



# LUMSDEN SCHOOL

Newsletter Issue 9 – March 29<sup>th</sup> 2019

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- **Fonterra – Open Day**
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### Attached:

- **2018 Parent Survey Summary**

### **Reminders:**

- Download the School Stream app to receive texts and updates - Go to [schoolstream.com.au/](http://schoolstream.com.au/) download to download
- For Bus transport information go to [www.dome.easybus.nz](http://www.dome.easybus.nz)

Dear School Friends and Families



One of our Strategic Goals is to do with increasing student engagement in learning. At our board meeting this week, we looked at information which staff had gathered about how well children were engaged in their learning across the various learning areas in terms of % time on task. We found that most of our children were on task for at least 50% of their learning time, including many above 80%. The challenge for us is to plan and implement strategies to foster increased learning focus for those students who aren't so engaged. We'll monitor this throughout the year, and hopefully we will see some positive 'shifts' in the data.

Speaking of the Charter, it is currently with the Ministry of Education for approval, and once we have received their feedback, we will pop it onto our Facebook page as well as having hard copies at school for those who would like one to read. Our Charter review process has resulted in a more readable, concise document this year.

A reminder to those of you interested in the possibility of becoming a Board member, do feel free to contact myself or Michelle (Board Chair) if you'd like to express an interest and/or ask about what the role involves.

Michelle's email is [glenandmoo@gmail.com](mailto:glenandmoo@gmail.com) and ph 027 312 3032.



On Thursday staff from FiNS Kahui Ako (Community of Learning) met for a workshop focussed on effective transitions from primary to secondary. It was a great opportunity for schools to get a shared understanding about what the priorities should be, share some 'gems' about what works well, talk about the challenges, and come up with strategies to improve experiences and outcomes for our transitioning children.



A fun finish to our swimming programme on Wednesday, with Whero taking out the shield after the House Swimming Relay points were added up. Many thanks to all of the parent helpers we have had throughout the term. We simply could not have managed without this help, which provides our required safe adult-child ratio at the pool.

Best wishes to our 7 children who are competing at the Southland Athletics Champs at Surrey Park this weekend. It's a big achievement to reach this level of competition.

Thanks to Amanda Russell for taking on a new Board 'communications' role – See her first BoT News update enclosed.

Congratulations to Leah King, Daisy Cooper, Elijah Thompson, Lucus Clark and Parker Maclean who have all earned their Bronze Awards this week for receiving 20 Gotchas so far this term (for displaying kindness, and great attitude to learning). I'm confident that every child in the school now knows our two key expectations, and it's great to see these Gotchas going out as staff 'catch' children displaying them.



Have a good weekend. Ngā Mihi,

Andrew Watson  
Principal

## Looking Ahead 2019

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1 Apr	2 Staff Positive Behaviour for Learning Training – Relievers each class	3	4	5	6	7 S'land Swimming Champs
8	9	10 Eileen Ryan PHN here	11	12 Duffy Role Model Assembly 9.30 am; End of Term 1	13	14

### **Board of Trustees (BOT) Update:**

The five BOT members of Lumsden School Michelle Mitchell, Simon Saunders, Ang Sheat, Carrie Adams and Amanda Russell meet monthly with Principal Andrew Watson and Staff Representative Chloe Madden to ensure the smooth governance of the school. Issues that the BOT have recently been discussing include:

- The Bike Park project; funding and safety plan.
- Employing a caretaker to ensure the school grounds are well maintained and pressure is taken off parents and FOLS.
- Property developments such as the new boiler and renovation of the schools hallway space to provide an art bay and break out learning spaces.
- Tracking of student progress across all curriculum areas.
- Developing a new system for ongoing review of school policies and procedures following the withdrawal from School Docs.
- The development of a new Charter for the school based on the Community Consultation carried out in 2018. A summary of key themes from parent's responses to this consultation can be found attached to this newsletter and look out for the new Charter and Annual Plan which will show how the school will address the issues raised.
- The government's Tomorrows Schools Review.

Next term the election of BOT members will be held in June and we will be looking for nominations to replace a few outgoing members. Being a BOT member is an exciting way to shape the future direction of Lumsden School and it is important that the BOT represents all members of our school community. If you are interested in finding out more, please speak to either Andrew, Chloe or one of our BOT members.

### **Year 5 and 6 Camp Fundraiser for Dunedin Camp in Term 4** **Northern Southland Diners Club Catering**

Money raised to come off everyone's costs so it would be great to have lots of helpers.

When: Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 6-10pm

This is the first week back after the holidays.

What's involved?

I need help on the night which would involve helping serve, clearing plates and washing dishes.

Volunteers to do some baking prior to the night also needed.

I will require help with meal preparation on the Monday.

Contact Deb Cowie 021 174 2643

### **Financial Contribution**

The Board of Trustees respectfully ask for financial donations from each family to the value of \$100 per child for the first two children and \$70 for the third per annum.

We ask that you pay \$25 per child (for the first two) and \$17.50 for the third child for the first term now. Alternatively you may wish to pay the full annual donation as a lump sum. Please make payment to Sharon in the office at school or directly into the school bank account 030960-0112624-00 (child/ren's name as reference).

Thanks to those families who have already paid.

### **Lumsden Values BRONZE AWARD Winners**



Lucus, Elijah, Parker, Leah, Daisy with their Bronze Award Certificates, having earned 20 Gotchas so far this year.

### **School Lawns**

Here are the guidelines to follow;

- Pick up the school mower shed key from the Four Square Supermarket
- Check the mower has fuel and fill from can in shed if necessary. Please let the school know if petrol can is low and we will refill
- Check the map attached to the mower showing which areas to mow
- Catcher loads of grass can be emptied around the back of the school next to the sports container. Wheelbarrow next to shed or in vege garden area available if required
- Top mower up with fuel, when finished and return key to Four Square Supermarket.

The roster for the next few weeks is:

- 23/24 March Dhakal Family
- 30/31 March Drummond Family

### **Room 4 Easter Bunny Writing**

If I was the Easter Bunny I would eat all the eggs. But I will save eggs. I will eat one more egg. – By Duncan

If I was the Easter Bunny I would hand out the eggs to my friends. I will hide them. – By Elijah

If I was the Easter Bunny I would make chocolate and make it into bunnies. Then I would put wrapping over it. It would have golden wrapping. I would hide it behind bushes. I will give them to friends. – By Daisy

If I was the Easter Bunny I will share Easter eggs with Mrs Stevens and my friends too. They will be chocolate. I will put the eggs in a basket. I will hop. – By Leah

If I was the Easter Bunny I would wrap up the Easter Eggs. And I will eat some Easter eggs. The children will be excited. I will hide the Easter eggs in the bushes. – By Rosy

If I was the Easter Bunny I would take my Easter eggs in a basket. I would eat the Easter eggs. I would hide my eggs in the trees. – By Dean

# WE'RE LIFTING THE LID ON DAIRY PRODUCTION

COME SEE HOW IT'S DONE

Fonterra is opening the gates to our Edendale site for the local community to come and see what we're turning our delicious milk into.

**6 APRIL 2019**

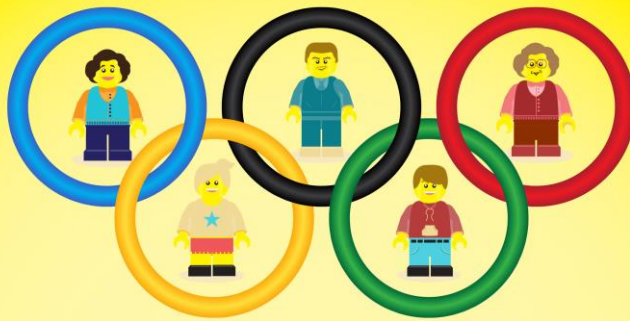
BOOK YOUR SITE VISIT AT

**OPENGATES  
.CO.NZ**



Dairy for life

SOUTHLAND DISTRICT LIBRARIES PRESENTS



# THE LEGO GAMES

A FREE EVENT FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN FEATURING LEGO-BASED ACTIVITIES, CHALLENGES AND FUN.

**MONDAY, APRIL 15**

OTAUTAU 10.30AM TO 12 NOON

LUMSDEN 10.30AM TO 12 NOON

**TUESDAY, APRIL 16**

WINTON 10.30AM TO 12 NOON

TE ANAU 10.30AM TO 12 NOON

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17**

RIVERTON 10.30AM TO 12 NOON



SOUTHLAND  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Lumsden School**  
**2018 Parent Survey**

**Key Themes of the 25 responses received:**

**Bi-culturalism:**

When asked what the school did well the most common answer was Kapa Haka and Polyfest which parents said was very enjoyable this year. Good cultural programs at the school were also listed as important and some parents want more Māori language to be taught and better pronunciation of Te Reo with suggestions to make Kapa Haka and marae visits bi-annual, more speakers visiting the school to korero and more appropriate songs at assembly.

**Community:**

Likewise the involvement of the community and families at school events and programs as well as good support for individual children and families was seen as a strength of the school by most parents and something that it was important to continue to encourage. The clubs program and lunchtime activities was praised by many parents, as was the Bike park, speeches and variety of local speakers talking at the school. Generally the school was seen as welcoming towards new families and students and parents appreciated the way that activities involving the whole school and small mixed age classes fostered tuakana-teina (older-younger) relationships between children.

When asked what opportunities the school could take better advantage of, involving the retired community, multi-cultural communities and local businesses were suggested.

**Communication:**

Many parents believe there is good communication between the school and home and like the weekly newsletter, use of School Stream and relevant Facebook presence. Some parents however believe that there could be better communication, especially around behavioural issues and want consistent emails and communication from duty and relief teachers to know about events that impact on the emotional well being of their children. Some parents also wanted a more current and relevant website for the school and consistent protocols for reports across all year levels.

**Behaviour:**

Many parents support the positive encouragement of behavior at Lumsden School. They like the inclusive, values focused approach and natural consequences for inappropriate behavior, saying that bullying has reduced, behavior is generally good and that the school environment is safe. Some parents however feel that there are inconsistent playground expectations among teachers and want stricter discipline for 'repeat offenders'/bullies and a stronger stance on bad behavior. Continuing to focus on positive school values, life skills and behavior is important to most families of the school with one suggesting mindfulness as a possible approach.

**Teachers / Classes:**

Parents were very happy with the small class sizes and student teacher ratios at Lumsden School and felt that there had been good consultation with parents around class placement. Generally, parents found the teachers to be welcoming, confident and professional and the Principal to be approachable and a great leader. Parents placed great importance of having a welcoming environment to both students and parents coming into the school and in to classrooms. There was also the suggestion of a parent help roster.

Some parents also placed importance on continuity of teachers with less reliance on relief teachers. They felt that this could compromise benefits to children from the schools CoL involvement, for example.

However networking and information sharing with other schools was seen as important and many parents wanted to ensure the highest quality teachers were retained and motivated through support from the parents and BOT.

**Curriculum:**

Most parents appreciate the out of classroom opportunities and variety of fun, holistic, project based activities at Lumsden school, with most parents feeling that it is important to encourage more of these activities to create a positive learning environment and important life skills. The importance of play based learning in the Junior school was also mentioned by many parents who suggested including more art, music, construction and messy play in the NE/junior classes.

Of most importance to many parents however was 'focusing on the basics' of meeting reading, writing and maths milestones to ensure students are well prepared to enter college - by finding the perfect balance between developing the person and these skills. Parents were divided about the role of technology in supporting this goal with some parents calling for more digital technology in the classroom and praising programs such as coding, EPro8 and Lit Quiz and others calling for less technology and more (hand) writing.

PE was another area many parents wanted to see developed, with more focus on enjoyment and less reliance on parent input. The school camp and ski/winter trips were praised and the idea of extending them suggested.

More agriculture in the curriculum was also a major theme through the survey with suggestions of the schools participation in Agrikids and Enviroschools.

When asked what opportunities Lumsden could take advantage of, better links and cooperation with the local ECE centres (Playcentre and Riverstones) and NS College were suggested as was links to the local rural farming community and environment (eg, national parks, fishing, ski fields).

**Physical environment:**

The Cycle track was certainly the highlight with many parents praising its improvement to the physical environment, support from the local community and promotion of physical activity. Many parents also commented that the school grounds were looking a bit messy and could be better kept. Suggestions were made around the school joining Enviroschools or an agricultural club set up to encourage more gardening and care for the school environment by students.

Library: The library was also seen as a resource that could be better used by many parents with suggestions that it open at lunchtimes and allow borrowing twice a week.

**Outside issues:**

Included: busy parents, financial strains on parents (one parent suggested that parents transport to events and school camp should be funded), isolation (and home school divide for bus families), the weather, and most mentioned was the transient nature of the community and many students.

**What most parents would like to see in 10 years:**

"Happy" children, teachers, parents, families and community was mentioned by most parents. As was modern facilities, holistic learning, high achievement and a school that is a leader.

**Summarised by Lumsden School BOT member Amanda Russell**