Parents and Carers,

I would like to thank the school community for being so welcoming in my first month at Latham. Many people have popped in to say hello or caught me in the corridors. Starting at a new school is always exciting and I have thoroughly enjoyed it.

Latham Preschool
As an experienced Early Childhood teacher I have the pleasure of spending a few hours per week at the preschool. Both groups have settled really well, engaging with the learning opportunities provided. Opportunities to explore and extend thinking are available both in the indoor and outdoor environments.

The Early Years Learning Framework (EYLF) underlies the preschool program. The Framework forms the foundation for ensuring that children in all early childhood education and care settings experience quality teaching and learning. It has a specific emphasis on play-based learning and recognises the importance of communication and language (including early literacy and numeracy) and social and emotional development. Within this, there is a focus on Being, Belonging and Becoming.

**Belonging** – knowing where and with whom you belong – is integral to human existence. Belonging acknowledges children’s interdependence with others and the basis of relationships in defining identities. In early childhood, and throughout life, relationships are crucial to a sense of belonging.

**Being** recognises the significance of the here and now in children’s lives. It is about the present and them knowing themselves, building and maintaining relationships with others, engaging with life’s joys and complexities, and meeting challenges in everyday life.

*Belonging reflects the process of rapid and significant change that occurs in the early years as young children learn and grow. It emphasises learning to participate fully and actively in society.*

**Senior boys’ toilet**
Over the past two weeks we have unfortunately had a spate of vandalism and unsafe behaviours in the senior boys’ toilets. These incidents are occurring both during class times and breaks. All students in years 3-6 have had conversations about respect for school property. If incidents continue we will need to bring in a process whereby the toilets are locked and students will be required to collect a key from the front office. We would appreciate it if you could support our message by having conversations with your own children.

**Evacuation**
Congratulations to all parents and students for the response to last Wednesday’s impromptu evacuation. The downpour of rain set off a sensor in the hall requiring all people on the site to relocate to the basketball court.

Thank you to all parents who were patient about dismissal and retrieving bags. Please remember that in the interest of all members of our community, directions given by the fire warden (Liz Bobos) must be followed. The ‘all clear’ message must be given by her for community members to enter the building.

Please continue to communicate with your child’s class teacher or one of the executive team if you have any concerns.

Kind regards,
Karen

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

Wisdom from the Counsellor
Getting your children ready for school or to leave the house can be a challenge. Here’s a fun way to encourage them to cooperate.

Do you find yourself nagging and shouting a lot in the mornings? Try ‘Beat the buzzer’, a game developed by researchers from RMIT University, Victoria.

The key to this game is rewarding your child for being on time and ready. Praising your child will make an enormous difference. Parents often don’t feel like praising their child for being ready on time because it’s behaviour that is expected. But if you don’t praise it, don’t expect it!

How to play ‘Beat the buzzer’
1. Explain that you want to introduce a game called ‘Beat the buzzer’ to help with getting ready in the mornings.
2. Establish a ‘ready time’ – your child must be ready for school at this time.
3. Together, write a list of what your child needs to do in the morning. With younger children, you do the writing, but ask them to help you draw a picture for each step. Explain exactly what you expect children to do on their own and what you will help with. The list might look something like:
   - Eat breakfast
   - Get dressed
   - Brush teeth/wash face/brush hair
   - Pack bag
   - Put on jacket/hat/shoes
4. Put the agreed list where your child can check it throughout the morning.
5. Explain to your child what will happen if they’re ready on time, and what will happen if they’re not.
6. Choose some special rewards for beating the buzzer. Make up a simple chart to keep track of success with ticks or stickers. Activities with mom or dad are often the most effective rewards.
7. Choose some appropriate consequences for not being ready. These could include not being allowed to watch TV, or going to bed 10-15 minutes earlier. Don’t remove ticks or stickers from the chart as a consequence, as your child needs to see progress if it happens.
8. Let your child know that you have set the kitchen timer for the required amount of time. Now it’s up to them.
9. Watch for your child being independent and responsible. Praise and encourage, but avoid giving reminders and instructions – this just leads back to nagging and fighting.
10. If your child gets all the tasks done by the time the buzzer sounds, they win!

After a week or two of success, ‘raise the bar’. Your child might need to be on time two, three, four, then five days in a row to earn the reward (make the reward a little bigger each time). Then make rewards a surprise. Your child won’t know when a reward is on offer – it just happens every now and then. Even when your child is regularly ready on time, praise him or her occasionally. It’s free!

When your child is not ready
If, at the end of the time, your child isn’t ready:
   - Calmly let them know that the buzzer has sounded, and get them ready

- Remind them that they can try again the following morning
- Follow through calmly with the consequence you decided on. Now is not the time to negotiate

Source: Australia’s Raising Children network

David Austin

SLT News
Rain, Rain Go Away
Our SLT report this week is about the rain that occurred on Wednesday, 16 February, which flooded parts of the school.

After our assembly on Wednesday afternoon, the evacuation alarm was activated by water entering the electrical system. Some students were panicking and were looking for their parents but members of the SLT helped young children to feel safe and calm. Eventually the fire brigade came and sorted everything out.

Liz and Manuel both agreed that it was a challenging afternoon that was handled well by students and staff.

By David O’Brien and Adam Middlemis

Rhiannon’s countdown
It is just 2 weeks to go before Rhiannon Barbour loses her beautiful long hair 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 is supporting so please dig deep and donate.

Newsletter via email
Latham Primary is well on its way to going green!!!!
Please help us achieve this goal by getting the newsletter by email. If you wish to join the distribution list for the newsletter by email, please email the school IMMEDIATELY at info@lathamps.act.edu.au or send a note to the office with your address and child’s name CLEARLY WRITTEN.
If you wish to still receive a HARD COPY of the newsletter, please fill in the slip at the end of the newsletter.

School Board
The nomination period for the P&C Position on the School Board has been reopened from 11:00am, Friday 28 February to 11:00am, Friday 14 March.
If you would like to nominate for this position, nomination forms are available at the front office or email melissa.cruz-willis@ed.act.edu.au.
For further information contact Melissa Cruz-Willis, Assistant Returning Officer - 0425 544 338
Request for help
Does anyone in the school community own, or have a connection with, a printing business? The school would appreciate the donation of the end of a printing-paper roll.

Jodie Lawson-Santos
Year 5/6 teacher

Free one day workshop for
PARENTS/CARERS of school age students on the autism spectrum

The positive partnerships initiatives have been developed and delivered by Partnerships between Education and the Autism Community (PEAC) and funded by the Australian Government Department of Education, through the Helping Children with Autism package. This workshop is the first of two workshops being held in the ACT this year. The second workshop is planned to be on the Southside around September.

Workshop details
Where: Northside at Raiders, Kippax
When: Wednesday 2 April (World Autism Day!!)
       9:00am – 4:30pm (registration from 8:15am)
Register online at www.positivepartnerships.com.au

Library News
Hi everyone.
Scholastic Book Club orders have been delivered and if you have any questions please let me know. Also I just want to highlight the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge which started in Term One. For those who are new to the CMRC this is when children are encouraged to read eight (8) books from the Chief Minister’s Reading Challenge lists and four (4) books of their own personal choice. We are aiming for 100% participation school wide so please encourage your children to read, read, read!

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK
“There are many little ways to enlarge your child’s world. Love of books is the best of all.”

- Jacqueline Kennedy

Happy reading,
Heather Govender

Sport Report
Trials for the Latham Primary School swimming team to compete at the Belconnen Primary School Sports Association (PSSA) Swimming Carnival will be held on Monday, 3 March at CISAC Belconnen. Notes are still available at the front office but must be returned tomorrow (Friday 28 February).
We have dates confirmed for Belconnen PSSA team trials for the following sports in March:
   Boys Cricket, Girls Softball, AFL, Netball, Boys and Girls Touch Football, Boys Soccer and Rugby League.
If you are in year 5 or 6 and play one of these sports at a competitive level and want to trial for the Belconnen team, come and see me to get a note.

Good luck to the year 5/6 and year 3/4 Rugby League teams competing in the Mal Meninga Cup and Laurie Daley Shield next week.

Notes:
All PSSA swimming notes are due tomorrow, Friday 28 February.

Brett Maron
Sports Teacher

Community News

Kids love Our Children’s Program
Maximise your child’s Development Through this critical stage in life

Our Children’s program offers a professionally designed age-specific curriculum that has been especially developed to teach children in a fun and enriching way.
As a student in this program, your child will quickly develop higher levels of concentration and self-control. They will become better listeners at home and school. They will improve their focus, coordination. The school age is critical for development.
Make sure your child is getting advantages from them by entering our school program today.

Our Children’s program will help your child to develop:
   • Coordination • Fitness • Concentration • Balance • Confidence • Self-Control

Latham Primary
Wed 6.00pm

All Enquiries
Phone 0414 898 888
www.nationaltaekwondo.com.au

Kidsoccer – pre-season skills based program
Are you playing soccer this winter?
Give yourself a great headstart by joining our skills-based term 1 program.
Kidsoccer runs skills-based, age appropriate programs for pre-school and primary aged children. Our program is designed specifically for children from ages 3 to 12.
Whether you are new to soccer or wanting to play Division1, we have the program for you.
We have sessions available at O’Connor, Bonner, Garran and Hughes – visit www.kidsoccer.info for all the details. It is never too late to register with us. Keep fit, make new friends and impress your old ones with your new found agility and ball skills.
Position Vacant
An opportunity exists at Gold Creek School for a Defence Transition Mentor/Defence School Transition Aid.

The successful applicant will provide information and support across the whole P-10 school and develop a range of activities for the young people of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) families to ease the uncertainty experienced during times of transition.

Directorate: Education & Training
Hours per week: 31:15
Section: Gold Creek School
Salary range: $39431 - $43728
Classification: School Assistant 2/3
Position Title: Defence Transition Mentor/Defence School Transition Aid

Closing date for applications:
Wednesday 5 March 2014

Contact Officer: Priscilla Wray

The selection criteria can be obtained from the contact officer. Further information about the position please contact Priscilla Wray, Associate Principal Gold Creek School on 62051814 or email Priscilla.wray@ed.act.edu.au.

Can Saver Plus assist you with school costs?

Join Saver Plus and match your savings, dollar for dollar, up to $500 for educational costs including:
- school uniforms and textbooks
- computers, laptops and tablets
- excursions and camps
- sports equipment, uniforms and lessons
- music tuition and instrument hire.

You may be eligible if you have a Health Care or Pensioner Concession Card, are at least 18 years old, have some regular income from work (you or your partner) and have a child at school or study yourself.

Contact Brent Beyer, your local Saver Plus Worker:
(02) 6283 7606 / 0448 739 305
or brent.beyer@thesmithfamily.com.au

Saver Plans is developed by HAE and the Brotherhood of St Lawrence and is delivered across the Country through a service agreement by The Smith Family.
This program is funded by HAE and the Australian Government.
Junee Rhythm and Rail Festival, 7-9 March 2014

The Qube Rhythm ‘n’ Rail Festival is one of the town’s biggest tourist attractions. Junee has a long and important rail heritage (including the early NSWGR days), which is celebrated during this three-day event. Events include excellent food, wine & music.

**Chocolate World, Friday 7th, 9am-6pm**

Venue – Junee Licorice and Chocolate Factory
Entry Fee – Factory Tours Adult $4.00, School Age Child $2.50, Freckle making $4.00, Rocky Road Making $8.00

The Chocolate Factory is attempting a Guinness Book of Records World attempt for the Longest Piece of Licorice - they are attempting 500m! All visitors to the factory will be able to hold and keep their piece of the record on Saturday, 8 March at approx. 11am.

We are really seeking your help to increase attendance on this day! – How about coming!!!

**NEWSLETTER BY HARD COPY**

I wish to receive the newsletter by hard copy. Please note that if you do not return this note to school, you will only be able to access the newsletter via the school website [www.lathamps.act.edu.au](http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au)

Child’s name and class ____________________________________________________________

Signed _________________________________________ Your name ____________________________