



LONGREACH
STATE HIGH SCHOOL
SOARING TO SUCCESS

Jabiru Street
Longreach QLD 4730
Subscribe: <http://longreachshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: admin@longreachshs.eq.edu.au
Phone: 07 4652 8333
Fax: 07 4652 8300



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Principal's Message



Very Sad News

Many of you will have heard the very sad news of the passing last week of one of our Year 12 students, Che-Lee Jackson-Jennar. Che was a much respected member of our Year 12 cohort; lively, intelligent, thoughtful, independent and kind. It is incredibly sad that such a

promising young life has ended so early. We miss her dearly and our thoughts are with her family and friends. The family will be holding a memorial service at the Apex Park at the river on Saturday 11 March at 5pm.

Such a tragic event reminds us all of the importance of community and supporting one another; a characteristic that Longreach has in spades. Thank you to all for your well wishes and support. Che-Lee's family is very grateful for it. Thanks go to our Guidance Officer, Mr Andrew Ruzicka, and our Chaplain, Mrs Kerry Morton, who supported the students and staff wonderfully last week. Thanks also go to our local and regional schools, who provided us with practical and moral support. Thank you so much.

Fantastic Year 12 OP Results - #1 in Queensland

Hearty congratulations go to last year's Year 12 Longreach SHS cohort and our wonderful staff for their end of school results. We heard earlier this week that Longreach SHS had the state's most successful OP results, with 62.5% of our OP eligible students scoring an OP1-5. That comparison includes all state, catholic and independent schools; a brilliant result, which attracted significant media interest. On top of that, as

mentioned in our previous newsletter, 100% of our Year 12 students, 34 in all, achieved a QCE (Queensland Certificate of Education) and you can't do better than that. Lesley Andrews, who was our Principal last year, has passed on how incredibly proud she is of our students and staff. I think our school motto says it all, "Big enough for opportunities, small enough to care."

District Swimming Championships

Our District Swimming Championships were recently held in Barcaldine. The Longreach SHS students represented themselves with distinction and we are proud of them. In particular, Jesse Butt won the Open Boys Age Championship. Congratulations Jesse!

Visit by Assistant Director General Dr Regan Neumann

Earlier this week, Assistant Director General for Rural and Remote Schools, Dr Regan Neumann, visited our school to share his thoughts on the challenges and opportunities for schools in Queensland rural and remote communities. Regan spoke with a number of the local Principals and demonstrated his passion for and expertise in rural and remote state education. We are very grateful that Regan has given up his valuable time to collaborate with our school communities. Thank you Regan.

Student Attendance

Research and evidence very clearly shows that increased student attendance is critical in helping to ensure increased student results. Giving best effort, every lesson, every day, is absolutely fundamental. This is the cornerstone of our success as a school. One of our goals as a school this year is to lift student attendance rates. Whilst these are already satisfactory across the school, I believe there is room for improvement. Thank you to all parents for supporting this and reinforcing this

regularly with your student, through conversations and through partnership with the school.

P & C AGM

Our P & C Annual General Meeting will be held next Monday 27th of February at 7pm in the library. I would love to see as many parents as possible there and encourage you all to attend. A vibrant P & C is a very important part of our school and will be a valued forum for school progress and communication throughout the year. See you there.

Staff Farewell

Thanks go to two staff members who will be leaving us. One of our teachers, Ms Nicole Douglas, will be taking leave until mid next year. Nicole has been a fantastic asset to our teaching staff and she will be sorely missed. Having said that, Nicole will more than likely do some supply work for us, for which we are most grateful. Thank you Nicole. In addition we farewell Ms Wendy Hunt, who has been working with us as a teacher aide replacing Noleen Rogers. Thank you for your dedication Wendy - it has been greatly appreciated.

Patrick Bruck
Principal

Deputy Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Students,

As we approach the mid-point of Term 1, students will be well and truly engaged in learning and assessment. All parents will receive an Assessment Planner through their email account for Years 7 - 12 for Semester 1. Parents are encouraged to contact the school and update their home

email contact details if they have changed so that you can receive these important notifications. Those parents unable to access email can request a hard copy of the Semester 1 Assessment Planner through the school office. Parents/students are encouraged to read and record these important dates in their diary or weekly organiser.

On another note, those students who are struggling with assessment tasks or workload are encouraged to talk to their teacher before the due date to ensure that they can receive the extra support or learning required to complete the task. Senior students in particular must pay careful attention to due dates as failure to submit work on time can result in a fail grade and loss of valuable points for their Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE).

This week a number of our senior students have commenced a Certificate 2 course in Rural Operations at the Longreach Agricultural College. This exciting program has been designed specifically for Year 10-12 high school students and will see them gain a range of valuable skills and nationally recognised certification in Agricultural Studies. If you or your child wish to find out about this or one of the many other vocational courses available at Longreach State High School please contact Mr Dave Scutt on 4652 8333 or dscut4@eq.edu.au.

In other news, on Monday the 20 February a large number of people from the school and wider community attended the Advancing Rural and Remote Education forum held at the Longreach School of Distance Education. This was a great event to hear and share ideas with other key stakeholders and community representatives about how we, as individuals and organisations, can further advance the learning and educational opportunities of our children. We look forward to the results of this forum as they are compiled after a state wide process. Later this year in Term 2, Longreach State High School will also be calling on our parents and community to give us valuable feedback as to our future goals and direction as part of our Quadrennial School Review. We seek to gain feedback from a wide cross-section of students, parents and community to assist us in developing ways to work better with other organisations and improve the educational environment for our children. More details on this process will be distributed later in the term.

Once again, thank you for a great start to the year and I look forward to the year ahead.

Brendan Krueger
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Head of Department's Message



Last Thursday saw the Clash in the Splash go down as a very tight affair. With the Warriors leading throughout the day, the Spartans dug deep in the relays to eventually overtake the Warriors and win 1388 points to 1249 points. Participation in all the events was impressive as students sought refuge in the water away from the

hot sun.

Age champions:

- 12 years:** Corey McCoy and Lucy Chay
- 13 years:** Dean McCoy and Aiyahna Browning
- 14 years:** Harrison Kent and Anne McLachlan
- 15 years:** Zaiden Browning and Genevieve Madden
- 16 years:** Kalab Madden and Keeleigh McCoy
- Opens:** Jesse Butt and Kate Bartley

There were a number of records broken on the day also – so a big congratulations to the following record holders:

- 12 years** 50m Freestyle Lucy Chay
- 12 years** 50m Breaststroke Jack Worland
- 12 years** 50m Breaststroke Lucy Chay
- 12 years** 50m Backstroke Lucy Chay
- 12 years** 50m Butterfly Corey McCoy

The next carnival will be the Cross Country which will be held in the last week of this term, where the Warriors will be looking at levelling the series before the big Athletics carnival.

A big thank you to all staff and students who assisted on the day. Without your enthusiasm and hard work the swimming carnival would not have gone ahead.

Congratulations Spartans, and watch out for the Warriors' revenge in the Cross Country.

Dave Scutt
Curriculum HOD

Central West Swimming Carnival

Congratulations to the following students who attended the Central West Swimming Carnival in Barcaldine last week:

Aiyahna Browning
Kiesha Underwood
Madison Hamilton
Jesse Butt
Max Mathews
Lucy Chay
Jacqui Causer
Jack Worland
Anne McLachlan
Olivia Palmer

Special mention must go to Anne McLachlan and Jesse Butt who both made it through to the North West Carnival, due to be held in Cloncurry at the end of the month. Jesse also picked up age champion at the carnival, a massive effort on his behalf.

It was a long, hot day, but all students represented Longreach High with the utmost level of sportsmanship and behaviour and should be incredibly proud of themselves.



Hannah Dionysius
Teacher/Sports Coordinator

Financial News

Statements have been issued to all students for 2017 School Fees. If you have difficulty paying the school fees please call in to the office and arrange a payment plan.

A reminder that all school fees must be paid in full before students are permitted to attend school camps, senior formal or collect their ID Cards. Senior jerseys must be paid in full before students can collect them.

Conveyance Committee

The AGM of the Conveyance Committee will be held on Thursday 2 March at 5:30 - 6:15pm at the Longreach State High School, in the library.

The Conveyance Committee provides an invaluable role in the administration of each kilometre-based school bus service. The local area knowledge possessed by the conveyance committee assists in ensuring that the route, timetable and bus stops for the service meet the specific transport needs of the students.

Members of Conveyance Committees must be parents/guardians of distance eligible students who are using this service.

Advancing Rural and Remote Education in Queensland

The Department of Education and Training is committed to ensuring that all state school students, regardless of where they live in Queensland, have access to high quality learning opportunities within their local communities and beyond.

As such, the department is currently developing a new rural and remote education strategy which will focus on valuing people, enhancing student potential and building positive partnerships.

As valued members of our school community, you are encouraged to have your say by taking part in an online survey.

<http://www.education.qld.gov.au/ruralandremote/>

P & C President's Message:

A reminder that the Longreach High P & C Association's Annual General Meeting is scheduled to take place in the school library from 7pm Monday, 27 February (with a general meeting to follow).

A membership form is attached. It is possible to seek membership of the Association (through the form) at our AGM without being present at the meeting. Seeking membership through the remainder of the year must be done in person at a general meeting.

Christo Jacobie
P & C President

Free Microsoft Office 2016 for Students and School Staff

All Queensland state school staff and students can now download multiple free copies of the latest Microsoft Office to their **personal** home computers and mobile devices.

With Office 2016, students and staff will have access to the latest version of Word for writing, Excel for spreadsheets, PowerPoint for presentations, OneNote for organisation and notetaking, and much more.

Students and staff will need to use their school email address to sign in. The subscription lasts for as long as they are a Queensland state school student or school-based staff member.

It is important to note that Office 2016 is available for personal devices only, not devices owned by the Department or part of a school network. Errors and conflicts will occur if Office 2016 is downloaded on departmental devices, as these devices already have a licensed copy of Microsoft Office.

To download Office 2016 to a PC or Mac, visit the link below, log in using your school email address, click through to install and follow the on-screen process. For tablets and

smartphones, download from the app store and sign in with your school email address. Detailed instructions are available at the link below.

<http://portal.office.com/>

<http://www.education.qld.gov.au/office2016>