

# UPDATE 2009

No. 4



Date: 26/03/09

## LARA PRIMARY SCHOOL

The Lara Primary School Community values a love of learning, a sense of fun, unique talents and an inquiring mind. Students are challenged to achieve their personal best in a safe and caring learning environment.



### *Dates to Remember*

#### **Tuesday 31st March**

- Easter services  
**Prep - Grade 2** at the Anglican Church 12.40pm to 1.20pm  
**Grades 3, 4 and Learning Groups** in the school hall 2.45pm to 3.20pm

#### **Friday 3rd April**

- Last day of Term 1 - **2.30pm dismissal**

#### **Monday 20th April**

- Term 2 begins

#### **Thursday 7th May**

- Mothers' Day Stall

#### **Monday 11th May**

- Parents & Friends Meeting @ 9.00am in OSHC room

#### **Tuesday 12th May**

- Buildings & Grounds meeting @ 6.30pm in the staffroom

### FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL'S DESK



#### CURRICULUM HAPPENINGS

##### ASSEMBLY ITEM

Congratulations to 1/2W and 3/4J for their wonderful assembly item last Friday. It is so important that we understand the significance of our National Anthem and that when we sing it each week we have an appreciation and understanding of the message conveyed in each verse. It was nice to see this followed up by a song that instils a sense of National Pride. The children were wonderful and there were some very effective costumes. Thank you also to Mrs Woolnough and Mrs McCarthy for all the work they put into this production. It was also nice to see so many parents rearrange their schedules to come and watch.

##### PARENTS AND FRIENDS

Wow! Lara PS really knows how to hold an Easter raffle! I can still see the Easter Bunny arriving to a chant, 500 children strong, of 'We want chocolate!' First of all thank you to all those families who contributed towards the Easter raffle. You have been extremely generous. A special thank you to the Parents and Friends who gave generously of their time to sort and organise these into to an array of over 30 prizes.

##### BLITZ ON IMPROVING LITERACY AND NUMERACY

We are very focussed on improving our students' literacy and numeracy skills. This year we are particularly focussed on improving our students reading comprehension and understanding of number. As parents/carers, your help at home can make a difference. Reading comprehension is not something that happens

*Acting Principal: Carolyn Kent-Hughes*

*Assistant Principal:*

*School Council President: Mr. Steve Bullock*

*This newsletter is distributed fortnightly on Thursdays. Deadline for articles 12.00pm Tuesday*

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after reading. It is the thinking we do before, during and after reading. **Talking** about the book with your child before, during and after reading is the most effective way to support your child's comprehension of the text. It would be great if you could discuss with your children any connections they can observe – eg. connections to real life experiences, connections to other books and characters. It is very important to keep up the routine of reading during the holidays. This can have a very positive impact on their progress. It is also important that you model enjoying reading yourself and see this as very important to their education.

Finally, thank you for a very productive term. To the staff - thank you for your never ending support and willingness to go 'above and beyond' to improve student learning in a safe, welcoming environment. To the students – it is the effort that you put in that matters the most - well done to those students who have consistently 'strived for personal best' in all areas – behaviour, academically and socially. Finally to the parents – thank you for your participation – whether it be ensuring students are here on time ready to start the day, ensuring they have brain food, helping in the classroom, hearing them read at night or encouraging a positive attitude towards school – never underestimate the significance of the role you play.

We look forward to welcoming our new Principal, Ms Elissa Jackson, to our Lara learning community in Term 2.

Have a safe and relaxing Easter break,  
**Carolyn Kent-Hughes.**

### Scooters, Bikes & Helmets

*It is a requirement of the Lara Primary School Dress Code Policy that all children wear Australian approved bicycle helmets whilst in school uniform and riding bikes and scooters to and from school.*

It is for the safety and wellbeing of children that this policy was endorsed by school council in term 1, 2008. We understand that it is not the law to wear helmets with scooters but the police do strongly recommend that helmets be worn at all times whilst riding scooters.

### Limit 'Occasionally' Food

'Occasionally' food such as chips, chocolate, lollies, fruit bars or similar types of foods have limited nutritional value for children and are not essential for providing nutrients the body needs for healthy development. These are foods that do not fit into the five main food groups and they are called 'Extra' foods that may contain excessive fat, salt and sugar. 'Occasionally' foods have a tendency to fill up, create poor eating habits early and may cause dental decay and can contribute to weight gain. Added to that sweet drinks, including fruit juices, soft drinks and cordials contain concentrated amounts of sugar and are high in energy, which can also fill children up and decrease their appetite. 'Everyday' food choices are those which

provide nutrients needed for growth and development, they come from a variety of food groups including vegetables and legumes, fruits, cereals, milk & milk products, lean meat and water. It is recommended that food should not be used as a reward, incentive or for comfort. Researchers have found that using food, particularly food low in nutritional value, as a reward or incentive sends conflicting messages to children. This means children associate good behavior with food that is not nutritious and this food then becomes more desirable. It is important to teach children that there are 'everyday' foods and 'sometimes' foods. Food and behavior do not have to be connected.

Taken from kids – "Go for your life" information.

### Parents & Friends News

Thank you to the Parents and Friends Group that organized the Easter Raffle and the Hot Cross Bun Drive. They put in many hours of work organizing, wrapping and doing all the raffle tickets for the Easter Raffle. Thank you to all the families who contributed to the raffle via donations and the purchasing of tickets for the raffle. Hot Cross Bun orders have now been completed. Hot Cross Buns will be delivered to school next Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March and parents/carers are able to pick them up from 11.00am on Monday.

The annual Mothers' Day stall will be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Gifts will be \$5.00 each this year. The Parents and Friends Group have been extremely busy buying exceptional gifts for the Mothers Day stall which are sure to delight.

### The Farm Pride and Golden Egg Farms Collect-a-thon

#### **Get cracking to help our school**

Our school has registered to take part in the Farm Pride and Golden Egg Farms Collect-a-thon. Every token collected from selected Farm Pride and Golden Egg Farms packs can earn the school 50 cents. All eggs now carry the Heart Foundation Tick of approval and are a very important source of nutrition. They are packed with essential vitamins and minerals and make a nutritious meal for all the family, especially growing kids. All information about the program can be found at [www.collectathon.com.au](http://www.collectathon.com.au) So get cracking! Start collecting the tokens, and help raise valuable funds for our school.

#### **Shop for your school at Bakers Delight**

Well done to everyone who has been shopping at Bakers Delight in Lara and mentioning Lara Primary School. You may remember that Bakers Delight sends us 5% of all the sales from Lara Primary School families who shop there. **All you have to do is go to Bakers Delight in Lara, place your order and ask them if they can swipe the card for Lara Primary School.** It's that simple. This is a magnificent fundraiser and we thank Bakers Delight for their kindness.

### **Pre-loved Uniform**

As a service to our families the Parents and Friends Sub-Committee conduct a pre-loved uniform shop before and after each assembly. They have many items of uniform in excellent condition that is sold at a very reasonable price. Items can be purchased in the gym from 2.30pm – 2.50pm then 3.20pm – 3.30pm.

### **C.R.E. Easter Services**

These will be held on Tuesday 31st March. Prep to Grade 2 will be going to the Anglican church where the service will be held from 12.40pm to 1.20pm. The service for Grades 3, 4 and the Learning Groups will be held in the school hall from 2.45pm to 3.20pm. All students will be attending these services unless a written request from parents to exclude their child is received.

### **Lara Primary School Swim Team 2009**

On Friday the 20th of March Lara Primary School's team competed at Kardinia Pool for the second round of Regional swimming. It was a great day and everyone had some fun. The medal tally was 5: Callan L from 3/4B took home one silver in the 50m breaststroke and a 2 second PB. Tiui M from WLG took home one gold for his 50m freestyle and one silver for his butterfly, so both will now compete individually at state level. The relay team - Epati M GLG, Melanie H WLG, Tiui M and Callan L, won gold in both the medley relay and the freestyle relay. This team will now be representing Lara Primary School at State Championships in Melbourne on the 27th of April next term. Also well done to Lucy B (3/4M) who did a great time but just missed making it through to the next round after coming 4th in her 50m breaststroke. Epati and Melanie also competed in individual events on the day. Well done to everyone and good luck for 'states'.

By Mel H WLG

### **GOOD FRIDAY APPEAL**

As you are aware, for many years it has been the practice of The Royal Children's Hospital Good Friday Appeal to distribute donation envelopes throughout Victorian schools. The tragic events of the past few weeks have impacted us all, and the generosity of the public has been outstanding.

However, The Royal Children's Hospital still needs support from the community and the contribution from the students at your school, has been extremely valuable. Envelopes are included in this weeks newsletter.

### **Packaging Free Day**

Congratulations to parents, carers and the students for supporting our recent packaging free day. We reduced our packaging brought to school to 672 pieces of 'throw away' waste. This is a significant reduction from our last packaging free total of 862. Congratulations to the many grades who brought below 30 pieces, in particular, Mrs Culjak's class, who only brought 11 bits of rubbish to school out of everyone in their grade!! They won themselves a lovely large fresh bowl of popcorn. It

would be fabulous if you could continue supporting our environmental efforts by considering reducing packaging regularly.

### **I.C.T. ~ Grade 5 Netbook Trial**

Netbooks have been distributed to students and the programs loaded on them offer children wonderful opportunities.

Some families have connected their child's netbook to the internet. Remember it's imperative that parents and students discuss and agree what is appropriate use of the netbook in their home.

At school we **don't** recommend or allow students to use MSN.

We **do** recommend students explore and experiment with the programs on the netbook as our best learning experiences are often those that are meaningful and creative.

Reiterate with your child that they have a CHOICE as to how they use their netbook.

- Almost anyone can ... play a game but STUDENTS WITH NETBOOKS can use Gamemaker to create their own game.

- Almost anyone can ... access a web site but STUDENTS WITH NETBOOKS can use the Publisher wizard to make their own web page.

Almost anyone can ... use a digital camera but STUDENTS WITH NETBOOKS can use the web cam and then with PhotoDraw distort, manipulate and enhance photos in innovative and exciting ways.

Have fun and stay safe while learning.

*Marcia O'Brien*

### **Middle Learning Groups - Flight Day**

On Monday, 16th March all the children in grades 3 & 4 eagerly entered their fantastic flight models in a variety of competitions.

The skies wee ablaze with many interesting, well designed planes, rockets, kites etc.

Congratulations to the following winners:

#### **BEST TRICK FLYER**

Ethan W 3/4J

Tristan McG 3/4C

#### **BEST DESIGN**

Christina L 3/4C

Brodie K 3/4H

#### **BEST DECORATED**

Emily DG 3/4C

Ronan J 3/4B

#### **MOST INTERESTING FLYING CRAFT**

Nikita C 3/4M

Shauna G 3/4J

#### **LONGEST FLIGHT**

Will L 3/4B...12m 70cm

#### **UNUSUAL DESIGN**

William C 3/4J

All children should be proud of their effort and time spent on producing such fabulous models.

**Mary Britton - 3/4B teacher**

### **Working Bee Thank You**

We had a much improved attendance last Saturday at our school working bee! It was great and lots was achieved. There were approximately 35 adults and children present. This enabled a variety of tasks to be completed. These included preparing a new garden bed area, transporting mulch and sweeping out the two biker rack areas. The school driveway and the netball court and numerous paths were swept. Bark underneath all our school play equipment was raked. Four drain pits were cleaned and repairs occurred to our music room wall. Pruning of bushes also occurred. Soccer goals were moved as part of the oval redevelopment. An enjoyable sausage sizzle followed. The children also had lots of fun playing.

**Kevin Collard (on behalf of Buildings & Grounds Subcommittee).**

## **COMMUNITY NEWS**

### **Lara Little League 2009 Training**

Under 10 start 23<sup>rd</sup> of March at 4:30pm –5:30pm Oval 2  
Under 12 start 25<sup>th</sup> of March at 4:30pm–5:30 pm Oval 2

March 29th at 9:30am at the Lara Sporting Club is the 2009 Grid Game Under10 and Under12

**\*NO FOOTBALL BOOTS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE\***

### **Kid's Club**

Children from Prep to Grade 6 are invited. Meets after school to 5.30pm every Thursday at Holy Trinity Hall, cnr Flinders Avenue and Curletts Road.. Contact Marlene for more information 5282 6054.

### **HELLO FROM OSHC**

Can you believe it, here we are about to start the last week of Term 1.

We have had some good fun this Term and produced some very fine Art work and completed some great projects.

My favourites are Maria's birthday cake wall and the children's drawings of their best friend's, both of these projects are worth calling into our OSHC room to have a look at, and once again I am very proud of our talented OSHC kids. We were runners up in the Camp Australia, "Flippin for Gold" fund raiser, with our Fire Engine which had actual flashing lights, working headlights and taillights with Sam all bandaged up and sitting on top. We raised just over \$50, which was great as people have been asked wherever they go to give, and with Camp



## **OSHC NEWS** **'we make kids smile'**

Australia matching this, means our group has donated \$100, well done. A BIG thankyou to all who donated.

Next term I decided I would have a theme each week, one will be Mythology, we will create a large painting of a fantasy scene, maybe a garden, and the Children will then colour in or draw pictures, cut them out and paste them onto to our wall, I am sure the results will be bright and cheerful and very interesting. I am asking the Children for their suggestions as to the themes we will use. I would appreciate Parents and Carers suggestions also.

Next term the OSHC newsletters will contain some interviews, children will be appointed as reporters and interview other children, staff and hopefully some cooperative Teachers, we might read some very interesting information, so beware of the roving reporters.

Don't forget you can keep in touch with me on **5282 8607** during operating times or leave a message on **0417 319 478** anytime, and I will return your call.  
Jenny, Maria and the OSHC Team.