



Lalor Gardens Primary School

NEWSLETTER

30th January 2014

Issue 1

*** Respect * Learning * Empathy * Resilience * Responsibility***

Dear Parents, Students and Friends of the Lalor Gardens Primary School Community



WELCOME TO THE 2014 SCHOOL YEAR

What a fantastic start to the new year we have had. The children have come to school ready to learn and settled into their new classes really well. While the Prep students do not begin until Monday, it was great to see all our children's smiling faces. Welcome also to our new families who have joined this outstanding educational multicultural community.

START UP PROGRAM

As part of our introduction to the school year, Lalor Gardens Primary School is involved in a special **"Start Up Program"** for the first week of the school year. This common program will run in all grades from Year 1—6. The children will be involved in a variety of activities that will set the tone of the individual grades and learning areas for the rest of the year and develop a mission statement, class principles, values and consequences of behaviour for each classroom. Children will use specific games and activities to get to know each other and develop a code of ethics for each room. This information will be utilised by teachers in the learning areas to develop positive student interactions and behaviour management strategies.

BLOOMING GREAT KIDS PROGRAM

To ensure that we maintain an excellent tone within our school as well as teaching our students the social, wellbeing and emotional skills they need to grow into well rounded citizens of Australia, we will continue the implementation of our **Blooming Great Kids**. The program incorporates activities from the "You Can Do It" and "PATHS" programs that have been utilised by the school in the past. Each week there will be a social/wellbeing skills behaviour focus that I will write about in the newsletter and give ideas to parents to reinforce with children at home. At assembly each Friday afternoon, I will outline the social skills behaviour for the next week and then each class will focus on this social/wellbeing skills behaviour with a range of activities for each department (Prep—2, 3/4, 5/6). Student of the Week Awards and the Grade of the Week Award will be awarded at the whole school assembly on Friday afternoons at 3.15 pm.

BLOOMING GREAT KIDS WEEKLY FOCUS—SMILE

Next week is the first week of our Blooming Great Kids Program and we are starting with the easiest of topics—SMILE

The Science of a Smile

No gesture is more universally recognised and appreciated than a simple smile. Scientific research tells us that when the SMILE connection is made between an adult and a child, it is helped along by chemical reactions in the body. These different chemicals interact with the child's nervous system, and even play a role in how the brain grows and develops.

No Smile is Wasted

It's worth remembering that a simple smile is one building block for your relationship with another person. Your face is where people look for reassuring, comforting responses and attention. A well-timed smile can break the ice, dispel anger, relieve tension, and put another person whether it be an colleague, parent, child etc at ease.

People who smile are often perceived as more approachable, friendlier, and more caring than those who don't. What's more, a cheery expression makes the person doing the smiling feel better, too. So cheer up and smile. You might just brighten somebody's day. Greet everyone, parents, children and others with a smile. A bright smile and cheery hello will help everyone feel welcome.

RESTORATIVE PRACTICES APPROACH TO BEHAVIOUR MANAGEMENT

In relation to student wellbeing and behaviour, the school implements a **"Restorative Practices"** approach to behaviour management. This program focuses on relationships and children taking responsibility for their actions and repairing those relationships. This is a vital aspect of student management within the school and compliments the Start Up Program and the Blooming Great Kids program.





SUNSMART AT LALOR GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Lalor Gardens PS is a designated SunSmart School. As such students and staff are required to be SunSmart at all times during terms 1 and 4. This means that children must wear the school uniform that provides protection from the sun for arms, torso and legs. **School Hats are compulsory in terms 1 and 4 and a NO HAT NO PLAY policy** is implemented. All children wore their school hats to Assembly on the last day of term 4 2013 so there should be no excuse for children not having hats. Children who do not have their school hat will be required to sit in the shade outside the staffroom until they have their hat. Legionnaire Hats cost \$6.00 and Broad Brimmed Hats are \$10.00 and are available at the School Office.

SCHOOL FEES



This is a reminder that School Fees **are now due** to be paid. All the children have received their school requisites. These were purchased in bulk to keep down the cost for families. If you have not paid your school fees please do so as soon as possible. EFTPOS is available.

SCHOOL COUNCIL ELECTIONS

School Council is a vital part of the operation of Lalor Gardens Primary School. The school is an integral part of the community and it is important that community views and expectations form part of school life.



Membership on School Council at Lalor Gardens Primary School includes:

- *Representing* the school and its community in reaching agreement with the DEECD on the school Strategic Plan
- *Determining* the education policy, goals and priorities of the school within the framework of the school Strategic Plan and statewide guidelines
- *Approving* the school budget, which includes school generated funds, consistent with the school Strategic Plan
- *Entering* into contracts for the purposes consistent with the school Strategic Plan
- *Maintaining* and improving buildings and grounds
- *Reporting* annually to the school community and Strategic Plan

A number of School Councillors conclude their term of office at the end of February. This creates the following vacancies:

- 4 Parent Elected Members for 2 years
- 2 Staff Elected Member (2Year)

Information regarding School Council Membership and nomination forms are being sent home next week and Nomination Forms will available from the General Office from next Friday. Formal Nomination Forms must be completed by parents to be eligible to be members of School Council. Please give serious consideration to your involvement on School Council so that Lalor Gardens Primary School can maintain the excellent standard of education and service we currently provide. Meetings are friendly and informal and being a member is an excellent way of getting to know what happens at school and how we operate. Talk to other parents who have been School Councillors and I am sure they will encourage your membership. Current School Councillors whose term of office concludes in February 2015 can talk to you about the benefits of being on School Council. These current members are Betty Andreevski, Raya Faoual, Connie Mihalas and Sarah Saleh.

WHOLE SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Whole School Assemblies will begin in 2014. These will be held on **Friday afternoons at 3.15 pm**. Parents are most welcome to attend.



Anne T Hulett



IMPORTANT REMINDERS

CARS AND YOUNG CHILDREN IN THE SUMMER MONTHS

- Melbourne will experience extremely high temperatures for the back to school period.
- Parents and/or guardians are reminded that on hot days it is important **never to leave children alone in a car.**
- Temperatures inside a parked car during summer can be around 20 to 30 degrees hotter than the outside temperature.
- Leaving children in hot cars, even for a moment, can result in serious injury or death.
- Young children's smaller body size and underdeveloped nervous system places them at a much greater risk of life-threatening heatstroke, dehydration and other serious health risks.
- If a parent or guardian is travelling with a child, never leave them alone in a parked car, not even for one moment.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS OR CONTACT PHONE NUMBERS, PLEASE ADVISE THE SCHOOL OFFICE.

STAFF CAR PARK

Parents are reminded not to park in the staff car park. Children are not permitted to walk into or through the car park area due to safety issues.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Families who have a health care card and are eligible to receive the EMA payment are required to complete an EMA form (available from school office) by **Friday 28th February 2014.**

Late applications will not be accepted

SPEED LIMITS

PLEASE NOTE THAT SPEED LIMITS IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL DURING 8.00 AM/9.30 AM AND 2.30 PM/4.00 PM IS 40 KPH

PLEASE KEEP OUR CHILDREN SAFE

How to avoid a parking fine around schools

Please think of the safety of children and observe the signs. Practice safe driving around the school by driving slowly. Obey the road rules and allow enough time to drop off or pick up your child. If necessary, park a little further away from the school in a legal parking space and walk down to pick up or drop off your child. Some examples of restrictions around schools are listed below. If you have any further queries, please call our Local Laws Department on 9217 2100.



NO STOPPING

This sign means that you can't stop here, not even briefly. The left side of this sign applies 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. The right side of this sign shows specific times when the sign applies.

The same applies if there is a continuous yellow line on the edge of the road.

NOTE: No Stopping means no stopping at all – even if you are only letting someone in or out of the vehicle, and regardless of whether you leave the engine running and stay in the vehicle



PARKING, timed, school days only

Parking time is limited on school days only, and during the specified times. A timed parking sign will be at both ends of the timed parking zone; note the directional arrows. Depending on the length of the zone there may be an additional sign in the middle of the zone with the arrow pointing in both directions.



SCHOOL CROSSING

The School Crossing is operational when flags are in place (there may also be a School Crossing Supervisor in attendance). School Crossing Supervisors can also be on duty at pedestrian lights; pedestrian crossings; and intersections lights.

Note: A driver must not stop or park on a children's crossing, or on the road within 20 metres before the crossing and 10 metres after the crossing whilst the flags are displayed.



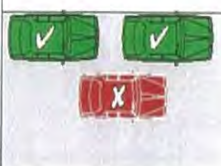
CAUTION, CROSSING AHEAD

Colours will vary depending on the environment.



DISABLED PARKING

Parking is limited only to vehicles displaying the blue disabled parking permit.



DOUBLE PARKED

Vehicles may not be stopped next to legally parked vehicles even for a short time to drop off or pick up passengers. Double parking can reduce the visibility for other motorists and pedestrians. It can also cause other motorists to drive on the wrong side of the road in order to pass.

A driver must not unreasonably obstruct the path of another driver or pedestrian.