Dear parents and carers,

We have officially hit the busy time of the Term 4 calendar. The staff are preparing to write reports and so they are busily gathering all the evidence they will use to form the most comprehensive picture of the students they teach. To add to the busyness they are also getting ready for other major events such as the school concert and the Year 6 graduation.

**Staff Learning**

Yesterday, the teachers used the staff meeting to visit each other’s classrooms to see evidence of the learning and in particular the different methods the teachers use to empower the students to take ownership over their learning. Over the last few years the school has embarked on a journey to make the learning more ‘visible’. This is based on research done by John Hattie. Essentially the crux of his work focuses on the impact of students taking responsibility for their learning and understanding why they are doing what they are doing. In the classroom this could be presented in many different ways including having the learning intention for the lesson displayed and discussed throughout the lesson, developing a criteria for success so the students can judge their work against an agreed set of expectations and reflection at the completion of a task or lesson. Yesterday’s staff meeting was an excellent opportunity for staff to learn from each other.

**Events - Swimming**

In Weeks 3 and 4, 101 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 participated in the Royal Life Saving Society’s ACT Primary Schools’ Swim and Survive program. Over the two weeks the students were taught to be water aware as well as building their confidence in and around water. I personally want to acknowledge and thank the teachers who supported the students at the pool as well as the teachers who continued programs back here at school. It was a huge disruption to the school timetable but well worth the time and effort.

**Events – Melba Copland Dance Showcase**

Last Tuesday Latham Primary School was represented by a large number of 5/6 students at the annual Melba Copland Dance Showcase. Our students performed two numbers and then joined the rest of the performers on stage for the big finale. It was very impressive to see the students’ time and hard work come together in a very entertaining way. Thanks to Mardi from Melba Copland for teaching the students and to Jodie, Michael and Ciaran for their support.

**Events – Preschool Information Session**

Yesterday, Karen and Amanda ran an information session for all our new preschool families. Lots of information was provided and many questions answered. We are all excited to welcome the newest group of students to start their educational journey at Latham.

**Events – Bandstravaganza**

Our fantastic band students are performing in Bandstravaganza on Monday evening at Llewellyn Hall. I want to wish them all the best and thank Sladjana for all her time and effort in preparing them for this exciting opportunity.

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people – traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.
Events – Gifted and Talented Education Information Session
Tonight, Jodie, Ian, Sladjana and I are holding an information session about gifted and talented education. The session will be in the library and it will start at 6pm. We will cover definitions, the directorate’s new policy, identification methods and where we are heading as a school to support students. If you haven’t RSVP but would like to come along then please feel free.

Transition Visits
There may be five weeks left of the 2014 school year but preparations are already in place for 2015. Preschool students have been visiting Kindergarten each Wednesday to get to know the classrooms, the types of learning that happens and to familiarise themselves with that part of the school. Another group who has been participating in transition visits are three Year 6 students from the LSU. They have had two visits to The Woden School in preparation for them going into high school next year. It is exciting to see the enthusiasm in the students’ faces.

Attention Year 6 Families
The ACT Government’s Secondary Bursary Scheme provides financial assistance to low-income families with students in years 7-10. To be eligible, applicants must have a current Centrelink card or Healthcare card with means tested codes. The ACT Secondary Bursary Scheme is an annual payment of $750 per applicant. To ensure eligible applicants receive payment for the start of the 2015 school year, applications must be lodged with the ACT Education and Training Directorate by 28 November 2014. Applications received after this date will be paid as soon as possible but payment may not be made until after school has commenced in 2015.

If you would like to apply, there are application forms available at our front office. Electronic copies can be found on the Directorate’s website at http://www.det.act.gov/school_education/starting_school/financial_assistance_for_families

School Concert
We are trying something different for this year’s end of year concert. The concert will be held at the Kingsford Smith School hall which has a large audience space and hopefully great sound facilities so families can hear their children’s fantastic performances. Lyndal, Di and Sladjana form our concert committee and they will be providing more details to you soon. Kingsford Smith is our feeder high school and the concert will provide another opportunity for our students to feel comfortable within this space.

I hope everyone makes the most of the last five weeks of Term 4.

Daniel

Merit Awards

SLT BOOK SWAP NEWS
We NEED your books!
The SLT is holding the annual Latham Book Swap on FRIDAY 21 NOVEMBER. The purpose of the book swap is to promote reading and support the Lifeline Bookfair. We still need lots more books to have enough for everyone to swap so please bring in any old books that you no longer read.

LIBRARY NEWS
Hi everyone!
Information Session for Library e-Resources
When: Thursday, 20 November
Time: 5:30-6:00pm
RSVP: Friday, 14 November
Dependent on numbers attending, a 30 minute information session will be held on Thursday, 20 November between 5:30-6:00pm in the Latham Primary School library. The meeting will consist of a quick overview of how to access the eBooks and audiobooks, a demonstration and a practice/Q&A session. Please RSVP by Friday to the Front Office. If the meeting is cancelled the people who have responded will be contacted either via email or telephone. Thank you.

One Day Only Scholastic Book Sale
BUY ONE GET ONE FREE!
For every book purchased you receive a second book of equal or lesser value FREE to give as a gift to a friend, teacher, or to donate towards the Latham Giving Tree, Library or keep it for yourself.

DATE: Thursday, 20 November 2014
TIME: 8-9am & 3-4pm

See you there!

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK
“I was reading a book... ‘history of glue’... I couldn’t put it down.”
-Tim Vine

Have a nice week. Heather Govender
AUSTRALIAN PROBLEM SOLVING
MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIADS

Congratulations to the following students from Years 3, 4, 5 and 6 who successfully completed the Junior Division of the Olympiads 2014. Well done on your efforts in stretching your mathematical minds!

A very bright future in mathematics here in Australia!

Our Latham Primary School Olympiad 2014 Team:

Special mention to Tom D for receiving the ‘Encouragement Award’ for his creative analysis of solving mathematical problems. Congratulations to Michael G-M for achieving the highest score at Latham Primary School.

Jodie Lawson-Santos
Maths Olympiad Coordinator

RIDE OR WALK TO SCHOOL NEWS

On Friday 31 October, our students were treated to an amazing BMX Demonstration from Backbone BMX. The event marked the final day of the week long Ride Safely to School Day.

Our students were absolutely delighted and enjoyed the fantastic stunts that Backbone BMX amazing riders performed. There was such a buzz in the air prior to, during and after the demonstration and I suspect that following the event, many of our students will want a BMX Bike for Christmas.

On behalf of our students and teachers at Latham Primary School, we would like to say ‘thank you Backbone BMX’ for such an amazing afternoon, we can’t wait to have you back at Latham Primary School.

Latham Primary School is a Ride or Walk to School, school and recognises the value of physical exercise and the added benefits this program brings.

Some of the benefits of riding or walking to school:

- Less traffic at the school gate eases drop off congestion
- Less cars means less pollution therefore a cleaner/healthier environment
- Increase physical activity – students are more likely to reach the recommended 60 minutes of physical exercise activity they need each day
- Students feel fresh and alert at the beginning of a school day
- Students feel happier, healthier and perform better in the class room
- Students become more aware of their surroundings
- Shared interest creates a strong school community

For all 5/6 Students – don’t forget Bike club is Thursday lunchtime.

Thanks

WEBSITE INFORMATION

There seems to be an issue with the Ical syncing on Microsoft Outlook for the school’s calendar events featured on the school website.

Due to issues with Microsoft Outlook adding 1 hour in daylight savings time and resulting inaccurate event time we recommend you DO NOT SYNC your Microsoft Outlook with the Ical feed on the schools website. The ETD website department re currently trying to resolve this issue. We apologise for any inconvenience this has caused.

Thank you
Melissa Cruz-Willis

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Looking for a new outfit for Christmas Day or another special event coming up, head to Blue Illusion on Friday 14 November from 4pm. Latham Primary School will receive 20% from ALL purchases made at Blue Illusion after 4pm!!! Please tell your family and friends. This is a great fundraiser for our school. Blue Illusion is located next to Kmart at Belconnen Mall. If you received a Blue Illusion show bag at the Fete there is a $25 voucher in there you can use at the same time!!
Let’s Give
Your gifts help a child celebrate this Christmas

Donate or volunteer at UnitingCare Kippax

www.kippax.org.au

The Mustard Seed
Uniting Food Pantry & Café.
Quality foods for those who need a hand!

Ali Welcome!

Every Thursday
11am-1pm and 6-7pm

Gungahlin Uniting Church.
In the heart of the Gungahlin town centre
The Valley Avenue.

62425001
www.gungahlinuniting.org
An activity of Gungahlin Uniting Church and Community Centre.

Lifeline Canberra
Fun Run & Half Marathon

RUN FOR YOUR LIFELINE CANBERRA
BE PART OF HISTORY: GATHER MARCHING THE FIRST TO POUND THE PARKWAY!

5KM 10KM
HALF MARATHON
SUNDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2014
Majura Parkway - Majura Valley
REGISTRATIONS: WWW.131114.ORG.AU
ALL FUNDS RAISED GO TOWARDS SUICIDE PREVENTION IN THE ACT COMMUNITY

UC HIGH SCHOOL
KALEEN
Under the big-top!
104 Baldwina Drive, Kaleen
TUESDAY 18th NOV
6:30pm
TIX: 0414 823417
www.bitesizedcircus.com

Tickets: limited seats
Standard kids $15, Adults $18
Ringside Kids $15, Adults $21