27 June 2014

Principal’s Message

Welcome to the last newsletter of Term 2 which has been another incredibly busy term for both teachers and students.

Staff Movements:

Our Deputy Principal, Mr Ian Miller has been Acting Principal at Longreach State School for the last six weeks of this term. Ian has enjoyed the experience of working with ‘little people’. For next semester, Ian has been offered an Acting Principal position at Moura State High School, which he has accepted. We would like to thank Ian for his contributions to our High School and wish him all the best.

Lisa Veney will continue to act as Deputy Principal through to the end of the year and we look forward to working further with her in this position.

Curriculum:

As the assessment and reporting phase of Semester 1 comes to a close, the main message for students is that assessment is completed to the best of their ability. Non-submission of assessment is not an option. Students who have not completed assessment at all or to the best of their ability will need to complete this during the last few days of this term or at the beginning of next term.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to two students – Josh Keene for making the State Honours Ensemble Band two years in a row. Congratulations also to Ben Cross for winning a scholarship to the Sparks Engineering Camp in Brisbane over the holidays.

Events:

In the last few weeks, we have had a number of events:

- Brett Lee from INESS (Internet Education & Safety Services), gave an inspiring talk to parents and Year 10, 11 and 12 students about Cyberbullying and the internet. He gave some sage advice on how to protect students on line and his main message is that whatever you put on line is public even if you have set privacy settings.

- Shockwave has visited the school this week and conducted classes on photography, art and dance.

- The Gifted and Talented HOT (Higher Order Thinking) Program has concluded with the Flame night showcasing the culmination of this program. Thanks to Mr Duff for all his hard work with this program.

The staff wish you a happy and safe holiday and, if travelling, a safe journey. See you next term.

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Deputy Principal’s Message

It is with quite mixed feelings I write this short piece. Recently I was offered the position as Acting Principal at Moura State High School for the duration of Semester 2. Upon accepting this offer, it means my time – for the remainder of 2014 – at Longreach SHS has drawn to a close. Discussing my immediate move with a current Year 12 student the other day, helped put things into perspective when he said, “Sir, great for you. You have to move on in life and accept opportunities as they come along.” He reminded me of what I used to say to my Seniors when I was a full-time classroom teacher.

Though only short in time I have come to enjoy the many things which makes Longreach High the positive learning place it currently is. I cannot advocate strongly enough the hard work and high levels of commitment of the staff in delivering the curriculum to the students. Welcome to Lisa Veney into the role as Deputy Principal for Semester 2 and I wish her well.

I offer my thanks to the students, staff and parents for your support as the school’s Deputy Principal. I have also grown to deeply like the community, its resilient residents and their “can do spirit”. Thank you all local community members for your support at both the high school and around town.

Ian Miller
Deputy Principal
Chaplain’s Message:
Chappy’s Corner

Have you filled a bucket today? A bucket? What is meant by this? How many encouraging and positive words have you used when talking to someone today? It is so easy to empty someone’s “bucket” with words that can be demeaning, degrading and negative. How much harder it is to fill someone’s “bucket” with positive, uplifting, confidence building words.

Ask yourself: ‘How do I feel when someone pays me a compliment? How do I feel when someone acknowledges the hard work I’ve done?’ Now, ask yourself: ‘How do I feel when someone tells me that I’m useless? How do I feel when someone doesn’t like who I am?’

With our children either beginning their adolescent journey, halfway through or nearly at the end, it is a very confusing, heady, energetic, discovering time. It’s a time of saying goodbye to who they are as a child and discovering who they will become as an adult. With the many pressures on them – to look a certain way, act a certain way, do well in school, etc. etc. it can be hard for our teenagers to have full ‘buckets’. Yes, it is tiring and exhausting sometimes to be always thinking of the right words to say, but it is worth it!

So, have you filled a bucket today? All it takes is one word. Will that word be encouraging and uplifting or demeaning and degrading?

On a different note, at our last Chappy’s breakfast for Term 2, we said good-bye to Peta Thomas, the Youth Development Officer for Longreach. Peta has been a part of Chappy’s breakfast for the last 2 years, and her help has been invaluable. We wish Peta all the best.

Below are some photos from Chappy’s breakfast.

Have a safe holiday everyone. See you next term.

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

Instrumental Music

The ‘Concert of Ideas’ workshop for Instrumental Music students will be held on Friday 25 July, with a concert held at the Qantas Museum at 7:30 pm for anyone in town that evening. There will be a number of visiting musicians who will run workshops with students during the day.

State of Origin Fan Day

State Carnival

Longreach SHS students who competed at the 18s State Carnival for Touch in Hervey Bay.

Faculty News:
Home Economics News

On Thursday 16 June, the Year 9 Home Economics class put on a ‘Ladies’ Day Out’ morning tea as part of their Term 2 assessment. They have been planning this function all term as a class and have been trialling recipes and discussing their event considerations in order to make the function a successful event for their guests. Parents, grandparents, friends and teachers attended the event which had a very ‘girly’ theme – much to the disgust of the two boys in the class! But a lovely ‘Ladies’ Day Out’ is what was wanted, and a lovely ‘Ladies’ Day Out’ is what was had, for all involved. The students were praised on their beautiful selection of savoury and sweet food, as well as the delicious beverages. A fantastic effort from the Year 9 students and a huge thank you goes out to the guests who made the event able to happen!
Ladies Day Out

Elissa Murray
Home Economics Teacher

Finance:

Centrepay is now available for payment of student resource fees. Forms are available from the school office if you would like to set up this automatic payment through Centrelink.

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.

Coming Events

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 28 July at 7 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Important Notices:

Opportunities

We encourage students to apply, try and go for any opportunities as they arise. Anyone who is interested in the events below please see Ms Veney for more information.

Central Queensland University

In Term 3, the CQUiversity team are hosting the Year 10 students on a Career Path journey on campus in Rockhampton, and a representative will be attending our Year 11 and 12 Care Program over a series of 6 weeks to present modules to students around team work, work skills and goal setting. Our links with CQUiversity continue to be very strong.

UQ Young Scholars Program

Designed to nurture and develop high achieving Year 11 students, the University of Queensland offers a fully funded 5 day Residential camp in Brisbane as well as networking opportunities with other like-minded students from across Queensland.

If you are interested in finding out about this program visit www.uq.edu.au/youngscholars. Applications in by Friday August 8.

ABC Exhibition Truck

The ABC team is coming to Longreach SHS to present to our Years 8 and 9 students on July 17. It is an interactive vehicle that provides a ‘one-stop-shop’ showcasing ABC products and services.

Check out the website www.abc.net.au/trailer and the attached flyer. It looks amazing!

Free Digital Magazine for girls

Molly and Fox, a FREE digital magazine for girls aged 10-15 years.

The magazine is filled with interesting articles both newsworthy and with a positive focus. The interactive nature of the magazine including video clips and audio give us a fun new way to interact with teenage girls about their self worth and how they fit in this world.

Readers also have the opportunity to show off their incredible talents, so each month we include their artwork, music videos or writing pieces. Being able to contribute to increasing their self-esteem and feeling great about themselves is what it is all about for us.

Further information can be found on our website at www.mollyandfox.com. Check out the June 2014 issue.