



Laura Primary School



Government
of South Australia

Department for Education
and Child Development

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Newsletter No 4

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LAURA PRIMARY SCHOOL GARAGE SALE

The garage sale on Tuesday was a very successful one with most items sold.

We still have:

A working Organ

A working chest freezer (not in pristine condition!)

A 3 metre blackboard

6 student chairs.

If you would like to have a look at any of these items please contact the school to arrange a suitable time.

MNSEC SWIMMING CARNIVAL

On Tuesday night the annual MNSEC Swimming carnival was held at Booleroo Centre. Hannah Watson participated from Laura Primary School in the Gladstone High School Year 6/7 team. Congratulations to Hannah on a first placing in backstroke and a second in freestyle with Gladstone winning the 6/7 shield.

STAFF CHANGES

We welcome Lorraine Griffin to Laura Primary School for a short period whilst Pauleen Thomas is on sick leave for a foot operation. Lorraine will be working Pauleen's hours in the front office. We wish Pauleen a speedy recovery.

Calendar Dates

- Friday 22nd Feb – Assembly 3.10
- Wed.27th Feb – SAPSASA Swimming Time Trials, Jamestown
- Thurs.28th Feb, Friday 1st March – Leaders Days
- Tues. March 5th – SAPSASA Tennis Trials Jamestown, Girls 8.30am, Boys 11.00am start.
- Tues. 12th March – RE Seminars.
- Mon. 18th March – Governing Council Meeting.



Late last year the school purchased a new ride on mower with a catcher.

The previous mower is now available for sale by tender.

Details of the mower include – John Deere LT 155 with a 36ins cut. School purchased this mower new in 2000 and is in very good working order.

If you would like to inspect the mower please contact the school (86632543) to arrange a time. Tenders close on Friday 1st March 4pm. Tenders to be addressed to the Principal, Laura Primary School, and marked “Confidential tender”. Please include your name and contact details on the tender. No tender necessarily accepted.

INSIGHTS

by Michael Grose - No. 1 parenting educator



It's not okay to be away ... nor to be late to school

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem.

One of the most important things you can do to ensure your child has a bright future is to make sure he or she goes to school every day—and gets there on time.

It sounds simple, but it's true.

The correlation between school attendance and children's achievement levels is well-established. The more time kids spend at school, the more likely they are to experience school success.

Conversely, according to a report from the Victorian Auditor General, students who are regularly absent from school are at the greatest risk of dropping out of school early, and of experiencing long-term unemployment.

When kids miss school, not only is their academic progress impeded, forcing them to catch up on missed work (which some never do), they often miss important interactions with their peers which can compound issues of social isolation and low self-esteem. Also, many teachers tell me, it's often the kids who can least afford to take time off school who are most likely to be serial absentees.

Of course, most people know this intuitively, yet school absenteeism is a huge problem in Australian schools—and much of it is parent-condoned.

It's hard to get an accurate picture across the country but it would appear that Australian students miss an average of between 12 and 15 days per school year, with parent-condoned absenteeism highest among young primary-aged children.

That adds up to a year's lost schooling over the school-life of a child.

In today's highly competitive world, this rate of absenteeism is alarming, putting our kids at a distinct disadvantage.

That's not a reason to be away!

It's now commonplace for children to stay away from school for reasons that would have been unheard of just twenty years ago. These include staying away to celebrate their own or a sibling's birthday; being absent because they stayed up too late watching television; going shopping for clothes; an extended long weekend; and kids not wanting to take part in a sports day or special school event.

This type of absenteeism sends a strong message to kids that parents don't really value learning or their children's school experiences.

Australian kids only spend 15% of their total time at school. They spend more time asleep than they do at school. So we need to maximise every day to get full value. That means turning up to school every day, on time.



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Being late is not okay either

Missing a few minutes each day may not seem like a big deal but your child may be missing more than you realise if he or she is continually late.

Current research shows that mornings for most children are the most productive time of the day, with 10.00am the peak period for productivity. When children arrive late and take time to settle as they inevitably do, valuable learning time is lost.

It takes strong parenting...

As a parent myself I know how persuasive children of all ages can be when it comes to taking a day off school. It takes a strong will to resist the persistent pressure that kids can bring to bear, particularly if they play the guilt card with comments such as "It's not fair that I have to go school today because Aunty is coming to visit!"

Nice try. But the answer should be "No!"

As parents we need to make a commitment that our kids make the most of their precious time at school. That means that we send them to school every day, on time and ready to make the most of the school day.

Of course, there will be times, such as illness or genuinely extenuating family circumstances, when kids should be away. But these need to be a rarity rather than the norm.

It's reassuring to know that you increase their chances of future success just by making sure they turn up to school every day. And of course regular school attendance also helps kids prepare for the workforce, where it will be expected that they turn up each day work-ready. The real world is unforgiving of those who stay away with NO EXCUSE.

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Michael Grose Presentations

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

LAURA FOLK FAIR QUIZ NIGHT


Laura Civic Centre – 7.30pm

Tables of six or just come along and join a table. You don't need to be a brain box at our Quiz Nights.

BYO drink and perhaps a cheese plate/nibbles

We look forward to your company.

Jan Barberien
Secretary



February's GRATE

4 VEGIES

The FANTASTIC FOUR introduces you to:


Powerman Pumpkin

FACT: Antarctica is the only continent where pumpkins wont grow.

TIP: Pumpkin seeds can be roasted for a snack!

RECIPE: Cheesy Pumpkin Scones

2 1/2 cups (375g) SR Wholemeal Flour
35g Polyunsaturated Margarine
1/4 cup grated Pumpkin
1/4 cup low fat grated Cheese
1 cup low fat Milk




Preheat oven to 200°C. Place the flour into a large bowl. Rub the butter into the flour until it resembles fine breadcrumbs. Add the pumpkin and cheese and mix together. Make a well in the centre of the mix and add the milk. Using a knife, mix ingredients. The dough should be slightly tacky but be coming away from the sides of the bowl. Flour a board and knead the dough into a ball. Flatten out the dough so that it is about 3-4cms high and using a cutter or interesting shape cut out the scones. Place the scones on a greased or floured baking tray and bake in oven for 10-15 minutes.

Next month: Find Captain Carrot on his Council Crusade

During the month of February, *Captain Carrot* will be visiting some fun parks and places in the OPAL region of the District Council of Peterborough, the District Council of Mount Remarkable and the Northern Areas Council.

OPAL invites families to take part in the in the "Where is Captain Carrot" competition which we will be running in conjunction with your local Council.

Keep your eye on the March edition of your local Council newsletter and go in the draw to win your very own vegie growing starter pack and wheelbarrow.



Vegies...
They're GrATE!

For any enquiries about the OPAL program please call:
Emma Young - OPAL Program Manager
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