Dear parents/families,

Welcome to the 2017 school year. I hope you had a peaceful and relaxing break from the busyness of the school year and have returned this year full of energy! The children look and sound like they have. It’s always such a joy to see their faces in that first week back – so excited!

We welcome some wonderful new teachers into our community; I hope you get to know them well over the coming months. Mel Mongan is the executive teacher in charge of years 3-6 and responsible for EAL/D across the school. We also welcome Erin Weston who is teaching year 5/6 this year and Sally Parker our PE specialist. We are also thrilled to have Amanda Molloy who was on Maternity Leave and Kyle Ratcliffe who was teaching in England last year back to our staff. We have had a smooth yet busy start to the school year with classrooms looking ready for learning, students really focussed on their work and teachers working tirelessly to prepare for the term and year ahead.

You will see that as well as this newsletter, you will have been sent an invitation to meet your child/ren’s teacher next Wednesday afternoon from 3:30pm–5:30pm. You have an open invitation to move from room to room, see the learning spaces and meet the staff. Our wonderful P&C will be welcoming all families into the new school year by providing you with a barbeque, so please set aside some time to come to Latham that afternoon. Term overviews will be home this week, so please have a good look at them, save them somewhere you can refer to them, and come with questions related to the term’s learning program should you have any. Your teachers will be ready to answer them!

You have also been sent Term 1’s calendar which is current at the time of printing but for the latest version, please refer to the school’s website:
Just a reminder to you that if you are planning on working with children this year in a voluntary capacity then you need to have an up to date Working with Vulnerable People registration. Registration is free for volunteers and can be obtained by contacting Access Canberra on 13 2281 or accesscanberra.act.gov.au, or in person at an ACT Government shopfront. When you do have a new WWVP card, please show it to either Mel or Hayden in the front office – the school needs a photocopy for auditing purposes.

We have been experiencing some really hot weather lately, and I know there are a number of parents concerned about how well your children are coping. I’ve reminded children today and will do so again tomorrow about the importance of them drinking lots of water, playing in the shaded areas and trying to be a bit more low key at play times. We have highlighted to teachers all the areas in our school that are air conditioned (we have quite a few), and have developed a rough timetable so that everyone can rotate through these spaces when temperatures are high. As parents you may choose to keep your child home on very hot days – just let the school know in the normal way (email, phone call or letter).

We’ve had a number of repairs and renovations over the school holidays including mulching, painting, new Interactive White Boards, gutters cleaned out, tree pruning, upholstery and carpets cleaned and the front car park repainted. We also had a beautiful big TV installed in our front foyer ready for photographs and announcements for all. In the early hours of a Saturday morning nearly a fortnight ago however we had a break in – three classroom windows were smashed and the TV was smashed too – we hadn’t even turned it on yet! If you heard or saw anything that might help us identify who the vandals were, please let me know.

I hope you have a wonderful term and to see you all here next Thursday afternoon.

Warm regards,
Liz

Welcome to 2017 Latham Learners

Principal               Liz Bobos
Deputy Principal       Karen Wilson
Executive Teachers     Daniel Manestar
                       Melissa Mongan
Business Manager       Hayden Weeks
Prechool               Teacher – Evan Gilson
                       LSA – Cheryl Purcell
Kindergarten – Little Kingdom
KVM                    Steve Vukelic
                       Amanda Molloy
KEJ                    Emma Janssen
Years 1/2              Sharee Harrild
1/2HV                  Steve Vukelic
1/2SP Artic            Sladjana Pantic
1/2KR Adventurers      Kyle Ratcliffe
1/2TB                  Tania Blak
Years 3/4              Simone Riddle
3/4RW - Royal Unit     Chrissie Walker
3/4MS Royal Unit       Mike Smith
3/4SW Cheshire Cats    Steph Wilson
3/4MP Mad Hatters      Millie Peattie

Years 5/6              Emma van Smethills
5/6EV Scooby Gang      Laura Ryan
5/6LR Sherlocks        Erin Weston
5/6EW Inspector
Gadgets
Years K-6
K-6PS                  Peter Simmons
K-6L                   Annette Watson
P.E                   Jan Littlejohns
Performing Arts
Japanese
Learning Assistance
Learning Support
School Counsellor
Library Assistant
BSO
Front Office

Peter Simmons
Annette Watson
Jan Littlejohns
Sally Parker
Amanda Bray
Daniel Manestar
Robyn Frencham
Sheryl Harris
Mal Weerasinha
Fiona McKinnon
Heather Govender
Manuel Famelis
Melissa Cruz-Willis
Di Rose
LATHAM P&C

The P&C held its Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 7 February where a new committee was elected for 2017. We would like to thank the outgoing members for the dedication and contribution to the Latham Community for 2016.

Welcome the new 2017 P&C Committee
President – Michelle Vokal
Vice President – Peter Newman
Treasurer – Jodie Taylor
Secretary – Julie Vey
Fete Convenor – VACANT
Student Banking – Geniene Barbour
Uniforms – Vicky Honchera
Fundraising Coordinator – VACANT
Canteen Treasurer – Katherine Stock

There are two very important positions still vacant – Fete Convenor and Fundraising Coordinator. If you are interested in either of these positions please contact one of the P&C members or see Mel in the front office.

LIBRARY NEWS

Hi everyone, welcome back to another great year at Latham Primary School!!
My name is Heather Govender and I oversee the school library. I am available on a Tuesday or Thursday so please come and say hello. The library is a great place to be with a wide range of books available. To ensure our library and resources are cared for please encourage your children to look after their books and return them on time.
Thanking you in advance.

Every term a Scholastic book catalogue will be sent home. Please send all orders back before the due date with payment. Orders will be delivered to classrooms and handed out by their teacher. Keep an eye out for the first issue in the next week.

Library Lovers Day
Celebrate libraries and librarians all over Australia

Have a good week.
Heather Govender
WE WANT YOU FOR THE LATHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL BOARD

If you’re keen to contribute to the governance of Latham Primary School, you should nominate for a position on the Latham Primary School Board. No prior experience is necessary.

The following positions are vacant:

- 2 parent and citizen member positions for 2 years

Nomination forms will be available at the school’s front office during normal business hours (9am to 3pm, Monday to Friday), or you may request one be emailed to you.

Nominations must be submitted to the front office between 11am, Monday 13 February 2017 and 11am, Monday 27 February 2017.

You can submit your nomination by: either hand delivery to the front office or email it to melissa.cruz-willis@ed.act.edu.au

For more information, contact the Assistant Returning Officer, Melissa Cruz-Willis on 614 20077.

______________________________

THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 3:30pm - 5:30PM

On Thursday 16 February from 3:30pm - 5:30pm we will be holding a ‘Meet the Teacher’ afternoon. Teachers will be opening up their classrooms and will be available to meet with you and answer any questions you might have.

The P&C will also be providing a welcome barbeque during the afternoon. This is a lovely opportunity to meet the staff, see your child’s learning space and mingle with other families.

We look forward to seeing you next Thursday
**Latham Early Links to Learning Playgroup**

A supported playgroup for Pre Preschoolers and their parents

Latham Early Link to Learning creates opportunities for parent and child to socialise with one another as well as other families whilst creating opportunities to participate in early learning literacy activities to build vocabulary and language skills.  
Latham Early Links to Learning can assist children to transition into the preschool environment.

**When:** Thursdays at 1pm, starting back Week 2, Term 1 (9 February) 2017  
**Where:** Latham Preschool (Behind the school)  
Wanless St, Latham ACT 2615  
**Cost:** Free

**For more information contact:**  
Tina Jackson from Belconnen Community Service  
(02) 6278 8141 or tina.jackson@bcsact.com.au, or  
Tania Blak from Latham Primary School  
(02) 6142 0077 or tania.blak@ed.act.edu.au

This playgroup is delivered in partnership between Latham Primary School and BCS Youth and Family Support.

BCS Youth and Family Support Program is an ACT funded initiative
ADULT DANCE AND FITNESS CLASSES

Are you looking for Group Fitness Classes but don’t like going to a gym?? Did you know that there are classes each Wednesday and Thursday nights at Florey Primary School?

- WEDNESDAY NIGHTS @ 5.45PM ZUMBA FITNESS
- THURSDAY NIGHTS @ 5.45PM SALSATION

Term 1 passes $85.00 for 9 weeks (passes are not interchangeable) Offer expires Friday 3rd February.

Please contact Shirley from “FunkShirlNal Fitness” 0417282173 for further information or check us out on FaceBook. “Funkshirlnal Fitness”.

---

Kindergarten Health Checks are happening this year!

All kindergarten students in the ACT are eligible to receive a FREE health check

VISION CHECK | HEARING CHECK | HEIGHT, WEIGHT AND BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)

- If you have not returned your child’s Kindergarten Health Check Consent and Questionnaire
- FIND — Information packs will be sent home early in Term 1
- SIGN — Complete The Kindergarten Health Check Consent And Questionnaire
- RETURN — To your school by 17th February 2017

Your school can provide you with the date of the health check.

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra, 2017
The Dollarmites are bringing the future to your school.

Since 1931, CommBank’s School Banking program has been offering engaging ways for Australian children to learn the value of saving and develop lifelong money skills.

For our 2017 theme, a futuristic adventure is in store. Students will join the new-look Dollarmites as Future Savers, making their way towards the Savings Hover Park – a fantastic playground up in the clouds of a hi-tech metropolis.

Encouraging savings habits with great rewards

School Banking will continue to reward children who demonstrate regular savings behaviour, and this year we’re introducing an exciting new range of reward items. Two are released every term, and available in Term 1 are the Cyber Handball and Colour Change Markers. Your child can redeem one of these reward items, while stocks last, after making 10 School Banking deposits.

Visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking to download and print this year’s Rewards Card. On our website you’ll also find a fun activity sheet and a Savings Tracker your child can use to keep track of their School Banking deposits throughout the year.

Dedicated savers get a chance to win a trip to Tokyo Disneyland

The Future Savers Grand Prize competition will take one lucky student on a family trip to Tokyo, Japan. Up to two adults and three children will get tickets to explore Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea, including the futuristic Tomorrowland attractions. This prize includes:

- Return economy airfares from the winner’s nearest capital city to Tokyo, Japan
- Five nights’ accommodation at the Sheraton Grande Tokyo Bay Hotel
- Three-day Magic Pass to Tokyo Disneyland and Tokyo DisneySea
- AU$1,000 spending money

To enter, your child simply has to make 15 or more School Banking deposits before the end of Term 3, 2017. This will automatically enter them into the competition for a chance to win.

For more information, visit commbank.com.au/schoolbanking
Lifeline Canberra
Bookfair

Lose yourself at the biggest ever Lifeline Canberra Bookfair featuring more books than ever before plus DVDs, comics, games, kids activities and more!

Friday 10 to Sunday 12 February at Exhibition Park in Canberra

Entry by gold coin donation
Find out more at www.act.lifeline.org.au

BELSOUTH
Online registrations are now open
Belsouth cater for all ages from 5 yrs to adults

- Get Fit
- Have Fun
- Make Friends

Go online and register today at belsouthfootball.club
Fight For Life Australia

Dates: 6th - 12th February 2017
Location: See www.MasterPaul.com.au for your nearest local centre
Donate: www.fightforlifeaustralia.com.au

What is Fight For Life?

Almost everyone on the planet has had someone they know or love affected by cancer.

Fight For Life was established so that Martial Arts practitioners can Kick Cancer Together. Now you can be a part of the largest cancer fundraiser run by one martial arts club.

All money raised will go direct to the Cancer Council to help find a cure or vaccine for cancer.

www.fightforlifeaustralia.com.au

For one week your local United Taekwondo centres around Australia are running a Fight For Life event.

For every adult or child that tries out in a club, the club owner will donate $10 towards Cancer Council.

To find out more about this fundraising event go to www.FightForLifeAustralia.com.au