



# Lowanna Public School

Be safe, be respectful, be a learner

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**Week 3 Term 1 – Monday 6/2/2017**

## Dates to remember

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup> February:** OVLC Swimming Carnival for 8 years and older + swim 50m.

## 2017 Swimming Carnival



Although the weather was incredibly hot last Wednesday, we all enjoyed the cooling effects of the water, including the teachers.

It was really good to see all children having a go and trying their best, even when they didn't have faith in their abilities. Some children surprised themselves with their results!

'Pleased to see reading as a pastime when you have swum your best all day!



## Orara Valley Swimming Carnival

The Orara Valley Swimming Carnival is on this Friday, 10<sup>th</sup> February where children 8 years and older can participate who can swim 50m. Transport to the pool is by private transport. Mrs Corfe will be supervising Lowanna children at the carnival.

## Mrs Cassidy's News

### K-3 News

Our two Kindergarten students, Cameron and Tyrone, have settled in beautifully and are already showing themselves to be enthusiastic learners.

In Mathematics we have been learning about 2D shapes and had a lot of fun on Friday using our bodies to make different shapes.

The boys' literacy group have begun their learning programs focusing on hands-on learning, with a highlight from last week

being designing a race track to race Mrs Cassidy's remote control car around. Unfortunately our driving ability didn't quite match the sharp turns on the track so some last minute modifications were made!

### **Sustainability Project**

Our school was fortunate to receive a \$2000 grant from Coffs City Council to develop our outdoor learning space. This includes extending our vegetable gardens, installing a dedicated garden water tank and constructing seating and outdoor learning spaces.

We really want the whole school community to be involved and have ownership of this project, so if you have any ideas, suggestions or would like to join us on Friday afternoons in the garden, we would love to hear from you!

### **Mrs Benfield's News**

Wow what a great first week. We have been looking at numbers and 2 D shapes in Maths this week. The children enjoyed making 2D shapes with their bodies and with others within the class. It was great fun. We also made pictures using 2D shapes. We had cars, dragons, trees, Santa's sleigh and reindeer, people and many other creations. Pop on down to the classroom and take a look at these wonderful creations.

K-3 children will begin to look at an app this week called 'seesaw'. I will be sending some more information regarding this home during the week, however it is an app that will allow us to communicate between home and school, and allow students work to be displayed digitally. We are very excited about this.

In Science this term we are studying a unit called '*Watch it Grow*'. We are starting this week to grow seedlings for our beautiful garden.

### **Mrs Hawken's News**

Last week we 'hit the ground running', successfully covering a lot of learning. During Writing lessons, the children improved dramatically with the skill of 'showing' something with words, to paint a picture in the reader's mind. We also completed a 'Me Shield', with students answering four questions about themselves, and complimented this with a self-portrait of their goals for the future.

With Mrs Corfe they discussed primary and secondary sources in History, and begun studying 3D shapes in Maths.

We are sharing the reading of 'Wonder' by R.J. Palacio this term, and we have so far been introduced to August and the members of his family.

### **Permission Notes**

Thank you to all families who so promptly returned the permission notes attached to last week's Newsletter.

### **School Diaries**

Children in Years 4, 5 and 6 are using a School diary this year. The cover has been personalised for our school, and not only is it a diary, but it is also a source of valuable information. Some of its features are:

- Weekly Focuses
- What went well this week?
- Rate your week
- Character builder
- Books read this week
- Vocabulary builder
- Numeracy skills
- Weekly study hours
- On this week
- Parent & teacher communication
- Wellbeing tip

This week the diary focus is Positive family Teamwork, with the character strength of



'love', so the activities in the diary are directed towards this theme. Our homework activities will also be associated with the diary themes. The diaries can go between home and school, as we will be using them as a communication tool as well, but they MUST come back to school each day.



## Parent Meeting

Thank you to Tamara Knopp, who came to our parent gathering last Friday. Thanks also to John Hill, who sent apologies due to a prior appointment. We discussed a successful funding submission which was sent to Coffs Harbour Council last year by Mrs Cassidy. The plan is to design an outdoor learning/meeting environment for everyone: students, parents and teachers. We would appreciate any ideas any parents/carers have for this area, as we will be including everyone in the design and implementation process.

We also discussed re-opening the canteen. Tamara is keen to see this happen, so we are asking if anyone can help out, in any way, big or small, to see this happen. Please let me know if you can help. As I mentioned last week, everything we do is with the kids in mind, and I know they are missing having a canteen.

## School Counsellor

We welcome Jane Franke to our school as School Counsellor. Jane will be at Lowanna every second Tuesday.

Last Tuesday was Jane's first visit, and she took no time at all getting to know the kids

by visiting all the classrooms to say hello personally to all the children. I know we all appreciated her down to earth attitude, and genuine interest in the children's wellbeing.

## School Cleaner

Tracy Schipp has informed the Cleaning Services that she will be leaving shortly, so as a result, David Purchase, our cleaning supervisor, has asked if anyone in the community is interested in the position to send him an Expression of Interest, so that he can begin the process of filling the position at our school. His contact details are: Ph:

Email: david.purchase@au.issworld.com

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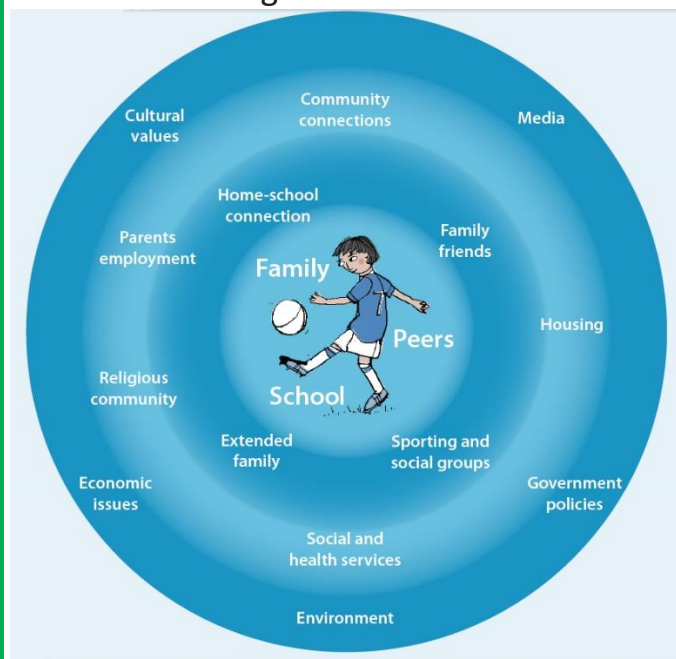
## Social Development

Social development involves learning the values, knowledge and skills that enable children to relate to others effectively and to contribute in positive ways to family, school and the community.

This kind of learning is passed on to children directly by those who care for and teach them, as well as indirectly through social relationships within the family or with friends, and through children's participation in the culture around them. Through their relationships with others and their growing awareness of social values and expectations, children build a sense of who they are and of the social roles available to them. As children develop socially, they both respond to the influences around them and play an active part in shaping their relationships.

While parents and carers are clearly the first and most important influences on children's social development, there are many other influential aspects of the social

environment. Examples of the many influences on children's development are shown in the diagram below.



The people and settings that are most closely involved with the child – family, school and peers – are shown at the centre of the diagram. Through their daily contact with parents, carers, family members, school staff, as well as with their peers, children learn about the social world and about the rules, practices and values that support it. By actively participating in these relationships, children also affect the ways that adults and their peers relate to them.

In addition, children's development is influenced by wider networks of social support (represented in the diagram's central circles), including extended family, friends and any community, cultural or religious groups a child may be part of. These networks provide opportunities for children to develop their social awareness and skills as they relate with different people and experience a range of roles and expectations.

As shown in the outer circle in the diagram, children's lives are also shaped by the broader social circumstances that impact on

their families and communities, such as access to social and health services, parents' employment and income, or their ability to balance work and family time.

In particular, children's sense of social connection is often influenced by community attitudes and by cultural values, including those they encounter in the media.

Through their relationships and connections with others, children build a sense of who they are and where they fit in the social world.

Coming to an understanding about self and others is therefore a central goal of children's social development.

Source: <https://www.kidsmatter.edu.au/mental-health-matters/social-and-emotional-learning/social-development>

This is a great website with lots of wellbeing information for teachers, students and families.

Finally, here is a great graphic to remind us of our school rules:



Kind Regards,  
Alison Hawken