FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

The Passing of Ben Dunn
For the second time this year our school community has experienced great sadness with the passing of Year 11 student, Ben Dunn late last week following a lengthy battle with leukaemia. A letter was sent home on Tuesday advising parents of this news and advising funeral details. Ben has not been attending school for some time while he and his family have been focussed on his treatment, however he has remained in the thoughts of staff and students. Our Support Services Team have been supporting students as they have been coming to terms with this news. Our condolences and best wishes are with Ben’s family and friends at this difficult time.

Bring Your Own Device (BYOx)
Meeting the Technology Needs of a High Quality, Modern Teaching and Learning Environment
A letter is being emailed home early this week outlining a consultation process regarding the school’s technology plan, where we will be considering the implementation of a Bring Your Own Device option for students from 2016. A BYOx Working Party is being established to provide strategic advice to the Principal about this issue. Please read this letter and consider nominating by Monday 10th August to join this working party.

A Parent BYOx Information Evening is planned for Thursday 3rd September from 6.00pm to 7.00pm in the Clarice Ferrari Hall. All parents/guardians are encouraged to attend this meeting to find out more about the BYOx program and contribute to school decision making.

ASPIRE Awards Ceremonies
Congratulations to all students who received awards at the Term 2 ASPIRE Award parades.
114 students receive Silver or Gold medallions for four consecutive Silver or Gold certificates for Attendance, Learning Engagement or Achievement.
157 Junior Secondary students and 143 Senior Secondary students achieved Silver or Gold recognition in Term 2 and an additional 53 students demonstrated significant improvement and achieved a Bronze certificate.

School Performance Highlights
I am pleased to update parents on the school achievements and ongoing improvements during Semester 1 2015. As you can see this is pleasing information, however there is more work to do.

Academic Performance - Improvements in student results including:

- Year 7-10 Maths, English and Science - 13% increase in the number of student receiving a “C” in all three subjects in Semester 1 2015 (vs Semester 1 2014).
- Year 7, 8 and 9 Co-Teaching Classes - Greater improvement in levels of achievement (LOA) for Co-Teaching classes in Semester 1 2015 including Maths (0.37 of a LOA), English (0.58 of a LOA) and Science (0.17 of a LOA) for more than 100 students in each subject area.
- Literacy and Numeracy Intervention Classes - Greater improvement in achievement levels for Intervention classes in Semester 1 2015 including 21 students in Maths (0.14 of a LOA) and 70 students in English (0.56 of a LOA).

Attendance - A 2.5% improvement in attendance in Semester 1 2015.

Enrolments - Average 3% growth in enrolments with Enrolment Management Plan enforced to cap enrolments (school at 98% capacity).

NAPLAN Results - An improvement in school mean for Reading, Writing and Numeracy in 2014 with significant improvement achieved in the proportion of students achieving in the upper 2 bands.

Parent and Student Satisfaction - Record high levels of support in 2013/2014 with 97% of parents reporting “this is a good school” and that they “would recommend this school to others” and up to 93% of students reporting “this is a good school” and they “are getting a good education at this school”.

Staff Satisfaction - Record staff morale in 2014 with 96% reporting they “would recommend this school to others” and 70% of questions above Queensland Secondary schools performance.

Student Behaviour - Positive improvements in student behaviour with more than 30% of students on Behaviour Level 1 and 2 and a pattern of decline in student behaviour referrals and suspensions over recent years.

Year 12 Outcomes - Over the past 5 years the school has achieved:

- Qualifications - 96% graduated with one or more of an OP, QCE, QCIA, VET qualification or School Based Traineeship/Apprenticeship.
- % with Certificate II or higher - 4 years in the top 25% of State.
- % Non-OP students with Certificate III - Above State for past 3 years (27-40%).

Explanation of Student Absences
Parent/Guardians are reminded that legislation requires parents to send their children to school every day and provide the school with an explanation for each absence. This should be done either before the absence has

Continued
There are LOADS of winter uniforms and school hats in LOST PROPERTY at the office. PLEASE... come and have a look!

David Creamer 
News Xpress $10 voucher

Leilani Lillie 
$10 Kelli’s Diner voucher

Savannah Crawford 
$10 Kelli’s Diner voucher

Eden Ruthenberg 
Pendant

See Desiree in Support Services for more info!

The Queensland Government is conducting its annual state-wide survey of students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 during 2014. The Early School Leavers survey is a short, confidential survey that collects information about what young people are doing the year after leaving school. The information from the survey helps our schools to understand the pathways young people follow after leaving school and to plan services to support transitions into study or employment for our students.

Between July and August, our students who left school in Years 10, 11 and prior to completing Year 12 last year can expect to receive an invitation to complete a web-based survey or a telephone call from the Queensland Government Statistician’s Office to complete the survey. Please encourage early school leavers to take part. For more information, visit www.education.qld.gov.au/nextstep/ or telephone toll free on 1800 068 587.
Laidley State High School Under 15’s Netball Team have been cruising to Limestone Park, Ipswich every Wednesday with smiles and confidence. On Wednesday the 22nd of July the team played their last game against Rosewood before the Semi Finals next week. The girls won 18 – 7 which puts them 4th on the leader board. All girls played their hearts out, and showed great sportsmanship. Thank you Miss Hanlon for coming along for the ride and filling in for Miss Grosskopf due to her camp commitments. We appreciate everything you have done for our team and are very lucky to have Miss Grosskopf as our coach and Miss Hanlon as our back up coach.

Yasmine Bock - Student

“Congratulations and Good Luck for the Semi-Finals!
All the best, you will all do amazing and be great!”
(Miss Hanlon)

——— Film and Television ————

Last semester, the Year 10 Media Studies students explored narrative in film and had the opportunity to view different types of narratives. For the production component of the unit, the Year 10 class worked together on a collaborative project, filming and editing a short Zombie film for assessment. We started by watching and deconstructing teen zombie film Warm Bodies. Individually, each class member then drew inspiration from this film, creating unique, entertaining, dramatic and scary zombie scripts. A script was chosen, a director was picked, acting and filming roles were allocated, locations were scouted and the class was ready to start filming their class project. To make the film even more terrifying, the class experimented with special effects makeup to create some gruesome and scary looking zombie faces, wounds and bites. In the final stages of production, the flesh eating zombies were brought to life through the realistic and frightening effects created by students during the editing process. The Year 10 class were enthusiastic and worked exceptionally hard to create a Zombie film which will scare the pants off you. Special thanks to the Year 12 students who helped and mentored the Year 10 students throughout filming.

Miss Boland - Teacher Film & Television

——— UNIFORM SHOP ————

UNIFORM SHOP
HOURS
Monday to Friday
9:00 am—11:00 am
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

Woolworth’s Earn and Learn Stickers
Our school has registered for the 2015 Woolworth’s Earn and Learn stickers out now. The number of stickers we collect determine the amount of free learning equipment that we may choose to support our students here at school. The Support Service Department this year will select items that will be helpful to their work to assist students. Please send your stickers in with your students. There is a collection box in the foyer of Admin Block.
Container for Vanuatu Update
Final pack: 26th June
Picked up: 6th July heading to the wharf
Sailed onto Vanuatu: 9th July
Arrived in Vanuatu: 14th July
Pictures of donations being shared coming soon....
Sincere thanks to students, school staff, community groups, church groups, school chaplains and individuals for your most generous donations of goods and finances for this project.
Looking forward to a great Term 3
Chappy Janine

INVITATION: YEAR 7 STUDENTS IN 2016 & PARENTS

TRANSITION DAY
(YEAR 6 STUDENTS)
Friday 21st August 2015
9:30am - 2:00pm
Clarice Ferrari Hall, Laidley SHS
All Year 6 students commencing high school in 2016 are invited to attend our Transition Day.
The day will include: School presentation, school tour, staff meet & greet, enrolment processes explained and Team Learning Challenge Activities. Parents are welcome to attend for all or part of the day and only required to attend The Transition Day on 21st August 2015 OR the Information Evening on 26th August 2015

INFORMATION EVENING
(YEAR 5 & 6 STUDENTS)
Wednesday 26th August 2015
6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

“I can do no great things, only small things with great love
Mother Teresa”

Cheap Eats

1. Plan ahead and make a shopping list
Make a list of the main meals you want to cook for one to two weeks. Check what foods you need to buy and what you already have at home

2. Choose seasonal, and where possible, local fruit and vegetables
- They are usually the cheapest. Buy Australian grown food where possible

3. Be a smart shopper and save money
- Use your shopping list; only buy what you need
- Buy generic (home brand) instead of branded products—they can be cheaper and of equal quality
- Frozen and canned fruit and vegetables are good to have on hand and are just as healthy as fresh
- Choose fruit over processed snacks. Even fruit at $7 per kilo is cheaper than biscuits or chips at $13 per kilo
- Decide if food you buy is value for money by checking the price per kilo. Highly processed foods are more expensive per kilo and less healthy

4. Saving money when planning and cooking meals
- Halve the meat in recipes and add extra vegetables and legumes (e.g. lentils; chick peas; red kidney beans). Try this in pasta dishes e.g. spaghetti bolognaisa
- Legumes (buy dried or canned) are tasty, cheap and can be used in lots of different recipes
- Meat is expensive. Use cooking methods (e.g. slow cooking) that let you use cheaper cuts of meat and still have a tasty, tender meat dishes
- Try a vegetarian meal once a week
- Cook in bulk and freeze leftovers—this gives you cheap, easy meals when you are in a hurry or feel too tired to cook
- When you cook up a large meal, portion it out into smaller sealed containers to store by freezing.
- Meals that freeze and reheat well include: savoury mince, curries, stews, casseroles, soups, pasta sauces, rice dishes, meat or fish patties
- Make sure you thaw and reheat meals safely

5. Look outside the supermarket
- Other local outlets may sell food that is cheaper and fresher e.g. roadside stalls; greengrocers; farmers’ markets

6. Organise a vegetable co-op with friends and family
- Pool your resources. Take turns or go together to the markets to buy the food — maybe every 1 to 2 weeks. Write up a list of main vegetables and fruit that you always need and add extra choices for other foods in season. For example, buy carrots, onions and potatoes each time and decide together on greens and fruit to buy in season. Be ready to be flexible with what is available

For more information:
Nutrition Australia knows it can be difficult for families to buy healthy food on a tight budget. The cost of living is going up, including the price of food. The price of fresh produce such as vegetables, fruit, meat, fish, poultry, eggs etc. is now higher, partly due to recent extreme weather events in Australia (floods, bushfires, cyclones).