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2 February 2018

Assistant Principal's Report

Dear Families,

WELCOME

A very big welcome back to all our families, and a special welcome to those of you who are new to our school. Brenda has taken some unexpected leave but we are hoping to see her back at school on Monday

Our school is growing – we now have 14 classes - and this year we are very lucky to have some great new teachers join us at Larapinta in 2018:

Mrs Kristen Wormald (from WA) Transition in Rm3
Miss Amy Hall (from NSW) Year 1/2 in Rm1
Miss Bridget Colman (from Vic) Year 3/4 min Rm7
Ms Georgie Sutton (from Ntaria School) Year 3/4 in Rm10
Mr Jacob Howard (from Tasmania) Year 5/6 in Rm14 (the old science room)
Mr Jay Presland who will be teaching Health and PE out of the hall and Mrs Jess O'Brien who will be working across the school in a variety of roles to support teachers and students.

All of our students are working well in their new classrooms and following the Larapinta Code in class and in the playground. Our code is "**We are SAFE. We are RESPECTFUL. We are LEARNERS.**" This forms part of our school wide positive behaviours (SWPB) and students are regularly acknowledged for demonstrating the code. Please support us by talking with your child about ways they can be safe, respectful learners at school.

MEET THE TEACHER

Please join us on Tuesday 13th February from 5:30-6:00pm in classrooms to meet your child/ren's teacher for 2018. After a brief classroom walk-through, we have a complimentary sausage sizzle near the basketball courts from 6:00 – 6:30pm.

We look forward to meeting you all and working together to make this year your child's best one so far!

SCHOOL HOURS

Although teachers are officially on duty 15mins before the bell and 15mins after, at Larapinta we have a teacher on duty at 8:10am and teachers supervising the kiss 'n' go area until 3:10pm each day. Camp Australia (private provider) offers before and after school care at school and Little Antz (private provider) offers after school care off campus if you require supervision of your children outside these times.

CRUNCH AND SIP

This year we continue with CRUNCH AND SIP time. For many children the 10.30 recess break is a long time since breakfast so each day at 9 am after morning fitness children can have a small fruit or vegetable snack that they can eat in their classroom during learning time. The snack should be peeled if necessary and cut, ready to eat. Carrot, celery and apple cut into smaller pieces are ideal. The snack needs to be classroom friendly; a whole orange will create a mess in the classroom but is a great choice for recess or lunch. The snack time is designed to boost and sustain concentration in class. Every child also needs a water bottle that can be used in the classroom throughout the day.

HATS

Our school has a 'no hat, no play' policy. We request all children have a hat that they keep at school so that they do not have to miss out on being in the playground with their friends during fitness, recess and lunch play times. If they need to take their hats home, please remind them that we do not keep 'spare' hats for days when they forget to bring them to school.

Our school is moving to sun safe bucket hats by the start of next term and they will become a compulsory part of our school uniform. If you already own a bucket hat, please wear it. If not, we have reversible Larapinta hats (in team colours) available for $10 at the front office and they will make a great addition to our Sports Day costumes.

STUDENT LEADERS

We have had some fantastic ideas for a new look Student Leadership Team at Larapinta. We will meet with interested students early next week and provide them with an application form and some information for families. It should be an exciting year for the kids who are keen to step into a leadership role at school.

AFTERNOON PICK UP

We know the carpark is exceptionally busy and thank you for your patience each afternoon as you come to collect your children. You can assist to keep it running smoothly by:

- Making sure you move as far forward as possible in the 'kiss and go' area to give room to vehicles coming in behind you.
- **NOT** getting out of your car to put children or bicycles and so on in the car. If you need to get out to assist your child please find a carpark rather than use the 'kiss and go' as it is disruptive to the flow of the traffic.
- **NOT** getting out of your car when it is parked in the 'kiss and go' to look for your child or to talk to staff. We monitor the area and will send your child to you when we see your car.
- Using the internal crossing to walk your child across the road. This is a minor inconvenience if you are not parked directly near the crossing. It does, however, model good road sense to your child and decrease the possibility of any accidents.
- **NOT** encouraging your child to get into your car in the middle of the road before it has pulled into the 'kiss and go' area
- **NOT** parking in the bus bay on Lyndavale Drive

The safety of every child is paramount to us and we appreciate your assistance in this endeavour.

FITNESS

We are participating in a more structured whole school fitness session four mornings a week from 8:35-8:50pm. All students who arrive after the bell, must go to the office and they will be sent to their fitness area for that day.

We are really looking forward to a successful year and thank you for your continued support.

Kind regards,

Jackie

School Snapshot

BACK TO SCHOOL PAYMENT

If you haven't used your back to school payment yet please come and do so. These run out at the end of the term and can't be utilised after that. You can use the $150 to pay for the swimming program (for students up to Year 2), for performances, excursions and to purchase uniforms (including reversible bucket hats in team colours for $10). For those who have pre-paid for hats, they will be delivered to students this week.

SPORTS VOUCHERS

Sports Vouchers will be sent home with students this week. The sports voucher scheme is an initiative of the Northern Territory Government to provide opportunities for kids to participate in sport, recreation and cultural activities. We only have vouchers for students who were enrolled with us at the end of the last school year. More information for families , including a list of registered activity providers that can accept vouchers can be found via the link below or through the sports voucher hotline on 1800 817 860 or sport.voucher@nt.gov.au.

http://www.sportvoucher.nt.gov.au/

Preschool News

Welcome to our new and returning families to Larapinta Preschool in 2018. Most of our new children have made a smooth transition into the Preschool and have been actively engaged in a wide range of activities. Indoor and outdoor spaces have been explored and new daily routines and class rules have been introduced. Every child will need more time to become familiar with the Preschool program, staff, routines, rules and expectations.

Please don't be concerned if your child is still unsettled as every child is unique and will settle when they are ready. Our main priority is to ensure that each child and family feels safe and secure in this new environment and will begin to develop a sense of belonging to the Preschool.

The Preschool Team

This year we have a few staff changes to our preschool team. The preschool staff are:

Mrs Jenny Ashenden (Teacher in Charge) – Monday to Friday

Jenny will be teaching in Unit 2 Monday and Tuesday and both Units Wednesday and Thursday afternoons.

Unit 1

Mrs Denise Kennedy (Early Childhood Teacher) – Monday to Friday morning
Mrs Wendy Pierson (Early Childhood Educator) – Monday to Friday
Mrs Marlene Firkin (Special Education Assistant & Early Childhood Educator) – Monday to Thursday

Unit 2

Mrs Michelle Francis (Early Childhood Teacher) – Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
Mrs Cathy Bridges (Early Childhood Educator) – Monday to Friday
Mrs Holly Bennett (Early Childhood Educator and Inclusion Support Assistant) – Monday to Thursday

Mrs Eleanor Diflo from preschool last year who is teaching at the primary school this year will be working at preschool over lunch time on Mondays and Tuesdays.

Back to School Vouchers

Preschool staff can assist you finalise your Back to School Vouchers.

Community News

WESTS'
NETBALL CLUB ALICE SPRINGS

Wests' Netball Club
is looking for junior and senior players
for the 2018 season.

We have spaces in the following age groups:

8&Under Grade
- boys and girls born 2010-2012

10&Under Grade
- boys and girls born 2008—2009

11&Under Grade
- boys and girls born 2007

13&U Grade
-boys born in 2006 and
girls born between 2005 and 2006

We also have spaces in our
C Grades,
B Grades and A Grades for interested Adults wanting some fun and fitness with the friendliest club in town.
Show your kids a great example for sport participation!

Sports vouchers accepted
Fees include training once a week and games every Saturday

For further information please contact us on 0408 529 331 or email WestsNetballClub@live.com.au