



Subscribe to Online Newsletter! <http://longreachshs.schoolzinewsletters.com/subscribe>

5 December 2014

Principal's Message



Here we are at the end of the year already – where does time go!

Year 12

We have had all the celebrations for our Year 12 students and a successful end of the year for them. I am very proud to announce that 100% of our Year 12 students will receive a Year 12 Queensland Certificate of Education. Thank you to the staff for your hard work in getting students to this point and to the students themselves for their hard work. The Year 12 Formal was a wonderful night and I would like to thank Elissa Murray and her team for making the night such a success.

Year 7 Transition

The big event on our horizon is the transition of Year 7 students to the high school in 2015. Transition day was a huge success where we had approximately 60 Year 7 and 8 students in the school. Students had a wonderful day beginning with an Amazing Race using QR codes to find their way around the school. Groups also had Science lessons where they made different coloured flames, Drama lessons, History and for some the highlight was making cupcakes in 'The Big Red Truck'.

The ABC reporters visited on this day and took some footage and the reporter wanted to let parents know they could have a look on the ABC website and also on the ABC Facebook page.

Uniform

There has been much talk about the new uniform. I am pleased to say that the Committee have worked hard over the year to come up with a modern and cooler alternative.

The design for our new school polo originated from the whirly winds that pass over our school grounds. The symbolism of the whirly winds is that they start from nothing and they build from the ground up and become powerful. The whirly wind gathers together different elements and takes them with it. So, as a symbol of our school, we as teachers and students grow from different beginnings, gather together, learn and build on our knowledge and strengths and, ultimately, are strong enough to attain our goals.

Uniforms are stocked by the tuckshop. At the P & C request, students should abide by the uniform guidelines and stock the uniform for parent's convenience.

Bottoms: Black cargo shorts for boys; black shorts and skirts for girls

Shirt: New polo shirt with the brologa emblem and the whirly wind design

The most community complaints about how our students look are about the short shorts that our girls wear. They will need to purchase the new shorts or skirts and they will be unable to wear short shorts. If they do come to school in them, they will be asked to return home and change or have parents bring a more appropriate uniform to school. The school is a worksite and often workers feel uncomfortable when they have to deal with students in tight shorts.

There will be a two year roll out for the old school polo shirt so that parents can get value for their money. There are no dresses – despite the rumours!!

Year 12 Senior shirts will only be worn on Fridays and special sports days.

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Message From Miss Ho



I just wanted to take up a little space to thank the Longreach family. To the students that I had the pleasure of teaching or even if I didn't, thank you for sharing a small part of your lives with me. Your "hello", "how are you" and constant chatter has made my schooling life that much more interesting.

To the parents and community, thank you for doing all you do. I know that I don't just speak for myself when I say that we do the job out of love, love for our school, our kids and our community.

Longreach has looked after me well, and the last three years have flown by in a whirl of activity. It was everything I expected and more. Take care, and keep in touch.

Michelle Ho
Art Teacher

Chaplain's Message:



Chappy's Corner

The last newsletter for 2014 has arrived!! It has been an awesome year watching students grow in height, (I am feeling very short!!) but most importantly grow in confidence in who they are as a person. It's

only when we become comfortable in our own skin that we can come to that place where we can grow in confidence. We are all different, we don't look the same, we don't think the same, and we don't act the same in situations. When we are able to accept that we are unlike and that's ok, it's amazing how more self-assured we can be in ourselves. This takes time and understanding; may we all take the time to listen to each other, be there for each other, and help if needed.

On another note, Monday 24 November saw the Year 6s and 7s have a taste of high school life. After a challenge which sent them around the school finding various classrooms and answering questions before they moved on; students were able to revisit some of those classrooms and enjoy the experience classroom life. First break saw an influx into the library as many students escaped the heat as well as challenging each other in the various games in the library cupboard. Second break saw students enjoy some watermelon, cheese and crackers, cheerios, poppers and juice icy poles. The funds for the afternoon tea were donated by another chaplaincy committee in Brisbane. I would like to thank Leita Turnbull, Chaplain at Burpengary Meadow State School, for her support of students in the west. The following is an excerpt from the Burpengary Meadows State School newsletter:

ATTENTION FUN RUNNERS - Our "Long...reach Shout"

For those families/students who participated in the Rotary Chaplaincy Fun Run back in August, you will remember, BMSS team won the prize for the "largest team". With the winnings, I suggested the team sponsor an "Outback Party", and that is exactly what we did!

Last Monday, Longreach High School had their Year 6 and 7 Transition Day in which BMSS provided the afternoon tea spread for these students... "Our Shout".....

The patrons of Caboolture Rotary, Remax Ultimate, local churches and other donors all got behind the cause...

Thank you Burpengary Meadows State School, your "shout", it was very much appreciated.



I'd also like to take this opportunity to say thank you to the following business and people for their support throughout 2014:

Longreach Regional Council
Longreach Regional Council – Ilfracombe Branch
Peta Thomas and Michael Cusack – Longreach Council Youth Development Officers
Peter Coombes – Medicare Local
Longreach State High P&C
Matt Sampson – Manual Arts teacher Longreach State High School.
Dean Mitchell
Foodworks
IGA
Liz and Susan – RFDS
Cassie Wheatley – Medicare Local Nutritionist
Longreach Combined Chaplaincy Committee

May you have an awesome Christmas and cool New Year. Until 2015, stay safe and never forget how precious you are.

Merry Christmas

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

Transition Day for Years 6 and 7 students

Seventy-five students visited Longreach State High School for their transition day on Monday, November 24. The historic occasion, which saw Year 6 and Year 7 students visiting, heralds the move of Year 7 students to high school in 2015.

Students had a great day beginning with an Amazing Race around the school. Students used digital technology to scan in QR codes with iPads, which gave them a secret hidden message and directions to the next location.

Later activities in different classrooms included Art, History, Drama, ICT and Science. In the Science lab, students "played with fire" (conducted flame tests using different materials) as well as burning water in the Purple Genii experiment.

Students also "tasted" the joys of working on The Big Red Truck, the school's Trade Training Centre kitchen. Christmas trees and reindeers were the themes of the cupcakes decorated and iced by students when they visited the truck. Students were delighted with the outcome and, despite the 40-degree heat, had lots of fun.

Students from Year 9 and Year 11 helped out during the day with student leaders assigned to each visiting group of Year 6 and 7 students. Year 11 Kitchen Operations students worked with the visitors on the truck and other students worked with them in classrooms.

The chaplain's group supplied afternoon tea and the kids enjoyed it in the new Year 7 area where afternoon tea was served.



2014 Year 12 Formal

The Year 12 Formal was the event of the year for Longreach State High School in 2014. The Year 12's and I had been fundraising and organising all year for what turned out to be a spectacular celebration of the 12 years of schooling the students had just finished!

There was a record number of guests who turned up to witness the 34 seniors graduate and there were many positive comments about how wonderful the night was, not to mention how beautiful and handsome the students were.

The seniors invited special guests to the formal, some of whom were past teachers. This added a special touch to the night, especially with some making speeches. One of the highlights of the night was the lolly table, where guests were free to scoop some yummy treats into a little lolly bag. This, however, didn't detract from the wonderful meals that Andrew Watts and his team prepared for the night. Another highlight was the novelty dance in which the students had been practicing for, for a long time! Grease Lightning was never danced so well and then at the end when everybody was cheering, down came a flurry of colour with the balloon drop making its appearance!

All in all, a fabulous evening filled with smiles, tears, laughter, proud parent moments and just general good times. It was a night to remember for all involved. Congratulations to the team who fundraised, set-up for, packed down and participated in any of the organising for the event. It was well worth it and you should be extremely proud.



Miss Elissa Murray
Year 12 Coordinator

Year 10 Work Experience



P & C President Message:

We have come to the end of 2014 and so many challenges happened during this year for the P&C. Together with the school we have successfully finished several projects and we

are glad to see that the kids can enjoy the new seating and play area. I would like to say thank you to my committee members for their support and to all that came along to our meetings and gave some input to develop but also support the school through our P&C parents.

To all teachers thanks for 2014. We know the hard work you put in for our kids – it doesn't go unnoticed. We wish all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and hope that you will all have safe travels during this special time.

Christo Jacobie
P & C PRESIDENT

Longreach High 50 Years Celebrations

2016 marks 50 years of Longreach State High School. A committee will be formed in 2015 to organise celebrations for this event. If you would like to be a part of this committee you would be welcome to come along to the first meeting which will be announced early in 2015.



School Nurse News



Enjoy the school holidays, but protect yourself from one of the biggest killers!

No, I'm not talking about sharks at the beach. Or lightning strikes. Or accidents.

2 out of 3 people will have skin cancer by the time they are 70 years old. Skin cancer makes up 80% of all newly diagnosed cancers. In 2011 over 2000 people died of skin cancer in Australia. This figure is alarming and is preventable.

There are three main types of skin cancers, with Melanoma being the most serious. Once it penetrates into the body, cancer cells can move to places like your lymph nodes, and spread round your body from there.

If you are consistent with the **five S's** you reduce your chance of getting skin cancer to its minimum. So.....

- Slip** – on sun protective clothing such as long sleeved shirts with collars
- Slop** – on sunscreen – rated at least 30+
- Slap** – on a hat – preferably wide brimmed

Seek – shade whenever possible

Slide – on sunglasses.

Go to the Cancer Council Queensland website for more information www.cancerqld.org.au

Have a great Christmas break and I look forward to working with your kids next year.

Natalie Hurst
School Nurse

Important Notices:

School Watch

With the holidays fast approaching, we need you to look out for after-hours crime in our school.

If you see anything suspicious, please don't attempt to intervene. Call the School Watch number – 13 17 88.

The School Watch Program is a partnership between Education Queensland, the Queensland Police Service and the State Government Protective Security Service. It aims to reduce vandalism, theft and arson in Queensland schools.

Keep the number handy – 13 17 88 – and let's work together to help create a safer school community.

For more about the School Watch Program contact Education Queensland's School Security Section on (07) 3237 0874.

Student Tax File Number

The Secondary Schools Tax File Number (TFN) Program will not continue beyond 31 December 2014. This means that School TFN forms will no longer be processed beyond this date.

How students can apply for a TFN from 1 January 2015

The Australian Taxation Office in partnership with Australia Post is making it easier for individuals to apply for a TFN.

Students can now apply for a TFN online and have their identity verified through an interview at a participating Australia Post office.

Applying online is the fastest and most convenient way for students to get a TFN. More information on applying online can be found at ato.gov.au by searching for 'QC27248'