Thursday 4th February 2016

Principals Report

Welcome back to school for 2016. I trust all of our families had a relaxing holiday and are ready for a busy, but exciting year ahead.

As we start this year we all hold high expectations for our students and an unswerving commitment by our staff to deliver an outstanding educational service that students, parents and the community rightly deserve. We are working in a context of the biggest reform program ever implemented by the Department of Education and while there are certain and definite challenges in embracing these changes, they will serve to transform the school system at every level for the benefit of every student.

Our priorities for the school will continue to be the improvement of results for all students by raising the quality of our teaching and learning programs and a strong commitment to the development of every teacher, within a context of a future focused approach to learning. We have not only developed programs to support students learning such as the Yearning for Learning program, but are also leading teacher professional learning and development through improved staff support and supervision programs.

We also strive to ensure that our school is a positive, happy and a safe place for the children to be each day and our student wellbeing team will be active in ensuring this environment exists for every child in the school. Our families are extremely important to us and staff never underestimate the significant contributions that parents make to the ongoing education of our students as they work closely with classroom teachers. The community partnerships team will continue to build learning partnerships with families and will shortly be rolling out the Parents as Teachers program as one way to achieve this.

This year we have 490 students enrolled and we will be conducting 21 classes across the school. 40 staff members, including teachers, school administrative support staff and others will deliver the educational program to the children in 2016. We have made a very smooth start to the school year with all classes settled and keenly involved in their learning programs. The strategy of students spending time in their 2016 class at the end of last year appears to have greatly contributed to this situation.

Several new staff are joining or rejoining us. They are: Ms Melinda Moore, Mr Aaron McSweeny, Ms Tania McLaren, Ms Michelle Hampson and Ms Pam Quinn. I welcome them warmly to our school and look forward to the contributions of skills and talents that they bring with them.

New programs you will see in the school this year will include the Yearning for Learning Program, the Parents as Teachers (PAT) program, the Making a Difference (MAD) Program, the School Band Program, a Primary Ethics Program (commencing in Term 2) and a new Out of School Hours (OoSH) Program, also commencing in Term 2. The school technology room is currently undergoing a full refurbishment to bring its appearance and functionality up to a more contemporary learning space, with different and new technologies allowing students to access rich and deep learning experiences.
With the school’s curriculum, assessment and reporting program undergoing a full review you will see further enhancements and program inclusions being made across the year to ensure that our curriculum program, and how it is delivered, is responsive to the intrinsic, contextual and formative needs of our students and delivers to every one of them the opportunity to achieve their very best in all respects, at all times. It will also serve to engage you further in your child’s learning and new reporting mechanisms, both face to face and electronically, will keep you informed and involved in your child’s learning progress.

I warmly welcome our new families to the school and know that you have many years of enjoyment ahead of you as you watch your children grow, develop and achieve in this wonderful school environment. Please feel that our school is welcoming and wants your involvement at all times and I look forward to getting to know all of you over the coming years.

We have an exciting year ahead and I very much look forward to working closely with you all.

**Just a few matters that I need to bring to your attention as we set up the school year.**

1. **Parents as Partners Program**
   
   This year we are conducting a series of 12 parent information sessions to assist parents and families in increasing their understandings about our school and about contemporary educational programs and practices. The main intent of the program is to increase parent and family capacities to be able to assist their children at home in their educational development. The sessions will be held three times each term with a daytime and evening format allowing for many working people to attend. The first session will be on the topic of ‘Our School’ which will see key staff unpack information about school structures, personnel and curriculum programs. This is an important session as it will provide the context to what we do here at the school. It be held at 5:30pm on Tuesday 16 February in the school’s community room. An identical session will be held in the same week at 9:30am on Thursday 18 February, also in the community room. A flier and schedule of this program are attached to this newsletter. Please remove and retain them in a safe place for future reference. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

2. **School Band**

   Our new school band commences next week with the conservatorium tutors commencing their training with those students who registered to be involved next Monday. Ms Lauren Robbers (nee Batten) will be the school’s band coordinator, so any inquiries about the band should be directed to her. New families of students in Years 3-6 may be interested in having their child or children involved in the band. Please approach the front office as soon as possible if this may be the case.

3. **Student OPAL cards**

   Eligible school students can ‘tap’ into Opal with the School Opal card from the beginning of Term 1, 2016. Students who had a travel pass in 2015, and are eligible for travel in 2016 under the School Student Transport Scheme (SSTS), should have received a card already.
However, certain eligible students will need to apply for a School Opal card. These are:
- students changing schools,
- students updating personal details,
- students going from year 2 to 3, and
- new applicants or students who have not yet applied.

Schools need to endorse the application forms and return them to Transport for NSW within the first two weeks of term to ensure eligible students can get their School Opal cards as quickly as possible.

Parents or guardians, of these eligible students who have not already applied, should apply online at:

transportnsw.info/school-students

Students or parents can contact 131 500 or concessions@transport.nsw.gov.au for more information or if their cards don’t arrive within the first two weeks.

4. Current Bomb Hoaxes

The media is reporting that about a quarter of all schools in NSW have received bomb threats over the last week. In all cases these threats have been found to be false. It is possible that our school will also be targeted by whoever is behind these hoaxes in the next little while. Please be assured that our response to any threat (hoax or otherwise) made to our school is taken extremely seriously and we have well designed emergency procedures that we activate to ensure the safety of our students and staff. This involves contact with Police and other relevant emergency services to assist in protecting our school. It is important that in the context of hoax calls being made to many schools that we maintain calm and do not alarm students, staff and families unnecessarily. However, In the event of a perceived real threat to the school, parents will be contacted via media services and through the school ‘App’ where instructions will be provided about parent responses. It is our intention to undertake a practice drill of our procedures so that new students and staff are well aware of what to do. Again, I assure you that your children are well protected from any threats made to the school and I ask that you assist us in maintaining calm over the coming weeks while this situation exists.

5. School Gates

Each day we close and sometimes lock gates to manage the movements of students in the school. You will find that when you come to the school during each day that the gates will be closed. Please feel free to open the gates to come in, but I ask that you ensure the gates are closed properly after you exit the school. I also ask that you sign in at the front office each time you come on site during the day. I seek your cooperation on these matters.

6. Students Arriving Early

To all of our families I wish to remind you that the school does not provide supervision to students before 8:30 each day. I ask that you do not send your child to school before this time and make alternative arrangements for them to be minded before school. This is a safety issue for your child and therefore I ask that you have arrangements in place to ensure they are safe. I look to your ongoing cooperation in this matter throughout the year.
7. School Furniture Available

With the technology room being refurbished we are replacing the current furniture with new and contemporary items that will better suit the needs of students in that learning space. So the old furniture is surplus to our needs. If any family wishes to take a long table or desk or any or the swivel, wheeled chairs they are more than welcome to do so. All furniture is in good condition and would be suitable for study areas at home. The tables might be great for a garage work bench. Please approach the front office if you would like some of the furniture items.

8. Primary Ethics

We are still looking to commence this program in Term 2. Remember the program will be available to students who are registered with the school as non-scripture students. We are still looking for volunteers to become teachers of the program and there is a non-teaching coordinator position available as well. If you might be interested in being involved in our ethics program. I ask you to contact Ms Julie Bell, Regional Manager, Wyong LGA Primary Ethics Ltd M: 0415 697 109. Alternatively enter your details onto the Primary Ethics website under the becoming a teacher tab and that will be sent through to Julie. You may also just approach me and I can put forward your name. Full free training will be provided.

Quality Workers/High Achievers This Week

We already have some quality work being produced. Congratulations to the following students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Students</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Work Samples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Harper Allsop</td>
<td>3M</td>
<td>Outstanding letter writing to his teacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caprice Lockhart</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>Independent work on Roman Numerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Angus Durrington</td>
<td>K-6M</td>
<td>Outstanding Sentence a Day Work.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Domonic Orme</td>
<td>K-6R</td>
<td>Improved handwriting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Brian Hilton  
Star of the Month Award

Congratulations to  
Luca Nicholls  
our  
Star of the Month

The first P&C Meeting for 2016 is on  
Tuesday, 16th February at 6:30pm in the school staff room.  
Come along and get involved in your school!  
All Welcome!

Primary Swimming Carnival @  
Swansea Pool  
Thursday, 25th February

Cost: $10.00 per student  
(Due 23rd Feb)
Welcome back to the Library for 2016

Our wonderful, amazing, super-duper (and almost irreplaceable) Librarian Mrs Knight retired at the end of 2015. So, I will be taking care of the Library during Term 1 this year. Mrs Anderson will also be working in the Library with me. She will have the classes every Thursday, while I do administrative work (in the Library).

All classes have been to the Library and Mrs Anderson and I are very happy to say that all students have been very excited to visit and have settled in to the changes beautifully. We are looking forward to working with all students to promote their love of books and reading.

Also this year, all classes will have a one hour lesson once a week (a change for Infants), so that means that every week your child will need to bring their Library bag so they can borrow on their Library day.

We look forward to all students being regular borrowers. Equally important is that they be regular returners. All Library books should be handled with lots of TLC and returned on time to the Library.

Here are the Library days for this year:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MONDAY</th>
<th>TUESDAY</th>
<th>WEDNESDAY</th>
<th>THURSDAY</th>
<th>FRIDAY</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>KBlue</td>
<td>2/3R</td>
<td>5/6D</td>
<td>5/6J</td>
<td>3M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KGreen</td>
<td>1G</td>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>K/1Red</td>
<td>3B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K-6R</td>
<td>2M</td>
<td>5/6S</td>
<td>2J</td>
<td>4B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5L</td>
<td>1/2B</td>
<td>5/6C</td>
<td>K-6M</td>
<td>4F</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1C</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

I will also be coordinating Book Club via the Library this year. I will have a ‘Book Club’ display and be distributing the brochures twice a term. There is something new from Scholastic this year. One brochure for all students – no more Wombat, Lucky, Arrow and Star – just one All Ages catalogue.

Mrs Anderson and I are hoping to keep the Library running as smoothly and amazingly as Mrs Knight had done for the past 29 years (no pressure!!) If you need any assistance, have any questions or would like to visit our Library, come and see me – I’m here every day!

Mrs Treharne
Lake Munmorah Public School
Parents As Teachers Program

The home/school partnership is one of the essential components of an effective school. We are looking at ways to strengthen family and community engagement in student learning and achievement at our school. As a means of strengthening and enhancing the home/school learning outcomes of our students, we are introducing a Parents As Teachers (PAT) Program in 2016. The program will run throughout the 2016 school year and will cover various topics that will enable Parents to provide greater support for their child(ren) at home.

The program will consist of three information sessions scheduled for weeks 3, 6 & 9 of each term. A total of twelve information sessions are currently planned for 2016, however additional sessions may be arranged based on Parent / Teacher feedback and demand.

Each session will be recorded (where possible) and the recordings will be made available via the LMPS website. This will enable Parents who couldn’t attend a session in person to view it online or for Parents to view the session again as a refresher.

Parents will also be eligible to receive a Certificate of Achievement in recognition of the number of information sessions they attend during the year. Different levels of achievement will apply for attending 3, 6, 9 or 12 twelve sessions during the year.

Parents will also have the opportunity to provide feedback after attending an information session or after viewing an online session to help improve future sessions or to improve the overall program.

The schedule provided on the next page includes the current list of topics planned for 2016. Additional topics may be added to the schedule based on Parent or Teacher feedback and demand. These new topics will be communicated out to Parents as early as possible to ensure you have sufficient time to register for the sessions.

Please turn over to view the program schedule and session dates.

Updated: 03/02/2016
Lake Munmorah Public School
Parents As Teachers Program

Please stick me on your “fridge”

Program Schedule

The following schedule tentatively outlines the session topics and session dates for the Parents As Teachers Program running throughout the 2016 school year. The schedule should be used as a guide only. Specific session dates and times will be confirmed closer to the presentation of the session.

Please keep this schedule handy or on your fridge, so you can register for the sessions you wish to attend closer to the session date.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term 1</th>
<th>Term 2</th>
<th>Term 3</th>
<th>Term 4</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Week 4:</td>
<td>Week 3:</td>
<td>Week 3:</td>
<td>Week 3:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>May 9 - 13</td>
<td>Aug 1 - 5</td>
<td>Oct 24 - 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feb 18th</td>
<td>Developing Reading</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Session Topic TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our School</td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 7:</td>
<td>Week 6:</td>
<td>Week 6:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 7 - 11</td>
<td>May 30 - Jun 3</td>
<td>Aug 22 - 26</td>
<td>Nov 14 - 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>Developing Writing</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Session Topic TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your Child’s Wellbeing</td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Session 1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Week 10:</td>
<td>Week 9:</td>
<td>Week 9:</td>
<td>Week 9:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mar 29 - Apr 1</td>
<td>Jun 20 - 24</td>
<td>Sep 12 - 16</td>
<td>Dec 5 - 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting</td>
<td>Developing Maths</td>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>Session Topic TBC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>your Child’s Wellbeing Session 2</td>
<td>Skills</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information on the Parents As Teachers Program, please refer to the information pack located on the LMPS website.

Updated: 03/02/2016
Session 1

"Our School"

Topics Covered in this Session
- Our School Vision
- School Curriculum
- School Language & Terms
- School Student Programs
- 21st Century Learning

PARENTS AS TEACHERS (PAT) Program

Tuesday 16th February - 5:30 - 7 pm
Thursday 18th February - 9:30 - 11 am
Location: School Community Room
Everyone’s Welcome to Come Along
School Diary

Please stick me on your ‘fridge’

TERM 1

February

16  6:30pm P&C Meeting
25  9:00am - 2:30pm Primary Swimming Carnival @ Swansea Pool

March

15  6:30pm P&C Meeting
16  Sydney North Primary Swimming Carnival @ Sydney Olympic Park Aquatic Centre
18  PHOTO DAY
23  4:45—6:00pm DISCO — Infants
    6:15—7:45pm DISCO — Primary
25  GOOD FRIDAY
26  EASTER SATURDAY
27  EASTER SUNDAY
28  EASTER MONDAY

April

8   LAST DAY OF TERM

TERM 2

25  ANZAC Day
27  STUDENTS RETURN TO SCHOOL