Dear parents and carers,

Hats On
August 1 marks ‘Hats On’ day. From the start of next week, students and staff will be expected to wear a broad brimmed or bucket hat when they’re out for recess or lunch or for P.E. lessons. There will be a two week grace period so that everyone has plenty of time to get themselves organised but after that time (start of Week 5) students will be directed to sit on sliver seats in the playground if they don’t have a hat. Please help them out by ensuring they have a named brimmed hat with them every day.

School Secretary
As you will be aware our School Secretary Narelle Panneman retired at the end of Term 2. We had a lovely afternoon tea for her farewell and she certainly had a spring in her step that entire last week. We wish her all the best for a happy retirement.

Mel Cruz-Willis was successful in winning the position and she started full time work this week. We know that Mel will continue to do a fantastic job in the front office, and will provide students, parents and staff with a calm, efficient and caring experience whenever they deal with her.

Hall floor
You will be aware by now that our hall has been out of action this week and last. The wooden floor boards which were already showing considerable wear suffered further damage in the big rain deluge earlier this year. They have been pulled up and a Taroflex sports floor is being laid in its place. This floor should be warmer and softer than wood but more importantly can withstand any future water ceiling leakages. It should be completed by the end of this week, so our morning assemblies will be able to resume at the start of Week 3.

New library furniture
At the end of last term some new flexible and colourful furniture arrived for the library and Heather has had some fun unpacking it. With the hall chairs being stored in the Reading Lounge and some existing furniture needing to be relocated, the library is currently a bit congested. If you are inclined towards interior design and would like to help Heather re-arrange things in the library, let her know you’d like to help – hopefully next week things will start to take shape.

Dance DVD
At the end of Term 2 all of our classes performed in a dance item which was filmed by Kingsford Smith Media students. It will be edited and made available to parents to borrow through the library system. Please be aware that it is for private home viewing only and no part of it can be uploaded to the internet or any social media site.

Parent Focus Group
Thank you to the parents who completed the online survey about school values. We now need to refine this feedback and I’m asking for interested parents to come together as a focus group to work with Yehudiy and me on pulling it all together. We are looking for a representative parent group of age, gender, race, and years of experience with Latham. If you are interested in being a part of this focus group please contact me either through the front office or by email: liz.bobos@ed.act.edu.au

We acknowledge the Ngunnawal people – traditional custodians of the land on which our school stands.
Athletics Carnival
Thanks to Brett and Lyndal for their organisation of Tuesday’s Athletics Carnival and to all the parents who came to help or cheer their children on. As race starter, Poppy Chris issued the same set of instructions to each group of students but they didn’t all listen of course! A special thanks to the P&C parents who cooked delicious sausages for an alternate canteen lunch. We had additional help from Kingsford Smith’s JETS students who did a wonderful job. The weather was pretty kind to us too thankfully.

Kind regards,
Liz

Merit Awards

Time to Talk - your thoughts about partnerships between families and schools
Parent engagement in learning and education is all about how families and schools talk to each other, how to bring together learning at home and learning at school, and how families and schools can work together to help our children be the best they can be.

There is very strong evidence that children do better and learn more when families and schools work together as partners.

The ACT Government has partnered with the Australian Research Alliance for Children and Youth (ARACY) to research parent engagement in the ACT and develop a strategy to strengthen parent engagement into the future. An important aspect of this research is talking with families about what parent engagement means to them.

ARACY would like to hear from parents about what they think makes for a good partnership with their child’s school and the things they do to help their children learn.

ARACY has developed a short online survey to gather parental views, beliefs and understandings about parental engagement in schools. The survey will be available on the ACT Government Time to Talk website from 21 July 2014 to 26 September 2014. www.timetotalk.act.gov.au

FRESH TASTES – INFORMATION FOR FAMILIES
Latham Primary is part of the Fresh Tastes program. For the next three years we will continue to build on our school’s healthy food and drink environment. Fresh Tastes will support us to achieve this. Students who have a healthy diet are better placed to learn, participate and succeed in school. You can read more information online at: www.health.act.gov.au/freshtastes.

Fresh Tastes has partnerships with plenty of organisations who share a commitment to improving children’s health in Canberra. Some of these partners may work with us to help us achieve our goals.

1/2 Moopaloops News
This term Year 1/2 are embarking on a journey through the animal kingdom. Here is a sample of what the Moopaloops want to learn about.

Maybe you know the answers to some of these questions!

Are zebras black and white or white and black?
Why do rabbits have lots of babies?
Why are pigs tails curly?
How wide can a crocodile open its mouth?
How long can a flying fish stay in the air?
What is the cutest animal?
Why does a penguin waddle?
Why do spiders have so many legs?
Why do toucans have long beaks?
What is the name of a baby cheetah?
How far down can whales swim?

Healthy Bones at Latham
On Wednesday 6 August we are holding Canberra’s Big Healthy Bones Morning Tea. Every child will receive a small carton of milk at recess thanks to Arthritis ACT and Capitol Chilled Foods. Please return the note sent home if you do not want your child to receive a carton of milk.

The morning tea highlights the importance of calcium-rich foods, such as dairy, in the development of healthy bones and the prevention of osteoporosis later in life. This is particularly crucial for school-aged children throughout their peak bone-building years.

To ensure that your children are consuming enough calcium, take the calcium challenge and check out the ‘Calcium Cowculator’ at www.healthybones.com.au to test their daily intake.

For more information please visit www.arthritisact.org.au
For the next three years we will deliver one or two of the six Fresh Tastes action areas. The six action areas are: Healthy Food and Drink Guidelines, Food for Sale, Classroom Learning, Growing Food, Cooking Food, Food from Home.

An initial Fresh Tastes action group has already been set up. The more people across the school community that help out, the better the results will be. If you would like to get involved please let us know.

The Latham Primary School Fresh Tastes coordinator is Amanda Molloy. Please contact Amanda at amanda.molloy@ed.act.edu.au to find out more.

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**Words of Wisdom**

**Kids and tablets**

No, this isn’t an article about medicine.

It’s about young children and how they use devices like smartphones and tablets. You may have seen an article in the *Sunday Herald Sun* of 2 June 2014, which reported that more than two-thirds of the 88 mothers it interviewed said their one-year-old could perform functions on a smartphone or tablet, such as opening preferred apps, swiping, playing YouTube videos or games.

It quoted Early Childhood Australia chief executive officer Samantha Page as saying that using apps on iPads and iPhones for 15 minutes or so could be ‘fruitful’ for one-year-olds by teaching them colours, shapes and mathematical concepts.

However, we must remember that a flat glass screen is not the ‘real world’ – I have written previously of a recommendation by national authorities that children under two years not use screens at all! As Australian child psychologist Michael Carr-Gregg has been quoted as saying:

> “Nothing lights up a one-year-old’s brain like three-dimensional play and interaction with a human being and manifestly [smartphone usage] isn’t doing that”

The more screen use, the less time is spent in interpersonal activity (‘talk time’), which is crucial for the developing brain of infants and children. The ‘electronic nanny’ might be handy when we feel we need to get something done, but couldn’t we engage our child in that activity a bit too? As Carr-Gregg is quoted as saying “Babies need to learn how the real world works”.

So if you are using your phone as a child’s toy, think about keeping their time on it short, talking with them about what they’re doing (oh, and ensure you have appropriate data security and internet restrictions enabled!).

David Austin
Counsellor

**Payments made on-line**

Thank you to parents and carers who are using the on-line payment facility. Payments can be made through via the schools website [www.lathamps.act.edu.au](http://www.lathamps.act.edu.au), then clicking on the ‘Payment’ tab.

Please remember to still hand in your child’s note, stating that payment was made on line and the date payment was made. It helps when balancing accounts at the end of the month.

**Library News**

Hi everyone!

We have an exciting term ahead as we celebrate Book Week (18-22 August) and Literacy & Numeracy Week (25-29 August). This year the theme for Book Week is ‘Connected to Reading’ and it is based around the idea that there are many ways to connect to reading e.g. book, ebook, audiobook etc. We will be having a book parade, colouring competition as well as our yearly ‘Latham’s Favourite Book’ from the shortlisted books during Book Week. So start putting your costume together early!

Scholastic Book Club Issue 5 is out and is due by Friday, 8 August.

Overdue books: Thank you to students and parents who have returned books. Please keep them coming.

We have recently received some new furniture for the library and the place is looking bright and cheerful. Come in and take a look.

**QUOTE FOR THE WEEK**

“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

Frederick Douglass

Happy reading!

Heather Govender

**Breakfast Club**

Come to the Breakfast Club on Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 8:30am-8:50am. It’s much warmer in the hall than outside!

*If you prefer to be outside playing, you can ‘grab & go’ something delicious and nutritious!*
Fete News

Fete Mufti Day Friday 8 August 2014

Freaky Friday!!!
Freaky Friday is the name of a movie where a mum and daughter swap bodies. For a gold coin donation dress up as someone else. Swap with your mum or dad. Swap with a friend. If you’re a boy come to school dressed as a girl and vice versa. Or maybe because we are calling it Freaky Friday dress in something you think is Freaky!!!

All monies raised on the day will go towards various entertainment for the Fete.

Raffle Tickets
We have had a fantastic response to the Golden Ticket. So many students want to win that free day at the Fete (who wouldn’t?).

REMEMBER – We have a legal obligation to track each and every raffle ticket. If you did not receive a book at home please let me know NOW so we can reprint your numbers and get them sold.

So far 32 books of tickets have been sold and returned. You don’t have to sell tickets, simply return your unsold book and it will be passed onto to another student.

Tickets are due back Week 1 of Term 4 (Monday 13 October).

Thank you
Kareen Tait

Canteen News

Special Recess Food
The canteen is trying some new menu items in Term 3 with the possibility of adding them to the new Term 4 menu. To start we are going to do some special recess food. All recess specials will be $1 and served on one day only to start with.

- Hot Milo Mondays
- Berry smoothie Tuesdays
- Chocolate pikelet Wednesdays

Special Lunch Days
Week 4 we will have a special fried rice lunch and Week 6 will be Burito day (note to follow for these). All canteen specials are opt in so please don’t feel you have to give your children money for everything. These are certified green recipes which have come from Nutrition Australia.

If you have any feedback please take to the canteen or myself.

Regards
Emma Georgiou

Community News

P & C News

P&C Meeting
We are having a P and C meeting on Tuesday 7:30pm 5 August in the staffroom at the school. We would love to see you there; we usually have cake and biscuits. It is a relaxed meeting and contributes to the running of the P and C, looking forward to seeing you there. If you have anything that you wish to contribute to the agenda please email the secretary Julie Vey on mailto:secretary.lathampandc@gmail.com by Monday 4 August.

Fundraising opportunity
Okay this is a bit random, but we have an opportunity to get straw bales that are suitable for your garden delivered to the school, and then you pick up from the school. The bales are roughly 16-18kgs, and are a standard small bale size. The bales are $10 each, and we would need payment prior to delivery. I need to order a minimum of 50 bales before delivery occurs, so can I get an idea if you are keen or not? Please call or text me on 0416248411 to let me know if you would like to order a few straw bales, happy gardening.

Cheers Katherine Stock