Dear Parents and Caregivers

2015 Kindergarten enrolments – Do you have a child or know of a family with a child starting kindergarten next year? Please come to the school office to collect your enrolment form as the enrolment process has commenced.

Lost Property – There are excessive amounts of lost property around the school grounds. Please ensure your child’s uniforms are clearly labeled with his/her name as these items will be returned to students by members of the SRC. However, items that are not labeled will be forwarded to the clothing pool for resale. Unlabeled lunchboxes and drink bottles will need be disposed of at the end of the week. The amount of lost property that has been strewn across the playground has become a Work Health and Safety issue, with students, staff and visitors having a number of ‘near misses’ when navigating their way through the playground. Students are reminded to collect their belongings and supported by the SRC to ensure their belongings are returned to them. However, without labels, this is not possible. We appreciate your support in ensuring our school is a safe place for all.

Stage Three Camp – Thanks to Mrs Hardge, Mrs Howard and Mr Dunn for ensuring students in stage three had a fantastic camp! Students had a great time challenging themselves and conquering their fears, as did staff.

Week 5 Assembly – Last week’s assembly was hosted by Mrs Bate and the fabulous students in 2/3B. Your ‘mini-beast’ item captured every member of the audience and I congratulate all of you on your public speaking skills. What a delightful way to end a busy week!

Uniform Committee – Our first uniform policy meeting will be held in the administration building on Tuesday 10 June at 2pm. Please notify the school office if you intend on attending the meeting, for organisational purposes.

Principal’s Assembly – Please be reminded that our term two Principal’s Assembly will take place on Wednesday 25 June at 1:45pm. Parents will be notified prior to the assembly if their child will be receiving an award. The assembly will be held in the school hall.

Sharing Knowledge Reconciliation Event – Thanks to Mrs Bate and our devoted P&C for supporting this fantastic event. There was an impressive turnout last Friday and we thank MOCS for organising the Sharing Knowledge evening.

MS Readathon – Representatives will be talking to students on Monday 21 July. The purpose of the readathon is to collect money for MS. Students wishing to participate will be provided with forms to bring home after this date.

Parent/Teacher Interviews – Our mid-year interviews will be held on Monday 21 July. We will be using an online booking system this year. An information letter, with step by step instructions for completing your online booking will be provided this week.
**Fun Food Day** – Our P&C will be running another FUN FOOD DAY on the last day of term (Friday 27 June). More information will be provided in the P&C news section of the newsletter. Thanks to everyone who volunteers their time to provide students at Lawson with this exciting food day each term.

**Netball** – Thanks to Miss Blunt and Miss Coady for training a school representative team to participate in the Netball NSW Schools Cup today. Miss Coady and students in stage three took part in the gala day today. Fun was had by all!

**Powerpoint Presentations from Dr Nagel** – The Powerpoint presentation from the parent session is available for parents who attended on Monday 19 May. If you attended the presentation and would like a copy of the powerpoint, please notify the school office and ensure they are provided with a current email address for delivery.

**Supervision before and after school** – We have noticed an increasing number of students climbing trees and other structures when under the care of their parents, both before and after school. Schools must adhere to Child Protection procedures and Work Health and Safety requirements at all times and maintain responsibility for site management outside of school hours. Our school rules promote safe, respectful, responsible behaviour and students are aware that climbing trees and other structures is not permitted. Please assist us in ensuring the safety of the Lawson PS community by reminding your children that no one is permitted to climb trees or other structures on school grounds. Supervised climbing activities are provided during break times and fitness lessons. These activities permit students to climb on purpose built climbing equipment only. We thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

**Mobile Dental** – Unfortunately the mobile dental clinic will not be visiting Lawson PS. Mobile dental’s ongoing changes to agreed dates and scheduled visits made it impossible for the school to accommodate this service. We offer our sincere apologies for the inconvenience.

**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (School Students with Disability)** - Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability. The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year. All Australian governments have agreed to this. Lawson PS is fortunate to be commencing this process during 2014 and a parent letter, with a fact sheet outlining the process is being sent to ALL students with this week’s newsletter. Please ensure you return the parent letter by the end of term two should you not consent to your child being counted in the data collection.

**Upper Blue Mountains Music Festival** – Thanks to Miss Coady for coordinating our school choir this year. Mr Evans has kindly offered to accompany students to and from rehearsals. The first rehearsal will take place tomorrow, at Katoomba PS. Please ensure your child has returned his/her permission note by tomorrow morning, otherwise he/she will not be permitted to attend the first rehearsal.

**Adelaide Street Drop off Zone** – Please be aware that the drop off zone is for dropping off and picking up students. This is not a parking area and the ranger monitors this zone regularly. Parking fines may be issued for anyone who utilises drop off zones for parking purposes, leaving vehicles unattended for extended periods of time.

**Multicultural band** – Will be performing for students on Friday 20 June, after lunch. This exciting opportunity will expose students to a range of instruments they may not have seen or heard before. We thank Mrs Cleary for organising the concert for staff and students at Lawson PS.
Morning Lines – We have been experiencing some difficulty settling some of our younger students in the morning session and ask that you please allow children to go to class in lines with their classroom teacher, without intercepting them. The morning session is students’ prime learning time and it is imperative that students commence their lessons promptly to maximise achievement of outcomes for all. Should you wish to speak to your child’s teacher, please contact the school office to make an appointment. All interruptions during the transition from morning lines to class, along with disruptions to the morning session, including late arrivals, take away from the teaching and learning tasks that are so vitally important for all students. The school limits interruptions during the morning session, with messages etc. delivered during eating time and before the home bell. We appreciate your support in ensuring your children are settled and engaged in a relevant, quality learning environment.

Reading Volunteer Tutors – Susan Brock one of our Learning and Support Teachers is looking for volunteers to work one-on-one with mainstream students in year 3 to support development of their literacy skills. Can you help? Or do you know of a community member who is willing and able to help? Volunteers will need:
1. An hour a week to commit to
2. A good rapport with children
3. An interest in children’s literacy development and a love of reading.
Ms Brock will oversee the program and will ensure volunteers are well prepared and supervised. Class teachers will provide supervision on a daily basis. Please leave the name of potential volunteers and contact details at the school office.

Wishing you all a great weekend.

Warm regards,

Chantal Beltran
Principal
**Term 2 Calendar**

**Week 7**
- 9 June: Public Holiday – no school
- 10 June: Uniform Policy meeting 2pm
- 13 June: Assembly 1.45 – 3W

**Week 9**
- 25 June: Principals Assembly
- 27 June: Last day of Term

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**Term 3**

**Week 1**
- 14 July: Staff Development Day
- 15 July: Students return from holidays
- 18 July: Term treat day

**Week 2**
- 21 July: Parent teacher interviews
- 25 July: Assembly 1.45 – 1G

**Week 3**
- 1 August: EDUCATION WEEK
- 25 July: Athletics carnival

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**Term 2 Awards handed out on 23 May for:**

- KB  **Ezekial M** – his improvement in writing
- KB  **Samuel K** – his improvement in reading

- KGH  **Indiana S** – excellent expression when reading
- KGH  **Leo G** – always using such polite manners

- IG  **Jyielen F** – working with improving focus
- IG  **Caitlyn T** – her terrific listening skills

- 1/2E  **Tiera J** – a pleasing start to her new school!
- 1/2E  **Oscar M** – an improved effort in his writing!

- 2/3B  **Kayla G** – an enthusiastic learner
- 2/3B  **Lila V** – a great team worker

- 3W  **Thomas C** – terrific improvement during lessons and for being well mannered. Well done!
- 3W  **Scarlett E** – excellent participation during drama sessions and for sharing ideas with others.

- 4W  **Sonja S** – improvement in literacy tasks
- 4W  **Tommy M** – great approach to all his school work

- 5H  **Nathan N** – safe, respectful and responsible behaviour at camp
- 5H  **Joshua H** – safe, respectful and responsible behaviour at camp

- 6H  **Tristan V** – rising to, and surpassing, the challenges at camp
- 6H  **Kea P** – tackling camp challenges with great courage

- SU1  **Connor G** – increased focus during morning circle.
PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE IN OUR CHILDREN

One mother’s story:
My friend Lynne and I stood with our kids just before the morning bell rang. She was trying to smooth her first-grade daughter's hair when the girl's friends arrived, and without another word, Maddie turned away from us and walked with them to her classroom. "Look at that," Lynne sighed. "No kiss. Not even a 'Bye.'"

Does this sound familiar? From a developmental standpoint, our kids' disinterest in us is entirely appropriate. They're hardwired for independence, pushing away from us the moment they learn to walk.

Parents want to raise children who are responsible and independent.

As parents this can be difficult as our natural instinct is to care for, nurture and do things for our children. Whilst all children need to be looked after, nurtured and loved they also need to gradually (at an age appropriate level) be given the opportunity to develop independence and responsibility. Training for independence needs to begin at an early age and continue into adulthood.

By encouraging independence in children we are letting them know we believe they are capable - this in turn helps to build their confidence. We see the pride and sense of achievement in a three-year-old’s face when they put their jumper on by themselves or in a ten-year-old when they make a cake by themselves.

Kids may think independence means staying up all night but adults know independence means learning to take responsibility for yourself and your actions. Young children are eager to do things for themselves and are not afraid to take on a challenge. Both parents and child feel pride when the child learns to walk and do certain things for themselves for the first time. Taking over and doing things for children all the time can promote dependence. To begin promoting independence one might help a three-year-old to put on their T-shirt and then gradually do less until they develop the physical skill and co-ordination to put it on by themselves.

Before children take on new tasks they need to be taught what to do and be given encouragement. Big tasks such as making a bed need to be broken down into smaller learning steps. Having family routines and parents being clear about their own expectations are important for children to know what is expected of them.

Children need guidance and limits, and gradually building independence does not mean leaving children to do things without support. Of course as children get older the stakes get higher. It is one thing to believe your child is ready to make a vegemite sandwich and quite another to believe they are old enough to stay home by themselves.

It is important that children be given the opportunity to take on responsibilities appropriate for their age. For a young child around three years of age it may be putting the placemats on the table or helping to pack up their toys whilst a twelve year old may be responsible for washing the dishes. While children need to develop independence gradually they also need to have fun and play. Jobs should not be so demanding that there’s no time for play, relaxation or fun.

Tips for Promoting Independence:
• Don’t do for children what they can do for themselves.
• Role model self-discipline and good habits.
• Set limits, be clear and provide guidance.
• Allow children to make age appropriate choices within limits.
• Help children to problem solve when they are older by talking over possible choices and consequences.
• Listen to children and be a source of information not criticism.
• Praise children when they are responsible. i.e. doing household tasks or homework
• Let children know by your actions that you believe in them and their opinions.

From: The Geelong Parenting Community.
Our School Totem

An invitation is extended to all Lawson PS parents, carers, students, staff and community members to form a committee to consider making the Bidjiwong (Water Dragon) our school totem. Our aim is to work with Aunty Carol Cooper and Community members to incorporate the Bidjiwong which features in our school song and on our wall mural. If you are interested in helping us plan activities please see Mrs Bate or complete the form below.

I would like to be a part of the school totem committee.

Name: ___________________________________________

Contact Phone number: ___________________________

I am a (please circle):
parent/carer    student    staff member
community member    other: __________________________
Nationally Consistent Collection of Data
School Students with Disability

Information for Parents/Carers

Schools across Australia are taking part in a new national data collection on school students with disability.

The data collection is being introduced in stages over three years, and started in 2013. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australia, every year.

All Australian governments have agreed to this.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT FOR MY CHILD?

All Australian governments agree that every child in an Australian school should have a high quality education. It shouldn’t matter what the individual child’s circumstances are – every child should have the same opportunity to succeed at school.

The aim of this new data collection is to have better information about school students with disability in Australia.

Better information about school students with disability will help teachers, principals and education authorities to support students with disability to take part in school on the same basis as students without disability.

WHY IS THIS DATA BEING COLLECTED?

There is nothing new about schools collecting information about students with disability – in fact, schools have had to do this by law for some time. But the type of information currently collected varies between each state and territory.

With the new data collection, every school in Australia will use the same method to collect this information – that is, a government school in suburban Sydney will collect and report data in the same way as a Catholic school in country Victoria and an independent school in the Northern Territory.

The information provided through this new national data collection will enable all Australian governments to better target support and resources to benefit students with disability. It will help to put the right supports in place for students with disability so that they have the same opportunities for a high quality education as students without a disability.

WHAT ARE SCHOOLS REQUIRED TO DO?

Every school in Australia is likely to have a student with disability at some point. Schools need to be able to support students with disability by removing any obstacles for them to participate in their education.

By law, schools are required to make reasonable adjustments where needed to assist students with disability. These responsibilities are outlined in the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and the Disability Standards for Education 2006. This means that schools need to talk to the student and/or their parent/carer about reasonable adjustments. These are things the schools do now and this won’t change.

The new data collection will record students who have been identified by a school team as meeting the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and provided with an adjustment.

WHAT IS AN ADJUSTMENT?

An adjustment is a measure or action taken to help a student with disability participate in education on the same basis as other students. Adjustments can be made across the whole school setting (like ramps into classrooms), in the classroom and at an individual student level (like extra tuition for a student with a learning difficulty).

National Parents/Carers Fact Sheet Version No. 2 as at 27 February 2014
CTED?

Information every

- the level of adjustment provided
- the number of students who receive each level of adjustment
- where known, the student’s broad type of disability.

Some students who are not provided with an adjustment at the time of the collection will meet the definition of disability under the Disability Discrimination Act 1992 and will be eligible to be included in the data collection.

WHO WILL COLLECT MY CHILD’S INFORMATION?

Teachers and other school staff from your child’s school will collect the above information based on:

- consultation with parents/carers
- the school team’s observations and professional judgements
- any medical diagnosis
- other relevant information.

School principals are responsible for making sure that the information collected about each student is accurate.

HOW WILL MY CHILD’S PRIVACY BE PROTECTED?

Protecting the privacy and confidentiality of all children and their families is very important. With the new data collection, this will be done in the following ways:

- Personal or confidential information will not be given to anyone not authorised to see it.
- When the information is sent by your child’s school to the local or federal education authority for combination with information from other schools, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.
- When the information is reported from 2016 onwards, it will be by school only – student names will not be recorded as part of the data collection.

WHEN AND WHERE WILL THE DATA BE AVAILABLE?

When all Australian schools are taking part in the new data collection, the information will be reported on the My School website from 2016 onwards. It will be by school only – no student names are recorded as part of the data collection.

CAN I DECIDE WHETHER MY CHILD’S INFORMATION IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL DATA COLLECTION?

It’s your decision about whether you want your child’s information to be included in the national reporting or not.

Including every student who is being provided with an adjustment because of disability in this new national data collection each year will help schools, education authorities and governments to better meet students’ needs.

Your school will tell you what you need to do if you don’t want to have your child’s information included in the national data collection.

Even if your child’s information is not included in the national data collection, your school is still required to provide support to your child with disability and any adjustments that may be needed to help him/her participate at school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Contact your child’s school if you have further questions about the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability and how it may affect your child.

You can also visit www.education.gov.au/nationally-consistent-collection-data-school-students-disability
Dear Parents/Caregivers

**Nationally consistent collection of data on school students with disability – 2014**

Our school is participating in the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

We will be collecting information already available in the school about the support that is being provided to students with disability. Better data will help the Government plan for students with disability.

The data collection will have no direct impact on your child and they will not be involved in any testing process.

The NSW Department of Education and Communities will provide data to the Australian Government from all NSW public schools in such a way that no individual student or school will be able to be identified. In this way, we will ensure the privacy and confidentiality of all students.


If you do not want your child to be counted in the data collection you must complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014. A decision to exclude your child will not affect the support they currently receive.

Further information about the data collection can be found on the Australian Government Department of Education website:  

If you have any questions about your child being included in the data collection please contact the school.

If you need help with English to make an enquiry contact the Telephone Interpreter Service on 131 450 and ask for an interpreter in your language. The operator will call the number you provide and get an interpreter on the line to assist you with your conversation. You will not be charged for this service.

Kind regards

Chantal Beltran
Principal
If you **do not** want your child to be counted in the data collection, please complete the attached form and return it to the school before the end of Term 2, 2014.

Nationally Consistent Collection of Data on School Students with Disability – 2014

I/we __________________________________________________________

Name of parent/carer

**do not** wish my child ______________________________________ to be counted

Name of child

for the purposes of the collection of nationally consistent data on school students with disability.

Parent/Carer signature: ____________________________ date:   __________
Water

Tap water makes the best drink!

Not only is it thirst quenching, but also contains fluoride which helps make teeth stronger. Here’s what water has to offer:

- it is cheap and readily available
- it doesn’t contain any kilojoules or sugar
- it encourages optimal function of the body

We should all aim to drink between five to eight cups of water a day. In the warmer months it is important to keep well hydrated. Always have water available when children are active. Encourage them to drink water regularly, even in cooler months.

Fruit juices

Many people think fruit juice is a healthy option. While fruit juice contains some vitamins, they lack fibre, antioxidants and other nutrients found in fruit. Fruit juices are high in sugar and energy, often containing similar quantities of sugar found in soft drink. Drinking large amounts can lead to tooth decay and excess energy consumption. Here are some things to consider if choosing juice:

- Limit fruit juices to no more than half a glass per day.
- Too much juice can lead to diarrhoea.
- Consider diluting juice 50:50 with water to reduce the number of kilojoules whilst still enjoying the taste of juice.
- It is easy to drink too much juice. One popper of juice is equal in energy to two pieces of fruit.
- Consider eating a piece of fruit instead. Whole pieces of fruit and veggies have higher levels of many vitamins, minerals, antioxidants and fibre, some of which are protective factors against some cancers and heart disease.

Milk

Milk is a good source of calcium, which gives children healthy bones and teeth. It is recommended that children have three serves of calcium rich foods a day. A glass of milk, a slice of cheese or a small tub of yoghurt, are each considered one serve.

Due to the high energy needs of babies and toddlers, reduced-fat milk is not suitable for children aged less than two years. However, from the age of two years, drinking too much milk can reduce a child’s appetite and contribute to excess energy consumption. Therefore reduced-fat milk is recommended for children two years and over.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>0 - 12 months</th>
<th>Cow’s milk is not suitable. Breastmilk is best.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12 months to 2 years</td>
<td>Skim milk and reduced-fat milks are not recommended.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 years and older</td>
<td>Reduced-fat milk can be used.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Healthy party drink idea

- Fruit spritzers are a fun alternative to soft drink for parties and social events, and so easy to make! Just mix ½ fruit juice and ½ soda water!
- Or why not freeze juice in ice cube trays to add to mineral or still water for a nice fruity taste!

Cordials, soft drinks and sports drinks

Cordials, soft drinks and sports drinks are high in sugar, and often contain artificial colourings and flavourings as well as caffeine. For these reasons, cordials, soft drinks and sports drinks should be reserved only for special occasions. Too much of these drinks lead to excess consumption of sugar and kilojoules, which may lead to weight gain and tooth decay.

Take a look at the sugar content found in these drinks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drinks</th>
<th>Teaspoons of sugar</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Can of soft drinks – 375 mL</td>
<td>8 to 9 tsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bottle of soft drink – 600 mL</td>
<td>15 to 18 tsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruit juice drink 250 mL</td>
<td>3 to 5 tsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cordial – 250 mL diluted</td>
<td>4 to 5 tsp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water</td>
<td>0 tsp</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As you can see, water has zero spoons of sugar making it the best option. Choose water as a drink whenever possible.

How much water do children need?

The amount of fluid that children need varies between individual children. The older the child, the more fluid they need. Children should drink approximately 1–1½ litres of fluid a day. Children will need more when they are physically active and on hot and humid days. Water is the best drink – for both children and adults – in all situations.
next P&C meeting

When? **Wednesday, 18th June, 7.00pm**
Where? Community Hub Room

P&C meetings are a great opportunity to get informed, and have a say about what’s going on at our school. Everyone is welcome.

magpie markets

The next markets for 2014 are on **Sunday, 15th June 2014**. If you have a child in 5H or a Support Unit class, you are asked to volunteer to help on the BBQ.

Please contact your class rep, or the school office to let us know when you can help. Thanks!

mothers’ day stall

We would like to thank the wonderful volunteers who helped make the Mothers’ Day stall such a success. We made over $600 profit, and it was a fun opportunity for our children to choose a special gift for Mum. Unfortunately, we don’t have a full list of names, so if you helped out, and your name is not below, please know that we are grateful to you too. Some of our fabulous workers were: Nicole, Neige, Lynn, Celie, Karen, Bianca, Pauline, Lisa, Kim and Tanya.
help needed - markets committee

At the end of this year, we will be losing some of our regular market volunteers to high school. These people have made a huge contribution over the years to this vital fundraising activity, and their contribution will be hugely missed.

So - in planning for the future, we are looking for new volunteers to form a Magpie Markets Committee, as well as some people to run the BBQ from 2015. If you are interested in contributing to the school in this way, please contact a P&C member, or let the school office know. Your help would be invaluable. You will receive the necessary training to the end of 2014.

build-a-burger day

YUM! Fun food day is coming back for Term Two. On Friday, 27th June, the P&C will be putting on a Build-a-Burger day for all students. Please look out for a note coming home with your children soon. It will contain all the details.

working bee

As you may know, the working bee that was scheduled earlier this term was postponed. The new date is Sunday, 22nd June. If you have some time to spare, your help would be valued. Come up to the school on the day, to lend a hand. We will be working on garden maintenance.
5 June 2014

Dear Parents & Caregivers

This year we are introducing an opportunity for you to arrange an interview with your child’s teacher using an online booking system (instructions on reverse). Interviews provide an uninterrupted time for teachers, parents and carers to review and discuss student progress to date. Students are not required to attend.

Interviews will be held on Monday 21 July 2014.

Interviews are scheduled for 10 minutes and will be held in your child's classroom, unless you are advised otherwise. The smooth running of interviews relies on all parents and carers keeping to the timetable. Please consider other parents and carers and end the interview on time. If you require more time, please contact your teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

The online booking system is now and will close on Wednesday 16 July 2014.

Be sure to check your junk e-mail folder if you do not receive your email confirmation immediately. If needing to change your interview time remember to use the same name and email address, you used when you made your original booking.

Parents and carers wishing to change their interview times after the closing date should contact the school directly on 4759 1196. If you are delayed or unable to make your interview appointment on the day, please let your child’s teacher or the office know.

Regards

Chantal Beltran
Principal
You can start right now - just enter the school code and click Go.

The site and change your interview whenever you want.

When you have finished, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. And if something comes up, you can return to

The times that suit you.

Then you'll see a timetable showing when your chosen teachers are available. Simply click on

First select the subject or year, then choose from the list of teachers.

On the next page, pick the teachers you want to meet.

First enter your name, your child's name(s), and your email address.

Go to http://www.schoolinterviews.com.au