Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back to 2013. I hope everyone has had a fabulous start to the New Year. It was great to see the students returning with smiles and energy ready for the new school year. I would like to welcome Braithen, Jordan, Bailey, Sharnae and Bethany to Lakeside School.

As you would be aware, we will be moving to our new site in Term 3 this year, with work already commencing on the old Gateshead West PS site. As part of our move we have established an Advisory Committee and require a parent to be part of this committee, so please let me know if you are interested. If you have any questions in regards to the transition, please don’t hesitate to contact me on 49438999.

As you may notice, we have made some changes to our logo this year (as above) following consultation with staff, students and parents/carers in 2012. I would also encourage you to check out our website with regular updates, school information and class news.

Over the next couple of weeks teachers will be organising their Individual Education/Transition Plan meetings. These meetings are an important part of the school planning process for your child. Your child’s class teacher will be in touch to organise a suitable meeting time with you and any support person you may wish to bring, e.g. ADHC caseworkers, psychologists etc.

General permission notes and health care updates were sent out in Week 1. It is important that these notes and forms are returned promptly so your child can access community programs throughout the year. **Could I also ask that student items and clothing be labelled with their names to reduce confusion, especially when packing bags at the end of the day.**

**P & C Meeting:**  Our next P&C Meeting will be in Week 6 on **Monday 4th March at 1 pm**. I would like to invite all parents/carers to discuss the future direction of our P&C and school.

**School Fees:** School fees have remained the same as 2012 with the Voluntary School contribution set at $40. You can pay this amount in full or progressively throughout the year. All contributions are voluntary. Government funds provide the basic framework for our resources. However, we rely on parent contributions to provide additional items for classrooms to assist with learning. Thank you to those who have paid your student’s weekly Cooking and Community Access costs. Please don’t forget these can be paid weekly or by the term. The Community Access amount of $20 per term (total of $80 per year) helps to cover the costs of our buses which are used each week to take our students on their shopping outings and community visits. You will be receiving a “Statement of Account” this week which sets out Term 1 fees.

**If you are having difficulty in paying school fees, please contact the school for a Student Assistance application form.**

Wishing you all the best.
Darren Barnett
Principal

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**Dates to Remember**

**P&C Meeting ~ 1 pm**

**Monday, 4th March**