LEPS EXECUTIVE REPORT

Harmony Day
Lindfield East Public School held their annual ‘Harmony Day’ celebrations on the last day of Term. The event, which celebrates cultural diversity in Australia, was again wonderfully coordinated by our ESL teacher Ms Medana. With over 50 nationalities represented within our school community, the ‘Parade of Nations’ showcased the rich and proud diversity at LEPS. Thank you to both the parents and students for organising costumes that identified their family heritage and also for contributing to the delicious multicultural morning tea.

Our entertainers - LEPS Dance Group performing the Umbrella Dance, The Rosetski Brothers (Italian circus performers), Samba (Brazilian entertainment) were outstanding and well received by the K-6 audience. Select the link to view a slideshow of the event: http://photopeach.com/album/144jkp2

Quality Teaching at LEPS
The opportunity to have all teachers released from face to face teaching was not wasted on Monday's Staff Development Day. Quality and targeted professional learning is highlighted in all research as the key to strong learning outcomes, and this focus no doubt underpins the ongoing success of LEPS.

Our teachers were all trained in embedding higher order mathematical problem solving strategies, utilising principles of the Harvard Visible Thinking program and also developing conceptual programing in line with the new English syllabus.

Hot or cold – Which uniform will I wear?
Throughout autumn, weather patterns tend to be quite unpredictable in Sydney with temperatures fluctuating between 16 - 30 degrees. The past few days excluded, we were fortunate enough to have beautiful, warm and sunny days over the holidays. For the start of the term, parents are asked to use their discretion as to whether summer or winter uniform is more appropriate for their child.
The Mathematical Association of NSW (MANSW) K-8 Conference 2015

On Saturday, 28th March, at Bankstown Sport Club, teachers from the Numeracy Committee attended the annual maths conference titled ‘Talkin’ About a Revolution: Mathematics for the 21st Century Learner!’ Our academic partner, Dr Catherine Attard is President of MANSW, and we were invited to present a workshop to share the strategies we are using to implement the NSW Mathematics K-6 Syllabus for the Australian. Successful strategies include:

- teachers collaboratively programming in Year teams using ‘Program Builder’, an online programming tool developed by the Board of Studies BOSTES
- integrating mobile technologies
- Mufti Maths Fun Day
- Maths trail K-6
- CSIRO Mathematicians in Schools
- Maths Olympiad
- Code Club
- Parent Information Sessions.

The conference was a valuable opportunity for us to discuss strategies, issues and the highlights of teaching Mathematics with other teachers and academics. We are excited and looking forward to sharing our new ideas with staff on SDD Term 2 and on Thursday 14 May at a Parent Information Session.

Mathematics Parent Information Session

An information session for parents will be held on Thursday 14 May, from 1:45pm to 3:15pm in the staffroom. To assist with planning and preparation, please complete the online survey if you definitely will be attending.


Four Cube Houses: Maths in Year 3

In Year 3 maths groups we have been exploring the concept of 2D shapes and 3D objects. In Miss Marquet’s maths class students have been designing and costing four-cube houses for a new ‘housing estate’. The students have had to construct as many different models using just 4 cubes, following some strict criteria. They then had to draw these models using both isometric and square grid paper, discovering there were 15 different ways they could manipulate the blocks.

The next stage involved finding the construction cost of each design. The students enjoyed the challenge of calculating the costs for each square unit of external walls, roofing and land. They could then see which design was the most expensive and why.

‘Doing this was hard but fun! I enjoyed it because we could make the houses and price them. It was a bit hard because the pricing was not easy but I love a challenge every now and then’. Dean

‘I quite liked Cube homes and it was challenging to make all the cubes but quite easy to cost the houses. $4000 for all external walls, $6000 for all the roofs and $10000 for all the land. As I said before it was easy to cost and I did 7 houses’. Cooper
Menindee / Mungo Leadership Camp

On the last week of Term 1, it was Ms Watkins and Mrs Dukino’s very great pleasure to accompany our eight school leaders to our sister school in Menindee and from there to Mungo National Park. We joined our City – Country Alliance Schools to learn more about the rich culture and history of the Willandra Lakes region, and gained a deeper appreciation of the similarities and differences between metropolitan and rural schools. Some highlights were the performance by Menindee Central School to welcome us entitled ‘Whispering Cloud’, the trip to the Great Walls of China at sun-down, and seeing the friendships forming between students from different schools over the week. Ms Watkins and Mrs Dukino were extremely proud of our school leaders and very much enjoyed their company as we immersed ourselves in this extraordinary World Heritage landscape.

Being able to visit Menindee and Mungo was an amazing experience. It taught me about rich Aboriginal culture and breathtaking sights such as the Great Walls of China. I would definitely recommend trying to visit Mungo because you may never get this opportunity again... Alex N

Our trip to Menindee and Mungo was very fun and interesting. We experienced many things but mostly Aboriginal culture. Grace L

It was a great experience and I had a great time in the Australian Outback. After this eye-opening experience I finally have a feel for how amazing our history is. My highlight was seeing the massive sand dunes in Mungo. Elliott H

Menindee/Mungo was an amazing once in a lifetime experience which was really fun. We got to meet new people from the country and around Sydney. Also we got to camp and learn about the most interesting and oldest Aboriginal culture. Samantha G

It was a great eye-opening opportunity to visit Menindee Central School and Mungo Learning Center. It was amazing to learn with the other schools about heritage and it was really fun with the leadership team. Adam C

Menindee and Mungo was an amazing trip that I really enjoyed and felt lucky to have gone. I loved learning about Mungo, meeting people from other schools and doing all the activities. Sasha O

Going to Menindee and Mungo was a great experience I will never forget. We learnt so much out in Mungo, we learnt all about the ways of traditional Aboriginal life and we learnt about how important, special and old Mungo is. I had so much fun doing all the activities and meeting new people. Katie S

It was an interesting experience. It was also good to learn about the Aboriginal culture and heritage, and learn about western NSW and the different atmosphere. Hugh C
Tilsley’s Training & Tasty Tips

During a Professional Development session a Health Promotion Officer came to LEPS to discuss healthy eating within the school. One key point that I want to bring to your attention is the use of packaging. Lately for Crunch and Sip and recess I have seen huge amounts of packaged foods in children’s lunch boxes. What we learnt is that foods with packaging add to waste and they require more resources to produce. We also investigated the nutritional value of packaged food, with the majority placed in Amber or Red of the NSW guidelines. This means these foods should be occasionally eaten, approximately once a week. Not everyday! Vegetables and fruit snacks are so much better in terms of nutritional value and there is no packaging attached. Something to consider when packing your child’s lunches.

With the swimming season coming to an end Athletics is taking off. We have the Athletics Carnival on Thursday June 11th. Remember it is not about winning it is about achieving your personal best. All Field Event trials for the Athletics Carnival have been completed and congratulations to those few who progressed to the carnival stage. Get practising! There are also the 100m and 200m sprint events and the 800m middle distance to practise for. If you are going to practise for any of these make sure you warm up thoroughly using methods I have previously said or research methods on the internet. Individual, family or friend races are fun, easy ways to improve your sprinting. Just find a flat even piece of ground in which to race. You can use a handicap system as well. Many people never have the opportunity to sprint and if you don’t sprint regularly you forget how to. Think about the different technical aspects we went over in class and get sprinting. It is amazing for your health as well! So get out there and step on the gas!

Pirate School

On Friday 27 March Kindergarten went on their first excursion to the Australian National Maritime Museum in the city. As if the bus wasn’t exciting enough, the Sydney Harbour Bridge, the Opera House and the Diamond Princess Cruise liner all made the journey in a memorable one. We were greeted and escorted around the museum and onto the James Craig by a band of fierce looking but friendly pirates. Kindergarten had to look for “booty”, learn about keel hauling and which end of the ship is the bow and which is the stern. They attended pirate school and talked pirate talk like no other pirates before! It was a delight to take the children out and explore Pirate School and I thank them all for their excellent behaviour and hearty ARGHS. Well done Me Buckos! Captain Perilous Pitt. Select the links to view the slideshows.

Tennis Success

Congratulations to Samantha C (5CL) who recently played in the Northern Suburbs Tennis Association (NSTA) under-10 Tennis Junior Championship. Samantha made it through 18 games and obtained the silver trophy in the final match. Well done to a tennis Ace!

Lindfield Fun Run

Congratulations to the students, parents and teachers who participated in the annual Lindfield Fun Run. The winners in the respective age categories were 1st Samantha G, 2nd Jessica Raimond and 4th place Miss Noble.

Tensegrity

Chris and David from Tensegrity Sports and Chiropractic Clinic spoke to teachers at our staff meeting last term about the importance of warming up and cooling down after exercise. With both the Cross Country and the Athletics Carnivals scheduled for Term 2, it is important that warm up and cool down components are incorporated into every training and competition routine. They improve performance and reduce the risk of injuries.

Please refer to the two page flyer included in this Lyrebird for further information.
Band Awards - Term 1
Congratulations to all students who received band awards for their application and performance during Term 1.

Code Club at LEPS
As a strategy to help develop problem solving and logical thinking skills in Year 5 students, Lindfield East PS helped launch the successful UK program, ‘Code Club’ in NSW last year. With the vision and expertise of Mr Bruce Carney, Mr Daniel Cifuentes and a new crew of parent volunteers, LEPS is now one of 60 schools across the state involved in learning and enjoying computer coding. If you'd like to get involved, 8-9am on Thursday mornings, please contact the school.
For further information https://www.codeclub.org.uk

Opportunity Class Placement Applications soon to open
Next week, students in Year 4 will receive a note about Opportunity Class placement for 2016. This note is an Expression of Interest and must be returned to the school, whether or not you want your child to sit the OC test.
If you do wish your child to sit the test, information about how to do this will be on the note. All applications this year are to be made on-line.
If you need further information about this, please see Ms Rachel Watkins.

NAPLAN reminder
NAPLAN tests will be held at the school for all students in Years 3 and 5 as follows:

Tuesday 12 May Language Conventions and Writing tests
Wednesday 13 May Reading test
Thursday 14 May Numeracy test
Friday 15 May Catch-up test day for students who have missed any tests.

The tests will be conducted during normal school hours in the children's classrooms.

ICAS Tests for Students Years 3-6 2015
Digital Technologies Tuesday 19 May
Science Wednesday 3 June
English Thursday 30 July
Mathematics Monday 10 August
Term Dates for 2015

Term 1

Tuesday 27 January  
Staff Development Day
Wednesday 28 January  
Students in Years 1-6 Return
Monday 2 February  
Kindy 2015 Students Commence
Thursday 2 April  
Last day Term 1

Term 2

Monday 20 April  
Staff development day
Tuesday 21 April  
Students Return
Monday 8 June  
Public Holiday Queen’s Birthday
Friday 26 June  
Last Day Term 2

Term 3

Monday 13 July  
Staff Development Day
Tuesday 14 July  
Students Return
Friday 18 September  
Last Day Term 3

Term 4

Monday 5 October  
Public Holiday
Tuesday 6 October  
Staff & Students Return
Wednesday 16 December  
Last Day Term 4
Thursday 17 & Friday 18 December  
Staff Development Days

School Tour Dates 2015

Thursday 21 May
Thursday 18 June
Thursday 30 July
Thursday 27 August
Thursday 22 October

Thursday 19 November Years 1-6 new students only

All tours commence at 9:30am outside the Library & take approximately 45 minutes

Bendigo Bank will be collecting students banking every Wednesday morning.

Any new students wishing to commence school banking please go to the Bendigo Bank in Lindfield with identification (eg Birth Certificate/Passport) and open an account.
Help needed
Is there a parent or grandparent who could spare an hour a week to help in the library, mostly tidying shelves, occasionally covering books. Your assistance would be greatly appreciated.

*Pam Milthorpe*
The Premier’s Reading Challenge is NOW OPEN!

The Challenge is an exciting way to encourage the enjoyment of reading and encourage students to try new authors and genre. It offers a structured reading list from which to choose books, and students are rewarded with a certificate from the Premier at the end of the year. As in the past, our school will support all students, from Kindergarten to Year 6 who wish to participate.

Details of the Challenge and how to enter are on the Premiers Reading website. To complete the Challenge students from K-2 must read, listen to or share reading 30 books. Students in Years 3-6 must read 20 books. In both cases, five books may be the student’s own choice and the rest from the booklist listed on the website. https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc or https://online.det.nsw.edu.au/prc/booklist/home.html

Please note:

Students and/or parents must submit the reading records online.

If students choose to complete the Challenge they must:

Agree to have their names published on the Certificates

Read the correct number of books from the set list which may include five personal books

Include books read as of the 1 September 2014 until 21 August 2015.

Enter the books read online by logging onto the PRC site above, selecting the LOGON option on the left, then log on using the DET username and password (usually first name. surname, or may include a number if it is a common name eg john.edwards2), then enter their password (usually class name for Years 1 and 2, eg 2SE or for Kindergarten just use “k”). If this does not work, you may need to check with the class teacher as to the exact username for your child. Primary children have their own passwords. Once logged in, select “Student Reading Records” and enter the ID or title of the book – just follow the prompts. You may enter each book as it is read or enter the entire record at the end. You may wish to keep a paper copy of books read (Personal Reading Log which are available from the library or downloaded from the PRC site under “Personal Reading Log”) as the Challenge progresses.

Complete the data entry before 21 August to be eligible for a certificate.

Feel free to browse the PRC website for Tips and Book Reviews, rules and booklists. This activity is endorsed by the Principal.

You may begin entering books any time from today.

Happy reading!

Pam Milthorpe
PRC Coordinator, Teacher Librarian