

UPCOMING EVENTS!

- Small Schools Swimming Carnival Tues 10th Feb
- School Photos Thur 19th Mar
- 4/5/6 Milson Island Excursion 25th, 26th, 27th March

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Laguna Public School



TERM 1, WEEK 2

4TH FEBRUARY 2015

A big welcome to all students and families here at Laguna for the 2015 school year. We have had a very smooth start and our students are looking sharp and energetic!

Welcome back also to our staff team: Mrs Shaunessy and Ms Sewell on the K-1 and 2-3 classes; Jennie Capstick for Learning Support, Mrs Baker for Library and Simone for Sport; Jeanette and Tina in the Office; and John and Denise looking after the school buildings and grounds. Thank you to Mary Fortey, Jenny Bain and Karen Jones who are volunteering their time to help with classroom numeracy and literacy programs.

Our playground is looking terrific after some top dressing, rain and plenty of sunshine over the break. We are keeping a section cordoned off for another week to allow the grass a last chance to grow into a couple of bare patches. Thank you students for your forbearance!

Homework Survey. We are updating our Homework Policy and would like to hear from parents as to their attitudes and thoughts regarding homework. Please see your child's teacher if you have not received a survey yet; please return completed surveys to school at your earliest convenience.

Facebook. We have set up an official Laguna Public School

page on Facebook. In doing so we recognise the site's ability to get information out to a large number of people quickly, and that a large proportion of our school families are active on the site. Our group posts will be limited to information about school activities and events.

Wollombi P.S. Most families would be aware that Wollombi Public School closed it's doors at the end of 2014. This year the school is available for community use, and the administrative responsibility for the site for 2015 has been given over to Laguna PS. Community use of the school is strongly encouraged; please contact me with any enquiries.

- Mr Howe

Library with Mrs Baker

Welcome back to Mrs Baker, who has her library program off and running for 2015.

Thank you to Yinaa, Zara, Trevor, Lochee, Ben, Ryder P and Nash who have volunteered to be library monitors. Places at this stage are limited, with priority given to senior students who have not yet had an opportunity.

The Book Club, for Stage 3 students, meets during the first half of lunch each Tuesday. 11 members have signed up, and will spend time discussing favourite books and authors.

There has been a lot of interest in the chess competition. Next week will be a practice round, and interested students will sign up

for the competition to begin in Week 4.



The Premier's Reading Challenge has kicked off for another year. All students have been given a form to log PRC books. Instructions are attached for entering the children's records on line. Please see Mrs Baker for any further information!

School Matters!

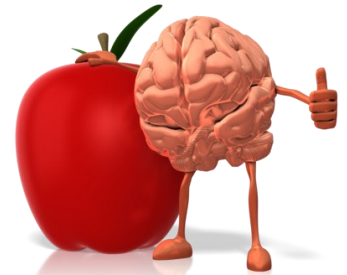
After School Sport. The After School Sport program has been a tremendous success over the last five years. Unfortunately, the program was wound up at the end of 2014. A new program will commence sometime in 2015; details are yet to be made available but we are hopeful that we can get the funding to recommence a similar sports program.

Hot Food at school. At the end of last year we had a bit of a rush of students needing to heat up or toast food in the staff room for lunch. Due to health and safety concerns, we will be discontinuing this practice. Thank you for your understanding.

How parents can help their children reach their full potential at school. Check out this link to the DEC school a-to-z website for a handy video with tips on helping your child engage with schooling: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/development/getting-off-to-a-good-start/good-start-chapter-one>.

Healthy Eating. All students are encouraged to keep a water bottle handy at their desks, to sip throughout the day. All classes have a fruit break during the morning session. We encourage the bare minimum of packaged food, not only for health reasons, but also to help reduce waste and litter in the school. Thank you for your sup-

port! The following link has some useful information: <http://www.schoolatoz.nsw.edu.au/wellbeing/food/smart-foods-to-boost-learning>



Thank you to those families that have paid the voluntary school contribution, these funds really do make a difference to our school operations!

“Equipped with his five senses, man explores the universe around him and calls the adventure Science.”

Edwin Hubble

Year 4-5-6 News

Homework for our senior class students has gone home this week. It is expected that all students complete their set homework each week. The format has changed from last year, with spelling homework included and a maths sheet targeting topics covered in class. We are always thinking about how to make homework relevant and stimulating for our students, and we will continue to refine the process during the year!

Our Science topic this semester is Survival! We will be looking at ways in which different plants and animals adapt to survive in a range of different habitats. The topic has already captured the imagination of our class, and it will be the theme of this term's project which will be issued later this term.

Planning for the Milson Island camp is underway. The dates again are Wednesday 25 March to Friday 27th March. The island is located in the Hawkesbury River, and to keep costs down we are looking for parent help with transport. The cost per student will be in the vicinity of \$290, which includes food, accommodation, instructors and transport. Periodic payments to the school office may be made if required. We welcome parent help, although we are limited in the amount of available spots. Please speak to Mr Howe if you are interested.

Looking forward to a great year!

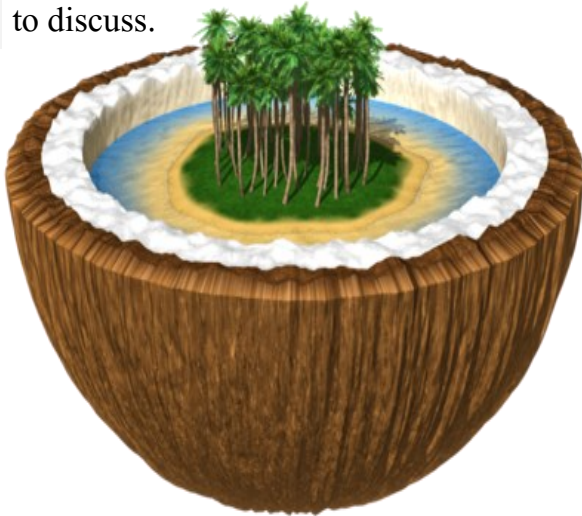
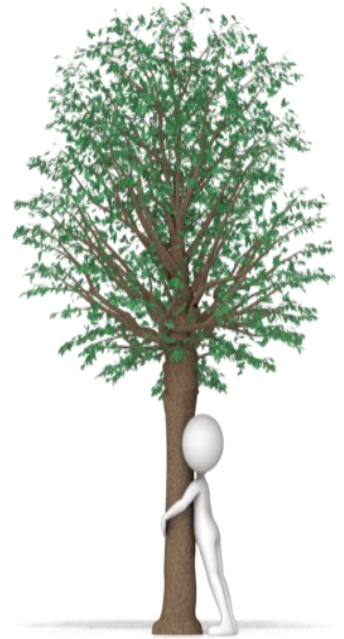


K-1 News *from Mrs Shaunessy*

Welcome Back to K-1. We have had a wonderful first week, with all students settling in well to our daily routine. You will have noticed our rainforest theme, we will be learning all about rainforests around the world and in Australia this term.

Parents are more than welcome to assist with Home Reading. Kindergarten will read each morning at 9:30 and Year 1 will be reading at 9:30 on Monday and Fridays only, due to Move to Learn. Your child received a Home Reading folder and card. Home Reading is very important and can be a wonderful positive 5-10 minutes to spend with your child each evening. Please return the folder with card and Home Reader each day.

Homework will be sent home next week for year 1. Please don't hesitate to organise a time for a chat if there are any issues you may need to discuss.



Year 2-3 News



Welcome back for 2015! The 2-3 Room is diving into learning this year with their ocean themed classroom. Willy the whale keeps a lookout for hard workers so Miss Sewell can kick back under her beach umbrella. The class has settled in beautifully and we are already kicking off our Reading and Maths groups! Homework for the term has been handed out in booklet form and everybody has their Reading Eggs and Mathletics passwords to get started at home, please see Miss Sewell if you have any questions.

A huge Thank you to Phoenix and Nash's mum, Rebekah, who has generously volunteered to plan our exciting new veggie gardens. Please let her know if you can lend a hand.

Singing group will be starting soon thanks to Juliette and Skye! Stay tuned for time & day!

Move to Learn!

Move to Learn is a program based on a sequence of simple, flexible movements. The movements strengthen the body core, develop balance, develop hand-eye coordination and coordinate the left and right sides of the body. The benefits of these exercises for students can include better posture, enhanced concentration, improved impulse control and motor skills.

This term Simone is running the program on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, meaning every student K-6 will have three 20-minute sessions over 8 weeks. Student progress will be monitored over the term.

To learn more, come in to watch Move to Learn in action (in the Art Room) or have a look at the website: <http://www.movetolearn.com.au/>



Swimming Carnival!

The Small Schools Swimming Carnival is on Tuesday 10th February at Cessnock Pool, for students 8 years and above.



Permission notes have gone out, please return to school as soon as possible. All students are to be at the pool by 9.30 a.m.; the carnival usually concludes by 2.00 p.m.

It is a day of participation and fun, and all eligible students are strongly encouraged to attend.