FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

WISHING YOU A SAFE AND ENJOYABLE HOLIDAY

I would like to wish all of our students and families a very relaxing and enjoyable Christmas holiday. I hope that as you reflect on your child’s school report card, you can see positive improvement in their results as a result of strong and consistent effort in various subjects. I encourage parents/guardians to talk through the report card with your child and celebrate positive achievement, improvement and effort. It would also be helpful to discuss strategies to address areas where improvement is required. I particularly would like parents to review your child’s attendance and absence information and consider whether all days off school were essential.

2015 SCHOOL SUCCESSES

Congratulations to our entire school community for some outstanding achievements this year. Through hard work and a strong focus on key performance goals our school has achieved continual improvement and a number of new record performances. Some of these include:

ATTENDANCE - The attendance rate of 88.2% is the best result achieved since I have been tracking attendance since 2009. This represents an improvement in attendance of 2.3% compared to last year, or an additional 3300 school days that students have attended this year. Well done students and parents!

QCE ATTAINMENT – 98% of our Year 12 students will be receiving a QCE. This is the best result achieved by the school since QCEs were introduced and represents an improvement of 10% compared to our previous record achievement in 2013. Congratulations Year 12 students and teachers!

OP SCORES – While OP Scores are not released until 19th December, our internal school modelling is suggesting that up to 80% of our students will achieve an OP in the 1-15 range. This would be our best performance since I arrived at the school in 2005. Who knows ..... we may even have our first OP1 student since well before my arrival at the school. Fingers crossed!!!

NAPLAN – While NAPLAN performance still generally remains at similar levels to other “like schools” in the nation, we made significant improvement in the number of students achieving the National Minimum Standard, particularly in Maths. Our focus for next year is improving the proportion of students in the Upper 2 Bands. Well done Year 9 students!

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT – 9% more students achieved an A, B or C on their Semester 2 report cards in Year 7, 8, 9 or 10 for Maths, English and Science this year compared to last year. This is a significant improvement.

Great job Core Subject Teachers!

ASPIRE AWARDS – A large number of students have been recognised for improvement and excellence in Achievement, Learning Engagement and Attendance through the schools new ASPIRE Awards program. So far the following number of students have received recognition on formal ASPIRE Awards ceremonies for their performance during Terms 1, 2 and 3.

- 162 BRONZE Improvement Certificates were awarded.
- 902 SILVER High Performance or GOLD Excellence Certificates were awarded.
- 33 SILVER Medallions for consistently high performance over 4 consecutive periods were awarded.
- 7 GOLD Medallions for consistently excellent performance over 4 consecutive periods were awarded.
- 23 PLATINUM Medallions were awarded on the Annual Awards Night for consistently high performance throughout Junior Secondary or Senior Secondary.

ORIENTATION DAY

Thank-you to our Year 6 students and their parents/guardians who attended our Orientation Day on Monday. This was a highly successful day that helped these students to prepare for the commencement of high school.

BYOx

A reminder that from the start of 2016 Year 8 to 12 students will be required to have a personal laptop computer in class. Teachers will be preparing lesson materials assuming that every student in their class has a device with them. This forms a key part of our “Digital Futures” blueprint for students to succeed at school and be well prepared for a lifetime of further education and employment opportunities that will increasingly rely on digital technologies.

There are three ways that students can participate in the Digital Futures (BYOx) program as outlined in the program booklet on the school website. These include:

- Bring their own device that meets the minimum specifications listed ($50 annual charge for licence fees, administration fee and technician support fee)
- Hire a device from the school to take to and from school every day for use at school and home ($150 annual charge plus fees for non-warranty repairs to school device if required)
- Hire an “equity” device from the school as outlined above. Parents/guardians must apply to the school using the Equity Scheme application form available from the office (A reduced $50 annual charge plus fees for non-warranty repairs to school device if required)

The school website has the latest program booklet available to guide you through the process. JB Hi Fi have created a web portal linked to our school website to assist families to purchase digital devices. We are currently working with Harvey Norman to do the same process. You may choose to purchase your devices from any
Continued

company including local suppliers – just remember to show them the minimum specifications listed in our Digital Futures Guidebook. Be careful as salesmen in retail stores may try to convince you that you will need bigger or faster devices that cost you more money. That is OK if you want to do this, however the minimum specifications will allow students to do what they need to have for school purposes.

2016 SCHOOL OPENING TIMES
The school office and uniform shop will be open from Monday 18th January to Friday 22nd January from 9 am to 3 pm. The office will be closed on Thursday 21st from 12.00 pm onwards to allow administration staff to undertake important training activities. The uniform shop will remain open during this time. Please note that the school will not be open on Monday 25th or Tuesday 26th January. School resumes on Wednesday 27th January with a whole school parade in the Clarice Ferrari Hall at 8.55 am.

NEW SCHOOL LEADERS
I welcome Mrs Joni Cameron (Acting English Head of Department) and Miss Peta Jackson (Acting Deputy Principal) to our school in 2016. Mrs Cameron will replace Dorothy Hickey who will be taking leave pre-retirement. Miss Jackson will be our new 3rd Deputy Principal looking after the Year 7 & 8 students. Mrs Crosby will work with Year 9 & 10 students and Mrs Sellars will continue working with Year 11 & 12 students.

Congratulations on a fantastic year. Thanks for your ongoing support and partnership to provide your children a fantastic education. Enjoy a relaxing and safe Christmas holiday. See you back next year for another year of hard work and satisfying personal and whole school performances and improvements.

Michael Clarkson
Principal

Congratulations to Laidley High Leaders in 2016

School Captains 2016: Kenneth Urquhart Jade M
School Vice Captains: Liam Bichel Savannah Kelly
Junior School Captains: Maddison Adamski Sharni-Lee Abbott

Laidley High goes International

Recently 7C and 7F and our Year 8 cohort celebrated their work in geography this term by holding a multicultural event at the school. Our Year 7 students had been studying the liveability of places around the world and the Year 8 students had created an estate in their chosen city designed to encourage migration and alleviate some of the greatest problems shared by cities around the world.

Students researched and dressed up in clothing representative of the various countries, they created colourful thematic posters highlighting the liveability of their chosen country and encouraged those considering migration to ponder the benefits of moving to another part of the world. Thanks to the considerable research efforts of many of the students (and their parents), there was the opportunity to sample delicious traditional foods from many parts of the world. These delicious morsels were certainly a highlight of the event.

Organising teachers were pleasantly overwhelmed by the large number of parents, grandparents and siblings who attended to support our children in celebrating the culminating activity for geography this year. It was a great opportunity for the Social Science department and teachers to showcase the work they had been doing in class this semester, and a fun, exciting way for students to learn about other countries around the world.

Mr Pick - Year 7 Coordinator

Administration of Medications in Schools

A reminder to parents/carers to notify the school about your child’s health

Laidley State High School is committed to supporting students’ health and wellbeing. We would appreciate parents/carers providing the school with any relevant health information that is required to support the student at school. This information is also collected at enrolment but needs to be updated regularly, or if a new health condition develops.

Information about medically diagnosed conditions such as allergies, asthma, diabetes and epilepsy and other health conditions that may require school staff to provide support to students, including administering medication and performing health procedures, should be provided to the school. Additionally, any health need that may impact on school activities such as sports, outings (including camps) should also be discussed with the school.

Information should be provided in writing, and any specific health plans (only to be completed and signed by the medical practitioner) should be included. Please contact the school to discuss any specific requirements.
IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR STUDENTS MOVING SCHOOLS IN 2016

If your student is not returning to Laidley High in 2016, please contact the school on 07 5466 8922 or Email: anort50@eq.edu.au
(Include new school or reason e.g. TAFE, work)

BOOKLISTS

Back to School supplies!
Bring your 2016 book list into NewsXpress Laidley for your Back to School supplies, and you can go into the draw to win up to $100 back on your book list purchase!

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!

6 FEBRUARY 2016
GLENORE GROVE SCOUT GROUP
SIGN ON DAY

TIME
9am – 3pm

LOCATION
Glenore Grove Scout Den at
Glenore Grove State School
3 Brightview Rd, Glenore Grove

CONTACT
Peter Askew (Group Leader)
Ph: 07 5465 6172
Mobile: 0421 529 740

Uniform Quick Reference Guide
All uniforms must be purchased from the school Uniform Shop and have the school logo (Excluding white socks and tailored pants)

Hats
Hat or cap must have school logo (see below)

Shoes
Plain black impervious (e.g. leather) uppers with black laces (to meet Workplace Health and Safety obligations)

White Socks
MUST be above ankle to mid-calf length and plain white

Winter Uniform
Formal Winter Uniform: Black tailored pants are only acceptable as part of the winter uniform. These can be purchased from Target, BigW, Kmart, Louis, etc.
Winter Sports Uniform: Plain black microfibre trackout pants are to be worn with sports uniform only. Trackout pants are available from the uniform shop.

PBL Winners
Jedi Philipson  Kelli’s Diner $10 Voucher
Nicholas Inns  Kelli’s Diner $10 Voucher
Corey Jackwitz  Kelli’s Diner $10 Voucher

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Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to our Laidley State High School Community!
On Sunday the 29th November, our Concert Band was invited to perform at the “March of the Dungarees: Call to Arms” ceremony at the Laidley Pioneer Village. The students performed flawlessly and were commended on both their performance skills and how well they represented the school. The very next day, the students crammed onto a bus and began our annual Primary Schools and Community Tour. The students played at Lake Clarendon Independent School, Glenore Grove State School, Hatton Vale State School and also at Tabeel and Karinya retired living homes. The band was very well received at all venues and the students thoroughly enjoyed the show. We cannot wait to show off some new repertoire next year!

Mr CJ - Instrumental Music Teacher

Musical Notes
“Don’t practise until you get it right, Practise until you can’t get it wrong!”

Business News} Year 9
Over the last couple of week’s Year 9 business students have been conducting various business ventures. Working in groups students had to thoroughly plan and manage several aspects leading up to the day of operation. This experience provided students with the opportunity to work together as part of a team which sometimes proved both challenging and rewarding. In the images below you can see Breanna, Lateefa and Kiera operating their spider business and Claire, Alannah and Tammy working hard to run a popcorn and movie session for Level 1 & 2 students. Well done Year 9 on working hard to make a profit.

Miss McKenzie - Business Studies Teacher

In the last few weeks of term Year 7D has been doing some applied maths activities. The first required them to design a bridge with only 1 piece of A3 paper and glue. Students worked cooperatively together and came up with some fantastic results. The bridges were judged by their environmental impact, aesthetic appeal and strength in terms of how many 20c pieces the bridge could hold before it collapsed and the length. Two groups tied for first place: Aimee Moore, Leighton Craig and Brock Mace in one team and Liam Waugh, River Pearce and Hannah Jensen in the second with an awesome design based on the Sydney Harbour Bridge. Later in a STEM activity the class used toothpicks and raspberry gummy lollies to create a structure strong enough to hold the weight of a textbook. Raven O’Brien-Coop and Jett Stewart were the first team to be successful. Students were inspired to create other complex objects such as helicopters with bonus points if they could make the rotor spin. It was a challenge but a few finally achieved it – Jett Stewart, Derek Jenkyn and Lachlan Rodger. Aimee Moore designed a very cute baby chopper.

Miss Butt - Year 7 Maths Teacher
In this summer survival kit you’ll find everything you need to know, from tips for getting through the holidays to suggestions for curing boredom. Most importantly, be kind to yourself and remember there’s always someone to talk to if you need help. This might help if you’re bored over the summer, worried about dealing with Christmas stress or heading to a Summer Festival.

**Getting through the holidays**
The holiday season can be tough for a lot of reasons and can bring up some issues that are challenging to manage. So how are you supposed to get through it? You might want to check out the fact sheets at www.reachout.com: Managing grief at Christmas; The family and Christmas; Managing relationships at Christmas.

I know Christmas at my house is often a bit stressful (everyone is frantically cooking, trying to get presents done, sending cards, putting up decorations!)

**Ways for managing stress can include:**

- Write a list of things you need to get done (be as specific as possible).
- Prioritise (choose the most important things to do first). Sometimes 'agree to disagree'.
- Say 'no' if someone asks too much of you or you feel overwhelmed.
- Sometimes ‘agree to disagree’.
- Start getting involved early - this means you have more of a chance to say what you want and would like to do for Christmas.
- Know what annoys you - I know sometimes when I’m with my family I think they’re purposely trying to push my buttons but if I’m able to recognise what it is that annoys me about them I can respond differently.
- If you’re feeling overwhelmed, tell someone.
- Discuss what Christmas might mean (or not mean in) in your family and work around this.
- Offer to help in a way that you might be able to manage.
- Try to be patient and have a sense of humour if your family starts telling the same stories they tell every year.

**If you’re going through a tough time or need a distraction you could:**

- Ring a friend/relative for a chat
- Write down some short, medium and long term goals.
- Go for a walk/exercise in moderation (maybe in a team)
- Read a book
- Listen to music
- Have a cold or hot shower.

**What to do if you’re bored?** Some suggestions:

- Take your camera out on a day adventure and see what photos you end up with or take a photo and share it on the forums.
- Check out your local art gallery (sometimes they have some interesting stuff in the summer).
- Go to a different cinema from the one you usually go to or see/rent a movie that you wouldn’t normally see.
- Organise a games night for you and your friends and ask everyone to bring their favourite game and a plate of food.
- Start reading a new book that you’ve been wanting to read for ages.

**What else can I do?**

- Set some short term (so in the next few weeks), medium term (in 3-6 mths) and long term goals (12+mths) - there are some fact sheets on setting goals on ReachOut.com for tips
- Organise daily activities - sometimes if you’re feeling crap or are on holidays it’s easy to lose motivation to do ‘life’ things - having some activities you can do for each day can help you to keep doing things.

**Need help right now?**

Check out the Emergency help section ReachOut.com Kids Helpline (1800 55 1800).
Lifeline (13 11 44) or Headspace 1800 650 890 + www.eheadspace.org.au

Call the Kids Helpline on 1800 55 1800 (free call from landline and from Optus and Virgin mobiles).
Call Lifeline on 13 11 44 (cost of a local call from a landline or free from a mobile).
If you are in immediate danger get to your nearest hospital or call '000'.

Be kind to yourself

All too often we place expectations on ourselves that we would never place on others - so perhaps make a pact with yourself to give yourself a break this summer, especially since Christmas and New Year is a time when things can get tough. I am looking forward to 2016, and I hope everyone has a happy and safe Christmas break.

**Miss Amanda Austin – Guidance Officer**

Reference: adapted from the ReachOut fact sheet - www.reachout.com
Year 12 Formal

More photos in the 2015 School Magazine!