



Lara Primary School 2009 Welcome Newsletter

February 5, 2009

Welcome back to the 2009 school year! Official newsletters will start next week, but we wanted to take this opportunity to welcome you back to the new school year. We were very grateful last week that with the change in the organisation of the school year, children were not starting in the heat wave! Fortunately we do have air-conditioning and our staff made the most of the first three days. We took time to set in place our vision for the year, meet in school teams, prepare inviting classrooms and complete the many administration tasks that come with a new year. I would also like to thank the many parents that braved the heat to pay for their fees and book boxes.

I had the opportunity on the first day to welcome our new Prep students to their first day of school. Parents, teachers and students are to be congratulated - the children were exceptionally well organised and it was lovely to see so many parents bringing their child in personally. I also had the opportunity to visit every class in the school. I was exceptionally impressed with the calm, focussed learning environments teachers had created and it was very smooth start to the year.

OUR SCHOOL VISION

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.

Our 'catch cries', built on our school vision will form the foundation of our 'Learning to Learn' program that will run for the first two weeks. During this time, students will have the opportunity to get to know their new classmates, develop their classroom agreements, understand their strengths and learning styles and the importance of working as a team member, water, exercise and brain food.



Wonder and Discover

personal Best



Be a Problem Solver

Difference



makes us unique



Think Safety

Care for ourselves, others



and our Environment

We will continue to have a strong focus on teaching and learning. From the beginning of the year, teachers spend a great deal of time assessing each student individually, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy. They determine the student's strengths and areas to improve and then build this into their teaching sessions.

You can maximise your child's learning opportunities by:

- Ensuring you child is at school on time (by 8.50am)
- **Something to think about - Focus on the processes of learning, not results of learning.** If you want your child to stretch a little or lot this year then you need to save your excitement for effort, improvement and contribution rather than putting them on a pedestal for their results of their performance.

Looking forward to an exciting year,

Carolyn Kent-Hughes
Acting Principal.

Items to know about

Use of doors in the main building

Please note that the front doors in the main building should not be used by students unless they are attending the office. All students should use the ramp near the ICT room to gain access to the main building, especially those children whose classrooms are located there. We would like to ask parents not to wait in the hallway for their children at the end of the day as this can create quite a bit of congestion in the corridor. Thank you for your support.

School Driveway

Due to safety concerns we are once again appealing to parents/carers to not drive onto the school premises to drop off or pick up their children. The front gate, situated on Flinders Avenue is closed so that people are not in the driveway when the students are arriving or leaving the school. There are also people with toddlers and young children who walk to meet their children up the driveway each day. Parents/carers are not permitted to drive onto the school grounds except if they have been given prior permission by the school. If you are picking up your child from sick bay or have an appointment with a staff member you are permitted to park on the school grounds. Damage to staff cars by other cars has also been reported towards the end of the day and this is also of concern to the school. For these reasons the school car park gates will be closed between 8.40am and 9.00am every day and 3.15pm and 3.45pm every day. We would really appreciate your assistance in this matter.

Assembly 20th February

Our first assembly for the year will be on Friday 20th February where we will be presenting leadership badges to selected current year six students. The badges that will be presented will be for school captains, school vice captains and house captains. This will be a most exciting time for the school community as the children that are chosen for these roles will be outstanding representatives both in and out of the school.

Getting to know you meetings

On Thursday 19th February we will be holding our 'Getting to know you' meetings. Notes about this meeting have gone home with your children this week. Please make sure that you received your note. Each teacher is very keen to meet with their student's parents or carers so make sure that you return your note to school by Tuesday 9th February. We look forward to seeing you on 19th February.