Dear Parents and Carers

African Children’s Choir
Lawson Public School students farewelled the African Children’s Choir on Friday afternoon. What a privilege it has been for everyone involved in their visit to engage with such inspiring and talented children and their chaperones. Congratulations to Sarah Sloss for the tremendous amount of time she has put into organising the visit, both prior and during their stay. Lawson Public School choir sang beautifully with the ACC on Thursday night at Blackheath. What an honour for them. Thank you Ms Coady and Mr Evans for your organisation.

Cross Country
On Friday at our school assembly, students were presented with ribbons for their performance at the District Cross Country Carnival. Congratulations to all of the participants, you did us proud. We wish Natalie N, who will go on to represent at the Regional Cross Country Carnival on 10 June, every success.

Bus Inspections
We have been advised that as of next week, Blue Mountains Bus Company will be having surprise bus pass inspections across all buses until the end of the term. Please remind your child, if they use the bus, to have bus passes ready for drivers to view before boarding the bus, as inspectors will be boarding buses at random. Students were also given this information at Monday’s assembly.

Stage 3 Camp
Our Stage 3 campers returned safely on Wednesday evening. Thank you to Mr Evans, Ms Blunt and Mrs Howard for taking time out of your busy lives to share this fantastic experience with students. I have heard some great feedback from the camp, a particular favourite among the students was the visit to Questacon.

Lawson PS School Plan and 2014 Annual School Report
Our Lawson PS Plan and 2014 Annual School Report are available on the school website. Our three strategic directions Innovative Staff, Successful Students and Connected Community are designed to ensure we continue to achieve our school vision.

Our Lawson PS Vision Statement is as follows:

‘Students at Lawson Public School are provided with excellent educational experiences, in a safe and caring setting whereby they are supported to develop to their full potential, across all areas of their schooling.

A culture of inclusivity, respect and acceptance of individuality is fostered across all levels of the school community. The school core values (At Lawson Public Schools we are Safe, Respectful, Responsible Learners) are reflective of the school’s commitment to ensuring quality teaching and learning experiences are provided within a safe, caring, positive learning environment.

Students are consistently encouraged to think and act responsibly and respectfully and this, together with the strong emphasis on positive connections between the school, home and community will equip students
to live and achieve in a rapidly changing world.
Our school vision aligns with the Melbourne Declaration.

The school plan is the culmination of the analysis of data for the Annual School Report, consultation with staff, students, parents and the wider community into the directions we will follow to ensure our students are successful 21st Century learners.

**Student Progress Reports**
Student Progress Reports for Semester 1 are currently being prepared for distribution later this term. The reports will include some changes in the way we report on Mathematics and Science and Technology. These changes reflect the outcomes for student learning in the new syllabus documents being implemented this year.

**Merit Awards**
Congratulations to last week’s award recipients – Jamie-Lee, TJ, Tommy, Abigael, Amberley, Oscar D, Jemma, Samuel, Brodie, Matthew R, Teleah, Jonah, Ella, Matthew B, Sonja, Lindsay, Harry E, Jacklyn

Warm regards,

**Corinna Robertson**
Relieving Principal

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**Term 2 Calendar**

**Week 6**
27 May P&C Meeting 7pm

**Week 7**
2 June UBMMF rehearsal Katoomba PS
3 June ICAS Science test
Netball Gala Day Penrith
4 June K-2 Cross country from 11.15
5 June 4/5H Assembly 1.45 pm

**Week 8**
8 June Public holiday **NO SCHOOL**

**Week 9**
TBA ICAS Writing test
16 June ICAS Spelling test

**Week 10**
26 June Last day of term

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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 and return it to the school office.

☐ Child’s name .................................................. Class.............................................
On Monday 18 May in the dark of the morning, 41 Stage Three students set off to Canberra. There was a great deal of excitement and chatter on board the bus. The itinerary was jam packed, but interesting and fun. Lawson Public School students represented their school with respect and maturity. Ms Blunt, Mr Evans and I thoroughly enjoyed our three days away with the students.

Some of the places we visited include the Mint, Parliament House, Questacon, the Reptile Park and the War Memorial.
Alicia Howard, Hayley Blunt and Peter Evans

Students from our school have recently undertaken an education tour of the national capital. Students were given the opportunity to participate in a variety of educational programs with a focus on Australia’s history, culture, heritage and democracy.

The Australian Government recognises the importance of all young Australians being able to visit the national capital as part of their Civics and Citizenship education. To assist families in meeting the cost of the excursion the Australian Government contributed funding to each student under the Parliament and Civics Education Rebate program which was budgeted for and therefore reduced the cost of your camp fees.
African Children’s Choir performance with Lawson PS Choir at Blackheath
P&C meeting – tonight
When? **Wednesday, 27th 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. Come along to hear what is happening in our school, and have your say!

magpie markets
Our next markets are this **Sunday, 21st June 2015.** It is classes KH and 1/2P turn to help with the BBQ.

A note will be 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.

magpie markets helpers – thank you
Many thanks to the hardworking helpers at the May markets. These people included:

uniform shop
Don’t forget – the uniform shop now has long sleeved school shirts available in the new style, and they look great!! They cost $25 each. There are also plenty of jackets, hats, beanies, girls’ tights and other winter stock available. Open 8.30-9.30am on Wednesday, or hand in an order form with payment to the office.
Our visit from the African Children’s Choir has come and gone, but has left an impact on many of us. We hope you enjoyed having these friendly, talented children at our school last week. Thank you to everyone for making the choir welcome in our community. It was certainly an exciting time. We have a few specific people we need to thank.

Firstly, Lawson PS P&C would like to thank the following Lawson businesses for their African Children’s Choir donations:

- Lawson Friendly Grocer
  7 Honour Avenue
  Lawson NSW

- Kevin & Linda Tong
  Lawson Pharmacy
  7A Honour Ave

- Noel & Debbie
  Lawson Newsagency
  3 Honour Ave, Lawson

Thank you also to members of our community who donated goods for the choir, to the host families for sharing their homes and to the OOSH staff who shared their room with the choir for the week.

A huge thank you must go to Mrs Sarah Sloss for her tireless work, organizing the visit and supporting the choir and everyone involved.
School Banking 2015 is ready for launch.

For over 80 years, the School Banking program has been teaching Australian children lifelong money skills. This year, your child is invited to join the Dollarmites on an intergalactic mission to Planet Savings.

Rewarding good saving habits with eight new reward items in 2015

The School Banking program encourages good saving habits by rewarding students with awesome reward items. After every 10 deposits made through the program, students can redeem a reward from our Outer Space Savers range including DVDs, Planet Handballs, Invisible Ink Martian Pens, Intergalactic Rockets, Glow-in-the-Dark Solar Systems, Cosmic Light Beam Torches, Outer Space Savers Money Boxes and Lunar Light Bands.

You could win a family trip to Disneyland

In a School Banking first, students who make 25 or more School Banking deposits during 2015 will automatically receive one entry into the competition to win a family trip to California’s Disneyland. The prize includes return airfares, five nights accommodation, transfers and three days park entry for up to two adults and two kids, plus AUD$2,000 spending money.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking

Things to know before you Can: Conditions apply. Promotion starts 9.00am AEDT 27/1/15 and ends 11.59pm AEDT 18/12/15. Entry is open to all Youthsaver account holders aged 5–13 years who participate in CommBank’s School Banking program. Entrants under 18 must have parent/guardian consent. The draw will take place at 12.30pm AEDT on 12/1/16 at the Promoter's office. The first valid entry drawn will win a family trip to California’s Disneyland valued at $22,245. The winner’s name will be published in the public notices section of The Australian on 26/1/16. Promoter is Commonwealth Bank of Australia ABN 48 123 123 124 of Level 2, 11 Harbour Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Full terms and conditions available at commbank.com.au/schoolbanking. NSW Permit No LTPS/14/09857; ACT Permit No TP14/04345; VIC Permit No 14/5966; SA Permit No T14/2327.
NEWSLETTER NUMBER TWENTY-ONE

Let me shout this from the top of the hill: I'M SUPPOSED TO BE RETIRED! I know my newsletters from Pinerolo are supposed to come out every second month. But it's becoming increasingly difficult to find the time to do any. Life is so busy with so many different things:

Pinerolo is gathering steam. Word seems to be spreading about the place and the treasures here. Our Picture Books @ Pinerolo courses are in their ninth year. Last Saturday with Libby Gleeson was really successful, and I've already secured the fantastic Tohby Riddle for Saturday 23 May. Information about this is in the column right, or on our website.

Not only all that but being a National Board Member of the CBCA is a full time job! The announcement of the 2015 Shortlist for Book of the Year in Sydney was fabulous and I recommend the spectacular merchandise being produced this year. Go to the CBCA website and have a look at it. You'll want it! http://merchandise.cbca.org.au

As well as all that we've just formed a Blue Mountains sub-branch of the CBCA NSW branch. I'm sure local people are happy to hear that news and those who would like to be involved should email me so that their name can be added to the mailing list.

THEN there's also the CBCA 12th National Conference in Sydney next year - and the 70th anniversary of the CBCA Book of the Year Awards. I'm on the committee.

For your information I have included here a blog from Kit Carstairs at the Manuscript Agency. She will probably have had another baby by the time you read this:

Phew!

EVENTS @ PINEROLO AND BEYOND

PICTURE BOOKS @ PINEROLO

Our program of one-day courses on creating children's picture books has been running now for nine years. They are always fully booked and participants go away inspired and much more knowledgeable about how to realise their dream of a published book. Next will be the fabulous Tohby Riddle on Saturday 23 May. I recommend booking early: www.pinerolo.com.au/PDF/Riddle.pdf

FURTHER AFIELD

I attended the CBCA NSW AAA event in Sydney on 14 April. I had been invited to launch Libby Hathorn's book EVENTUAL POPPY DAY. It's an excellent and very affecting book and I can't recommend it enough.

The highlight of the event was the announcement of the CBCA 2015 Notables List and the Shortlist. I nervously awaited the announcement and was thrilled when my book B IS FOR BEDTIME was announced a Notable! This means it's deemed to be in the top 20% of children's books in Australia this year. How exciting! Here's the cover to remind you (any excuse!):

By the way. You know that I sell artwork here at Pinerolo. I've been very pleased to have the entire artwork of B IS FOR BEDTIME to sell on behalf of Anna Pignataro. Several pieces have been snapped up. But not it is a Notable Book, artwork will be even more sought-after. Get it while it's hot!

MAURICE SAXBY LECTURE by LIBBY GLEESON

6 May, MacLaurin Hall, University of Sydney

This biennial lecture recognises the incredible contribution made to the CBCA by the legendary Maurice Saxby. He was one of the most significant people involved in the development of children's literature in Australia. The lectures aim to continue the tradition of education about children's literature established so brilliantly by Maurice Saxby. All bookings through TryBooking at: http://www.trybooking.com/HLTJ