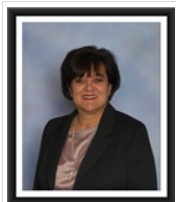




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31 January 2014

Principal's Message



Welcome to the 2014 school year. It is good to see we have had some rainfall in the district even though we didn't have much in Longreach.

New Staff starting this year are Mr Sampson who is our new Manual Arts Teacher and Ms Grocott who is replacing Ms Landles whilst she is on maternity leave. Unfortunately, the District had to rationalise the number of Guidance Officers in the area. Mr Sinclair will be our Guidance Officer one day a week and will work with students on Career Guidance as well as counselling. Mr Ruzicka elected to stay in the district and is still on staff as a DRT. Simone Pix as also on staff as a DRT.



Simone Pix, Teacher; Matthew Sampson, Teacher; Adam Zuurbier, Teacher; Marama Kani, Teacher Aide; Merryn Grocott, Teacher

Congratulations to three students – Joshua Keene, Simone and Ryan Stephenson who have been selected for the State Honours Ensemble Program. This is a great program and I am sure these students will learn a lot.

In the last newsletter of 2013, I wrote about the new logo for LSHS. For those of you who missed the article, it is reprinted below. The new logo appears on your student's diary even though the maroon has turned out a little more pink than expected!!!!

A reminder, we have started to update our **uniform**, and this year we have introduced cargo shorts for both boys and girls, and an option of culottes for girls. The tuckshop is stocking these items and they are available for purchase now. Short shorts on girls will not be accepted and students will be expected to get the uniform shorts. Shoes are plain black or white.

Existing parents will know that the teachers at LSHS are about getting improved results for students and our school has gone from strength to strength over the last three years. Our goal for 2014 continues to be to **improve students' results**. We are going to do this by:

1. Continuing to track individual students through data gathered from A – E results of exams and assignments, any speciality testing such as PROBE, PAT Reading and PAT Maths, NAPLAN and any test we give during the term.
2. Assigning an individual teacher mentor to your student (in Year 8 and 9 to begin with) to help them make sense of their data, set realistic goals about their improvement, tracking that data and achievement of goals and talking to students and you, the parents, about their goals and results
3. Using speciality programs to enhance your child's learning. For example, this year Project 600 is about reading so selected students will take part in this program designed to engage students in learning and boost achievement.

Research (Hattie 2003) shows that education reform can fail at the classroom door, meaning that student influence their own learning by 50%, peers by 30% and other factors 20%. So it is important that you as parents take the opportunity to talk to students about what is happening at school and the importance of setting goals and tracking whether they are achieving them. As we develop the program, you will get to hear more about the mentor program and mentors will be phoning home to introduce themselves and explaining the goals set for your students.

Our main **method of teaching** remains Explicit Instruction where tasks are broken down and explicitly taught. Warm ups at the start of class help transfer learning from short term memory to long term memory.

Last year we conducted some information gathering with students and teachers about our Student Council and leadership identifying what we could improve. This year we have introduced Vice Captains who were elected last year to help run some of the programs that students wanted to develop. Committees have been developed – Cultural, Community, Sporting and Environmental, and students from all year levels will be able to be part of a committee.

This year leadership opportunities have been extended into the Junior School with the introduction of a Junior Captain and class representatives who will also be encouraged to be part of the new Leadership program and committees.

Attached to this newsletter is information on the Zonta Tertiary Bursary for any student over 17 who is attending university. If you have a son or daughter who falls into this category, please check out this information.

Up coming events –

- Welcome drinks, nibbles and P&C General Meeting – Monday February 17
- Swimming Carnival – Thursday February 6
- Investiture – Tuesday 18 February at 9 am
- AGM of the P & C Committee – Monday March 17

Rebadging of Longreach State High

Over the past year, we have been looking at updating the look of Longreach State High. Our Uniform Committee has been working behind the scenes to develop a new uniform for 2015 when the Year 7 students join us. They have started with formalising the bottom half of the uniform and we have them for sale this year, in the tuckshop:

- Black cargo pants for both girls and boys – these are tailored and look really good on and the student groups surveyed have been happy with the look
- Black culottes for girls – these offer an alternative to the shorts and also a beautifully tailored to look like a skirt

Parents, if you have to purchase new shorts for your students, can you please purchase these. Short shorts, shorts with writing or strips will not be accepted in 2014.

The rebadging of the school has also been continuing. Groups of parents, students and teachers have been surveyed about what they would consider would best represent our school. Longreach icons were all considered – windmills, water tower etc, but the one icon that caught people’s imagination was our brolgas.

Our brolgas visit the school each year. They come as a family who stick together and look after each other. They are beautiful, elegant birds who are not frightened of standing up tall and looking challengers in the eye. When they are preparing to take flight, they can often be ungainly, but when they are in the air, they are purposeful, streamlined and heading towards a goal.

With the support of the P & C we have had a graphic design company design a logo which supports our view of our school community.



Growing together, Going the distance, Soaring to success

Lesley Andrews
Principal

New Uniform Has Arrived

The new uniform shorts and culottes have arrived at the tuckshop and are available for collection.

\$30.00 each (this is cost price)

Sport Date Claimers:

6 February	School Swimming Carnival
13 February	CW Swimming Carnival (Longreach)
14 February	CW Touch Football Trials (Barcaldine)
15 February	CW Netball & Rugby League Trials (Barcaldine)
22 February	NW Swimming Carnival (Mt Isa)
7 March	NW Touch Football (Mt Isa)
8 March	NW Touch Football, Rugby League, Netball (Mt Isa)

Longreach Athletic Club

Longreach Athletic Club is organising a Level 2 Coaching Course to be held in Longreach in April 2014. We need at least 10 participants before trainers will agree to conduct the course. The course will be held over two days (Saturday and Sunday) and will cost participants \$275.00.

The closing date for registering your interest is Friday 7 February. Phone the Club President on 0427 149 222 for more information and to register.