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30 May 2014

Admin Report

Our brolga family is back! It was lovely to see them fly in this morning and it reminded us of some writing responses about our new logo written by the Year 8 and Year 9 students this year.

"Each year they come back. I usually see them flying very low over the school and descending to land on the oval safely."

"You might look at them and see a mean and big bird, but they are not. They are kind, loving and pretty. When you watch them fly they look calm and free."

"The brolgas protect each other, for they are not individuals, but a family that relies on the relationships they have formed with each other for strength."

"Brolgas are beautiful, elegant birds that are tall and proud. They are the animal version of the students of the school they visit."

Over half way through the term, and assessment and exams are in focus for the next few weeks. All students in Years 8 and 9 have had their mentor interviews and are working on their learning goals for the term, and all senior students have had performance interviews for anyone who is performing under the accepted level. We are expecting to see some great results for our end of semester reports.

You may be aware that some staff changes have occurred for the last 6 weeks of term. Mr Ian Miller has gone over to the primary school as Acting Principal, and Ms Lisa Veney is now Acting Deputy Principal for that time. Mrs Rebecca Bell is the Acting Head of Department and Mr Andrew Ruzicka is backfilling for Mrs Bell. The transitions have been very smooth so far and we hear that Mr Miller is thoroughly enjoying the primary school (though of course missing us!)

Many opportunities in the coming weeks including:

- May 30 – A visit from the Microsoft IT Academy (MSITA) to launch a new program
- June 2 – Lizzie Wagner Department session for Year 12 boys
- June 3 – Cyber Bullying community seminar – flyer attached in this newsletter

- June 6 - A visit from the Defence Forces for Years 11/12 and any interested Year 10s
- June 10 - State of Origin Fan Day

Bus and Pick-Up Changes

A letter has been sent home regarding these changes which will occur from Monday June 2. The "new" bus stop is for the Ilfracombe, Sandalwoods and Hostel buses, and is now near the bike racks, closest to the hospital. The "old" bus stop will now become a parent pick up area. We hope there will be limited disruptions during this transition and appreciate cooperation from all our students and parents.

Have a lovely week!

Admin Team – Lesley Andrews, Lisa Veney, Nick Stead, Rebecca Bell

Guidance Officer's Message



Tips for parents to prevent cyber-bullying

Kids socialise very differently these days. A lot of it takes place on the internet, a world that can be very hard to monitor as a parent. Due to the remote nature of the internet, it may be less obvious that your child is being subjected to cyber bullying, so be sure to watch for symptoms and talk to your child if you have any concerns.

Cyber bullying involves the use of email, chatroom or social media site messaging on the internet, and text, picture and or video messaging on mobile phones. Unfortunately, it means victims can be bullied even when they're not at school, leaving children very few places to hide. Often, children may be scared to confide in their parents regarding cyberbullying, worried they'll have their computer rights restricted, or their mobile taken away.

Symptoms can include:

- Excessive computer use
- Troubled sleep or nightmares
- Depression
- Anti-social behaviour
- Anxiety after using the computer

- Not answering their mobile phone or checking messages

Tips for talking to your child about cyberbullying:

- Educate your child about cyberbullying and reinforce which types of online behaviour are acceptable, and which are not. Check out cybersmart.com.au. <http://www.cybersmart.gov.au/>
- Advise them only to give their mobile number and personal email to friends
- Enforce time-off from the computer or their mobile phone if cyberbullied
- Do not open emails from cyberbullies or respond to bullies on Facebook or SMS
- Encourage them only to talk to people they've met in person
- Block the bullies from their Facebook account

What to do next:

- Move your family computer to a public place so you can monitor the times they're online, and their anxiety levels
- Contact the police if the messages are threatening

In the event your child has been a victim of cyberbullying, parents can seek assistance from:

Parentline QLD - 1300 30 1300

Young people are encouraged to call Kids Helpline on **1800 55 1800**.

Information on cyberbullying is available from the Guidance Officer or online from www.kidshelp.com.au
<http://www.kidshelp.com.au/grownups/getting-help/cyberspace>

Chaplain's Message:



Chappy's Corner

What a busy term, Term 2 is!! So much has been happening in the Chaplaincy world that it is hard to keep up with it all! From within the school there's been everything from chatting with a student who is about to

have an immunisation (so that they could have their mind taken off of the needle about to go in their arm) to NAPLAN breakfast (thank you Foodworks and Dean and Eva Mitchell for your kind and generous donations for breakfast. The students enjoyed the ham and egg muffins!); then there was the Connect Four Challenge held in the library (the Champion of Connect Four was Laura Hearn, with Mitchell Hearn coming in as runner up).

Outside of school, Chaplaincy has been back to the High Court again and there has been a new federal budget. Peter James, CEO of Scripture Union (SU), which is the employing body of School Chaplains in Queensland, recently stated: "The federal budget announcement means Commonwealth funding for school chaplains will continue at least until the end of 2018."

But what does this mean as far as the High Court goes?

"Funding route depends on court outcome. The options are that either federal funding will continue to be paid directly to SU or that payments could be made via the state/territory governments as intermediary.....We expect the federal funding to continue." Peter James CEO of SU.

What does that mean for me as Chaplain at Longreach State High School? My position is 2 days federally funded and 3 days Community Funded. Yes, Community. This means that regardless of other outcomes, the worst that could happen is my hours would change. Instead of being at school for 7 ½ hours each day, it would mean only being here for 4 ½ hours each day. Meaning Chappy's Place would still be opened second break every day. Connect Four Challenges, Chess Challenges, UNO and everything would still be the same.

Thank you to all the community for your support of Chaplaincy at Longreach High. It is a privilege to be the Chaplain and the support from P&C, the school and the community make it more so.

Until next newsletter: Always remember that you can do anything you want to, you just need to give it a try and then persevere.

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

School Cross Country

On Thursday 8 May, all students participated in the School Cross Country. 13 year old students completed a 3 km course, 14-15 year old boys and 14-17 year old girls a 4 km and the 16 and 17 year old boys a 6 km course. Whether students ran, jogged or walked, it was fantastic to see everyone participating on the day. Congratulations to all students for the high level of participation in this year's event. Cross Country always seems to be a close battle between the two houses and this year was no different. Fourteen points separated the houses at the completion of the day and the 2014 Winners were the Spartans.

The Age Champions for the 2014 Cross Country:

- 13 Years** - Tahlia Graham & Nick Long
- 14 Years** - Lily Smith & Ashton Janke
- 15 Years** - Eliesha Borg & Jacob McKean
- 16 Years** - Chrisne Jacobie & Tyson Janke
- 17 Years** - Stevie Rawlins & Jacques Jacobie

Congratulations to the Spartans and looking forward to the Athletics Carnival on Friday 27 June.

Origin Fan Day

On Tuesday 10 June, Longreach will be hosting this year's State of Origin Fan Day. Key activities for the day include a street parade and QRL managed Rugby League clinics for interested players. As a show of support for the occasion, Longreach SHS has planned for students to have the opportunity to attend the scheduled events on the day. A permission form has been sent home with students and must be returned if your child wishes to attend the activities. A copy has been attached to the newsletter in case your student's copy has been misplaced.

Below are the latest details in regard to organisation for the day:

- Street Parade – The parade is due to commence at 10.30 am. Central West Junior Rugby League club players will march in the parade. The parade will be an opportunity for the public to get photos and autographs. (Best place for students to get autographs will be after the coaching clinic). The parade marchers will assemble in front of Kinnon and Co and then march down to the Civic Centre.
- Gala Lunch – this is for paying guests – players will be at lunch from 12 pm – 1.30 pm and then they will head to the Coaching Clinic.
- For schools from outside town – after the parade there will be a BBQ and drinks and food stalls at the showgrounds – this will be available from 12 pm.
- Coaching Clinic:
 - 1.00 pm - Schools to arrive at oval
 - 1.15 pm –Coaching Clinic briefing-students directed to skills station.
 - 1.30 pm – 2.50 pm – Skills Clinic
 - 2.50 pm – 3.20 pm – Autograph signing station
 - 3.30 pm – Students depart

NOTE: The Coaching Clinic start time has changed to 1.30 pm from the 2.00 pm start time previously advertised in our permission note. Students involved in the clinic will now leave school at 12.45 pm to ensure they are able to access the clinic.

Please ensure that students return their forms to Mr Stead ASAP. This is a fantastic opportunity for Longreach students to meet the Queensland State of Origin team in their home town.

Nick Stead
HOD Curriculum

Cyber Bullying Parent Awareness Night

All parents are invited to a free seminar on the who/what/why of cyber bullying. Many parents (and also teachers!) have no reference point to cyber bullying. It certainly wasn't an issue when we went to school. INESS (Internet Education Safety Services) creator, Brett Lee, an undercover internet detective, spent thousands of hours as a fictitious teenager on the internet. He creates a powerful and unique credibility with the audience that is essential and unparalleled. The messages are made real through the use of crime cases and videos and culminate in points to remember and actions our students can take to avoid or reduce issues they may face in an online world. Brett will be running this session on June 3 from 6.00 at the high school library. Please see the attached flyer for further information and sponsors for the evening. Please RSVP to this event.

Lisa Veney
Acting Deputy Principal

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be held on **Monday 23 June at 7 pm** in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Captain's Log

Life from the perspective of our school leaders

A quick update on how school and life is progressing in general from the perspective of the senior students. There is good news on the formal front with the seniors getting their heads together and planning some great fundraising ideas. We are pleased to announce that our efforts are getting us well on our way to our target amount thanks to the great help and organisational skills of our year coordinator, Miss Murray.

In the recent weeks we all participated in the annual cross country with Spartans unfortunately beating the Warriors by a measly fourteen points. Congratulations and encouragement however to all who ran, and all the best for those participating in the upcoming sports carnival at the end of the term.

Finally, good luck to all going through assessment and thank you to our teachers who continue to encourage us. Your patience is appreciated immensely!

Zoey Waldron
School Captain, on behalf of the seniors.