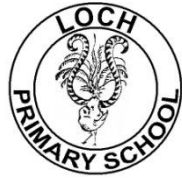


LOCH PRIMARY SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER NO. 3 11th February, 2015

PRINCIPAL'S PRATTLE:

We have two days of our swimming program left and students have enjoyed their lessons and have made enormous progress over the past two weeks. This is due to the encouragement and confidence building of those who have been teaching our students. Many teachers and parents have been involved in the swimming program and I would like to thank everyone for their willingness to participate and ensure our students have been able to experience swimming and water safety lessons. Congratulations and appreciations to Mr Mark Hunter for his organisation and leadership of the program.

House Swimming Fun Day

Our House Swimming Fun Day will conclude our swimming program this week on Friday 13th February. The middle and senior school will travel to the pool ready for a start at 1.15pm. The junior grades will arrive at the pool at 2.00pm for their events to start at 2.15pm. All parents are welcome to join us, support their children and assist with judging. An expected schedule of events is attached. (You may notice that the program is dated 20th February to trick you but it is meant to be Friday 13th February)

The House Swimming Fun Day is focused on all children having an enjoyable day and experiencing success. The younger children, grades, prep to two, remain at school until 1.30 and then will go by bus to the pool. They will have a couple of races across the pool assisted by the older children, based on what level they are in, in swimming groups. Children are to wear school uniform and may wear house colours. Legends are yellow and Lyrebirds are blue

Children are to bring:

- Bathers, rash vest & towel
- Hat & sunscreen
- lunch and snacks
- water bottle

Please remember that the children need to stay with their house groups in their designated area and be part of the school group. Parents are able to come and sit with the children in these house areas. For safety reasons please do not take your child to other areas of the pool or leave without notifying a teacher.

Cluster Swim Trials

A number of students will be selected to attend the Cluster Swimming trials on Monday 16th February. Those who make the team will be competing against other South Gippsland schools at Korumburra.

Mathletics and Reading Eggs

Our school has again subscribed for the students to access Mathletics and Reading Eggs. These are very engaging and worthwhile computer programs which children can use at school and home. Individual log-on codes are provided for everyone and use of both at home is encouraged.

Head Lice

Any parent who has a child at school will know (or will soon know!) the sheer frustration that can come with treating and preventing **head lice**. If you haven't done your homework on these menacing little critters yet, then do it quick! Even if your child hasn't had a case of head lice, you'll probably know it's a ticking time bomb and is very hard to escape. Some hairdressers report seeing head lice or nits on every third or fourth child that comes in.

The most important things to remember in order to prevent head lice are:

1. If your child has long hair, **tie it up and pin it back for school every day** (plaits or braids are great) and if you like, spray their hair with hairspray or leave in conditioner. Many parents swear by hairspray – after you've tied up your child's hair, keeping it under control with hairspray seems to help.
2. For long or short hair, encourage wearing a hat to protect their hair from coming into contact with others.
3. You can buy (or make your own) head lice resister sprays which you can spray into their hair and inside their hats. Most of the sprays have essential oils – mainly tea tree, eucalyptus, geranium and lavender – which lice don't like. It's an effective repellent.
4. Make absolutely sure that you follow any treatment program as per the instructions. No treatment exists that kills both the

head lice AND the eggs in one go. Repeating a treatment is always needed because the live lice die, but the eggs in your child's hair will hatch soon after, so you need to make sure you get them out before they are old enough to reproduce – around 7-10 days is a good time to repeat a treatment.

Peer Mediation for Grades 5 & 6.

Peer Mediation training will be held at Poowong Public Hall for Grade 5's on Monday 23rd Feb and Grade 6's on Tuesday 24th Feb. The Peer Mediation Program aims to reduce incidences of bullying by providing a school environment that is positive, caring, safe and friendly. Peer Mediation teaches students to resolve low-level conflicts using their peers as mediators. Mediation opens up communication channels allowing the disagreeing students to discuss their problems and come to a resolution with the guidance of the mediators. Students may develop improved skills in:

- Communication
- Problem solving
- Conflict management

The school may notice results in:

- Improved yard safety
- Reporting of low-level problem situations
- Increased co-operation within the community

Family Fun Evening

Much planning is taking place by all students in Grades 3-6 in preparation for our Family Fun Evening next Friday 20th February. We hope all families are able to join us from 5.30 pm. for the fun activities the students have organised, a picnic dinner and teacher information sessions later in the evening. Of course, we expect lots of socialising and enjoyment by all.

The Serious Business of Child's Play

Attached to today's newsletter is a page of information from educator, Penny Bingham, on the importance of children's development through creative play. This may provide you with some ideas you had not previously considered regarding how play and learning are interrelated. I also have a collection of other papers on a wide range of topics. Feel free to see me if you would like information on specific topics.

Poowong Pool Memberships

Can any families who have a pool membership please let us know.

OTHER INFO:

IGA Korumburra or Leongatha – Community Rewards

Families have the opportunity to sign over their total or part of their points to benefit Loch Primary School. Please enquire and register at the stores. Michaels IGA then make a cash donation to the school to the value of the reward points. This is a great fundraiser for our school. If you require more information please ask at the office.

Student Update, Photo & Head Lice Forms

Please send these back as soon as possible. It is important that we have up to date contact details.

Valentine's Day Competition

What is Valentine's Day and why do people celebrate?

Don't forget to write your answer on a sheet of paper with your name at the top. Drop your answer into the box at the front office before Friday 13th February. A winner will be drawn at assembly on Monday 16th February.

Working With Children Check

If you are a parent who kindly volunteers and helps with our programs at Loch PS you need a current Working with Children Check. You can apply for this online at:

<http://www.workingwithchildren.vic.gov.au/>

There is no cost for volunteers and they are valid for 5 years. Once you have received your check please bring it to the office and give to Lyn.

FROM THE CHALKFACE:

Wanted: Old (*Clean*) Socks to make puppets for the Grade Prep/1's. If you can help please send them along to school.

SCHOOL COUNCIL:

The first meeting of School Council will be on Monday 16th February at 7.30 pm. All welcome.

DIARY DATES:

Monday 2nd to Wednesday 11th Feb – Swimming
Thursday 12th Feb – Swimming Fun Day
Friday 13th Feb – Swimming Sports
Monday 16th Feb – Karmai Cluster Trials Day
Friday 20th February - Family Fun Evening
Mon 23rd Feb – Peer Mediation – Grade 5
Tues 24th Feb – Peer Mediation – Grade 6
Wednesday 4th March – School Photo Day
Friday 27th March – Last day of Term 1



**POOWONG – LOCH - JUNIOR FOOTBALL CLUB
REQUIRE COACHES AND PLAYERS FOR 2015**

Under 10's, 12's and 14's.

Contact Scotty on 0409 592 307 or Jason on 0409 837 051

Coaches closing date Sunday February 18th, 2015

REGISTRATION NIGHT AND SAUSAGE SIZZLE

Friday 13th February, 2015 – 6-8 pm

at Loch Memorial Reserve.

Come and be a part of this exciting new club.