Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

WELCOME

Welcome back to everyone. A special welcome to our new preps and to the children who commenced at St. Leonards PS this week.

Commencing school in prep we have:
Olivia Archer, Jesse Ballagh, Shannon Ballagh, Jeanine Cachia Gafa, Lily Carroll, Sharna Cloke, Aisha Clune, Cianna Cruse, Violet Davies, Billy Diwell, Ronald Downey, Dakota Gowans, Tommy Jennings, Piper Kellas, Ike Kincaid, Rylie King-Thompson, Avah Lewis, Noah Milburn, Edan Robinson, Violet Reaby, Harrison Taskin, Saxon Varlet and Dylan White.

Welcome also to Chloe (2) & Haylea (4) Diwell.

CLASS GROUPS

Groups and teachers are:

Prep  Ms Monique Laven and Ms Brianna Dixon
Grade 1/2  Ms Melinda Arbuckle
Grade 3/4  Mrs Sue Orvis and Mrs Sue Dixon
Grade 5/6  Mr Ben Price and Mr Sam Wayth

Student Well-Being Ms Melinda Williams (Tuesdays & Thursdays)
PE  Mr Andrew Orvis (Fridays)
Music  Ms Andrea Dawes
Library  Mrs Sandra Mackay
Student support  Mrs Fiona Brennan
               Ms Barbara Currey
               Ms Leanne Jacques
Office Manager  Ms Janette Brennan

MARC: Mr Andrew Donnelly – the mobile library for schools visits our school every second Wednesday, commencing on February 13th. Students can borrow from the van and will also have a book related lesson.

We are most fortunate to have enthusiastic, experienced teachers and small class sizes, the key ingredients for success for each student, and we are looking forward to a terrific year.

WATER & BRAIN FOOD

We encourage all children to have a bottle of water on their table in class and to bring along some “Brain Food” in a small container to eat in class. Suitable healthy snacks include unsalted nuts, dried fruit, fresh fruit cut into small portions, diced vegetables, seeds such as sunflower or pumpkin and plain rice crackers.

STUDENT INFORMATION FORMS

All students have received the forms asking for permission for Walking Excursions, Use of Photographs, student well-being and RE and an eSmart Internet Agreement. Please return these forms as soon as possible.

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<tr>
<th>FEBRUARY</th>
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<th>Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 8th</td>
<td>Elections for student leaders 1.40 pm</td>
<td>All forms must be returned to the office and your Centrelink card copied by Friday February 22nd.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday 12th</td>
<td>Family BBQ and Information sessions</td>
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FAMILY BBQ AND INFORMATION SESSION
A family barbecue and information sharing session will be held on Tuesday, February 12th commencing at 6.00 pm. This is an opportunity for our school community to get together and particularly for us to welcome new families to the school. There will be a sausage sizzle provided by School Council and cordial to drink. Parents are welcome to bring along other food and drinks.

The information session times will be staggered, commencing with Prep at 6.30pm, Grade 1/2 at 6.45pm. Grade 3/4 at 7.00pm and Grade 5/6 at 7.15pm.

Teachers will outline their expectations for the year and parents will have the opportunity to share any information about their children that may impact on their schooling.

BOOKS AND MATERIALS
At St. Leonards PS, to provide books and materials at the cheapest possible price for parents we buy in bulk and provide all class requirements directly to the children. Parents are required to pay $125.00 for the year as soon as possible. This includes $65.00 to cover each child’s pens, pencils, books, stationery and $60.00 for extras that are provided for each child such as provision of the MARC library service, art materials, sports equipment, ICT, cooking ingredients, photography and printing.

If you have a Health Care Card you are eligible to receive EMA, then this can be used to pay for all books and materials. Please see Janette at the office if you have not yet completed your EMA form. If you have any problems about paying, please let me know. Invoices have been sent home to each family. These payments are in line with Department of Education guidelines. We do not ask for any voluntary financial contribution.

RIDING TO SCHOOL
Children below grade 4 are NOT permitted to ride bikes, scooters, green machines or any other contraption to school unless they are accompanied by an adult. Advice from road safety experts is that until children are about 10 years they cannot accurately judge distances and do not have fully developed peripheral vision to be safe on the roads.

MUSIC LESSONS AT SCHOOL
For students, Prep - 6, beginners to advanced.

Megan Birch Music offers tuition in the following instruments: piano, keyboard, guitar & singing.

If you would like the opportunity to give music to your child please contact: Meagan mbmt@bigpond.com or Fax 5264 5109

UNIFORM
It is great to see all our students in school uniform for the start of the year and they really do look terrific.

The School Council uniform policy is that students are required to wear school colours each day. Board shorts and thongs are not acceptable at school. It is also pleasing to see all children in broad brimmed hats.

As a SunSmart school, St. Leonards has a strict policy that all students must wear hats when outside during terms 1 and 4. Sunscreen is available in each classroom and application of it is encouraged.

MEDICATION
Children are not allowed to bring medication to school. This includes Panadol and similar analgesics. If your child needs regular medication or has been ill and needs to complete a course of prescription medicine, please bring the medicine to the office with written instructions about dispensing it and we will ensure that the child takes it at the appropriate time.

FUNDRAISING
ICY POLES
Icy poles are sold at lunch times for 40 cents each and funds raised will go towards our end of year disco.

FRUIT
Fruit will be sold at playtime and lunch time for 40 cents a piece. On Fridays, all children will receive a free piece of fruit at morning playtime.

COMMUNITY NEWS
ST. LEONARDS BASKETBALL
The summer season continues. There will be training for the Under 12 boys’ team on Tuesday. The team has a bye on Wednesday, February 6th and will play at 5.40 on Wednesday February 13th.