Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you to the big group of parents who attended our first parent meeting last Thursday. We covered a lot of topics including High Schools, the swimming carnival and attendance. We also spoke about the formation of a formal Parents and Citizens (P&C) group. If you are interested in this exciting initiative please let the office know. I will be in contact with you soon.

You will all be aware that there was an incident at the school last Friday afternoon that required the police to attend. No one was touched or injured. Many of you have spoken to me about your concerns. As a parent myself and one of the many caring teacher parents of your children during school hours, I share your concern and understand your worries.

Following the incident a number of safety measures have been put in place. They include:

- Reminding the staff and students about safety procedures e.g. going to the toilet with a partner.
- Talking to students about the NO, GO, TELL strategy. This is an important part of the mandatory Child Protection lessons that are undertaken in schools. Children are taught to say NO if they are approached or asked to do something they do not feel right about. They are then to GO. They leave the area/person immediately. The final step in the process is TELL and keep telling until someone listens and takes some action. Please see the graphic.
- The outside toilets are closed during class time. Students must use the inside toilets.

I have informed the Safety and Security unit of the DEC about the incident and requested a visit so that I can talk to them about the best way to improve the safety of the students in our school. I have also had a conversation with the police about this. I will let you know what they suggest.

Thank you to everyone for you cooperation in keeping our children safe.

Have a great fortnight.

Jann Price
your badge. I know this can be annoying but if we want our students to be safe we must all take some responsibility. Please do not be offended if a member of Lakemba Public School staff asks you to go to the office before they allow you to enter the classroom or speak to your child. I know you all want our children to be safe and this is one way we can help.

We really appreciate the help that parents give us in the classrooms. To protect everyone who volunteers in the school we need these great helpers to come to the office and complete a Working with Children Check form. To complete the form you will need to prove your identity by showing us documents that account for 100 points. Suitable documents include a passport, drivers licence, birth certificate and medicare card. You will need to bring more than one of these documents to prove 100 points.

Parents who visit the SaCC already sign in and will soon be asked to wear a badge while they are on school grounds.

### Road Safety

Students must use the pedestrian crossing outside the school to cross the road even if they do not need to cross until further up the road. Drivers are not expecting children to come out from between parked cars to cross the road and may find it difficult to avoid hitting a child. Parents must also set a good example and use the pedestrian crossing. We do not want anyone to be hurt. Use the pedestrian crossing.

From time to time Council Rangers monitor the area outside the school after school. We do not know when they are coming. Their job is to make sure that people do not break the law when picking up their children after school. Parents who do not follow the road rules will be fined. It is everyone’s responsibility to keep our children safe. It is better to take a few more minutes, do the right thing and keep everyone safe.

### Swimming Carnival

The Swimming Carnival was held yesterday at Bexley Pool. This year the students were engaged in fun water and land activities throughout the day. As a very small number of students at our school are competent swimmers, it was decided that rather than have lots of races, the students would take part in a range of fun water and land activities throughout the day. Competent swimmers were able to have a race at the end of the day. Certificates were awarded during the day. There will be no ribbons awarded for the races. Thank you Ms Smith and Ms Kergis for organising a day full of fun.

### Parent Contact Information

A green note was sent home earlier this week. We need up to date parent and emergency contact information every year. We also need parents to indicate whether they give their child/ren permission for a variety of events. Please return this note as soon as possible.

### School Photos

School photos will be taken tomorrow. Please make sure that your children are dressed in full school uniform or colours. If girls are wearing ribbons in their hair, the ribbons should be blue or yellow.

Class and individual photos will be taken tomorrow. Sporting photos will be taken later in the year.

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**Lateness to School**

All children need to be seated at assembly when the bell goes at 9am every morning. Often only about half of the school is seated ready to start assembly and a lot of students and parents are still walking up the path or Alice Street.

We understand that sometimes things happen that cause people to be late but this is usually not the case. Some children are in the habit of coming to school late claiming that they slept in. They are wasting valuable learning time. Children must take some responsibility for making sure they are at school on time. Late arrivals are recorded officially on the roll.

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**School Contribution**

Thank you to the families who have already made their school contribution. The note was attached to the last newsletter. It is also available at the end of the Week 4 newsletter on the Lakemba Public School website [http://www.lakemba-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/](http://www.lakemba-p.schools.nsw.edu.au/). We are asking that parents contribute $30 per student or $60 a family to the school to enable us to better resource our school for your children. This year all contributions will be used to increase the technology available to our students in their classrooms. This might mean extra iPads or iPods or digital cameras.

**Library**

Thank you to the families who have returned overdue books. Thanks also to those of you who have taken the time to talk to Ms Pillai or the office about the overdue notice that your child has bought home. We will be sending out new overdue notices in a few weeks time.

Sometimes students return the books to the library shelves without checking them through the computer. Please check with the Librarian if you are sure your child has returned the books they have borrowed so we can search the shelves.

**Hats**

Thank you to everyone for making sure your children have hats. All hats MUST BE LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD’S NAME.
School as Community Centre News

Thank you to everyone who responded to the groups advertised in the last newsletter.

The English class is now full but I will take names for a waiting list if there are any other people interested. Both the parenting program, “Bringing Up Great Kids” and the healthy lifestyle group “Living Calm” are also full and again we will try and program these in for a second round either next term or Term 3.

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.

Needing More Enrolments!

English class in 2014: This class is on Wednesdays from 1.00pm – 3.00pm in the Lakemba School Community Centre. FREE childcare is available. Students must be permanent residents. Applicants will be assessed for classes and will be helped with enrolment. If you have never tried a TAFE class before this is your chance.

Playgroup in the Park: This fun community activity will be held on Wednesday 19th March from 10.00-1.00 in Terry Lamb Reserve, Belmore. Anyone with young children are invited to attend – bring some lunch and enjoy a range of activities including a petting farm, games and craft with other families. It is a short walk from Belmore Station.

For parents of 15 and 16 year olds: 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.

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.