Dear Parents,

Staffing and Classes

During 4th term, preparations are underway for 2015. As much as I like to be well organised, when it comes to staffing and classes, there are dependencies that influence decision making. Allow me to elaborate. Staffing is determined by enrolments. Enrolments are rarely firmed up until late in the term. Should we make unrealistic predictions about staffing based on enrolments and staff accordingly, the school would have to fund any additional staff over and above its entitlement. This would be an unnecessary burden for the school community to fund. Classes and teachers will be announced on Wednesday 10th December 2015. The structure of classes will be based upon the numbers in each year level, ensuring each class can cope with additional enrolments. By adopting this approach, it will minimise the risk of classes having to be restructured during the year, like what happened this year.

Parents are welcome to discuss with their teacher any particular matters that you would like us to take into account in the class selection process. In the end, the principal and teachers will make the decision about class structures and placements based upon what is in the best interests of the school and student learning. Should you have any matter about class selection that needs discussing, please see your class teacher. Should you have any matter needing discussion about anything else relating to classes and staffing, please come and see me.

Parent Surveys

Last week a one page survey was sent home. We are endeavouring to get every parent to respond to the survey. Another copy of the survey is attached to this newsletter for any family that has misplaced it or would like to a separate form for a second child in another class. We have received 30% of surveys back so far. We are aiming at a 100% return. Your feedback assists us greatly in making sure the school responds to your needs.

Sports Day

We had perfect weather and still managed to have plenty of families present, even with our late postponement from Friday. Sports day gives students a chance to show off their athletic abilities and gives those that may struggle in other academic disciplines a chance to shine. I would like to thank the staff for their work in preparing students, especially Morgan (Coordinator), Paul Slattery (Groundsman) and Josie for their extra efforts in organising the day. Students for the way they conducted themselves on the day, parents for support and attendance, Golden North for their generous donation of ice creams for all the students and Helen (CPSW) for organising tea, coffee and biscuits which raised $59 for SIDS.

Attendance

The Department of Education monitors closely the attendance rate at Laura Primary School. Laura PS has a high attendance rate of over 93% and we would like it to be higher. There are a few matters relating to the attendance requirements that I would like to draw to your attention:

1. When a student is away sick and sees a doctor, please request a sick certificate
2. When a student is away sick for 3 days or more, it is a requirement for the student to have a sick certificate from the doctor
3. When a family plans to take a holiday in school time, an exemption from school is required. This can be obtained from me by filling in a form and I can authorise the exemption
4. When a student is late, the parent must sign the child in, before the child goes to class.

SAPSASA

Good luck to Joel Zanker who will be representing North Eastern in SAPSASA cricket in Adelaide next week.

SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

On Monday the whole school will be attending a performance Shake’n’Roll at Laura Civic Centre. Attached to this newsletter is a consent note that needs to be returned by Monday morning please.
Recognition Awards

Week 1

Makayla Fennell – for excellent storywriting.
Thomas Smith – for his hardworking start to the term.
Tom Winter – for his enthusiasm while puppet making.
Samuel Byron – for working well in Maths and Spelling.
Georgia Winter – for applying herself well in all areas.

Week 2

Jeremiah Byron – for excellent counting by 10 in Maths.
Eric Hamlyn – for being thoughtful and helpful in class.
Isabelle Jackson – for careful and creative work in Art.
Talia Ziepes & Nicki Zanker – for an excellent effort doing IXL Maths.
Casey Clegget – for excellent results in Spelling.
Lara Zanker – for an excellent attitude in all areas of English.
Dylan Davenport – for showing great leadership.

This week a group of students from the reception class picked a collection of herbs from the Café garden and prepared some savoury scones for their class to try for afternoon recess. They worked in 2 groups with Mrs. Wurst during their lunch and afternoon recess breaks. They used; spring onions, garlic chive, thyme and parsley. Next week 2 more groups from this class will have their turn.

OPAL Grant

The Reception and Year 1 class have been busy planting new plants in our gardens as part of our OPAL Grant. Students brainstormed a list of vegetables they would like to grow this term and we voted on our favourites. We are growing:

- Tomatoes – black ones, red ones and orange ones
- Capsicums – yellow ones, red ones and green ones
- Watermelon
- Sweet corn

We had lots of fun making sure the soil was right for the plants and getting rid of all of the weeds. We can’t wait to try the new vegetables that we are growing.

Recipe; 1 beaten egg
½ cup milk, ½ cup cream
2 cups SR Flour, ¼ tspn salt, ½ tspn baking powder.

1. Mix the egg, milk and cream and fold in the sifted dry ingredients.
2. Add herbs and a tablespoon of grated cheese.
3. Knead lightly and pat out onto a board 1 cm thick.
4. Cut into shapes and bake for 10mins at 200 degrees Celsius.
Well done Samuel Shepherdson for his outstanding achievements on Sportsday. Samuel had a great day winning the Distance Run in his age group as well as scoring the most points in the Tabloid Events.
COMMUNITY NOTICES

DECEMBER 15th - 19th 2014

Enrolment: Saturday 29th November 10-12pm
At the Gladstone Swimming Pool
For swimmers of all levels
School starters 2015 and older
Jayne Potter: 86622338

SUMMER SWIMMING LESSONS

GLADSTONE SWIMMING POOL
(FORMERLY KNOWN AS VACSWIM)

DECEMBER 15th - 19th 2014

Enrolment: Saturday 29th November 10-12pm
At the Gladstone Swimming Pool
For swimmers of all levels
School starters 2015 and older
Jayne Potter: 86622338

Gladstone Swimming Club first training and registration session:

When: 5.30- 6.30 pm, WEDNESDAY 5th November
Where: Gladstone Swimming Pool
Who: All previous swimmers and anyone interested in joining the club

Age and ability is no barrier to enjoying swimming and competing. Come along and talk to coaches and have a go!!!

Well done Robyn Staker and Kylie Clogg for organising this.

We have 30 COMPLIMENTARY PASSES to give away. Enquire front office.

Milo Cricket is 4.30 pm Tuesday afternoons at Gladstone Stadium. The Milo Cricket pack is $65 and that includes bag, T-shirt, ball, hat, bat & waterbottle. Please give Chook Harslett (The Coach) a call on 0407 618008. All welcome!