Principals Message

Welcome to the 2016 school year! I am looking forward to seeing families, and catching up a little with every child in the next few weeks. 2016 will be a wonderful year of learning and extra curricula experiences. A full year calendar of events should be uploaded to our website by Monday to help parents planning with work and social commitments. This week represents a fresh start for most students and staff or a new beginning for Kinder’s and our new staff members next Monday.

Teachers will be implementing the new NSW Geography syllabus which compliments the new NSW History syllabus introduced last year. Parents should also see and hear a lot more talk at home and school emphasising language such as, ‘learning’, ‘mindsets’, ‘personal goals’ and ‘effort’. Work towards our three School Plan strategic directions will advance with particular focus around student assessment, communication strategies and review of our wellbeing practices like the school rules.

In looking to the future and being more effective, Lake Wyangan Public School is hoping to phase out our paper newsletter completely. We will be trialling a product Term 1 operated by ‘Skoolbag’ which will provide school news and other information to mobile phones, ipads and computers. An App has been designed for our school and sent to Android and Apple for approval. This process should be finalised in the next fortnight and we hope to be connecting and communicating with families using our new service with only an odd paper printout where still needed.

We have five class groups in 2016:-

K-1H with Mrs Hipkiss.
1-2L with Mrs Menegazzo (Mon & Tues) and Mrs Cocilova (Wed, Thurs and Fri)
2-3D with Mrs Damini [Assistant Principal]
4G with Mrs Good
5-6F with Mr Fattore
RFF and Support with Mrs Young and Ms Arnal

Mrs Michelle Lane remains at the helm as School Administration Manager in the front office.
Mrs Joanne Irvin (3 days) is in a dual role as School Administration Officer and class support person.
Mrs Annette Casey and Mrs Kerri Sutton return as class support staff.

On behalf of the school community I would like to extend a warm welcome to our newest staff, Mrs Ashleigh Good and Mrs Jaimee Damini!
There are 117 children enrolled at Lake Wyangan Public School in 2016. As explained last year we expect our size to remain around the 112-130 over the next few years.

Our first weekly assembly will start in Week 3 on Friday, February 12th at 2.20pm and the P&C volunteer Canteen will begin next week on Friday, February 5th.

Please have a good read of the calendar when it is uploaded. Student Progress Interviews will be held again in Term 1 and Term 3. There are also proposed dates for swimming lessons, performances, major excursions and end of year presentations. P&C meetings remain the best place to hear of any changes afoot or new events and our App with electronic newsletter should really assist with providing timely notifications for home.

If you have a child with an Anaphylaxis/Allergy or Asthma ASCIA Action Plans, we will need some help to replace last year’s documentation. These plans are medical documents and therefore must be completed and signed by individual’s medical practitioner. Can parents of students involved please remember to get the new version of the Action Plans from their doctors when they visit next so that we can remove the old plans. Also, it is a good time at the beginning of the year to remind all families that school’s can only administer medication through the day if it is provided in original packaging with the student’s name and directions. Please don’t break up or sort into your own containers. A school may also need to have further discussions with a family for some medication and possibly establish a Health Care Plan.
Class teacher’s or a member of the Learning Support Team will be steadily working through all students with extra support needs, existing Health Care Plans or Behaviour Plans as a priority during the next couple of weeks. Families concerned can expect calls, maybe a Review meeting and drafting updated documents for consideration where appropriate. In the meantime, and as always, it is hoped that parents with their child’s class teacher keep in touch with how students are settling into their new classes.

Have a fantastic year everyone! Any school is a partnership. All partners in our school community need to be open to discuss new ideas and existing practices regularly to achieve the best outcomes we can for our students. There are many pathways to a shared goal and talking to each other helps determine our path. Please contact the school office if you need any assistance.

**General School Contributions**

Each Child $20.

In Public Schools an annual voluntary contribution fee is sought from parents/carers. Parents should send their children’s fee direct to the ladies in the office.

This contribution helps maintain a similar level of funding available for resources or special programs as other schools. In the last few years the support from families has been terrific and all Voluntary School Contributions collected have been directed solely to the purchase of consumable items used by students in the classroom to improve their lessons and experiences. It is a most valued contribution and your support is appreciated.

**Text Book and Software Fee**

Lake Wyangan PS has a text book and software fee of $20.

In 2016 this will contribute towards maths texts and help provide access at home for students on the internet to Mathletics and Reading Eggs educational software.

**Student/Parent Interviews**

Parent/Teacher/Student three way interviews are in the middle of Term 1 and Term 3. This allows parents/carers with teachers to formally communicate on two occasions where needs and goals of children can be discussed with real time for both home and class teachers to respond, plan and act collaboratively to help students. Annual written Progress Reports will still be issued at the end of Term 2 and Term 4. As usual, families are welcome to contact the school at anytime to arrange additional meetings with class teachers to discuss their child or school activities, if needed. Term 1 interviews might be used by parents to discuss new class teachers impressions, student initial performance and effort, explain class rules, expectations and routines and hopefully answer any questions you have. School WHS and welfare requirements along with some students requiring Personalised Learning Plans can also be resolved at the one early interview; which is far more efficient for staff and families involved. As in the past, a separate Interview note with meeting times will be sent home by class teachers.

**School Canteen**

The P&C School Canteen operates each Friday starting next week. The canteen is manned wholly by parent/carer volunteers and has generously and efficiently been co-ordinated by amazing parents. Our 2016 Canteen Co-ordinator, Sharon Stephens is the next amazing parent taking over the reins from Brenda Piroso. The estimated time frame for volunteers is between 9.00-1.00 in the first instance. This is open to change (shorter time span) once the canteen routine is established and known.

A tear off note is on the last page of this newsletter. If you can spare one or two mornings during the term to help out, please return the note, contact the school office to leave your name or contact Sharon on 0431740980.

A wonderful initiative by the P&C, established for our school community and it cannot operate without the terrific time given by volunteers. Any profits raised after operating and equipment costs go to our students through nominated P&C projects.

**How To Order your lunch?**

1. Write your name, what you want, cost of items and total on the outside of a paper lunch bag. Place the money inside the bag and seal carefully. (Money must accompany the order, no accounts are being kept.)
2. Place your order in the box, in each class before 9.30 a.m.
3. Paper bags available at school. A couple will be sent home.
Example

e.g: If you put in a $5 note.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 x Roast Chicken Sandwich</td>
<td>$2.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 x Choc Milk</td>
<td>$1.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$4.30</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change Needed</td>
<td>70c</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Student Banking**

Our wonderful volunteer parent, Rebecca Hilton, will be processing student banking on **Wednesday’s** this year. New families who would like to set up a special student banking account just need to visit our local Commonwealth Bank or go online to complete an application form. A promo pack from the bank is usually provided to Kindergarten families early in the year.

**Weekly Merit Assembly**

Friday is our usual Merit Assembly day at Lake Wyangan P.S. Start at 2.20pm to finish at 3.00pm for normal parent pick up arrangements home. Special assemblies will be published in future newsletters and on the School Calendar.

Starting Week 3, Friday Feb. 12th:- Our first Merit Award Assembly will be at 2.20pm.

All parents, family and friends are invited to celebrate the efforts of students at our weekly assemblies.

**Calendar of Events**

A link to an easy digital calendar for all of 2016 is available on our website.

A paper copy of this term will also be sent home.

Dates are just an indication to parents to help with any plans and organisation. All dates are subject to change as circumstance warrants and should be verified against the latest Newsletter and information provided at P&C Meetings.

**Visitors**

All volunteers, tradespeople, helpers and visitors must sign in at the office before starting any activity with the children, beginning jobs (including P&C and Scripture) or simply spending time in the classroom.

This is for the children’s safety and the volunteer’s well being! For instance the Sign-On Registers are used in emergency situations, following accidents, and for authority to be on school premises. Please Sign In when you arrive! Your help is appreciated as the safety of both our students and volunteers is our primary concern.

**Reading Tutors and other volunteers**

Parents, Friends and Community members who would like to share a moment of their day with students and listen to the children read or help them with their work are wanted at Lake Wyangan. Helpers for each class will be placed on a roster by class teachers to come in and assist the children.

If you would like to help students and share in some of their successes, please phone the school or send in a note to your child’s class teacher, we would love to hear from you. All new volunteers will need to have a short meeting with the Principal or delegated teacher before assisting in the classrooms. Any reading roster won’t start for a couple of weeks while classes settle in for the new year.

If there is a different area you are interested in providing help, craft or maths for example, please let your child’s class teacher know.
Picking Up And Dropping Off Children
The school would like to thank all parents and carers in advance for walking into the school and collecting the children instead of sitting in vehicles and expecting them to come to cars of an afternoon. Our school policy does require teachers to keep students at the bus waiting area until they are personally collected. This will be the concrete area just behind the office under the COLA, unless the weather is particularly extreme and then the children wait for their parents and buses inside 2-3D Mrs Damini's classroom (the brick building).

Family members picking up children are asked to collect their children from the line up area, not near class doorways. To help with organisation, communication, finishing activities and most important of all - monitoring the movements of all students at the end of day.

Your co-operation in this matter helps with tracking students, provides a safer place for all the children to be and contributes to a stronger road and car awareness. Younger students especially, who watch the older students will develop good habits and be better aware of how dangerous the car park and road crossing can be.

Student Assistance
Now is a good opportunity for the school to remind parents that if the timing and related cost of any school event is creating difficulties for your family then the school may be able to assist. Either through changing the timing or arrangements related to payments or by offering some financial assistance. The school can be flexible and we allocate a limited financial resource to provide student assistance.

What I am saying to families is that if your pay doesn’t come in until Friday (2 days after the school needs some), you lost your wallet, or you simply are experiencing a degree of financial hardship at present, then please contact the school and discuss possible alternatives to the arrangements that may have been set out in our notes. Chasing missing notes and making follow up calls is a huge drain on school resources and staff time that can be eliminated just by parents and the school talking with each other in the first instance.

Money Envelopes
Lake Wyangan have a store of money envelopes. Some of these will be sent home to each family to send back to school whenever you need to send money with your child. They are certainly a safe and effective way of keeping track of money between home and school. If you need more just ask, from time to time we will try to remember to send extras home with the newsletter.

School Choir  🎶🎶🎶🎶
A special Lake Wyangan School Choir was started in 2003. A fabulous parent volunteer Mrs Pedler will be conducting our Choir again in 2016. To be a part of the Choir students will need to attend rehearsals on Wednesday afternoons after school 3.15pm- 4.15pm plus any usual extra practices during school when building up to special performances. Every other year we look at nominating some of our Choir members for performances. Every other year we look at nominating some of our Choir in an eisteddfod or some other special event.

The Lake Wyangan Public School Choir will formally get under way again Week 3, Wednesday, February 10th.

All children at Lake Wyangan P.S. as part of the curriculum are involved with group singing throughout the year, but the Choir is a representative group from Year 3-6 students prepared to meet regularly and work hard.

The Choir representatives for performances will be selected from Years 3-6 student volunteers. Students need to love singing and be able to put in a sustained effort to learn words and different arrangements as well as listen to instructions and dress in school uniform/costume when performing. Parents please encourage your children to be included if you think they would enjoy being involved.

Absence Notes – Arriving Late – Leaving Early
If your child arrives late, leaves early or is absent at any time from school, an explanatory note or call is required by every NSW school. This is a legislative requirement on both teachers and parents related to ‘Duty of Care’ of children in N.S.W. I will send copies of a simple fill in the blank note to make this a quick and easy process for home. Keep them somewhere handy and simply return a completed note to the class teacher whenever your child is absent.

All students who arrive late or depart early need their parents or carers to fill in the absence register at the office. The office will provide a permission slip for parents to take to students classes when dropping off or picking up during the school day. Please understand that staff are required to establish the specific reason for an absence, ‘appointment’ or ‘Wagga’ for example would need to be explained further.
Sport
Thursday will continue to be the school sports day for all classes at Lake Wyangan P.S. During summer, sport will be in the morning. During winter, sport will be in the afternoon. Having sport on Thursday will allow the school to avoid complications with set curriculum programs, staff employed in multiple schools and help avoid clashes at sporting venues frequented by town schools Wednesday and Friday.

Homelearning (previously referred to as homework)
Mr Dawson will explain school expectations regarding homelearning at the first P&C meeting. Simply though, teachers have been instructed to issue homework to students on Monday and collect it back in by Friday.

Transport – Are you eligible for assistance?
If your child doesn’t catch a bus and is transported by private vehicle to school, then you are likely to be entitled to financial assistance from the Department of Transport in the form of a subsidy. If you drive your child and there is no suitable bus service and you live more than 1.6km from the school, please let us know so that we can send an application form home.

Swimming Carnival
Tuesday, February 16th, is the Small Schools Swimming Carnival. I would welcome a couple of volunteers who may be able to assist on the day.

Students from Lake Wyangan in Years 3-6 will travel by bus to and from the Griffith Regional Aquatic and Leisure Centre. Cost for the bus is $3.00 per student. The bus will depart the school at 9.00am and should hopefully arrive back by 3.00pm.

Entry to the pool for students is $3.70 and entry for spectators is $1.10. Traditionally the Small Schools Swimming Carnival concludes between 2.00pm and 3.00pm, but parents shouldn’t rely on this.

There is a canteen at the Griffith Aquatic Centre which should be operating on the day. The organising school P&C traditionally has the opportunity to run a sausage sizzle if they wish.

A permission note will be sent home next week for parents to complete and return to class teachers.

Kinder, Year One and Year Two children will remain at Lake Wyangan Public School for their regular school day.

Senior Excursion – EARLY NOTICE
The major excursion for Year 5 and Year 6 students in 2016, will be a two-three day excursion to Bendigo-Ballarat in Term 4. Details are still being organised but to assist families with planning we like to give as much advance notice as possible of the costs. Considering accommodation, activities and transport costs, in total families should budget for approximately $300 per child to attend the excursion.

Similarly, a different excursion for Year 3 and Year 4 for 1-2 nights is booked for Dubbo. Please include in any family budgeting and put something aside. Families are invited to start paying in small instalments to the school now, if this is seen as being a more convenient and certain method of saving and payment. Any money collected in Term 1 or 2 can be refunded to families if excursions are cancelled.

Fruit Breaks (usually around 10ish) & Water  [Crunch ‘n’ Sip]
All classes allow and encourage the students to nibble on fruit or raw vegetables and sip water in class. Drinking water and being able to have a nibble of fruit or raw vege helps sustain students until their main breaks, giving them energy and helping with concentration. Each class teacher has different class rules about the type of access and location of nibbling during lesson time. However, the following expectations are the same across Lake Wyangan P.S.

1. Drink for sipping is **water** only.
2. Fruit and raw vege should be cut into finger sized pieces and in a small sealed container. (eg: Sliced carrot, celery, apple) No whole fruit or juicy dribbly stuff. The aim is to drop a bite size piece in the mouth, that doesn’t interrupt doing work, require hand washing and doesn’t take forever to finish.
3. Only fruit or raw vege.
4. Having water or fruit pieces is not compulsory, it is an optional bonus for the children. There is a growing belief that this helps students function better, for longer, consequently boosting their learning.
**Library Bags**  
To help protect our books, all students must have a library bag when borrowing. A library bag extends the life and availability of books and teaches students to respect and care for books. Carried separately or shoved inside school bags with textas, food and leaky drinks, a library bag works wonders.

A green shopping bag will do the job or a homemade calico bag. The school can also obtain some library bags for sale at cost price. They are simple coloured cotton or polyester library bags with a draw string. In green, red, yellow or blue the library bags are usually around $8 each.

**Health Alert**  
Headlice is another normal thing at this time of year in Griffith when schools go back. Please let the class teacher know if you find headlice throughout the year. When we hear of several cases at a similar time we inform parents to increase vigilance and checks and we send some extra information home.

**Does your child have or want to develop Special Talents or an Area Of Interest**  
Hundreds of events, selection trials, and competitions from the Department Of Education and from various other government and private groups are received by the school all year. With the exception of P.S.S.A sport, it is not possible or appropriate to bring all of these to your attention. To help make sure we make the most of different opportunities for the children, please let the school know if your child has any special talents or areas of interest. Any material or promotion that then comes along which matches with known student interests can be identified. Eg: chess, band workshops, baton twirling, gymnastics, science, dance, drama, public speaking, etc. Is your child learning a musical instrument?

**Approaching Your School**

A parent community guide for seeking information and expressing concerns.

From time to time parents or other members of the school community may need to approach the school in order to:
- discuss the progress or welfare of own child
- express concern about actions of the other students
- enquire about school policy or practice
- express concern about actions of staff.

It is therefore necessary to have procedures that will help solve problems as soon as possible so that a safe and harmonious school environment is maintained. The best results usually flow from working together.

In very rare cases, where people wishing to express concerns, do so in an aggressive, threatening or violent manner, the principal (or nominee) has the legal authority under the “Inclosed Lands Act” to:
- direct the person to immediately leave the grounds
- call the police to remove the person should he/she refuse
- withdraw future permission (by letter) for the person to enter the grounds without permission of the principal.
- seek further legal avenues.
Code of Conduct for Parents/Visitors

A code of conduct for parents and visitors ensures that everyone who visits the school site is able to do so in a safe and harmonious manner and to ensure that students, staff, parents and other visitors are not subjected to derogatory, aggressive, hostile or violent behaviours.

Parents and visitors are expected to:
- Treat all persons associated with the school with respect and courtesy
- Ensure their child/children are punctual to class
- Make appointments in advance of expecting to obtain an interview
- Allow staff to supervise, investigate and manage students without interference
- Discuss issues or concerns about the school, staff or students through the correct procedures
- Follow school procedures governing entry and behaviour on school grounds, including any restrictions that may be imposed.

Any person contravening this Code of Conduct is advised that the provisions of the Inclosed Lands Protection Act (1901) and its amendments will be followed if any of the following occur:
- Actual physical assaults or threatened physical assaults on students, staff, parents or community member at the school or during the course of school activities;
- Behaviour in the presence of students, staff, parents, or other visitors to the school that causes alarm or concern to the students, staff, parents or other visitors;
- Use of offensive language (i.e. swearing) in the presence of students, staff or other visitors to the school;
- Any interruption to the learning environment of the school such as entering classrooms without permission.

Your co-operation is sought in maintaining a safe and happy school.

Mobile Book Library – Membership Applications
Application Forms for the Western Riverina Libraries is usually sent home at the start of the year to our new students. Please complete the forms and return to the school or town library. This will allow your child to borrow from the Mobile Book Library when it visits out school fortnightly. The Mobile Library has informed us that they will recommence their visits from next Tuesday, February 2nd.

Weekly Reminders

Student Banking Wednesday
Mobile Library Tuesday (Fortnightly)
Library Day Monday 1-2L and 5-6F
Library Day Tuesday K-1H and 2-3D
Library Day Wednesday 4G
Chess Club Thursday (To be confirmed)
Choir Rehearsals Wednesday
Sports Day Thursday
Canteen/Lunch Orders Friday
Uniform Shop Friday (3.00pm-3.30pm)
School Assembly Friday (2.20pm)

If you have spare time on a Friday, and would like to help out in our school canteen, please complete this form and return to the School office. You will be placed on a roster to help our once or twice per term.

Yes, I can volunteer to help operate the Lake Wyangan Public School P&C Canteen.

Name: .................................................................

Phone: .................................................................

I can help ....................... times per term.

Signed: .................................................................