Thought for the Fortnight
"It's not what you do for your children, but what you have taught them to do for themselves, that will make them successful human beings."

Principal's Message
NAPLAN assessments began yesterday for the students in Years 3 and 5 across Australia. These assessments are a snapshot of your child's learning on this particular day of the year. We are proud of all of our students and value the work and achievements throughout the year. Parents will receive result notifications later in the year.

Last Friday, Mr Winterton and 16 students attended the Penrith District Cross Carnival at Jamison Park Penrith. All of our students achieved their personal bests in completing the challenging course. Congratulations Abbey Wilson on your outstanding 3rd place in the 8/9 girls. Abbey will be representing Penrith District at the Western Sydney Regional Carnival.

Thank you to the many parents who attended the Parent Teacher Interviews on Wednesday 29th May. These times enable parents and teachers the opportunity to discuss the social, behavioural and learning achievements of your child/children. The school values the participation of all parents at Parent Teacher Interviews.

In 2015 we introduced an award at the K-6 Assembly recognising the percentage of students at school on time. It is so important to be at school on time. Being late not only interrupts the late child's learning but also interrupts the students and the teacher in the classroom.

"On Time and Ready to Learn" winners have been:

- Week 6 Term 1 - 1/2
- Week 9 Term 1 - 1/2
- Week 3 Term - 4/5/6

Karen Ellis

Group Photos

Group photos of the School Captains, SRC and Year 6 fun photo are now displayed in the office foyer. If you would like to purchase a photo, please ask for an order envelope. The photos are $16 each. Orders will be sent to The School Photographer on 18th May so there isn’t much time left.
In the previous newsletter, I shared with you the three main stages of learning to read. This week I would like to share with you some answers to some common questions parents ask teachers.

What do I do when my child doesn’t know a word?
Avoid eye contact with your child. Focus your attention on the book as this is where the clues are to figuring out the word. If they are not able to use their phoneme knowledge to successfully read the word, I encourage your child to skip the word and read on for more information. It can also be helpful to look for clues in the picture. It is acceptable to leave the word behind and continue reading. By refocusing the child’s attention back on the meaning of the text, the content of the text will help fill in the blanks. If the word still remains unknown, drop the word into the conversation as you turn the page.

My child spends too long looking at the pictures when they are reading; should I cover the pictures so they can concentrate?
When a child is looking at the pictures, they are gaining valuable information about the meaning of the text. Encourage your child to flick through the pages of the book before they read it, discussing the title of the text and the various pictures. At school we call this the “orientation” of the text. This is a great way to link into your child’s background knowledge, along with introducing the relevant vocabulary which can prepare them for the words to come in the text. Generally, it’s like warming up your muscles for the upcoming race.

Should I get my child to practice individual words they’re having trouble with?
Learning words in isolation does not always translate to being able to figure out unknown words in texts because words can sometimes have multiple meanings eg duck. The most effective way to learn words is therefore in context, that is, in books. Talk about words you both found interesting when the reading is completed and discuss where you have seen these before. Reading widely and frequently is the best way to build your child’s vocabulary.

Feel free to ask your child’s teacher or myself any questions you might have about the reading process. We look forward to sharing our experience with you and hearing about the fun you are having with your child reading books together.

_Lindy Johnson_
Learning and Support Teacher

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**District Cross Country**

Congratulations to the 16 students who represented Luddenham Public School at the District Cross Country Carnival at Jamison Park, Penrith on Friday 8th May, 2015. All students participated extremely well and tried their very best. Luddenham’s representatives included Cameron Cloey, Ziggy North, Thomas Madden, Abbey Wilson, Chloe Darmanin, Alyssa Watson-Bowman, Liam Perram, Dakota London, Crystal Sullivan, Luke Anderson, Connor Russell, Naiobe Reid, Cynanne Dening, Tabbatha Sly, Jayde Wilson and Jade Sullivan. Well done to Cameron (25th), Luke (97th), Naiobe (72nd), Tabbatha (54th) and Jayde (73rd) who came in the top 100 respectively in the District for their age division and to Abbey Wilson who came 3rd and will represent the Penrith District at the Regional Cross Country Carnival. A very special thank you to the parents who assisted with transport to the carnival and provided valuable support to the children, especially Mrs Wilson for taking and setting up the awning and tarpaulin.
P&C News

The next P&C meeting will be held on this Friday 15th May

The meeting is held in the library immediately after the morning assembly. Everyone is welcome and we would love to see some new members.

Canteen

Today your child will have brought home a note asking parents to volunteer their time in the canteen. At this point, the canteen is only open on a Monday and you would only be required to give up two hours of your time to help prepare the lunches and serve the children during lunch time. Any help you can offer would be greatly appreciated. If you are able to help, please return the form to the office as soon as possible.

A special lunch order day will be held next Wednesday, 20th May. Notes will come home today and orders need to be placed by Tuesday 19th.

Lids for the Wombats

A representative from the National Parks and Wildlife Service came by today to pick up the lids from ice cream containers we have been collecting for the wombats. She asked me to thank our community for doing such a good job and asked if we would continue to collect for them. Once again we have demonstrated what a generous and caring community we have here at Luddenham Public School. Thank you.

Winter Tunic

If anyone is looking to purchase a new winter tunic for their daughter, I have a size 4 and a size 6 in the office. The tunics are new and are $55 each.

Collect for a Good Cause

Don’t forget to collect your ring pulls, bread ties and tea bag tags for Liverpool Hospital. There is a container in the office to put your collection in.

Years 5 and 6 Canberra Excursion

This year the students in Years 5 and 6 are invited to a 3 day trip to Canberra in Term 4. Luddenham students will be attending this trip with students from Mulgoa Public, Orchard Hills Public and Wallacia Public Schools.

The trip is from Wednesday 21st October to Friday 23rd October 2015. Travel will be by coach and accommodation will be in shared rooms, hotel style accommodation in Canberra.

The cost of the trip is $320 per child and includes all meals (except recess and lunch on the first day), activities, accommodation and transport by coach. To help with the cost of the trip you may pay in instalments. All camp payments must be finalised by the due dates. All students will be required to pay a $50 deposit by Friday 22nd May 2015, to confirm exact numbers.

A note was sent home a couple of weeks ago with more details. If you did not receive the note, please ask at the office or print a copy from the website.
What’s Happening at Luddenham PS

May

**Thur 14th**  NAPLAN—Numeracy
**Fri 15th**  P&C Meeting
**Fri 15th**  Football (soccer) program
**Fri 22nd**  Football (soccer) program
**Wed 20th**  P&C Special lunch order—Sausage Sizzle
**Wed 27th**  K-6 Assembly—2:20pm
**Fri 29th**  Football (soccer) program

June

**Wed 3rd**  Responsible Pet Ownership
**Fri 5th**  Football (soccer) program
**Mon 8th**  Public holiday
**Fri 12th**  Football (soccer) program
**Wed 17th**  K-6 Assembly—2:20pm
**Fri 19th**  Football (soccer) program

Reminders

- P&C sausage sizzle lunch order needs to be placed by Tuesday 19th May
- $50 deposit and expression of interest note for Years 5 and 6 Canberra trip is due by **Friday 22nd May**
- If you have misplaced a note which came home, or your child was away and didn’t receive one, you can print off a copy from the school website—www.luddenham-p.schools.nsw.edu.au
- $120 second payment for Years 5 and 6 Canberra trip is due by **Friday 19th June**
- Final payment of $150 for Years 5 and 6 Canberra trip is due by **Friday 21st August**
- Please label all your child’s belongings, including clothing, hats, lunch boxes, drink bottles etc.
- If your child is absent from school they should bring in a signed note explaining their absence on the day they return.

**Student Absence Note**

Student Name .................................................................................................................. Class .........................

Date of absence ..................................................

Reason for absence ..................................................................................

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