Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all refreshed after the three day long weekend. Unfortunately with the weather taking a cooler turn the chance of sickness increases. Last week we were hit hard with staff absences and this week is not looking much better. I endeavour to find replacement staff however sometimes it is unavoidable to have to split a class. To support our staff wellness it is advisable that you remind students about personal hygiene (washing hands, covering mouths when sneezing/coughing etc.) and those students who are unwell should stay home to recover.

Another important event which is happening at the moment is report writing. Teachers are working hard to write the most accurate and up-to-date report of your child’s skills and areas of development. When reports come home on Friday of Week 9, I suggest that you start on the back page where the teachers have written detailed comments based on their records of what your child has achieved and a list of goals and strategies so they can continue to grow and learn. After reading those comments and discussing them with your child it is important to look at the achievement and effort grades and finally the A-E report (Years 1-6). It saddens me when students come to school the following school day and all they can tell you are the A-E grades they received. A-E grades are important if read in context and analysed. They are based on the achievement standards which are printed on the reverse side of the report and a ‘C’ grade is what a student would expect to receive if they match the description in the achievement standard. Happy reading! Three-way interviews will be conducted in Week 10. Please note that this will be a different format than you are used to; students are expected to attend. Notes from your child’s teacher will be coming home shortly with information about how you can make an appointment.

Good luck to our footballers who will be participating in the finals of the Sullivan Shield next Tuesday with Macgregor Primary School. Next Tuesday is also busy for the Kindergartners who are off to the Farmyard Nursery.

Swimming – Royal Life Saving Swim and Survive
Thank you to all the parents who sent back the expression of interest regarding their child participating in the Swim school in Term 3. Permission notes will be sent home next week and will be due back on Friday July 4. Permission notes will only be sent home to families who indicated they wanted their child to participate. If you would like your child to participate then copies of the permission note will be available from the Front Office/school website on Monday 16 June.

Enjoy the last three weeks of Term 2.

Daniel

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people – traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.
**Merit Awards**


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**DIJ Kids Parents’ Meet & Greet**

Thank you to the families who attended our first meeting. It was great for the existing DJJ Kids families of the group to be able to have a chat with new families from the younger classes.

Yehudiy and I appreciated the opportunity to share our proposed program with you and gain your input as well.

The next get together is on Tuesday, 1 July from 3:15pm-4:00pm in the school library.

Hope to see you there for a cuppa and a chat.

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**NAIDOC Week, 30 June–4 July**

1. There is a **DIJ KIDS Excursion** on Tuesday, 1 July from 9:15am-12:00pm. This will be a guided Bush Tucker Tour of the Botanical Gardens.
   Cost: Nil

2. **Whole School Performance**
   On Thursday, 3 July, there will be a performance of ‘Let’s Bridge the Gap’ with Fred Reid
   Cost: $2 per student

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**Maths at Home**

**Cuppa and Chat**

For parents with children aged 4-8 years

**Wednesday 2 July, 9:30 am**

We know you as parents want to support your child at home with maths, but times have changed!

To assist you, we will be having an informal chat, over a cuppa in our school staffroom, showing you some of the things we do in the classroom to teach maths, as well as give you some fun, practical and easy ideas on how to help your children at home.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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**Australian School Climate Measurement Tool (ASCMT) survey**

This school is continually interested in gaining information that will assist in school planning and making decisions on an informed basis. To this end, the school in partnership with the Australian National University and the ACT of Education and Training Directorate is surveying staff, students and parents/carers. The aim is to gather information about the school’s social climate, day-to-day experiences, the strengths of the school, and the future challenges. This survey will take place this term (Term 2, 2014). You will receive an e-mail from the school today with a link to the survey and students will complete the survey at school.

We hope to be able to discuss the findings of the survey with you at a future time and feel that gathering this information annually is important in ensuring the quality of the relational and wellbeing climate of the school for staff, students and parents/carers.

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**Nationally Consistent Collection of Data**

The Nationally Consistent Collection of Data project collects data from schools about the number of students who require adjustments to participate in education. It will present a national picture of the supports schools provide students. From 2015, this information will be collected in every school across Australian, every year. The purpose of the process is to help governments to target support and resources in schools to help all students reach their potential.

During Term 2 2014 all ACT Public Schools will be taking part in the Nationally Consistent Collection of Data (NCCD). Schools will identify students who need adjustments and are identified as meeting a broad definition of disability. This definition is based on the Disability Standards for Education 2005 which is an inclusive definition of what constitutes a disability and does not require a medical or professional diagnosis. If your child currently requires some additional support at school they may be included in the data collection.

Examples of the sorts of adjustments and supports a school may provide include:

- Small group literacy and numeracy sessions
- Modified tasks
- Additional time to complete tasks

A letter will be sent home to families of students that have been identified as requiring adjustments and supports. This letter will outline the process and ask for your permission to include your child in the data collection. No names or personal information is collected as part of the collection process. More information about the NCCD can be found at the Australian Government Department of Education website.


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**SLT News**

**Dress down for Kerobe!**

Latham Primary School has a partner school in Kenya called Kerobe Joybright. As part of the Global School Partners program, Latham has raised money to buy water tanks so that the students at Kerobe have clean water to drink. We have also contributed towards new classrooms, books and other educational resources for the school.
All our efforts are really making a difference for our partner school however, this week, the SLT received the sad news that almost half of the classrooms at Kerobe have been demolished due to roads being built in the area. Now we need your help to rebuild these classrooms and give the students and teachers a place to work again.

Over the coming weeks, the SLT will be organising some fundraising events to help our partner school. We are getting the ball rolling with a Mufti Day. Everyone loves dressing up (or down in this case), so next Thursday, 19 June come to school in something comfortable. You might like to wear your pyjamas, a comfy track suit or even a onesie. Just remember to ‘Dress Down for Kerobe’ and bring a gold coin donation. The money raised from this Mufti Day will be going towards a temporary classroom for the students at Kerobe.

Library News
Hi everyone, our Book Fair is on until tomorrow, Friday 13 June, so come on in and pick up some good books. Remember it is also a great opportunity to buy early birthday presents and Christmas gifts!

OVERDUE NOTICES: As we are coming towards the end of the term please look out for overdue notices coming home soon. If you have any trouble finding the book/s please let me know either personally, note or Front Office.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

“A book is a gift you can open again and again.”
— Garrison Keillor

Happy reading,
Heather Govender

From the Psychologist

Consequences and Behaviour
Part 3
In my last article, I wrote about 3 types of negative consequence that can be used successfully in parenting. Here are some important factors to consider when using any form of consequence:

- **Use consequences consistently.** Related consequences, loss of privileges or time-out as a last resort might be used when the child ignores reminders and breaks rules, but you should apply them in the same way and for the same kinds of behaviour every time. It’s very confusing for children if something they do earns a negative consequence today but did not do so yesterday.

- **Apply negative consequences to all children in the family.** Even very young children will be upset if they see other children not being treated in the same way as them.

- **Keep consequences short.** They don’t have to be harsh, mean or long to be effective. The advantage of keeping a consequence short is that you quickly give your child an opportunity to try again. For example, if the television is turned off for 10 minutes because children are fighting over it, they will quickly have another opportunity to solve the problem in a different way. If it is turned off for the rest of the day, there are no more opportunities in the day for them to learn to manage the situation differently. Also, a long consequence can be worse for parents than children – a child deprived of his bike for a week is likely to get bored and cranky!

- **Reserve consequences for children over three.** Children younger than this won’t really understand consequences, particularly if they don’t understand the connection between their actions and the outcomes of those actions. Consequences will just feel unfair to them.

- **Wherever possible, explain consequences to the children ahead of time so they don’t come as a surprise.** Negotiating consequences ahead of time makes them more effective and easier to implement if they are ever needed.

- **In most situations, warn your children before you implement the consequence.** For example, ‘Guys, this yelling is just too loud for me! If you can’t work out what to watch on television without screaming at each other, I will turn it off for 10 minutes’. Beware of the trap of repeated warnings or not following through. The exception to giving a warning before a consequence is where you have a well-established family rule. There might be important rules where a consequence will immediately follow the breaking of the rule.

- **Timeliness** is important: as soon as possible after the behaviour.

- **On the other hand, it’s best not to impose a consequence immediately if you are feeling very angry.** There is a danger that you might overreact and be too harsh. Instead, say something like, “I am feeling very angry at the moment. We will talk about this again in a couple of minutes when I am feeling calmer”.

It pays to implement consequences calmly and in a neutral tone. Try not to make it personal — instead of talking about a ‘bad child’, talk about the rule and the child’s behaviour. Getting very angry or frustrated makes the child more likely to think about how mad you are (which can be rather entertaining, scary or exciting) rather than about learning from the situation.

Please contact me at the school on Thursdays, and via the Front Office any day, if you’d like to discuss any concerns you have about your child/ren.

David Austin, School Counsellor

Mufti Day
The SLT is organising a ‘Dress Down for Kerobe’ Mufti Day on Thursday, 19 June, to raise money for new classrooms at Kerobe Jyobright School in Kenya.

Just dress down into something comfortable to wear to school and remember your gold coin donation.
P & C News

A Fete brainstorm will be held next Monday, 16 June 2014, at 3:15pm on the junior playground. Everyone’s ideas are welcome.

Thank you to all who attended, and contributed to, our ‘Australia’s Biggest Morning Tea’ in the Cottage last Friday. We raised $115 for the Cancer Council.

Slice Drive Fundraiser

Order forms are available from the front office if you are interested in placing an order. Orders must be returned to the front office by Thursday, 3 July. Orders will be placed during the holidays for delivery early in Term 3.

Thank you for your support,
Janine Lancaster, fundraising.lathampandc@gmail.com

The P&C Fete Committee invites you to a Fete Craft Night on Monday, 23 June 2014 at 6.30pm in the Cottage.

We have a few projects for the Fete on the go, but we'd love to hear your ideas. Bring your own project, or help out on one of the group projects.

If you’re good with a glue gun, a pair of scissors or a crochet hook, we need you!
If you’ve never crafted, but you’d like to hang out with some lovely people and help the school at the same time, we need you too!

All materials have been donated. That means 100% profit to go directly to our children’s needs. Come along for coffee, cake & craft – no experience necessary!

For more information, please call Lena on 0431 061 814 email benlena@optusnet.com.au or message the Latham P&C Facebook page.

News from the P & C President

Hello everyone,

Well we are nearly at the end of Term 2, I can’t believe that we are half way through the school year. We have had a cracker of a first half of the year and I am looking forward to the build up to the School Fete to be held in October. We are having a P and C meeting on Friday 13 of June at 9:15 am in the cottage, all welcome and we would love to see you.

Constitution

Did you have a chance to have a look at the revised Constitution of the Latham Primary School P & C?

A special meeting will be called on Friday, 20 June at 9:30am to pass the new P & C Constitution. Many thanks to those people that have given me feedback already, it has been a great help.

If you would like a copy of the constitution, please call Katherine on 0416 248 411 to discuss.

Canteen – Latham Lunchbox

Over the next few weeks the canteen will be trialling some new ideas and food options, we will be offering a few special meal options such as the sausage sizzle planned for next Thursday. We regularly review the food that the canteen provides to ensure that it is still meeting the needs of the students. I am so thrilled to have Beth and Michele working in the canteen and focused on providing the Latham students yummy meals.

If you have any suggestions regarding the food at the Latham Lunchbox then please come along to a Think Tank planned for after the Special Meeting on Friday, 20 June around 10am.

Many congratulations go to Leah who recently gave birth to a delightful little boy called Aiden, wishing her family all the best.

Jelly Bean Month

Thanks go to Michelle Butters for running a terrific Fundraiser for Juvenile Diabetes; the cupcakes were terrific.

P & C Happenings

- Coffee and Craft morning every Friday 9:15am in the Cottage – everyone welcome
- Grab a cuppa after school assembly every 2nd Wednesday in the Cottage until 3:00pm
- Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1303561837032967/
- P & C Meeting tomorrow, Friday, 13 June, 9:15am

Any questions please give me a ring on 0416 248 411, Cheers
Katherine Stock, Latham P & C President

Thank you for supporting Jelly Baby Day/Cupcake Day

I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who purchased a cupcake on Jelly Baby Day/Cupcake Day. Your support is much appreciated.

Who loved seeing my Jelly Baby friend Jasper? He was so excited to see you all and he had so much fun at Latham Primary School.

Thank you to Sophie, Georgia and Jesse for helping me sell the cupcakes.

From your efforts, Latham Primary School raised $599.25. This consisted of money raised from the Jelly Baby Guessing Jar, the colouring in competition, Jelly Baby Dress Up Day and Cupcake Day.

Congratulations to Piper S from Kindergarten who guessed the correct number of Jelly Babies in the Jelly Baby Guessing Jar Competition. Her guess of 406 was the exact amount of Jelly Babies in the jar. Well Done Piper!! If you would like to see how close you were to guessing the correct number, a list of the guesses are on the wall next to the colouring in competition pictures next to Karen’s office.

The Jelly Baby colouring in competition was judged by Liz. Thank you to every student who put in the effort to colour in a picture. You all did an amazing job!! All of the pictures are currently located on the wall next to Karen’s office.

Congratulations to the following students who won a packet of jelly babies:
Starr T (K), Rheed S (Yr 1), Daniel C (Yr 2), Erika K (Yr 3), Lily S (Yr 4), Olivia D (Yr 5) and Sophie P (Yr 6). No entries were received from the Preschool.

Thank you to everyone who dressed up as their favourite Jelly Baby colour and donated a gold coin.

This much needed money is appreciated by JDRF, Aiden and myself. The money will go towards supporting Australia’s best diabetes research and hopefully one day, a cure will be found for Type 1 diabetes.

Thanks,
Michelle Butters
Mum of Aiden Butters,
diagnosed with Type 1 Diabetes at aged 7

Community News

STTS Student Exchange are seeking
Aussie families who are busy, friendly,
interested in other cultures and willing
to welcome an STS exchange student
into their family from July 2014.

Aussie families come from all walks of life and all cultural backgrounds, that’s what makes up our country. Our volunteer host families provide room & board and treat their host son or daughter as a member of their own family. Exchange students have their own spending money and medical insurance.

While your exchange student is learning about Australian culture, your family members will learn about theirs.

What a great way for your children to learn about another country!

Contact us today to start your adventure in student exchange!
Contact Emily on 0478 837 814 email: e.gall@hotmail.com
STS Student Exchange, PO Box 666,
Hornsby NSW 1630 ABN 35 095790177
STS is registered with the Department of Education of ACT.

Bring cultural exchange into your home!

NOW TAKING ENROLMENTS FOR 2015

What is Possums Playschool?

Playschool is a stepping stone to Preschool.

It is organised by a parent committee funded solely by parent fees and employs fully qualified and experienced Early Childhood educators and Teachers Aides. Possums has been operating since 2001. Children come to learn through play. Activities include: many different crafts, painting, play dough, imaginative play, outdoor play and early literacy learning. Possums also takes part in community programs such as Action Bus Wash, Kenny Koala and The Reptile Man.

Who Can Attend?

Children who have turned 3 are able to attend one or more sessions a week.

Where is Possums?

Possums is located at 98 Fullager Crescent, Higgins (the old preschool building)

What are the Sessions?

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 9.30 am – 2.30 pm

How Much Does it Cost?

Fees for 2015 are:
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: $53 per session

Fees are paid in advance per school term.

Once enrolled it is hoped that your child will attend for the whole school year.

For more information please visit www.possumsplayschool.org
or email possumsenrolments@hotmail.com

U Can Sing

The University of Canberra’s very own children’s choir is welcoming new students.

For those who love to sing, and want to learn vocal techniques, musicianship, performance skills, and make new friends. More info at http://www.canberra.edu.au/music/choirs/u-can-sing