FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

Congratulations
I was very disappointed to require 2 weeks of sick leave at an important time in the school year and miss key celebrations such as the Sports Dinner, Awards Night, Chaplaincy Dinner and Splendour in the Hall. I congratulate all student award winners and participants in these events and thank them for working hard to achieve their success and for contributing to the success of our school.

Farewell Year 12 Students
This Friday we will farewell another cohort of Year 12 students from our school. I look forward to a great graduation ceremony on Friday morning where we can acknowledge their achievements and contribution to our school. On Friday night, we will continue this celebration at the Year 12 Formal at the Laidley Cultural Centre. I know that this will be a special evening for students, families and staff. I encourage our whole school community to come to the main street of Laidley from approximately 5:00pm or the Cultural Centre from approximately 5:30pm to see our students dressed to impress and arrive in a convoy of vehicles.

Enrolments for 2016
A reminder for parents/carers of students wanting to enrol in our school for 2016 that you need to submit an enrolment application now. The school is currently accepting out of catchment enrolments however we are close to our enrolment cap. Year 7 students commencing in 2016 should have completed an enrolment application form, received an acceptance letter in the mail and had an enrolment interview. If you have not, please contact the school to arrange this ASAP. If you have received an acceptance letter in the mail, remember to book your interview as per the acceptance letter ASAP.

Year 7 Orientation Day
Letters outlining details about the Year 7 Orientation Day on Monday 7th December will be sent to parents of students who have enrolled to attend Laidley SHS next year. Details of the Textbook and Resource Hire Scheme will be provided in the end of year reporting packages sent out to families and will be available on the website before Term 1 commences. Parents are able to pay for school fees at the office on this day and are also encouraged to purchase and pay for uniform items with their students during the scheduled morning or afternoon times in the uniform pop-up shop in the school hall.

Investing for Success and New Leadership Positions
In 2015 the school received $240,000 in Great Result Guarantee funding to support improvements in Literacy, Numeracy, school achievement and QCE attainment. Our school has made significant improvements in attendance, NAPLAN performance (students achieving the national minimum standard in Literacy and Numeracy), subject results in Maths, English and Science and QCE Attainment. One of the key strategies that we invested in was converting a teacher into a HOD of Learning Enhancement, focussed on improving school systems, processes and programs to identify students with learning gaps and coordinate programs that help students to catch up. In 2016, it is likely that we will receive approximately $380,000. This HOD (Learning Enhancement) role undertaken by Emma Saal will continue. We will also be employing a 3rd Deputy Principal to enable enhanced coordination of student learning, wellbeing, attendance and behaviour. This new acting DP position has been advertised and will be appointed by the end of this year. There are a range of other strategies that the school will continue to invest in as well as some new strategies focussed on further school improvement.

BYOx
A reminder for parents that the school is introducing a Bring Your Own Device (BYOx) program in 2016 for all Year 8 to 12 students. Teachers will be planning work in these year levels presuming that all students in their Year 8 – 12 classes will have access to a computer in class every day. Year 7 students are not required to bring a computer to school as they will have access to school laptops in their classrooms. I thank all parents/guardians who attended the 3 parent information sessions that were held in recent weeks. Further information about the BYOx program can be found in our Digital Futures Guide on the school website. There are 3 ways that students can participate in this scheme:

Bring Your Own Device - connect your personal laptop to the school network for a fee of $50 per year. Continued
Start Date for School in 2016
The Minister of Education has recently announced that the first day of school in 2016 will be Wednesday 27th January, the day after the Australia Day Public Holiday on Tuesday 26th January. Monday 25th January has been declared a Student Free Day. Please note that the school office and uniform shop will be open from 9am to 3pm on Monday 18th to Friday 22nd January for new enrolments, payment of school fees, uniform purchases and other enquiries. I will advise next newsletter whether the office will be open on Monday 25th January.

School Uniform
It is important that parents are fully aware of the school uniform policy when purchasing school clothing for 2016. To be honest there are a number of students who are currently not complying fully with the school uniform requirements including shoes, socks and pants. This will be a significant focus of our Deputy Principals, Year Coordinators and teachers in 2016 and I need parents to purchase the correct items in preparation for next year so that they do not waste money purchasing an item that will not be accepted next year. The current uniform policy is published in the school diary and in the enrolment section of the school website. I ask parents for your full support with meeting school uniform requirements.

Michael Clarkson
Principal

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Level</th>
<th>Due Back Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7, 8, 9</td>
<td>4th December</td>
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<tr>
<td>10, 11</td>
<td>27th November</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>13th November</td>
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Library - End of Year Procedures
It’s that time of year again, where we ask all our students to scour their rooms to find text books, fiction, non-fiction, laptop chargers and any other resources they may have borrowed from the library during the year. You do not have to wait until the last day to return your resources. If you have finished with a book please find time to return your books early. **WE ARE OPEN FROM 8am – 4pm EACH DAY**: plenty of time to drop your books into the library. If you have lost a book, please do us the courtesy of telling a member of the library staff. We will check our stocks to see if someone else has returned it for you (it happens) and then have further discussions with you about how to replace the item. At the end of each year we need to stocktake our text books to make sure we have enough texts in place for students at the start of the year. Thank you to all those students who always return their resources on time. At a time when the library is dealing with hundreds of books, you make our lives easier. Mrs Muldoon-Teacher Librarian

Schoolies Week - keep teenagers safe
Schoolies celebrations get a lot of bad press – and it’s normal for parents to feel concerned about your teenage child’s safety at schoolies week. But with plenty of communication and planning, you and your child can find a balance between fun and safety.

Staying safe at schoolies
This checklist can help your child stay safe at schoolies:
- Register as a school-leaver with a schoolies organisation or local council.
- Stay with friends and keep an eye on each other.
- Don’t get into a car or a boat with anyone who has been drinking.
- Have extra money just for emergencies.
- Have a phone with you at all times with battery power.
- If you do drink alcohol, limit the amount you drink and how often you drink.
- Drink lots of non-alcoholic fluids so that you don’t get dehydrated. If you’re drinking, pace yourself by alternating alcohol with water. Avoid drinks with high-alcohol content, including energy drinks with alcohol.
- Keep an eye on your drinks – don’t let them out of your sight. This can prevent drink-spiking.
- Avoid swimming, heights, arguments, fights or dangerous risks if you’ve been drinking or using any substances.
- Avoid older people who aren’t part of schoolies activities.
- Be safe on balconies at all times.

In an emergency
Agree that your child can call you at any time of the day or night and that you will help your child or get help for her friends. Don’t risk it, make sure your child knows they can call 000.

Make sure your child has a plan of where to get help in an emergency and how to handle risky situations. You can do this by talking through some ‘what if’ situations: What if someone who is drunk offers you a lift?

If you start talking about end-of-year celebrations early, you and your child will both be clear about what’s important to each of you. Planning ahead lets you tick all the boxes to keep your child safe while giving them the chance to have freedom and fun.

For more information about schoolies please go to [https://www.schoolies.qld.gov.au/](https://www.schoolies.qld.gov.au/)

Remember year 12s – there’s life after exams! [http://thereslifeafter.reachout.com/3/](http://thereslifeafter.reachout.com/3/)

Amanda Austin - Guidance Officer
Laidley and the surrounding areas will be hosting a group of Japanese students in a program conducted by AIIU (Australian Institute of International Understanding). They are arriving on the 27th December and leaving on the 4th January. We are looking for kind families who can share their homes and lives with them. It will be a great experience for your family and a great opportunity to learn about a different culture.

If you are interested or have any questions please contact Riki Garibaldi on 0433 168 509 or 5465 7883 E: rikakoyamaka@hotmail.com

Year 10 students have a busy term ahead. As part of their PCD program they have been learning some essential life skills to better prepare them for the real world. We can never have too many of these!
As the year draws to an end the students are getting excited about attending school events such as the Costume Party and the Dreamworld Trip in Week 8. Mr Brandenburg is looking pretty excited. Here are some photos of the Costume Party that was held on the weekend.

Alison Mckenzie & Nils Brandenburg - Year 10 Coordinators

Host a Japanese Student

Laidley and the surrounding areas will be hosting a group of Japanese students in a program conducted by AIIU (Australian Institute of International Understanding). They are arriving on the 27th December and leaving on the 4th January. We are looking for kind families who can share their homes and lives with them. It will be a great experience for your family and a great opportunity to learn about a different culture.

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What are your ideas on local youth issues?
We’d love to hear from you.
Develop leadership skills!
Make a real difference!
Join us today!

PBL Winners

Asher Piari
Jelly Beans / Chapsticks
(Laidley Chemist)

Jedi Philipson
$10 Gift Voucher
(Three Sons Café)
It has been a busy term here in the LSHS Labs. I have had the opportunity to be in classes to see what the students are learning, and to offer extra supervision and assistance. It is so nice when you see the light bulb click “ON” and their interest is triggered. It is particularly satisfying to see them master a practical exercise which they may not have encountered before.

This term, Year 7 & 8 have had the opportunity to study such topics as Earth Science, States of Matter, Mixtures & Solutions, Separation Techniques, plus Thinking Science units.

For their assessment task, students are given a weighed mixture of 4 different materials; they are required to work out how to separate them using the equipment provided. This cannot be achieved without a logical plan, executed in sequence. At the end of the exercise, all the components are weighed to ensure full separation and retrieval has been achieved.

Thinking Science is a new initiative this year. It is a structured programme of 30 lessons, to be delivered at a rate of 15 lessons per year for year 7 & 8. Some of these lessons tie in precisely with the Curriculum classes and are an invaluable aid in preparing students for the critical thinking required in Science. Exercises in logic, reasoning and practical skills help students in all subjects, not just Science, and this flows on, additionally, into their everyday lives.

As the year draws to a close we’d like to wish all our senior science students the best of luck as they leave our school and go on to their chosen pathways. We know they have learnt many valuable lessons and skills while here and look forward to hearing how they have been put to use in other areas.

Sciene Zone

Year 8

Students are now entering a busy phase of the teaching and learning cycle. They are currently working through assessment tasks designed to provide opportunities to apply skills developed during the year and demonstrate what they have learned. With this in mind, it is important that students conduct regular revision of the content taught at school to consolidate their learning and give them every opportunity to achieve their potential. Students are encouraged to utilise the time provided in class and at home to industriously work on assessable assignment tasks and prepare for examinations, rather than cramming immediately before they are due. Earlier in the year, students studied the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and are aware that good sleeping patterns and nutrition matter.

Unfortunately for the family budget of Year 8 parents and care givers, your students are likely to have grown considerably during this year and as a consequence perfectly fine school shoes can no longer accommodate larger feet. If you are currently in this situation, could you please ensure that replacement shoes are plain black and impervious with black laces. Such shoes comply with uniform policy and occupational health and safety requirements.

It is pleasing to see that students are still actively applying for level 1 and level 2, in order to have their high standard of behaviour recognised. The attainment of these standards requires a concerted effort and students are encouraged to persevere if not successful on their first application. In life, things worth achieving are not always easy. All people, including our Year 8 students, sometimes make mistakes. It is important to take responsibility for ones actions and learn from the mistake. Students who are currently on behaviour levels 4 or behaviour level 5 are also encouraged to demonstrate satisfactory behaviour and apply to improve their behaviour level to at least the satisfactory standard of level 3. As an incentive, all are advised that students on behaviour levels 1, 2 and 3 will be able to apply to attend the end of year day trip to Movie World. Details regarding the excursion during week 10 will be provided later in the term.

Best wishes parents and caregivers. Keep up the good work students.

Dr Reece Wells - Year 8 Coordinator

Congratulations to all students that entered the UNSW Global Writing and English Competitions

Writing Competition
Rhianna Carroll-Kelly (Year 11) – Credit

English Competition

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
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