

# LOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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## **PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE:**

Welcome to the beginning of the 2015 school year. The staff team at Loch PS hope everyone enjoyed the holiday break and were able to recharge and relax. I have met our students today and have visited classrooms and observed lots of learning and smiles. There are 12 new families to Loch Primary School and we extend a warm welcome to all and encourage you to participate in our school events and activities.

Teachers have been busy preparing classrooms and learning programs during the past few weeks and are excited to be working with their students. Term 1 will be a busy term with swimming, camp for Grade 6 and our annual Parent Evening.

It is very pleasing to announce that we have received funding to continue and extend our Chaplaincy program. Matt Stear, our school Chaplain, will be working with the Loch PS community on Tuesday afternoons and Wednesdays this year. Matt works with students in the classroom, special programs and individually when needed. He provides essential support to our students and families.

The chooks were cared for over the holiday period by many people. Thank you to Louise Sherar, Ann and Ray Philpott and others who ensured the chooks were safe and cared for. We have a new exciting addition to the chook house. There was one turkey which hatched and survived.

To ensure the safety of our students, please be careful when driving to school at the beginning and end of the school day. Parents who are driving students to school are asked to enter the car park via Roy Street to avoid causing congestion at the Victoria Road entrance where the bus arrives and departs. The gates at Victoria Road will be closed during the

school day. Thanks to all parents in anticipation of your cooperation.

Next week we will meet Miss Mo Chen who will be teaching Mandarin and Chinese culture with our students on Friday mornings. Learning a second language and developing an understanding of another culture is a worthwhile experience for students and gives them an opportunity to see the world through different eyes. We live in a society which is expanding globally and as a school community we are committed to providing rich experiences which assist in preparing our students to be well informed citizens and communicators.

Miss Mo Chen is a native of Shenyang and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree (Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Languages) at Liaoning Normal University, Liaoning Province. Before moving to Australia, she taught Chinese for 2 years in a language training centre in Liaoning.

In 2012, she completed Master of Education at La Trobe University. She teaches Chinese to students from Prep- Year 3 at the Victorian School of Languages, Bentleigh centre. In 2014, she taught at Fairhills Primary School and Poowong Consolidated School. She has a deep understanding of teaching methodology, Chinese pedagogy and strong ICT skills.



In 2015, Miss Mo Chen will be working in the Karmai Alliance Schools: Loch PS, Nyora PS, Poowong PS, Korumburra PS and Korumburra SC.

"It is very exciting to be a member of Korumburra community, I cannot wait to meet my students and learn Mandarin together. I strive to help them understand their own strengths and abilities and encourage them to become lifelong learners." Mo Chen

I am looking forward to getting know the students and families of Loch PS during Term one. Positive relationships between school and home are essential for our students and I encourage all families to be involved in our programs and events. The staff team at Loch are always available to help you with concerns or questions.

Ms Tracey King

### **Parent Payments**

Many have been asking about these. Payment for books, stationary, swimming, excursions etc. will be set at the first School Council meeting. We will let you know when these are payable.

### **Swimming**

Information is attached. As the program begins on Monday, we need to receive permission and parent helper forms back at school by tomorrow please.

As usual any parent helpers will be very much appreciated as they make our program a huge success.

### **Wednesday's for Preps**

Preps for 2015 are not required to attend school on Wednesdays for the whole of February. This means they will not be joining the swimming program on both Wednesdays. Parents will be contacted by Mrs. M if they are required at school for an interview with her.

### **Newsletters & Notices**

Newsletters are usually sent home on Wednesdays so please look in your children's bag for them. We try to attach all forms to our newsletters but sometimes they have to be sent separately. Please keep an eye out for notices and forms and send them back promptly. It really helps with our organisation if we can get them back and collate them quickly.

Forms for updating contacts, addresses, photo and head lice permissions and the opportunity to receive the newsletter electronically will be sent home next week.

The "RED MAIL BOX" at the office is a secure place to leave notices if not one is available.

If you have any questions about school operations, please do not hesitate to ask at the office.

### **DIARY DATES:**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> Feb – Swimming  
Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Feb – Swimming Fun Day  
Friday 13<sup>th</sup> Feb – Swimming Sports  
Monday 16<sup>th</sup> Feb – Karmai Cluster Trials Day  
Friday 20<sup>th</sup> February - Family Evening  
Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March – School Photo Day  
Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March – Last day of Term 1

### **Uniform Orders**

If you would like to order School Uniforms please ask at the office for an order form. Orders will need to be returned by Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> February to enable a quick turnaround. There will not be another opportunity to order until end of Term 2.

### **Lunch Orders from Cosy Kitchen**

Students have the opportunity to order lunches from the Cosy Kitchen in Loch on Thursdays and Fridays only. A Menu and Price List is attached if you are interested in doing so. Students are only able to order from the Fried Food section of the Menu on specified Fried Food Days which are usually the first Thursday of each Month.

The first Scheduled Fried Food day will be next Thursday the 5<sup>th</sup> February. If anyone orders from the Fried Food menu on other days it will be substituted with something suitable. There are plastic tubs for orders with grade levels outside the office.

### **MUSIC TUITION**

The Loch Arts Council is sponsoring a music tuition program for Loch Primary School Children.

The LAC will provide one term of tuition free to any child who would like to try learning a musical instrument.

We have several instruments available for loan and some for hire and we have positions for ten pupils. Lessons can be at school or at music studios about 9 minutes from Loch with times to suit parents and tutors.

The LAC sponsored qualified tutors will initially work with parents and pupils to select a suitable instrument.

Please phone the school to express your interest.



The newest addition to our "chook house"