Many thanks to all parents who again presented their children so ready for term 4. We were particularly pleased to welcome back Mrs Musumeci from leave and replaces Ms Brien in the Prep –Yr1 class. Our school was quickly able to pick up from where we left term 3, prepared to meet the challenges of term 4.

Like most terms this one will fly by in the busyness of the end of the year and we will be wishing our Yr 6 folk best wishes before we know it. To this end we need to ensure “that every day counts”. Our attendance rate to date is 95% which is certainly superior to last year but a closer analysis suggests that 10% of our population attend school 100% of the time. 52% attend from 95% to 100% of the time while 22% attend 90% to 95% of the time. Of the remainder we have 6 students who have lost approximately 4 weeks and a few days and another 5 students a total of 6 weeks. Analysis by class indicates that our best group Yr 4 has an attendance rate of 98% followed Yr 2 and Yr 1 on 96% and 95% respectively. Congratulations to those classes who are indeed performing well and to the parents who are great team members.

In a similar way I’d like to thank the parents who work towards the common cause when it comes other matters about which are important element of school life. Primarily lunches are indeed fundamental to learning and living. Processed and sugar filled products are not only counter-productive to health, concentration and listening, they present issues for other families whose young members can’t understand why potential ‘treats’ are brought to school. Jewellery is a like issue whereby one item soon escalates to many and presents problems for other families who possess a different set of values but again the impact is immense on learning. So often these items provide distractions to listening and learning, concentration and deficits in personality traits whereby they are perceived as necessary to ‘fit in’ or indeed ‘to be noticed’. A more positive approach is to work with teachers to easily identify positive elements within learning journeys to achieve very similar effects.

‘Dance Fever’ has certainly gripped LTSS as this company provides two of the coolest male ‘dudes’ one could imagine. And what great young men they are! So well organised, trained, respectful, engaging and fun it’s a credit to them and the company. This is part of a Cluster of Schools project, funded by the Rural and Remote Education Adjustment Program. The plan is to work towards a culminating activity which will be performed for parents during the last weeks of this term. Early indications suggest this will be a show not to be missed.

Twenty eight of our students performed at our Cluster Gala Concert instrumental music performance on Wednesday night. Our contingent certainly punched above their weight in terms of the overall numbers but what was also pleasing was the number of past LTSS students performing as High School students. A number of these, competently and confidently performed solos which indeed provided excellent role models along with all our former students, many of whom are first year learners. Looking forward to future performances.

Until next time.
BUSY TERM ~ BUSY TIMES!

Firstly can I apologise for not having this newsletter out on its regular day—Friday! Elsewhere in this newsletter there has been mention of “fast and furious”, “hang on to your hats”, “hit the ground running” and “the term flying” all referring to the hectic pace this term has been and will be! Already we have had, Instrumental Music Concert, Swimming lessons, Dance Fever, Student Free Day, P&C meeting!

Hopefully this form of contact can resume to its regular distribution cycle. If in any doubt though of events happening, the school office lady is just a phone call away.

CAKE STALL ~ LAST ONE FOR 2015 & DROUGHT ANGLES

This will be held on FRIDAY 13 NOV outside Tackle World Tully. We are hoping to put in a little extra effort with this one because at the recent P&C meeting it was decided to donate a considerable portion of the takings to Drought Angels Queensland.

Our memories are not too fuzzy, when we can remember the wonderful efforts that Operation Angel generated following Cyclone Yasi. We were all blessed with donations of clothing, furniture, gift vouchers, food hampers and many, many other necessities and not to mention the “Shoeboxes of Love”.

Queensland is currently suffering its worst drought on record and we need to help! So this Christmas we are joining with ‘Drought Angels’ – to try and bring some Christmas Cheer to families in need.

Natasha Johnston and Nicki Blackwell, two ladies from Chinchilla have formed ‘Drought Angels’ – a charity to help assist ease the financial burden rural families are facing due to the ongoing drought throughout Queensland. The Drought Angels collect donations of food and groceries which they deliver to families in need. The number of calls from farmers who need help is increasing and the Angels’ cupboard is bare. They are desperately low on food and funds.

Please help with this worthwhile cause. Feel good about being able to help those less fortunate than us, particularly when we were facing similar heartbreak and devastation. Cakes can be brought to the school at any time. If you have other saleable items eg. art/craft, vegetables or fruit send these along as well. If you want to make a money donation towards the stall this too can be dropped off at the school.

Drought Angels have a facebook page for further information: https://www.facebook.com/Drought-Angels

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

Soon you will see some of our Mums selling tickets outside of IGA for the next couple of weeks. This is for our annual Christmas Raffle, this year being an Esky full of Goodies. Could parents please send in worthy items to be included in the esky…..non-perishable items, drinks, craft, Christmas items. ALSO if you could help out with selling of tickets please ring the school or Fiona Bonassi………..we really need your help!
Hello Everyone,

Hold on to your hats!!! Its term 4 and it promises to be just as fast and furious as the rest…

**Friday Swimming Program:** The first 3 swimming sessions went extremely well and students have enjoyed them immensely. I encourage you to send extra food on Fridays and even a cardigan as students are understandably extra sensitive on their return to school.

**Homework:** I am trialling a new approach to homework. Studies have shown children get as much, if not more benefit from *engaging in meaningful hands-on learning experiences with parents and family members*. I can hear you all sighing with relief now!! However, there is a clause: your child only reaps the benefits if they are *engaging in meaningful hands-on learning experiences with parents and family members*. So I plan on setting a weekly task for students to complete with a family member. This task may be as simple as locating and discussing a favourite poem with a parent/caregiver, or helping measure ingredients during cooking. I appreciate your support in this. For those parents who feel their child requires additional curriculum practice at home, please visit www.studyladder.com.au. This website offers interactive revision activities that are tailored to our individual classes needs and compliment what your child has been learning at LTSS. Log in details have been sent home in your child’s reading folder. Please note: no TRADITIONAL homework does not mean students do not need to read. If a child reads every night their chance of success at school improves greatly. There are heaps of studies to support this. Trust me...I’ve read most of them!

![](https://via.placeholder.com/150)

**English:** Students are looking at all sorts of poetry ranging from traditional Australian to children’s nonsense verses. All students will be creating and presenting their own as an assessment piece. Please talk to your child about your own favourite poem/s or even your favourite song lyrics.

**Maths:** Younger students still seem to be struggling with their basic fact recall. If a student can recall rainbow numbers and doubles facts with ease then their brain is better equipped to learn other more complex mathematics. Please model good learning practices/techniques i.e, quick fire rounds whilst driving in the car, model simple math in everyday situations, encourage your child to visit www.studyladder.com.au.

** Regards, Nicky Smith.**
The Prep and Year 1 kids (as well as their teacher!) have hit the ground running in Term 4! There is so much to cram into only 10 weeks before the children move on to their next year level and we’ve had not a minute to spare. In maths we’ve been busy consolidating some basic facts and concepts and in literacy the children have been showing me how well they can encode different sounds to make words, and put words into sentences in order to share their fantastic ideas.

Dance Fever has struck the kids in our class and they can’t wait until Matty and Jay arrive each Tuesday to show them some cool new moves. And of course, our Friday swimming lessons are another exciting event that the kids can look forward to at the end of the week.

Perhaps the most exciting thing happening in our classroom at the moment though, is the assembly of ‘Addtron’s Lab’… a place where the children will don lab coats, safety glasses and special name tags in order to experiment with doubles, and make as many doubles as they can. We’d love for you to pop in and check it out if you have any spare time one day, but don’t even think about entering unless you know the secret password!

It is so lovely to be back at LTSS, and I look forward to meeting all the parents of these beautiful kids.

Best regards,

Julie Musumeci