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*8th February 2024*

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Dear families,

Welcome to 2024! We have hit the ground running here at Larapinta. Staff returned prior to students to make sure we were all ready to receive you.

As well as our many new students and families, we welcome the following staff to our team: Mrs Libby Maher in a second Assistant Principal role, supporting Inclusive Practices Years 3-6; Mrs Megan Nertney (Senior Teacher Inclusive Practices Preschool to Year 2); Ms Mary Thorpe (music teacher); Ms Tatiana Rhodes (Yr 3/4); and Mr Stuart McKee (Year 1/2). Josh Lander has joined in a second Aboriginal Education Officer (AEO) position. New support staff working in our classrooms are Julie Hayes, Simron Lal, Medina Marino, Arama Bishop, Tinashe Deka, and Abraham Clarke.

## Meet the Teacher

Next Tuesday evening parents are invited to our classrooms to meet your child's teacher, hear all about how the class will run this year, expectations and more. These sessions will be different to the past few years with the same information presented twice in the evening; from 5-5.30pm and a repeat session from 5.30-6pm. This means that parents with children in more than one class can attend both class sessions. It will, however, require families to be here on time to take in the full information presented by the teacher. Students can be supervised in the library with younger siblings so that parents can attend to the information without distraction. For safety and supervision reasons students must not be on the playground equipment or riding bikes/scooters around the courts on the evening. Thanks for your cooperation.

## School Uniform

A reminder that families can access their \$200 Back to School voucher to cover cost of uniforms and other items but only until the end of term for students in the primary school.

All students are required to be in school uniform daily. Our uniform is the teal green shirt and navy-blue bottoms (not

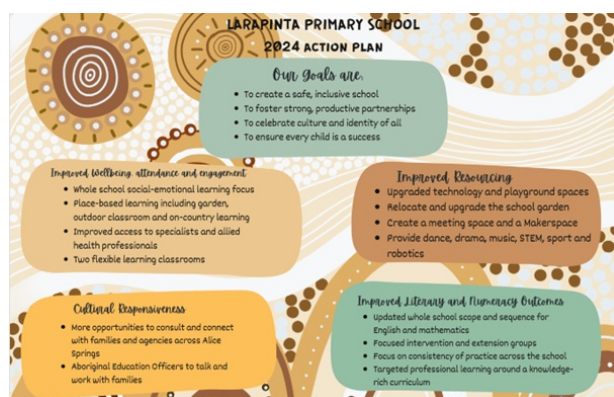
black shorts or leggings, and not jeans). All children must have a bucket hat at school to be worn outdoors. Water bottles are also required by all children every day. We now have water bottles for sale here at school if required.

## School Council Annual General Meeting

All parents and carers are invited to the Larapinta School Council Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> March at 5.30pm. I am especially keen to hear from any parents who may be interested in joining school council this year as we have a few positions to fill.

## 2024

We are excited for all that this new year promises. Below is a copy of our Action Plan with key focuses for the year. This plan incorporates the ideas that staff, students and families contributed last year.



## The team around us...

A huge thanks to our Administration staff, Anca, Josie, and Palisha, who worked tirelessly over the break to make sure we were prepared. So much happens while students and teachers are on leave. Thanks to Michelle and Rachael for assisting with uniform sales.

I'd like to acknowledge Brian Kerby who has kept our grounds in great order over the past fifteen or more years. A big thanks to Brian for his care of our school, his reliability, and his willingness to assist us in any way. We wish Brian all the best for his retirement.

I'd like to acknowledge and thank the contractors who have been here making sure everything is in tip top condition to start the year and ongoing; Justin Clarke for ensuring

all our green spaces are well-watered, especially in these soaring temperatures; Glenn Wastell and the team from Robar cleaning who undertake a big job each break and throughout the year; Dion Doherty for backbreaking work in the heat to fix paving, top up sandpits and so much more; Walter for responding to our air-conditioning pleas; Wayne Tregoe and his team for grounds work; and the team from Totally Tidy too. It's quite astounding how much there is to be done on an ongoing basis to keep everything humming along.

## Digital devices

Larapinta School has 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.

**Devices include smart watches – these must also be handed in at the office for safe-keeping during the school day.**

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

*Kind regards,*

**Brenda**

# SCHOOL SNAPSHOT

## IMPORTANT DATES

DATE & TIME	ACTIVITY
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup> Feb 5pm	Meet the Teacher - 5-5.30pm and a repeat session from 5.30-6pm
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 5pm	Aboriginal Parent Group Meeting
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> March 5pm	Keeping Kids Safe Parent Information Session
Tues 12 <sup>th</sup> March 5.30pm	School Council AGM
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> March 8am	Harmony Day Breakfast – Family Event

## 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.

## School Bus Travel

All Northern Territory primary, middle and senior school students can use the school bus network to travel to and from school. To help ensure that travel is safe and enjoyable for all, the code of conduct must be followed.

Students and parents are reminded of the

[Code of Conduct for School Bus Travel](#), if/when using the school bus network. For more information on the school bus network, including bus route timetables, please visit [Public transport and cycling | NT.GOV.AU](#).

## Northern Territory Music School



All enrolled continuing students will receive their first lesson in Week 2 and all new students will be met by our NTMS teacher in Week 2. Parents will be emailed information regarding equipment hire and purchases by their child's NT Music School teacher. If parents have any enquiries, please contact the NTMS office on 8963 5550.

## Polly Farmer Learning Club



**POLLY FARMER LEARNING CLUB** is recommencing on **MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY**.

Year 4, 5 & 6 Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander students are welcome to join.

We will be doing art & STEM activities, science experiments, cooking, sport, maths & literacy games, learning, growing and problem-solving together.

Learning Club runs on Monday & Wednesday afternoons from 3pm to 5pm

Please see Yvette (coordinator) or the front office for a Student Expression of Interest Form.



## Celebrating Birthdays

We love to celebrate birthdays at Larapinta and always acknowledge students' special day with a birthday song. Due to the number of students who have allergies and in the interest of equity **we request that parents do not bring cakes, icy poles, or other food to share with the class**. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

## Helmets

A reminder that all children riding bikes or scooters to school need to have a helmet. If children ride to school without helmets parents will be called to come to collect the bike or scooter as children may not ride home without it.



## Toys and Personal items

A reminder that children should not bring toys or personal items from home to school. There is potential that these items get lost, broken or otherwise go missing. They also often cause arguments between children and take away from precious teaching and learning time as disputes are resolved. We are unable to follow up missing items so please leave them at home.

## Medications at School

If your child is required to be given medication at school (ie antibiotics, Panadol, cough syrup), please ensure that you visit the front office and complete the required paperwork. First Aid staff cannot administer any medication without required consents. All medications are to be kept in the First Aid room. Children should not have asthma puffers etc in their school bags.

M/T or W/Th – 8:00am – 3:30pm

Please ensure that you are on time for pickups as teachers cover lunch breaks/attend meetings after the commencement of preschool.

Library has started – please bring your child's library bag in to transport their books to and from preschool. Please sign books out and in at the station set up out the front of Unit 1.

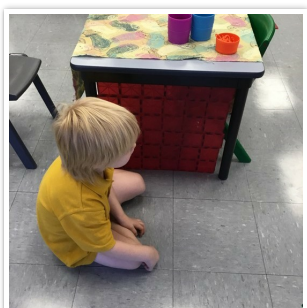
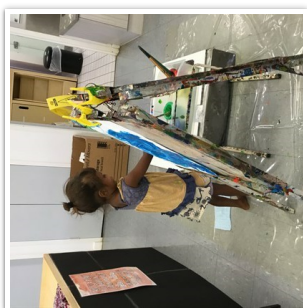
Preschool uses the app Seesaw to share information and children's learning with families. Reminders about upcoming events are also shared on Seesaw so please download the app and follow the steps on the Seesaw codes we have started giving out. If you are having trouble logging on, please see one of the teachers who can help you.

We look forward to a wonderful year of learning and fun at preschool!

## PRESCHOOL NEWS

### Werte from preschool

The children have made a very settled start into their year at preschool, with most waving their loved ones off with smiling faces. We have had a few children return to preschool from last years' cohort and these children have been great at showing the new children the routine and offering them assistance when they need it. Please feel free to call and check in if your child hasn't had the best drop off.



Our new classroom configurations have been working well with our morning session running four days a week and our two day, full day sessions. A reminder of the session times:

M-Th – 8:30am – 12:15pm

## 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.*

### Werte!

#### Transitioning

29 children and families connected to the Larapinta CFC and FaFT are transitioning to pre-school, school and other services. CFC staff have been actively supporting families in the lead up to school returning and the first few weeks. Supporting positive transitions helps children to improve their confidence in managing change. We are excited to watch our little people embark on their next learning journeys.



#### Families as First Teachers (FaFT)

As our older kids move onto bigger school, our babies are taking over in the FaFT space! 2024 has welcomed some new babies to the CFC family and we are so excited to watch them grow into strong, confident and happy learners. Lots of our babies are exploring food. Playing with food can support children to develop their curiosity about the food and approach it on their terms. This can help to create less resistance at meal times as they get older.



### Lhere Pirnte Impatye

In 2022, members of Larapinta community developed a vision to guide the Larapinta Community Fund. *Lhere Pirnte Impatye* (Larapinta 'Tracks') - a safe, happy and connected community. A big focus for this vision is to have visible signs for community to see the positive things happening in Larapinta. As we come into 2024 we are continuing to work on the 3 initiatives: Bikes Mwerre, Community Footpath and Community Champion T-shirts. Keep an eye out for updates and opportunities to get involved.

### Kele Mwerre!



## COMMUNITY NEWS



**Term 1 Schedule**  
**Albrecht Oval**  
**3pm-5pm**

**Bring your bike or ride one of ours!**

Mondays	Thursdays
Bike Riding	Bike Workshop



Completed consent form required for attendance



### KINDNESS IN MOTION

## Womens Wellness Retreat



Save the date

### Retreat Dates for 2024

March 17/03/24  
June 02/06/24  
September 15/09/24  
November 17/11/24

Join us for a rejuvenating escape, take a break and indulge in some 'me time' and connect with like-minded women

Retreat includes  
Exploring self-care techniques  
Embracing mindfulness practices  
Engaging in fun and transformative activities

Nourishing food, yoga, massage and mindfulness activity  
Time from 9-4pm  
At Campfire in the Heart Lot 147 Ragonesi Rd

Cost is \$250 or come with a friend for \$200 each



Bookings essential - scan QR code for more info or to book



**COME  
PREPARED &  
BRING A  
FRIEND**

**FEDDIES SIGN  
ON DAY**  
Saturday February 17th  
Club Eastside 2-3pm  
ALL AGES & GRADES  
Uniforms will be available to TRY ON.

**TRIALS & JUNIORS FUN SESSION**  
Saturday February 24th  
Juniors (8's, 10's & 11's) 1:30-2:30pm  
**Dance & have fun with Charmaine.**  
**Enjoy an icy pole after.**  
13's & 15's 2:30-3:30pm  
17's & Seniors 3:30-4:30pm  
Pat Gallagher Netball Courts  
**Seniors are invited for pizza and  
drinks at Club Eastside after.**

**SEE YOU ALL THERE**

**FEDERAL  
NETBALL CLUB  
EST. 1971**

**CONTACT US VIA EMAIL  
FEDSNETBALL@OUTLOOK.COM  
OR  
FACEBOOK**



Classes are \$120 for the term, and GUTS are able to accept sports vouchers!

If this sounds like something your child might be into, please contact GUTS directly via social media, or by emailing [contact@gutsdance.org.au](mailto:contact@gutsdance.org.au).

## Raising Children Network Webinars for Parents

[Raising Children Network webinars](#) offer free, live advice from trusted parenting experts on topics that matter to you.

Their webinars bring experts to you. They are delivered in real-time and it's easy to join from the comfort of your home.

Each live event is also recorded, so you can view the video later if you miss a session.

From sleep and behaviour to anxiety and screen time, they cover a range of important parenting topics.

## GUTS Dance (Alice Can Dance)

Little GUTS kids classes.

GUTS Dance (Alice Can Dance) are running two classes for young people from their Araluen studio in terms 1 and 2.

With a focus on learning about dance, self expression, imagination, teamwork and having fun, classes run on Tuesday afternoons. Session 1 is for 4 - 6 yr olds and runs from 3:30 - 4:15pm, and session 2 is for 7 - 12 year olds and runs from 4:30 - 5:30pm.