Principal’s Report

Welcome to 2017

It was great to see so many happy and smiling faces on Wednesday when our students returned. Starting a new year is always exciting and all students have settled well into their classrooms as their learning takes off. With months of planning going into programs to start the year it is always an exciting time for both students and teachers to get this underway.

Teachers officially returned on Monday 30th, using the 2 days to thoroughly prepare for the students arrival. As part of our professional development all of the staff participated in a sailing instructor’s course. Sailing is a big part of our curriculum in 5/6 and with new boats arriving this year we will be able to expand our program to include our 3/4 students by the end of the year.

This year we welcomed 30 new preps starting their journey into school life. Although there were some nerves and a few tears (and that was just from the parents!!) but all the students seemed to take it in their stride and have settled into school life extraordinarily well.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the new families we have coming into the school. 2017 is our largest prep enrolment for over 10 years and is a reflection of how quickly we have been able to create a positive learning environment coupled with a strong curriculum focus. Despite having a higher enrolment we have again kept our class sizes small, splitting the preps into 2 grades of 15 students. The majority of our grades across the school are deliberately kept small to ensure we provide greater access to one on one education. All of our classrooms also receive additional support to provide extension or support to our students.

Each year we are going to continue to build on our learning focus for the benefit of our students. Our ongoing focus on literacy and numeracy will remain, an additional 1000 books will be purchased for the library, visual arts and performing arts will remain part of the curriculum with students having the option this year to learn a musical instrument. Other programs will again continue in 2017 including:

- Trained Science and Maths specialist teachers
- School Wide Positive Behaviour Program
- Better buddies Program, through the Alannah and Madeleine Foundation
- Camps for each year level
- Commitment to community events across the year.

next week

Monday 6th February
First day for lunch orders
Bike Ed 3/4

Tuesday 7th February

Wednesday 8th February
Rest day for Preps

Thursday 9th February
Swim Trials 9:00 – 11:30am

Friday 10th February
Breakfast Club 8:15–8:45am

coming up

Wednesday 15th February
District Swim Carnival – Orbost

Monday 20th February
Grade 3/4 Bike Ed

Monday 27th February
Gr 5/6 Swimming commences

reminders

Lunch orders available from Monday 6th Feb

Bottle green broad brimmed hats must be worn for all outdoor activities during the school day.

Asthma Management Plans must be updated for the new school year, please provide the office with a copy as soon as possible.
In 2017 we have launched our new STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.) Centre. Students will now utilise this space to work in and around technology. Initially the focus will be in cyber safety for all students but as the year progresses students will be involved with designing apps, coding, robotics and virtual reality headsets. Every year we will continue to build on this new space to ensure our students are getting the best possible access to resources.

Attendance will also be a focus in 2017. We want every child at school every day. This year we are aiming for a 90% attendance rate for all of our students. A child who slips below 90% runs the risk of missing a significant amount of their schooling over several years.

Parents play an important part in creating an ongoing partnership between home and school for the success of our students. This year we again offer a wide range of opportunities to be involved in and around the school. Several programs only survive with the support from our community. Parents can be involved in informal tasks or a more formal and structured program such as our reading support or school council. Parents also play a vital role at home to support their child. This year we will again focus on reading at home and our maths homework books. All students from Grade 1 to Grade 6 will receive a maths book designed to develop and create a better understanding of mathematical skills as part of their homework. We understand families can often lead busy lives, and it is important to balance any homework with other outside activities. Over the coming weeks parents will get the opportunity to visit classrooms for Parent/Teacher Meetings. This is an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s new teacher and discuss any concerns. All parents will be allocated a time to meet with their child’s classroom teacher. Improving communication is a focus area for us this year, all teachers will make contact with every family twice a term to discuss the progress of each student.

The commitment we ask is not financial but to ensure every child is read to on a regular basis and completes their set homework tasks. Our aim is to make it as easy and as simple as possible to follow for parents. As a result in this change of philosophy our parents in Prep – 2 will not pay any schools fees in 2017 and 2018 and parents in grade 3-6 pay just $125 for essential education items. Close management of our budgets and structure have ensured no programs have been compromised as a result of changes to our fee structure.

It has been a privilege to work within the LEPS community for the past two years. The commitment and dedication shown by all staff is of the highest level. This year will bring about a greater commitment to learning and ensuring success for every student. I am looking forward to the challenges ahead and getting started on what is shaping up to be an amazing year. As always if any parent has any concerns please don’t hesitate to contact me at any stage.

Have a great weekend,

Simon Prior

Please keep in mind that we have some students who have a severe allergy to nuts and nut products. We ask you to keep this in mind when sending food to school.
WELCOME TO
OUR NEW PREPS
AND THEIR
FAMILIES
(The cameraperson caught up with some of the families on the first day)

Welcome back from the Smith Family
Welcome to Term 1, 2017. The Smith Family team wishes you all a Happy New Year, and welcomes the new Prep, and all other new families to Lakes Entrance Primary School. It’s going to be another big year!

Homework Club will recommence on Thursday, 16th February, straight after school, in the Grade 5/6 area. All students are welcome to attend. It finishes at 4.30pm. If your children attended last year, and we have a signed permission form, then your children can simply attend as they have in the past. If there are any changes to pick up arrangements, please let us know. If you are new to Homework Club, your child’s teacher will have a form that can be sent home, completed and must be returned before your child/ren can attend the Club.

For those families participating in The Smith Family’s scholarship program, if you have any questions, or need to talk to Paullette Hoogerwerf about any aspect of the program, she is in our office at the School on Tuesday mornings. Please feel free to drop in for a chat. At other times, Kim, Glenn and I will try to assist.

Also, if any parents wish to volunteer at the school in any capacity, and don’t yet have a Working With Children Check, we can assist. Just call in to our office, near Reception, and we can let you know what you need to do to gain the card. It takes about 10 minutes to apply, and is free for volunteers. If you don’t have internet at home, or don’t know where to start, we can help you to apply.

Have a great first week!

Michele Fry The Smith Family Phone: 5155 5159
BOOKCLUB – Can you help us?
Our school is looking for a new Book Club Co-ordinator. If you have a small amount of time available you may be able to help ensure Book Club continues at our school. There are eight issues of Book Club each year. When the catalogues arrive at school, the Book Club co-ordinator distributes the catalogues to the staff and advises everyone of the return-by-date through the newsletter. The Book Club orders come to the school and then the Book Club co-ordinator collates the orders and places the orders, either online or by phone, which is quite simple. If you are interested please see Liz at the office.

Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund 2017
Application forms for the Camps, Sports and Excursions funding support program for 2017 are available at the school office. Eligible parents who hold a concession card are able to claim $125 per year for eligible primary students.

This money will be paid directly to the school to offset any camps, sports or excursions. Parents will then be informed of any remaining amount outstanding through the office. A FAQ sheet as well as an application form is available at the office. Please contact the office should you have any further questions regarding this matter.

LAKES ENTRANCE AMATEUR BASKETBALL ASSOCIATION

2017 Registration Nights
13th AND 20th FEBRUARY 5 – 6PM

WOMEN 7 JUNIORS - $130.00 SKILLS (5-7 YRS) $90.00

REGISTRATIONS ARE NOW OPEN ON LINE @LAKESENTRANCESPORTSTG.COM

ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL PENNY ON 0407 400 527

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