11 May 2016

Principal’s News

Dear Parents and Friends

The last few weeks have proven to be as busy as usual with so many great things happening at our school. New opportunities are emerging for our students to be part of and as always I continue to be extremely impressed with Lowood SHS teachers and their commitment to your children. This term a number of new opportunities have arisen, including: a crystal growing competition, the coding club (using robotics), Blast Class for senior students to refine their writing, maths and wellbeing skills (all in lunch breaks) and the boxing and fitness group being held after school.

If your son or daughter is interested in any of these opportunities please encourage them to listen to the student notices every day where days, time and places are read out.

Whilst students are undertaking these extra-curricular opportunities, Lowood SHS teachers are doing some of the same. On a fortnightly basis individual teachers share their practice with colleagues in what we call a Lightning Lunch, led by our resident Master Teacher, Dr Sandra Nissen. This presentation is also recorded so it can be shared with other teachers who are unable to attend due to playground duty or club commitments. This is just one example of how teachers are continually developing their practice to become even better teachers.

Changes to Newsletter Publication Dates

Our school newsletter publication dates have been changed for the remainder of the year. A feature of the newsletter is the photos that capture our school events. More and more we will be sharing our good news stories and information via our social media options.

Through our junior school Teacup Tuesdays with parents and carers we have been gathering feedback. Based on this feedback and from our own observations it has become obvious that for some time now that the school newsletter is not the main way that parents and carers stay connected to our news, events and information. As such, we plan to use social media; Twitter and Facebook, as our main way to regularly update parents, carers and community on the great things that are going on at Lowood SHS. This way the information is current and in real time. Please make contact with the school if you would like to provide feedback about this change.

Open for Inspection

It was fantastic to see so many new faces in the crowd keen to see and experience the opportunities available to Lowood SHS students. The evening started with very keen primary schoolers who had spent a day in the life of our Football Academy, Excellence Day by playing a presentation game demonstrating their new futsal skills.

Growth Mindset

At the Open for Inspection event I launched this year’s theme. Lowood SHS, Brain Changers are Game Changers. If you have not already realised, I am very passionate about developing teachers’ practice and as a school we invest heavily to support teacher learning and improvement in their practice.

Research and experience tells us that teachers are the biggest factor that a school has control over in affecting student outcomes. Interestingly, parents and carers are the next biggest influence to improving student outcomes. The attitude and
mindset you choose as a parent can and does make a difference to your child. For a parent view on growth mindset check out the following link:

https://www.mindsetkit.org/growth-mindset-parents

ANZAC ceremonies

A first again for Lowood SHS and Lowood SS where we joined forces to create a combined schools ceremony. It is very moving seeing all our students, preps to year 12 be so respectful and engaged in the moving service. Leaders from both schools provided the readings and cadets from the high school formed the catafalque around the cenotaph. Our trumpet player and former Fernvale SS student, Lunissa Masters did an amazing job playing the last post and reveille. Next year we look forward to a combined schools band performing at our combined school’s ceremony.

Once again our students, staff and community members joined in partnership at our third Lowood Community ceremony led by Lowood SHS and the Lowood RSL sub-branch. A new feature was the LSHS marching band leading the community march from Clock Park to the school hall.

NAPLAN

This week our year 7 and year 9 students will be completing this testing. This year we have done our utmost to downplay this high stakes testing. We have made a very concerted effort to ensure that all preparations are embedded into daily classroom routines. Both year levels will be doing the testing in their core teaching classrooms with a teacher well known to them.

Feedback

Parent voice, student voice and community voice are very important to our school and our school improvement agenda. If you have any, positive, negative or otherwise, please send it our way. We treat all feedback as a gift and yours will be valued.

Regards
Anne McLauchlan
Principal

Speech Language Pathologist for Junior Secondary Students

Did you know that we have a speech language pathologist employed by the school two days a week? Her name is Katie Bullock and her role is to support any student who has difficulties with oral language. As such she tests students to determine if they have a need to further their oral capabilities. So far this year, teachers have had concerns about individual student’s oral literacy skills have made referrals to Katie. Any student who needs to see Katie will require parent permission.

If you think your son or daughter would benefit from support by Katie, please feel free to contact the Junior Secondary HOD; Tammy Baart on tbaar3@eq.edu.au

Deputy Principal News

Year 11 & 12 Semester 1 - Exam Block

This week students in year 11 & 12 will be issued with their semester one exam block schedules along with an exam pamphlet that outlines the guidelines on which the exam block will operate.

Students will only be required to attend exam sessions in which they have an exam. Students undertaking a VET subject will only be required to attend in their scheduled sessions if they have not completed all set work or if they have not demonstrated competency in the applicable competencies. If students are on track (OT) with all VET course requirements they are not required to attend school. I encourage all VET students to ensure they work as hard as possible to gain the required competencies prior to the exam block.

If students are unable to attend for just their sessions due to transport, there will be a study room in operation for the length of the exam block. The study room will operate for the same times as the exam schedule.

All rooms for the exams will be displayed at student reception each day. Students will be required to check their room allocations as they sign in each day.

Below you will find the pamphlet and exam timetable. If you have any questions about block exams please contact me via email dj@eq.edu.au or through the front office on 07 5427 8333.

Work Experience – Year 10

Fast approaching is the upcoming opportunity for our year 10 students to again embark on “Work Experience”. Every year our students in year 10 head out for a week of “real life” experiences that we are unable to provide them within the school walls.

It is such a valuable and exciting opportunity, which in most cases can lead to some part-time work or a school-based traineeship if students are dedicated and interested. Not only is it a great learning experience, but it is a key part of the Certificate II in Skills for Work and Vocational Pathways (VSW).

I look forward to visiting many students again this year during this wonderful week.
Year 12 Students NOT on track for their QCE

This is just a 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. Students have been made aware of this since the middle of year 11 and have been reminded at regular intervals. 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.

Mr Daniel Johnson
Deputy Principal – Senior School

Student Attendance

Attendance Matters!

We are back into the full swing of things here at Lowood SHS and we want to keep attendance high throughout the term and this means being at school and having absences explained. Our school representation policy aims for students being at school 90% of the time. Students are able to achieve this by being at school and having their absences explained. Parents, you have a few options to advise admin if your child is away from school.

- Reply to the text that is sent to your mobile.
- Call the office.
  - Main office number of 5427 8333 and select 1 for student absences
  - Student absentee line 5427 8360
- Fill in the section in the back of the student diary and have the student return this when they are back at school.
- Email student_absence@lowoodsghs.eq.edu.au.

We have a recognition program running this term for the students who have 100% attendance. We will be offering them a chance to attend DREAMWORLD with the school during the last week of the term.

Being at school gives students the best chance to achieve success. Let’s aim for 90%.

Faculty Highlights

The Arts

CREATIVE GENERATIONS EXCURSION

On the Friday 15th July 2016, students at Lowood State High School who study Music, Dance, Drama and year 7 Performing Arts are being given the opportunity to attend the performance of Creative Generations State Schools Onstage. This performance showcases the talent from around the state and aims to mentor and foster the next generation of performers and provides opportunities for them to work with and learn from professional artists. In the performance there will be approximately 600 dancers, 600 choristers, 65 symphony orchestra members, 10.00pm called 8th generation being the units 9th at 2016, and in Forget only through next to discussed to keep 12 generation cast 2016, and will allow students to see how the production of the piece comes together. Student will leave school at 10.30am and return to school at approximately 5.45pm. Tickets are $40.00 however there are only 40 tickets available. Therefore if your student wishes to attend this performance, it is vital that they see Miss Drury or Ms Doyle to get a permission note. Payment is due to Student Reception by 3pm on Wednesday 8th of June.

LEST WE FORGET EXCURSION

On Friday the 29th July, students in year 8, 10 and 12 Dance and also students who studied, or are studying year 7 Dance/ Drama in term 1 or 2, are invited to attend a contemporary dance performance called Lest We Forget. This performance is extremely relevant to the units of work that students will study in year 8, 10 and 12 Dance and will allow all students to gain further insight into the styles of ballet and contemporary dance. The knowledge gained on the night will be very beneficial in assisting students with upcoming assessment. If there are other students within the school who feel they could benefit from attending this performance then they are more than welcome to see Ms Doyle.

To attend this performance, students will be leaving school at 4.30pm and will return to school at approximately 10.00pm (TBC). Tickets are $50.00 however there are only 30 tickets available. If students wish to attend this performance, it is vital that they collect a note from Miss Drury or Ms Doyle and return this form, along with the payment to Student Reception by 3.00pm on Monday 6th of June 2016.

Annie

Lowood High’s musical performance of ANNIE is drawing nearer! The musical cast have been busily rehearsing over the past 9 weeks in preparation for the performances on the 3rd and 4th of June at 7.00pm. Our very own incarnation of the iconic original of the world’s best loved musical ANNIE, includes unforgettable songs like “It’s the Hard Knocked Life,” “Easy Street, “I Don’t Need Anything But You,” plus the eternal anthem of optimism, “Tomorrow.”

Tickets will go on sale to the general public on the 9th of March (Monday of week 5 Term 2), so please book these dates in your calendar. Ticket prices for the night are outlined below.

General Admission tickets will not have allocated seats and can be purchased through the front office, student reception and at the door on the night.

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<th>Ticket Type</th>
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<tr>
<td>Adult</td>
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<td>Concession/high school student</td>
<td>$10</td>
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<td>Child</td>
<td>$8</td>
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<td>Family (2 adults and up to 3 concession or child)</td>
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Season Tickets (2 nights)

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<tr>
<th>Ticket Type</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Adult</td>
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The James Morrison Creative Generation Big Band, drumline, featured vocalists, massed strings and film and stage crew. Students will range from prep to year 12 and will come from more than 100 state schools from around the state.
The cast and crew can’t wait to see you all there and hope you thoroughly enjoy the production. Please make sure you come along and support our wonderful students.

**Art Department**

Classes are well in to their term 2 work, having completed wonderful art works already this year.

Senior Art students have researched, developed and resolved an entire body of work this trimester - culminating in their first mini solo exhibitions which they set up in the art rooms, for their peers to view. This is an exciting time, as often senior art works carry strong messages which are not fully evident until you see the work hung and as a whole. There have been many exciting uses of media and video art has been popular this year. Please see the attached images of Lillian McKenzie presenting a performance art piece on the issue of divorce and family breakdown.

The year 8s are currently creating clay dragons, something which they have been looking forward to throughout the sometimes tedious design phase. It is important, however, that students of art understand that art doesn’t just “happen”, artists spend a lot of time researching, planning and designing an art work before undertaking the final making phase. The year 8 dragons are coming along very well and I can’t wait to show you some pictures of the finished products.

**DATE CHANGE**

Please note that the date of the Senior Art excursion to GOMA has had to be changed (one day later due to a large number of senior students now undertaking a Cert 3 on Mondays. The date will be in the same week as planned (week 7), and I will advise students in writing when we have an alternate date locked in. All other details of this excursion remain the same. Please contact me at school if you have any concerns.

**Senior Secondary**

**USI’s**

All students in years 10, 11 and 12 are required to apply for a Unique Student Identifier. This USI is an identifier that students will carry with them through their lives and tracks their education. As a Registered Training Organisation, a provider of Vocational Education and Training, we cannot issue students certificates without students having a USI.

For students to apply for their USI they will need details from their birth certificate or medicare card. To apply for a USI simply go to the link below and follow the instructions. Once the USI is generated please send a copy of the USI in an e-mail to pfox11@eq.edu.au so it can be recorded on our system.


If your child would like any assistance in this process they can come to the library before school or during lunch breaks and seek help from either Mrs Fox or Ms Mallett.

**Queensford College Hospitality**

Students who are enrolled in Certificate II Hospitality will be beginning training through Queensford College on Monday 16 May. This course is a wonderful opportunity for our students as it allows students to ‘fast track’ the theory component of the Certificate II Hospitality for year 12 students and Certificate III Hospitality for year 11 students. Queensford College will then also be sourcing some local work experience opportunities for students to apply their knowledge.

If your child still has outstanding enrolment forms it is vital that they are returned ASAP so that all of the paper work is complete and does not impact upon their ability to start on 16 May.

**‘Blast Class’**

Last week we ran our first ‘Blast Class’ for senior OP students. This program is running on Thursdays during first break and is aimed at students who are wanting to get the best OP they can. These short ‘Blast Classes’ focus on discussing strategies to help students get the most out of their assessment. The students who attended the session last week discussed ‘The art of a good speech’ and how elements within their speeches related to the task criteria. See the program invitation for details of upcoming sessions.

**Traineeships Available**

There are currently a lot of local traineeships available, particularly in the hospitality area. If your student is interested in accessing any of these opportunities or is interested in a traineeship please encourage them to come and speak with me to register their interest.

McDonalds will also be visiting the school on 7 June to discuss Retail traineeship opportunities with students, and tell them about the recruiting they will be starting when they open their
new store. Please speak with your child if you think this may interest them and tell them to register their interest with me.

### Junior Secondary

**Brainways – 10th June**

After the success of our inaugural day of excellence last year, Lowood SHS has become the provider of Brainways programs for the area, giving gifted and talented primary students from our cluster and Lowood SHS student’s opportunities to be challenged and excel beyond their expectations. Shortly, students in 7A, 8A and 9A will receive an invitation to this term’s Brainways day of excellence, to be held on 10th June. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to be highly engaged and challenged in curriculum areas that support the classroom learnings. To be involved, return payment of $39 and enrolment forms to student reception. Places are limited, so ensure that payment and forms are returned ASAP.

**Student Reflections on the way the brain works and appropriate Conversations**

Understanding the dynamics of brain development is integral with the junior secondary phase of learning. Young adolescent brains develop from the back to the front and inside out. This means that the Pre-front Cortex (PFC), the main decision-making and thinking part of the brain, is the last to develop and usually takes about 8secs to respond to an emotionally driven situation such as peer interactions. This is further heightened by the fact that the emotional control centre, the Amygdala, is the first to respond when students feel threatened or emotionally upset. As one can imagine this creates for an interesting mix and can lead to inappropriate behaviour and conversations.

A couple of our junior secondary students recently understood how this delay in the decision making part of the brain can sometimes lead to our actions not being appropriate for all situations. I highly commend Rachel and Latisha, two of our current year 8 students, who not only recognised that there’s a time a place for all things but were willing to share their reflections with the community. Well done girls.

Dear community,

I am now in year 8 and realising that some conversations are unacceptable for in some situations and places. There are other topics and ways to talk in a conversation then to discuss rude or disgusting topics. If people walk past you and hear you talking about inappropriate things they are going to think not only bad things about yourself, but about the school too.

It concerns us that there are so many people talking about things that are not appropriate for school. We are supposed to be setting an example to grade sevens and right now we are teaching them bad habits. So please start giving your brain time to think and respond and start talking respectfully to others.

Sincerely,
Latisha and Rachael
(Concerned students)

**Junior Secondary Wellbeing**

The junior secondary students will begin to nominate shortly for roles as “YOU CAN SIT WITH ME” ambassadors. Once accepted, these students will wear wristbands as part of the Lowood bullying campaign.

These ambassadors are available for students to sit with at lunch if necessary for reasons like being bullied to just needing someone different to talk to. Please let your children know to keep an eye out about how to apply for the position or for assistance from ambassadors.

All junior secondary classes are participating in the ‘Challenges and Choices’ weekly rewards. The class teachers nominate up to three students each lesson to go into the draw for a weekly lucky dip / tuckshop voucher. At the end of each term all students that have been awarded a ticket during the term will have a chance to be in the draw for one of five double movie passes per year level. Remind students to be respectful, responsible and ready for class to be eligible for a ticket.

Lastly, communication is the key to success in junior secondary. Parents, please don’t hesitate to contact me for wellbeing concerns should you have any questions or queries.
Learning Development Centre

We have been having a lot of fun with our learning in the Learning Development Centre to kick off term 2. Our year 7 students have been exploring measurement and working as a team to discover perimeters and areas of items around our school grounds. Applying learning to real world examples helps to develop student learning as they can see the application of the task.

Our year 8 students have been engaging well in their ASDAN program, working hard to receive their bronze and silver awards with Mrs Williams. Our junior students have been working with Ms Sloane, engaging in a Social Skilling Program designed to support student wellbeing and develop the understanding of acknowledging individual actions and behaviours associated with emotions. The students have very much enjoyed having Ms Sloane working with them in classes once per week and are looking forward to continuing the program over the coming term.

As always, we thank our wonderful support staff for all the help they give to our students both within the classroom and the playground.

Science

Plans for the year 11 biology camp in term 3 are now completed. Permission notes and full details will be given to students next week. I would like to remind students that there is a compulsory field studies component in the Queensland Biology Syllabus and this is met through attending the biology camp.

In term 3, Lowood SHS will again participate in the Western STEM challenge. Students in science 7A and science 8A will attend the University of Southern Queensland, Ipswich, for an experience day and then they will have six weeks to solve a problem posed to them before presenting their solution at an awards evening at Ipswich SHS. Further information for parents and carers will be sent home before the end of the term.

Year 11 physics students are currently studying light and its properties. Their main piece of assessment for this term is an Extended Research Task into Optical Instruments.

I would like to thank the parents and students that attended the Open For Inspection evening last Thursday. It was great to see such an interest in the STEM (Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics) opportunities we now offer students including the Coding Club run by Mr Hollywood on Wednesdays at first break.

STEM

Coding Club

Lowood State High is committed to providing opportunities for students in the Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). A major growth area in STEM is Coding, formerly known as Computer Programming.

To support students who are interested in learning to code, Lowood High has started a Coding Club. The Coding Club runs on Wednesdays during first break in the B3 computer room. All students are welcome to and encouraged to attend. Prior experience is not necessary.

During Coding Club students learn to code either through online courses or working on a project of their choice.

Video Game Challenge

The “Australian STEM Video Game Challenge” is a competition being run by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER). This competition is open to all Australian students in years 5-12 and it encourages students to work in teams to develop skills and capabilities around problem solving, design, communication and collaboration.

Lowood High is encouraging any interested students to form a team and enter. We are also making computer resources and teacher assistance available to students through the Coding Club.