



DATES TO REMEMBER

19 NOV	KINDY 2020 ORIENTATION 9.15AM TO 11.00AM
26 NOV	KINDY 2020 ORIENTATION 9.15AM TO 11.00AM
29 NOV	YEAR 6 FUN DAY
11 DEC	PRESENTATION 9.30AM
12 DEC	K-2 BOWLING
12 DEC	CAROLS CELEBRATION NIGHT 5.30PM
13 DEC	3-6 BOWLING
18 DEC	LAST DAY OF TERM

IMPORTANT MESSAGE

Office Hours

8.30am to 3.15pm

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From the Principal's desk

Here we are in Week 5, half-way through the term already. This is the time of the year when teachers are busy collecting and evaluating data on student progress and writing student reports. Our teachers know your child very well. They have a clear understanding of where every child is on their learning path and so are able to provide parents with a report that details their development this year academically and socially. Reports will be sent home in **Week 9**.

Our school executive is now busy planning for next year especially ensuring that we are ready for the changes that will happen at our school due to increased enrolments. At this stage we have 330 students enrolled for 2020, with 61 students coming into kindergarten as well as additional students enrolled into other grades. We are definitely a fast growing school.

Bush fire Emergency

This week across NSW and Queensland there were catastrophic conditions for bushfires that had serious repercussions for many communities. We have been kept up to date regularly with alerts and information regarding conditions from both the department and the RFS. As we informed you on Monday our school was considered safe to operate on Tuesday. However we kept students inside and cancelled our Little Learners program as a precaution.

As a departmental requirement the school has in place emergency evacuation plan and a bushfire plan as Leppington PS is in a bushfire prone area. Our staff and students have a clear understanding of where and what to do in the event of an emergency through our regular drills. We have designated areas for evacuation and shelter within the school site. In the event that the school does need to evacuate the site the students will be taken to the Leppington Railway Station which is large enough to accommodate all students and staff. In the event of any major emergency or evacuation or school closure parents will always be contacted by phone or by a message on the App. The following information was distributed by the department for inclusion in newsletters.

'Throughout the recent unprecedented weather conditions and bush fire activity, the Department, in conjunction with the Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Services, made informed decisions, which were strongly based on safety considerations, when determining the operational status of each school. The Department of Education has student safety and wellbeing as its highest priorities. Our school was operational and we made adjustments to our daily routines to minimise exposure to smoke. All students and staff were safe at all times.'

Please be assured the safety and well being of all students and staff is always our main priority. We will

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Little Learners Program

Last Tuesday afternoon we conducted our first session for our Little Learners program. This year we trialled a twilight session in order to assist working parents. It was very well attended by both parents and new students with many parents expressing their appreciation for the twilight session. There were also a couple of families there who have students starting next year in other grades. It was exciting to welcome our newest students and their families. For many of them this was their first child to enter school. At each of these sessions we hold information sessions for parents on how they can best assist their child, school routines and what learning looks like at Leppington. There will be sessions held on the next **two Tuesday mornings**.

Enrolments 2020

We are now accepting enrolments for students for next year. Please pass on this message to any friends or neighbours who might have children to start next year. We would like to know our expected enrolment for next year so as to plan in advance.

Enrolment forms are available at the office.

If your child is not returning in 2020 please inform the office.

Transition Programs

We also had a visit from the students from Annabelle's Pre-School this week. Their students loved looking around our school, playing on the equipment and visiting our classrooms. All of these initiatives help our youngest students settle into school smoothly and quickly.

In addition to these transition programs some of our Year 6 students have been visiting local high schools to spend time looking around and in classes so that their transition to high school is smooth for them. Those students also came back buzzing with what they had done and seen— cooking and decorating cupcakes and learning about Bunsen burners!

“Artscape 2019”

Thank you to all those parents who were able to spend some time visiting ***“Artscape 2019.”*** There was certainly a variety of art on display, everywhere around our school— front fence, on windows and wall, in gardens and trees, in the library and on verandas. In fact where you look there is art! Unfortunately the winds we've experienced over the past week has played havoc with some artworks but the majority is still up. If you haven't been to look please do so. You'll be amazed! Our Director Educational Leadership visited the school on Tuesday and spent time walking around ***Artscape 2019.*** He was very impressed by the variety and quality of the artwork on display.

Science News

This term kindergarten are focusing on weather in our world through a variety of hands on activities including ink blot clouds. These investigations help to increase their knowledge of how characteristics of weather affect their daily lives. Kindergarten are also continuing to learn about how we grow food with special visits to our miniature garden each week. We are growing peas, spinach, parsley and broad beans and have already harvested the radishes. The students have really enjoyed tasting the different vegetables!



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Bus Travel

To assist the school in lobbying for a bus just for our students to and from Willowdale, the department and the bus company gather their evidence from the number of students living in that area with an opal card. As a school we are collecting data as to the number of students travelling on the bus in the afternoon to submit. It is also really important that every student has their card and taps on and off every day as this also gives further data.

You can assist us in applying for an opal card for your child even if you are not intending to use it at this point in time. The more students who have an opal card the stronger our case will be. If you need assistance applying please come into the office and we will help you.

To apply go online to transportnsw.info/school-students

**Attendance**

Over this term we have recorded large numbers of student absences from school for various reasons. I would like draw your attention to the DET policy regarding school attendance.

“Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

The *Education Act 1990* requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school.

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence. It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

For your child’s education it is important that they are at school every day unless there is a valid reason for an absence.

If your child misses as little as 8 days in a school term by the end of primary school they will have missed more than a year.

End of Year Carols/ Celebration Night

This year we have again decided to combine carols night with an end of year celebration night. This will be held on **Thursday 12th December** commencing at **5.30** with a barbeque and food stall organised by the P&C. The program itself will begin at **6.30pm**. There will be items from classes, choir, dance groups and ukulele group and all have been very busy preparing their items ready for their performances. If your child is performing, teachers will send a separate note. The program will be a similar to last year. Whilst the visiting band will still play a selection of Christmas songs they will also play songs that are popular or from movies that everyone can sing along to. We hope to see as many families as possible for what will be a great night’s entertainment and a great way to celebrate the end of the year.

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