February 3rd, 2012          Newsletter No. 1

Dear Parents, Students and Friends,

WELCOME
Welcome back to everyone. A special welcome to our new preps and to all children who commenced at St. Leonards PS this week. Commencing school in prep we have:
Welcome to Summer Fielding (grade 5), Ruby White (3), Bella Egan (2) and Daniella Vlerio (1).

CLASS GROUPS
Groups and teachers are:
Prep          Ms Melinda Arbuckle
Grade 1&2     Mr Ben Price
P – 2 Support Ms Leanne Jacques
Grade 3       Mrs Sue Orvis
3 - 6 Support Mrs Sue Dixon
Grade 4       Mr Sam Wayth
Grade 5/6     Ms Monique Laven
Indonesian   Ibu Lucy Hurt (Tuesdays)
PE           Mrs Justine Fitzpatrick (Fridays)
Library       Mrs Sandra Mackay
Student support Mrs Fiona Brennan
Office Manager Ms Janette Brennan

MARC: Mr Andrew Donnelly – the mobile library for schools visits our school every second Monday, commencing on February 8th. 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.

ARRIVING AT SCHOOL ON TIME
It is important that students arrive on time for classes, to limit disruption to lessons and develop good habits. All late arrivals must enter through the office area and be signed in. If students are late, parents are asked not to go into the classroom, but to say goodbye in the office area. We want to provide the best possible educational opportunities for our students and minimising interruptions will assist us in doing this.

GEELONG YOUNG LEADERS AWARD
Congratulations to our 2015 school captain, Brooke Miller, who was selected as a finalist in the Geelong Young Leaders Awards organised by our local Federal Government Minister, Richard Marles. Well done, Brooke!
FAMILY BBQ AND INFORMATION SESSION
A family barbecue and information sharing session will be held on Tuesday, February 9th 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 at 7.00pm and Grade 4/5/6 at 7.00pm.
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 $135.00 for the year as soon as possible. This includes $75.00 to cover each child’s pens, pencils, books and other stationery and $60.00 for extras that are provided for each child such as provision of computers and ipads, the MARC library service, art materials, sports equipment, cooking ingredients, photography and printing. If you have any problems about paying, please let me know. Invoices will be sent home to each family. These payments are in line with Department of Education guidelines. We do not ask for any voluntary financial contribution.

CAMPS, SPORT AND EXCURSIONS FUND
Applications for the CSEF program will open from the commencement of term one, 2016, helping to ensure that all eligible students are able to participate in school trips and sporting activities. Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. A special consideration category also exists. A payment of $125 for eligible primary school students will be paid directly to the school to be used towards camps, sports and excursion costs for the benefit of the student. The Camps, Sports and Excursions Fund helps ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important, educational and fun activities.

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, ukulele, drum & singing. Come and try music lessons without committing to the whole term.
If you would like the opportunity to give music to your child please contact: Meagan mbmt@bigpond.com

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 give the medicine to the class teacher or bring it to the office and complete the form so we have details about dispensing it and we will ensure that the child takes it at the appropriate time.

ICY POLES
Icy poles are sold at lunch times for 50 cents, starting Monday.

LUNCH ORDERS
We hope to have Lunch Orders organised soon. More information will be provided in the newsletter.