



**LONGREACH**  
STATE HIGH SCHOOL  
SOARING TO SUCCESS

Jabiru Street  
Longreach QLD 4730  
Subscribe: <http://longreachshs.schoolzineplus.com/subscribe>

Email: [admin@longreachshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:admin@longreachshs.eq.edu.au)  
Phone: 07 4652 8333  
Fax: 07 4652 8300



17 March 2017

## Principal's Message



### Permanent Principal From Term 2

It gives me pleasure to advise you that our current Deputy Principal, Mr Brendan Krueger, has been appointed as the permanent Principal of Longreach SHS from the start of next term. It is terrific that our school will be led by a Principal of such calibre and that Longreach SHS has

certainty into the future. I am sure you will join me in congratulating Brendan on his success when you see him. Brendan and his wife Kelley have four children at Longreach SS and the family is a very welcome addition to the Longreach community.

We are in the process of appointing a new Deputy Principal due to Brendan's promotion and will finalise that within the coming days.

Despite the fact that I am leaving Longreach SHS at the end of the term, my overwhelming feeling is one of great optimism for the school's future. I know that the remainder of 2017 will be both exciting and important for Longreach SHS. Later in the year there will be a school review and the subsequent development of a strategic four year plan. No doubt our school will continue to go from strength to strength as a result of the review, the planning process and our continued teamwork.

I would like to put on the record how fantastic the Longreach SHS community has been. My wife Natalie and I wish everyone a happy and safe upcoming Easter holiday and thank you for making us feel welcome.

## Memorial Service

Last Saturday at Apex Park, the family of Che-Lee Jennar-Jackson held a memorial service in her honour at Apex Park. I was struck by the peacefulness of the service. It was a beautiful way for the Longreach community to pay Che their respects. Che will remain in our hearts and minds and I would like to thank her family for organising such a wonderful service.

## Gold Coast Principals' Conference

Recently, I had the pleasure of joining over one thousand other state school Principals for a conference on the Gold Coast at the Exhibition Centre. The conference was facilitated by the ABC's Kerry O'Brien and covered many topical and emerging areas in education. The presentation that spoke to me most of all was that of the well-known educational theorist John Hattie, who challenged us to think about how we should best measure student learning and growth. Education is a constantly evolving field and as such, it is important for us to stay abreast of developments. The Principals' conference gave us many such opportunities.

## Year 7 Student Rhett Harris Gains Coaching Trial With Italian Footballing Giant AC Milan

I have recently heard that one of our Year 7 students, Rhett Harris, has won an upcoming coaching trial with Italian footballing giant AC Milan. My understanding is that Rhett has been successful along with a couple of other young Queenslanders. This is a tremendous honour and we wish Rhett all the very best in what will undoubtedly be the experience of a lifetime.

## Kim Frederick's Visit

Our Regional Director, Ms Kim Fredericks, will be visiting Longreach and Longreach SHS on Thursday and Friday next week. It is always a pleasure to host our regional colleagues

and next week will be no exception. Kim is a wonderful supporter of our school and community and it will be great for Brendan, I and others to sit down with her to discuss a range of topics.

## Student Attendance

One of the keys to strong student learning is attendance at school. Indeed, it should come as no surprise that the weight of evidence confirms stronger student results with improved attendance. Our student attendance rate so far in 2017 is over 90%, which is an increase of approximately 5 percentage points on 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support in getting students to school each day and thank you in advance for your continued efforts and support. Attendance is a crucial part of schooling.

## Year Level Co-ordinators

Longreach SHS has made some changes to the Year Level Coordination structures from the start of next term. In particular, we are moving from six Year Level Coordinators to two Junior/Senior Coordinator positions. Our Junior Coordinator will be Ms Amy Brazil and our Senior Coordinator will be Mrs Tanya Hamilton. I would like to congratulate Amy and Tanya on their success for what will be key roles in the school focussing on Attendance, Student Welfare and Rewards. I would also like to thank our current Year Level Coordinators for the outstanding work they have done. No doubt Mr Krueger will provide more information in due course on this important change.

## OCOH Truck

As we go about our normal day to day business, our Hospitality Truck is quietly getting about giving rural students an opportunity in Certificate Hospitality qualifications. The truck is currently in Blackall and has recently been in Winton and Barcardine. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Tony Emslie, our Facilities Officer; Mrs Tanya Hamilton and Ms Katie Frize for their work in providing such excellent opportunities to our students, both here and across the region. In recognition of the fine work the truck and all the people involved with it have done over many years, Longreach SHS will be submitting a DET Showcase of Excellence submission, detailing how the truck has assisted and engaged so many people in the community. Our submission will be on behalf of the five schools that utilise the truck's services and will be a perfect opportunity to recognise the great work done over many years. We are crossing our fingers!

## Term 1 Reports

Teachers are busy finalising Term 1 student academic reports, which will be sent out by email in the last week of term. This is important feedback on academic progress so far in 2017 and I ask that you sit down with your student to go through the report. I will certainly read each and every one of the reports and look forward to seeing how our students are progressing.

Regards

**Patrick Bruck**  
**Principal**

## Deputy Principal's Message



Dear Parents and Students,

As we rapidly approach the Easter holidays a number of significant events will be occurring both before and immediately after the Easter holidays. First and foremost all parents will be emailed their child's Term 1 report card with an indication of your child's achievement, effort and behaviour to date.

Parents will also be invited to attend our first parent teacher interviews which will be held on Thursday 27 April from 3.30 – 6pm. All parents and students are encouraged to attend these important meetings to discuss your child's progress and any ways in which we may work together to improve student learning. Information regarding the bookings for the parent teacher interviews will be provided with the report cards and parents are encouraged to update their email address to receive a report card as soon as possible. Those parents who prefer a hard copy or need to update their email address can contact the school on 4652 8333 or alternatively email the school at [principal@longreachshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@longreachshs.eq.edu.au) before Thursday the 30th March.

Next term we will be trialling a new student service at Longreach State High School whereby two Year Level Coordinators (YLC) have been appointed to assist parents and students with any welfare or attendance issues. Mrs Tanya Hamilton will be the new Senior School YLC (Years 10-12) and Ms Amy Brazil, the Junior School YLC (Years 7-9). These two key personnel are available to talk to parents and students with any concerns you may have regarding your child and they will also be responsible for coordinating the junior and senior camps throughout the year.

Parents should have received a letter last week outlining the school's proposal to amend the school finish time from 3.10pm to 3.00pm starting in Term 2. Students who catch the school buses or who are waiting for pick-up after school will continue to have teacher supervision and class learning time will remain the same. Students' lunch times will be reduced by 10 minutes to accommodate these changes. If you require further information or to provide feedback regarding this proposal please contact the Principal at [principal@longreachshs.eq.edu.au](mailto:principal@longreachshs.eq.edu.au) or alternatively phone the school on 4652 8333.

Before the Easter holidays the school will be opening the school oval after its long awaited re-turfing and watering system installation. The oval now boasts a state of the art watering system and quality turf that will withstand the hot Longreach summers and winter coolness. Students will be required to wear a hat when using the oval. We look forward to the many other health and recreational advantages we will gain from this facility.

As the term draws to a close I would like to thank Mr Patrick Bruck for his leadership and contribution to the school throughout Term 1. The school community wishes you well as you embrace opportunities further afield.

Yours sincerely

**Brendan Krueger**  
**Deputy Principal**

## Guidance Officer's Message



### Managing Difficult Moments

Praise and other kinds of acknowledgement are motivating, and are often needed to help children (and adults) change their behaviour. Psychological research has shown that following up a person's good behaviour with something positive makes it more likely that the behaviour will happen

again, but is this enough?

The following suggestions will also contribute to a calmer household:

#### Pick the battles

- Especially as children get older the battlefield can, if not monitored, become 'out of control' – as children grow and assert their independence they, at times, push the boundaries. Friends and technology become a focus rather than family; safety can be ignored; messiness and mood changes can create disharmony in the family. Picking and choosing which battle to tackle is an art to acquire. Here is a tip - Focus on the most important **issue** at any one time rather than a plethora of problems. Remember: Safety is a priority not to be negotiated. If children/adolescents perceive that nothing they do is right then often they give up listening.

#### Be clear in your expectations

- Is what you have asked your child/adolescent to do clear enough? Saying 'I want you to pick up the clothes off the floor in your room' is clearer and achievable than 'your mess is annoying me'.

#### Ensure the expected behaviour is realistic and achievable

- Sometimes we ask children to do things that are too difficult for them to do without help e.g. expecting a child to be in charge of young siblings is not realistic nor safe.

#### Monitor your own behavior

- Are you managing your own emotions when you are requesting your child to do the same (yelling at a child because of their angry outburst is actually reinforcing that yelling and loss of control is ok)?
- Do you say one thing and do another (e.g. getting annoyed about mess when you are messy)?

### Catch Your Child/Adolescents Being Good

- Keep a record of the behaviours you are pleased with and share the positive observations with your child.
- Have reward strategies up your sleeve for those 'hard to change' behaviours:
- Ask your child about what they like. If they suggest the reward, it will be more motivating.
- Make sure the reward is realistic for you to give (and preferably not costing money).
- If the child becomes bored by use of the same reward, use a menu of items to create variety. When your child meets his/her behaviour expectation, he/she selects one reward from the menu.
- A mystery reward is also very motivating for most children.
- If a child wants to earn a big reward (e.g. computer game, movie, etc.), you could use a token system. Each day he/she could earn tokens that can be exchanged later for a bigger reward.
- Emphasise social rewards and privileges over material rewards. Material rewards (e.g. toys, money, etc.) are expensive and often don't work. Many children enjoy having time to spend with their parents or carers. Rewards involving time and activities with parents or carers (no matter what age), can be reinforcing and promote good relationships at the same time.
- Follow through with consequence
- Is it fair and related to the misdemeanour?
- Does your child understand why they are given the consequence?
- Will there be opportunity for your child to learn from their mistakes eg. parent /child discussion about the problem at hand, problem solving with your child around better choices, and if necessary, role playing of appropriate behavior?

#### Homework for the week ahead:

Double the amount of praise you give your child for his/her good efforts in the coming week, and monitor its success. Keep a track of negative responses you use in conversations with your child.

(You may need to expand your own vocabulary so you have a variety of positive comments ready to encourage your child).

If you have reached this line, then, **well done for taking such an interest in reading these strategies**. Good luck with your implementation.

Source: [www.kidsmatter.edu.au](http://www.kidsmatter.edu.au)

**Andrew Ruzicka**  
**Guidance Officer**

## P & C President Message:

The Longreach High School P&C Association is rostered on to sell goose club tickets at the RSL in the evening on Friday 31 March.

We have booked one of the spots in front of Ringrose Button for this Saturday morning 18 March and in front of the IGA after school on 29 March.

Please let me know if you can help out on any of these three dates. A member of the executive will be there the whole time so it could be as little as 30 minutes or just come and buy lots of tickets.

Year 11 (see attached photo of First Prize Easter Basket, \$1 a ticket) and Year 7 will be fundraising for their School camps this Saturday as well.

**Karen Perry**  
**P & C Secretary**



## HPE Week

Week 5 (Monday 20 February - Friday 24 February) saw a number of students take part in HPE week. Longreach State High School was one of 75 schools to participate in this program throughout Queensland, with the aim of recognising the importance of physical activity in the Australian Curriculum.

### The week's wrap up is as follows:

Teachers were victorious over the students in both Monday and Tuesday lunchtime volleyball games. Despite some questionable techniques, both students and teachers managed to defend their space well and onlookers were lucky enough to watch some nail biting rallies. Thank you to all staff who gave up their lunch break to participate in this activity. The students definitely appreciated some healthy competition.

Wednesday saw Miss McKenzie bravely take to the court to referee the student's basketball game. As basketball is a big part of the sporting culture here at Longreach State High, it was no surprise that participation was through the roof for both the senior and junior students.

As Thursday rolled around, the sports captains stepped up to the plate and organised another game of lunchtime volleyball. It was great to see so many students participate and the

encouragement and maturity from the senior boys was exemplary.

Friday was the last official day of HPE week, which saw over 60 students participate in the dodgeball tournament. The Spartans took on the Warriors in an epic 20 minute battle that saw both teams with students standing at the end.

Thank you to all students and staff who participated in the weeks events. Our sporting culture is definitely on the rise and it is great to see so many students getting out and active between classes.



## Geoff Dymock Visit

Eight of our students were lucky enough to participate in a training session run by the legendary Geoff Dymock in Week 6 of this term. Geoff is a former Australian and Queensland cricketer who still remains one of only six players to have dismissed all eleven opposition players in a test match. The students who participated in the training session learnt invaluable cricket skills including batting and bowling techniques. Reports from the students suggest that it was an experience that they will never forget.



Our Cross Country will be held in Week 10. This is compulsory for all students unless a medical certificate is provided. Which team will win??

**Hannah Dionysius**  
**Teacher | Sports Coordinator**

## Soccer in Italy!

On 4 April, Rhett Harris will be leaving Longreach to attend an 11 day soccer camp in Italy with AC Milan. AC Milan ran a soccer camp in Bundaberg for three days which Rhett attended. At this camp Rhett received an invitation to attend the camp in Milan. Good luck Rhett. We look forward to hearing all about it on your return.



**Kerry Morton  
Chaplain**

## Coming Events

### P & C Meetings

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

## Chappy's Breakfast



The P & C Chappy's brekky is held for students each Wednesday morning from 8.15-8.55am. The venue is the C Block Home Economics room, and the menu alternates between toasted sandwiches and pancakes. Juice is also made available, and all students and High School staff are welcome to join in the brekky fun. Breakfast

is provided free of charge to everyone, made possible by generous, regular donations from the P & C and the Longreach Chaplaincy Committee. Donations of money or consumables from community members and businesses towards the costs of the brekky are always gratefully received. Please contact Chappy Kerry if you would like further information.

In Term 2 last year, I moved to Longreach from Brisbane – I didn't know a soul in town and had very little idea of what to expect. One thing I found out fairly quickly though, was that Longreach folk in general take pride in belonging to their local community. This was evident in the way people welcomed newcomers and were always ready to lend a hand where needed – anything from local knowledge to house-moving assistance! Everyone in a community reaps the benefits of belonging, and especially when hard times come. I was proud to call myself a local on the weekend, after attending Che's memorial service at the river. People gathered together to share their grief, support one another, and pay tribute to their dear friend and relative – a sincere display of love, respect and loyalty. Let's keep remembering to weave these wonderful qualities throughout our every day, in our dealings with everyone, and cherish the precious people who make up the Longreach and wider community.