



LOTA STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

19 March 2015

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Whilst I type this newsletter, I am unsure as to when you will receive it, as our main computer server has decided that it no longer wishes to work. This means that our internet and email are down and access to computers are also compromised. Our Server, deciding to do this coincided with a large number of schools who have experienced computer server problems due to software upgrades. We wait patiently for a new server, however it is business as usual and the newsletter will be sent to you via email tonight when I return home.

Teachers and staff can still access their emails from home, so a delay in replying to you will be short.

Our campers enjoyed yet another wonderful Adventurers' Club Camp to Mt Tamborine. I have heard many wonderful stories from students and parents; with Meriseta Kitara being awarded 'camper of the camp'. I would like to thank Mrs Neville (Kate's Mum) for doing an expert job organising the kitchen and making sure all the campers were well fed. Mr Taylor (Katrielle's Dad) who continues to be the lead parent, taking on the role of ensuring the camp is well set up. Mr Taylor and Mrs Neville were well supported and the camp ran smoothly thanks to the help of many parents who attended. A huge thank you to Ms Clarkson for organising the camp and to both herself and Mr Mac for their attendance. This one of a kind camping program continues with the support of families and teachers. Well done everyone.

Whilst the campers were enjoying fossicking for Thunder Eggs, I was enjoying playing host to my Principal Supervisor Mr Jeff Geise. Mr Geise, up until this year, was the Principal of very large primary schools north of Brisbane before taking on the role of mentoring 25 Band 7 Primary Principals. Mr Geise's first words about Lota were 'isn't this a lovely, neat and tidy school'. This was before he met with myself and asked the hard questions ensuring that the educational standards at Lota are the best they can be. He was impressed with what is happening at our school and enjoyed meeting year three and year ½ students. Next Monday he will return and will sit in on English lessons with year 4 to 6.

National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence

The fifth National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence will be held on Friday 20th March and our Student Council is promoting this day and asking everyone to wear something orange this Friday.

This day also coincides with the United Nation's International Day of Happiness; with both causes promoting only healthy relationships between all people.

This year, the National Day of Action is highlighting an awareness of 'being reasonable and ethical online'. Although we would assume that use of online social media is not something many primary school parents need to be concerned about; I can safely say that parents of young children should start to make themselves aware of the different platforms of social media. As a parent of a 17 and 15 year old, I find that being knowledgeable of social media, and keeping the lines of communication open is a driver towards success. One thing I often talk about is the permanency of the written word. Once it is out there, read, interpreted (and sometimes misinterpreted) it is impossible to take away. As a worst case scenario, the written word can be used as evidence. It is important that children, young people and adults understand the ramifications of the written word as it is so easily misinterpreted. My advice would be – become knowledgeable, keep lines of communication open with your children and even if you are so very tired, smile and actively listen as this gives children the sense that you are available to support them, especially as they navigate towards and through the 'adolescent years'.

Parent Teacher Interviews

Formal interviews between parents and teachers should now be finalised and ready to start. I would like to strongly encourage a 100% uptake in parents meeting with their child's teacher during these times. It is an important meeting, with research stating that parents taking an active interest in their child's education is a driver of success for children. Parents meeting with teachers and talking positively about school, creates a motivation in students and a feeling that school is worthwhile and important in their lives. Children think in the moment, so saying 'you won't get a job if you don't do well at school' is very rarely understood by

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

someone as young as our students Motivation about and for education needs to be modelled for young students as they take their cues from what they see and hear. I look forward to seeing lots of families meeting with their child's teacher.

Upcoming events

25th March – Cross Country for years Prep to 6. Students may wear a plain blue shirt for Flinders and red shirt for Oxley on this day. As the event will be held at Cox Park, your child must have a signed permission slip in order to attend.

31st March – no parade due to performance parade on Thursday.

2nd April – Easter Hat Parade at 9am and Performance Parade at 2pm – all families welcome to both or either event.

Friday 3rd April is Good Friday and therefore the first day of the two week school vacation. The first day of term 2 is Monday 20th April.

Until next Friday

Easter Bonnet Parade

Our school will be ending the term with a fun Easter Bonnet Parade on Thursday 2nd April at 9.00am. Hope everyone is gathering ideas for their bonnets. We look forward to seeing you there.



STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths education) – Horizons for high Achievers

Congratulations to Carl from Year 6 who has been accepted into the STEM program for Year 6 students.

The STEM Horizons program provides students with the opportunity to extend their learning by completing 4 days of specialist activities, at a range of locations including the Princess Alexandra Hospital, University of Queensland Moreton Bay Research Station and Griffith University.

There was a vast number of applications from both State and private schools across Queensland. So Carl's acceptance in the program is in itself a fantastic achievement and an opportunity we look forward to hearing about.

Adventurers' Club Mount Tamborine Camp

On Thursday 12 March, families and students set off excitedly for the Adventurers' Club camp. Shortly after we arrived we saw a green tree snake! I really enjoyed the swimming, although it was very cold and the fossicking was definitely something to remember. A special thank-you goes to the parents for making delicious food, and also to Mr Taylor and Mrs Neville for organising the food. I would also like to thank Mr McKenzie and Ms Clarkson for organising the camp and volunteering their time. I definitely recommend going on the next camp and experiencing the adventure! By Emily S, Year 6.

During the Mt Tamborine camp, my favourite part was rock hopping because it was very challenging. Swimming in the freezing water was funny when you saw people's reactions because it was so cold. The glow worms tour was cool as well. There were so many awesome things to do I cannot decide. It was the best camp ever! By Ebony S, Year6

My favourite thing about camp was everything, especially the delicious food. It was really great and I never went hungry. By Wyntta O, year 6

My favourite thing on camp was the two water holes because the water was freezing cold and super fun. I also liked the fossicking because we got to find 'thundereggs' and keep them. By Blake S, year 6

Instrumental Music

Thank you to the students of Instrumental Music 2015 for making me feel so welcome. The students are progressing, however there is always room for more practise. We have been working on posture, making a beautiful long sound, technique, note names and rhythm. The students can be very proud of their efforts and always enjoy someone listening to them play even if it is just one note or a short rhythm.

Today we had a professional Brass Teacher Mr Phil Ryan join us for brass lessons. He has worked for the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, QLD Philharmonic orchestra and has performed for many shows such as Phantom of the Opera. Mr Ryan dazzled the students with his playing and humour and the brass students were very lucky to receive a lesson from him.

Please ensure all students have their book, instrument, accessories, pencil and home practise sorted for every Wednesday morning.

Students should have paid their \$20 levy to the office. This helps us service instruments and buy new music.

If your child practises just 5-10 minutes for 3-4 days the improvement would be outstanding!

Please feel free to ring me at anytime or email.

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Yours in Music
Carolyn Anderson