and 7; and each group has a staff supervisor. The student leaders are trained by Mrs Sheil and Mr Willis and lead the students in various, and predominately, outside activities for 30mins each week prior to parade. This program has been running at our school for over 10 years and the students thoroughly enjoy working together across all year levels. You are more than welcome to come into the school and join your child's group to see how this program works (Tues 2-3pm).

Finally, but by no means least – OUR FABULOUS FETE

You would have received various flyers advertising this event and I believe there is a Facebook page dedicated to this event. I would like to thank Dorian for producing the flyer masthead which provides a wonderful graphic for this event. Our fete committee has many fabulous stalls, activities and performances available on the day and are looking for volunteers to help. There are many stalls organised for this year's fete with jams and pickles, monster raffles, food, plants, treasure items and cakes and other yummy home-made treats. Along with the old favourite rides (chair-o-plane, giant glide, jumping castle and tea cups) this fete will be as spectacular as the ones we have had in the past. I look forward to seeing you on **2nd August**.

This has been a huge first newsletter. Have a lovely fortnight.

Kim Schembri
PRINCIPAL

FREE DRESS DAY FRIDAY 25th July & 1st August Bring a chocolate!

The upper school is organising the Lob-a-Choc for the school fete. Students can come in free dress on Friday 25th July and Friday 1st August. Students are asked to donate a chocolate bar or block.

LOTA STATE SCHOOL FETE SATURDAY 2nd AUGUST

Heavily Funded Training in Health

Health Industry Training is a dynamic not-for-profit Registered Training Organisation representing the professional interest of General Practice and Primary Health Care in the Brisbane and surrounding regions.

Health Industry Training is offering heavily reduced Certificate III level qualifications for parents who are interested in working within the health industry. At a cost of \$320.00 for concession participants and \$600.00 for non-concession participants, this will allow you to complete a Nationally recognised full Certificate III qualification in Allied Health Assistance or Health Service Assistance.

We will be holding an information session day on Wednesday 24th July 2014 from 10am to 12pm – venue to be advised

Classes will be held 9am to 2:30pm Monday and Friday commencing August 4th 2014. Numbers are limited. For further information please call Health Industry Training on 1300 381 415



Queensland Education
Accord Summit

Help shape the 30 year vision for education in Queensland

The Queensland Government is undertaking extensive consultation with parents, schools, unions and schooling sectors to map out the future of education and create Queensland's first Education Accord.

All Queenslanders are encouraged to have their say.

Contribute your ideas at our event:

20 August 6.30pm-8.00pm

Location- TBC

RSVP- Lytton@parliament.qld.gov.au or 3396 0066

www.dete.qld.gov.au/educationaccord



Great state. Great opportunity.



School Chaplaincy

Chaplaincy Services provide spiritual, ethical, and personal support to school communities. SU Qld Chaplains provide positive adult role models for students. Chaplains are present in schools at the invitation of the Principal, in consultation with the local community, and with the support of the P&C Association.

What does a School Chaplain do?

A School Chaplain is a safe person for young people to connect with at school and provides a listening ear, caring presence, and a message of hope. Chaplains run positive, fun activities for students and assist in fostering supportive, caring school communities.

Working with other members of the school's support team, the Chaplain cares for students struggling with issues such as difficult relationships with other children or family members, poor self-esteem, family breakdown, and depression.

The partnership between the school and the Chaplaincy Service, supported by local churches, businesses and community organisations, provides a

network of local support and assistance. These positive relationships help young people to face difficult issues, and provide hope, connection, meaning, and purpose.

The Chaplaincy Service is available to everyone in the school community regardless of their religious beliefs.

Who is the Lota School Chaplain?

My name is Aaron Blyth and I have been the Chaplain at Lota State School since 2008. Over the last 6 years I have come to love and appreciate the small community togetherness of Lota.

I am the youngest of four children and my parents, a midwife and glazier, live on the Gold Coast. I enjoy visiting them and together we picnic, cook together and generally hangout as an extended close-knit family.

Many people have told me that my interests and extra-curricular activity involvement is extensive. I enjoy living life to the fullest and am happy to try out most things that life has to offer. Recently I fulfilled one of my ultimate dreams to climb to Everest Base Camp and work alongside volunteers in Nepalese orphanages. When I am not scaling the great heights of the world's tallest mountain I enjoy trampolining, acrobatics, teaching ballet, being a qualified chef, tinkering with computers and taking wonderful photographs with my camera.

It is this enjoyment of life and grasping each opportunity that I hope to impart to all students I work with.

What will Chaplaincy look like at Lota State School in 2014?

During 2014, I will assist with sporting and cultural programs, attend school camps, assist in classrooms, run programmes that help students develop social and life skills, and hope to implement a lunchtime photography club. Students may request to see me on an individual basis for support in personal matters. If I do work with individual students, on an on-going basis, policy states that I will seek parental permission before doing so.

Will my child be involved?

Involvement with the Chaplain is entirely voluntary and students choose whether or not they want to be a part of the activities that are offered. Parents will be consulted if their child wishes to be involved in ongoing one-to-one meetings with the Chaplain or in any programme or group involving spiritual or ethical content. Parents have the right to refuse permission for their child to be involved in any Chaplaincy activity or event.

How can I contact the Chaplain?

Should you wish to contact me please either:

See me before school each Monday and Thursday, or contact the admin office on 3906 6222.

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