

LARAPINTA SCHOOL NEWS

Issue 12
17th August 2011

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Carers,
What a great day we had at the school on Monday for Science Day. Thanks to Kylie Hanson, Michelle Rowe and Kerry Adams who organized the day and to all staff for the great experiences they provided for students. In Week 6 we'll have whole school fun again with WOBAL (World of Books at Larapinta).

Parent Teacher interviews began on Tuesday and conclude today. These meetings are invaluable in the sharing of important information regarding student learning.

Rochelle Fielding, our Aboriginal Resource Offi-

cer has moved on to a new position. I thank Rochelle for her contribution to Larapinta and wish her well in her new role.

A big thankyou to parents who have embraced our new carpark procedures. A reminder that drivers must stay in their vehicles and keep traffic flowing in this area. Drivers need to move as far forward as possible to allow for traffic coming in behind. We appreciate your co-operation in this regard.

A reminder to send back the slip to let us know if you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically. Depending on



numbers this may be a more viable option for both families and the school.

Finally, in order to ensure safety for all, NTDET *Animals in Schools* policy requires prior approval of the principal for animals to be brought to school.

Regards, Brenda

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Special Dates

- Wk 4 Tue-Thur Parent/Teacher Interviews
- Wk 5 Fri 26 Aug Uniform Free Day SRC Fundraiser
- Wk 6 Monday 29 Aug WOBAL
- Wk 6 Wed Yr 5/6 Bikeride and Sleepover
- Wk 6 Thursday -Music Count Us In 11am
- Wk 6 Fri 2nd Sept Teacher Professional Learning Day—no students
- Wk 7 Thur 8th Sept Bushathon
- Wk 8 Mon 12 Sept— School Council Meeting
- Wk 9 Thur—Portfolios home

FROM THE ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Carers,
The weather is fantastic at the moment and students are really enjoying their recess and lunch-time breaks. Please make sure they bring their hats everyday so they can play freely in the play-

ground. I am in the process of organizing our Bush-a-thon which is a major fundraiser for us. Notes will be coming home soon. It is a bit special this year as we will be combining it with a song and film competi-

tion that Mrs Young is organizing so there will be lots of fun, singing and videoing while walking the track. Bring in your Woolies and Coles docket. There are great resources to get for the school.

CLASSROOM NEWS

Unfortunately for Yr5/6 students and staff the Simpson's Gap camp was cancelled for a second time, this time due to fires; the elements have certainly tested us this year. Teachers and students, however, have put their heads together and brainstormed an alternative event which will include a bike ride, swimming and orienteering and a sleepover at school in Week 6.

There was great excitement last week as Yr 5/6 students opened the lid on our new Macbook laptops and set up and explored these with Mac consultant Tony Richards. An IT elective group will continue their learning each Friday afternoon and become 'troubleshooters' for all things Mac. The laptops are a welcome addition to our IT facilities at Larapinta. Loaded with fabulous programs the Macs encourage creativity and learning for staff and students

alike.

Mrs Trowbridge continued on in Yr 3/4 whilst Mr Jantzen has been on leave; a big thanks to Mrs Trowbridge for her great work with the class these past few weeks. All Yr 3/4 classes are exploring Space through their theme work and have produced excellent displays and art work in their rooms. Yr 3/4 Burgess have been having fun in Maths using Chuppa Chups to count, estimate, measure,



add, subtract and divide.

Yr 2 students have been busy planting seeds as part of their unit of work, 'Schoolyard Safari'. The students have also been investigating and observing features and behaviours of small animals and learning about how they survive in their habitats.

T/1 students are also working on a garden theme this term.

Mr Chapman is running a fitness program on Tuesday and Thursday mornings on the oval from 7.45am; parents, students and staff are welcome to attend.

**ANNUAL SPRING FLOWER SHOW
2011 AT THE RESIDENCY SAT 3RD
SEPT 1-4PM AND SUN 4TH SEPT
10-3PM**

CURRICULUM CAPERS

Mrs Thomson and Mrs Rowe both attended an Interactive Whiteboard Conference in Melbourne last week. Their learning will assist them and Larapinta staff to stay current with the best programs and technology for student learning.

Mrs Thomson or-

ganized author Stephen Herrick to visit and work with classes last week.....

Mrs Thomson has been *very* busy as she has also set up and introduced the new Lexile reading system through the library. Lexiles

The Lexile Framework is a scientific approach to reading and text measurement.

is a program that supports student reading comprehension development. It is a motivating program involving online quizzes and texts targeted to students' reading levels.

Thankyou to Mrs Thomson for all your great work supporting student literacy at Larapinta.

EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

Congratulations to Justin Ponado, Zion Akarana and Brady Beer who were the lucky recipients of the IPODS donated by Dick Smith Electronics through the 'Tigers in the Territory' program. These three students all have had excellent school attendance throughout their time at Larapinta and also apply themselves well to class work. They are friendly, reliable

and great role models in our school. Congratulations Justin, Zion and Brady – well deserved!

3/4 Hurn won the best class attendance award last week and have been enjoying time on the Wii; Kahlia bought some new games for win-



EVERY CHILD EVERY DAY

ning classes to play.

Our school attendance plan for 2011 has a target of average student attendance at above 90% throughout the year. Please remember to call the school if your child is away for any reason. Any absence over 5 days requires a Doctor's certificate.

AWARD WINNERS/LIBRARY NEWS/SRC NEWS

Congratulations to the following students for their efforts in class:

Liam McSweeney for storywriting

Bayden McLaughlin for looking after his younger peers

Benita Bino for always being such a great help in class

Georgia Ormsby for accurate measuring

Nicole Jones for being so enthusiastic during our 'worm' lesson

Jordan Johnson for trying hard with all her work

Zion Johnson for a dynamite job in helping others make good choices

Ian McCormack for a great Grasshopper poem

First Regan for working well in reading groups

The Larapinta Touch Team have made local history by winning every game they have played this season. Congratulations to the following students; Kieran Hart, Caleb Smith, Jack Rodighiero, Bayden McLaughlin, Camillo Ghel, Zion Johnson, Fabian Johnson, Teha Day, Timmika Nibbs, Vivienne Riley, Presley Motlop-Smith, Angie Ennis and Zaquayjah Santo-Tapim. Thanks goes to Sean Chapman, Adi Smith and Jack Caspani for their guidance and assistance to the team and to the trusty supporters who have cheered the team throughout the season. These students will all receive awards at the presentation this Friday afternoon at Flynn Drive Oval.

LIBRARY NEWS

The Library has started an exciting Library Bag Competition—call into the library to find out more! There are many overdue books to be returned to the library— please have a look at home over the weekend— we really need these returned to the library.

SRC NEWS

The school is having a Uniform Free Day for Daffodil Day to raise money for cancer research on Friday 26th Sept. Please send along \$2 with your child as a donation on the day.

- Mrs Thomson.

INDIGENOUS PERFORMANCE

Indigenous performers Ryka Ali and his grandmother Cindy Drummond performed for us on Wednesday afternoon. Ryka has been performing with his family since the age of 7. He has performed extensively in Australia and overseas.

The performance included songs and dances focusing on Australia's unique animals. Explanation of instruments, costumes and various artifacts was included and audi-

ence participation was encouraged.

Performances such as this provide great learning as well as entertainment for our students.

We have some great performers amid our students. Our music and drama program supports all of our students to explore and develop their talents and interests in this area.



BE AN ADVOCATE

Great things happen in our school everyday; great programs, great teaching, great student achievement and success. Sometimes this is as simple as a student learning a new letter or sound— a cause for great excitement - or as profound as a student mastering high level maths concepts or a new computer program. We also celebrate

student social learning— a student becoming being more respectful of their peers or teachers, or learning to include others in their play.

Our school, along with other Territory schools, is full of caring people who work tirelessly and are



passionate about providing the best education for all our children.

We *all* need to be advocates for the great work that happens in our schools. Let's get the good news out into the community.

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ASTA Desert Storm Junior Touch Finals and Presentation Day Fri 19th Aug from 3.45pm at Flynn Drive Oval. Come along to support our undefeated touch team! Desert Storm Girls and boys Team will be announced.

Larapinta Primary School opened in January 1998. The school offers excellent classroom teaching and intervention programs to cater for the diversity of our students. In addition we offer specialist Library, Music and PE classes. Our Music teacher Mrs. Young conducts both a junior and senior choir. The Indigenous Parent Group supports programs and events within the school. All teaching areas boast Interactive Whiteboards. Student Leaders are provided opportunities to develop skills through SRC and sports leader roles. Social programs include Kismatter, KidsHope and BluEarth.

Principal: Brenda Jolley

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AIEW: Kahlia Preece

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Our Kidsmatter Action Team attended initial training in Week 2 and will lead our staff in professional learning as the semester progresses. The team comprises Ashlea Farrell, Karyn Downie, Kahlia Preece, Jenny Hurn and Nicola Clifford.

A Positive School Community is the first component our school will explore on the Kidsmatter journey.

'All children need to feel that school is a safe place where people will care about them, where their needs for support, respect and friendship will be met, and where they will be able to get help to work out problems. Having these needs met helps children develop a sense of belonging at school and supports mental health. Children who feel they belong at school are happier, more relaxed and have fewer behaviour problems than others. They also learn better, are more motivated and more successful with school-work. Research into children's mental health has found that a sense of belonging at school helps to protect children against mental health problems and improves their learning.

A positive school community promotes inclusion and belonging by building connections with, and between, staff, students, families

*and the community. Research shows that children's sense of belonging and connection at school are **key protective factors** that promote mental health and wellbeing, as well as academic achievement. Children who have a sense of belonging and connectedness to the school have been found to be more resilient and less likely to develop mental health problems.'* www.kidsmatterprimary.edu.au/positive-school-community/

Larapinta seeks to ensure all members of our school community experience a sense of belonging through creating opportunities to be involved in a range of activities. We seek to build connections between staff, students, families and the community to create a caring and inclusive school environment.