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31 May 2023

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



SORRY DAY and RECONCILIATION WEEK

Our school observed Sorry Day last Friday, remembering and acknowledging Aboriginal people who were forcibly removed from their families, as well as the ongoing impact on families. This week is National Reconciliation Week – a time for

Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements. Students will participate in learning rotations this week and perform at assembly on Friday. We look forward to seeing you there!

AWARDS

Celebrating Great Teachers and Leaders

Don't miss these opportunities to nominate our great teachers and leaders:

- NT Education and Care Awards - Nominations open, closing Friday 2 June. To nominate someone or for further information, click [here](#) and follow the awards on Facebook .
- Teaching in the Territory Excellence Awards nominations are open. Information on the award categories and nomination requirements are available [here](#)
- NEITA Awards Nominations for this year's awards are now open. You can nominate a special teacher at <https://neita.com>

SLEEP AND LEARNING

Some children are coming to school very tired and are not able to concentrate on their learning because they are not getting enough sleep. Children often report that they have been on their

phone or other device at night-time instead of going to sleep. Sometimes they fall asleep in class!

If your child has access to a device, please make sure they hand it to you and go to bed at a reasonable time.

Screen time in the hour before bed can stimulate your child. Blue light from televisions, computer screens, phones and tablets can suppress melatonin levels and delay sleepiness. Technology affects the brain...sounds and blinking lights can cause unwanted awakenings when sleeping next to electronics.

The recommended duration of sleep for primary school students is 9-11 hours. Good quality sleep helps children concentrate, remember things, and behave well. This helps them be successful learners. Poor sleep or not enough sleep affects concentration, memory, and behaviour, making it harder for your child to learn.

If children are too tired to stay awake and concentrate at school, families will be called to collect them. Please support the school and your child by making sure that devices are not used at night and that kids are getting plenty of sleep.

STAFF PROFESSIONAL LEARNING DAY

Our school council has approved a staff professional learning day at the primary school next term on **Friday 21st July**. This is Friday of the first week back at school after the break. Please note on your calendars as **students will not attend on this day**.

Preschool staff will have a professional learning day on Thursday 20th July and children will not attend Preschool on this day.

All students will return to school on Monday 17th July after the break.

Kind regards,

Brenda

SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

IMPORTANT DATES

DATE	
Term 2	
Mon 29th May – Fri 2nd June	Reconciliation Week
Tue 30th May	Eisteddfod - Jazz
Wed 31st May	Eisteddfod - HipHop
Thur 1st June	Eisteddfod – Student choreography
Thursday 15th June	Aboriginal Parent Meeting
Friday 23rd June	Last day of term
Term 3	
Monday 17th July	Students return
Thursday 20th July	Preschool staff professional learning day – student free day
Friday 21st July	Primary staff professional learning day - student free day
Tues 25th July – Thurs 27th July	School Photos – Primary and Preschool



NUTRITION NEWS


IDEAS IN NUTRITION

To Snack or Not to Snack

Your child is constantly snacking but never wants to eat when it's time for a meal? This is not unusual or anything you have done wrong. These days we often hear of a similar experience from parents. How can you break the cycle? We recommend starting "time to get hungry"

What is time to get hungry?
Time to get hungry is having breaks between meals/ snacks that are around 2-3 hours. Children have small stomachs so they do need to eat often in the day. But if they are eating constantly they might start to get confused about what hungry feels like. Try offering food and then telling children they need to wait 2-3 hours until their next meal or snack.

We would love to hear how you go with this. If you would like to get in touch email nutritiondarwinurban.doh@nt.gov.au



SCHOOLZINE APP – NEW IMPROVED VERSION

Do you use the Schoolzine Newsletter app? It's free and a great way to keep up to date with important information about upcoming events and exciting things that have been happening at school. It also enables you to view previous newsletters. The newsletter can be read in a range of languages; just select at the top of the page.

Please see below for instructions on how to install/update the SZapp:

SZapp Version 4.0.0



There is a new version of SZapp available for Android and IOS Devices. Please ensure that you have updated to this version to assure you receive communications from the school.

If you are using an Android Device, you will need to uninstall the old app and install the new version.

IOS Devices (iPhones) will be able to update without requiring a re-install.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we are confident that the improvements in the new version will make it worth it.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

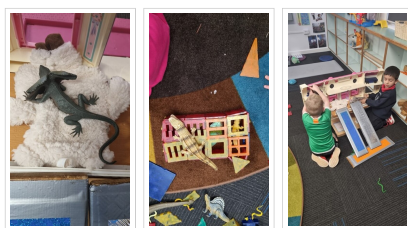
Werte from Preschool

We had an exciting few weeks of fun and learning at preschool with the highlight being a visit from the Reptile Centre. How cool was it to get to learn about and see these amazing reptiles up close. We got to touch and even hold them (if we wanted to). There was lots of information packed into the 30 minute session with the children learning some interesting facts about

blue tongue lizards, bearded dragons, shingleback lizards and olive tree pythons. Did you know shingleback lizards can turn their feet right around? And because their tail looks like their head it confuses their predators. They also have a blue tongue to try and scare their predators away – how cool! Many brave preschoolers were keen to hold the big snake – it felt heavy around their necks and felt different to what they thought it would. Some children described its texture as being soft, while another said it felt rubbery.



The Reptile Centre visit inspired some wonderful roleplay with the children creating their own habitats for the reptile toys we had set up in the room. They used various materials in their habitats – including magnets, the doll house, puppets (as beds for the lizards of course) and even built them their own cars to drive. We will continue learning about Reptiles and what makes them different from other animal groups such as mammals.



We were lucky to have Inderpreet Singh join us on his first ever teacher placement. He shared some wonderful activities with the children including a floating snakes science experiment, a lizard race game, milking a cow experience and read some interesting reptile fact books to the class. The preschoolers were so welcoming of Inder and he will be missed in the classroom.



PRESCHOOL REVIEW

The NT Government wants every child in the NT to have the best start in life and gain a bright future through early learning. A review is currently underway to understand how preschool can better support this vision.

The Preschool Review Discussion paper is open until the 29th May 2023 for consultation and everybody is encouraged to 'Have their Say'.

<https://haveyoursay.nt.gov.au/preschool-review>

Have your say!



The Department of Education is conducting a Preschool Review, and we want to hear your feedback on preschool in the NT.

A survey for families, educators and community members is now available online, scan the QR code or visit haveyoursay.nt.gov.au to have your voice heard!



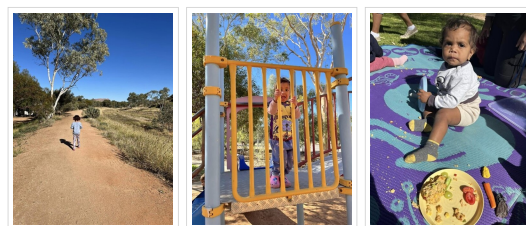
CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRE (CFC)

*Our vision is that every child has the best possible start to life.
Children and families are at the centre of all we do.
We live and work on Arrernte Country.*

Wertel

Families as First Teachers' Excursion

Last Friday, FaFT families and staff went exploring together at the beautiful Gosse Street Park. New experiences provide great opportunities for language and communication growth and promote creative connections in the brain! And are such fun! So many new things to explore!



Strong Young Mothers and Fathers!

One of the joys about working with young mums is watching them tick off their personal goals. Louise Tilmouth is a young mum to three children. Louise has been attending the Young Parent sessions at Larapinta CFC from the beginning of the year – and asked for help getting her licence. Louise passed with flying colours and now has more independence. Louise will continue coming along to the Young Parents sessions so her kids can play and she can learn more about their development and possibly tick off some more personal goals.

Last week we also celebrated Families Week with a BBQ out at the Telegraph Station.



Bikes Mwerre!

After 3 weeks of bike repair workshops, last week some Larapinta Primary students were able to take their bikes for a test ride! These students have been able to learn some basic bike mechanics skills and have become more confident cyclists!



Hey folks! Bikes Mwerre are on the hunt for more staff to help us facilitate our after school programs and upcoming holiday programs!

There are paid roles for bike riders, mechanics and creative folk, as well as community members with good relationships to be positive role models for kids in Mparntwe. If you're interested in joining the team or if you have any questions, send us a message and we'll get back to you ASAP.



Kele Mwerre!

REMINDERS

School Uniform Donations

If your child has grown out of their uniforms, we will gladly take donations of any spares. Just drop them into the office and hand to Palisha at the front desk. All donations gratefully received!

Digital device policy

To manage the use of digital devices, Larapinta School has implemented a 'personal digital devices' policy in line with the NT Department of Education's policy. This includes a 'switched off and securely stored' procedure.

'Switched off and securely stored' means devices that are brought to school are turned off and not accessed, seen, or heard at any time during school hours and are physically secured. Our procedure is for students to turn their phones off, hand them to the front office staff, and sign them in and out each day. Parents and students are required to sign off on the procedure to acknowledge that they understand the restrictions in place.

Major issues relating to the use of personal digital devices in educational environments include:

- Misuse having profound effects on students' health and wellbeing.
- Disruption to teaching through the receipt and transmission of messages.
- Privacy concerns relating to the ability of many devices to take photographs or record conversations without the knowledge of those being recorded.
- Access to inappropriate materials via the internet
- Potential for cyber bullying
- Loss or theft

Parent Contribution

The Larapinta School Council has set the parent contribution for Primary School students at \$110 per year or \$55.00 per semester. This voluntary contribution allows us to enhance the offerings to our students including IT Resources such as Apps and access up to the minute hardware and software; additional enhanced consumable resources to assist student learning; and enrichment opportunities beyond the performances parents pay for via the Back-to-School voucher.

For Preschool students, the contribution is \$200 per year or \$50.00 per ten-week term. The Preschool contributions allow us to enhance the offerings to our preschool students and enables us to run activities such as painting, making play dough, collage, and home corner dress-ups as well as cooking. This payment helps to ensure we can continue to provide a high-quality early childhood education for your child.

The contribution for 2023 can be paid when you purchase uniforms and access your Back-to-School voucher.

Enrolment management plan

Larapinta School has an Enrolment Management Plan in place that prioritises enrolment for students within the Larapinta School zone. It requires strict adherence to the priority enrolment area assessment criteria for acceptance of future enrolments. It includes a requirement that adequate proof of residence is provided with an application for enrolment. Additionally, acceptance of a student into the preschool, from outside the priority enrolment area, does not guarantee acceptance of that student into the school for Transition and beyond.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Dolly's Dream Support Line

Dolly's Dream Support Line is now available to families and students 24/7, providing them with access to qualified counsellors for free and without a referral. To access this service, call or text 0488 881 033 or use this [webchat](#).

Resources are available to support families concerned about bullying and cyberbullying.

