



NEWSLETTER

Week 2 Term 4 2015

Diary Dates

**Monday 26th
October**

Governing Council
Meeting 7pm

**Thursday 29th
October**

School Assembly
2.25pm
Helen Forrest &
Alison Marsh's class

**Sunday 1st
November**

Bunnings Sausage
Sizzle Fundraiser
for SAKG



**Monday 2nd
November**

Positive Education
Training for Parents
Part 2 7pm

**Tuesday 3rd &
Wednesday 4th
November**

Taste of SAKG

**Wednesday 4th
November**

Multilit/LAP/Fun &
Games Meeting 2pm

**Littlehampton &
Blakiston
Community**

**Consultation Night
6.30 to 8.30pm
Resource Centre**

Student Absence or Lateness :

Prior to 9 am

Text 0427 016 460

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

Important School Matters

School Bushfire Policy—Be Prepared

Bushfire Policy Littlehampton - Moderate Risk, School stays open on Catastrophic Days If we are directed to close, we will notify you by text message. *Please read complete policy inside newsletter on Pages 3.*

Schools and Preschool Surveys

At this time of the year emails have been sent to preschool parents with instructions for completing the Preschool Survey online, and to School Families with instructions for completing the School Survey Online. If parents prefer to complete a paper version, copies are available in the front office. These may be left in the box in the front office, and will be entered by a confidential school services officer. For school families, if parents would like to complete this survey online but have no computer at home, they may go to the library between 8:15 and 9:30 and library staff will assist them to log in and complete the survey there.

Class Placement 2016

Placing children in class groups is a complex process which takes many weeks. This means creating a group of students in a class which has a gender balance, a range of learning abilities and a range of behavioral and social needs. Optimal learning groups is our goal! Listening in to teachers' discussions when they are making up class groups, it is evident that:

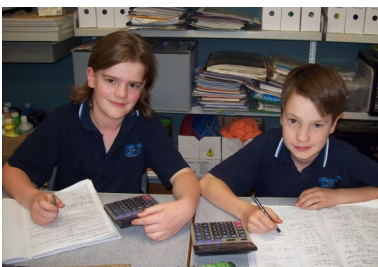
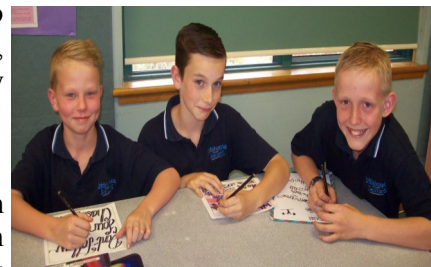
- teachers know the children well; and
- they make decisions based on good educational reasons.

It is school policy that teachers ask children for a list of 5 friends, and we undertake to place children in class with a friend from this list. If we are not able to do this, we ring parents.

We consider that each child will benefit from having each teacher. During the course of their time at Littlehampton,

parents can expect that their children will have any of our teachers. Parents can also expect that their children will spend time in both the lower year level of a multi-year level class and the upper year level of a multi-year level class.

For detailed information about the Class Placement Process for 2016 classes and the opportunity to provide additional information, see page 3.



Will your child be leaving the school in 2015?

Please inform us as soon as possible so that we can complete our class structure planning for 2016. There are some classes that would need to be composite year level classes, that could be straight year level with the loss of one class, and need to know all students who will be leaving so our numbers for 2016 are accurate. If your children will be leaving the school please inform us in writing.

Preschool 2015 children will commence their pre-entry visits next week, so if you know of any parents in zone with 3 year olds turning 4 before May please let them know to contact the school on 8391 1194.



Music Showcase 2015



When will parents know about 2016 class placement?

Littlehampton Primary School Bushfire Policy

Parent Requests

Littlehampton Primary School has made a focus of developing consistent quality practice in curriculum content and in methodology and we've been commended for this in school reviews. We value the high quality teachers in this school and requests for or against specific teachers will not be favorably received. If you have important circumstances that you believe need special consideration (such as a request for twins to be in the same or in different classes), **please address your concerns in writing, to the Principal, by Friday, 7 November, and mark the envelope "Confidential"**. Please address your concerns in terms of educational needs of your children.

Note that this year, we will not be attaching teachers names to the classes until the process is complete. Even teachers will not know which class they are taking until the class placement process is complete. Due to the complexity of the process, it is school policy that verbal requests given to teachers will not be considered.

Who makes the decision?

It is the responsibility of the Principal to make the final decision on classes and placement of students. ***Due to the "domino effect" of making changes after classes have been organised, no changes can be made after classes are released. Please ensure that you provide us with any relevant information or opinions now.***

This year we aim to inform parents of class placements in Week 9, and we plan that students will have the opportunity to meet with their new class and teacher before the end of the year.

Class Structure 2016

I am unable to outline the class structure for next year at this stage. We are not yet clear enough about numbers for 2016. As parents inform us that their children will be leaving and new students enrol the structure must be adjusted to accommodate numbers. The final structure will be chosen in Week 5, when we begin allocating the students to classes. The best information that I can give at this time is that there will be some straight year levels, and some composite classes with two different year levels in the one class.

Kiwanis Awards Congratulations!

At a recent assembly Nicholas Possingham and Jemma Lawson were presented with 'Terrific Kids' awards. ***Congratulations to them both!***



With the hot weather last week, it reminds us that we need to be prepared for bushfire at our school. This article informs parents about what will happen at our school on Code Red Catastrophic Days. Next newsletter will remind parents of the processes if our school is affected by bushfire.

1. Level of bushfire risk for our school.

Our school has been identified as at **Moderate** risk of bushfire. It is not on the list of schools that will automatically close on Code Red Catastrophic Days because this applies to schools at High, Very High or Extreme risk of bushfire. However, there could be days when we will be directed to close if a decision is made to close all the sites in the Hills region.

2. How will parents know if the school will be closed?

Even on days when the radio reports that it is a day of 'Code Red Catastrophic' weather conditions, our school will remain open unless you hear a message from the school. The school will give you a message in three ways:

- If we know with advance warning we will send you a letter with your children the day before (realistically, it is unlikely that we will be given sufficient notice to do this.)
- You will be sent a text message to your mobile phone. The school has installed a MGM text messaging system which enables us to send a message from any on-line computer. You will receive a message which reads:

"We have been notified by DECD and by the CFS to close the school on (day and date). No student is to attend school.

- A message will be left on the school answering machine, if possible, which gives the same information as above. (There may be situations where we are unable to record the message on the answering machine, due to difficulty in staff accessing school in the event of a fire.)

The red 'School Closed' signs will be placed on the fence at the front of the school and the preschool.

As the fire season starts, DECD places a list of schools to be closed on their website: www.decd.sa.gov.au.



3. Test text messages: Today the school sent out test text messages via the MGM messaging system to all school and preschool families. This is our means of contacting you should the school be closed for the day. If you have not received this text message please contact Debbie Jackson on 8391 1194 to update your contact details. Thank you.

Scholastic Book Club News

You may have noticed some changes to the Scholastic book club catalogues. This is part of a trial currently being conducted in South Australia to gauge feedback from students and parents. They are trialling one all ages catalogue for issues 7 and 8 this term. The aim is to enable students & parents to look across the full offering of books in order to make the best choices - regardless of the reading levels of each child.

Due to the new format catalogue, there has been a change if you are ordering via cash/cheque through the school. You now need to write the book number and title on the order form rather than just a quantity next to your selection. Please ensure this is clear and legible to avoid errors. There are no changes to the LOOP online ordering process.

Scholastic are asking for feedback regarding the new catalogues and this feedback will contribute to their decision whether to roll this out across the rest of Australia. So please feel free to have your say if you wish! Email me at difrench@adam.com.au anytime throughout Term 4 and I will pass on any comments directly to Scholastic. Thanks in advance.

Diana French
Book Club Coordinator



Mindsets

Recently staff have been discussing what might be holding some children back from improving their learning. We have watched, listened to and read some of Carol Dweck's research about mindsets. Through over 30 years of research she has found that people have either a 'fixed' mindset or a 'growth' mindset. People with a 'fixed' mindset believe that: making mistakes means that they lack ability; they tend not work hard as this too shows they have limited ability; they don't need to fix mistakes if they make them. Whilst people with a 'growth' mindset: take on challenges, work hard and confront their deficiencies and correct them.

So what can parents and teachers do to foster 'growth' mindsets. The answer lies in how we praise children. If we praise them for their intelligence [how smart they are] we will foster a 'fixed' mindset, but if we praise them for their effort and strategies we will encourage a 'growth' mindset. Everyone is capable of learning and improving, and intelligence [smartness] is not set.

What kind of a mindset does your child have? Want to know more about this?

Go to :

http://www.ted.com/talks/carol_dweck_the_power_of_believing_that_you_can_improve?language=en

Overdue Accounts

Your child has been given a printout of your statement. Payment of this amount is requested within 7 days. If you have any queries please contact Judi Daniel or Sandy Mitchell on 8391 1194 as soon as you receive your statement.



A reminder to families who have not paid the 2015 Gym contribution of \$100, or \$70 if approved for school card, that payment can still be made. We do rely on all families contributions to cover our loan repayments for our Gym.

LAP/Multilit/Fun & Games Meeting

We would like to invite all parents/caregivers who are involved within these programs to come along for a meeting and afternoon tea in the staff room from 2pm on Wednesday 4th November.

This will give us a chance to review programs and discuss plans for future involvement with our children.

Thank you for your continued help. It is very much

Littlehampton Community Consultation

Mount Barker District Council is preparing a new plan for Littlehampton & Blakiston, and invites you to have your say. There are a number of ways you can get involved:

1. Complete the survey available on Council's website: www.dcmtbarker.sa.gov.au/consultation or follow <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LittlehamptonPlan>
2. Make your own submission and post to Council: PO Box 54, Mount Barker SA 5251
3. Drop in to a community consultation session at **Littlehampton Primary School on 4 November** from 6.30 - 8.30 pm where you can talk directly to Council staff, or **Littlehampton Market on 14 November** from 10 am - 12 noon.

Information Brochure enclosed in this newsletter

The consultation process is coming to a close on November 16th so we encourage you to act quickly in order to have your opinions heard!

Please note that regarding the session here at school, community members associated with the school, but who are not residents of Littlehampton, can still be involved. Children can also be involved; for example, children could make a written submission in their own words or send in a drawing etc. Parents could also assist them to complete the survey. Council staff inform us that teenagers are always hard to reach, so encouraging the student's older siblings, cousins, neighbours etc to participate would be appreciated. Thank you for helping to make Littlehampton an even better place to live.