



# LOTA STATE SCHOOL

## Newsletter

2014 October 15

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### FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents

This newsletter will be a bumper edition; so make yourself a cup of tea, sit back, get comfy and read about everything that is happening at our school.

During my long service leave the school was placed in the wonderful and capable hands of Mrs Blanch and Mrs Albrecht and I was able to enjoy the wonderful experience of the US. I would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank both Mrs Blanch and Mrs A and tell them that I appreciate them stepping into the Principal's seat. I have returned and it is faster than 'full-steam ahead' for term four.

There was one sad note last term and that was the loss of Chappie Aaron. Aaron had decided to leave Scripture Union and therefore Chaplaincy in schools and embark on a new challenge. I spoke with Aaron on Monday and he is enjoying his full time position with Outside School Hours Care. There is a possibility that we may have another Chaplain starting at Lota for the rest of the term – I will keep you posted. We thank Aaron for the wonderful contribution he has given to our school and students. His happy, positive and wonderful approach with our students was an asset to our school and I am sure he will be missed. We hope to bid Aaron a proper farewell in the near future.

Here is what is happening at our great school....

#### **Pupil Free Day – Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September**

All school staff will be present for the PFD next Monday. This day is a holiday for our students. During the day we will be reviewing our 2014 school priorities and setting directions forward to 2015. This year our priorities were:

- The Teaching Reading
- The Teaching of Maths Problem Solving
- Differentiating the curriculum to support and extend student learning
- Supporting student learning through targeted programs using the *Great Results* funding

### **Date Reminders for October**

**Monday 20<sup>th</sup> – Pupil Free Day**

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> – Prep Info Evening**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> – 2015 Prep Visits**

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Year 6/7 Camp**

-Implementing the Explicit Teaching model of teaching all curriculum areas.

We have been very busy this year and now we get to forward plan into 2015. We set these priorities each year based on those set for us from Education Queensland and our Region. Should you wish to learn more about our priorities please don't hesitate to contact your class teacher or myself. I look forward to publishing our 2015 priorities in depth.

Also during the PFD we will be discussing our upcoming Discipline Audit (see below), reviewing any student Individual Support Plans and looking closely at the new 2015 curriculum areas of Civics and Citizenship and Business and Economics. 2015 sees the implementation of the next two Australian Curriculum subjects. For students in years 3 to 6 Civics and Citizenship will include a 30min lesson each week; and for students in years 5 and 6 a 30min per week Business and Economics subject will be added. We will provide additional information regarding the content of each subject early next year.

#### **Education Review**

You may have heard, or read, in the news that the independent review of the Australian Curriculum has been submitted. I have included an attachment to this newsletter which outlines the key review findings and the next steps. Should you wish to review the full report please go to the website [www.studentsfirst.gov.au](http://www.studentsfirst.gov.au). Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me. Until the review findings are adopted, it is business as usual for our students and staff.

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

## **Discipline Audit – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October**

Each Education Queensland school will this year undertake a Discipline Audit. This is an audit of our Responsible Behaviour Management for Students, and the processes and procedures in place for dealing with behavioural issues and celebrating behavioural goals. Our audit will take place on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October. There will be little to no interruption to classes as the Auditor will talk briefly with teachers. During break times the Auditor will walk amongst the students and ask them questions about the behaviour management processes and procedures. There are no right or wrong answers and students are encouraged to speak openly to the Auditor about our processes and practices. The results of this Audit will be communicated to families in the near future.

## **2015 Prep Information Evening and Morning at Prep for students**

*2015 Prep Information Evening – Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 6.30pm to 8.30pm*

This evening is for parents of 2015 Prep students and will provide our new families with information about the school, curriculum and Prep classrooms.

*Morning at Prep for students – Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 9am to 11am*

The 2015 Prep children will enjoy a morning at Prep. Children and their families should go directly to Mrs Townsend's Prep classroom. Parents are welcome to stay and then join staff and parents at a P&C hosted morning tea from 9.30am. During this time Mrs Heiner will open the Uniform Shop for any 2015 Prep parents who would like to place uniform orders. I ask that parents rsvp for this event so we know how many children will be attending, and the P&C know numbers for catering.

## **Fixing Our Schools funding**

Just before the holidays it was announced that Lota State School will receive \$70 000 in maintenance funding. This is to help clear the maintenance logged in our *Maintenance Assessment Report*. At this stage the external painting of A Block (year 3, 3/4 and 4/5 classrooms), fixing uneven concrete, replacement of the VJ panel boards on the eastern side wall of A Block and replacement of carpets in P/1 and Yr3 classrooms will be funded. Once these jobs are complete other jobs listed on this report will be added if funds permit.

During the last weekend of the school holidays several grates were taken from the school grounds. These grates will need to be replaced and unfortunately the cost will be taken from the Fixing our Schools funding dollars. Should you know the whereabouts of these grates please inform Mark and we will organise their collection. I want as much money as possible to be spent on upgrades and not on replacing equipment taken from our school.

## **Is your child not returning to Lota in 2015?**

During term 4 I will commence the allocation of classes for 2015. If you know your child will be leaving us next year (current prep to year 5 students only) please inform either the office or your child's teacher. There are a lot of dominos which need to align before I can publish 2015 classes and this will not occur until the later part of the term. Following are the steps which I need to go through in order to allocate 2015 classes.

1. Remove students not returning to school in 2015 from class lists
2. Confirm Preps and other students who will be enrolling in 2015
3. Put numbers into EQ Staffing Planner – this will tell me how many teaching and non-teaching staff assigned to the school next year
4. Allocate classes for 2015
5. Teachers allocate students to classes
6. Principal speaks with teachers regarding which class they will be teaching in 2015
7. Class lists communicated to families

As you can tell, there are many planets to align and a lot of information I need to gather before classes can be allocated. The sooner I know the enrolment of students the sooner I can organise classes for next year and get this information out to you.

## **Dyslexia Empowerment Week**

Finally, and by no means least (leaving the best to last) we celebrate and recognise *Dyslexia Empowerment Week* from 19<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> October. Dyslexia is a learning difficulty affecting many students and adults in our community. It makes learning, the traditional way, challenging for students. There are many famous people who were Dyslexic as children and adults; with all going on to fulfil dreams and contribute to the society in which they live. Did you know that one of the greatest minds in history, Dr Albert Einstein, was Dyslexic... you didn't ..... but Illy in year three does. Illy has included a wonderful information paragraph about Dyslexia and the challenges he lives with each day. However, if

you know Illy you know that he is remarkable and such a joy to be around. He rises to the challenges with a smile on his face, each and every day. I hope you enjoy reading about Dyslexia as told by Illy in year three.

Dyslexia by Illy Tarkiainen, Yr3.

Scientists believe that when you have Dyslexia your brain is wired differently. Dyslexia means that you cant write, read or do maths very well. It is difficult at school because I can't do my work properly. It feels like my brain is just telling me the wrong stuff. Sometimes when I do maths it feels like the numbers are all floating around in my head, and it gives me a headache. At Lota Mrs A and Mrs Schembri and Mrs Seib help me. Mrs A talks to my teacher and Mrs Schembri about how to help me, and she talks to me when I feel stressed. Mrs Seib tries to make work more suitable for me. The good things about Dyslexia are that I am smart, but in a different way. I am more of an 'arts' person, and I learn more from pictures than words. I can tell almost anything in my drawings. Lots of clever people are Dyslexic and do really well in life, like Richard Branson and Dr Einstein and Orlando Bloom.

**Year 6/7 Camp**

Also on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> October (this is a busy day) we farewell our year 6 and 7 students as they embark on their very own camp to Pottsville. I am sure they will have a fabulous time; as will Mrs Sheil, Mr Willis and Mr MacKenzie who will accompany them.

**KIDS YOGA**  
**WEDNESDAY 3.30PM**  
**INNA BLISS**  
 Level 2 Flinders House 182 Bay Tce Wynnum.  
 Encourages Self awareness & control, Physical balance, strength and flexibility, Stretch, improves concentration and focus and is loads of fun.  
 Taught by Ellie 0402 901 358.



**P&C Bunnings BBQ**

Our P&C have the opportunity to hold a Bunnings BBQ at the new Manly West store, on Saturday 25 October from 8am until 3pm. To help this BBQ run smoothly and make it a very successful day out for your P&C we **NEED YOUR HELP**. The P&C use the money raised to help support your child's school, this year the P&C have purchased equipment and supported the drama, environment and dance clubs, installed air-conditioners, subsidised buses and funded the upcoming Author Workshop visit, just to mention a few things. This BBQ is a great opportunity for both our school and our P&C, all we need is some of your time on this day to help out. If you could please help please fill out the form below and **return it to the office by Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October**.



I ..... can help on Saturday the 25<sup>th</sup> October.  
 My preferred times are.....  
 My phone number is.....