



Lake Illawarra South Public School

Newsletter

Term 4 Week 2: Monday 20 OCTOBER 2025

CALENDAR

OCTOBER

- 20 Assembly @ 1:45pm
- 21 Cricket PSSA Trials
- 22 Dragoon Tag Gala Day (St 2 & 3)
- 22 Boating Safety Presentation (K-2)
- 23 Creating Coaches Springboard (Yr 6)
- 24 LIHS Excel applications close
- 27 Assembly @ 1:45pm
- 27 Learn to Swim commences
- 28 Olympic Athlete Visit
- 29 Kinder 2026 Orientation Session 1
- 30 AECG Meeting
- 30 P&C Hallowe'en Disco
- 31 World Teachers Day

CONTACT

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome to Term 4. I hope you all had a restful break and are ready for an exciting and busy final term of the year. As the weather warms up, we look forward to a variety of end-of-year activities that celebrate the hard work and achievements of our

students. Highlights this term include our annual Book Fair, where students can explore and purchase wonderful books to foster a love of reading, and the Learn to Swim program, essential for developing strong water safety skills as summer approaches.

This term, we will warmly welcome our 2026 Kindergarten families through our transition program. This initiative is designed to help new students and their parents feel comfortable and supported as they prepare to join the Lake Illawarra South Public School community.

I am also pleased to share that the construction of our new preschool building will commence in early January. Whilst the build is underway in 2026, there will be changes to the Eastern Playground. We are very much looking forward to the addition of the preschool as it will provide an enhanced learning environment for our youngest learners over the coming years.

Over the next few weeks, our school website will be migrating to the new Department format. This requires considerable work behind the scenes to ensure all information is accurate and up to date. We appreciate your patience during this transition and will advise you when the new website is live.

Please be aware that there are no School Development Days at the end of this year. The last day of student attendance is **Friday 19th December**.

Karen Simula
Principal

STEPtember

STEPtember has been a remarkable journey for our school community this year. Together, we have already travelled over 12,000km as part of our challenge to walk around Australia, with only approximately 3,300km left to reach our goal. With six walking days remaining, our students and staff are enthusiastically stepping up their efforts to complete the final stretch. To make up for the days missed during the September school vacation, we've dedicated 10 school days in October to the challenge. The spirit of participation and teamwork has been outstanding.

LITERARY LUNCH

Last Thursday, some of our Stage 3 students attended the Children's Book Week Literary Luncheon. They spent time with authors, Cara Whyte and Amy Molloy. Students were able to ask questions about their careers, how they became authors and their latest books. Students also had an opportunity to put their own literary skills to the test. Students had a terrific time and would like to thank Ms Koerner for organising this event.

LOUD SHIRT DAY



Last Friday at Lake Illawarra South Public School, we celebrated Loud Shirt Day with great enthusiasm. Both students and staff embraced the spirit of the day by wearing very bright and colourful shirts, filling our school with fun, energy, and vibrant colours. It was wonderful to see everyone come together in such a lively way to raise awareness about hearing loss. The joyful atmosphere truly made Loud Shirt Day a memorable and special event for our whole school community.

DRAGON TAG GALA DAY

Students in Stage 2 and 3 are participating in a non-competitive Dragon Tag Gala Day this Wednesday at Morley Oval, Warilla. Thank you to Ms Koerner for organising this cocurricular activity for our students.

LIHS EXCEL APPLICATIONS

Applications for Lake Illawarra High School's Excel class for Year 7 2026 closes this Friday. Please speak with Miss O'Keefe if you require further information.

SWIM SCHEME

Kindergarten students, along with students who need to develop their water confidence are participating in the School Swimming Scheme starting next week. Detailed information has been sent home with those students involved in the program. A huge thank you to those parents and carers who have offered to assist with transporting students to and from Oak Flats pool.

BOOK FAIR

The Scholastic Book Fair will be held from Monday 6th November to Friday 10th November in the school library. Students will have an opportunity to walk through the Book fair and create a wish list prior to the Fair opening. Detailed information was sent home with students last week.

PREMIER'S READING CHALLENGE

The Premier's Reading Challenge finished on Friday 26th September. This year, all K-6 students have actively participated in the challenge. Students in K-2 had books read to them in the classroom and library, helping them reach their goal of 30 books by the end of Term 2. Students in Years 3-6 have been diligently updating their reading logs during library lessons. Certificates will be awarded to all participating students later in the year.

KINDERGARTEN 2026

The school is currently finalising the schedule for Kinder Orientation for those students commencing big school in 2026. If you know of a family who is in area and has not yet enrolled their child, please encourage them to contact the school as soon as possible.

STUDENT MOVEMENT IN 2026

If you know that your child will not be at Lake Illawarra South PS (excluding current Yr 6) in 2026, please let the office know in writing as soon as

possible as this helps our forward planning. We often get queries about how the process works at the beginning of the school year and why we sometimes have to wait a few days to form classes. This is often due to us not knowing student movements, so your early response would be invaluable. If you are going to be away at the beginning of the 2026 school year, we will need to know in writing so a place can be held in a class.

PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS 2026

The staff of Lake Illawarra South Public School collaboratively work together to make decisions about the placement of students in their next year's group. During this time, many varied considerations are taken into account to ensure the best mix for each class. If you have a particular request for placement of your child or children based on a significant learning need, it is asked that you submit a letter to Mrs Simula (marked Confidential) at the office by 2:40pm Friday 7th November. Please note that requests for particular teachers, although flattering are not appropriate.

All requests must be submitted to the office only. Please include your child's name, current class, request and reason for request. Requests will be for the year 2026 only.

All requests will be considered but there is no guarantee that requests can be met, as there are many contributing factors in preparing class lists.

Please note that teachers do move class/placement at times, including staff currently on RFF and specialised programs.

The school is not able to ensure that your child will have the same teacher for the entire year because of staffing constraints and personal factors relating to individual teachers.

Please be reassured that all classes are structured to provide the best possible outcomes for students both academically and socially. Decisions about student placement are made using a wide range of information gathered throughout the year.

Requests will not be considered at the beginning of Term 1 in the following year unless the principal considers there are mitigating circumstances. Generally, class structures cannot be finalised until the total school enrolments are known in the following year. It is with professionalism that staff

consider class structures, which are formed in the best interests of all students and the school.

AECG MEETING

The next meeting of the Juborsay Local AECG will be held on Thursday 30th October at Hayes Park Public School. All are welcome to attend.

HALLOWE'EN DISCO

Our P&C will be holding a Hallowe'en disco on **Thursday 30th October**. Further information will be sent home later this week.

ATTENDANCE

Last week, there were 146 students with 100%. Well done!

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

Kinder: 98%

Year 1: 95%

Year 2: 97%

Year 3: 99%

Year 4: 90%

Year 5: 84%

Year 6: 87%

NSW public schools have an attendance target of 95%. Congratulations to the year groups at or above the state target.

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, our Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL) focus is Safety – Allow personal space and privacy. We are encouraging all students to respect the personal boundaries of others by giving them

enough physical space and acknowledging their right to privacy. This helps create a safe and comfortable environment where everyone feels valued and respected. By practising this important social skill, our students are learning empathy, consideration, and how to build positive relationships with their peers and staff.

Next week our focus shifts to Respect – Accept others' differences and opinions. We are encouraging students to embrace diversity by recognising and valuing the unique backgrounds, ideas, and perspectives of everyone in our school community. By fostering an environment of understanding and open-mindedness, we help build stronger, more inclusive relationships where every voice is heard and respected. This focus supports our commitment to creating a welcoming and supportive school culture where all students feel safe and valued.

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 available on site every Wednesday and Friday to provide valuable support to students and their families, focusing on their overall wellbeing. Ms Kahlia plays an important role in fostering a positive and caring school environment by offering a listening ear, guidance and practical assistance to students who may be facing challenges, whether emotional, social or personal. She works collaboratively with staff and families to ensure that students feel supported and safe, helping them build resilience and develop coping strategies.

If you believe your child could benefit from connecting with Ms Kahlia, or if you have any concerns about their wellbeing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher.

CANTEEN

Kelley's Place 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.

A special meal deal is being held on Thursday 13th November. Information was sent home with students last week and is also at the end of this newsletter.

SCHOOL ZONE SAFETY

Many of our students walk home in the afternoon. For the safety of everyone, we ask parents and carers to please remind children of these points when crossing the road:

- **STOP** back from the kerb
- **LOOK** in all directions
- **LISTEN** for traffic
- **THINK** about when it is safe to cross

Please encourage your child to use the crossings located on Reddall Parade and Pur Pur Avenue. Crossing the road between parked cars is not recommended for children. The potential for danger of being hit by a car whilst crossing between parked cars is enormous. Drivers cannot always see pedestrians (particularly small children) waiting to cross the road.

Double parking is unfortunately also a problem that places the lives of our students at unnecessary risk. Double-parked vehicles are visual obstructions for young children trying to cross to the other side of the road. They also place children getting in or out of the car at risk, as they must venture to the middle of the road to do so. Please refrain from double parking around our school and use the other safer parking options available to you. Please also avoid dangerous manoeuvres such as U-turns and three point turns.

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.

