Dear Parents and Carers

I just wanted to start with a very heartfelt ‘thank you’ for the warm welcome I have received from the Lawson Public School Community in my first few days here. I am enjoying the picturesque location but mostly the opportunity to meet some of the parents and carers, hardworking P & C members, students and the wonderfully dedicated staff. I am happy to discuss your child’s needs at a mutually convenient time and also welcome an informal ‘chat’! It is ‘business as usual’ here at Lawson Public School and bring to your attention the following:

**NAPLAN** - Letters went home to parents of Year 3 and Year 5 students on Friday outlining the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) – I have also attached a copy to the newsletter. NAPLAN tests the sorts of skills that are essential for every child to progress through school and life, such as reading, writing, spelling and numeracy. The assessments are undertaken nationwide, every year, in the second full week in May. This year’s test dates are 12, 13, 14 May. Should you have any concerns regarding your child’s participation in the test, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**PDHPE** - Part of our curriculum includes the teaching of ‘Child Protection’. This term students will be discussing ‘Recognising Abuse’ and ‘Protective Strategies’. In our ‘Bounceback’ program, the topic is ‘Relationships’. Should you require any further clarification of the programs, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher.

**Lunch Orders** - I know a note went out late last week however, just a reminder that there will be no more lunch orders via the school as Lawson Cake Shop advise that is no longer viable for them to provide lunch orders.

**Mower** - The school has FOR SALE a ride on lawn mower, 9 years young! Model MTD – 165/107. Please contact the school for further information, best offer will be accepted.

**OC Class - Year 5 – 2016** - If you are interested in your child sitting the OC Class test for Year 5, 2015, please see the attached letter. Please note that you will also have to apply on line.

**Mothers’ Day Stall** - Our wonderful P&C ladies will be running a Mothers’ Day Stall on Wednesday 6th May. Gifts will range in cost from $1 up to $8 with the majority of gifts being $5 and under. Donations of gifts would be most welcome to contribute to this fundraising event. Gifts can be left in the front office. Your ongoing support is appreciated.

**Newsletter** - Continuing on with our environmental approach to newsletter distribution, newsletters will be posted on the school website – if you require a paper copy and have not yet advised the school for 2015, please complete the slip attached and return it to the school office and we will organise to have it sent home with your child.

**ANZAC Ceremony** - A big congratulations and thank you to the staff and students who organised and ran our school ANZAC Ceremony. It was a memorable occasion being the 100th Anniversary of the Gallipoli landing and students were able to pay their respects at this fitting assembly.
Lawson Public School students also did us proud at the local Lawson March on ANZAC Day. Glowing reports have come back from community members noting the number of students, their dress in school uniform and their outstanding behaviour. Congratulations to those students who were able to attend on the day – you have done us proud!

Warm regards

Corinna Robertson
Acting Principal

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### Term 2 Calendar

**Week 2**
- 30 April: Cross Country – POSTPONED
- 1 May: Futsal

**Week 3**
- 6 May: Mother’s Day Stall
- 7 May: Cross Country
- 8 May: Futsal
  - 1/2P Assembly 1.45pm

**Week 4**
- 12-14 May: NAPLAN Year 3 & 5 students

**Week 5**
- 18-20 May: Stage 3 Canberra Camp
- 18-22 May: African Children’s Choir
- 19 May: ICAS ICT test
- 20 May: P&C Meeting 7pm
- 22 May: 3G Assembly 1.45pm

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### Newsletter Distribution

In keeping with our environmental approach, Lawson Public School newsletter is posted on the school website for your information, however if you require a paper copy please complete the information below of your youngest child attending Lawson Public School and return it to the school office.

- Child’s name ......................................................................................... Class......................................
Anzac Day March

I would like to extend a big thank you to the 70 students who turned up to the Lawson ANZAC Day march last Saturday. Our school was proudly represented by a large group of students who were all in uniform and behaved respectfully.

Our school Captains Harry and Menindee placed a wreath at Honour Avenue on behalf of the school and maturely marked their respects.

Miss Blunt, Mr Kowald and I were extremely proud to march with such a lovely group of students.

Woodford Service

A small group of students attended the Woodford sunset service. This is the first time in 25 years that a service has been held at Woodford to commemorate the fallen soldiers who called Woodford home. Amitie and Caitlin lit a candle to represent one of the five men who lost their lives in WW1 from Woodford.

Lawson Public School has received a gift from the Blue Mountains Nashos Association as an acknowledgement for our participation at both services. Lawson students were commended for their uniform and mature behaviour at both services. It was wonderful to receive positive feedback from our wider community about our students behaving respectfully.

Alicia Howard.
next P&C meeting
When? **Wednesday, 20th May, 7pm**
Where? **Staff Room**
P&C meetings are a good opportunity to get informed, and have a say about what’s going on at our school.

After some date changes last term, the P&C meetings are returning to the 3rd Wednesday of the month. Come along to hear what is happening in our school, and have your say!

thank you to our April markets helpers
Many thanks go to the following people who gave up their time on a sunny Sunday to help make our markets happen, and feed the hungry hordes.

These people were: Jana, Anja, Jessica, Matt, Monika, Mary, Sarah, Patrick, Stuart, Jay, Simon, Neige, Nicole, Darren, Xavier, Izaak, Lucy, Jemima, Ruth, Silas, Caelan, Rebecca, Dawn, Ondine, Callisto, Melissa, Lynne, Nik, Finn, Viv, Jane.

african children’s choir
The African Children’s Choir visit is coming up in Term 2, from 17-23rd May. They will be performing at our school and other venues in the mountains. A note about concerts and workshops has come home in the last week. Buy your tickets soon, so you don’t miss out. Tickets also available through [www.kwaya.org](http://www.kwaya.org)

mothers’ day stall
Our Mothers’ day stall is coming up on Wednesday, 6th May from 9am to recess. A purple note went home last week with the details. Volunteers will be needed on the day to help set up, sell items and pack up. Donations are still welcome. Don’t forget to send your child to school with a small amount of money to buy a gift for mum or someone special. Most gifts available for between $1-5. A few gifts are priced at up to $8.
magpie markets
Our next markets are on Sunday, 17th May 2015. We look forward to seeing lots of you there, enjoying the atmosphere and grabbing a good buy.

**Classes 4/5H and the Support Unit classes** are to help with the BBQ.

A note will been sent home to these classes, giving families an opportunity to volunteer. Information will also be available through your class parent rep. Your help will be greatly appreciated, and it’s a fun way to meet others and help raise funds to support our school community.

**artist in residence**
Every two years, the Lawson P&C association funds an artist in residence program at our school. The artist/s plan and undertake a project, involving participation from every student in the school. We have had some wonderfully clever and enterprising artists share their creativity, skills and knowledge with us over the years. We hope to give our students another opportunity to experience this in 2015.

We have recently advertised for applications for this project. Applications were due on 27th April, but the closing date has now been extended. If you, or anyone you know may be interested in applying, please contact the school for more details, or submit an application to the office as soon as possible. To the right is a copy of the advertisement, with relevant details.
National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy 2015

LETTER TO PARENTS

In May 2015 the National Assessment Program – Literacy and Numeracy (NAPLAN) will be completed by students in Years 3, 5, 7 and 9. NAPLAN has the support of all State and Territory Education Ministers and will assess the literacy and numeracy skills of students across Australian schools.

The results of the tests will provide important information to schools about what each student can do, and will be used to support teaching and learning programs. Parents will receive a report indicating their child’s level of achievement. Each student’s level of achievement will be reported against the national minimum standard.

Student background information (student name, gender, date of birth, language background and Aboriginality) will be collected as part of the National Assessment Program. This information is treated confidentially and held securely to ensure that every student’s right to privacy is maintained.

The NAPLAN tests will be conducted from 12-14 May 2015.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TUESDAY 12 MAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY 13 MAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY 14 MAY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Language Conventions</td>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>Numeracy</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
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In the Numeracy tests students do not require any measuring tools such as rulers or protractors. In Years 7 and 9 there will be two Numeracy tests: one where a calculator is allowed and one where calculators are not to be used. For the calculator test, the student should use the calculator that they currently use at school.

Friday 15 May – A ‘catch-up’ day is scheduled for students who missed a test or were absent on a test day.

Students may be considered for exemption from the tests if they:

- are newly arrived in Australia (less than one year before the test) and with a language background other than English, or
- have significant intellectual disability and/or significant co-existing conditions which severely limit their capacity to participate in the tests.

All other students are expected to participate in the tests. Disability adjustments which reflect the student’s normal level of support in the classroom may be provided. Large print, Braille, coloured paper versions and electronic tests are available to meet the needs of individual students.

Access to disability adjustments or exemption from the tests must be discussed with the school principal and a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Students may be withdrawn from NAPLAN by their parent or carer. This is a matter for consideration by parents in consultation with the Principal. If you wish to withdraw your child from the tests, a parent or carer consent form must be signed.

Please make an appointment with the principal of the school your child attends if you would like to discuss your child’s participation in NAPLAN.

Additional information about NAPLAN can be found at www.nap.edu.au/NAPLAN/Parent_Carer_support/index.html.
Intention to apply: Year 5 entry to an opportunity class in 2016

Dear Parent/Carer

Opportunity classes cater for highly achieving academically gifted students who may otherwise be without classmates at their own academic and social level. These schools help gifted and talented students to learn by grouping them with other gifted and talented students, teaching them in specialised ways and providing educational materials at the appropriate level.

Applications for opportunity class placement are considered mainly on the basis of the Opportunity Class Placement Test results and school assessment scores. The Opportunity Class Placement Test will be held on Wednesday 22 July 2015.

If you would like to have your child considered for Year 5 opportunity class entry in 2016, you need to do so soon. You will need to apply on the internet using a valid email address (not the student’s email address).

Detailed instructions on how to apply online will be available from 27 April 2015 in a printed application information booklet and at www.schools.nsw.edu.au/opplacement. The application website opens on 27 April 2015 and closes on 15 May 2015. No late applications will be accepted.

There are no paper application forms. If you do not have internet access, you could apply at a public library. If you have a disability that prevents you from using a computer, you can contact the Unit for assistance after 27 April 2015.

You must submit only ONE application for each student.

Yours sincerely

Principal

Cut along the dotted line and return the completed slip below to this school by next Friday.

Note: This is a notice to your primary school that you intend to apply only. It is NOT an application.

To apply you will need to register and then apply through the High Performing Students application website shown above.

Student’s name: ____________________________ Class: ________________

I am interested in applying for opportunity class placement in 2016

Yes ☐ No ☐

I have internet access and will be applying online  ☐

Or

I do not have internet access  ☐

Signature of parent/carer: ____________________________ Date: ____________

Note: This is a notice to your primary school that you intend to apply only. It is NOT an application.

To apply you will need to register and then apply through the High Performing Students application website shown above.