The newsletter is available on the school website, go to: www.lakeillaws-p.schools.nsw.edu.au

Please note:
8/5 Mother’s Day Stall
13/5 Naplan Test - Language & Writing
14/5 Naplan - Reading
15/5 Naplan - Numeracy
29/5 School Athletics Carnival

More information and notes to follow, closer to the events.

Principal’s Message

It is a big week for Mothers. Enjoy your day on Sunday.

I know I will be treating my mum and wife on this special day.

The information for the Mother’s Day stall is attached below.

Our students are preparing for the NAPLAN tests scheduled for next week. Tuesday is Language and Writing, Wednesday is Reading and Thursday is Numeracy. It can be a very worrying time for both students and parents. The children are well prepared and have all the skills to complete the NAPLAN tests. Encourage your child to attempt every question and just to do their best, that’s all we can ask.

An issue with safety has arisen. Please ensure you are using the school crossing before and after school. Many parents are walking across the road without using the crossing. It is most apparent in the afternoon. Parents are walking behind the bus after it has stopped to collect children. Please, for you and your children’s safety, take those few extra steps to the school crossing and cross at this point and make use of Kerrie. She enjoys seeing children and parents crossing safely. Just ask her!

ASSEMBLIES

Please be advised, that the weekly Assemblies will be held on a Friday at 12.30pm in the School Hall.

Unless otherwise notified.

MOTHER’S DAY STALL

The P & C is holding a Mother’s Day Stall tomorrow, THURSDAY 8th May in the school Hall.

Gifts will range in price, they will be $2, $5, $7 and $10.

All children will be taken to the Hall in classes to choose their gifts, please send money with your child.

Children who are absent from school will have the opportunity to buy gifts on Friday morning.

Thankyou for your support with this fundraiser and have a wonderful Mother’s Day!!
Thank you for your continuing support of Lake Illawarra South Public School

Oak Flats & Shellharbour Community Bank® branches

GOTCHA

Weekly Class Winners
For week ending 4/04/14

Jesse M K/1GC
Dominic B KW
Oskar S 1/2E
Rahnie S 1/2P
Teri-Ann B 2B
Halle F 3/4F
Colby W 3/4O
Will H 4/5S
Logan O 5/6H
Riley C 5/6R
Rahnie S Canteen Voucher Winner
Kate T Movie Voucher

PAYMENTS
Please be advised, that all money for excursions etc, needs to be in an envelope, clearly marked with the child’s name, class and activity on it, with the correct money. We do not hold money at the office and therefore, do not have change to give, at any time.

All payments need to go into the money folders, which are held by the class teachers.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter.

ATTENTION YEAR 4 PARENTS
If you are thinking of applying for Opportunity Class Placement for year 5 in 2015, apply online from Monday 28th April:

www.schools.nsw.edu.au/ocplacement

Application forms and information are also available from the school office.

Please be aware that paper applications need to be returned to the school by Friday 16th May 2014, and online applications also close on this date.

Thankyou

UNIFORM NEWS
School Jumpers will be on sale from Week 1, Term 2, for the whole Term. Reduced to $30 from $40.

Peak caps have finally arrived and are available for $12.

SMITH'S HILL HIGH SCHOOL EXPO NIGHT
Smith’s Hill High School, Gipps Street, Wollongong, 2500

EXPO NIGHT
Monday May 26, 2014
6.00 p.m. - 8.00 p.m.

Smith’s Hill High School is a government selective co-educational high school catering for Gifted and Talented students.

Year 6 students who sat the entrance test for 2015 admission and their parents are invited to attend our Expo to view our facilities and examples of the work of our students. Year 5 students and their parents may wish to take the opportunity to see the school with a view to applying for admission in 2016.

Phone enquiries directed to the Relieving Principal Mr Walker on 42294266 during school hours.

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS
There have been many cases of Head Lice reported to the school.

Please check children's hair and treat accordingly.

Remember, anyone can catch head lice, where the children play together.

Please ensure your child’s hat is clearly labelled, both inside and out.

If treated immediately, we can reduce the problem.

Thank you

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UNIFORM NEWS
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Getting Parents ‘in the know’ about attendance matters at Lake Illawarra South Public School!

Lake Illawarra South Public School acknowledges that educating students for academic success, developing life skills and ultimately, creating and shaping a student’s career path, is a partnership between the school, parents and the wider community.

The correlation between school attendance and children’s achievement levels is well-established. The more time students spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success, leading to the realisation of career goals and fulltime employment.

Conversely, students who take more time off school are at the greatest risk of not achieving their full academic potential, dropping out of school early and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

It’s clear, attendance does matter.

School absenteeism is a problem in Australian schools – and much of it is condoned by parents. It appears that Australian students miss an average of 12 to 15 days per school year. That adds up to one whole school year in the school life of a child.

This letter has been developed to provide the opportunity for all parents to ‘get in the know’ of the school’s Attendance Policy and Procedures, which is bound to the NSW DEC’s School Attendance Policy and Procedures. Parents need to be equipped with the right information so they are not unwittingly falling into traps created by common and pervasive myths about attendance. Parents may think that missing school is a problem only if a child was skipping school without permission. They don’t see that too many absences, even if they are excused, can hinder learning. In fact, just two or three absences a month can add up to too much lost time in the classroom. While some absences, especially those due to illness, may be unavoidable, it is important to get children to school as often as possible.

While parents are legally responsible for the regular attendance of their children, school staff, as part of their duty of care, monitors part or whole day absences.

What is the School responsible for?

Schools are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. They are accountable for the reasons given by parents for their child’s absences. This means that schools may decline to accept an explanation given by the parent for an absence as satisfactory and will record the absence as unjustified.

Schools may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences are explained, including when parents are seeking approval for their child to leave early or arrive late e.g. an appointment card or the very least, the medical practitioner’s name, appointment time and a contact number.

That’s not a reason to stay away!
The Education Act 1990 requires that parents and carers ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school or are registered for home schooling. The NSW DEC may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

It is not uncommon for parents to allow their children to miss school for such reasons as to celebrate their birthday, because of staying up too late, going shopping, a regular extended long weekend or not wanting to attend special school events like sports days, incursions and excursions.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to children that parents don’t really value learning or their children’s school experiences.

Parents have 7 days to present a note of explanation for student absences to the school. If this does not occur, then the absence is deemed as unjustified. Justified and unjustified absences are indicated on the student’s school report.

By providing the opportunity for parents to become better informed of the school’s attendance policy which is bound to the DEC’s, this will hopefully, minimise confusion, frustration and even anger of parents and carers when it comes to their child’s attendance and non-attendance to school.

Principal are legally responsible for maintaining accurate records of student attendance. When reasons for absences are provided to the school by parents, principals are accountable for their decision to record a student’s absence as justified. Principals may decline to accept as satisfactory an explanation for an absence and will record that absence as unjustified. Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when absences explained as being due to illness are frequent or prolonged.

The Education Act 1990 requires that parents (including carers) ensure that children of compulsory school age are enrolled at and regularly attend school or are registered with the Office of the Board of Studies NSW for home schooling. The New South Wales Department of Education and Training may take legal action against parents and carers who do not send their children to school without a valid reason.

Should school days, whether it is for a whole or part day, be used for students to attend outside appointments? The answer is no. However, it is acknowledged by DEC and therefore the school, that there are extenuating circumstances for students to be absent from school, leaving early or arriving late. Such circumstances should be a rarity, rather than the norm.

At every level, parent and family engagement is a key component to reducing chronic absence. Parents should also alert the school to barriers that keep their child from attending school. Lake Illawarra South Public School has a strong Welfare Team that is equipped with a variety of strategies to work with both parents and the child to assist in the child’s return to normal school attendance as soon as possible.

Lake Illawarra South Public School has a responsibility in encouraging and helping families to nurture a habit of regular attendance so they can help their children realise their hopes and dreams.

If you require clarification regarding attendance procedures at Lake Illawarra South Public School, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

J Piggott
Principal