FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Bring Your Own Device (BYOx) Endorsed by P&C Association

Laidley SHS will be implementing a BYOx program for all Year 8 to 12 students from the start of 2016 following the endorsement of the proposed model by the P&C Association at their October meeting. As a result of this decision all Year 8 to 12 students will be required to have a computer in class every day. Teachers of these year levels will be planning and delivering the curriculum with the expectation that students will be able to access the internet, school network and other digital resources in class and at home. Year 7 students are NOT required to have a personal computer at school as the school has 65 new laptops located in the Year 7 classrooms.

In developing the BYOx implementation model, the school and working party have carefully considered ways to provide flexibility for individual students and support those families that are experiencing financial difficulties. It is critical that students, parents and guardians are well informed on the details of the school BYOx program. For this reason the school is conducting three Parent Information sessions in coming weeks to explain the key elements of the BYOx scheme and answer any questions that may arise. The school will also publish a comprehensive guide to the BYOx program including the different options and costs for families to participate and the minimum specifications required.

It is important that parents understand that for the vast majority of students a low specification laptop is all that is required as it will be used to access the internet and use the Microsoft suite of products. These laptops can be purchased for as low as $350. Some senior students studying subjects like Graphics and Film, TV and New Media will benefit from having a higher specification laptop due to the programs that are being used, however the school will also continue to provide classroom based computers for this purpose.

The school will assist parents to purchase new laptops by adding buyer portals from some large retail vendors on our school website. We are currently negotiating with these vendors to attend our parent information sessions to display available laptops and provide advice and assistance to parents wanting to purchase new laptops.

Parents are strongly encouraged to attend one of the following Parent Information Sessions at school in the Clarice Ferrari Hall. Retail vendors will be available 30 minutes prior to the start of the session and after the session to assist parents with any enquiries about the laptops, other devices and services they will have for sale through their vendor portals.

- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm on Thursday 29th October
- 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm on Wednesday 4th November
- 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm on Tuesday 10th November

Some suggested ways that parents may be able to provide a computer for their children include:

- Purchase as a birthday and/or Christmas present
- Cost sharing with their child who is working part time
- Utilising the School Kids Bonus (if received)
- Hiring a laptop from the school in 2016 and putting money aside on a regular basis during the year to purchase for this purpose
- Using rental schemes or finance options available through vendors
- Paying school fees in 3 instalments (at the beginning of Term 1, 2 and 3) or arranging Centrepay or a negotiated repayment agreement with the school so that additional funds are available at the start of the year to purchase a laptop

If you have any questions in relation to the BYOx program, please attend one of the information sessions below or contact the school on 5466 8922 or email your question to byox@laidleyshs.eq.edu.au.

Great School Opinion Survey Results

The annual school opinion survey results have been returned to the school and I am very pleased to report these improved results to the school community.

Continued
Parent Results>> There was a 3% IMPROVEMENT in parental satisfaction across all questions compared to 2014 with more parents reporting “Strong Agreement” in 90% of questions. There was a 17% IMPROVEMENT in the level of “Strong Agreement” across all parent questions. 100% of parents stated that this is a good school and 95% said that they would recommend the school to others. This result is similar to 2014, there was a 35% IMPROVEMENT in the level of Strong Agreement by parents.

Student Results>> There was a 3% IMPROVEMENT in student satisfaction across all questions compared to 2014 with more students reporting “Strong Agreement” in 42% of all questions. 83% of students stated that this is a good school and that they would recommend the school to others. This is a 5% IMPROVEMENT in each question.

Staff Results>> There was a 4% IMPROVEMENT in staff satisfaction across all questions compared to 2014 with more staff reporting “Strong Agreement” in 90% of questions. There was a 7% IMPROVEMENT in the level of “Strong Agreement” across all staff questions. 98% of staff stated that this is a good school and 96% said that they would recommend the school to others. This represents a 7% and 10% IMPROVEMENT in the level of strong agreement in the respective question compared to 2014.

Well done to all members of our school community for making our school better and better each year!

Increase in 2016 School Fees
After careful consideration, the P&C Association has increased the 2016 base school fee for all year levels. An analysis of the school fees of all State Secondary schools in the Toowoomba, Lockyer Valley and Ipswich region clearly showed that Laidley SHS 2015 school fees were the lowest of all high schools in this region. Some high schools with similar community profiles as Laidley had significantly higher school fees. Base school fees have increased by very modest amounts (lower than CPI) during the 11 years that I have been Principal. As much as possible during this time, the school has tried to absorb the significant increase that has occurred in the cost of goods and services.

The base school fee will now be $185 for Years 7 and 8 students and $160 for Years 9 to 12 students. This fee covers provisions of a school diary, school magazine and school ID card, all photocopied resources, class sets of textbooks and textbooks issued for students. In Years 7 and 8, this base school fee also covers all manual arts, home economics and art consumable materials. Additional subject based school fees are charged in Year 9 to 12 for a small range of subjects to assist with the high costs of consumables so that the school can provide enhanced quality learning programs for students.

Parents are reminded that there are a number of options for paying school fees including:
- Upfront in full at the start of the school year
- Over 3 equal instalments (by Week 1 of Terms 1, 2 and 3)
- Arranging regular payments through Centrepay for Centrelink recipients or via regular direct deposits into the school bank account
- Negotiating a repayment agreement with the school (by making an appointment with the Business Services Manager, Lisa Johnston)

Mr Clarkson - Principal

STUDENT ACCOUNT STATEMENTS
Any student that has an outstanding amount on their account has been issued with a statement. School fees were due to be finalised by week 2 of this term, except for those families paying by Centrepay or have an alternate repayment agreement.

Fees must be paid in full before students are able to attend end of year excursions and Senior Formal!

Payment Options
There are a number of options for fees to be paid such as BPoint (online credit card payment), Office (EFTPOS, cheque, cash), Centrepay, Direct Credit (School bank account) 859 066 - 419 A/C. 0000349 Reference: STUDENT NAME. If families are experiencing financial difficulty in payment of school fees, I strongly encourage that you make contact with either the Principal or myself.

Mrs Johnston - Business Services Manager

Fees must be paid in full before students are able to attend end of year excursions and Senior Formal!

Laidley High Spring Float
On Saturday the 12th of September, the Laidley Spring Festival took place in the heart of town. Our school, participated in the event and the Student Council incorporated the theme ‘Treasures of the Earth’ due to the fact Laidley is surrounded by rich farming areas. To accentuate the theme, ‘Treasures of the Earth’, the float was dressed in a variety of colourful and vibrant produce to show what local farmers grow.

Teachers and students dressed up as joyful farmers and also on board was a cute shepherd dog and an adorable baby calf to represent how important animals are in farming. The float also integrated a painted banner of a farm, wind mill and river since water is essential in farming. Laidley High would like to give a massive thank you to the students that painted the banner and participated on the day of the festival, Ms Grosskopf, Miss Park and Ms Bruce. Laidley High would also like to give recognition to those who generously donated goods and produce - thank you to the Crosby family, Tim Pocock, Grey Lerch, Carolyn Jackwitz, Kellie Shultz and the Seng family for providing the necessary materials needed to pull off a fantastic float! Sadly we did not win the best float but everyone who participated had a jubilant time, the float was a success and students commented they would love to participate again.

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Layla Burley - Laidley High Student and Miss Park - Student Council
There have been lots of positive results in the Term 3 reports which is pleasing to see. Congratulations to our students who are reaching their potential and earned a C or above. Also thanks to our teachers and teacher aides who work hard to assist every student. Only a few weeks are left for this school year and I encourage all students to keep up the good work.

There have been a variety of activities running in our Junior School. The numeracy support classes have been working well with Mrs Saal. Mrs Schultz has been doing some short cycle intervention. Students have reported that they are enjoying these mini lessons and feel that their skills are improving. Our Year 7 cohort also participated in Project 600 during Term 3 which provides students with the opportunity to participate in an online numeracy course.

In our Senior School, our students have been working hard. Our Year 10s are making sure that the choices they made at SET Plan interviews are the correct ones for them. (A reminder to students that they need to have earned at least a C on their Semester 2 Report Card to be eligible for Maths A, B or C in Year 11.) Our Year 11 students are working well at their chosen Mathematics subjects. The end is in sight for our seniors but remember to keep up the high standard of work that you have shown throughout the year so far.

The results for the Australian Maths Competition should be received soon and I look forward to sharing these with our school community. On a less positive note, many students are coming to class without a scientific calculator. These are an important tool in many topics. It would be appreciated if parents and guardians could work with their student/s to ensure they have a working scientific calculator to use in class and during assessment.

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Every school has its own culture and set of principles to live by and ASPIRE to. This ‘school roadmap’ provides essential information on how to learn and thrive within the boundaries of a physical location and, increasingly, across the social media air waves. This term, our school community is practising the principle of SAFETY. The common lessons in PCD of ‘Safety across the school’ are intended to:

a) keep our students safe  
b) establish a common language for Safety  
c) contribute to students’ awareness of safe practices  
d) use these lessons as a template for their future safety

Our students can expect to learn in a safe environment, however, safety is a two way street. As such, it requires each student to take responsibility for their own safety and to set an example for others. If in doubt as to the safeness of an endeavour, students are encouraged to ask a staff member, or, if at home, ask your parents/guardians. Teachers regularly ascertain the risk factor of school machinery, physical lessons, online lessons, excursions, sporting fixtures etc. Furthermore, each term our students take part in a lockdown, or fire safety drill, to learn the protocol for staying safe. It seems highly appropriate then that with our Year 12 students leaving school and our Year 11 students wanting to learn to drive, that every day we acknowledge the role of Safety in our lives. Safety lessons are crucial to the wellbeing of all our students. Play it safe!

Ms Muldoon - Positive Behaviour Learning Chairperson