Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to extend my appreciation to students, staff and parents for such a warm welcome as I begin my time as your school principal. I’d like to acknowledge and extend that thanks to Chantal Beltran and Corinna Robertson for the hard work and commitment they have invested in the school prior to my arrival.

My professional background includes both teaching and principal roles in The Snowy Mountains, Moree, Armidale, Byron Bay and Albury areas of New South Wales. I have also enjoyed sabbatical and research fellowships in the United States and The Republic of South Africa.

Our family is absolutely thrilled to be living and working in the Blue Mountains. I am very grateful to be part of such a professional team and to have the support of such an enthusiastic and positive parent community. I look forward to getting to know each of you and I am encouraged of a long and fulfilling future ahead of us.

Flued Gas Heaters – During the summer holidays, our school saw the installation of flued gas heaters in some of our classrooms. The process was complex and costly. On behalf of our students and staff, I would like to extend our deepest thanks and gratitude to the P&C at Lawson Public School, for tackling this enormous task.

Parents and visitors – A friendly reminder in regard to school visitors. The morning bell is at 8:55am (prompt). We politely ask all of our parents and visitors to have completed their “kiss and drop” prior to this time.

In terms of student welfare and school security, we ask that any parents, volunteers and school visitors present to the office to sign in with our administrative staff. This includes parents wish to pick up or drop of students outside of normal class times. If you are bringing an item (hat, lunchbox etc) your child has forgotten, please take it to the front office and it will be delivered to your child’s class by a member of staff. We also politely ask parents to be mindful of teaching and learning areas, during these times. This in mind, parents will need to remain away from classroom areas including windows, bag areas and kinder/upper level foyers.

Warm regards

Matthew Jacobson
Principal

Term 1 Calendar

**Week 4**
19 February World of maths $5 – all students

**Week 5**
25 February High School Expo day
26 February Assembly @ 1.45pm
    Zone swimming carnival

**Week 6**
29 February Young leader’s day

**Week 7**
Parent teacher interviews
Dubbo Regional Athletics Championships

Natalie, Tate and Jyilen recently attended the Regional Athletics Championships in Dubbo.

Natalie competed in U9 girls and placed:
2nd in 60m hurdles
3rd in high jump
5th in 70m sprint
Natalie has qualified for State level in the hurdles!!

Tate competed in U boys and placed:
4th in 800m
5th in 1500m
9th in 400m

Jyilen competed in U8 boys and received:
Gold place in shot put
Silver place in discus

Well done to our three athletes!!

The Tell Them From Me student feedback survey

I am delighted that this term, our school, like many others in the state, will participate in a Department of Education initiative: the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey. The survey aims to help improve student learning outcomes and measures factors that are known to affect academic achievement and other student outcomes. The focus of the NSW-wide survey is on student wellbeing, engagement and effective teaching practices.


The survey is a great opportunity for our students to provide our school with valuable and quick feedback on what they think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the Tell Them From Me survey to help improve how they do things at school.

I want to assure you that the survey is confidential and school staff will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. The survey is conducted online and will typically take less than 30 minutes to complete. It will be administered during school hours between 14 March and 8 April. Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary.

A consent form and a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) for parents/carers about the survey is being sent home with students. If you do not want your child or children to participate, please return the consent form to school by Friday 26 February. The FAQs and copies of the consent form, including translated consent forms, are available from the website above.
OUR SCHOOL EXPECTATIONS

At Lawson Public School, I am a: **SAFE, RESPECTFUL, RESPONSIBLE, LEARNER**.

In place of a set of numerous rules that are sometimes very hard to remember, we have in place a set of expectations. During Term 1 classroom teachers will actually ‘teach’ what these expectations ‘look like’ in various settings around the school.

We are all **LEARNERS** for life. We are responsible for our actions, and with the support of those who care for us, we can maximise our potential.

**SAFE**: We need to be safe both within and outside of the classroom, and in the broader community.

**RESPECTFUL**: We need to be respectful of ourselves and others, respectful of property and our environment. We need to understand that what we say and do has an impact on others.

**RESPONSIBLE**: We are responsible for our actions and need to learn to make ‘good’ choices accepting the consequences of those choices that we make.

The goal is also to have children **think** about their behaviours: Are you being safe – respectful – responsible? In this way we can help them to become better problem solvers, strengthening confidence and ultimately building resilience.

Below is a poster of our school expectations. It might prove helpful when talking with your children at home.

CORE VALUES

At Lawson Public School I am a:

**SAFE,**

**RESPECTFUL,**

**RESPONSIBLE**

**LEARNER**
Our dedicated team of volunteers is ready to run with our first market for 2016 on **Sunday 21st February**.

As in past years, the P&C is asking for volunteers from selected classes to help at the P&C-run BBQ each month. This is valuable fundraiser for our school, raising a significant amount of money every year. The funds raised go fully towards supporting our students and school community, enhancing and enriching their education and school in many and various ways.

This month the classes being asked to help are **5/6B and 5/6H**. A note and emails will be sent home in the next few days. Please take note of your allocated time on the BBQ roster, and plan to be there if at all possible.

**magpie markets – thank you**

We are very grateful to the volunteers who gave up their time to help at the December markets - less than a week before Christmas, and in difficult weather conditions!! Overall, we raised over $3000 - a wonderful result.

**uniform shop - 2016**

The school uniform shop continues to have its regular opening time on Wednesday morning from 8.30 – 9.30am. Customers can find the shop in the building between the top playground and the quad (ES1H’s classroom in next door). Access to the store is from the top playground side.
BRAVE Self-Help is an online program for the prevention, early intervention, and treatment of youth anxiety. It was developed at The University of Queensland by experts in youth anxiety and has now been running for over 14 years throughout Australia. The program is fun, interactive, based on cognitive-behavioural principles and has been found to be effective in reducing anxiety in children and adolescents. It has helped hundreds of children experiencing social anxiety, shyness, separation anxiety, phobias and general worries. BRAVE Self-Help is now available to use at home for free due to the support of beyondblue. Any Australian young people who would like help with anxiety can access the self-help program via https://brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au/. The program can be accessed through any computer or tablet device, at any time and includes up to 10 sessions for youth. Parents can also take part in a separate parent program to learn ways of helping their child or teenagers manage anxiety. Teachers, young people and parents can also find out more about the program or take a trial or any of the programs through the BRAVE website.
Is this you?

Most of the time, you know you are doing a good job with parenting. But there are times when things get a little tricky. Like when your toddler won't eat her dinner. Or your six year old won’t share his toys. If only someone could give you some ideas to make those times easier! If this sounds like you, then a Stepping Stones Triple P seminar may be right for you.

As part of the Stepping Stones Triple P Project, **Lapstone Early Childhood Intervention Service** invite all parents of children with a disability aged 2 to 12 to attend the following FREE parenting seminar series:

**Seminar 1: Positive Parenting for Children with a Disability**
Monday, 7th March, 10am-11.30am.

**Seminar 2: Helping your Child reach their Potential**
Monday, 14th March, 10am-11.30am.

**Seminar 3: Changing Problem Behaviour into Positive Behaviour**
Monday, 21st March, 10am-11.30am.

**Where:** Lapstone Preschool, 173 Explorers Rd, Lapstone NSW 2773  
**Cost:** FREE – As this is part of a research project  
**WHO:** Any parent/caregiver of a child with a disability aged 2-12 years

**RSVP:** As these programs are being funded as part of a research project please contact the research team to register your interest.  
**Phone:** 02 9114 4060  
**Email:** fhs.Steppingstones@sydney.edu.au or website: http://www.triplep-steppingstones.net/au-en/get-help/find-a-stepping-stones-session/

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**Funded by the National Health and Medical Research Council, Australia**
Welcome back to the new school year!

We hope you have all enjoyed the holiday break and are excited for a fantastic new year. After having a great holiday ourselves, we are back on board and excited to see familiar faces returning – as well as some new faces.

To help get your family back into the swing of things, here are some tips that you might find handy for easing your children into After School Care.

**Tips for easing you kids into After School Care:**

1. Give your child as much advance warning as you can that they'll be coming to After School Care.
2. Pop into the program with your child to meet our Camp Australia team and find out what kind of activities they can look forward to.
3. Speak with the Camp Australia Coordinator if your child is nervous, and let us know how your child felt after their first visit.
4. If there is something in particular your child would like to play when they are in our care, encourage them to tell us know or you can give us a call.

We're here to make after school care visits the best experience possible, if you have any questions about the program – feel free to drop by, meet the team and see what happens in After School Care first hand.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

The Camp Australia Team.

**Program Details**

To find out more about our program and to register and book visit [www.campaustralia.com.au](http://www.campaustralia.com.au)

From all of the team at Camp Australia we wish you a fantastic 2016 and we look forward to seeing you and your family in the program soon.
Playgroups—for parents, grandparents, carers with babies to 5 yrs

Our playgroups are always open to new members and include early literacy activities

Play in the Park at Golden Horizons Park between Blue Hills Rd & Red Gum Ave, Hazelbrook on Tuesdays 10am—11.30am (weather permitting), resumes 2nd February

Scout Hall Playgroup at 70 Railway Pde, Hazelbrook on Thursdays 10am—12 noon, resumes 4th February

Play in the Park at Noble St, Bullaburra, we won’t be there each Wednesday this term. We will hold two special events on a Wednesday morning from 10am – 11am during the term. Please keep an eye on our Facebook page for dates.

Baby Play Time: Every Tuesday, drop in any time between 9.30am and 11.00 In partnership with Connect Child & Family Services. For parents and carers with babies up to 18 months. Friendly discussion and support available. At Heatherbrae 6 Benang St Lawson (next to children's play area in town square). Just drop in or call MOCS on 4758 6811 or Heatherbrae on 4758 9966 for more information.

Bush Walking Group for Adults – planning meeting on Wednesday, 3rd February 9.30am at MOCS, Bungarrabee Centre, 48-50 Oaklands Rd, Hazelbrook. All welcome to join this ongoing group and plan easy and accessible local bush walks for term 1. For more information call MOCS on 4758 6811.

Young Women's Self Defence: Tuesdays 6.00 – 7.30 pm for 6 weeks, 16th Feb – 22nd March. For young women aged 12 years and up. Great course for mothers and daughters. Taught by experienced self-defence and martial arts instructor Sarala Porter. $60 for course or $45 if under 25 years or if more than one from same family. In partnership with Blue Mountains Women’s Health & Resource Centre and Korowal. Korowal School, 54 Hall Pde Hazelbrook. Bookings essential must call BMWH&RC on 4782 5133 to register or for more information.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK: Mountains Outreach Community Service

Turn over for more courses and seminars for parents

A gold coin donation is appreciated at all of our courses and events. Thankyou.