FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

A very big welcome to new students, families and staff and a warm welcome back to our returning members of our school community. The 2015 school year is a very special year given the historic introduction of Year 7 to high school. 152 new Year 7 students and 79 new Year 8 students commenced high school for the first time at Laidley High this year. In addition to these students, there are also another 40 new students in other year levels and 18 new teachers joining our teaching team. I extend a very warm welcome to all new school community members and wish them every success as they benefit from our caring and thorough approach and strive to live up to our high standards and expectations. I look forward to our staff supporting all students to succeed in their academic, vocational, sporting and cultural endeavours during 2015.

Strategic Focus for 2015

Each year our school focuses our work in some key areas to continue to improve our school performance and our students’ achievement and life opportunities. Our strategic plan identifies 4 key action areas for action in 2015. These include: Expert Teaching – investing in coaching, mentoring, feedback and professional development of our teachers and support staff to provide high quality teaching and learning.

A Strong Learning Culture – ensuring that our school is focussed on high academic achievement, particularly in the areas of literacy and numeracy and 100% school attendance.

Successful Transitions and Destinations – expecting, enabling and supporting senior students to achieve success in appropriate learning pathways so that they are able to make a range of choices about participation in further education and employment upon leaving school.

A Positive and Productive School Community – further enhancing our positive school culture where learning is highly valued, students feel safe and well supported, effort and success is celebrated and our school community values and participates in our school. I look forward to keeping you up to date with our progress in these areas throughout the year.

A particular welcome to our new staff members joining our teaching team this year. I know they will find our students, staff, parents and community very friendly, respectful and committed to learning. Our new staff include:

- Georgina Amos (Science/HPE)
- Anthony Bishop (Maths/HPE)
- Merilyn Buft (Art/Science/Maths)
- Chris Cant (HPE/History)
- Taletha Champs (English/SOSE/Music)
- Trent Davison (HPE/History)
- Alicia Frost (Maths/Science/HPE)
- Jesse Gold (English/Music)
- Sharon Grosskopf (Special Education/Behaviour Support)
- Amy Hanlon (HPE/English/Drama)
- Sophie Hoffman (Maths/Science)
- Katie Jordan (Business)
- Amanda Lund (Master Teacher)
- Keryn Loughman (Head of Department – Teacher Development/Home Economics)
- Emily Muller (Special Education)
- Chloe Park (Year 7 Maths/Science/English/SOSE)
- Sue Schultz (Maths/Science/Support Teacher Literacy and Numeracy)
- Sarah Smith (Film & Television)

In addition to these new staff, there has also been two new Heads of Department appointed and some realignment of roles and responsibilities amongst the school leadership team. The key responsibilities of the school leaders are outlined overleaf.
Communication with School Community

The school has a number of ways to keep our school community informed of relevant information about our school, its operations and the great efforts and achievements of our students and staff. These include:

- A School Newsletter sent home every 3 weeks to keep parents informed
- The School High Flyer sent home with report cards at the end of each term
- Facebook Page – Like us at www.facebook.com/Laidley State High School to receive school updates, timely information, good news stories and to ask questions. This site will also be used during emergency situations (e.g. flooding) to communicate with parents
- School Website (www.laidleyshs.eq.edu.au) contains a range of information about our school
- QSchool App – Simply download the app and set Laidley SHS as your favourite school. QSchools for iOS, Android and Windows 8 are available for free download from the iTunes store, Google Play and the Windows Store.

A Text Messaging Service is used daily to advise parents of student absences. The school will also send SMS messages from time to time to remind parents about key events or requirements. This service will also be used during emergency situations (e.g. flooding) to communicate with parents.

Assessment Calendars

Assessment calendars have been sent home with this newsletter to assist families to monitor their student’s school work. I encourage parents to have these displayed somewhere prominent at home (e.g. on the fridge), and check regularly with your child that they are organised and working on these assessment pieces or studying for exams well in advance. Draft dates are included for most assessment tasks to ensure that students are submitting their work and receiving helpful feedback from their teachers.

Changes with Junior Secondary

The introduction of Year 7 to high school has resulted in some significant changes to school operations. Some significant changes that students and parents should be aware of include:

- Changes to the school uniform policy. View the student diary or website for the new uniform policy

IMPORTANT REMINDER: SCHOOL PHOTOS MONEY ON THE DAY AND DIRECTLY TO PHOTOGRAPHER
• Changes to parades and whole school celebration events as the school hall is not large enough to hold all students and staff for a regular parade and definitely not when parents are invited to special parades. As a result most whole school functions and events have been split into Junior Secondary and Senior Secondary events

• School sporting events and representative pathways have changed to include Year 7 students. 12 year old and 13 year old Year 7 students access different pathways to district and regional selection. This will continue to be explained to students as the year progresses so that all students understand how they can access these sporting programs. Parents can contact our Sports Coordinators Jack Porter (Representative Sport) and Amy Hanlon (CISSSA Sport)

• Lunchtime eating areas have been defined for each year level. Junior students (Year 7, 8 and 9) use the G Block toilets and senior students use the D Block toilets. Junior students and senior students use different lines in the tuckshop.

Students can access the support of Year Coordinators and Deputy Principals Kym Crosby (Years 7, 8 and 9) and Kerrie Sellars (Years 10, 11 and 12) for all matters impacting on their schooling.

School Fees
A reminder that school textbook and resource scheme fees are now due. Prompt payment ensures that your children gain access to textbooks and other resources immediately. Parents can pay these fees in full or over 3 instalments. Students are issued textbooks, diary, classroom resources and ID cards once the first instalment is paid. Parents experiencing financial difficulties are encouraged to contact the Business Services Manager to negotiate alternative payment arrangements to ensure that their children gain access to the resources required to support their learning. Our school has registered for Centrepay, a facility that enables families receiving Centrelink benefits to have funds paid directly by Centrelink to the school. Many families are finding this payment method helpful.

Please note that some senior subjects involving partnerships with TAFE and other training organisations require payment of subject fees in advance. Students will be withdrawn from these subjects if subject fees are not paid by the required date. Again, parents can negotiate repayment agreements with the school if required.

School Uniforms
Thank you for your ongoing support to ensure that students are well presented and demonstrate a strong sense of pride in our school and its uniform. I appreciate parents supplying students with the correct uniforms for the start of the school year. The school uniform policy is developed in consultation with the P&C Association. It is outlined in the school diary and on the school website. I encourage parents to be familiar with these requirements.

Congratulations to all students who are wearing their new school uniforms and school hats in accordance with the new school uniform requirements. You look great! I would like to clarify some expectations regarding our new hats.

• Students are required to wear a school hat or cap when participating in outdoor classes (PE, Sport, Agriculture etc.) and when playing on the oval or outside in the sun. Students are also required to wear a school hat/cap when participating in school, district, regional and CISSSA sporting events.

• Students are no longer allowed to wear personal hats to school. Only school hats are allowed to be worn.

• Students are able to wear their own hats on free dress days including swimming and athletics carnivals.

• Caps must be worn facing forwards not backwards. Consequences will be issued to students who need to be repeatedly asked to follow this expectation.

• Normal school disciplinary procedures will be followed where a student refuses to comply with the new school hat expectations.

• The P&C are selling your first school hat for $5 until the end of February. This is below purchase price. Any subsequent hat will be sold for a very reasonable $12. Get in quick to make sure you get your cheap school hat.

I wish all students, families and staff the very best for another busy and exciting year at Laidley High!

Michael Clarkson
Principal

IMPORTANT REMINDER: SCHOOL PHOTOS MONEY ON THE DAY AND DIRECTLY TO PHOTOGRAPHER
The 2015 year began with great anticipation, and some trepidation for parents, students and staff as we introduced Year 7 to the school for the first time. However all the hard work of preparing for this historic event reaped rich rewards as the students sailed through their first weeks without any significant hiccups. Thanks go to all the people behind the scenes who made our first weeks at school such a success. Walking the grounds around J Block at lunch time, seeing happy, smiling faces is proof enough of the fact that the Year 7 students are settling in quite nicely to their new high school. Speak with them and invariably they will tell you that ‘high school is exciting’ and speak in animated tones about their experiences so far. Not to rest on our laurels, we understand that there is a very long way to go till the end of the year, and there is much work to be done to maintain the positive momentum. However, as we move forward we are satisfied that our first few weeks have been positive and stimulating for our pioneering Year 7 cohort.  
Mick Pick & Bec Cronin – Year 7 Coordinators

**Parent Helpers needed!**

Please contact Emma Saal on 5466 8922 or via email esaal2@eq.edu.au

**CONGRATULATIONS** to our new Year 7 & 8 students who appear to be making a great start to their high school careers. At high school, students are practising being the young men and women they hope to become in the future. At this stage, with the majority of our junior students setting high standards for themselves and their peers, the future is looking bright!

Visiting Junior Secondary classrooms, I have been pleased to see students participating enthusiastically in class activities and interacting politely with their teachers and with each other. I have been impressed, on many different occasions, with somebody’s honesty, kindness, willingness to lend a hand, initiative or smiley greeting!

**Stay AWESOME Junior Secondary!**

Andrew Tarvit Head of Junior Secondary & The Arts
I would like to welcome all new students to Laidley State High School, with particular emphasis on the Year 8 student cohort who I have the privilege of working with in 2015. Although commencing Secondary Education is generally regarded as daunting, I am pleased to see that our new students appear to be adapting very well to the challenges presented, including new surroundings, staff and a multitude of subjects. Students have grasped the concept of remaining seated and eating their lunch during the first portion of each allocated lunch period and are taking ownership and pride in their designated Year 8 area, by placing their litter in the available bins. The Positive Behaviour Learning programme has been picked up readily by students, as many of the primary feeder schools also incorporate similar programmes. Students recognise that they should present to class in two straight lines with all the equipment required for the lesson, including the school diary which they are tactfully leaving open, to receive a stamp as acknowledgement of their appropriate behaviour. These stamped diary tickets are then placed in the Year 8 box in the library and provide students the possibility of being drawn out, at Year Level parades and Middle School parades, to win prizes. The first reward recipient of the year was Lindsay Rutter who won a $5 tuckshop voucher. Well done! Finally, I would like to congratulate Year 8 students and their parents / caregivers for recognizing the importance of school sporting events such as the recent swimming carnival. The vast majority of Year 8 students were in attendance and had a great day. Thank you! Once again, welcome, I hope like me you look forward to the year ahead.

Reece Wells – Year 8 Coordinator

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to both, our new and returning students and extended families. It has been extremely pleasing witnessing our new Year 7 & 8 cohorts settling in very well and taking the many opportunities to engage in their learning. I would encourage all families to engage with their students through simple conversations about their daily activities and educational experiences. Successful outcomes are achieved through positive relations between student, parents and school, therefore we look forward to building these strong ties.

Kym Crosby – Acting Deputy Principal Years 7, 8 and 9

Year 8

What the Year 8 students say...

“My time here at LSHS is starting to be a joyful rollercoaster ride. I like all of my teachers and my peers. Everyone has welcomed all Year 8’s with warm greetings. My goal this year is to make more friends.”

Mitchell.Y

“The school is great with a lot of nice teachers. Mrs Bachmann is the best!”

Kelsey.P

“I have had a great time at this school meeting new people and teachers.”

Joshua.W

“I, so far, have had a great time. The bus rides are awesome and the school is awesome. I love going to all my classes because all my teachers are so nice.”

Lindsay.R

IMPORTANT REMINDER:  SCHOOL PHOTOS MONEY ON THE DAY AND DIRECTLY TO PHOTOGRAPHER
Welcome to all our new and returning students and families. I am very pleased to be back at Laidley SHS for another year. Appointments are available Mondays and Thursdays for confidential consultations in M block. School Based Nurses can help with information or referrals for any health-based issues such as friendship, girl/boy problems, healthy eating, personal and family problems, stress, sexual health, smoking, drug & alcohol support.

For appointments text or call 0427741514, ask at the office or drop by M Block.

I am looking forward to meeting with old and new faces soon.

Regards Nicole MacQueen
Swimming Carnival

The Annual Laidley High School Swimming Carnival was held in February with great attendances recorded. Fun was had by all with novelty races and student versus teacher races and the various interschool challenges throughout the day.

Special thanks to DJ Megan who got everyone dancing to the beats throughout the day. Congratulations to all students who went on to compete at District level.

Age champions and the winning house will be announced soon...
Youth Support Coordinator

Welcome to Leroy Lepou who has joined the Laidley High Support Services Team in February. Mr Lepou is available to support individual students through the referral system at our Support Services hub.

Guidance Counsellor

Please see the school guidance officer if you are concerned about your students mental health and wellbeing.

Need help managing stress or anxiety? If your child or teen has difficulties with anxiety or just seems to have too many worries, we would like to introduce you to BRAVE Self-Help – an interactive, online program for the prevention and treatment of childhood and adolescent anxiety. It was developed by a group of researchers from the University of Queensland and now, with the support of beyondblue, this program is now freely available to all young people aged 8 - 17 years old who are living in Australia. BRAVE Self-Help provides strategies for children and teenagers to better cope with their worries. There are 4 programs available, one for children aged 8-12 years, one for teenagers aged 12-17 years and one for parents of children at these ages respectively. The program can be accessed as often as you like, from the comfort of your own home. For more information, or to register for the program, please visit www.brave4you.psy.uq.edu.au

A Guiding Light

Our four key principles at LSHS are; respect, responsibility, learning and safety. These are our guiding lights. This term the principle we are focusing on is Learning. With so many new learners in our school it is critical that each student develops the ability to learn rules, processes and habits and then apply them to their daily school lives. When this type of active learning takes place, students can take control of their own learning experiences. This is a highly desirable outcome for our students and a wonderful incentive to control not only what they learn but how they learn. During PCD lessons this term, our students will explicitly learn and re-learn the lessons of correct behaviour in the classroom and library, in the bus lines and the tuckshop lines, on parade and on the sporting field ... indeed, across the whole school. These lessons reinforce the expectations of our whole school community.

Rewards for Learning

As a means of increasing positive behaviour, when our students demonstrate their ability to learn, they will be rewarded with a stamp from their teacher, in their diary. When the student has attained four stamps, he/she can ask a teacher to sign the back of the form and then place the ticket in the correct PBL box in the library. Twice during the term we will draw a ticket on parade and the winner will receive a prize from our prize pool. Our teachers are looking forward to the opportunity to stamp each student’s diary.

Positive Behaviour for Learners

As a PBL school, Laidley SHS:...
- Promotes high expectations for student behaviour and learning
- Clearly defines and explicitly teaches expectations and positive behaviours
- Celebrates and rewards positive behaviour
- Fosters positive relationships between staff, students and members of the wider community.

If you would like to contribute to our PBL committee meetings please call the school to find out more.

Marcelle Muldoon
Chair PBL Committee

New SEP Teacher

Hi, My name is Sharon Grosskopf and it is a pleasure to be a part of a wonderful school community such as Laidley SHS. With seven years teaching experience and a focus on Special Education & Behaviour Support, I look forward to working with our students, teachers and parents in creating a supportive learning environment.

REMEMBER

STUDENT PHOTOS 12th March
MONEY ON THE DAY & DIRECTLY TO PHOTOGRAPHER

Youth Support Coordinator
Laidley Historical Village

A group of senior students are already hard at work, studying towards their Certificate II in Rural Operations. The course, run by Rural Training Queensland, aims to equip students for work in a range of industries within rural work environments. Students are currently completing the practical component of their course labouring for the Laidley Historical Society. Our seniors are completing much needed jobs around the site, giving back to the Laidley community with fervour!

“We look forward to sharing their hard work and progress in the near future!”

Glenore Grove Scout Group
3 Brightview Rd
Glenore Grove
Contact Group Leader
5465 6172 or 0421 529 740

Table Tennis
Come ‘n’ try and sign on
Thursday, 19 February
from 6.30pm
All ages and experience levels welcome
Gatton Table Tennis Hall, Woodlands Rd, Gatton.
For any enquiries phone Tanya on 0487 110 873

Laidley Soccer Club
Need under 15/16 players
Contact Michael on 0417770510

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