**Presentation Night.** Preparations are well underway for this gala night on Tuesday 8th December. Thank you to everyone who has sent in the $10 costume contribution. The evening begins at 6.00pm. To ensure they get time to rest and enjoy a good meal before the event, students may be picked up from school from 12.30. For those unable to take advantage of this arrangement, supervision will of course be in place until 3.30.

**Yr 6 End of Year trip.** Thank you to the P& C, who last year supported the idea of an end-of-year excursion for the Year 6 cohort. It is a great idea—a chance for the Year 6 students to have fun together as a group for perhaps the last time, and a great way to celebrate the completion of primary school. This year our Year 6 students are travelling to Sydney to see the musical ‘Matilda’, at the Lyric Theatre. Permission note attached.

**Bee Day!** Lara is organising a Bee Day this Friday as a way to raise funds for the Starlight Foundation, of which Lara herself has been a beneficiary. Come dressed with some black and yellow on the day, together with a gold coin donation. A wonderful idea Lara—well done.

**Surveys.** A reminder parents - please take 10 minutes to complete the school surveys on learning and culture. It is a great opportunity to provide some feedback to the school on these important areas.

**Teacher Professional Learning.** Ms Sewell and Ms Fitzpatrick have been busy lately visiting some local schools that have received funding to employ expert instructional leaders. These leaders work closely with classroom teachers to analyse and improve teaching practice and introduce new ideas and strategies. The schools have been very accommodating, and there are some great ideas that are being brought back into Laguna PS.

**Parental input** is vital to every child’s educational experience. Inside the newsletter this week are tips for helping your child with reading and writing, sourced from a new NSW Board of Studies publication. Copies of the entire publication are available from the school.

**School Uniforms.** Kellie Jones will be in on Monday and Thursday mornings to take uniform orders in preparation for the beginning of next year. Thank you Kellie!

**Santa to visit Laguna PS!** That’s right! Utilising a long-standing relationship with the local fire brigade, Santa will be making a visit to the school on the morning of Wednesday 16th December, the last day of school. We hear he may be giving out *book presents*, nicely wrapped and labelled with each child’s name. Santa has left his sack in the school office, parents.

**Final Kinder Orientation** this Friday. Year 5 buddies will welcome our pre-school visitors, and be there to welcome them on the first day of school 2016!

*Have a great week! - Mr Howe*
10 THINGS YOU CAN DO
to help your child learn to read

1. Create a positive reading environment at home. Be a reader yourself and encourage your child to read for pleasure as well as information.

2. Make learning to read part of every day. Show your child the written words and symbols that are all around us.

3. Make reading an activity that you and your child can both enjoy. Let your child participate in the reading.

4. Provide a variety of texts at the level your child can read with you. Stories, comics, poems, plays, cartoons, reference books, magazines and children's recipe books all help your child to read.

5. Re-read books. Let your child become familiar with the words, the story and the fluency of an adult reader.

6. Be confident in your child's abilities and proud of their achievements.

7. Don't expect too much too soon. It takes time for children to learn to read so be guided by the pace they set. If your child becomes distressed or loses interest when reading at home, take a break from reading and try again later.

8. Work with your child's teacher. Complete home readers and sight words with your child and speak to the teacher if you have any concerns.

9. Set aside a special time for reading with your child. Aim for 15 to 25 minutes with no interruptions each day.

10. Talk to your child. Engage them in your conversations so they learn new words and ways to express themselves.
10 Things You Can Do To Help Your Child Learn To Write

1. Write in front of your child and talk about what you are writing, for example shopping lists, cards, letters and notes.

2. Display paintings, drawings and pieces of writing that your child brings home from school or pre-school.

3. Give your child different types of paper and different pens, pencils, crayons, chalk and textas for drawing and writing.

4. Encourage your child to draw and to write about their drawing. They might like to keep a scrap book or photo album where they can keep their pictures. Help them to write labels for their photos and drawings.

5. Play word games. Play 'I Spy' or 'Scrabble' together. Help your child to find little words in big words and to write them down.

6. Encourage your child to write. They could write messages to you and other family members, or cards, menus, invitations and letters to friends, family, neighbours and school teachers.

7. Encourage your child to write around the home. They might like to write signs, poems, favourite recipes and instructions, or to label things that they design and make.

8. Praise your child for trying to write words that are new to them.

9. Encourage your child to use technology to help with their writing.

10. Encourage your child to keep a diary and to write in it regularly.
Congratulations to all of last week’s PBL winners!

We value your contribution to the school.

Keep up the good work!

Bronte, 4/5/6 Compassion Award for being a great friend.

Skye, 4/5/6 Playground Award for Honesty in games.

Taj, 2/3 Library Award for Respect.

Zander, 4/5/6 Playground Award for Honesty

Archie, Library Award for Respect.

Georgie, 2/3 Playground Award - thank you!

Piper, 2/3 Responsibility Award for improvement in reading!

Oliver, 4/5/6 Sport Award for leadership.

ZUMBA KIDS!!!

School holiday fun!

For 5 - 11 year olds
Fri 8th, 15th & 22nd January
10am - 10.45am
Wollombi Hall

Bookings essential
$7.50 pp per class
Jablett123@outlook.com
Ph 0414 43 55 76
FB: Zumba-With-Milly