

# "RT8"



## LAGUNA STREET PUBLIC SCHOOL NEWSLETTER 19 July 2012

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### Pursuing Excellence in a Hidden Sanctuary.

20 July: State Cross Country - Eastern Creek	23 August: AFL Paul Kelly Cup State Final - Blacktown All Day	24 October: Kindergarten Orientation Session 1, 2-3pm
23,24 July: Band Camp at Stanwell Tops	24 August: Full Day Zone Athletics	25 October: Penrith Lakes Excursion
25 July: OC Test	25 August: A Spring A - Fair School Fete	29 October: Book Fair
25 July: Yr 5 Cricket Gala Day - Solander Oval	28 August: Sutherland Hospital Excursion 1W	30 October: Kindergarten Orientation Session 2, 10-12.15 pm
30 July - 3 August: Education Week	29 August: String Group at Jacaranda Concert	6-9 November: Life Education
31 July: ICAS English	30 August: Father's Day Stall	8 November: Kindergarten Orientation Session 3, 1-3 pm
1 August: Olympics Day	3 September: Stewart House Bag Collection	12-14 November: Life Education
1 August: Open Day	4 September: Grandparents Day - Kindergarten	19 November: Life Education concludes
2 August: Create South Auditions	5 September: Sydney East Athletics Carnival	19 November: Musica Viva
7 August: ICAS Maths	7 September: End Season 2 PSSA Sport	7 December: End Season 3 PSSA
7 August: School Tour for 2013 Kindergarten Parents	11 September: Sutherland Hospital Excursion 1T & 1L	10 December: School Presentation Rehearsal
9 August: ½ Day Zone Athletics	13 September: Yr 2 Excursion - Royal National Park	11 December: School Presentation Performance 6-10pm
13 August-24 August Yr 2 Swimming Program	14 September: Sport Gala Day	12 December: Kindergarten Presentation Assembly 12pm
14 August: Kindergarten 2013 Information Evening	20 September: Deadly Australians Visit	12 December: Year 1 Presentation Assembly 2pm
15 August: Y4 Choir Rehearsal	21 September: Start Season 3 PSSA	14 December: Yr 6 Activity Day
16 August: Y4 Choir Music Festival Performance 7-9pm	12 October: Sparts Photos	17 December: Yr 6 Farewell- Kareela Golf Club
20 August: Y2 Choir rehearsal	15,16 October: Musica Viva	19 December: Students' last day, Year 6 Arch at 3.00pm
21 August: Y2 Choir Performance 7-9pm	16,17,18 October: Create South Workshop	20 December: School Development (Pupil Free) Day
21 August: Sutherland Hospital Excursion 1S	17,18 October: State Athletics Carnival Homebush	21 December: School Closed.
	23 October: Penrith Lakes Excursion	

### New Newsletter Format

We have altered the Newsletter format to make it easier to read online. We hope you enjoy the new format.

### Advance Warning

- The last day for students is Wednesday 19 December 2012.
- Teachers will be on duty on Thursday 20 December 2012 to attend a School Development Day, otherwise known as a "pupil free" day.
- The school will be closed on Friday 21 December 2012 because teachers will be attending training activities on a Saturday in Semester 2, in lieu of this date.
- Students return to school on Wednesday 30 January, 2013.

### Staffing News

██████████ has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will be absent for the rest of the year. She will be undertaking a course of treatment that will lower her immunity and her doctor has advised her to minimise contact with children. ██████████ position will be filled by Mrs Moore on Mondays to Wednesdays and Mrs Hughes on Thursdays and Fridays. Mrs Hughes will also pick up the Gifted and Talented program after she is updated by ██████████. Our Library will need more parent volunteers to help with clerical tasks at this time and if you are willing to learn how, then we are willing to show you. Please contact Mrs Moore at school if you are available.

*Breast cancer is an unwelcome aspect of life and our school community has had many who have had to walk this path. Like all people in this situation, the journey ahead for ██████████ will be very challenging but she is very much in our thoughts and prayers.*

### NSW Ice Hockey

Congratulations to Connor from 6L for being selected in the NSW U/14's Ice Hockey Team to compete in the 2012 National Phil Ginsberg Tournament in Adelaide from 25<sup>th</sup> July-30<sup>th</sup> July. Connor's success has been the result of extensive training and his present captaincy of the U/11's team. We wish Connor all the best. "Go Connor Go"



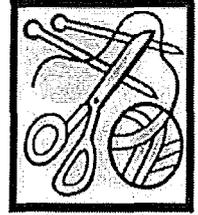
### Laguna Street Dance Ensemble

Laguna St Dance Ensemble competed in the McDonald Sydney Eisteddfod Challenge on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Sydney Opera House. They danced extremely well and were awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> place. Congratulations and good luck at the Kurranulla Eisteddfod in September.

**Ballet** Please note Term 3 ballet will resume on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> July at 3.30pm

### Woolly Mufti Day

To support our "Wrap With Love" knitting program, we will be holding a "Woolly Mufti" day on Thursday 6 September. Students may bring a ball / packet of wool of a gold coin donation. Last year, students from Year 2 to Year 6 along with a group of volunteer grandmothers and adult friends knitted and crocheted over two thousand woollen squares to make eighty one rugs for ABC radio's Wrap with Love program. Students gave up their lunchtimes to make the blankets under the guidance of adult friends who taught them how to knit.



### YMCA Parents' Meeting

YMCA Parent workshop is on 2.00pm & 7.00pm on Thursday 26 July. The workshop will look at YMCA's policies and procedures in keeping students safe. Please send an email to the school account to indicate your attendance. Parents are welcome to submit a question in advance via email.

### Education Week: Open Day Program: Wednesday 1 August 2012 "Public Schools NSW – Creating the Future."

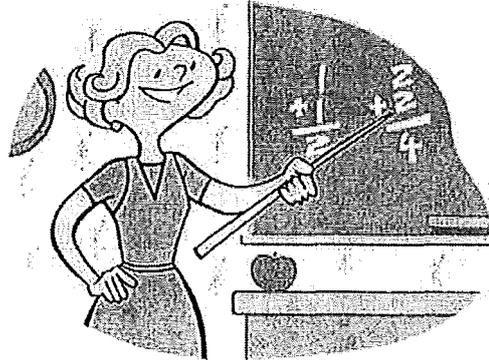
Education Week is a time to celebrate the quality teaching and learning occurring every day in our 2,200 public schools in NSW. It's a week where schools invite families and communities into classrooms and to special events to witness the depth and breadth of student learning, the excellent teaching and the wonderful support provided by our school administrative and support staff who work in offices, classrooms, libraries and on school grounds.

We have an action packed day prepared and parents are welcome to come when you can and leave when you must. We intend to abide by the times listed but things may not go to plan!

- 9.20 am – Teachers mark attendance registers.
- 9.30 am - Open Class rooms, Open Library, Art Display in the hall and Dance 2B Fit display outside G Block\*.
- 10.20am – Students set up for the Combined Assembly.
- 10.30am – Combined Assembly featuring the band, public speakers, combined choir and school choir.
- 11.20 am – Morning Tea. Refreshments on sale by K-6 Club.
- 12.00 pm – Students go to their Olympic Team room.
- 12.30 pm – Olympic Teams (mixed students from all classes) go to the playing field for Olympic activities.
- 1.10 pm – Lunch
- 1.55pm – Olympic activities continue.
- 2.40 pm – Olympic Assembly in the hall
- 3.20 pm – Dismissal.

\* Dance Display Schedule – anticipated times.

- 9.30 am – Kindergarten
- 9.37 am – Year 1
- 9.44 am – Year 2
- 9.51 am – Year 3
- 9.58 am – Year 4
- 10.05 am – Year 5
- 10.12 am – Year 6



### K-6 News Laguna Street Public School Spring Fair

The success of the School Fair relies heavily on volunteers from within the school community. Thus, we are looking for helpers to assist with a variety of roles at the fair including: assistance at stalls, stall co-ordinators, activity organisers and general help. Each year parents of different grades get together and help run a grade stall. As we gear up for the Fair, please keep an eye out for additional information about each grades stalls that will be coming soon. The parents helping to organise these stall will need as much help as you can offer. Also, If you have an idea for a stall or activity (eg: *magic tricks, facepainting etc*) & are available to co-ordinate it we'd love to hear from you!

**Why Help Out?** Funds raised from the fair will be put towards purchasing of resources and equipment needed by the school.

**Donations and Sponsorship:** A variety of donation and sponsorship options are available to parents, friends of parents and for businesses. If you have a business and would like to promote it, please contact us to see how you can help.

**General Help:** There's always plenty to do at the fete! If you are able spare some time and help out in anyway on the day eg: setting up, packing up, running errands etc please let us know - you'd be doing us a huge favour!

Fete Co-ordinator: Donna Pace, [REDACTED]

### Community News

*Disclaimer We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. The NSW Department of Education and Training and Laguna St Public School do not endorse these companies or their services and products.*

# Make learning fun in your house!

## Workshops for Mums and Dads

Do you want to know how it's done at school and how you can implement learning into your house to help your children in their daily lives?

### The Three Stages of Reading

This is for parents of children from 3 years old, until your children are competent and independent readers. Children should be confident readers by the age of 7 to avoid great difficulty at school. We will show you how you can help ensure your child can read fluently at home.

We will show you:

Make learning fun in your house!

Workshops for Mums and Dads

- When are children ready to start learning to read?
- How to begin to teach children to read
- When to move on to the next stage
- How to incorporate learning in your child's everyday life.
- How to combine a phonics and whole language approach to learning to read.
- What types of books to read to children
- What the school curriculum is all about

Tuesday 24th July 7 - 8pm

To book your place, please call Donna on [REDACTED] or email: [REDACTED]

Working together to promote happy, smart and confident learners.

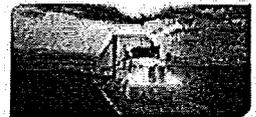


### TAE KWON DO

SATURDAYS 10.30 am – 12.00 pm at Laguna st PS or Wednesdays (4.00 – 5.00pm) at Miranda Nth PS, The Boulevard Miranda.

Please call Master Kwak on [REDACTED]

Tae Kwon Do is a form of self-defence and Olympic sports using bare hands and feet. It is suitable for boys and girls. Grand Master Kwak has the highest black belt (9<sup>th</sup> Dan) in Australia and has over 50 years of experience



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### WINTER SPORTS & MINI OLYMPIC GAMES

Kelly Sports is back in Term 3 to conduct a really fun and energetic sports program at

Laguna Street Public School, after school commencing Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

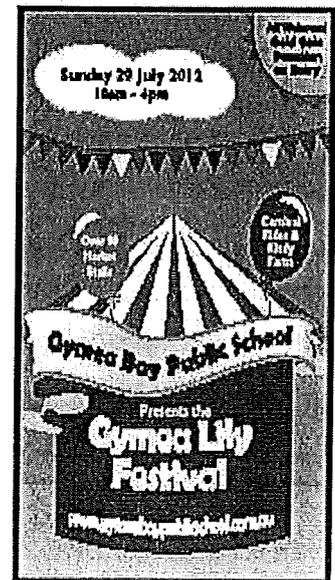
Children will learn Olympic Sports such as Long Jump, Shot Put, Javelin, Mini Hurdles and Discus,

as well as sprints, 400metres and relays. Netball, Hockey, AFL and

Tee-ball skills will also be developed.

**HURRY.....Only 2 weeks to go!!!**

Only \$64 for the 8 week program *To Enrol: Please see school office for flyer or contact Adam on [REDACTED] or email [REDACTED]*



## CONTROVERSY CORNER

SMH July 16, 2012 Chris Bonnor



**What makes a good school? It is students' engagement in learning that matters - not superficial results on a website.**

Most people spend about 2500 days of their life in school, time enough to develop an opinion about what was good and bad about their experience.

We all know someone who is more than happy to share their stories and subsequent expertise in all things educational; teachers often complain that, almost alone among professionals, they are sitting targets for unsolicited advice on how to do their job.

This means that Jane Caro and I may have supported or contradicted a host of opinions by producing a book entitled *What Makes a Good School?* The book will delight some and antagonise others - but what we really hope is that it will challenge assumptions and beliefs about schools and their quality.

It should be easy to identify the features of good schools. The research is endemic, the evidence about best practice readily available; the jury has been back for years. But little of this seems to filter through to grassroots opinions about schools and it certainly hasn't made a consistent impact on education policy. When evidence-based policy has to compete against long-held beliefs, the beliefs usually prove to be more enduring.

This makes schools somewhat of a battleground on a number of fronts - and we certainly have a variety of schools seeming to cater for diverse interests and beliefs about what is and isn't important. This creates a perennial debate about which are best and which should apparently be avoided. And in the middle of all this are parents of school-age children: what do they seek in a school and how can they be assured about school quality?

Polling and research seem to suggest that, in exercising school choice, parents operate on two levels. They are concerned about the levels of student achievement in their chosen range of schools but, above this, they want to know about the social profile of the students already enrolled at each school. As parents, our concern about schools is often about who our kids will sit next to in class.

At another level, parents and others circulate a language about the schools they like and the ones they reject. We all create narratives to reinforce our choices; in the case of schools the conversations are about such things as school reputation, teaching, results and discipline. We also adopt and recycle common descriptors of schools in a range from top or high-performing schools, to the ordinary, to the underperforming or failing.

But in the process we equate the achievement of students with the achievement of their school - and cite each school's alleged good or bad features as the root cause of success or failure. We do this despite the fact that two thirds, and possibly more, of "school" achievement is created not by the school, but in the homes and neighbourhoods of the enrolled students. The schools that enrol the most engaged and advantaged students can bathe in the reflected glory that their results create for the school. Competition between schools is mainly about getting these students.

This doesn't mean that schools are mere accessories in student learning and success. Any teachers or principals who believe they can't make a difference for their students are in the wrong business. But what it does mean is that finding out the real difference that is actually made by the school is a much harder task: small wonder that many parents play it safe by opting for a school with an established reputation, regardless of how - or even if - it is earned.

For those with a choice of school - and this is decided by access to money, student ability, location and networks - the task is to peel back the layers to find out much more about the schools that might attract their attention.

The My School website was supposed to make this task easier but it still doesn't enable accurate comparisons between individual schools. The NAPLAN spotlight is too narrow and the socio-educational index (ICSEA) used still doesn't take enrolment selectivity into account.

Some commentators use My School to identify "hero schools" that seemingly defy the odds, but most observers (probably including parents) seem to be more aware of the website's faults.

Despite its air of authority, the My School website is a cheap and poor substitute for the properly funded external reviews of schools that are conducted in some countries, and to some extent in Australia. In the absence of these, parents have to sift and sort through the multitude of claims made about, and by, particular schools.

This isn't an easy task: just about everyone has an agenda as well as an opinion. Enrolled students are among the best sources of information. Other parents, especially those trading second-hand information, are a mixed bag.

School publications, including annual reports, have a place - but you often have to read between the lines.

Schools create opportunities for parents to take a closer look, but some of these - including visits, exhibitions and open days - are more useful than others.

We'll always need to dig underneath the advocacy, the labels and the hype. When all factors are taken into account, there is a surprising lack of any significant relationship between different school types and levels of student achievement. Whatever the label, management and governance, most schools teach the same centralised curriculum with similarly trained teachers catering for mainstream students.

Fortunately, this means that any school can be a good school, one in which effective teaching and authentic learning are nurtured and constantly developed to help students achieve. The challenge for parents is to discover the real depth of student engagement and learning. In the process they have to reserve judgment about such things as raw test scores, student ranks, neat and full workbooks, docile students in neat rows and hours of homework.

Most schools commit, at least in theory, to three essentials for learning. The first is the development of an intellectual quality that produces deep understanding of concepts, skills and ideas. The second is the teaching environment itself: is it characterised by positive relationships where learning is expected and supported? The third is significance: learning needs to be meaningful to students.

Principals and teachers in good schools will talk about effective learning and what constitutes good teaching - in particular how professional teacher knowledge, practice and engagement works in their schools. Good teachers know their students and their subject matter, are themselves learners and work alongside colleagues to improve practice across the school.

But the whole notion of school quality and achievement has never been about schools alone. Schools serve a variety of purposes and are called on to serve widening and changing expectations. Who should they be "good" for: students, parents or the nation? And in what mix between the three?

We all want schools to measure up, but measure up to what? What is most important? Their public and democratic purpose, their private purpose for individual gain - or should national and economic priorities have the greatest influence on the direction taken by schools?

The debate about schools and who they should serve goes beyond the interests of individual players - and amid all the lessons in and about schools, this might be the hardest one we need to learn.

*What Makes a Good School?* is published by NewSouth.

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/national/education/good-schools-give-a-hoot-20120715-223zb.html#ixzz20lazlEtO>