

Senior Primary Handbook



2012

Leanyer Drive Leanyer, NT 0812
Office: 8927 4022 **Fax:** 8927 2566
Email: admin.leanyer@ntschoools.net
Website: <http://www.leanyerprimary.nt.edu.au>
Canteen: 8927 9164 **Preschool:** 8927 2894
After School Care: 8945 5321

Principal's Introduction

It is our pleasure to welcome you to Leanyer School's Senior Primary Years and provide you with this handbook. This statement has been developed to provide Parents and Caregivers with information that will aid in developing an understanding of Leanyer School. It adds to the general information in our School Community Handbook.

The document is edited annually so that it is always up to date. It reflects the changes that occur from time to time in educational trends and directions. We encourage you to read it carefully and discuss its contents with your children.

These Years are Important

We value our Senior Primary children, aiming to offer educational opportunities that build on the learning foundation set in the Early Years and Junior Primary Years. By now, the foundations of learning will have been established along with work and study habits. Our aim is to build on learning to date so children continue to make meaningful progress.

Children have the opportunity to continue developing in overall terms. While there is a need for all children to meet class expectations, they are recognised and appreciated as individuals. We want them to grow and develop in a way that enables them to fulfil their potential while taking into account the need to fit within a class and group context. That is part of what our school motto "together as one" is about.

Children will have the chance to develop leadership skills and we will invite them to contribute thoughts, suggestions and ideas that may help make Leanyer School a better place. Children need guidance (that is offered) but they also have ideas and wisdom that should not be discounted. I appreciate the chance to listen when they speak.

Sharing Accountability

In line with our commitment to education, we ask that parents and caregivers make every effort to have children at school on time every day. Our aim is for as many children as possible to avoid absence and lateness that detracts from learning opportunities. This will help us in optimising learning opportunities for children.

We look forward to sharing the 2012 Academic Year together. Please feel welcome to offer comment and feedback about our school and our educational emphasis. Sharing conversation will promote accord and build the school community we share.

Regards

Anne Tonkin
Principal

WELCOME TO SENIOR PRIMARY YEARS

Dear Parent / Caregiver,

A warm welcome is extended to all parents and caregivers of children in the Senior Primary sections of our school. We hope you find the following information helpful. Please feel free to visit the class and discuss with us any areas of concern. If you wish to have an interview or meeting, please make an appointment through the front office and a mutually convenient time will be arranged.

The front office opens at 7.45 a.m. and closes at 4.p.m.

Primary School Hours

8.05 a.m. – 10.15 a.m.

10.15 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.

(Recess)

10.45 a.m. – 12.45 p.m.

12.45 p.m. – 1.00 p.m. (Eat Lunch)

1 – 1.35 p.m. (Lunch Play)

1.35 – 2.35pm

2012

Term 1

Monday 30 January - Thursday 5 April
(Students resume Tuesday 31 January)

Easter break

Friday 6 April - Monday 9 April

Mid Semester break

Monday 9 April - Friday 13 April

Term 2

Monday 16 April - Friday 22 June

Semester break

Monday 25 June - Friday 20 July

Semester two

Term 3

Monday 23 July - Friday 28 September
(Students resume Tuesday 24 July)

Mid Semester break

Monday 1 October - Friday 5 October

Term 4

Monday 8 October - Friday 14 December

Please ensure that your child is at school by **8.00 a.m.** each day.

Absences:

A note of explanation **must** be provided for all absences in order to record the correct non-attendance code on our class rolls. This can be written or from our website

<http://www.schools.nt.edu.au/leanyr/>

As we are responsible for children during school hours you can assist us fulfil this responsibility by providing a written explanation if your child is absent from school or is to leave the school grounds during school hours.

This especially applies to leaving the school grounds during recess and lunch.

All Students leaving the school grounds during the school day must be signed out through the front office by an authorised person.

If your child is going to be late for school could you please inform the school by telephoning the school on 89274022.

Bullying/Teasing:

Bullying and teasing are issues which come up occasionally. In the first instance, the children concerned are spoken to about the matter. In the event of reoccurrence parents and caregivers are called in and all concerned are informed of the consequences, which may include suspension for a period of time. Parents and caregivers are encouraged to inform the class teacher at their earliest convenience, of any issues of bullying and teasing. We would prefer to nip these in the bud. Our policy is not to ignore issues of this nature but to engage in action that leads to problems and issues being resolved.

Canteen:

Lunch orders are to be written on a bag and placed in the box in the classroom. The child's name, module, teacher's name and the amount of money should be marked on the bag. Lunch bags may be purchased from the canteen for five cents each. Current price lists are available from the Front Office and our website.

Choir:

Choir is a singing program offered to our Year 5 and 6 students. Auditions for membership in the Choir are held in early Term 1 of each year. Once selected, students are required to attend a one hour session per week to receive instruction from the singing teacher. Choir commitments include participation in the BEAT and the Eisteddfod. The cost to join the Choir is approximately \$75.00 for the year which covers BEAT t-shirts, bus hire for BEAT rehearsals and performances.

Excursions/Performances:

From time to time we will be attending various performances or places of interest as part of the school program. A note explaining details of the excursion and permission requests will be sent home prior to an excursion.

Food/Lunch:

It is important to continue the maintenance of correct eating habits and a well balanced lunch. Students have access to a fridge in their Modules/Demountables to keep cut lunches cool. Lunch is supervised in the classroom from 12.45 p.m. to 1 p.m. Children are encouraged to use this time for eating, so lunches do not have to be finished outside. Module microwaves are not used to reheat lunches.

Severe Food Allergy- ANAPHYLAXIS

At Leanyer School there are several children who have **severe** food allergies, in particular, to nuts of all sorts. This is called Anaphylaxis and can be a **life –threatening situation**. In these children's case, eating, touching or even inhaling trace elements of peanut or nut products can trigger a serious reaction. There are also several other children who have allergies to nuts but the reaction is not as severe and requires different approaches when dealing with the condition.

Each year a note will go home to parents in the modules where the children are placed making parents aware of these children and their condition. Plans are in place and staff have been trained for any situations that may arise.

There is an excellent web site for those who wish to gain further understanding of allergies/ anaphylaxis : www.allergyfacts.org.au.

Please contact the front office if you have any further queries.

Holiday Work:

From time to time students may go on family holidays during school term and wish to take work with them. The following activities are appropriate:

- Keep a diary of your holiday; include maps, brochures, photos and notes.
- Take some novels to read.
- Ask a teacher for areas that the child can practise e.g. tables, number facts, reading etc.

Please realise that it is not possible for teachers to prepare individual work, nor do they have time to correct extra holiday work. It is much more beneficial for your child if the work is corrected as soon as possible after completion, with your supervision.

Enjoy your holiday and we look forward to hearing about it on your return.

Homework:

Students in the Senior School will be set regular homework generally not exceeding 30 minutes daily. In addition, we encourage children to read regularly and widely both for enjoyment and information.

Multiplication tables and number facts practice should be undertaken as needed. Students have a diary setting out homework requirements.

Parents and caregivers are requested to read the diary frequently to check for messages from your child's teacher. If homework is not completed at home within the set time frame, please send a note to the teacher.

ICT

ICT is integrated across all curriculum areas of the School programs. All classes visit the school computer lab for a 1 hour lesson each week. In addition, there is a Year 6/5 Laptop class with an ICT focus leading to achievement of NTCF Learning outcomes across key learning areas.

Instrumental Lessons:

Woodwind, Brass and percussion lessons are available for students in Year 4. Guitar lessons commence in Year 5. Half hour weekly lessons are held during the school week usually on Tuesdays. Fees for the year include the yearly registration fee of \$25 payable to the N.T. School of Music and also the cost for instrument hire. Our school has flutes, clarinets, trumpets, trombones and saxophones for hire for approximately \$100.00 per semester. Students are encouraged to participate in extension programs such as school concerts and the N.T. School of Music Band, when they have developed the pre-requisite skills.

Library:

The library is available to children during lunch, recess, class time, before and after school. Year 4 may borrow three books a week. Year 5 and Year 6 may borrow 4 books per week. New books cannot be borrowed if overdue books are outstanding on the child's account. We also encourage children to join a public library.

Maths Groups in the Senior School

This year the Senior School is trialling a new format of Streamed Maths groups. This is a format whereby students are streamed according to their abilities. This year students will be streamed across the same year level only and for only one strand or focus area in Maths. This strand or focus area being Number. The students are streamed in this format for three days a week from Monday to Wednesday at 11.45 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. Other Strands within the Mathematics curriculum such as Space, Measurement, Chance and Data and Algebra and covered in your child's mainstream class on Thursday and Fridays. The timeslot for these two days will vary according to individual timetables across classes. Number streamed groups are flexible and children may be repositioned throughout the year. Conversation with parents and caregivers takes place if change is contemplated. Years 6 students are encouraged to purchase their own calculators. Your child's Maths teacher will advise you as to which calculator would be most suitable.

Medicines:

Department of Education and Training (DET) regulations require that students needing to be medicated at school must store their medication in the Front Office, from where it will be administered by staff.

Please assist us by providing a written note outlining all information relevant to the correct administration of medication.

Please note: Asthma medications are exempted. Your child may keep their asthma medications in their bags, desk or at the Front Office.

Mobile Phones

Are to be kept in bags and turned off during school hours. They are the student's responsibility. Students caught using mobiles during school hours will have them confiscated until the end of the day.

Money and Valuables:

Children should not bring more money to school than is necessary for the canteen. Should money be required for special excursions or activities a note specifying the amount and purpose will be sent home.

Parents are advised that it is unwise for students to bring to school valued and valuable items - especially card collections, iPods, computer/video games.

Any item brought from home is your child's responsibility.

The school's preference is that these items be left at home.

Nits and Headlice:

Teachers are not permitted to check children's hair but parents and caregivers will be contacted if we think attention is necessary. Department of Education and Training policy is that students with head lice be treated at home. Once the lice are successfully treated students may return to school. Please check your child's hair regularly and let the teacher know of reinfestation, so that other parents can be notified. Headlice is an issue in most schools contact and awareness is necessary. Your assistance in trying to control the problem is appreciated.

Parent Help:

Classroom teachers always value parent and caregivers help to support a number of programmed areas. Please speak to your child's teacher and see if you can help in some way. Alternatively, teachers may approach parents and caregivers seeking support.

Sport/Physical Education Lessons:

Students require appropriate clothing for Physical Education: hats, runners, shorts and house shirts. House shirts may be worn only on the day your child has physical education. Children will be advised of dress requirements should they be involved in extra sport activities and Gala Days.

Water Bottles

All children are encouraged to bring water bottles to school. Regular consumption of water is recommended and is especially needed on P.E. lesson days.

Uniforms:

The wearing of school uniform at all times is compulsory. School colours are lime green and royal blue. Polo shirts, shorts and bucket hats with the school logo are available from the front office. Children must wear school uniform. Sports shoes must be worn for all P.E. activities to prevent and/or reduce injury. Refer to the Uniform Policy.

Footwear Requirements

For the safety of your child it is required that they wear shoes. A type of covered shoe such as sports shoe is highly recommended. Thongs and 'Masseur' type shoes are not recommended as they do not adequately protect feet and are also unsuitable especially during physical activities. If your child has a condition requiring the wearing of such footwear, a note would be appreciated.

Hats

The school's policy is that hats be worn whenever children are in the sun. The school bucket hat is a part of our school uniform requirements. During recess and lunch times children may play outside if they are wearing a broad-brim hat. Children not wearing hats are required to stay in the undercover areas.

Children must also wear hats during Physical Education sessions.

Tournament of Minds (ToMs)

ToMs is an enrichment/extension program offered to our Year 5 and Year 6 students in Terms 2 and 3 each year. **Tournament of Minds** is a problem solving program for teams of students from both primary and secondary years. They are required to solve demanding, open-ended challenges from one of the following disciplines: **Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and the Social Sciences**. Tournament of Minds is an opportunity for students with a passion for learning and problem solving to demonstrate their skills and talents in an exciting, vibrant, and public way.

The school will continue to enter teams in the Northern Territory Regional Finals which occur around Week 8 of Term 3. Teams once selected to represent a particular discipline are required to work together on a **Long Term Challenge** for six weeks without assistance from teachers, parents or peers but supported by a Facilitator. They are encouraged to explore possibilities and experiment with ideas as they endeavour to produce their best possible solution. They develop a creative and original way to communicate this solution to others, working within predefined parameters such as limited materials, complex challenge criteria and the deadline of Tournament Day.

Students present the product of their ideas - their challenge solution - to a panel of judges and an audience on Tournament Day. They have ten minutes in which to present and must do so within a 3 metre by 3 metre performance area.

The teams must also participate in an unseen **Spontaneous Challenge** on Tournament Day. This challenge requires rapid interchange of ideas, the ability to think creatively and well developed group cooperation skills.

Judges for both the Long Term and the Spontaneous Challenges are professionals chosen from all areas of education, the arts and industry. They are thoroughly trained to enable them to assess the creative performance and technical aspects of the presentation.