



LETHBRIDGE PARK PUBLIC SCHOOL

A NSW Government P-6 Connected Communities school

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Find us on @LethbridgeParkPS

Thursday 1 June 2023

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Carers,

A few weeks ago, our community came together to celebrate the significant contributions that our mothers, and mother figures have on our lives. Although it was a cold, early start to the morning, the warmth that you all brought warmed the hearts of us all. These celebrations truly do help us become a connected school community.

Reconciliation Week and Yarning Circle Opening

This week we are celebrating National Reconciliation Week. This is a time for all Australians to recognise the significant milestones in Australia's reconciliation journey, to learn about our histories, cultures, achievements, and to explore how we can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia. On Monday, our student leaders and Brendan from the Royal Botanic Gardens, led a beautiful ceremony to communicate what reconciliation means to them, as well as officially open our Yarning Circle. We have named the outdoor learning space '*Ngaragyingun*', which is the Dharug word for '*together we learn*'. This is closely related to the school's motto of '*Together we Achieve*'. I would like to thank the community members who were able to participate in our Reconciliation assembly and opening of Ngaragyingun.

Premier, Deputy Premier/Education Minister and Acting Secretary Visit

Two weeks ago, we were visited by the Premier of NSW Chris Simms, Deputy Premier and Education Minister Prue Carr, Murat Dizdar Acting Secretary for the Department of Education and our local member of parliament Edmond Atalla. They came our school to publicise the department's commitment to employ permanent staff members through the temporary to permanent initiative. Taking this as an opportunity to showcase the wonderful achievement of our school, our student leaders proudly paraded our dignitaries around our school speaking proudly about and showcasing the following:

- what our school means to them and what high school they will be attending
- our student led and designed initiatives including the Yarning Circle, Area 5 and the staircase projects
- what our SRC are planning this year (toilet door projects, courtyard upgrade, JAECG designed outdoor learning space)
- our Dharug language program
- our high potential classes

Throughout the walk, our dignitaries consistently spoke about how impressed they were with our student's ability to articulate their thinking, communicate their purpose and the general positive feeling that they received from walking around our school. This was a wonderful moment for not only our students, but for our school. Whilst we do not do things for recognition, it certainly was a proud moment and something that should be celebrated by all.

Staffing News

As a result of the temporary to permanent initiative, I am pleased to announce the following staff members who have now been made permanent:

- Mrs Carola Dodman (Teacher)
- Mr Christopher Barker (Teacher)
- Ms Georgina Hendy (Teacher)
- Ms Suzanne Gallagher (Teacher)
- Mrs Anne-Marie Russell (SLSO)
- Mrs Anne Bond (SLSO)
- Ms Chloe Tregaskes (SLSO)
- Ms Kara Van Der Kuyl (SLSO)





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- Ms Amanda Pilarowski (Teacher)
- Ms Cassandra Greenaway (School Administration Officer)
- Mr Michael Franklin (Business Manager)

Having permanent staff is critical in schools. It helps both our students and families develop a deeper sense of connectedness and belonging, through the development of trusting relationships that are built upon over time. It also provides stability for their families, allowing them to plan for their futures.

Further to this, I would also like to announce the permanent appointment of two staff members who have been appointed permanently through the merit selection process. Ms Lauren Medcalf has been appointed Assistant Principal and Ms Elizabeth Coplin has been appointed as class teacher.

I am sure you will join me in congratulating all staff members on their permanent appointments.

Check-In Assessments

Over the last few weeks, our students in years 4 – 6 have participated in online Check-In assessments for reading and numeracy. These assessments inform the school of the progress we are making, as well as provide us with information that inform our future directions. These results will be shared with the school community early next term.

3 Way Report Feedback and Goal Setting

Student reports will be sent home Friday 23 June. 3 Way Report feedback and Goal Setting meetings are being organised now and will be communicated shortly. These meetings will occur during Week 10. All parents and carers who attend will go into a draw for a major prize (a Dalmarri framed artwork – local Aboriginal artists).

Home Reading

Please continue to read with your child every night. Reading is perhaps the most important life skill a child can learn. Research suggests that children who read for 12 minutes a day are in the top 2% of reading achievement. If your child is not bringing books home to read, or your child does not have access to their online reading password, please contact your child's teacher.

Public Speaking Showcase

On Tuesday 13 June, students from years 1-6 will be participating in the school's Public Speaking Showcase. 2 student representatives from each class will present their speech to the school in the hall. All students selected will receive a prize. Invitations will be sent home to families leading up to the event.

Homework Consultation

We will be hosting a Homework parent consultation meeting in the coming weeks. We want to share with you the Department's Homework Policy and listen to what your expectation about homework is. After this, we will consult with our staff and students to develop a LPPS homework procedures manual. A letter will come home shortly providing more information.

End of Term 2 Reward Day

Our students have decided that this term's PBL Reward Day will be held at Inflatable World. Students who received their Bronze or Silver badge will be invited to participate.

Mr Garry Sheen

