21 February 2014

Principal’s Message

We have had a great start to the year with all students introduced to our Wellbeing Program which teaches each student skills about their learning and role as a student. Teachers are establishing early that there is an urgency about learning at this school, and students are expected to complete the work that is set for them to do in each and every class. And isn’t it great to see the rain!

Curriculum:

You may have heard the news about the Great Results Plan – that an additional $131 million will be invested into Queensland’s schools. This funding is to help students achieve the National Minimum Standard for literacy and numeracy for their year level or have developed a support plan to address their specific learning difficulties. A two phase plan has been developed for LSHS to increase student results and support and develop teachers. The plan includes releasing two of our most experienced teachers, our Heads of Department, Lisa Veney and Nick Stead, to allow them time to work with and support teachers in the classroom, as well as developing the mentoring program for students. This Mentoring Plan will help Junior students know where they are in relation to the National Mean, help them set goals and develop a learning plan to achieve these goals.

Events:

Our Swimming Carnival was a great success – students and staff enjoyed the day. Many thanks to Nick Stead for his organisation of the day, and to the many other staff who make the day run as smoothly as it does. Thanks to Andrew Ruzicka for helping Nick with the organisation.

The 2014 Investiture Ceremony was held on Tuesday and again celebrates the student leadership of our school. This year our Junior Captains were also inducted as leaders. Our new leadership structure includes our committees – Cultural, Community, Environmental and Sporting. Damian Arthur, Rotarian, who was our guest speaker spoke about leadership through service and related the story of the Longreach Rotary Club investigating getting hay for farmers who have run out of feed. His story highlights how this project has snowballed and demonstrates not only the kindness and generosity of people, but also, if one person begins to make a difference, how this can grow into something outstanding.

Can I please commend many parents for the way students are presenting at school in their correct school uniform. When I first came to Longreach, I received so many negative comments about students and what they were wearing, that it is pleasing to see that the majority are wearing correct uniform. I would like to remind parents that it is the P & C who set the school as a uniform school and approve what the uniform is and have the expectation that the leaders of the school enforce the policy. We have a Uniform Sub-committee who made the decisions around school shorts and the culottes and will be looking at a new polo design for next year. If anyone wishes to join the P & C, we are happy to welcome new members.

The Annual General Meeting of the P & C will take place on Monday March 24 in the school library and I must apologise for the wrong dates that have been attached to our P & C meetings. We were so eager to hold the meetings, we brought the dates forward by a week!!

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

This week has been chock-a-block with activities involving students. First up on Monday the Red Cross and Longreach Council presented disaster preparedness talks to each student in the school, replicating talks which will be delivered to all schools in our immediate area. Tuesday welcomed in our newly elected student leaders (referred to elsewhere in this newsletter). Immunisations were a later hot topic of discussion and the week closed with school photos which will hopefully be ready for collection in a few weeks.

As the school year is now well and truly up and running I thought it appropriate to remind all of procedures for student attendance. For Year 11 & 12 students, QSA (Queensland Studies Authority) recommend attendance of >80%. Checks are conducted regularly during each term. Students not meeting this benchmark will be interviewed and future attendance closely monitored. Non-improvement in attendance will result in activation of the school’s Right Track Policy. Any absent student is required to either bring a note to validate their absence or have their parent/guardian contact the school,
with an explanation. Non-explained student absences are then followed up by Access Teachers. Persistent absence will lead to either contact from the respective Year Level Co-ordinator or myself. The school welcomes notification in advance if the family is on holidays/attending specialist appointments etc.

Thank you for your understanding on this matter and I welcome contact if you are still unsure of the absenteeism process.

Ian Miller
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Head of Department’s Message

Phew! The first few weeks have flown by and congratulations to all staff and students for a great start to the year. I have been visiting classrooms over the last few weeks and I have seen some excellent teaching and learning occurring. We have had a focus of grammar and punctuation over the last three weeks in English and Humanities, using a technique called “Rapid Recalls”. Rapid Recalls involve repetition at a fast rate, as a group, moving concepts from short term memory to long term. Ask your junior secondary student to name the TOP 5 grammar and TOP 5 punctuation concepts.

Over the last three years, we have forged strong links with Central Queensland University and their Widening Participation Program. This year the Year 8s are invited to attend a 4 day experience called “Hero’s Journey”, where they focus on team work, media and what it means to be a hero, and the Year 10s attend the “Uni Skills” experience, where they focus on self-awareness, career options and knowing your strengths. The Year 8 Camp kicks off first in Week 9 of this term and Year 10 Camp will be the first week of Term 3. More information will be coming home regarding these camps, and please read the flyers attached for an overview.

I hope everyone has had an enjoyable start to the year. Please get in touch with teachers or admin if you have any concerns regarding your child. I am very interested in hearing from parents, but be warned, I may bore you with stories of my Term 4 Long Service trip around Australia!

Have a great week.

Lisa Veney
Curriculum HOD

Curriculum Head of Department’s Message

School Swim Carnival

The School’s Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 6 February. The teams commenced the Carnival with the annual march past and it was clear that both teams were ready for battle. The Spartans opened an early lead on the day and were keen to make sure they kept it. The Warriors fought hard throughout the day but the Spartans proved too strong. The Spartans broke a four year losing streak, winning the carnival 1501 points to 1163. Congratulations to the Spartans Team, on your efforts during the carnival. Age champions for the day were: 13 years – Jonathan Harwood & Shami Callaghan, 14 years – Jack Huff & Teah Tanks, 15 years – Jamie Jackson & Khalli Rowlands, 16 years – Bailey Davies, Nathan Rose & Chrisne Jacobie, 17 years – Josh Smith & Jasmine McPhee.

CW Swim Carnival

Last week, Longreach High hosted the Central West Swimming Carnival. It was great to see so many of our students participating against the best swimmers from throughout our district. Students competed well throughout the day and overall our school finished third. There were many fantastic individual and team performances on the day. Josh Smith and Jamie Jackson were successful in securing the title of Central West Age Champions for 2014. Congratulations to all students who competed on the day. You should be proud of the way you represented yourself and your school.

Cardio Tennis

Queensland Tennis was kind enough to come and run a Cardio Tennis session at our school. Cardio Tennis aims to provide students with an opportunity to participate in a fun and engaging fitness session while also building basic tennis skills. We had about 30 students who participated in the lunchtime session with the two instructors. Students enjoyed participating in the session and felt that, because it was fun, you didn’t realise you were doing fitness training. Thank you to Queensland Tennis for running the session at our school.

CW Trials

Once again this year, the Central West Trials were run as a cluster, hosted by Barcaldine. On Friday afternoon, February 14, Touch Football (Boys & Girls) was held at the showgrounds, then on the Saturday, Rugby League was at the Showgrounds whilst Netball was hosted at the Barcaldine SS. We had about 40 students compete in the trials over the two days. All of our students competed at a high level throughout the cluster, and some of our students were even successful at being selected on the Central West Team. Good luck to all selected students, who will travel to Mount Isa in a couple of weeks to trial for North West Teams.

Nick Stead
Curriculum HOD
Here are some tips:

- Take responsibility for your actions/feelings. If you are in the wrong, admit it immediately and say you are sorry. Too many disagreements or arguments could be solved by merely admitting you were wrong. If you are feeling a certain way, know it is your choice to feel that way; if you don’t like the feeling, change what you are doing.
- Find a solution. Make change where possible. If you were wrong, find a solution to fix the matter.
- Don’t delay. It is very important not to delay taking responsibility for your actions/feelings. The longer time passes, the more people you may hurt, the more you may lose respect, or lose friendships.

**Chaplain’s Message:**

**Chappy’s Corner**

Welcome back to Longreach State High School for 2014. A new year, which for students, can mean a new school, new friends, new expectations as well as new things to stretch the mind in Chappy’s Place. Do you think you would be able to balance kiwis? How good are you at drawing under pressure? Your partner needs to know what you are drawing. What about stacking little ‘men’ on top of each other without them falling down? These are only a few of the new little treasures which can be found in Chappy’s Place.

Why have little things like this? Because at a recent course I attended, I was reminded that a child (under the age of 18 years of age) has the right to play. It is good for a child to have time out from the pressures that life can bring, to just be a child, a teenager. It’s ok to laugh and have fun. This is what second break in Chappy’s Place is all about – laughter, fun, games and friendship making across the year levels.

Have a great year everyone.
Warriors House Captain | Hamish Hart
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Warriors House Captain | Jasmine McPhee

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<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Joshua Keene, Ebonee, Christopher</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>Lleyton, Maunsell, Kate Bartley</td>
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<td>Nathaniel Dolgner, Chelsea Wright</td>
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Year 8 Meet and Greet

Tuesday night of this week was the annual Year 8 Meet and Greet for Parents and Staff. Whilst numbers were down a little this year in comparison to previous years, Year 8 Co-Ordinator Mr Adam Zuurbier led a successful evening. Topics covered included curriculum, general procedures and the well-being program for students. School Leaders Josh Smith and Isabella Smith then hosted a brief school tour for those families in attendance. The lovely and friendly evening concluded with families and staff mingling around some fresh delicacies, created earlier in the day by the Senior Hospitality students.

Valentine’s Day

The Year 12 students are off and running on their $20 000 fundraising target for their end of year Formal this year! Their first 2014 fundraiser was for Valentine’s Day, where they took orders for special treats to be delivered to friends and loved ones on February 14.

Available for purchasing were cards, flowers, balloons, sing-a-grams and whole packages to show someone special how much they mean to someone. This was entirely planned and organised by the Year 12s and they have done a great job with this their first fundraiser.

The day was a huge success and there were many happy students and staff walking around the school on Valentine’s Day with their gifts!

Elissa Murray
Year 12 Coordinator

Student Laptops

Laptops for students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are now ready for collection once the $80.00 fee is paid. Students are strongly encouraged to access a laptop which can be used to enhance learning throughout the day for their lessons. It is encouraged by the school to pay this fee so students can be given their laptops. Students in Year 9 will be given this opportunity once Senior School allocations are finalised. Further enquiries to Front Office.

Coming Events

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be the AGM held on Monday 24 March at 7.30 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

BRAVE Program

The BRAVE Program: Beating Back to School Anxiety. For children and teenagers with Social Anxiety, returning back to school can be difficult. Concerns about new classmates or teachers, and other school related activities like participating in class activities, or making new friendships can cause much anxiety. But there is help available… and it’s online!

The BRAVE program aims to help children and their parents learn strategies to manage social anxiety and teach techniques to cope with anxiety provoking social situations. The treatment program involves between 7-12 online sessions for participants, with each session lasting approximately an hour to complete. Families are charged a one-off fee of $95.00 to assist in covering treatment costs and will also be asked to complete questionnaires and telephone interviews. However, families will receive a rebate of $25 in vouchers each time they complete a post-treatment assessment.

For more information, or to register your interest in the program, please visit the BRAVE Online website: www.braveonline.com.au or email braveteam@uq.edu.au. Alternatively, you can call the BRAVE team on (07) 3735 3312 or email braveteam@uq.edu.au. For further information, pay a visit to our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/bravebravery