



## WEEK 3 TERM 1

### REMINDERS

**Tuesday 21 February**

**Raising Great Kids Parenting Course @ 6 – 7.30pm**  
RSVP to secure a place

**Wednesday 22 February**

**Cooinda Excursion to CMAG @ 9.40 – 11.45am**

**Wednesday 22 February**

**Multicultural Playgroup at Ulverstone: All welcome @ 9.30 – 11.30am**

**Friday 24 February**

**LECS P&C Welcome Event and AGM @ 5 – 7.30pm**  
**Multicultural Playgroup at Ulverstone: All welcome @ 9.30 – 11.30am**

**Monday 27 February**

**Hands On Parent/ Carer and Child Food Workshop @ 3.15 – 4.15pm OR 5 – 6pm (TBA)**  
RSVP to secure a place

### NO SMOKING POLICY

Please be mindful that smoking is not permitted on ACT Government property. This includes public school sites. In the interests of our children's health and safety, please do not smoke on the school premises, in the school parking areas, near the fence surrounding school property or on the footpaths around the school. Thank you in anticipation.

### BOOK CLUB ORDERS **Revised Due Date**

Due to the new *LOOP* ordering system, Term 1 Book Club flyers were handed out to students much later than planned. The original due date was yesterday (16 Feb) however online ordering will now remain open until **midnight tonight, 17 Feb**. Orders/payments after this time cannot be processed. I will ensure that next term's flyers are distributed earlier and apologise for the short time frame this term. Thank you.

Amber Kite **Scholastic Book Club Coordinator**

### INVITATION

P&C COUNCIL PRESENTATION on  
***Avoiding RSI and Overuse Injuries in School Students***  
7pm on Tuesday 28 February 2017 at the  
Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching & Learning  
51 Fremantle Drive, Stirling

Activities that result in RSI and overuse injuries are **not confined to keyboard use** but include a wide range of common everyday actions that school children perform. These include sporting, recreational, lifestyle, entertainment, information technology, study and play, as well as carrying and walking activities. Simple daily tasks such as carrying a badly packed or poorly adjusted /fitted school back pack can lead to ongoing physical problems for children if not corrected early.

Learn what to look for and how to correct such problems and avoid RSI/overuse injuries in your students.

**RSVP by 28 February 2017**

**tsanders@actparents.org.au or phone 6241 5759**

### VOLUNTEER POLICY (Preschool - Year 2)

When you help out in our learning spaces at LECS or assist on school excursions you are covered by the Education Directorate's '*Working with Children and Young People – Volunteering*' policy. The paperwork you are required to complete is available at LECS Front Office.

**As a volunteer, please follow these steps:**

1. Sign in at Front Office each time you volunteer
2. Take a Visitor's badge to wear whilst you are here
3. Discuss with the teaching staff any specific tasks for you to complete.

**THANK YOU FOR VOLUNTEERING AT LECS.**  
**YOUR SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED!**

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Multi-Age Classes at LECS

- Our decisions around class placement have always focused on the needs of every child. At the end of each year our teaching team carefully considers all that we know about each child, his/her learning needs, friendships, and emotional and social development. We ask children who they would like in their class the following year. We seek requests from parents. We note the year group each child will belong to. We put all of this on the table and we create draft classes. We discuss our decision as a team. There will often be many drafts before we come up with what we consider will be the most effective class groups for the following year to ensure every child will succeed.
- Having multi-aged or straight classes is a school-based decision made at the end of each year based on many factors (above) and including anticipated enrolments, size of each year level, and 'best fit' to support children's learning and development. Sometimes it is clear that there are children in a year level cohort classes who are challenged by distraction from others in that same group. Hence, if numbers allow it, we consider multi-aged classes to provide the opportunity to split these combinations.
- The Australian Curriculum is a differentiated curriculum. This means that the whole class will be focused on a particular area but the level of instruction will be adapted to meet the needs of individual children. In practice, teachers will often begin instruction with the whole group together and then provide modified tasks when children go to do independent and small group tasks. This type of instruction occurs in the same way in both multi-aged and straight groupings. This is ideal because all children have different strengths and areas for development.
- Children will know to which year group they belong (Kindergarten, Year 1 or Year 2). Whilst the curriculum is differentiated to suit individual needs, teachers will assess and report on learning and teaching for each year level.
- As much as possible, our preference at LECS will be to maintain straight kindergarten classes. This is to support this group of students who have unique developmental and educational needs in relation to being in the first year of school.
- Our Year 2 children will always have explicit leadership opportunities irrespective of whether they belong to a multi-age or straight class. We appoint at least one of our teachers as a Year 2 Leader Coordinator who works specifically with the Year 2 children on their leadership skills. There are special responsibilities in the school that only Year 2 leaders will have the opportunity to take on including the Parliament of Youth for Sustainability, outdoor equipment monitoring, sustainability leadership and graduation. At the end of the year, the Year 2 leaders will have the opportunity to contribute something to the school, such as the gathering space that was designed and built by Year 2 leaders in 2016.
- **An interesting read about multi-age classes:**  
<http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/many-parents-dislike-composite-classes-but-the-evidence-does-not-support-their-anxiety-20150413-1mk4g9.html>

**In summary:** In all schools, students are grouped in different ways to meet organisational and educational needs. Learning and teaching cycles are differentiated to support individual needs. Where multi-age classes are formed at LECS, students are assessed and graded based on the year level in which they are enrolled.

Don't hesitate to chat with me about your child's placement this year.

*Principal Mary*

Contact  
Information

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