Welcome to 2014 Parents and Carers!

We have had a fabulous start to the year with really settled classes full of students ready to learn. We can’t ask for much more than that! Nineteen new students from kindergarten to year 6 started with us last Monday as well as a full complement of preschoolers. They quickly settled into Latham and now look like they’ve been here forever. Welcome to our new staff too: Karen Wilson (Deputy Principal), Daniel Manestar (Executive Teacher and year 3/4 team leader), Jodie Lawton-Santos (year 5/6 teacher), Michael Chapman (year 3/4 teacher) and Cheryl Purcell (preschool assistant).

Change of Times
I think you all know that we have changed the school timetable although the start and end of day times remain unchanged from last year. Just in case you need to drop something off during the day and are hoping to see your children during class time, the day looks like this:

9:00–9:15 Assembly and class administration
9:15–10:45 Class time
10:45–10:50 Recess eating time
10:50–11:20 Recess play
11:20–12:50 Class time
12:50–1:00 Lunch eating time
1:00–1:30 Lunch play time
1:30–3:00 Class time

It’s coming off!
One of our Year 2 students, Rhiannon Barbour, has decided to raise money for this year’s Shave for a Cure. She is planning to cut her hair from her beautiful long locks to a shoulder length bob here at school on Friday 14 March. If you would like to support Rhiannon’s cause you can either put some money in the money box in the school front office or make a donation by typing in Rhiannon’s name at www.worldsgreatestshave.com. This is a noble cause that Rhiannon wants to support so I hope you can help her.

Vandalism in the car park
There have been two recent incidents where staff cars have been vandalised by students in our car park. We will keep our eyes open but could you please remind your children where they are to wait for you and what they should be doing while they wait. It’s also important that you are here to collect your child as soon after 3:00pm as you can. Children have worked hard here all day and are eager to get home to relax so please don’t make them wait too long!

Accessing the canteen
Students know this but for your information there is only one right way to access the canteen during recess and lunch time and that is through the side door closest to the canteen on the senior side. Students are not allowed to use other doors to get to the canteen but that seems to be what some of them are doing, and worse they are running with friends through corridors. Obviously we encourage children to order as much as possible in advance but I know that parents also give their children money to spend at their discretion. I would hate to have to stop this because children are not respecting our school rules. Could you please chat to them about this?

We are a green school
Our school aims to be as ecologically sustainable as we can. I’m sure you know all about our enormous worm farm where all our compost waste goes, and there are also paper recycling bins in all the classrooms. Our students are pretty good now at knowing which rubbish to put where. We have solar panels on our roof and are slowly in the process of replacing our windows with double glazing. We monitor our water consumption. We are also trying to reduce the amount of paper we use. One of the things you can do to help us reach our vision is to receive the school newsletter via email. Yes I know
many of you have jobs that entail many emails, but this way you can be assured of receiving the newsletter as soon as it comes out and never having to find it all screwed up at the bottom of your child’s school bag again!

If you absolutely must have your newsletter delivered by hard copy, please fill in the attached slip at the end of the newsletter and return it to the school front office, or alternatively phone the school secretary, Narelle Panneman, and let her know. There will be a couple of hard copies available in the front office if you want to read it here.

Remember that you are always welcome at here at school – let your child’s teacher know if you are available to help.

Kind regards,

Liz

P&C News

Welcome BBQ
Welcome back to another school year! Tuesday 18 February the P&C will be hosting a free welcome BBQ for the school community. This is a lovely opportunity to meet other Latham families or to catch up after the holidays. The BBQ will be at 4:30 to 6:00pm.

P&C AGM
Our AGM will be held on the same evening at 6:00pm in the school staff room, followed by the first general meeting. Please come along and support our wonderful P&C and if you are interested in a role on the P&C all positions will be open for nomination. If you are unable to attend on the evening but would like to nominate for a position, please contact me in advance.

Positions
- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Public Officer
- School Uniform Co-ordinator
- School Banking Co-ordinator
- Canteen Sub-Committee
- Fundraising Co-ordinator
- Fete Co-ordinator
- Fete Sub Committee
- Preschool Sub-Committee

I’m looking forward to meeting both old and new members of the Latham community.

Melissa Cruz-Willis
P&C President
0425 544 338

SLT News
Welcome to the first Student Leadership Team (SLT) newsletter for 2014. It is so great to be back at school after a fun and relaxing break. Over the last two weeks, it has been amazing to see lots of people wearing hats, playing together and getting along on the playground. It is also lovely to see students’ quality work decorating our corridors.

All the members of the SLT are very excited to be a part of this team and we are looking forward to making a difference at our school.

By Mackenzie Brown (SLT member)

Introducing Latham’s SLT…
Nathan Tokley
“I am looking forward to being a good role model for our school.”

Zac Maron
“I am looking forward to being a leader.”

Georgia Carter
“I think I will be good at encouraging kids to do their best.”

David O’Brien
“I like that everybody in the SLT is smart and sensible.”

Sophie Platt
“I am looking forward to helping to make our school a better place.”

Adam Middlemis
“I am looking forward to a fantastic school year.”

Cooper Pulver
“I am looking forward to being one of the leaders of our school.”

Mackenzie Brown
“I think this year will be fun, cool and amazingly awesome.”

Chloe Jurd
“I look forward to helping people this year”

Samuel Pink
“I think I’ll help other students who need a helping hand”
Preschool News
Are you new to the Preschool this year?
Joining the Preschool P&C sub-committee is a great way to get involved in the Latham community, to meet other Latham parents and help raise money for resources, play equipment and activities for the Preschool students.

Come to the Preschool on Wednesday 26th February at 3.30pm to meet with the previous committee members and find out how you can get involved. You don’t have to take up a position, the more the merrier. Bring the kids for afternoon tea and a play!

Library News
Hi and welcome new and old students to another great year at Latham Primary. My name is Heather Govender and I am the Library Assistant working Wednesday and Fridays in the library.

For your information:

- The Library is open at lunchtime for borrowing and also during class library time.
- We have a small collection of books for parents only which are available to be borrowed.
- Books can be returned back to the library before and after school.
- Scholastic Book Club Issue 1 needs to be returned by tomorrow, Friday, 14/02/14 with payment to the Front Office.

Thank you, and have a great week!

Music lessons at school
GUITAR LESSONS – Fretvision
Groups Sessions - $22 per session, beginning
Week 4, Wednesdays: 8–8:45am

PIANO LESSONS - FretVision
If you are interested, please see Sladjana.

School Banking

Susan, from the Commonwealth Bank, will be holding a School Banking Account morning on Monday, 17 February at 8:30am in the junior playground.
All parents will need to bring is your form of ID and the child’s birth certificate (if the school does not already have it).
School Banking teaches children financial literacy by bringing in their money every week, no matter if it is 5 cents! The children then get rewarded for their savings.

Did you know that with every child that joins the School Banking program thru Latham Primary, the school earns $5.00 in commission and 5% commission paid on all the children’s deposits throughout the term? Latham Primary last year earned $593.17 in commission through the School Banking program, WELL DONE!!
Come and join in the fun and learn to save with the School Banking Program and help your school in fundraising!

Regular school banking (for children who already have a Dollarmite account) commences tomorrow, 14 February. Children need to place their bank books in the grey banking bags that the teachers hold.

Sport Report
Welcome back everyone to another big year in sport at Latham Primary.
The first event coming up this term is the Laurie Daley Shield (Year 5/6) and the Mal Meninga Cup (Year 3/4) for Rugby League in week 5. Notes have gone home regarding selection trials and are due back on Wednesday, 19 February. If you didn’t receive one, they are available from Brett Maron or at the front office.
Trials for the Latham Primary swimming team to compete at the Belconnen Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) Swimming Carnival will be held in the next few weeks and notes will go home as soon as the pool confirms our booking.

In Term 1 a number of team sports hold trials for their Belconnen PSSA teams to participate in ACT carnivals. Notes will be available as those trials are announced, and I encourage all students in years 5 and 6 who play sport at a competitive level to try out for their particular sport.
The Latham Cross Country Carnival is scheduled for Week 9 and will no doubt once again be a massive day – more details closer to the event.

Brett Maron
Sports Teacher

National Ride to School Day

Wednesday 19 March 2014 marks the eighth National Ride2School Day, where over 250,000 Australian students, will ride, walk, scoot or skate to school. National Ride2School Day is about celebrating active travel within the school day and encouraging those who haven’t started to give it a go.
Here at Latham we are committed to improving our student’s road user’s awareness, health and safety and general fitness.

- It’s a great way to get fit, healthy and contributes to the 60 minutes of daily recommended physical activity for students
- Students arrive alert, more attentive and ready to learn – a bit of exercise improves concentration and readiness to learn.
- Reduced congestion on our roads around school gate and less conflict around school parking areas.

We aim to create an active travel culture within our school community and during 2014 we hope to increase the level of opportunities available for students to do so.
Please encourage your child/children to participate and make a bold statement within our local school community. A healthy breakfast will be served to all participants, so please arrive early.

For more information please contact:
Kimani Chikwendu, Student Welfare Officer, 0434 926 271

Community News

Belnorth Football Club

Play the beautiful game with Belnorth Football Club in 2014
Register to play with Belnorth now. You can register online at http://www.myfootballclub.com.au/ or attend one of our registration days:
Saturday 8 February – Belconnen Soccer Club, McKellar. 10am - 1pm
Saturday 1 March – Rebel Sport, Westfield Belconnen. 10am - 1pm
There are many levels of competition, with children as young as 4 (turning 5 in 2014) (Pee Wees) participating in weekly games and skills sessions.
Grading for players U10 to U17 starts Monday 24 February, players must be registered to participate.
Sign up now as registrations will close soon!
For more information about the club and registration visit www.belnorth.org or email us at admin@belnorth.org

Dance Northside

... for people who simply love to ...
Dance!
www.dancenorthside.com.au
Dance Northside is a community-focused, inclusive and recreational dance school based in Kaleen, ACT which provides quality, age-appropriate, educational, non-competitive and fun dance classes in a safe and nurturing environment, for student’s age 18 months up to adult’s.
We are currently taking new enrolments for 2014!
For more information or to enrol please feel free to contact Dance Northside’s Artistic Director Holly Diggle (BA Dance) on 0413 049 625 or email holly@dancenorthside.com.au

Belconnen Sharks Rugby League Registration Day –
Sunday 16 February, 2014
Are you interested in playing rugby league in 2014?
We have teams from Under 6 through to Under 16.
If you are interested in playing, registration is from 10.00am to 2.00pm at McDonald’s Charnwood on Sunday 16 February. Any questions please contact Peter Cook (peterandsharon@iinet.com.au) or 0403 310 084.

Life skills, leadership, fun and Adventure
Scouting is a worldwide movement that has shaped the development of youth and adults for over 100 years. The aim of Scouting is to encourage the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual development of young people so they may play a constructive role in society as responsible citizens and as members of their local and international communities. This aim is achieved through a strong and active program that inspires young people to do their best and to always be prepared. Scouts ACT would like to invite you to a free 3 week trial of scouting. For more information, Call 1800 SCOUTS or visit our website, www.scoutsact.com.au