



LOTA STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

2014 November 26

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Yesterday I had the privilege of listening to the Year Five students present their leadership speeches for 2015. This year we have focused on year seven students as the last in primary school; and our current year 6 cohort being the first to go into high school; but I would like to pay tribute to our current year five students who are, a whole year earlier, presenting themselves for school leadership positions. They look so small up on stage, but their presence and their speeches were anything but. Each year I am amazed by the calibre of speeches, however this year I can safely say that 100% of students presented wonderfully. I certainly agonised over my ballot paper for School Leaders. Well done to all students and I am sure that Lota cannot lose whoever is voted into the positions.

This year, like previous years, school staff vote for the three School Leader positions and students from year 3 to 5 vote for their Flinders and Oxley captains. This year Mr MacKenzie and myself will tally the votes and keep the students in suspense until the last Thursday of the school year. On Thursday 11th December we will hold our end of year Performance/Xmas parade. Students will perform, year 6 and 7 students will ring the school bell for the last time and the student leaders for 2015 will be introduced to the school community. Very exciting indeed.

Talking about exciting - how good was our Disco on Friday night? This was a wonderful night and it was great to see so many of our

Date Reminders

December 4	Christmas Show (Prep to Yr 2 only)
December 8	Swimming Carnival
December 10	Graduation
December 11	Rewards Day
December 12	Last day of School

families enjoying this wonderful night with their families and each other. A huge thank you to the P&C for organising this event and to Ms Deschamps, Ms Kermode, Mrs West and Mr Gould for organising the venue, food and the whole night. I am sure the students and families had a wonderful night.

Class Configuration for 2015

Each year Education Queensland provides me with an Excel based Staffing Planner. This gives me a staff allocation number including teaching and non-teaching staff numbers. Please note however, that this year is different as we are losing both our year 6 and year 7 cohort. It is expected that our numbers will go back to normal in 2016. As with every year, staffing is NOT finalised until the eighth day (Day 8) of the 2015 school year.

Next year we will start with 8 classes:

- Prep
- Prep/Year 1
- Year 1/Year 2
- Year 2
- Year 3
- Year 4
- Year 4/5
- Year 5/6

At present teachers are allocating students to individual classes and once these dominoes are aligned I will write to each family to tell them what class they are in, their teacher and room location. It is expected that this will happen early next week.

During subsequent newsletters I will also discuss our support staff personnel numbers and the teacher aide hours allocated to our school.

Behaviour Record on Report Card

For the first time this year students' report cards will reflect their silver and gold pin recipient status. Look out for this within the Extra-Curriculum activities section of the report. Reports will be issued to students on Thursday 11th December.

Chaplaincy

Thank you to those families who returned the parent survey regarding 2015 Chaplaincy Application submission. Over 90% of respondents voted to continue the Chaplaincy service at Lota, and based on this I submitted our application by the due date.

New Carpet

A couple of weeks ago I received confirmation that Lota would receive three classrooms of carpet. I have also received confirmation that there will be no charge to Lota for the carpet or installation. We are very lucky indeed. The classrooms receiving new carpet will be Mrs Seib's and Mrs Cummings double classroom.

ANZAC Garden

The community of Lota wishes to thank the Wynnum/Manly Rotary Club for redesigning our ANZAC garden. The border around the garden will be planted with Rosemary and small plants to grow around the base of the pipe containing our valued Aleppo Pine. In the top right hand corner will be a commemorative plaque celebrating 100 years of ANZAC in 2015.

Hot weather

The hot weather has certainly crept up on us, and is here to stay. I have noted a surge in the number of children who present at the office with a headache. When quizzed they tell me that they do not have a drink bottle. Once they are asked to drink a big glass of water they happily go back to class minus their headache. Parents are asked to send their child to school with a water bottle. You do not need to buy a new bottle, simply buy a bottle of water and refill each day.



Encourage your children to drink water!



Staff Car Park

Please do not drive into the Staff Car Park to pick up and/or drop off your children. This poses a risk to the other students in the school.

NEW CARPET UPDATE: I wish to thank Mr Holder, Mr Gray, Mrs Buchbach and Mr McKenzie for clearing classrooms at a moment's notice so new carpets could be laid. Also to the two classroom teachers who graciously worked around the disruption. This was an unexpected, but welcomed interruption to our busy day.