Principal’s Message

Welcome to another newsletter for Term 3.

Staff:

I would like to welcome a new staff member, Kym Webb as Acting HOD behind Lisa Veney. Kym is a HOSES (Special Needs) in her substantive position and has worked in HOSES roles in a number of schools. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge not only about working with a range of students but also has a strong background in literacy development and data management.

Thank you to Josh Duff for acting as HOD for two weeks. He did a great job and was helpful and supportive.

Curriculum:

Year 10 students are going through a process to choose their subjects for Year 11. These subject choices are important because they are completed over two years and will lead students into the right pathway for their future career. Subject selection forms have been handed out and are due back on September 12.

Year 12:

Students will be sitting their Core Skills Test next week. This is an important event for them and we wish them all the best for these two days.

Events:

Michael Tuahine, who works with the ARTIE Project, visited our school for the day and worked with all students. Feedback from teachers and students was extremely positive – great message, kept the students interested and thinking. Michael worked with a panel of representatives from local community agencies with parents in the evening. Parents appreciated the opportunity to hear the same message as their students, because it provided a point of conversation with their children.

As a result, parents voted to have more opportunities to learn about issues that were affecting their students. On Tuesday, September 9th, you are invited to another evening from 6 – 7.00pm in the library. Dan Curtain, CiB, and Dave Perry, Longreach Police will speak about child exploitation from a cyber and internet safety point of view. Please take the opportunity to come.

Gary Crew, author, and a team from the University of the Sunshine Coast, have been working in the school. Gary spoke to a number of students from Year 11 and 12 about writing stories and gave them some good tips on writing their own short stories. The USC team worked with Year 9 student on the MyTED project – please see the article below.

SMS Texting Service:

We have had such a positive response to our new SMS service. Not only does it send out a report to parents each morning of those students who are absent from school without a reason, but it has been used for information giving and positive feedback. Please be aware that you can respond to that message so the office staff can get messages from you.

Junior Secondary News:

We have started visiting primary schools to hand out enrolment packs for 2015. Parents, enrolments forms are due back on September 12th so that we can get you student into the system and build a timetable for them. Another parent night will be held on October 27th in the Library from 6.00 – 7.00pm.

Uniform:

After discussion at the last P & C meeting, again the issue of girls wearing short shorts was raised. The new longer short is now being stocked by the Tuckshop and all students are expected to get these longer shorts. No longer can we allow students to wear short shorts as it is an issue for our staff.

Next year, the word ‘formal’ will be changed to day uniform as the white blouse for seniors can be worn on any day – not just on Tuesdays. We are working on a new polo shirt which we hope to have in place for next year. We will allow a roll out period so students can get the wear out of any of the old polo shirts they currently have.

The QUT STEM (Science, Technology and Engineering, and Math) Team

The STEM team were in the school this week. The Year 10 VWK class were asked to present an argument for debate on Zombies. Some of the great work done by students in the Math team is presented below:
Argument:
A zombie Apocalypse is upon us now
Listen to the mathletes and we’ll show you how
To prevent this disease from affecting the rest
Listen to our beats ‘cause they are the best
We’ll measure the area where the zombie reside
And we’ll find small places where we humans can hide
Eventually in time the zombies will starve
We humans will live our race and will go far.
By Tane Beatty-Smith, Dawn Traill, Ebony Bain Chyna-Lee Waitere

Rebuttal:
Your debate it is strong
But ours is not weak
Because all of your science
Will bring us to our knees
You’ll meddle and poke
With forces you don’t know
You will get infected, you won’t even know
You’ll play with the virus
You’ll just make it worse
You’ll just make it worse
You’ll poke it and prod it
So it will burst
From water, to air the virus
Will spread, your idea will fall
The humans will end.
By Tane Beatty-Smith

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Chaplain’s Message:
Chappy’s Corner
I have amazing potential
I can make good choices
I am never alone.
I can do hard things.
I am beautiful
Inside and Out.
I am of great worth…

Anonymous
When was the last time you looked in the mirror and told yourself- I am beautiful, I have amazing potential, I am of great worth? Why is it so hard to do this? Why don’t we remind ourselves how precious we are? In a world that says you need to look this way, wear this to look beautiful etc., how much more important is it for us to stand in front of that mirror and realise that we are beautiful the way we are! Are we perfect? No! But that is ok. You are beautiful the way you are. Never underestimate your potential nor your beauty.

For the Christian students in our school who wish to further their knowledge of elements of Christianity, there will be the opportunity to explore the bible and discover why it is still is relevant for today. This is part of my role as Chaplain:

• Facilitate voluntary groups and activities for students seeking to explore and/or develop their spirituality.
• Encourage students to engage in meaningful dialogue regarding spirituality, religion, values and ethics, with an attitude of respectful inquiry.

Chaplaincy Role Statement; Key Responsibilities; Spiritual Support 2
This is only offered to students who wish to participate and before attending must have parent permission. This will be a closed group made up of students with signed parent permission forms.

If students wish to participate, they need to see Chappy for a permission form which needs to be signed by you, the parent/guardian, and then returned to the school. If you have any questions please contact me, Chappy (Jenny Edwards) via email at jenny@chappy.org.au or by phone on 4652 8316.

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

School Nurse:
Alcohol and Parties
Alcohol is a huge part of Australian culture and it would be difficult to identify any social gathering that takes place in Australia where alcohol doesn’t play a big role. Just think of any party – birthdays, christenings, friends round for dinner, Christmas time – these gatherings usually include alcohol, sometimes in large quantities. This is where adolescents, even smaller children, learn that alcohol is an accepted part of social gatherings. Alcohol in moderation isn’t a bad thing for adults. The same cannot be said for teenagers.

As well as the fact that it is illegal for people under 18 years old to consume alcohol, there are many health reasons teenagers should avoid alcohol altogether. Alcohol consumption, particularly binge drinking, can cause permanent brain damage – memory problems, concentration and learning difficulties. This is because the brain is still developing and is far more sensitive to alcohol. Teenagers who go on to develop long term problems with alcohol often develop memory loss similar to dementia from middle age onwards.

If people start to drink around the age of 15 they are FIVE TIMES more likely to continue on into adulthood abusing alcohol.

There are also immediate problems associated with drinking too much. Teenagers who have had more than one standard drink are far more likely to have trouble with impulse control. So, while they are intoxicated they will do dangerous things, like jump on their motorbikes, get behind the wheel of a car, do dangerous party tricks, jump into swimming pools or rivers or participate in sexual activity that they wouldn’t normally want to participate in.
So... what can you do as parents/carers to minimise the risk to your children?

Don’t supply them with alcohol.

Keep communication open with your child. Allow them to talk to you about alcohol and don’t get angry if you find out they have drunk alcohol. Set rules with your child that you believe to be acceptable. Include your child in this decision making process so they will be more likely to ‘own’ the rules.

Monitor their whereabouts. Make sure you find out where they are going, who will be there and what their plans are. I know teenagers want to be treated like adults and they are moving towards that stage, but they are not yet adults.

Ensure your child understands there will be consequences if they break rules you had previously agreed upon.

Most importantly remember – you are their most influential role model. Your child learns from your behaviours. If you are consuming alcohol in front of your children it is a great opportunity to drink moderately and responsibly so they learn good habits from you.

If you have any concerns about your child please contact the school and arrange an appointment to see me while I am visiting the school. You can speak with me confidentially. I am here to support parents and carers also.

**Natalie Hurst**

**School Nurse**

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**Every Day Counts**

Does Attendance Really Matter?

1 or 2 days a week doesn’t seem much but......

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If your child attends...</th>
<th>Does it...</th>
<th>Which is...</th>
<th>and over 15 years of school but...</th>
<th>Which means the last time child might perform at...</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3 days per fortnight</td>
<td>4 days per year</td>
<td>4 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 1 month</td>
<td>1 day per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 days per week</td>
<td>5 days per year</td>
<td>6 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 2 months</td>
<td>2 days per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 days per week</td>
<td>10 days per year</td>
<td>14 weeks per year</td>
<td>Over 3 months</td>
<td>3 days per month</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 days per week</td>
<td>20 days per year</td>
<td>28 weeks per year</td>
<td>Nearly 5 months</td>
<td>4 days per month</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

If you want your child to be successful at school then YES, attendance does matter!

'Every Day Counts!!'

Where will your dreams take you?

My Tertiary Education Day (MyTED) arrived in Longreach to awaken the aspirations of our students to attend tertiary education.

Year 9 students became researchers of their own aspirations and assisted the researchers from the University of the Sunshine Coast to evaluate the Primary School component of the MyTED program so that researchers can develop a similar program for high school students. Using participatory research, students used a number of methods to unlock and investigate their future aspirations, being asked to take a photograph that best represented their changing aspirations as they grow from a primary to a secondary student and where they can see themselves as an adult, using an iPad. Using a research method called Photovoice, students inserted the photographs into a digital aspirations pathway, which they can keep for the future. An intriguing part for our students in particular was the eBook, videos from current staff and students and a virtual tour of the USC campus.

The Year 9 students evaluated the Year 4 programs and produced many great ideas for changes and additions to the program. They also came up with ideas for a high school version of the program that included technology enabled activities and videos that would be engaging for teenagers. Postdoctoral researcher, Dr Ruth Greenaway, said, “The Year 9 students came up with ideas we hadn’t even considered; we will now use the ideas generated to extend MyTED and develop a program for teenagers.”

MyTED is a literacy-based program with the underlying premise that students cannot aspire to attend tertiary education if they are not aware of what it offers. “We can demystify some of the assumptions made about University and TAFE by sharing the other students’ experiences of how they have overcome barriers that made it difficult to attend tertiary education.”

“Encouraging students to think about their aspirations for their future is very rewarding and hopefully lasting in the minds of children and young people in Longreach.”

**Samantha Davoren**

**Year 9 Coordinator**

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**Year 10 University Skills Trip**

On a bright sunny Monday morning, eager faces stood outside the school gates waiting for the bus to arrive. These faces of course included Chappy, Mr. Duff and myself. Once the excited group of Year 10 students had waved goodbye to their parents and bundled onto the bus, our students set about making some lifelong friendships with students from Winton. After a hiccup that involved some very hungry kids (and staff), we arrived safe but slightly late at our destination Capricorn Caves. As they stepped off the bus, the phones came out. Cries of dismay filled the night as they realised the reason we did not take their phones off them was because there was no reception!

Our days were filled with talks on different university options, walks on the beautiful grounds and visits to TAFE. Our nights were filled with bowling, laser tag, dodgem rides, card games, foosball (reigning champion thank you) and last, but not least, action packed games of handball. This was of course taken very seriously, most of all by Mr. Duff, so the students brought their A game on to knock him off his pedestal.

On behalf of the staff, I am sure I can safely say, our students made us proud. They represented the school with pride, conducted themselves with aplomb and shared with us their hopes and dreams. Please take a look at our gallery below to share our adventures.
Michelle Ho
Teacher

Year 10 Subject Selection Evening

Deciding on potential careers and the pathways to access those careers are difficult decisions to make, especially at a young age. Our current Year 10 students, despite their youth, are making those decisions at present and as part of the decision making process, students need to choose subjects for Year 11 in 2015.

Monday August 18 was the Year 10 into Year 11 Subject Selection Evening which included presentations from the schools leadership team and colourful, informative and interactive displays from senior subject teachers. A fantastic crowd of parents and students attended showing the great importance placed on senior subjects and future career prospects.

Year 10 students now need to decide on their senior subjects and return their subject selection forms to Mr Stead and Mr Duff by Friday September 12.

Also, don’t forget to register student interest for the Career and Personality Profiling generously subsidised by the P&C. This is a unique opportunity to identify strengths and weaknesses in terms of future careers for Year 10 students. Simply sign the information sheet which is on the back of the subject selection form.

Joshua Duff
Year 10 Coordinator

Year 11 Camp

Thirty-one Year 11 students will be attending camp on the 14 to 19 September. The aim of the camp is to prepare the Year 11 students for leadership roles in the school for 2015 as well as leadership roles for the future in the community.

The camp is at Emu Gully near Helidon, Toowoomba and is an army based leadership camp that focuses on developing leadership skills under pressure with a heavy emphasis on Australia’s history and involvement in wars. The students learn about the Anzacs, the tunnel rats of Vietnam, the Kokoda track and many more Australian military legends.

Students have had to fundraise a lot of money to make the trip viable. We have had to seek sponsorship to assist with the camp and 18 businesses have jumped to our support. We have displayed these supportive businesses on the back of a Year 11 camp shirt for the students to display proudly around the community. We would like to publicly acknowledge these businesses to say thank you for their generous support. The sponsors are:

- Lions Club of Longreach
- Longreach Private Dental
- A&A Photography
- Longreach Tyre Centre
- SJM Contracting
- Watts Catering
- Kinsey’s Shell Longreach
- Qantas Founders Outback Museum
- S&S Rose Painting
- Yeast 2 West Bakery
- Yeast 2 West Bakery
- Ros Kavanagh, Elders Insurance Central Qld
- NAB Longreach
- Suncorp Bank Longreach
- TLF Milk
- Dot’s Central Café
- Tutaki Shearing
- Longreach Regional Council
- Longreach RSL

Dave Scott
Year 11 Camp Coordinator

Coming Events

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 27 October at 7 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

WESTECH career day

Students in Years 10, 11 and 12 are invited to attend the WESTECH career day in Barcaldine on September 10. Please see the attached flyer.

We have secured funding for buses to transfer 66 students. If more students wish to attend we may be able to secure another option.

The bus will leave at 9.00 am from LSHS and arrive back by 3.00 pm. Letters will be distributed on Friday 29 August and permission will be required for students to attend.

This is a great opportunity that we hope to see many students attend.
Heywire Competition

Heywire Competition: 3 weeks to go!

If you’re aged 16-23 and live outside the big cities, enter the Heywire competition and be heard.

Have your story featured on the ABC and win a trip to the amazing Heywire Summit.

Entries close 16 Sep 2014.
More>

More Heywire Features

"Get involved" — Senator Ryan
"I strongly encourage any young person who has a good story to tell to get involved in this great initiative."

Heywire for Teachers
Heywire is a great "real life" task for year 10, 11 and 12s. Put Heywire in your curriculum with new teaching resources.

Top 10 tips
What makes a fantastic Heywire Competition entry?
Check out our top 10 tips to find out.
More>

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