16 October 2015

Deputy Principal’s Message

Great Reading Results

The State School’s Performance Team are running a High Performance Strategy project in which they are currently exploring how selected schools have achieved improvement over time in reading in Junior Secondary. Longreach State High School and 8 other schools in Queensland were identified for their great results in reading, as student achievement has consistently improved over the past few years.

A team from the Department of Education and Training will visit our school on Tuesday 27 and Wednesday 28 October, to conduct evidence studies which aim to identify factors contributing to improvements in reading achievement among junior secondary students. The studies may involve a range of school-based participants including the Principal, School Leadership Team, Teachers, Students, Non-teaching Staff and Parents. At the conclusion of the study, the Performance Team will document our identified school processes around reading. This information will then be made available to other Queensland schools, allowing them to follow our model or use strategies that we have put in place in their own schools.

This is a great celebration for all the hard work that our staff has put into implementing reading strategies into their classrooms. It also commends the efforts of our students to use these strategies in their studies to better their abilities in reading.

Camps

In the final week of Term 3 and the first week of this term we had our Year 7, 9 and 11 camps. For these experiences, students attended Dalkeith Station, Noosa North Shore and Emu Gully. Across all three camps, students successfully participated in a range of activities that worked toward the goals of the camp. We commend students on engaging with the range of learning experiences at the camps and on their great behaviour while representing our school. Thank you to all staff who attended these camps. It is a huge commitment to take a group of students away and be responsible for them 24/7. I would also like to thank all students, teachers, parents and local businesses for your support in fundraising for these camps. It can be very expensive for students to attend school camps and your support through fundraising makes camps more accessible for all families. Thank you!

Leadership

One of the major themes of the Year 11 camp is around building young leaders. At the conclusion of camp and on their return to school, we ask our Year 11s to consider whether they feel they would be suitable for a leadership position at LSHS. Students who elect to undertake the leadership journey will be asked to respond to Selection Criteria (Week 2/3), participate in a formal interview (Week 3) and make a short speech on full school parade on Tuesday 27 October. Should your child be undertaking this process, we would like to invite you to support them by attending the assembly on Tuesday 27 at 9 am. All the listed elements plus a full school vote will be used in selecting our 2016 School Leaders. Successful applicants will be notified at our Awards Night on Thursday 29 October.

Awards Night

I would like to invite you to attend Longreach State High School’s Awards Night, held at the Civic Centre on Thursday 29 October. Students who have earnt a Merit, Distinction or Age Champion Award will be notified in advance, however all special awards will be announced on the night. The formal invitation is attached; it would be great to see all in attendance.

Thanks

Firstly, I would like to Rebecca Bell, Tanya Hamilton, Tony Emslie and our Year 11 and 12 students who went out to Ilfracombe on the weekend to work with the Outback College of Hospitality truck. Students were working with the team to set tables, serve food, clear tables and clean dishes for the 300 person event. The students and staff did an amazing job. Congratulations!

Secondly, I would like to thank Margaret Kluger for working at our school over Terms 3 and 4. She has done a great job covering multiple staff members while they were on leave. Thank you for your efforts and good luck at your next school. I would also like to thank Adam Zuurbier for stepping up to Acting HOD and Kym Webb for working as Acting Deputy Principal while Lesley has been on leave.
Aspects of Chaplains can include:]

**Chaplain’s Message:**

**Chappy’s Corner**

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**So what does a chaplain do?**

School chaplains provide social, emotional and spiritual support in schools, out-worked through seven key role areas.

**Extra-Curricular Activities**

So much goes on in the everyday life of a school and chaplains participate in many aspects of it. They coach sporting teams, go on camps and excursions, attend school events, help out in school musicals and support student leaders.

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**Social and Emotional Support**

Chaplains complement other school-based support services focused on promoting student wellbeing. They do this through facilitating pastoral conversations and social and emotional groups and supporting whole school wellbeing activities.

**Community Development**

It takes a village to raise a child. Chaplains facilitate links between the school and local organisations like churches and community-based support services to enhance the support available to students, parents/carers and staff.

**Mentoring and Role Modelling**

Chaplains model positive values, attitudes and behaviours to students and mentor students towards positive goals and outcomes. They help students become better role models for others and provide access to adult role models and mentors.

**Education Support**

There is a close link between learning and wellbeing. Chaplains support the educational goals schools have for their students through in-class support, talking to students about school issues and running breakfast clubs.

**Spiritual Support**

While spirituality permeates all aspects of a chaplain’s role, chaplains also play a specific role in helping students to explore issues of faith and spirituality through spiritual conversations, groups and activities.

**Team Contribution**

Chaplains have a range of organisational and professional responsibilities on top of their direct practice work. These can include attending meetings, writing reports, participating in professional development and engaging in professional supervision.

Chaplains also attend school camps and are involved in camping programs during the school holidays. I had the privilege of attending Year 7 camp during the first week of this term and what a great time we had! We walked, ran, hid, played spotlight, swam, fed chooks and sheep, watched rams being shorn, exercised with Joy McClymont, listened to the wisdom of Paul McClymont and Mac McClymont, built rafts with a difference - instead of Henley-on-the-Todd (Alice Springs raft racing) it was Longreach Year 7 on Harmony Creek. Great times were had.

On a bittersweet note, you may have heard that I am leaving...that is true. We as a family are moving to Otorohanga, New Zealand at the beginning of December. P&C Chappy’s...
breakfast will continue until the second last week of school, and Chappy’s Place will be open second break until the end. Until next newsletter – remember you are precious, loved, cared about, valued and beautiful.

**Jenny Edwards**
Chaplain

**Drama**
The Year 9/10 Drama class have been working hard over Term 3 to develop, write and design a play about ‘Dark Fairytales’. As this is a huge undertaking and the most complex production we have developed to date (there are musical numbers!) we will be beginning the process of establishing after school rehearsals within the next two weeks (possibly on a Sunday due to student work commitments) as per a typical school production like a musical.

With only two lessons a week we are time poor so these sessions will be extremely valuable in making costumes, props, getting extra rehearsal time in and completing technical run throughs! We are looking at performing for three nights at a later point in the term with specific dates and times pending our rehearsal progress.

We will leave you with this teaser until next time:

> “When I meet the Princess, my whole life will change…”

**Erin Landles**
Drama Teacher

**Faculty News:**

**Year 11 Leadership Camp**

Year 11 students were challenged during their five day camp at Emu Gully, Toowoomba. This camp focuses on building leadership skills and has a strong ANZAC theme which encourages students to embrace the core values of mateship, perseverance, self-sacrifice and courage.

Students were encouraged to face their fears as they crawled through maze tunnels and stood metres above water on a plank with only their partner to support them. They were required to work together to solve problems and to help each other every step of the way.

Throughout the camp, students’ confidence quickly grew and new friendships formed. Several students developed the self-belief that they needed to start their applications to become future school and sports captains.

**Year 9 Camp Noosa North Shore**

After waving goodbye to their parents the Year 9s finally started their 16 hour bus trip to the beautiful Noosa North shore where excitement and adventure awaited. After 5 hours of listening to some great 80’s and 90’s music, some students decided it was time for a sleep. However, not much sleep was had with Holly and Katelyn singing up a storm. The morning stop over at Gympie McDonald’s provided an opportunity for everyone to get off the bus and enjoy the surrounds. This quickly went pear shaped when one student decided to throw up as soon as he got off the bus which in turn caused four other students to also throw up.

Upon arriving at the Noosa retreat at 11 am students were thrilled to see green grass and rain falling from the sky. Day one saw the Year 9s complete the pamper pole and giant swing which really challenged some of the students (and teachers) but all passed with flying colours. Surfing was next on the list with all students having a great time with some students showing their hidden talents.

Day two included raft building and let’s just say I’m glad I’m not stuck on a deserted island with the Year 9s. Rock climbing brought on a whole new challenge with most students conquering the wall. Special mention goes to Nick Long and Holly Callaghan who completed the wall blindfolded. The night’s activities included a trivia night which all students really enjoyed, with the winners being the “Pineapples” which included Kate Bartley, Zoe Cross and Jack Huff. Other night time activities included spotlight and yoga with Mr de Vries.

The last day involved student hiking for three hours up Mt Tinbeerwah with students complaining all the way until they reached the top and saw the magnificent views of Noosa and its surroundings. Mountain biking in the afternoon was great fun riding through the bush and sand until finally stopping for a break at the beach.

I’m sure all students discovered something new about themselves and created lasting friendships and memories while on camp. I would just like to say a big thank you to all the Year 9 students who participated and gave their all on camp, and I know they will remember this camp for the rest of their lives.

**Mr de Vries and Miss Wearmouth**
Camp Teachers

**Year 7 Camp**

On Wednesday 7 October to Friday 9 October, 32 students eagerly boarded the bus set for Year 7 camp at Dalkeith Station, 100 km west of Longreach. Upon arrival, students were met with dry parched conditions as far as the eye could see and two friendly faces, Joy and Charlie McClymont. Little Charlie (aged 4) was so excited to show his new friends around his home.
The hesitant Year 7s explored their new camp which they would call home for the next two nights and unpacked for their outback property experience. After lunch saw their new adventure begin with some students heading off into the distance with Mac McClymont to explore the property and the different country (mitchell grass, gidgee, and spinifex country), fencing, and the water systems used to support life on the property. The second group headed off with Paul McClymont to the cattle yards to experience mustering cattle and cattle work. Just before sun down students had a swim in the Leaky Dam followed by a camp fire dinner. Students also experienced star gazing through the telescope with Mac. As eyes began to get heavy we headed back to camp.

Day two saw students rise early for a shearing shed fitness circuit to the pumping music and not before too long we were ready for the day. Students completed the farm routine of feeding and watering the domestic and grazing stock and then headed out for the grass and cattle activities for the morning session. The afternoon activities included sheep shearing work and raft building. Students actively participated in mustering the sheep into the runs ready to be sorted for shearing. Stumbling, falling and the sneaky ram or two getting away they finally got them in! Paul demonstrated how to get the ram ready to be sheared. Students then had the opportunity to collect the rams for Paul. After the rams had been shorn students would then class the wool ready for the wool press. Four teams were formed to design, build and run rafts ready for the big Dalkeith dry river raft race. Later that night students decorated the shearing shed ready for their bush dance disco. After a dam swim and dinner the festivities began in the shearing shed with all types of dance moves making an appearance from the shopping kart to the sprinkler followed by spotlight and bed! Arrr heaven!

Day three was it; it was finally here the dry river raft race. Who would be the inaugural champions? The heats were close and some rafts were falling apart. We were down to the final two teams with a close race all the way to the finish line. Congratulations to – Chloe, Richard, Adam, Grace, Jack and Michael. After the hike back to camp students packed the trailer and were on the bus back to school.

The camp provided the opportunity for students to shine and demonstrate mateship, endurance and courage. The different aspects of life on Dalekeith Station included drought conditions and life giving bores, dust and dams, working with chooks, rams, a pig, calves and horses, searching for stars and space stations, embracing country hospitality and tucker that would win at any CWA competition.

Thanks to the McClymonts for all their efforts of a wonderful camp.

SBS School Selfie Visit

In Week 3 the Visual Art students of Year 11 and 12 will be participating in a workshop with photography artists, Marco Bok and Benjamin Stone-Herbert. These artists are from the Australian Centre for Photography and are affiliated with the broadcaster ‘SBS’. Students will be working with these artists and focusing on what their school means to them. They will learn techniques and tricks to create images that tell a story and go beyond the usual snap-shot.

Acclaimed street photographer, Marco Bok, and emerging photo-artist and tutor, Benjamin Stone-Herbert, will teach students to explore composition, light and scale to produce images worthy of publication in an SBS online gallery.

Students will be encouraged to practice their new photographic skills with today’s most accessible camera, the mobile phone. The workshop promises to be filled with fun and an opportunity to learn new skills in photography.

It is a great achievement for the art students of LSHS to be working with such accomplished contemporary artists. Students are looking forward to learning new techniques and challenging new perceptions of art making. Lights, camera, action – let the fun begin!

Alesha Degen
Visual Art Teacher

Coming Events

P & C Meetings

The next P & C meeting will be held on Monday 26 October at 7 pm in the Library. Everyone is welcome to come along.

Important Notices:

Youth Club Trash and Treasure

Got things you’d like to get rid of?

Turn it into profit at The Longreach Youth Club Trash and Treasure

Date: Every Third Sunday of the month Time: 11am to 3pm
Address: 160 Eagle St Longreach
Contact for bookings and more information: Neil Harvey
0427 581 796
Canteen open

LARF classes start on October 15!

Fiona Hamilton and Kathy McDonald are happy to spread the word that Longreach Art on Fridays (LARF) will be offered to school children this term at the Longreach Arts and Cultural Centre.

Classes will be on five consecutive Fridays commencing October 16.
Our classes offer children aged 6 to 12 years who have a passion for art, the opportunity to indulge in fine art (including painting, drawing, print-making, mosaic) pottery and sculpture for 1 ½ hrs on selected Friday afternoons during the school term.

We have been running these classes for three years and have to restrict numbers to 12 in each class, so it is a case of: first to register get the places.

The charge of $15 per student per Friday covers tuition, hire of facility, fruit and cold water for afternoon tea, and all other equipment and materials used in the classes.

Children unable to attend all 5 classes will be required to pay $20 per class.

If your child wishes to attend, please email jfhamilton@bigpond.com with names and ages of children wishing to register.

“Creativity is like freedom. Once you’ve tasted it you cannot live without it. It is a transformative force, enhancing self-esteem and self-empowerment.” Natalie Rogers

Fiona Hamilton
LARF Teacher