6 November 2015

Principal’s Message

The big event last week was our Award’s Night which is a celebration of the achievements of our students in academic, sporting and community fields. Congratulations to all of our winners – it is truly great to see so many students rewarded for their hard work.

Thank you to the many businesses and community groups that make our Award’s Night a wonderful evening, with the donations of prizes and awards.

Thank you to Deputy Principal, Nick Stead, and his team for pulling the Award’s Night together. The preparation and planning begins early in the year and continues with a large number of people contributing to the successful night.

Congratulations to our 2016 School Leaders. The process for election is that students nominate what position they wish to apply for, write an application, sit an interview, give a speech to the student body, then there is a general vote. Feedback is also given from the Year 11 Leadership Camp. The points are aggregated across these five areas and the elected leaders are:

School Captains: Lachlan Smith and Kaitlyn Horne
Vice Captains: Shannon Cossor and Darci Perry
Spartans House Captains: Chrissie Jacobie and Kyle Thomas
Warriors House Captain: Lachlan Heisner and Jontti Arnold

Acknowledgements:

In this time of severe drought, it is wonderful that community organisations support our students. Many thanks to the CWA for their donation of $500 to the school to be used for students in need. Please see the article later in this newsletter regarding assistance available from the CWA.

Also, many thanks to St Brigid’s Catholic Church ‘Back to School Support Voucher’ for their kind donation of $50 for each student in the school. This voucher is to be used in three businesses in the town to purchase their book supplies for next year. Again, this is a great help for parents to know that they will have a contribution to their student’s book bill. The vouchers will be distributed to all students continuing at Longreach High School in 2016 at the end of the school year in the last mail out.

Uniform: This is a reminder that Longreach State High school is a uniform school as decided by the P & C. This means that as a student enrolling in the school, they agree to abide by the uniform policy of the school. The tuckshop stocks shirts, shorts and skirts. Students are expected to wear this school uniform.

Our main issue is with shorts – they need to be plain black and of a decent length with no colour, writing or logos such as the CCC of Canterbury. Students will be expected to wear the correct uniform and if shorts are not of the correct length or have colour, then they will need to purchase the correct ones.

Shoes are to be plain black or white and can be bought in town (Leading Edge and TBone).

Thanks parents for your support on this matter.

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

Firstly, I would like to congratulate our current school leaders on running a fantastic evening. You all spoke well and demonstrated what great ambassadors you are for our school. To our leaders elect, congratulations on your 2016 appointment!

The number of students receiving awards on the night clearly demonstrates what a great group of young people we currently have at Longreach High School.

We would also like to thank our sponsors for our “Awards of Distinction”! Every student has a talent and your support allows us to acknowledge the range of talents within our student body.

Thank you to all students, parents, staff and guests for your attendance on the night and preparation leading up to the evening.

Below we have listed some of our recipients from Awards Night.
Letting Go Of The Past

As we head into the countdown until the end of the school year, it is good to take time to reflect on the year that was; the highs, the lows, the triumphs, the good times, the bad times. Once we have done this, it is even better that we let it go.

If you have been hurt badly by people or by circumstances, you can often find yourself reliving those experiences over and over in your mind. Think about this though – if you picked up a small pebble every time something upset you or someone offended you and refused to put it down, it wouldn’t be very long before you had collected an astronomical amount of pebbles. Carrying this burden would eventually start to impact all areas of your life; your health and your happiness.

And so it is with the hurts in your life. You can choose to hang onto them or let them go. You can cling tightly to the memory of every disappointment and negative experience or you can choose to not dwell on it and move on in your thinking and life. If you choose to hang onto past hurts, I can guarantee that you will not be happy or an emotionally healthy person.

Recognise that there is nothing you can do to change the past; as Timon and Pumba from The Lion King say “leave your past behind you”. You have the power to decide whether you allow past hurts to dictate your happiness - the choice is yours.

Year 12s, as you head into the “real world” in a couple of weeks’ time, I hope that you will take what you have learnt from your schooling years and learn from your mistakes. Don’t hang onto the past twelve years as a thorn in your side but rather preparation for what life may throw at you. May you continue to grow into the fine young men and women we all know you can be. Be wise, have fun, stay safe and enjoy this next chapter of your lives.

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

Day for Dawn

On Friday 30 October we held a Day for Dawn fundraiser in order to help the King family with the associated costs of Dawn’s treatment. The day was a huge success with many
students and staff breaking out their best orange shirt (Dawn’s favourite colour) with a gold coin donation.

Some students and staff went above and beyond, donating notes rather than coins – a huge thank you to those people. In total, we managed to raise $428 for the Dawn King Appeal and while the snapchat of the cash sent to Dawn didn’t look that impressive on screen, the impact it has on the King family certainly was.

Erin Landles
Drama & English Teacher

Longreach CWA

I have attached a CWA rural crisis form you may like to distribute to families. This assistance is open to anyone and although not listed on the form, may be used for school fees, other educational expenses and many other things. We encourage families to just apply. All applications are dealt with by the Queensland State CWA President in Brisbane; no one local handles them so confidentiality is maintained.

The Longreach branch of CWA can distribute $200 cash cards to families with children who have medical issues. Again the recipients remain anonymous to us and cards would be delivered to the school. We supply an art/craft bag of goodies to all children in the family (or would adapt it appropriately for teens) so just require the ages and gender of the children in the family.

Fiona Owens
Longreach CWA

Kangaroo Culling

Longreach State High School wishes to advise the public that under Damage Mitigation Permit WIMP16163015, culling of kangaroos will occur on various Tuesday and Thursday nights until 31 December 2015.

School Calculators

If students have lost or broken their school calculators, replacements are available from the office at a cost of $16.00.

Lost Property

There are a lot of school jumpers in lost property. Please check at home and if your student is missing theirs it could be in lost property. Any items not claimed will be donated to St Vinnies at the end of the school year.

Leaving Longreach High?

If you are moving onto another school in 2016 check with the office to find out if your students account is in credit. If it is you will need to fill in the “Claim for Payment” form which is on the side panel of this newsletter. This form must be completed before a refund can be processed.

Coming Events

P & C Meeting

The final P & C meeting for 2015 will be held on Monday 23 November at 7 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Important Notices:

Traineeships Available

Musica Viva in Schools Ensemble “Entourage” visits Longreach

Entourage, an ensemble consisting of some of Brisbane’s finest musicians, will be performing at Longreach High School on Thursday 12 November. Students will also be participating in a workshop with composer Nicole Murphy. Entourage are presenting a free Remembrance Day concert along with the Caterpilla Choir and the Longreach Town Band at the Civic Centre on Wednesday night – see the attached poster for details!