***Dear Parents and Carers***

It is hard to believe that we are over half way through Term 1. The students and teachers have been working hard on their learning. Students are challenged in their classroom every day. Teachers are involved in focused professional learning every Wednesday afternoon after school and for half a day every third Wednesday. Additionally, the Executive team are mentored twice a term by a retired Principal.

All of this learning is focused on ensuring that best practice based on current research is happening for our students. I am happy to answer any questions you may have about this during the parent meeting on Friday.

I have had further contact with the DEC Safety and Security unit about the security at the school. Representatives will be visiting the school next week. They have informed me that they have some ideas about making the outside toilets more secure. I will let you know more after their visit.

I hope to see many of you at the parent meeting on Friday.

Enjoy the next two weeks. 

Jann Price

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### Important Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 20th March</strong></td>
<td>Harmony Day - National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 20th March</strong></td>
<td>Stage 3 Birdlife Excursion to Newington</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Thursday 20th March</strong></td>
<td>Kindergarten Best Start Parent Meeting – 3.15pm</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 21st March</strong></td>
<td>Parent Meeting 9.15am</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 25th March</strong></td>
<td>Stage 3 Birdlife Excursion to Newington</td>
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<td><strong>Thursday 27th March</strong></td>
<td>Debating Gala Day Campsie Public School</td>
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<td><strong>Wednesday 9th April</strong></td>
<td>Teacher/Parent Interviews</td>
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<td><strong>Friday 11th April</strong></td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
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<td><strong>Monday 28th April</strong></td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
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<td><strong>Tuesday 29th April</strong></td>
<td>Beginning of Term 2 for students</td>
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### Staffing

I am very happy to announce that the successful applicant for the classroom position that the panel interviewed for is Ms Sergeant. Ms Sergeant has been working at Lakemba for a number of years as a temporary teacher and we are very excited to welcome her to the teaching profession as a permanent teacher. Congratulations Ms Sergeant!

### Harmony Day

Friday 21st March is Harmony Day. It is also National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. This is the day when all of Australia takes the time to think about bullying and the effects that it can have on people’s lives. It is an opportunity for the whole school community to ‘take a stand together’ against bullying and violence.

Lakemba Public School will be celebrating Harmony Day on Thursday 20th March so that students who represent the school at PSSA can be involved. Students are encouraged to wear orange to mark the day. Please don’t buy anything special for your children to wear. If they don’t have anything orange they can wear their school uniform.

All classes will be focusing on exactly what bullying is as well as talking about strategies to deal with bullies. Many will be reading stories and engaging with multi modal texts such as videos and movies to clarify their ideas and understanding. Some will be doing associated art and craft activities.

I know as a parent we are very protective of our children and don’t like to see them hurt or teased but it is very important that you do not attempt to talk to other children in the school about these incidents. You must report your concerns to me and I will investigate the incident. It is important that both sides of the story are heard. Once I have investigated I will report back to you. Remember, problems need two people to be a problem.

### Road Safety

Unfortunately I have to mention road safety again. Two parents have reported to me that they have seen some of our students crossing roads around the **Lakemba Link**

Lakemba Public School
Alice Street, Lakemba 2195
Phone: 9759 2915  Fax 9740 6794
email: Lakemba-p.school@det.nsw.edu.au
school in very dangerous places. Please talk to your children about crossing roads safely at pedestrian crossings. This might mean that the children have to walk a little further to use a crossing or walk on the opposite side of the road to ensure that they do not have to cross busy, dangerous roads. Road safety is everyone’s responsibility.

**Visitors**

Thank you to the parents who have been coming to the office to sign in and get a visitor’s badge when they come to the school.

**Library**

There are still a lot of overdue library books that have not been returned. Please keep checking your homes.

**Parent Contact Information Sheets**

Every student must return the green Parent Contact Information note that was sent home earlier this term even if their details have not changed. Too often we try to contact parents only to find that they have changed their phone number. If there is a medical emergency we will have to call the ambulance without being able to inform the student’s parents.

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**Late Arrival at School**

The school day begins when the 9am bell rings and morning assembly begins. Students who are not sitting in their class line when the bell rings are technically late for school. Often at least half the school is still streaming up the path when morning assembly begins. It is vital that children learn that being on time is very important and necessary in all parts of their lives as they grow older and enter the work force.

Unfortunately there are many students who are late to school on a regular basis. These students miss out on valuable learning time. Where this is not possible parents need to provide written evidence that they have an appointment. This could be a card from the doctor or dentist with the appointment date and time on it. From the beginning of Term 2 students whose parents do not show this evidence, will be marked as having an unjustified absence.

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**School as Community Centre News**

**Return to Work Course:** This popular program will be back next term and is for women who would like to find work this year but may be feeling unsure where to start. The 5 week program will look at setting goals, writing your resume, interview skills and managing your work and home life without stress.

It runs for 5 weeks starting on **Wednesday 14th May** and numbers are limited. An interview is required before enrolment. Please call Wendi on 9759 4061.

**Fun for Kids Playgroup:** Don’t forget this group is on every Tuesday morning 9.30-11.30 and all are welcome. We have a large group of 4 year olds this year who are learning social skills and getting ready for school. Next week (25th March) we will have a visit from a speech therapist from the Community Health Centre, so if you have any questions about your child’s language development, this will be a good chance to ask.

**Love, Talk, Sing, Read & Play with your Baby:** This group welcomes Mums with babies (under one year) on **Thursdays from 1.30-3.00** to the Community Centre in Lakemba School. It is an opportunity to focus on all the development that takes place in the first year of life, without the distraction of ‘big kids’ running around.

**Toy Library:** This community resource is based in Hampden Park PS and is open every Wednesday from 9.00-12.00. For a $10 membership you can borrow high quality educational toys for your children every week. Save money and help your kids learn.

**English and Computing Course:** Mondays and Thursdays 10.00-1.30 at Al Minia Centre, 6 Rawson Rd, Wiley Park. Permanent Residents only. No Childcare available.

**Age Range now 13years to 17years for Free Bikes!**

Canterbury Council is offering children of this age to chance to be given a FREE bicycle! To be eligible, they must live in Canterbury and not already own a bike. There are 300 bikes to give away!

Students who are interested must register at www.happinesscycle.com.au in order to participate in the program. Once students have registered online, they will receive further information about the program including the details about the workshop in which they receive their free bicycles as well as skills training. They just need to attend a workshop on Saturday 5th April, (in Riverwood) where they will receive their bike (including helmet and lights. All of the details will be given once young people have registered.

Don’t forget the Centre is now on Facebook!! We are excited about this and hope you will ‘like’ us soon. Go to www.facebook.com/LakembaWileyParkSaCC.

Information on new activities will be on the site - so tell your friends as well.

Ring Wendi on 9759 4061 for more information about any programs or activities.