From the Principal

Welcome back to school

Welcome back to all of our Lithgow Public School families for the 2015 school year. We especially welcome our new Kinders and their families and we look forward to getting to know you and your children well over the next seven years! We also welcome back our school staff and introduce some new faces to the LPS team.

Our key priorities for 2015 involve uninterrupted literacy and numeracy blocks Monday – Thursday with extra-curricular activities designated to afternoons and Fridays. We are keen to streamline some of our school activities to bi-annual events. For example, in 2015 Stage 3 will attend Canberra and in 2016, Broken Bay. We will celebrate Book Week in 2015 and Carnivale in 2016.

One of the things I find in my role is that my days book up very quickly. If you need to visit to discuss a concern or other I would appreciate if you could please ring the Office and make an appointment (preferably the day before).

Absences

Please be sure to send in notes for full day and partial absences immediately on your child’s return to school. You can also ring through to the Office and leave a verbal explanation of absence for your child.

Also there have been changes to policy - as part of the implementation of the National Standards, holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences.

A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this purpose. Families are encouraged to holiday during school vacations.

Newsletter by email

If you would like to receive our weekly newsletter by email to home or work, please send an email to Judy at lithgow-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au and we will add you to our mailing list. The school newsletter is also uploaded to our school web site each week.

Live Life Well

Live Life Well is a key program at Lithgow Public. This year we would like to declare our school “Lolly Free”. Shortly you will receive a 2015 canteen menu. Please note that Aroona drinks and lollies are no longer available for sale. Research has shown the effects of excess sugar on children’s learning. Please support our program and provide a healthy lunch and snacks for your child.

In coming newsletters we will share with you tips of a healthy lunchbox.
Class teachers for 2015

Kinder: Assistant Principal: Mrs Roberts
  - Mrs Gordan
  - Mrs Graham
Stage 1 Assistant Principal: Mrs Kennedy
  - Mrs Ryan
  - Mrs Kempster
  - Mrs Seymour
  - Mrs Inzitari
  - Mrs Dyer (Instructional Leader)
Stage 2 Assistant Principal: Mr Gill
  - Mrs Donaldson
  - Ms Lothian
  - Mrs Brown
  - Mrs Van Der Velden
Stage 3 Assistant Principal: Ms Wren
  - Mrs Picman
  - Mr Kelly
  - Mrs Curran (OC)

Specialist Team
- Mrs Walsh  Mr Turnbull  Mrs Kelly
- Mrs Trounce  Ms Ashworth  Mrs Cowie
- Mr Wolfs  Mrs Whelan

Library: Ms Terpaj
School Counsellor: Mrs Conley
SEU Assistant Principal: Mrs Sweeney
  - Mrs Holmes
  - Mrs Hourigan

Office
School Administrative Manager: Ms Pettitt
  - Mrs Wilson
  - Mrs Bennett
  - Mrs Guest
  - Mrs Bradford

General Assistants
  - Mrs Brownlow
  - Mr Wilson

Sun Safe Policy
We were impressed to see how smart the children looked in their uniforms on their first day. Thank you for taking the time to ensure your children are in school uniform. It certainly presents our school well in the Lithgow community.

During the summer terms our school practices sun safe policy. All children must wear a hat to school.

Children who do not wear a hat will only be permitted to play in the shade. Our brimmed bucket hats with the LPS logo are available from the Uniform Shop for $13.00.

Please note **baseball caps are not part of the school uniform** and students will be asked to leave them in their bags and wear the school hat.

Children Arriving to School Early

The school's supervision roster starts from 8.35 am. There is no adult staff available to ensure the safety of children in the playground prior to that time.

We well understand that many parents have commitments at work that require them to leave before 8.30 am. You may be able to make arrangements with friends or neighbours for the supervision of your children. Some families in the school with working parents take turns to take each other's children to school. As well, many employers will be sympathetic to parents with responsibilities for caring for children and will allow some flexibility in parents' working hours. By law, employers are restricted from treating an employee detrimentally on the grounds of their status as a carer. Whatever arrangements you make, you need to understand that you remain legally responsible for the child prior to 8.35 am when LPS supervision begins.

Vicki O’Rourke Rel. Principal

LPS P&C

At the Annual General Meeting, office bearers will elected for 2015. A short meeting will follow the elections to allow for updates on building and maintenance projects around the school and for the Principal to speak to parents about the coming year.

All newcomers very welcome!

(Helen Swinton 0416054897)