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## January 31, 2019 Newsletter No. 1

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Welcome to our 2019 school year at St Leonards Primary! A very warm welcome to new students, families and staff members including our eleven new Prep students. We had a wonderful start with lots of excitement and enthusiasm, many holiday experiences shared, all classes settling quickly and students and teachers eager to get stuck into learning. Thank you to all staff, students and families for your part in creating such smooth and pleasant days yesterday and today. We have started the year with 113 students, 3 more than last year.

come great people.

socialize. Modern learning is different than it was

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when we were at school, whether that's 40 or 10 years ago!

We need to be a community of learners and inquirers – children, staff and families, so that we keep up with and understand the how, why and what of learning. Our term 1 focus is Learning to Learn and at the end we want our students to celebrate and share with everybody what they know and understand about learning.

We know that students learn best:

1. When they have agency in their learning
2. When they are happy and safe
3. When they are connected to community and place

We have a number of parents who went to this school, grew up in this town or holidayed here as kids, then chose for their children to be come to SLPS. That's a powerful vote of confidence in our community and our school.

We have already made great strides as a learning community and it will continue to be our work for 2019. We are proud of the way we work together with parents, grandparents and carers and we wish to continue to improve our partnerships. Our aim is to enable families to have lots more ways of joining our learning community both online and in person, beginning with regular weekly "Pop In Before Pick Up" sessions on Thursdays. From next week, Thursday, Feb 7<sup>th</sup>, we invite all adults to join us in the staffroom between 2.30 and 3.10 to have an informal chat with each other and staff about our school.

### Positive and Productive Classrooms

On Tuesday staff started their learning with behaviour specialist Jo Lange, who affirmed many of our practices and gave us lots of practical ideas for starting off the school year in a positive and productive way for everybody. Her ideas are positive and strength based but also focus on kids being accountable, responsible and having great social skills.

Jo works across the country with schools, early childhood centres, parents and carers and will be back to work with us and our families later in the year.

One of her tips was to ask parents to let kids carry their own bags in and put them away.

She says: "When you bring your child's bag in you are sending them a message that they are not capable of doing it themselves. When kids bring their bag in they are in control. They are the boss of their belongings. They learn to be self-organised and problem solvers. It gives kids a clear message that they are capable and can make strong and smart choices."

## Staff for 2019

We have some new additions to our dedicated team. We have allocated specialist teaching roles for Term 1 and would like to welcome back Sam Nicholson who will teach music on Tuesdays and Tamsin Jackson who will take STEAM on Wednesdays. Mrs Micallef (nee Cini) will teach PE this term. Welcome also to Karly Russell, a Yr 4 Deakin pre-service teacher, who will spend several weeks across the year in 5/6 EN

Our staff for 2019 are:

Jenny Cowburn	Principal & Art, Wednesdays
Ben McDonald	Teacher Grade 5/6 LD
Monique Laven	Teacher Grade 5/6 EN
Angela Con Foo	Teacher Grade 3/4 OO
Alanah Carroll	Teacher Grade 3/4 LL
Leanne Jacques	Teacher Grade 1/2
Melinda Arbuckle	Teacher Grade P/1
Stef Cini	Teacher Early years .5 Teacher PE .2 Fridays
Sam Nicholson	Teacher Music .2 Tuesdays Classroom Release .2 Thursdays
Tamsin Jackson	Teacher STEAM .2, Wednesdays
Chris Layley	Teacher Wellbeing Tues, Wed and Thurs
Melissa Smith	Teaching Partner, Thursdays
Margaret Ryan	Education Support
Fiona Brennan	Education Support
Paula Walsh	Education Support
Janette Brennan	Business Manager
Brendan Beattie	DET Tech Support
Jaren Fulwell	Local Tech Support
Sheridan Lang	MARC program
We also welcome back Lesley Tresidder, Monica Venville, two very generous community members who are regular volunteers.	

## Communication and feedback

Communication is the key to strong school home partnerships. We also value your feedback. If you can come to school and see what's happening and make personal contact it is appreciated and you are very welcome! The newsletter will be sent home) fortnightly on Thursdays. Information will also be available on the Updat-ed, which links to our calendar and website. We will also send you reminders via the app, so to get all the reminders please download it on your smartphone.

On Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup> we hope that all parents will join us from 6pm for a sausage sizzle and Parent Information Evening, where classroom teachers will outline learning and routines for your child's class.

So that we update to your current information Parent Consent forms and Student Enrolment Information Forms will be sent home next week, please check and make any changes, sign and send back to school, forms need to be signed and sent back even if there are no changes to be made.

A term 1 calendar is attached, but please check newsletters, diaries and the website for any updates.

## 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 \$180.00 for the year as soon as possible. This includes \$90.00 to cover each child's pens, pencils, books, paper for projects, artworks, printing, worksheets and other stationery and \$90.00 for extras that are provided for each child such as provision of computers and ipads, the MARC library service, art equipment and resources, sports equipment, STEAM, 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.

Invoices will be sent home next week and can be paid by cash, cheque or BPay and are payable by the end of February 2019.

## Camps, Sport and Excursions Fund

Families holding a valid means-tested concession card are eligible to apply. Please come to the office and fill in the application form and bring your concession card so that we can photocopy it. 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 aims to ensure that no student will miss out on the opportunity to join their classmates for important educational and fun activities.

## Lunch Orders on Fridays

Lunch orders will be available on Fridays only this term from <http://www.freshmealairy.com.au/>

Order and pay by 9pm Thursday evenings

