



LOTA STATE SCHOOL

Newsletter

27 January 2016

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FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Families

Welcome or welcome back for a fabulous year of learning at Lota State School. We hope that you all have had a wonderful and restful Christmas holiday and that you are looking forward to this school year with excitement. The staff have all been very busy over the last couple of weeks working hard to prepare their classrooms and specialist centres so that they are ready to receive all of your children today.

I would like to especially welcome our new Prep students and their families; I'm sure you are all feeling a mixture of emotions. As my son is starting Prep today, I am also excited, nervous, happy, and anxious despite having worked in schools for over 25 years.

During the first few weeks if you have any questions please feel free to talk to any of us. We are available before and after school to assist you with all your queries.

Your class teachers are a fountain of knowledge around curriculum and class routines. The office staff will be able to help you with uniforms, payments, book lists, facilities, tuckshop queries and pretty much everything else. Our teacher aides and other staff will equally be able to point you in the right direction. If you need anything just ask.

We hope you and your family have a wonderful time learning at Lota. It is an amazing community and school and we are glad you are part of it!

Regards

Vicki Hyne

Date Claimers	
Monday 1 st February	Swimming commences for Year 4,5 & 6
Thursday 10 th March	UQ Prep Hearing Screening
Friday 18 th March	Year 6 Leadership Day
Thursday 24 th March	Term 1 Finishes
Monday 11 th April	Term 2 Commences

New and returning staff

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome our new and returning staff.

Norelle Barclay will be here Monday and Tuesday sharing the Year 2 class with Tanya Cleary, welcome back Norelle.

Gillian Jewel is our new Year 4 teacher. She comes to us from Kingston State School with glowing reviews from her school principal. Welcome Gillian we know you will love working at Lota.

Valerie Le Ray is our new French teacher and joins us from Nanango State School. Again, she will be sorely missed there but their loss is our gain. Welcome Valerie.

Susan Cowie returns to us with a new role as our Music teacher. Susan will be teaching Music on Fridays. She will continue Choir but at this stage is not with us long enough (only one day a week) to continue our ukulele group. Welcome back Susan.

Classes for 2016

Within Education Queensland there are policies and procedures around class numbers, and until Day 8 the certainty around classes cannot be finalised. With the numbers currently enrolled in some of our junior classes there maybe changes that will need to occur in week three so that our class numbers align with the policies and procedures.

Please be aware that your child may experience a change in class on Monday the 8th February. If you have any concerns regarding class placements please don't hesitate to contact me through the office.

Parent Information Evening

Our first parent information night will be Tuesday 9th February from 5.30-7pm.

Principal's address	5.30pm
Prep – Year 2	6 – 6.30pm
Year 3 – Year 6	6.30 – 7pm

The classroom teachers will meet you in their rooms to discuss their classroom processes, rules and procedures and answer your questions. This will be a group event, not individual sessions with the teacher.

Specialist Lessons

PE:	Monday and Wednesday (please wear sports uniform on these days)
LOTE:	Wednesday
Library & digital technology:	Monday and Tuesday
Music:	Friday
Instrumental Music:	Thursday afternoons 12pm – 3pm

Prep/Year 1 Playground

As you entered the school grounds today you will have noticed that unfortunately our Prep/Year 1 playground is not yet finished. Due to unforeseen circumstances the contractors were unable to finish on schedule (planned for last Friday). The new finalisation date at this stage is this Friday 29th January. I will let you know if I receive any changes to this end date.

I have included our site safety statement in this newsletter so that you can be assured that we are maintaining a vigilant presence in all aspects of the construction site's workplace health and safety practices. Should you have any concerns regarding the playground construction please don't hesitate to pop in for a chat or contact me by phone.

From this:



To this (so far!):



P&C Meets - TBA
Admin open 8.00am - 3:00pm

Tuckshop - Wednesday and Friday

Air Conditioning

In other facility news it is with great delight that I can inform you that all of our classrooms are now air conditioned. This was made possible by your kind support and donations to our school fete last year. Our P&C were so impressed with your support and subsequent amount of money raised that they contributed an extra \$17000 and the school an additional \$25000 to ensure that every classroom had air conditioning to start 2016. The office and Hub are the only areas that remain to be air conditioned during this year.

New Initiatives

Other exciting news as I mentioned last year is the introduction of three new initiatives that will **start from term 2**: Thursday morning playgroup (run by one of our teachers), homework club 3-4pm Monday – Thursday (run by our teacher aides) and a new innovations and robotics lunch time club run by school staff. Our staff will use term 1 to source resources, train staff as needed and set up these programs for a smooth transition and start in week 1, term 2. If as parents and carers you have any interest in supporting these new initiatives please email me or contact the school office. We will be holding a parent forum to discuss the playgroup set up in more detail and seek support later this term.

Swimming Classes

Swimming will commence next Monday for year 4 – 6. A permission form will be sent home today, please complete this form and return it to school with the payment by Friday 29th January.

Uniform Shop Opening Hours

The uniform shop will be open Monday mornings from 8am – 9am each week.

Tuckshop

Alas our tuckshop has had to move locations. Following extensive quotes to upgrade the existing facility it was just not cost effective to proceed in the current location. Our lovely Lota Tuckshop is therefore moving to the commercial kitchen at the end of the library block, near our parade area. This move will not affect student access in any way and will actually provide a lot more space and therefore more food options in the future.

Tuckshop will be open on Wednesday and Fridays **starting next week.**

If you would like to volunteer to help in tuckshop this year please let Kate or Sharon know by popping into tuckshop for a chat.

Sun Safety & Water

Lota SS is a sun safe school – it is imperative that all students come to school with a hat to wear during sport and lunch breaks. Please ensure your child has a hat.

During the hotter months we encourage all students to drink plenty of water. Can you please ensure your child comes to school with a water bottle.

P&C Meets - TBA
Admin open 8.00am - 3:00pm

Tuckshop - Wednesday and Friday

Staff Training – Fire Safety

Lota staff had lots of fun on one of our student free days this week updating our knowledge on all things fire safety. The highlight was when we all got to put out a real fire using the fire extinguishers. Even some of the staff children got to have a turn (albeit with no real fire lit). Lots of great learning and fun had by all.

