Welcome to week 4. The term is already fast approaching the half way point, with lots of things to come before the end of year. Last week teachers participated in a late staff meeting as part of TPL. Staff will participate in another late staff meeting this week and complete some online training in order to make up time to allow us to close the school on the Friday 18th December. Students will finish their last day on Wednesday 16th December.

2015 LAKE MAC ENVIRONMENT AWARD WINNER
Each year the Lake Macquarie Council holds an annual awards ceremony recognising the fantastic environmental work our local schools do. Blacksmiths has a very proud history in the field of environmental education, winning the major award for Primary schools in 2011 and 2013. Last year we received a minor award in the field of waste management. It was my great pleasure to accompany Mrs Clark and 3 of our dedicated students to this year’s awards ceremony where we were once again crowned the Major Primary School Winner. What a fantastic effort from everyone in our school. Our environment programs include recycling paper, composting, worm farming, chickens, vegetable gardens, markets, The Stephanie Alexander Kitchen Garden program, solar power, water tanks to run our toilets and gardens, and of course our binless playground. Everyone including parents, students and teachers (especially Mrs Clark) helps to contribute to these wonderful programs. So Congratulations to all.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

5th Nov Beau M
8th Nov Luca B
YEAR 5 GATS
Each Wednesday selected year 5 students have been attending the ATS program at Swansea High School. Students have enjoyed participating in a range of activities in the areas of Math, English, ICT, Drama, Art, Dance & Science.

STATE REPRESENTATIVES
Each year students who represent at State level for the first time, receive a representative bag in recognition of their achievements. This week Bede & Chey E & Jed Rouse received their bags for representing at state level in rugby league. Thank you to Nat and Penny from Belmont Newsagents for their generous donation in sponsoring the bags.

SWIMMING SCHEME
Students in Years 1-3 will be participating in the School Swimming Scheme from 23 November until 4 December. Swimming lessons will run daily for 45 minutes. Thank you to the P&C for generously paying for the bus to transport students to and from the pool each day. Students in Years 4-6 who require further swimming instruction are also eligible to participate in the program. Please see the office for a note if required.

UNIFORM UPDATE
Students are now able to wear the sports uniform as their everyday uniform. Hopefully the new shirts will arrive this week and be available for purchase. An alert will be sent via the school app to advise when the uniform shop will be open. Students are able to wear either uniform until the end of 2016, however the old uniform will no longer be available for purchase. Students are expected to purchase their uniform (shorts, skorts, etc) from the uniform shop. The uniform plays an important part in the way our school is perceived in the community. In a time when student numbers can impact the way we are funded and staffed, it is important that we all play our part in promoting our school in the best light possible.

FIRE DRILLS & LOCK DOWNS
Last week our school participated in a lockdown drill. Each term staff and students participate in either a fire drill or lock down to familiarise ourselves and review procedures. In the event that you are on school grounds during one of these drills, it is expected that you will also take part in order to help ensure our procedures are appropriate.

RAM FUNDING
In 2012, the NSW Government announced its Local Schools, Local Decisions (LSLD) reform for NSW public schools. This reform places students at the centre of school decision making. It gives principals and school communities a greater say over how they use the available resources to best meet the needs of their students.

To enable the shift of resources to the school level, a Resource Allocation Model (RAM) has been developed. The RAM provides a simpler, fairer and more transparent distribution of government school funding and changes the way resources are managed in our school system.

On 21 October 2015, the NSW Premier the Hon Mike Baird MP and the Minister for Education the Hon Adrian Piccoli announced the next phase of the RAM implementation. In 2016, $113 million in additional funding has been allocated to NSW public schools through the RAM. These additional funds have been allocated in a way consistent with the recommendations of the Gonski Review.

In 2016, NSW public schools will receive a base allocation for staff professional learning and funding for each student using a new methodology. Schools will continue to receive equity loadings for socio-economic background, Aboriginal background, English language proficiency and low level adjustment for disability.

Eligible schools will also continue to receive a location allocation in 2016 to address the additional costs faced by NSW public schools that are geographically remote or isolated.

Our school has been advised that we will receive $36,089 RAM equity funding to support our students with additional learning needs in 2016 and $626,198 in the new base allocation.

The school executive will continue to work with our school community to determine the best ways to use these resources to support student learning.
WALK-A-THON
Thank you to everyone that has sent in their fundraising money for the Walkathon. We raised $788.50 which will be sent to Bowel Cancer Australia. A fantastic effort. Well done!!

LAKE MAC ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY GRANTS
This year Blacksmiths Public School once again applied for a sustainability grant to fund the purchase of our chicken tractor. We were awarded $1650 in order to purchase the tractor and implement our school yard chickens program. This program was one of ten programs funded by Council during Round 2 of the grants, totalling over $19000 towards community based sustainability projects.

WORKING BEE
Staff and P & C members will be holding a Working Bee on Friday November 13th beginning at 1pm. We are planning to paint the playground equipment and re paint the kindergarten veranda artwork. Some garden maintenance around the school will also be another area we are hoping to tackle. We would love as many people to come along as possible.

TRIVIA NIGHT
Thank you to all those families that contributed to the P&C Trivia Night last term. Whether through organisation of the night or participation, you helped to raise over $2300 for our school. What a fantastic effort! A big thank you to the local businesses who contributed through donations of prizes, who we will formally acknowledge in our next newsletter.

YEAR 6 MINI FETE
Our very popular Year 6 Mini Fete will be held on Thursday 5 November. As usual, filled jars for the popular “Lucky Jar” stall are needed. These can be filled with anything you think the children would like and dropped off at the office. We would appreciate if one jar per child is donated for the stall to ensure that all students can participate. Please note that the jars need to be at school by Tuesday 3 November at the very latest, not on fete day, as they need to be labelled and sorted before then.

KINDERGARTEN 2016 TRANSITION PROGRAM
The kinder transition program is fast approaching. It was fantastic to see all the parents of next year’s kindergarten at the parent information session last term. It's still not too late to enrol for 2016. If you have or know of anyone who has students beginning kindergarten in 2016 please contact the office. Details of the transition program is as follows:

- Kinder Orientation: 12 Nov 9:15 - 10.15am
- Kinder Orientation: 19 Nov 12pm - 1.15pm
- Kinder Orientation: 26 Nov 12pm - 1.15pm

SPORTING SCHOOLS
This program will continue this term with cricket on Tuesday afternoons for K-2 and tennis on Wednesday for Years 3—6. We will commence next week 3/11 and run for 6 weeks. This program is run using a grant received from the Australian Sports Commission and is free for all students to participate. Please collect your permission notes from the office and return asap.

OFFICE NEWS
Dates for outstanding notes and money at present are:
Australian Folklore $4 every student & Swimming Scheme Years 1—3 for $35 due 13/11/15.
Money for Mini Fete tokens can be sent in next week from Monday 2/11/15. $5 will be sufficient for the day.

Money Bags: Mrs Weedon has come up with a reusable money bag that families will be able to use to send in notes and money and I can send home with your change and receipts. There are samples at the office that you can look at and you can order them on the slip on the back. Cost will be $4 and all money raised will go to the Asthma Foundation. This is another way we can reduce our waste by cutting down the plastic ziplock bags and envelopes used at the moment.

ASSEMBLY AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Shaylee U</td>
<td>Kai C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Kayla K</td>
<td>Madison H</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Alvey W</td>
<td>Phebi M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Max C</td>
<td>Jed R</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>Aaron C</td>
<td>Luke A</td>
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QUALITY WORK AWARDS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>K/1</td>
<td>Joshua T</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Ella P</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/4</td>
<td>Kira V</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>Lochie H</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

HOME READING AWARDS

100 Nights: Kaitlin R
125 Nights: Grace H
**Canteen News**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Staff 1</th>
<th>Staff 2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon 2 Nov</td>
<td>Rea Lunn</td>
<td>Elisha Kimmons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 3 Nov</td>
<td>Kayleen Harrop</td>
<td>Hayley Matthews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 9 Nov</td>
<td>Janelle Mitchell</td>
<td>Annette Andrews</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tue 10 Nov</td>
<td>Mel Linde</td>
<td>Leif Hicks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Community News**

**Weekly lessons now at your School!**  
Keyboard, Guitar, Drums, Singing, Ukulele, Rock Band

**Book Now!**  
Be quick. Limited spaces available!

*Phone 1300 168 742 * Online www.thesoundofbus.com.au

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**Reusable Money Bag Order Form**

- Yes I would like to order a reusable cloth money bag.
- Name: __________________________
- I have enclosed $4

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**This week’s veggies for sale on Thursday:**
Garlic chives, chives, parsley, oregano, rosemary, cabbage, kale, spinach, strawberries and eggs.

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**Share Your World With An Italian Exchange Student.**

Hosting an overseas secondary school student gives Australian families the opportunity to open their hearts and their homes, share their customs, language and interests and create lifelong friendships!

It is about discovering another culture, encompassing different traditions and practices, and supporting a new family member as they do likewise.

To find out more head to our website: https://wep.org.au/host or call us on 1300 884 733.

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