Earlier this week I sent a survey out on the newsletter email distribution list regarding the provision of public education in the Wollombi Valley, currently serviced by Laguna and Wollombi schools. This review has been initiated by the Department of Education and Communities, and it is important that as many voices as possible are heard on this issue. The survey needs to be completed by Monday 19th May. Copies of the survey are available at the school office and the Great Northern Trading Post, and completed surveys may be returned there also. The survey is open to all community members. If you have any further questions regarding this issue, please don’t hesitate to come and see me.

Next week Year 3 and Year 5 students sit the NAPLAN test. On Tuesday, students do two tests of 40 minutes duration each, for Language Conventions (grammar and spelling), and Writing. On Wednesday students complete a 50 minute Reading test, and on Thursday a 40 minute Numeracy test. The best preparation for the students is to have plenty of rest and relaxation in the days preceding each test. Results are usually available in the third term and help to inform school curriculum planning.

We have had lots of positive feedback regarding the school photos, which look terrific. Gavin from Photoworx was a very flexible and generous person to work with and the results are there for all to see.

Please find attached permission notes for the Yr 3-6 Canberra trip in the last week of this term. It is coming upon us fast! The cost is not unsubstantial, so part payments may ease the burden on household finances. We are all looking forward to a fantastic trip!

The next P&C meeting will be held on Tuesday 13th May.

Discover Uni Day for Year 6 students and parents is approaching - 23rd May. An inspiring day, please complete the attached permission note ASAP so we can send Newcastle Uni our numbers for the day.

From Jeanette—please note that the signing register for students arriving late or leaving early is now kept at the office, rather than in the separate classrooms. Also, any Stewart House envelopes need to be returned by this Friday to be eligible for the special prize draw.

- Mr Howe

Good luck to Yinaa and Finley who will represent Laguna Public School a the Regional Cross Country Championships this Friday.

After School Activities resumed this week at Wollombi Tennis Club, with the students from Wollombi PS. Please note that next week the day will move from Tuesday to Wednesday for week 3 only. All other times will remain the same. Thank you to regular helpers Steve Sullivan, Karen Jones and Dennis Sands. All parents are very welcome to help out at After School Activities.

The Small Schools Athletics Carnival is on the horizon, Tuesday 20th May at Turner Park in Cessnock. Parent helpers are always needed to help officiate, so please let Simone know if you are available. These days are always great fun with the focus on effort and participation. There will be separate Junior (K-2) and senior (3-6) programs on the day.

-Simone
School Matters

School Vege Garden News. Year 4, 5 and 6 students have got cracking in the garden, planting peas and beans with scant regard for the recommended sowing times indicated on the seed packets! Our classroom table groups have responsibility for different sections of the gardens, so we will soon see who has the greenest thumbs.

Over the next few weeks we are re-visiting our school values, something we take seriously at Laguna. We believe that by adhering to our values of Respect, Responsibility, Honesty, Compassion and Courage, our students will become positive and active members of our community. This week we are looking at Courage - students in all grades will be encouraged to think about what courage means in the school setting.

Dogs in School! There is no doubt that pets can be a hugely positive influence in child development. It is always exciting for students to introduce new pets to their school friends. However, at home time with lots of excited children, dogs in the playground can be a potential problem. Parents, please exercise caution and common sense in these situations. Thank you!

News from the Musicsphere

"Where words fail, music speaks." – Hans Christian Andersen

We are excited to be hosting Musica Viva on Monday 2nd June at Laguna Hall. In previous years we have attended performances up at Kulnura PS, and the musicianship has been inspiring. This year the featured band is Tigerama, purveyors of spicy Latin beats! Students will be spending time in class learning about the origins of the music as well as the instruments used prior to the performance. Parents are very welcome.

What a great turnout for our first guitar group session on Tuesday. Thank you to Tim ‘T-Reex’ Reeks, who is helping to run the group whose first session involved over 20 students. Next week we will be establishing three groups to cater for the different ability levels. We are looking into purchasing a school set of guitars, but in the meantime students are encouraged to bring their own. As we were packing up, we were thrilled to hear the ‘Smoke On The Water’ riff, freshly taught to the students, being played on the marimbas down below in the playground. Fantastic!

4-5-6 Classroom Happenings

“You and your maths!” admonished Katelyn as Mr Howe prepared for another maths session this week. But what a keen and talented group of mathematicians we have! This week Year 4 are studying fractions, Year 5 are investigating 2D and 3D shapes and Year 6 are looking at numbers over 1 million.

We have begun our studies on Space this term, and are trying to get our heads around the immense distances between the planets in our solar system. We recently popped down to John Forsyth Oval to try and represent a scaled-down model of the solar system. Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars were all within 6 metres of the Sun, while Neptune was about 120 metres away. Year 6 students (and Ben Toohey) calculated that a car travelling non-stop from the Sun at 100kmh would take about 171 years to reach the Earth! I wonder how long it would take that same car to reach Earth from the moon? Or to reach Neptune from the Earth?
K-1 News from Mrs Shaunessy

We have had a great start to Term 2, the class is settled and working hard across all subjects. Homework has gone home and should be returned on Monday. I have also sent home NEW home reader cards. We have a graph set up in the room to assist with maths as well as keeping track of how many books we are reading. Next weeks ‘Show and Tell’ is all about plants, please bring a cutting in of your favourite plant from home and tell us a little bit about it.

We have had a fabulous start to term two in our brand new 2/3 classroom! It has been a very exciting time and it’s wonderful to see the students settle into their new space. We are working together as a team to cross ‘100 Acts of Kindness’ off our chart by the end of term and at the current rate we’ll be done by week 3! This term in science we are studying mini beasts so if you come for a visit don’t be alarmed by the giant insects climbing the walls. I was very pleased to learn that we already have a couple of budding entomologists on our team!

On a personal note, thank you so much everybody for the warm welcome to Laguna PS. I’m really enjoying getting to know everyone and I feel privileged to be part of such a beautiful school with an amazingly positive atmosphere. Ms Sewell

Year 2-3 News

PLANT JOKES
“What kind of tree can fit into your hand?”
“What kind of flower grows between your mouth and your nose?”
“Why was the tomato blushing?”
Answers on the back page.

P&C Meeting
Tuesday 13th May!

All welcome - come and be a part of the fun! Meeting at 3.45 in the Art Room.

What a wonderful way to get to school James.
Weekly Achievement Award Winners!

4-5-6 Classroom Award - Katelyn for improvement and consistency in maths.

2-3 Playground Award - Finley Moffit, for being a kind friend in the playground.

4-5-6 Playground Award - Hunter, for being a good sport!

K-1 Classroom Award - Kiah Supple, starting the term in a positive way and working hard across all subjects.

2-3 Classroom Award - Tristan Moffit, for enthusiasm in learning and a great start to Term 2.

Joke Answers: a. a palm tree; b. a tulip; c. it saw the salad dressing.