



NEWSLETTER

Week 4 Term 4 2014

Diary Dates



Friday 7th November

Littlehampton
Ladies Night
7pm



Week 5

Year 6&7 Footsteps
Dance Program starts
(Mondays)

Tuesday 11th November

Year 6 & 7 Canberra
Trip departs

Thursday 20th November

School Assembly
2.25pm
Gillian Bevan's Class

Tuesday 25th November

Finance Meeting
6.30pm

Wednesday 26th November

Parents & Friends
All welcome 9am
Staff Room

Student Absence or Lateness :

Prior to 9 am

Text 0427 016 460

with LPS, Student Name,
Student Class, Absence
Date and Absence reason.

What do you think of our school? Parent Surveys 2014

Thank you to the 73 families who responded to our school surveys this year. Although this number of responses is slightly down on last year (80 responses), we were pleased that so many parents were willing to respond to the survey electronically (67) while 6 responded via paper. Last year we mailed out paper surveys to all families, but this did cause a lot of administrative time in entering the surveys.

The responses this year are very favourable, though in most areas the average response is down slightly from last year. (See table page 3) What we did appreciate this year is how many parents were willing to enter individual text responses. We have over 10 pages of collated comments. The text comments are especially helpful, and outline quite clearly things parents value about the school, and also some areas for improvement.

Things we do well - While not a comprehensive list, these things were mentioned multiple times by parents.



- Sense of Community
- Enforcement of uniform
- Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program
- Safe learning environment
- Celebrations of success
- Great sense of belonging
- Anti- Bullying policies
- Community Activities, disco, hot food days
- OSHC is fantastic
- Child wellbeing a high priority
- Respect throughout the school
- Student Support programs. LAP, Multilit Quicksmart, SSO help
- Student /teacher relationships
- School Grounds
- Parent participation, eg this survey, assemblies, Fathers Day breakfast
- 10 minute dedicated eating time
- Great science & maths programs
- Good communication via newsletters, notes
- Teaching the basics
- Good range of specialist programs
- Positive atmosphere, instills integrity as a core value
- Maintains good relationships with parents
- Cultivates fun learning
- Friendly environment between staff and parents
- Creating a happy secure environment
- School well publicised
- Strong and stable teaching staff who genuinely care for children
- Positive culture
- Clear behaviour expectations
- P&F activities

Things we could improve, once again, not comprehensive, but items mentioned several times by parents:

Communication: We have been working on improving communication for several years, and generally parents outlined that this had improved with the MGM messaging system, Safenewsletters, our newsletters generally were praised, and the Littlehampton Primary Crew Facebook page (while not an official school site, this was acknowledged in the survey). However several parents outlined that they would like more communication from classrooms. Class newsletters or use of diaries was seen as not happening consistently between classes, and several parents requested more communication by email. (This is happening in some but not in all classes.)

First Aid Issues: were mentioned several times by parents, with request for a designated first aid room, request for ringing of parents for any injury, more senior first aid staff available or even a full time school nurse. Because of the number of concerns expressed, a special section of the newsletter will deal with this issue. (continued on pages 2 & 3)





First Aid Procedures at Littlehampton

Earlier in the year when addressing a parent concern about first aid, we reviewed our systems with a view to introducing improvements. We reinforced our practices and endeavoured to put in place improved and more consistent systems for dealing with students seeking first aid, and consider that these have led to improvements.

- We have a senior first aider who is the person on call for tricky issues and that is Janelle Robinson. Besides her senior first aid training Janelle also has nursing experience as an enrolled nurse. Janelle ensures first aid supplies are up to date, and our documentation on children with special health care plans is up to date and shared with all staff at the school.
- All our teachers and SSOs have first aid training, and several others beside Janelle have senior first aid training.
- Five permanent SSOs share responsibility for first aid, and each have a day when they follow up on children with ongoing health needs (eg. Diabetes). There is a shared knowledge between these staff about the needs and processes, so that if any are absent, others know exactly what to do.
- Other SSOs are on duty at recess and can call upon the permanent SSO on duty for the day if they have any questions or concerns about attending to recess injuries.

How and at what level are parents informed of injuries or illnesses when their child has been given first aid at the front office?

- Children with cuts and grazes that can be attended to with a band aid are helped to clean the cut and given a band aid, and while this is logged on the first aid log if done in the front office, parents are not informed.
- Anything more serious than this is logged in the first aid log. If children are sent back to class, they are given a note to take to parents. Children should bring notes home for anything more serious than a band aid.
- For any injury to the head, parents are rung and informed, because even if the child seems ok and is sent back to class, parents need to know so they can monitor the child at home.
- Any injury of a more serious nature where SSOs consider the child needs more care or monitoring is kept in the front office for a longer period, and parents are rung to involve them in the decision about whether to take the child home. At this level if uncertain, the SSO will check with other SSOs and with Janelle, the senior first aider.
- Calling an ambulance – at school we have a policy to call an ambulance if in doubt, and will do so even if we are unable to contact a parent, if we consider it necessary.

Do we ever get it wrong?

- Yes there are times when our staff do underestimate (or overestimate) the level of the injury, even though using guidelines and protocols when assessing children. They are first aiders, not medically trained. As with parents, there are times when they do not correctly assess a breakage, or underestimate a tissue injury which will turn into a bruise or black eye. Our SSOs are very sensitive about this, and do their best, however we are guided by children and what they report and tell us, the level of pain they report, or what we observe. Errors at this level, as with all first aiders, are inevitable.

What should parents do if their child is more seriously injured than our first aiders assessed?

- We would like parents to call in or ring us and tell us the extent of the injury, so that we can update our records, and lodge an accident or injury record if the child has seen a doctor or visited hospital. Feedback also helps us to improve our systems.
- We are happy to answer parent questions, and ask that parents address our staff politely, and free from criticism or blame.
- There are times when I have overheard quite an attack by phone or in person, which is not conducive to developing trust, and makes a staff member feel defensive, especially when they have done their best or circumstances have been difficult. No person likes to get it wrong.
- If still unhappy after notifying the school, parents can use the formal complaint process. Brochures are available in the front office, and on the school website. We ask that parents ask to meet the principal first, and parent concerns will be documented and followed up.

Will parents be rung each time their child is attended for first aid?

- Several parents requested this in their survey responses. We don't consider there is a broadly expressed need for this by all parents, and consider that it is not always practical to do this. However, individual parents who would like to request this, can do so.

Can we have a school nurse?

- We would love to have a school nurse however DECD schools do not provide the funding to pay for one, and our regular staff must attend to first aid in schools.



Can we have a dedicated first aid room?

- We are severely limited for space in our school, and when we were renovating the front office in 2010 we looked into DECD requirements regarding a sick room. A sick room is not required in schools, but a private area where children can have access to a sink, and their cuts or injuries can be attended to in privacy is required, and this is what we have.
- We have a bean bag chair and a fold out bed for children with more serious injuries, and these can be used in one of the offices (coordinator office, DP or principal's office) if a child is ill only, and it is considered that they need sleep and do not need observation. These offices are used to allow quiet and privacy to the children, while waiting for parents to collect them.
- For injuries, or when our staff consider the students need monitoring more closely while waiting for parents to collect them, our staff like to keep children close by so place them on a bean bag or fold out bed behind the counter in the front office area so they can be continually observed.

What is happening to improve our systems?

- We are regularly monitoring our first aid logs, following up on notes written, and ensuring our processes are being followed.
- We seek feedback from our SSOs to see what they think can be done to improve the systems, and they also identify things that can help with first aid, such as calling on a second SSO when the office is busy or a phone call has to be made, encouraging children with scrapes, minor cuts and band aids to seek band aids and help from a yard duty teacher rather than coming to the office.

We trust that parents will find this outline of our First Aid processes informative and will answer many queries.

What Do You Think of Us... School Surveys cont.

Queries about Governing Council being more informal with parents free to drop in or register to vote. (Requirements re governing council to be dealt with in an article next newsletter.)

Leadership -Parents seemed unsure if this referred to student leadership or leadership of the school, and comments were made on both. This question was unclear and will be clarified next year.

Fundraising– Several parents commented on the burden of fundraising with calls for soup days or other calls for money happening frequently. One parent commented on the electronics or games day run by fundraising forum, that they felt their child was left out because they did not have a device. A counter view was expressed by students in the student survey who loved the day, and requested there be such a day once per term. I guess this underlines that there will not be 100% agreement about things at school in every matter, and that a balance is sought in the activities provided.

Thank you The highly detailed comments provided by parents on specific questions are invaluable for our planning, both positive comments and feedback for improvement. They will be used by the different programs throughout the year to inform planning. Specific comments on the SAKG program will be used by the SAKG planning committee. The same applies to comments on positive education/ Positive Psychology, Australian Curriculum and Communication, and to our leadership team. So thank you, all contributing parents for your comments.

Year and Survey

2013 80 respondents, 2014 digital 67 respondents, 2014 paper 6 respondents

	2013	2014	2014
	80	67	6
1. I think Littlehampton PS does a good job of keeping me informed & seeking my opinion.	4.1	3.8	4.0
2. As a result of the SAKG program I've seen an improvement in healthy eating and wellbeing for my child	3.7	3.4	3.3
3. I think the SAKG program is beneficial to my child's learning in sustainable gardening and/or science.	4.3	4.1	4.6
4. Littlehampton Primary School does a good job of teaching my child mathematics.	4.0	3.8	4.2
5. My child talks about their learning at home.	3.4	3.2	2.8
6. I am satisfied that the Australian curriculum report format used by the school provides accurate information about my child's progress. New question 2014	3.6	3.7	3.8
7. I find the teachers comments on the school report provide helpful advice and show a deep knowledge of my child	4.2	4.0	3.8
8. I know about the strategies used by my child's class teachers in the area of Positive Education/ Positive Psychology and understand the reasons they are used 3 good things, mindfulness, gratitude. (New questions 2014)	3.8	3.3	4.0
9. I think Littlehampton Primary School fosters a strong and supportive community	4.3	4.1	4.3
10. I think separate Year 6 & 7 classes for History and Geography and separate Year 7 Science lessons provide a rigorous program and high expectations for my Year 6 or Year 7 child (different question 2014)	3.4	3.5	N/A



We really ramped up expectations in this question this year. Last year we asked I know about the schools focus and have some idea of what it means.

Large "Don't know" or didn't know about this from Year 6,7 parents.

The questions above are school generated questions to gain information from parents on school specific goals.

The questions below are from the National Survey designed to be completed by all schools in Australia.

Teachers at this school expect my child to do his or her best.	4.3	4.2	4.0
Teachers at this school provide my child with useful feedback about his or her school work.	4.0	3.8	4.0
Teachers at this school treat students fairly.	4.2	3.8	3.7
This school is well maintained.	4.2	4.3	4.2
My child feels safe at this school.	4.4	4.3	4.2
I can talk to my child's teachers about my concerns.	4.5	4.3	4.5
Student behaviour is well managed at this school.	4.1	3.9	3.7
My child likes being at this school.	4.6	4.4	4.3
This school looks for ways to improve.	4.2	4.1	4.3
This school takes parents opinions seriously.	4.0	3.8	3.5
Teachers at this school motivate my child to learn.	4.3	4.0	4.0
My child is making good progress at this school.	4.3	3.9	4.3
My child's learning needs are being met at this school	4.2	3.8	4.2
This school works with me to support my child's learning	4.2	3.6	4.2

Scoring. 1 Strongly Disagree, 2 Disagree, 3 Don't know or neither disagree nor agree, 4 Agree, 5 Strongly agree. A score of 4.0 or more is very good.

Further Notes

- Unfortunately the paper version of the survey could not be merged with the digital version, so the two versions of the survey are reported here, as well as the 2013 results.
- Note that the scores for this year, while still good are down a point or two on last year's parent response.
- The scores highlighted in yellow are those that are consistently high across all distributions of the survey.

Student Survey- Scores were high (above 4) for:

- My school looks for ways to improve
- My teachers expect me to do my best
- My school is well maintained
- I feel safe at school
- I like being at school
- My teachers motivate me to learn
- My school gives me opportunities to do interesting things.

Scores were lower (3.5 or 3.6) for:

- Student behaviour is well managed at my school
- My school takes students opinions seriously
- I can talk to my teachers about my concerns

This will be discussed and addressed by staff.



Littlehampton Primary School Community Carols Evening

Friday 5th December
5pm - 8pm

Littlehampton Primary School will be holding a Community Carols Evening for our families on Friday 5th December.

The event is free and the evening will be starting at 5pm with the format of the night being the following:

5pm to 6pm: Christmas Picnic (BYO Food and Drinks). We do ask please that you do not bring any glass containers with you. There will be Christmas music being played while you sit back and relax with families and friends.

6pm to 7pm: Community Carols Sing-a-long and concert, being led by the Singing into the Community Forum and Narelle Thomas. The school band will also perform a few Christmas-themed numbers for your entertainment.

7pm to 8pm: Continue socialising along with friends and family. Keep an eye out for a special visitor!

Although this evening is being held at the school we ask parents/caregivers to please supervise their own children as it is an after school hours event.

We may be selling some food and drink at the event, but at this stage we are still working out the details. Stay tuned for more information in the next newsletter.

World Teachers Day Thank you to our Teachers!

World Teachers Day was celebrated on October 31. For our teachers it has been celebrated by a special morning tea provided by SSOs and another to come provided by Governing Council. We would like to thank all of our teachers for the work they do every day with our children. Thank you to parents who provide positive feedback to the teachers, when they especially appreciate something they have done. I cannot tell you how much it means to those teachers.

Public Teaching Awards

Congratulations to the following teachers who were nominated by parents for the Public Teaching Awards in 2014.

- Leonie Chatfield Year 6/7 teacher
- Jenny Crossley teacher librarian
- Paula Simmons SSO
- Lorna McLean Reception teacher
- Danielle Stone Rec/Year 1 teacher
- Helen Kupczynski Year 1 teacher

Each teacher has received a certificate to recognise their nomination.

Principal's Awards



During Week 3 assembly the following students received a Principal's Award. Well done to everyone:

Trustworthy: Caspian Prokopowicz, Mia Bishop

Valuing Others: Ava Roach, Wesley Bowden

Fairness: Dhiren Karunanithi-Carter, Liam Guest, Chloe Davis

Kindness: Jessica Luxon, Marni Banks

Positive Attitude: Annie Krop, Georgia Bannister, Tahlia Rowe, Harry Scholz, Rachel Howse, Maya Bowden, Holly Hutchinson, Connor Brown, Primrose Miles, Nicholas Paech, Sophie Leach, Ben Gautier, Edward Banham

Including Others: Niamh Hill, Mitchell Leach, Rachel Provis

Respect: Britt Proeve, Jessica Forbes, Samuel Passmore, Jackson Heinicke, Owen Hart

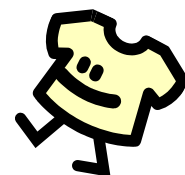
Thank You Very Much



We would like to say a big thank you to Baker's Delight who supply our Parents and Friends Group with bread to make sandwiches for students who have forgotten their lunch.

We would also like to thank Maureen Liebelt (parent helper) who has done an amazing job in getting our lost property room into order. Maureen sorts all the articles of lost property out a couple of times a term, grouping the named items into classes for the teachers then to hand them back to the owner. She also washes, and then displays items that have been donated back to the school on our 2nd hand uniform racks to be bought by parents.

We encourage all parents/caregivers to put their child's name on clothing, and this way your child's jumper/shirt will make its way back home safely.



Lunch Box Drive Fundraiser

As you are no doubt aware, our school has a 'Litter Free Lunch' competition run by the Wipe Out Waste student forum. Sometimes it is challenging for parents to find suitable containers for all food items. Well... we have the perfect solution which could help you and the school too!

With this newsletter you will find a Tupperware Order Form to place your order for a new lunch box or drink bottle. These would make terrific Christmas gifts for your kids too. Orders need to be back by Wednesday 19th November. 10% of any sales will go back to the school. There will also be a \$20 donation from any demonstrations booked and held which will go to the school. Happy shopping!

