Principal’s News

Newsletter 22 March 2016

Dear Parents and Friends

Term 1 is all but done and dusted. On Thursday we will be celebrating Team Lowood in true style at the pool at the annual Swim for Fun carnival. This carnival is true to its title as all students, regardless of their swimming abilities students are encouraged to join in, have a go, be part of their house team, wear their house colours and have an enjoyable day with their peers and teachers in preparation for the Easter holiday break. With every day counting at Lowood SHS this is a great day for students to have some fun, be fit and have a great day with their friends to celebrate the end of the term.

National Day of Action Against Bullying

If you are not already a friend on Lowood SHS Facebook do so soon. I was very proud to see our 2016 Student Representative Council members from year 7 to year 12 organise a flashmob routine to an uplifting song about heroes. The student leaders unveiled their work as the opening to the junior parade that had the focus against bullying last week. Our junior students put together a range of displays showing ways to support all students to feel included and have a sense of belonging at LSHS each day. All the year 10 peer mentors are wearing “you can sit with me” yellow bands. This signifies that they are a person who any one can sit with safely if they are feeling alone or isolated due to friendship breakdowns. Other students also have the opportunity to apply to Mrs Kitson for a band if they would like to be considered for this important role in our school.

Staff Development

On Friday our year 7F and year 8F teachers met with their critical friend Dr Loraine McKay to reflect on term 1 and plan for term 2. As always I am very impressed with the dedication of LSHS teachers to improving their own practice to ensure each
and every one of their students have access to learning that is at their level and to ensure student success.

Across this term all teachers have been involved in professional development in one way or more. All our new teachers in 2015 and 2016 have attended professional learning in our whole school reading program; Tactical Teaching: Reading, every staff member has contributed to one Strategic Team and developed an action plan and goals for the year, some have attended a conference in Sydney on Positive Wellbeing, two teachers have attended Coding training and many staff members have engaged in other learning to assist them in their daily moral purpose of improving learning and outcomes for students.

Congratulations to Felicity Harm – Lowood’s Representative at Lions Youth of the Year

Felicity did an excellent job representing herself, her family, our school and the Lowood community in her delivery of two impromptu speeches and one planned speech about how she would make a difference to the Lowood community. The competition was very steep and every student who participated in the event did their absolute best and it would appear as if they all had nerves of steel. There can only be one winner on the day to go through to the next round and this was not Felicity on the day but she told me that she thoroughly enjoyed the experience and she now has a plan on how she can make a difference to the school and local community in the future. Stay tuned for Felicity’s plans.

Happy Easter Wishes

From all the staff at Team Lowood SHS we wish you and your families a relaxing and restful Easter holiday break and look forward to seeing everyone again on the first day of term 2 on Monday, 11 April.

Regards
Anne McLauchlan
Principal

New Staff
Lauren Sloane

I have come from Metro West Behaviour Support Team after working full-time as an AVT in Behaviour Support in various district teams for the last 15 years. Aside from general subject areas, my background is in psychology and mental health. I have always enjoyed working with teachers, but over the years the AVT role has changed so much that time working with students has been greatly reduced. I have missed this and so I am here at Lowood High to work with teachers AND students again. I am also here because Lowood High has such visionary and inspiring plans for the future. (I am also learning the piano).

Lauren Sloane

Deputy Principal News

YEAR 7 – 12 – PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Parent/Teacher/Student interviews will be held from 3.15pm – 5:30pm on Thursday 14th April, 2016 in the School Hall.

You will be able to book interviews at times that suit YOUR FAMILY BEST. Please follow the instructions contained within the flyer below. A hard copy of instructions will also be contained with the reporting pack guiding you step by step through the process.

BOOKINGS ARE NOW OPEN SO THAT ALL FAMILIES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO BOOK PRIOR TO THE INTERVIEW NIGHT

For parents/guardians that don’t have access to the internet at home, at work, at a friend’s house or on their phones, you may send a note to school with the name of your child/children, their year level/s, the teachers you wish to have an interview with and the approximate times you require, or phone the school on 5427 8333.

Interviews are strictly 15 mins and spaces are limited. If you require more time, please contact your child/children’s teacher directly to make alternative arrangements.

BOOKINGS CLOSE 12pm Wednesday 13th April 2016.

Year 12 Students NOT on track for their QCE

This is just a friendly reminder that students who are NOT on track to obtain their QCE at the end of this semester will not be invited to attend the 2016 Formal. If you would like to discuss if your child is on track please contact the school to make an
appointment to meet with either me or our Senior Schooling Head of Department, Miss Mallett.

**STUDENT ATTENDANCE**

Being the end of a term, it is important that students are here learning as much as possible to set up a great start to the year. A number of studies have shown that students’ academic performance is directly linked to their attendance. Therefore, high attendance (90% or above) is critical to ensure students achieve to their full potential. As a result of this, Lowood SHS places a high importance on attendance by monitoring absences closely. You can help ensure your child’s absences are explained by phoning the absence line on 07 5427 8360. You may also advise of absences through email at absences@lowoodshs.eq.edu.au Please include the reason for the absence in your message along with your child’s name and their grade.

If we have not received a phone call or email, your child’s home group teacher will ask for a medical certificate or note explaining the reason for the absence. Thank you for your support and we look forward to a productive and successful term.

Current Attendance by year level at the end of week 8, term 1.

- Year 7 - 93.9%
- Year 12 - 90.7%
- Year 10 - 90.5%
- Year 8 - 90.0%
- Year 9 - 89.4%
- Year 11 - 88.6%

Whole School currently on track with 90.8%

**Faculty Highlights**

**The Arts**

**ARTS EXCELLENCE DAY**

On Thursday 5th May, Lowood State High School will host its second *Arts Excellence Day*. This day is offered to students from our primary feeder schools who are in years 4, 5 and 6, and have already shown a high interest and talent within the areas of Music, Instrumental Music, Art, Dance and Drama. The aim of this day allows students to work with specialised teachers as they further develop their skills and interest within their chosen subject.

At the end of the day students will then rehearse a cross curricular demonstration which will showcase the skills that were learnt throughout their lessons. This performance will be presented at Lowood State High School’s Open For Inspection evening.

If you know of students in years 4, 5 or 6 who would be interested in this day could you please refer them to the details in the flyer or get them to ask their primary school teacher for more information. They can also contact Ms Doyle at Lowood State High School by phoning 54278333 or email kdoyl62@eq.edu.au

If anyone would like to see the outcomes from this day come along to our Open For Inspection evening and see the performance by our most talented primary school students from within our area. The Arts Excellence Day performance will begin at approximately 6pm.

**Mathematics**

Do you have a son or daughter interested in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths?

If so, check out the following link for information and how to support your child in these areas.


**Sports Co-ordinator**

**Sports Notice**

**CISSSA**

Futsal is going strong this season with the majority of teams having some convincing wins. There are only around 4 rounds of matches left until finals. At this early stage we are hoping to have at least 3 teams make finals.

Cricket for the open and junior boys and girls happened this week with the games being held on Tuesday 15th & Wednesday 16th March at Ivor Marsden Fields.
Our junior girls softball game has been postponed, with no date organised as yet. Mrs Gillies, the softball coach will inform the girls as soon as she hears from our opposition Bremer S.H.S.

Regional Trials

There are multiple regional trials coming up, especially for the 12 years students. If your student wants to trial for the following sports, please get them to see Mrs Miller in C Block Staffroom for nomination:

- 13-19 years boys AFL
- 13-19 years girls and boys Hockey
- 12 years boys Basketball
- 12 years boys Rugby League
- 12 years boys AFL

Sporting Achievements

Congratulations to the following students who made a district team:

**Netball:** Sharni Greenaway, Irma-Jean Nel & Charlie Jarvis.

**Football (soccer):** Samuel Jaremenko, Lucas Wallwork, Matthew Calhoun, Ryan Duder, Jacob Czekierda, Aaron Schultz, Wendy Scully, Mykaela Beves, Amber Shannon, Katie Pullen, Tiara McKinnon, Emily Bloemers, Courtney Young and Charlanee Jarvis.

**Rugby League:** Matthew Calhoun, Liam McDonald.

**Basketball:** Talita Cutting.

Congratulations to Joel Higgins, on being the 15 years District Swimming Age Champion. Joel swam in every event and placed 2nd in the 50m Freestyle, 1st in the 50m Breaststroke, 1st in the 50m Backstroke, 1st in the 50m Butterfly and 2nd in the 200m Individual Medley. What an amazing effort.

Congratulations also to the Football Academy students and the senior boys Futsal team who competed at the Gorilla Sports SEQ Futsal School State Titles. The junior boys and the senior boys both finished on top of their pool and are now through to the knock-out final this Friday. We wish them the very best of luck.

The open boys Volleyball CISSSA team competed in a day of round robin games on the 3rd March and won their pool, they now move onto the final against Bundamba S.S.C. which will start of Term 2.

School Cross Country

The school cross country will be happening on the 15th April and will be run in the morning. The course has changed this year and students will be walking the course in their HPE lessons prior to the event. More information will go home regarding this event closer to the date.

The school cross country is on Friday of the first week back after Easter - 15th April. The races will be conducted in age divisions and held in the morning during period one and two to avoid the heat of the day. This year we will be conducting the event along the Rail Trail from the Prospect St intersection toward Fernvale and back. As this represents a new course, all existing records will be preserved .......... and new records for this venue established!

Race distances are as follows: 13 Years B & G - 3km, 14, 15, 16 and 17 Years Girls and 14 and 15 Years Boys - 4km, 16 Years and 17+ Boys - 6km.

Community Announcements

11am – 1pm on Sunday 10 April 2016 at the Somerset Civic Centre in Esk, we’re hosting a youth career expo.

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