Important Dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 27th February</td>
<td>Clean Up Lakemba</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday 11th March</td>
<td>School Photos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 12th March</td>
<td>Selective High School Placement Test</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2nd April</td>
<td>Last day of Term 1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 20th April</td>
<td>Staff Development Day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday 21st April</td>
<td>Beginning of Term 2 for students</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dear Parents and Carers
Happy New Year and welcome back to our new school year. I hope you all enjoyed a safe and restful holiday. Welcome also to the families who are new to Lakemba.

At the very end of the holidays I became unwell and haven’t been able to enjoy the beginning of the school year with you all. I am pleased to report that I am looking forward to be being back at school full time by the beginning of next week. I want to thank Ms Jeffriess and the Executive team for leading the school while I have been recovering.

As in previous years, students have stayed in their 2014 classes for the first two weeks. There are still a considerable number of students who have not returned to school this year. We currently have enough students to form 19 classes but only need a few more students to be eligible to form 20 classes. We anticipate that the classes for 2015 will begin next Monday and any changes that need to be made will be as minimal as possible.

Please be assured that our students are the heart of every decision we make. Our decisions are based on social, emotional and academic factors with total regard for our students. It is very important that parents are positive about their child’s 2015 class placement. Some students find it difficult to adjust to change and feel unsettled to begin with. This is understandable but we all need to work with them to build their resilience so they can take their place in the world.

During the holidays the fantastic covered walkways and disability toilet were completed. I want to thank the building company for working very hard to ensure that our great school was not a building site as we began 2015.

As you can see, Lakemba is already a very busy place. I am looking forward to an exciting year.

Kind regards, 
Jann Price

Staff News

During the holidays, Ms Tsoukalas and her husband Stefan welcomed their son Andreas into their family. They are all really well and enjoying creating memories as a family. Congratulations!

At the end of last year, Mrs Prizmic who had been on leave as a teacher at Lakemba for a number of years, resigned from the Department of Education and Communities (DEC). We thank Mrs Prizmic for her great work in public education and wish her all the very best as she settles into her new home and cares for her family.

The DEC has appointed a teacher to replace Mrs Prizmic. This teacher will begin at Lakemba in the first few weeks of March. A temporary teacher will fill this position until then.

Ms Alki has taken leave. She will return to Lakemba at the beginning of Semester 2. At this stage, a decision on who will replace her has not been made. I let you know as soon as this has been finalised.

We also have a teaching position that will be advertised within the next few weeks. I will be forming a panel to write the advertisement and conduct the interview for the position. I expect that this teacher will take up their position at the beginning of Term 2.

Welcome to the School Library 2015

Everyone is encouraged to borrow from our school library. Library bags are available at the office for a cost of $3.50.

To assist students to develop their research skills, they are taught information skills during their weekly Library lessons. Library research is integrated with their classroom learning.

Responsible library borrowers return their books on time or renew them.

Happy Reading

Please see Ms Latimer if you are able to help in the Library at any time.
Road Safety

It is everyone's responsibility to ensure that our students are safe as they come to school in the morning and go home in the afternoon. Turning your car around in the school zone is very dangerous. Parking or stopping across driveways to drop children off, pick them up or wait for them can be dangerous for students and other parents.

Used School Clothing

We would appreciate donations of used school clothing that you no longer need. This clothing may be used to help families in need and sometimes they are used for students who have an accident and need a change of clothing. Thank you for your support.

Hair

In the short time we have been back at school this year, we have quite a few cases of nits. Please check your child's hair carefully and treat it if necessary. It is important that girls in particular wear their hair tied up and not left loose.

Attendance

Thank you to all the parents and carers who make sure their children attend school every day and are on time. You are setting a great example for your children of how to be respectful and responsible citizens.

When students are enrolled at school they are committed to attending school every day unless they are sick or have been granted leave by the Principal. If students are too sick to come to school they should attend a doctor and get a certificate to present to the school.

Students should also arrive at school on time to join in assembly every morning. It is not acceptable that they are even a few minutes late on a regular basis. If a student was 5 minutes late every day, they rob themselves of approximately half a day learning each term. Over a year this adds up to a lot of learning time.

Parents should also try to make medical and dental appointments outside of school hours. If this is not possible, a medical certificate must be provided when they get to school. Students who do not provide a certificate will be have their absence recorded as unjustified. The DEC monitors and investigates student attendance every term.

Contact Information

We often need to contact parents. It is very important that you contact the school and update your details if you change your phone number or address.

Values

Lakemba Public School values of respect, cooperation and responsibility underpin everything that we do. All programs, behaviour and communication is based on these values.

Throughout the year we will be focusing on how these values can be exhibited in a variety of environments both in and out of the school. To enable you to engage in conversation with your child/ren the focus areas will be published in this newsletter.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lines</th>
<th>Stairs, Hallways, Wet Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| **Respect** | • Respond to bells  
• Face the speaker  
• Make room for each other  
• Whole body listening  
• Respect others' personal space  
• Silence  
• No eating or drinking  
• Move to class without quietly | • All areas clean  
• All areas clean and tidy  
• Consider other classes  
• Consider other people  |
| **Cooperation** | • Be in line when the bell rings  
• Line up from front to back without leaving spaces  
• Listen and remember what is said  
• Act on information heard  
• Walk to and from lines  
• Move away in 2 lines  
• Walk safely and directly to class | • Hats and bags out of walkways  
• Move sensibly and safely  |
| **Responsibility** | • Keep hands and feet to self  
• Anyone can be your partner  
• Be attentive  
• Listen  
• Take turns in lines  
• Take turns to be the leader | • Walk on the left  
• Open doors for others  
• Hold doors open for others to move through |
Parents

Lakemba’s values of respect, cooperation and responsibility are guidelines for our whole community. Please remember that while you are always welcome, you must treat all students, staff and other parents and visitors with respect.

If you are worried or upset about something you must come to the office and make arrangements for an interview. We will investigate and report back to you.

It is not appropriate for you to talk to students on the playground if you think your child is being bullied or teased. You must come to the office and we will investigate any complaints of bullying in our school.

If parents come onto the school grounds and have arguments or speak to other students, they will be asked to leave and further action may need to be taken. Parents have every right to protect their child/ren and can become emotional when their child is unhappy. They have the right to voice their concerns and opinions but this must be done in a polite, respectful and controlled manner.

Canteen News

Welcome back everyone. I hope the summer holidays were relaxing and you are all ready for the New Year. It’s been a great first week back hearing about the children’s holidays and meeting all the new students.

Please drop in and see Monica and myself and pick up a 2015 menu to place on your fridge to make ordering easier. We have a variety of healthy meal and snack options that I am sure you will enjoy.

Please note all foods sold at Lakemba Public School Canteen are approved by the NSW Healthy Canteen Guidelines and are Halal.

Please come and see us if your child has special food requirements, we are happy to discuss a meal plan to help. Have a great Tem 1.

Yiota

School as Community Centre News

Welcome back everyone and Happy 2015 to you all. Hope the holidays were a relaxing time for your families and that you enjoyed some fun activities together over summer.

For the information of new parents to the school, the Community Centre is the building with the multi-coloured fence near the Kindy rooms and runs programs to support local families with young children – we welcome your ideas for future programs and support for existing ones. You are welcome to come and have a chat or a coffee anytime.

Fun for Kids Playgroup: is on every Tuesday morning from 9.30 -11.30pm. Everyone with young children is welcome. Play is young children’s ‘work’ and how they learn many things including how to get on with others. Parent’s support is very important – please talk to the staff if you would like to know more or have any concerns about your child’s development. Please bring a piece of fruit. Restarts next Tuesday 4th February.

Baby Playgroup: A special group just for Mums with babies between birth and one year is on every Thursday from 1.30-3.00pm. Run in partnership with the Child and Family Health nurses this will provide a chance to share ideas with other mothers of babies, have fun with your baby and get any health or development questions answered too.

NEW! Playtime for Toddlers: If your child is aged between one year and 2 ½ years this new group will be fun for you. Each week we will look at a different aspect of development – such as physical activity, developing language and learning to play with others. The group will be on Mondays from 10.00-12.00 every week.

Indonesian playgroup: Resumes this week on Fridays from 9.30-11.30. This is a parent run group for those who want to help their children play and learn in their home language. Contact Yuli on 0415 548778 for more information.

Women’s Yoga Class: Unfortunately we do not have funding to continue this class this year. However, if I can get enough women who are willing to pay $7 a week, we can arrange more classes. Please contact Wendi if interested.

Other programs coming soon include a short parenting course and a nutrition program.

A special welcome to all the new Kindy parents and children who are just starting school. Please feel free to drop in for a chat any morning.

Lakemba Community Toy Library: reopens this week in the grounds of Hampden Park PS, Hampden Rd, Lakemba. Open every Wednesday from 9.00-12.30. For a $10 membership you can borrow quality toys, puzzles and games to help your child learn.

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