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14 March 2014

Principal's Message



Only four more weeks to the end of term, and hasn't this time passed quickly!

For teachers, they have been busy completing **mentor interviews** with students in Years 8 and 9. Feedback on this process of looking at students' literacy and numeracy results, talking to students about their

progress and setting goals in these areas has been interesting. It is not an easy process but the rewards are worth it. Students have been pleased (and some not so pleased) to see how they have progressed since the Year 7 NAPLAN test and had productive conversations with their mentor teacher. Goals have been set and after the next round of literacy and numeracy testing at the beginning of next term, students will again have the opportunity to check on their progress, tick off any goals gained and look at new goals for the next term.

Parents, you are able to have a look at this data as students are given the tracking sheet and their goals to paste into their diary so they have a permanent record to look at.

Year 8 students have completed the **Resilience Survey** on Tuesday which means that all students in the school have now completed this survey. These surveys are anonymous but the results give us some interesting data about our students as a group. The survey collects, collates and analyses the self-reported strengths of our young people in terms of development asset levels, the incidence of hopefulness and depressive disorders and the relationships of these factors to resilience. This measure of resilience informs our practice and policy by providing strategic information on the psychosocial resources that promote positive development during the adolescent years.

Teachers have also been working with students on the process of forming our new committees. Michelle Ho is looking after the Cultural Committee and reported that she had a very productive session with a large number of students about what we could do to promote the Arts in the school. More on the results of this later! The community Committee is facilitated by Josh Duff, Environmental by Elissa Murray and the Sports Committee by Nick Stead.

Congratulations to **Christina Harwood** for being selected for the prestigious President's team to compete at the State tennis trials. Congratulations to all students who participated in the North West trials and good luck to those who have been selected for the North West team who will be competing at the State titles.

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Deputy Principal's Message



At this stage of the term, all students should be heavily immersed in their studies; either preparing for exams or completing assessment. These assessment items, which be due up to the end of Week 9 (Friday March 28) and will shape Term 1 Reports, are to be posted out to families in the last week of term.

Attached to this newsletter are assessment calendars for all subjects in all year levels.

Earlier this week, Lisa Veney and myself had our introductory lesson with the Year 12 students who are OP eligible. I commend all students for deciding to accept the rigours of sitting the QCS Test and attaining an OP score, thereby making themselves eligible to enter University upon completion of 2014 schooling. This program will run intensely each week until the actual test is held in September. This week's lesson focussed upon re-stating the difference to students between QCE and OPs, data tracking in Year 12, briefly examining past papers and general question/answer. Pending parental demand, Lisa and I are most happy to conduct a brief information evening for parents/carers early in Term 2.

Ian Miller
Deputy Principal

Curriculum Head of Department's Message



Something we as a staff are very excited about over the last few weeks is one of our newest initiatives; the Mentor Program. I have had some very interesting conversations with students regarding their learning goals and plans for improvement, and I know that many staff have had similar conversations with their

mentor students. The time and commitment that both teachers and students are putting into making constructive and individualised goals is wonderful to be part of and I am looking forward to an improvement in results across all of our subjects.

On Tuesday 11 March, the Year 8s participated in the launch of the Hero's Journey university trip and spent the day with CQ University's representative, Stacey, who will spend the four days with us in Rockhampton in Week 9. Mr Zuurbier, Chappy and I are really looking forward to the trip, especially since we have seen some of the scripts the students have written for their films.

This is an extremely early mention of an Arts event that is in the beginning stages of preparation. Longreach State High School will be presenting an event called **ONE NIGHT ONLY**, which will showcase the amazing and diverse talent that we have in our school including drama, dance, music, artworks, hospitality and much more. Watch this space for more information. My advice is GET INVOLVED!

There is constant room for self-improvement and technology can help in many ways to improve our literacy and numeracy. There is an excellent **APP called NAPLANG** (3, 5, 7 or 9) that has hints, tests and practices in the style of NAPLAN testing. The user gets scores and immediate feedback on how you are going. Student with access to an iPhone or iPad, could download this app as extra practice for your literacy. It does cost \$2.99, and we are looking at installing it on our school computers, but I thought I would let everyone know for your home devices. Other apps I have used are GRAMMAR MONSTER, DAILY SENTENCE AND PARTS OF SPEECH. Do you know any other great apps? Let me know!

Lisa Veney
Curriculum HOD

Curriculum Head of Department's Message



Future State Great Award

The Future State Great's Award highlights the sporting achievement of school students throughout Queensland. One primary school student and one secondary school student in each of the twelve school sport regions are eligible to be selected as a Future State

Great. This year, the Central West District nominated Georgia Goodman for her participation at both the State Netball and Touch Football Carnivals and consistent demonstration of impeccable behaviour and fantastic sportsmanship whilst at Longreach State High School. As a result of her sporting prowess and terrific attitude, she was selected as a 'Future State Great'. Congratulations Georgia!



NRL Development

Students were lucky to have the opportunity to work with our NRL Development Officers last week. We had three representatives from the NRL come to the school to trial the 'Backyard Footy' program with our Year 8 students. The students enjoyed the program which not only focused on their rugby league skills but also on communication and teamwork. The development officers then worked with the older boys who had trialled as a part of our Longreach Football team. They delivered a session that focussed on enhancing their current rugby league skills through a range of drills and gameplay. The development officers were pleased with how our students progressed through the session and mentioned that they would like to visit the school again this term.

North West Trials

We had over 25 students represent their school and district at the NW Sport Cluster over last weekend. The sports included were Touch Football, Rugby League and Netball. Many of our students doubled up, competing in both Touch Football and Netball/RL. This proved to be very tiring, as the Touch was held on Friday and Saturday, Rugby League on Saturday afternoon and Netball on Saturday afternoon and Sunday Morning. This timeline didn't seem to slow our students who could clearly match it with the best players in the North West District. I was very proud to see the sportsmanship and positive attitude that all our students displayed during the carnivals. Eighteen of our students were successful in gaining a position on the North West team to trial at the State Championships later in the year.

HPE Week

HPE week was run from March 3 - 7. It was an opportunity to promote participation in sport throughout the school. If your school chooses to, it also allows you to compete against other schools throughout Queensland in Head to Head challenges. This year, we participated in the challenge for Soccer, Frisbee and Flash Mob. The most memorable activity this year would have to be the Flash Mob. A 'Flash Mob' is simply a group of people that have all learnt a dance who then perform their chosen dance without notice to spectators. Recently, staff were playing the students in a game of netball, then all of a sudden, music started, and then... see the video attachment later in this newsletter.

Nick Stead
Curriculum HOD

Guidance Officer's Message



CARING FOR TEENAGERS

As our children get older we are thrown into a new stage - how do we manage them, what are our parental duties, and how do we balance their need for independence. Many parents mistakenly believe that by the time children have reached 12 years of age, there's nothing more a parent can do. Wrong. Studies show that good parenting continues to help pre-teens and teenagers develop in healthy ways, stay out of trouble and do well in school. The following ideas for managing your pre-teen and adolescent child have

been adapted from 'Basic Principles of Good Parenting' by Laurence Steinberg.

- You can't be too loving – Don't hold back when it comes to pouring on the praise and showing physical affection. There is no evidence that adolescents are harmed by having parents who are unabashedly loving – as long as you don't embarrass them in front of their friends.
- Stay involved – Don't withdraw from your child's life. Be involved – even more so now – know where they are, what they are doing, who they are with. Take them to venues, pick them up. Know their friends. Be involved in school activities. Spend time with them. Talk to them.
- Adapt your Parenting - When children are little you mostly make the decisions. Where possible give your maturing child opportunities to make decisions. Decide what is not negotiable (e.g. You picking up your child after a dance) and what is negotiable (e.g. Pick up time).
- Set Limits – While love is the most important thing a child needs, the second most important thing is structure in the form of rules and limits. Be firm but fair, and be consistent. As your child matures relax your rules bit by bit, but be prepared to tighten the reins if needed.
- Be aware that independence doesn't mean rebelliousness, disobedience or disrespect. It's healthy for adolescents to push for autonomy.
- Explain your decisions – Know why you have certain rules and expectations – your rules and decisions have to be clear and appropriate. It's no longer good enough to say 'because I said so' and - you can change your mind.

If all fails seek outside help. Don't feel you have to parent alone. There are many experts out there to help restore broken relationships.

Chaplain's Message:

Chappy's Corner



Term 1 is fast coming to an end and Chappy's Place has been very busy. We've had Pictionary competitions; Kiwis have been balanced successfully and not so successfully; toast has been made; cold water supplied to hot, thirsty students; chats together and sharing of interests and learning

to get along with others who think differently to us. Having students from a range of grades across the school stop by for a chat, or to play a game has been great as it gives younger students an opportunity to meet and get to know at least some of the students in the higher grades. It has been an awesome first term in Chappy's Place...as you can tell by the photos!

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Longreach Council for their generous donation to the Longreach Combined Chaplaincy Committee. This donation helps keep me in the

school full time, providing students with someone to chat with as well as a fun place for students to hang out in during second break.

Until the next newsletter – always remember that you are valued; you are loved; you are cared about; you are beautiful; and most importantly, you are precious.



Chappy's Place

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

House Keeping

Outstanding Fees and School Camp

Parents of students participating in Year 9 and Year 11 School Camps in 2014, please be aware that all outstanding invoices to the school must be paid in full, one week prior to leaving on school camp.

School camps are classed as extra-curricular activities. Students may be excluded from extra-curricular activities (school camp) if payments of outstanding invoices are not made in full, prior to the camp commencing.

If there are any issues with meeting the payments before that date, please contact the school as soon as possible to organise a meeting with the Business Services Manager and the Principal, to discuss a payment plan. The final decision is at the Principal's discretion.

Payment of Accounts

Parents please be aware that the school office does not carry cash for change when paying an account. If paying by cash please ensure the student has the correct money. The school now has EFTPOS available for payment of accounts or the other option is to pay by BPay.

Faculty News:

The Arts

Hello and welcome to another year! Take a look through the photos and you'll discover the Art Room has changed! Gone are the desks and chairs (mostly), and in their places, oversized cushions, easels and drawing boards are ruling. Personally, I love it and I do believe the students do as well. I find them more engaged to learn and more relaxed to create. It is a win – win situation.



As part of HPE week, we planned a little surprise. The Year 12s had challenged the teachers to a netball game. Little did they know, the arts students were planning an invasion. Timed perfectly to the tune of *Happy* by Pharell, scroll down to the video and I challenge you not to smile a little.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqrtgTN4gKw>

HPE Week

Homework Club

Homework club is run every week on a Wednesday afternoon from the end of school until 4 pm. This is a great opportunity for students to get some individual tutoring from their teachers and also to work on assignments, revision for exams or homework.

If you would like your child to attend, please let us know, so that we can make sure they are there.

Adam Zuurbier
Teacher

Clean Up Australia Day

The first event for the newly formed Environmental Committee at Longreach State High School was facilitating a Clean Up Australia Day event here at school. We had our school registered on the website, had some big rubbish bags sent out to us and then it was just a matter of waiting for the day to arrive! We allocated each year level a certain area of the school and we spent the morning of Friday 28 February making our school spotless! It was a feel good event and the students really got involved and enjoyed doing their part to help make our school a more environmentally friendly place.

Approximately 10kg of rubbish was picked up from the school grounds on this day, and what a wakeup call it was for the students – who thought that the school looked pretty clean before beginning the clean up! Well done to the Environmental Committee for successfully running their first event of the year and also to the staff and students who all took part and should be very proud of themselves. Thank you to Jacquettaa Arnold from Longreach Regional Council for helping us organise this event and being a great support when it was needed.



Elissa Murray
Environmental Committee Facilitator

Coming Events

P & C Meeting and AGM

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 24 March at 7 pm in the Library. This meeting will include the AGM.

Everyone is welcome to come along.