Dear Parents and Carers

2015 has been a year of change, success and growth.

Currently, NSW public education is undergoing major reform directly impacting our school through our Local Schools, Local Decisions reforms, as well as Great Teaching, Inspired Learning. This year we saw the introduction of a new approach to school planning, giving us greater authority to meet the needs of the community, to improve the quality of teaching in schools and to improve outcomes for all students. 2015 also saw the mandatory implementation of the new Science syllabus and consolidation in the teaching of the new English and Mathematics syllabuses. Teacher Professional Learning also took place around the new History Syllabus which will be implemented from the commencement of the 2016 school year.

At the end of Term 1, Lawson Public School farewelled their well-loved Principal, Mrs Chantal Beltran, however remaining are a truly wonderful staff of experienced and dedicated practitioners that I would like to personally thank for welcoming me into their school. To the school executive Mrs Hardge, Mrs Bate, Miss Speed, Mrs Howard and Mrs Heyne – I cannot thank you enough for your support, leadership and friendship. At this time, I would also like to take the opportunity to farewell Mrs Rebecca Williams. Thank you for the commitment you have shown to the students at Lawson and I wish you every success in your future endeavours.

A myriad of opportunities were offered to students this year to support them in their educational journey. Notably, students have been involved in a variety of extra curricula activities such as dance, debating and public speaking. We welcomed the African Children’s Choir to the Blue Mountains and thoroughly enjoyed their music and friendship. Various sporting organisations such as Panthers on the Prowl, NSW Hockey and Milo Cricket engaged students in a range of physical games and skill development. Students in years 4, 5 and 6 participated in the Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, helping students change the way they think about food given the opportunity to grow, harvest, prepare and share nutritious food. Our school choir has performed at many venues throughout the year and I thank them and the school band for their wonderful performances today. I apologise in advance for the activities I haven’t mentioned but wish to again acknowledge and thank the wonderful staff at Lawson Public School who make all of these opportunities possible.

I would like to make special mention of our dedicated and talented support staff and in particular the wonderful ladies who ensure everything at our school runs smoothly. Mrs Fitzpatrick, Mrs Alexander and Mrs Jones. You are the heart and soul of our school and your tireless support and dedication is appreciated by students, staff and the wider community.

I have had the pleasure, over the past three terms, of working with a group of devoted parents who make up the P&C. I am continually astonished and humbled by the commitment and support of this wonderful group. Their commitment to financially supplementing and funding programs continues to benefit all students. This year, in addition to activities such as ‘Fun Food Days’, Mother’s Day and Father’s Day Stalls and the regular Magpie Markets, in a combined effort between the school and P&C, we embarked on a project to refurbish and re-resource the Support Classes. I am pleased to announce that in just 2 terms, fundraising to date totals over $16,000 and in addition to this amount, we were successful in obtaining a Community Building Partnerships grant of $15 000 bringing our combined total to over $30 000. The
newly introduced Lawson Learners Stall at the Magpie Markets has become a popular project with students and staff alike. This stall not only promotes community relationships but also serves as an ongoing fundraising opportunity. This year students once again participated in the P&C funded ‘Artist in Residence’ program. It was once again an overwhelming success with all students participating in the weaving of garden beds and ornaments. These woven garden beds will now extend our growing capacity.

In conclusion, and with great sadness, I say thank you and farewell. Thank you for welcoming me to your school and for sharing a part of your school’s journey with me. I would like to reflect on my departure with a quote from Martin Luther King JR.......  

‘Occasionally in life there are those moments of unutterable fulfilment which cannot be completely explained by those symbols called words. Their meanings can only be articulated by the inaudible language of the heart.

I wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season.

Warm regards

Corinna Robertson
Acting Principal

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**Term 4 Calendar**

**Week 10**
11 December  Presentation Day @ 10am

**Week 11**
14 December  Christmas Disco
15 December  NSW Hockey
16 December  Term treat day
16 December  Last day of term

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**Term 1 Calendar 2016**

**Week 1**
28 January  Students in year 1-6 for 2016 return

**Week 2**
1 February  Kindergarten for 2016 commence
magpie markets
Our last markets for 2015 are on Sunday, 20th December.

As the November markets were cancelled, we are again asking 1/2P and the Support Unit Classes to help with the BBQ and Lawson Learners Stall. Hopefully we’ll have fine weather this time!

Notes and emails with the BBQ helpers roster were sent to all class members last week. Please come and help at your allocated time, or contact your class parent rep if you need to make alternate arrangements.

If your child is not in these classes, but you are available to help, come along and offer a hand.

walkathon
Thank you to every student and family who returned their walkathon sponsorship money, and helped to make the walkathon happen. Many thanks go especially to Mrs Sloss, the driving force behind this fundraising event. It was a great success, thanks to the combined effort of everyone in our school community.

There was a lot of excitement at assembly last week when all the fundraising amounts were announced, and prizes awarded. Congratulations to those students and classes who won prizes. Thanks to this wonderful community effort, the walkathon raised approximately $15000 towards our Support Classrooms refurbishment. Well done everyone!
yearbook
Our 2015 yearbooks have arrived, and they look great! Congratulations to all the students and staff who helped with their pages. An extra big thank you to the Mrs Smith and her parent helper team, who put in countless hours and much creative energy you ordered a yearbook or two, it should have arrived home on Wednesday. If you didn’t order one, but would like to, there are a few spare copies available for sale through the school office.

kindy tea towels
Thanks to all kindy parents and carers who bought a tea towel decorated with drawings by our kids. Everyone who bought one seemed really happy with the result. We also raised $165 for the P&C! Thanks to our beautiful kids and their fantastic teachers for their efforts.

uniform shop - 2016
The school uniform shop will be open on students’ first day back at school (Thursday 28th January, from 8.30am to 9.30am), to assist with any last minute uniform needs.

Following this, it will be business as usual, with our regular opening time being Wednesday morning from 8.30 – 9.30am. As always, if you are unable to get to visit at this time you can fill in an order form and return it to the school office with payment. Our helpful volunteers will fill your order as soon as possible.

The P&C would like to wish our school community a very happy Christmas, and a safe and fun school holidays. We’re looking forward to another great year in 2016!
“SUPPORT UNIT REFURBISHMENT PROJECT” UPDATE

Our “Walkathon” was a huge success; Student sponsorships can still be brought into the school office.

We had a wonderful assembly on Friday with Sponsors presenting many of our students with prizes. So, here is an update in money raised so far in Terms 3 & 4 (to date)

- Wood Raffle & Other BUSINESS sponsorships=Over $2,500
- WALKATHON (Sponsorship, Showbags, Icebloocks, Cordial, Lollybags & Sausages)= $13,719.35
- Lawson Learners Morning/Arvo & Raffle Tickets=$467.30

SO, you could say from ALL efforts in Terms 3 & 4 Over $16,500. This is an amazing effort from our school community. This money will go towards painting, steam-cleaning carpet on walls, new blinds, inside play equipment & resources for our students. THANK YOU EVERYONE!

Without sponsors money cannot be raised. Please help us thank our sponsors by giving you’re your business. This newsletter includes the flyer that was in our showbags.

DON’T FORGET==Year 6 students are selling Christmas decorations, fresh herbs & gifts in the quad before & after school this week. They also have RAFFLE Tickets to win “Wet ‘N’ Wild family pass.

Lawson Learners stall will also be at the Magpie Markets, Sunday 20th Dec. Please come along & support our students & teachers.

Support Unit SPONSORSHIP

Lawson Public School now welcomes Community minded local businesses that have committed to helping us fund the much needed resources, computer equipment etc. required by our Unit. Without them we can’t refurbish our unit.

We encourage you to support these generous & caring businesses.

We thank the following local businesses for their support:-

- Ellen’s Interiors
- Wentworth Falls

NORM’S VILLAGE BUTCHERY
38 STATION STREET WENTWORTH FALLS NSW 2782
PHONE: (02) 4757 1729

First National Mid Mountains
4759 2666
midmountains.com.au

Lawson Pizza Kebab Turkish Pide

Plus Fitness 24/7

Hazelbrook
Phone: 4759 7000

Katoomba
Phone: 4782 3004

Blaxland
Phone: 4739 0880
THANK YOU TO OUR WALKATHON SPONSORS

BLUE MOUNTAINS MAZDA

SUNSHINE GIFT’S
ABN # 62616873094
Contact: Rachel O’Donnell
Mobile: 0414464789
Email: sun_shinegifts@hotmail.com
Also on Facebook please like to receive updates on Brochure

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6am - 4pm
7 DAYS

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LITHGOW VALLEY SPRINGS
Premium Spring Water

COMMONWEALTH BANK

ROCKET
The Leaders in Performance Products

OCEAN WILD
Sydney

STAPLES
staples.com.au
THANK YOU TO OUR WALKATHON SPONSORS
SCHOOL HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES JANUARY 2016:  

WAX ART WORKSHOPS  
(lunch included)

This is a project of Winmalee Neighbourhood Centre & Mountains Support Service, funded by the NSW Department of Premier & Cabinet

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<td>Friday 8th January, 2016</td>
<td>Mountains Support Service,</td>
<td>9-13 yrs</td>
<td>Call 4754 4050 to book</td>
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<td>10.30am - 2.30pm</td>
<td>2 Station St, Katoomba</td>
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<td>Thursday 14th January, 2016</td>
<td>Winmalee Neighbourhood Service</td>
<td>9-13 yrs</td>
<td>Call 4754 4050 to book</td>
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<tr>
<td>10.30am - 2.30pm</td>
<td>62 White Cross Rd, Winmalee</td>
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<td>Thursday 21st January, 2016</td>
<td>Lower Mountains Neighbourhood</td>
<td>9-13 yrs</td>
<td>Call 4754 4050 to book</td>
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<td>Centre</td>
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<td></td>
<td>33 Hope St, Blaxland</td>
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