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23 February 2015

Principal's Message



It is always amazing how quickly the term slips away and we are nearly at the half way mark.

What this means for students is the first round of testing is coming up and they need to be focused on completing assessment or preparing for exams. Attached to this

newsletter is a poster on **Attendance** and the effect it has on a student's learning. It is really interesting to look at the data.

Curriculum:

Our big focus in the school is for the Literacy and Numeracy program that is happening in the Junior School. Junior classes have a skills lesson which is focussed on developing skills that students need in all subject areas to be successful. The next few weeks will be concentrating on writing skills.

All students in the Junior School were tested in the first two weeks. These marks have been collated and entered into a program that allows us to see their progress from previous NAPLAN tests. Students will be given individual sheets that outlines what areas that they did not do well in, and questions to help them learn those missing skills.

With the support from our Master Teacher, Tania Schaller, we will be tracking students' progress to see how they are improving.

Events:

This week we celebrated our new leaders for **2015 at the Investiture Ceremony**. School Captains, House Captains, Junior Secondary Leaders and Year Level Representatives were inducted as leaders. The ceremony was well attended with invited guests and parents.



Next Monday, February 23rd, is the first meeting of the P & C. All parents are welcome to come. The AGM will be held in March.

An Invitation to Year 7 and 8 Parents

Monday night from 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm, we will hold a parent night to enable parents to meet their student's teachers and to have a look around the school. Nibbles and drinks will be available courtesy of the P & C and Year 11 and 12 Hospitality.

Process for Incorrect Uniform

The P & C Association of Longreach High School has deemed that the school will be a uniform school and as such, any student coming to this school agrees to abide by the uniform policy. Recently we have undergone a change in our uniform starting with introducing plain black shorts and skirts last year. This year we have extended the range of shorts so that girls have two designs to choose from as well as a skirt. The new shirt has been successfully introduced this year and I have had many compliments on how nice students look in it.

We have allowed a two year roll out for the new shirt which allows students to wear their old uniforms until they are worn out. Our biggest issue is that girls are choosing to wear very short, incorrect shorts some with coloured logos or embroidery. The tuckshop supplies the approved black shorts and skirts and students are expected to wear them.

If students are choosing to wear the incorrect uniform, the process is as follows:

1. Students will be checked during Access class. If out of uniform, ask for a reason and given an explanation of why we need everyone to be in school uniform.
2. A record is kept of who is not in correct uniform.
3. An entry is made in the back of student's diary P 188 with date, what is incorrect and outcome is eg not washed, wearing correct uniform tomorrow. This will provide a record of how many times the student is out of uniform and if another teacher or Admin stops them, the diary can be checked.
4. 2nd Offence – phone home – explain that this is P & C Policy that we are a uniform school, and the expectation is that students will abide by the policy. There are now three options for girls – two shorts and a skirt, that they have had 4 weeks to get the

new uniform if their old one is not suitable. The shorts are to be PLAIN black with no writing or emblems on them, and of a decent length – mid thigh. If the students do not wear correct shorts, there are two options – they are sent to the office and parents called to bring in acceptable shorts, or they change in the office into shorts held there.

If parents want further explanation, a member of Admin will be happy to call them.

5. 3rd and other offences – detention and to the office for a change of shorts.

Lesley Andrews
Principal

Curriculum Head of Department's Message



Well, the first carnival of the year is done and dusted and what a turnout it was. The Longreach Swimming pool turned red and yellow for the first clash of the year between the defending Spartans and the Mighty Warriors. House captains, Nathan Rose and Maddison Fitzpatrick (Spartans) along with Reece Kinsey and Kate Whelan

(Warriors) proudly rallied their troops into battle for the clash in the splash. The turnout of students was fantastic and the new Year 7s and 8s deserve a special mention for participating in nearly every race of the day.

Proudly the Spartans defended their swimming pride taking home the trophy with an overall points total of: Spartans 1671 points and Warriors 1330 points.

Age group champions for the year are:

- 12 Years Boys: Jaxon Hitson
- 12 Years Girls: Anne McLachlan
- 13 Years Boys: Rangy Solomon
- 13 Years Girls: Chloe Deller
- 14 Years Boys: Sam Card and Nicholos Long
- 14 Years Girls: Khloe Hitson
- 15 Years Boys: Jack Huff
- 15 Years Girls: Teah Tanks
- 16 Years Boys: Lochlan Smith
- 16 Years Girls: Khalli Rowlands
- Open Boys: Reece Kinsey and Ryan Stephenson
- Open Girls: Chrisne Jacobie

No records were set on the day. However as the 12 Years age group is a new addition to the High School the first place getter in this age group is the new record holder:

- 12 Years Girls: Anne McLachlan 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly
- 12 Years Boys: Jaxon Hitson 50m Freestyle, Breaststroke, Backstroke and Butterfly



A huge thank you to Tony, Mick and every other staff member for helping set up and pack up. Miss Pix's support was invaluable and every other staff member braved the hot sun to make the day as enjoyable as possible. Finally, well done to all students who had a go. The event is only as much fun as you make it – so congratulations.



Dave Scutt
Curriculum HOD

Meet and Greet

The Year 7 and 8 Parent Meet and Greet with the Teachers will be held at the school library on Monday 23 February commencing at 6.00 pm.

Chaplain's Message:

Chappy's Corner



Choices: Food for Thought

Choices are something we all have to deal with in almost every area of our lives – what to wear, what to eat etc., but we can often overlook the impact that some of our choices can make on our lives.

Wrong choices can often be enticing because they offer a quick way of getting things we want e.g. stealing from others or shoplifting. Some wrong choices can lead us to think we might be more popular if we go along with the crowd e.g. getting drunk with friends or sharing drugs that friends offer us.

Please remember that though some choices may seem very attractive, they can also be deadly. Going along with others and refusing to make wise choices can create in you an appetite that you will do anything to satisfy, as in the case of drug addiction or alcoholism.

When it comes to making choices in your life, take time to consider long-range effects. Keep away from people who want to draw you into doing things that you know will harm you. True friends wouldn't do that.

Good choices have positive long-term effects. They guard your health and happiness. Wrong choices have the opposite effect.

Just like playing a game of Connect Four, in life we make choices. Make a wrong choice in the game of Connect Four and it could cost you the game; make a wrong choice in life and

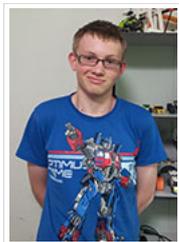
it could cost you your relationships with others. What choice will you make today?

On another note, the Year 7s have enjoyed a week of competing against each other to see who would be the Champion at Connect Four for their year level. Students enjoyed the competition and were a little disappointed at being beaten, but there can only be one winner. The runner up for the Year 7s is Grace Bates, and the winner is..... Kasi Steger. Well done to all those who participated in the competition.

Have a great week.

Jenny Edwards
Chaplain

Former Student Returns as Guest Speaker



This year, we have offered to Year 7 and 8 students an elective where they can create their own stop motion animated movie. To start the class off, we were fortunate enough to have one of LSHS' graduates to come in, talk to the class about movie making and show us some of his creations.

Jonathon Edwards has been accepted into university to study animation and is passionate about this topic. He has been making snippets of movies for a number of years and experimenting with effects so he had much to showcase to our junior students. Jonny was an inspiration to the class and I'm looking forward to viewing the creations which the class will produce.

Ms Rumsey
Year 7/8 Create Teacher

Year 7 History

In History, we have been "investigating the ancient past". As a part of this course, we ventured up to the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre during one of our lessons. Students, along with Teacher Aide, Tania Osborne, were extremely excited and couldn't wait for the time to arrive. Some students had never been to the Hall of Fame and were curious to know what it was like.

Our time looking over the artefacts flew by. We discovered that some of the lessons learned in class were actually part of the exhibits, putting some practical application to our theory in the classroom. Students were encouraged to take their families back for a longer look as local residents have free entry to the Hall. We thank the Hall of Fame for their generosity in welcoming students and accommodating our quest for learning.



Ms Rumsey
Year 7 Humanities Teacher

Free 'Student Advantage' Microsoft Office 2013 Suite

All state school students from Prep to Year 12 can now download multiple free copies of the Microsoft Office 365 Suite to their **personal** home and mobile computer equipment. This suite provides students with a subscription to the full versions of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and OneNote.

Students who want the free software will need an active Managed Internet Service (MIS) login, school email account and password – this is the login all students use to access the school network.

After downloading, students will have the latest Office suite at home, on their personal PC's, Macs and other mobile devices (up to five in total). This offer is not available to computers which are part of the school network such as the laptops and tablets which are part of the Computers for Students Laptop Program.

Students need to visit the Learning Place student space to access a step by step guide and the download link.

Please come and see me if you have any issues in accessing this offer.

Mrs Roberts
IT Co-Ordinator

Coming Events

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be held on **Monday 23 February at 7 pm** in the Library following the Year 7 and 8 Meet and Greet.

Everyone is welcome to come along.

Important Notices:

The Assessment Planner for Semester 1 is below. It will be attached to the side panel of future newsletters.