



Education
Public Schools

Lake Illawarra South Public School

Newsletter

Term 3 Week 6: Monday 25 AUGUST 2025

CALENDAR

AUGUST

25 Assembly @ 1:45pm

25 Class Public Speaking comps commence

27 Southern Stars Show Week

28 Futsal sessions

29 Southern Stars matinee excursion

SEPTEMBER

01 Assembly @ 1:45pm

01 STEPTember launch 2pm

01 Stage Public Speaking comps commence

04 Read a Book Day

05 Regional Athletics

05 Jersey Day

throughout the week that promoted a love of reading.

I am pleased to share that the new dishwasher has been installed in the Breakfast Club. This makes it easier and more efficient to keep everything clean and ready for our students each morning. This improvement will help us continue providing a welcoming and healthy start to the day for all the students that attend.

I have been working closely with the Department's Asset Team to address the leaking roof in J Block. Unfortunately, repairs cannot begin until the wet weather clears. I appreciate everyone's patience while these essential works are completed to ensure the safety and comfort of our learning environment.

Over the coming days there will be some additions to the mid-playground. These additions will expand student choice of activity and encourage imaginative play and social interaction, helping to make recess and lunch breaks even more enjoyable and engaging for all students. A big thank you to the P&C for supporting the school with these purchases.

Best of luck to our Southern Stars performers as they take the stage for Show Week this week. Your hard work, dedication, and talent have brought you to this exciting moment. Enjoy every performance, shine bright and make the most of this wonderful opportunity to showcase your skills and create lasting memories.

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

It has been a wonderful and busy Term Three so far. Our Book Week celebrations last week were a highlight of the term so far. It was fantastic to see our students dressed in their very creative costumes for the book character parade on Wednesday and to see them fully engaged in other activities

Karen Simula
Principal

PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to those who were able to make time to attend parent-teacher interviews. If you were not able to attend during the scheduled sessions and would like an interview about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher to arrange a time.

SOUTHERN STARS

During Southern Stars Show Week, Lake Illawarra South Public School is proud to have our talented students participating in this exciting event. Our performers are involved in the item and mass dances, showcasing their energy and coordination alongside many other students. Additionally, members of our school choir will be lending their voices to create beautiful harmonies throughout the performances. We are also honoured to have students representing us in the Aboriginal dance ensemble, Yanggaa Garaba, celebrating and sharing Indigenous culture through traditional dance. It's wonderful to see our students taking part in such a vibrant and inclusive celebration of the arts. A huge thank you to Miss O'Keefe, Mrs Arnold and Aunty Anna for supporting and supervising our students throughout their rehearsals and performances in the coming week.

BOOK WEEK



This year, Lake Illawarra South Public School enjoyed a fantastic celebration of Book Week, inspired by the theme "Book an Adventure." Our festivities included a lively book character parade, where students dressed as their favourite storybook heroes, and an engaging performance of "Treasure Hunt," featuring this year's shortlisted books. Younger students in Kindergarten to Year 2 took part in a colouring competition, while Years 3 to 6 showcased their creativity in a diorama competition. We also marked the 80th anniversary of the Children's Book Council of Australia (CBCA) awards during our "Book Week flight" with a cake. We were very excited to see our celebrations highlighted in a Department of Education news story on their homepage on Friday. We were

thrilled to see the excitement shared on social media, including a supportive tweet from Murat Dizdar, Secretary of the Department of Education. A big thank you goes to our hardworking librarian, Miss Koerner, whose dedication and enthusiasm made our Book Week celebrations truly memorable.

CHECK-IN ASSESSMENTS

Students in Years 3 to 6 will undertake the Check-in Assessments. Information about the scheduling of the assessments was sent home with students recently.

The NSW Check-in Assessments are an important tool designed to support students in Years 3 to 6 by providing teachers with detailed insights into their literacy and numeracy skills. These online assessments focus on key areas such as reading comprehension, vocabulary, fluency, and number sense. The purpose of these tests is to identify each student's current level of understanding and highlight areas where they may need extra help or further challenges.

Importantly, the NSW Check-in Assessments complement other forms of assessment and classroom observations. They provide a quick and efficient way for schools to gather consistent data of student academic growth and achievement. The information gained from these assessments also helps Lake Illawarra South to plan whole-school improvement strategies, allocate resources effectively and personalise teaching and learning for students.

PREMIER'S SPELLING BEE

Marcus and Skye both performed well in the Regional Finals of The Premier's Spelling Bee, demonstrating great focus, determination, and spelling skills throughout the competition. Their hard work and dedication to preparing for the event paid off and they represented Lake Illawarra South Public School with pride and confidence. We are very proud of both of your achievements and the positive example you set for your fellow students. Congratulations to Marcus and Skye on reaching the regional stage of the competition.

YOUNG EYES FESTIVAL

Last week, 10 Stage 3 students took part in a full-day workshop to prepare for the Young Eyes

Festival of Innovation which celebrates entrepreneurial education in schools. The festival begins with an in-school, online learning program that guides students through idea development, market research, product differentiation, and pitching. Following this, each participating school hosts its own 'Shark Tank' event, where students have 90 seconds to persuade their teachers and judges of the value of their business ideas or their ability to drive change.

School finalists are selected to progress to the Young Eyes Festival of Innovation semi-finals, in which they submit their pitch via video for judging by the Young Eyes Industry 'Sharks'. Chosen finalists are then invited to pitch live at the Young Eyes Festival of Innovation, where rising stars are spotlighted alongside established entrepreneurs with winners named in the following categories:

Young Entrepreneur of the Year

Young Innovator of the Year

SNOWSPORTS

Leilani and Jonty proudly represented Lake Illawarra South Public School at the Interschool Snowsports State Championships, showcasing their talents in the snowboarding events. Both students demonstrated exceptional skill, determination, and sportsmanship as they competed against some of the best young athletes from across the state. Well done to you both – we are very proud of your achievements.

FUTSAL SESSIONS

Starting this Thursday, Lake Illawarra South Public School will begin futsal sessions as part of the Sporting Schools initiative, using our brand-new futsal court. This program gives students the chance to develop their skills in this fast-paced, indoor version of soccer, focusing on teamwork, ball control and fitness. The new futsal court provides a space for students to practise passing, dribbling and strategic play. Through fun and engaging activities, students will build confidence and improve their ball control, passing and strategic thinking while enjoying physical activity. We are thrilled to offer these sessions and look forward to seeing our students make the most of this fantastic new facility.

PREMIER'S SPORTING CHALLENGE

The Premier's Sporting Challenge is an exciting program that encourages students at Lake Illawarra South Public School to stay active and enjoy physical exercise every day. Participating in this challenge helps children develop healthy habits, improve their fitness, and build teamwork skills. Regular physical activity is essential for children's overall wellbeing, supporting not only their physical health but also their mental focus and emotional resilience. By taking part in the Premier's Sporting Challenge, our students are learning the importance of staying active, having fun, and leading a balanced lifestyle that will benefit them both now and in the future.

STEPember

As part of The Premier's Sporting Challenge, Lake Illawarra South Public School is excited to undertake a virtual step challenge, **STEPember**. The launch of this event is at 2pm on Monday, 1st September. Come along and join in – every step counts! This fun and engaging challenge invites students and staff to collectively walk 15,000 kilometres — the distance needed to virtually walk around Australia. *STEPember* is a fantastic way to promote physical activity, encourage teamwork and set personal fitness goals throughout the month. We look forward to seeing everyone get involved, tracking their steps and working together to reach this impressive milestone while enjoying the benefits of staying active and healthy.

ATTENDANCE

Attending school regularly and being on time are very important for every student's learning and success. At Lake Illawarra South Public School, we encourage all students to aim for the Department of Education's attendance target of 95% or higher. When students attend school consistently, they don't miss out on valuable lessons, activities or social opportunities that help them grow both academically and personally. Being punctual also helps students start their day positively and be ready to learn with their classmates. We appreciate the support of families in helping their children develop good attendance habits, as this plays a key role in achieving their best outcomes at school.

NSW public schools have an attendance target of 95%.

Last fortnight, there were 111 students with 100%. That is an increase of 42 students from the previous fortnight. Well done!

This is the attendance data for the last fortnight broken down into year groups:

Kinder: 88%

Year 1: 91%

Year 2: 84%

Year 3: 89%

Year 4: 90%

Year 5: 79%

Year 6: 82%

Well done to Year 3 girls – 99% attendance for the last fortnight.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR FOR LEARNING

Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) is a whole-school approach designed to promote positive behaviour, improve student engagement, and create a safe and supportive learning environment. It encourages students to develop essential social and emotional skills that help them succeed both in and out of the classroom. Each fortnight, PBL focuses on a specific value or behaviour to guide students in making positive choices.

This week, the focus is on Respect – Use friendly words and actions. This skill emphasises the importance of communicating and interacting with others in a kind, respectful, and positive manner. This means choosing language that is polite, encouraging and supportive, as well as using body language and behaviours that show care and consideration for others.

Students are encouraged to speak with kindness by using polite phrases such as “please,” “thank you” and “excuse me” and by avoiding hurtful or negative language. Friendly actions include smiling, giving compliments, helping classmates, and showing empathy when someone is upset. These behaviours help create a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere where everyone feels valued and respected.

By focusing on friendly words and actions, PBL promotes positive relationships among students and staff, reduces conflict and fosters a sense of belonging within the school community. Teaching students to communicate respectfully helps them develop important social skills that contribute to a safe and supportive learning environment and prepares them for positive interactions beyond school.

In Week 7, the emphasis is on Responsibility – Be a problem solver. This focus encourages students to actively and thoughtfully address challenges they encounter, both in their learning and in social situations at school. Being a problem solver means looking for constructive ways to overcome difficulties rather than giving up or reacting negatively.

Students are taught to identify what the problem is, think through possible solutions, and choose the best course of action. This might involve seeking help from a teacher or friend, breaking a big problem into smaller steps or considering how their choices might affect others. By practising problem-solving skills, students learn to stay calm when faced with challenges, take responsibility for their actions and work cooperatively with others to find solutions.

This PBL focus helps students build resilience, confidence, and independence. It also supports a positive classroom environment, where everyone feels empowered to overcome obstacles and contribute to making the school a respectful and responsible place for all.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast Club takes place every morning in the library starting at 8:10am, providing students with a welcoming space to enjoy a nutritious meal before the school day begins. This program is free of charge, ensuring that all students have access to a healthy breakfast. Our Breakfast Club is proudly supported by FoodBank Australia and Bakers' Delight, whose generous contributions help us provide fresh and wholesome food options. By offering this program, we aim to promote student wellbeing, improve concentration and energy levels, and create a positive start to each day for our school community.

CHAPLAIN NEWS

Our chaplain, Mrs Kahlia Devall, is on site each Wednesday and Friday to support students and their families with their wellbeing. If you would like your child to connect with Miss Kahlia, please contact your child's class teacher.

CANTEEN

This term, Kelley's Place is opening three days per week. The canteen is open from Wednesday to Friday each week. Orders can be placed online using the school24 app. A copy of the 2025 menu is attached to the end of this newsletter.

UNIFORMS

School uniforms are available from the front office. Please contact Ms Mayo to place your order.

School uniforms are able to be purchased by cash payment or EFTPOS facilities at the school office. Uniforms are not able to be purchased online.

As the colder weather sets in, we ask that students remember to wear full school uniform, including a school jumper, navy track pants and white, grey or black socks. Socks with visible logos are not acceptable. We also ask you label your child's uniforms and other belongings clearly so that any lost items can be returned promptly. Parent cooperation with this would be most appreciated. Please note that if you are looking for second-hand uniforms, these can be purchased at the front office.

FACEBOOK

Lake Illawarra South launched its official Facebook page last week. You can access the page using the following link.

<https://www.facebook.com/LakeIllawarraSouthPS?mibextid=LQJ4d>

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION NEWS ARTICLE

Fasten your seatbelts: Lake Illawarra South takes off for Book Week

Lake Illawarra South Public School celebrated Book Week with an aviation twist, a travel agency and a parade under the theme 'Book an Adventure'. Billy Kos reports.



Lake Illawarra South Public School is celebrating Book Week with a book character parade, a musical featuring this year's shortlisted books, and daily Facebook riddles about which character teacher Emily Linsell will dress up as each day.

"We know how important reading is and the vital role it plays in lifting student outcomes," principal Karen Simula said.

"This is a fun way for our school community to engage in Book Week and celebrate the magical moments that can only be found in literature."

So far this week Ms Linsell, who teaches class 1/2L, has dressed up as Willy Wonka and Where's Wally and joined staff in a tribute to 80 years of the Children's Book Council of Australia awards, with each wearing a letter to spell out 'Happy 80th CBCA'.

In keeping with this year's theme, 'Book an Adventure', the school transformed its front office into a travel agency before buckling up for the annual Book Week parade.

"Welcome aboard Lake Illawarra South Airlines Flight 3867 to Book Week Adventures," Ms Simula announced.

"Refreshments will be served throughout our flight today, and in-flight entertainment will be provided by Lake Illawarra South Public School.

"Thank you again for choosing Lake Illawarra South Airlines for your adventure today."

And with that, the passengers were cleared for take-off – no passport required, just their imagination and a love of reading.



From reading books to writing them

Students in Kindergarten to Year 2 welcomed local author and former teacher Karen Hendriks for a special Book Week reading of her latest title, *Vesper Jones and Marshmallow*.

The picture book chronicles how Vesper Jones – tired of Scary Things visiting her dreams – teams up with her cat, Marshmallow, to use a Dream Changer to push them away.

Buzz Words Books said in a review: “Karen Hendriks has woven together whimsy and wisdom to empower children aged four and older to face their fears.”

Principal Karen Simula said the visit was an inspiring experience for the students, who also engaged in fun activities and a Q&A session with the author.

“It is always special to have Karen visit our school to share her love of literature and the joy that reading can bring,” Ms Simula said.

“As a previous staff member, we are proud of her new career and achievements.

“As she said to us, all her books hold a piece of her and her experiences in the local Shellharbour area, and to hear her speak to the students was truly inspiring.

“Book Week and visits like these are a great opportunity to share and foster a love of literature and the joy that reading can bring.”

Ms Hendriks said she was a primary teacher for many years “until I knew in my heart that it was time to write for children”.

“As a teacher I shared picture books every day and was captivated by their magic. For me it is always about children reading,” she said.



