



# Lowanna Public School

**Be safe, be respectful, be a learner**

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*Week 2 Term 3 – Monday 24/7/2017*

## Dates to remember

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July:

Constructing Bee Hotels in 4/5/6 classroom

### Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July:

Old clothes for painting day

### Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July:

District Athletics

### Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August:

Coffs Harbour Cup half day holiday

### Friday 4<sup>th</sup> August:

Old clothes for painting day

### Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August:

Old clothes for painting day

### Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August:

Excursion to Yarrowarra

### Wednesday 16 August:

CAPA Enrichment Day. Note soon!

### Friday 18<sup>th</sup> August:

Old clothes for painting day

## Welcome back

Welcome back to another term at Lowanna Public School. Students returned ready and eager to see their friends and engage with their classroom programs. At Monday's Staff Development Day, teachers engaged in a day's professional learning, centred around the School Plan and evaluating resources.

## Helpers needed please

Two notes went out last week outlining activities school activities involving projects at our school. One note was for students in Years 4 to 6 regarding Bee Hotel building. The second note was about painting our round garden tubs in the playground.

For both of these activities to be successful, it would be greatly appreciated if any parents, grandparents or community people



could help the children (and the teachers) with these activities. Neither activity requires any special skills, just maybe patience and a smile.

The Bee Hotel construction is the culminating project in our learning on the topic 'Honey, where are the bees?' It involves cutting, gluing and hammering; all of which would be safer and more successful if monitored by as many adults as possible. The day allocated for the building is Wednesday, the 26<sup>th</sup> of July.

We are beginning to design and decorate the four round garden bed tubs that are part of our playground and LOLA. This week the children will be designing and critiquing their designs ready to start outlining and painting next week onto the garden beds. Each child will have their own designated panel to design and paint.



Our painting days are going to be Fridays this term on the dates of 28<sup>th</sup> July, 4<sup>th</sup> August, 11th

August and the 18<sup>th</sup> August. As we will be using solar guard paint for outdoor use, this paint may not wash off their clothing.

So we are asking that on these Friday dates that the children wear their oldest clothes to school where it wouldn't be a concern if they got some paint on this clothing. They will still be wearing paint shirts, but accidents can happen.

Helping with the garden on these dates could include activities such as gardening or helping your child or other children with their painting of the garden tub.

Any small amount of time you have available would be greatly appreciated for either one or both projects.

## School reports

School reports were sent home on the last day of Term 2 and I'm sure that over the holidays every parent and carer took the time to sit down and read the school report with their child.

The best athletes and sportspeople have a specific knowledge of their own skills and abilities – where their strengths lie and where they need to develop their expertise. We want this same *knowledge of self* for our students. We want our students to be the best they can be.

Such knowledge is explicitly taught in the classroom. Sometimes students are asked to assess their own writing against a set of criteria or to review and evaluate the problem-solving strategies they may have used. Self-reflection, evaluation and critical analysis are all higher-order thinking skills which promote a greater *knowledge of self*. Half-yearly school reports provide an excellent context for students to build this *self-knowledge* in conversations with their families at home.

All parents and carers are more than welcome any time to discuss their child's learning with us. You can catch us at the front gate any day after school, or if you prefer, we are happy to have a more formal discussion at any time that is suitable to you.

## NAIDOC activities

As NAIDOC Week occurred during the school holidays, we have been planning a different activity this year to celebrate and focus on the Aboriginal culture, as well as understand their connection to country.



Instead of having activities at school, we are having an excursion to Arrawarra fish traps and ochre sites on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> August, to experience hands on the significance of a number of local sites to the local Aboriginal people.

This excursion will be presented by Uncle Mark Flanders, who has a depth of knowledge on a number of local Aboriginal sites. A note with more details will be sent out later this week.



## Coffs Harbour Cup half day holiday

Thursday the 3<sup>rd</sup> August has been designated a half day public holiday for all schools in the Coffs Harbour City Council area.

School will be open until midday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> August, with parents needing to collect their children from school at midday.

If this is a problem for you, please contact us as soon as possible, so that we can discuss any alternative arrangements that could be made.

## Thank you

I would like to thank Ms Hoenselaars (Ms H for short) and Mrs Millar for filling in for Ms Wood while she was on leave and training last term. Both ladies did an outstanding job supporting both students and staff, and definitely 'fitted in' to Lowanna School.

## Administration Training

Term 3 is also going to be an exceptionally busy term for Ms Wood and I in relation to school administration. A new Finance platform is being rolled out to all NSW government schools, and this will occur for all schools in the Coffs Harbour district this term.

It involves 12 days of training for Mrs Wood and 4 days for myself this term. The new system will 'go live' on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> September. I'm sure everything will go smoothly, but early September will be a huge learning curve for everyone involved in our new administration system, so I believe that patience and smiles will be required all round.

*Also, because of this new Finance system rollover in early September, it would be appreciated if payments for the Year 5 and 6 excursion to Sydney could be finalised by **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September**.*

*Please contact Mrs Wood at school if this will be a problem.*

## Award winners

These are our award winners from our assembly last term.



456 Bee Awards



456 Merit awards: Kiara, Ebony and Jalara



Bronze Awards: Olivia, Ally, Ebony, Patrick, Delilah (x2), Jarred



K-3 Bee Awards: Olivia, Delilah, Ryan, Cameron and Tyrone



K-3 Merit Awards: Brodie and Jarred

### Next assembly

Our next assembly will be on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July at 2.30pm. At this stage, children who will be receiving a Bronze Award are Chanelle, Carmelle, Natalia and Bethany. All parents and caregivers are most welcome to attend.

### Exercise and Leisure

To feel good about themselves, flourish in their pursuits and have a sense of peace and harmony in their lives, students need to find school/life balance. This in turn fosters growth mindsets which empower students to then do good things. They usually learn these attitudes from positive role models around them. Initiating discussions both at

home and at school in this area will raise their self-awareness and curiosity to learn more.

We need to focus on looking at the big life balance picture through our character strengths of sharing concerns, relaxation techniques, regular exercise and quality leisure activities. Encouraging this approach will benefit the growth of all our elements of wellbeing.

People who are unable to find time for exercise and relaxation in their lives will have to find time for illness. It's a reality and while it can be ignored, it won't go away.

Students pursuing an active lifestyle are provided with many opportunities to meet new people, experience different things and be in a cycle of continuous learning. Learning to regularly take stock and reflect on how they are progressing is a habit well worth cultivating in students (and ourselves) for a balanced life.



In today's society, where electronic means of communication such as texts, social networking sites, twitter, emails, blogs and mobiles overshadow face to face interactions, we must ensure that students engage in real conversations and activities with real people often.

Kind Regards,  
Alison Hawken