Welcome to 2015
I trust everyone had a relaxing and enjoyable break. A special welcome is given for our new families who have joined our school community and I hope that your time with us is rewarding and enjoyable.

Staffing News …
• We welcome Ms. Brikha (Assistant Principal & Year 1 & 2 Team Leader) to our school.
• Mrs Liddle is currently on leave and will return on Friday 6 February. In the meantime, Mrs Holt will be relieving for her.
• An interview panel has been formed to select a new Assistant Principal. The position will be advertised within the Department early next month.
• More information will be provided at our P&C meeting.

As soon as we can finalise our Kindergarten enrolments, we will move to place students in classes for 2015. At earliest, this will happen on Friday or early next week if uncertainties persist.

PSSA Try Outs
A note will go home advising Primary students and parents about the PSSA tryouts which are scheduled to start this Friday. The note gave an estimate of $50 - $60 for season fees but the team coach will provide a more precise figure once the teams have been chosen. Students need to present the permission note to gain entry to the try out. The signed note represents a commitment on the parent’s part to pay the season fees, should their child be successful in selection.

P&C Meeting
Our first P&C meeting is set for Tuesday 3 February at 7.30pm in the Library. All are welcome to attend. This will be a welcome meeting for our new families and others who wish to attend.
Our School Rules.
During the first few weeks, teachers will be reminding students about some simple but important procedures, including the rules. Following the rules makes for a safer, productive and more harmonious school. Students will:
1. Be safe.
2. Be sensible.
3. Be responsible.
Note:
- Mobile phones are not to be used at school. They are turned off and kept in the student's bag until dismissal.
- ALL property ought to be labelled. This allows property to be easily returned.

Anaphylaxis - Kids! Don't share your food with anyone because some friends have food allergies.

Message to Parents: If you need to toilet a toddler while waiting for afternoon dismissal, it is fine to use the students' toilets. However, when POSH are toileting students after dismissal, they will not want other adults using the toilets at the same time. This is a Child Protection issue. If a toddler needs to be toileted at this time, ask a staff member if you can use the H Block toilet instead. Adults who wish to use toilets should use the G Block toilet.

Writing school notes
Don't forget if your child is absent from school you will need to write a note within seven days. It must explain why your child missed school and how many days your child was absent. Remember to include the date.
If your child is going to be away for more than three days please call the school and let us know.

Controversy Corner
With classes about to be formed, it might be worthwhile providing a background briefing about composite classes.

What is a composite class?
This is a grouping of different age groups of students into one class which is assigned to one teacher. They are usually formed due to the uneven nature of enrolments across the school. The common practice when organising composite classes is to combine two consecutive years eg Year 5 and Year 6 to form a 5-6 composite class. The ratio of students in each age group is determined by enrolments. For example, a 4-5 composite may have 16 Year 4 students and 12 Year 5 students.

Why do we have composite classes?
Public Schools take all comers with the result that we have uneven enrolments across the grades. The only way to avoid composite classes is to set enrolment ceilings and turn students away once our quota was met. The only schools that can do this are government “selective” schools where entry is by merit, and private schools who can control their enrolments.

Which children are usually considered for a composite class?
Strictly speaking, there are no set rules when selecting students for a composite class, but there are some options available. For example, the composite could be formed from students who need
extra learning support and so they are grouped together to allow the teacher the opportunity to focus on diagnosed and emerging needs. Other composites may be formed using quite capable students, which provides an opportunity to pursue a more extensive agenda. Sometimes, the grouping comes from students who are of quite average ability or the class could be “paralleled” which means there is a range of ability present. Sometimes the key issue affecting the grouping plan is not academic but social. There may be individuals or groups of students who do not get along together or they are not good for each other. Hence, they may be split up across a few classes, to create a more opportunities for success.

Composite classes are part of every school’s organisation and no student is guaranteed a “composite free” time whilst at school. The main aim when forming classes is to maximise opportunities for success for all students.

Urban myths about composite classes.

- Some parents do not want their child in a composite class if their child is in the older cohort. They are convinced that the presence of younger children affects their child’s maturity development. Research does not support this assertion and even anecdotal evidence from teachers would disprove this notion. Also, in any regular class there may be up to 18 months age difference amongst the students.

- The teacher has to divide the chalk board in half and teach two lessons at the same time. The syllabus is organized in stages with each covering about two year’s academic growth. For example, Years 3 & 4 are in “Stage 2” of the syllabus and the teacher selects work from ‘Stage 2” for treatment in class, depending on need. Our HSIE and Science units are arranged in odd and even year cycles to avoid repetition and it would be unusual to do separate lessons for PE, Art, Music, Craft, Drama.

- Composite classes more difficult because there are different groups. Composite class teachers have to be on their toes in terms of organisation but teachers of regular classes would argue that they must do the same. Also, it is important to remember that every class is a “composite” class! Any group of students (even if they have the same height, weight and share the same birthday) have differences in abilities across a wide range of endeavours. Teachers have always designed their teaching programs to cater for different levels of ability, so in some respects there is little difference. Especially when we consider that the syllabus does not consider children in age groups but “stage” groups.

K-6 Club

K-6 Meetings will be held the 2nd Thursday of the month 2.20pm in the hall. The first meeting will be the 12 February. Come along and help plan our events for the year. All welcome (including siblings).

Community News

Disclaimer: We sincerely thank our advertisers for their support of our school. Laguna St Public School and the NSW Department of Education and Communities do not endorse these companies or their services and products.
TAE KWON DO
SATURDAYS 10.30 am – 12.00 pm at Laguna St PS or Wednesdays  (4.00–5.00pm) at Miranda Nth PS. The Boulevard, Miranda. Please call Master Kwak on 9524.9560/ 0410 682 171
Tae Kwon Do is a form of self-defence and an Olympic sport using bare hands and feet. It is suitable for boys and girls. Grand Master Kwak has the highest black belt (9th Dan) in Australia and has over 50 years of experience.

CRONULLA CARINGBAH SHARKS
Junior Rugby League Football Club
NEW CLUBHOUSE | NEW ERA | NEW CULTURE

REGISTRATION DATES
On-line 24/7 @ www.cronullacaringbah.com.au
or in person @ NEW Clubhouse
Saturday, 31 January 2015 – 10am – 2pm
Saturday, 7 February 2015 – 10am – 2pm
Wed, 11 February 2015 – 6 – 7:30pm

Cronulla Caringbah Sharks JRLFC
now located behind Cronulla High School,
Captain Cook Dr, Cronulla....
Head towards Kurnell, take the Greenhills Exit –
you’ll see us on the right!

Join this historical Shire Junior Rugby League Club TODAY!

Looking for Fun! Adventures! Challenges!

Give Scouting a Try

2nd Caringbah Scout Group
(Jacaranda Road, next to Robin Place Reserve)

For girls and boys in Joeys (6 & 7 year olds) Fridays 5 – 6pm,
Cubs (8-11) Tuesdays 6.30 – 8, Scouts (10 ½ -14 ½) Fridays 7-9,

For more info call 9524 7061
or check out our website
www.secondcaringbahscoutgroup.org.au