FROM THE PRINCIPAL’S DESK

P&C Association

At the recent P&C Association Annual General Meeting, the P&C elected its 2016 office bearers. Our current President Ann Bichel elected not to seek re-election to this position and the position was not filled at the meeting. This means that the P&C President position currently remains vacant. I am very appreciative of the work that Ann has undertaken as President over recent years and thank her for her significant contribution to the school. I am slightly concerned that the remaining P&C Executive are all also employees of the school as well as P&C Office Bearers and am keen for a greater participation at meetings from families who are not school employees, including as President.

President – VACANT
Secretary – Lisa Johnston
School Patron – Deidre Smith
Vice President – Kaylene Chapman
Treasurer – Annie Forsyth

I encourage all parents/guardians to consider their potential involvement in the P&C by attending as a regular member and/or considering nominating as the President at our next meeting in the school administration building at 5.30pm on Wednesday 4th May, 2016. If you would like to discuss the role, accountabilities and supports for the P&C President position, please contact the school and speak to the Principal or a member of the P&C Executive Committee.

Changes to Report Cards and Parent Teacher Interviews

As a result of the short 8½ week Term and the compulsory engagement of all teachers in a full day Professional Development in Toowoomba on Saturday 19th March, it has been decided to delay the distribution of interim report cards and parent-teacher interviews. The dates for these events are listed below.

Due to the significant increase in postage costs announced by Australia Post, the school will no longer post home report cards and associated materials each term. These will be distributed to students in an envelope and the school will send a text message to parents informing parents to collect this package from their child that afternoon when they arrive home from school.

The school is in the process of setting up QParents that will allow parents to directly access a range of school information about their child (including report cards). In the interim, if you require a copy of the report card, please contact the school and we can have it available for collection or post it home to you.

- By 9am Monday 11th April (1st day of Term 2) - Teachers have completed marking of all assessment and entered report cards information into OneSchool.
- By Thursday 14th April – Report cards and parent teacher interview information distributed in envelopes to students. Text message will be sent home to inform parents of this distribution.
- 3.30 pm to 6.00 pm Tuesday 26th April – Parent/Teacher interviews

Digital Futures Program - Bring Your Own Device (BYOx)

I am pleased to receive feedback from Todd Robson (IT Head of Department) around the level of student uptake of the Digital Futures Program. While the majority of Year 8 to 12 students have chosen to participate by bringing their own device and connecting it to our school BYOx network, there are also a number of students/families who have elected to hire a school device (some at a significantly reduced price through the school’s Equity Scheme). I thank parents/guardians for their efforts in arranging access to a digital device for their child/ren.

We are currently chasing up with remaining families to ensure that every student has access to a digital device in class to assist them with their learning. I remind parents that the school is committed to working with parents/guardians to ensure that financial matters do not become a barrier that stops a student accessing a digital device and the associated classroom learning opportunities. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to work with the school to find solutions to financial issues. Potential solutions include:

- Accessing the school equity scheme ($50 annual hire fee in 2016)
- Negotiating a repayment agreement for school and Digital Futures Program fees
- Arranging Centrepay or direct debits to make small and frequent repayments
- Referrals to community organisations that may be able to assist families with other financial assistance programs.

The introduction of the Digital Futures Program has been a huge undertaking within our school and has not been without its headaches and challenges. I thank Mr Robson, Mr Nielsen and Mrs Bachmann for their diligence and determination in working through the various technical issues that have accompanied this new Departmental technical solution. I also thank students and parents for their patience as we identify new issues and wait for our IT Service Centre to resolve these and roll out state-wide solutions to these issues.

Michael Clarkson
Principal
It is an important time, as we come to the end of Term 1, with assessment taking place in classes. It has been great to visit classes and see some of the fantastic work that is occurring in the classrooms this term. Students in Year 7 have been writing their own memoirs, working out perimeter and area, learning about Ancient Mediterranean civilisations and researching and making ancient artefacts. In Year 8 students have been learning about cells and reproduction, probability and Medieval Europe, making their own shields, which will culminate in Medieval Day on Monday 21 March 2016. Congratulations to the teachers and students for the hard work they have been doing this term. I look forward to seeing this hard work culminate into positive results in their reports.

Attendance continues to be one of the areas that we are focussing on and I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that it is an expectation that students attend school up to and including Thursday 24 March. Students will be finalising assessment, consolidating work completed this term or preparing students for Term 2 work. We also have our first Level 1 and 2 Rewards trip occurring on Thursday 24 March.

Bullying
The National Day of Action against Bullying and Violence was held on Friday 18 March. Bullying is an ongoing misuse of power in relationships involving a pattern of harmful verbal, physical or social behaviour. Our school supports the growing nationwide movement to “Take a Stand Together” against bullying and violence. Students wore wrist bands on the day and if you feel that you or another student is being bullied you can report it through the STYMIE Program (www.stymie.com.au) or make an incident report to any staff member at our school.

Year 7 & 8 2016 Immunisation Program
Immunisations will start next week, on Wednesday 23 March, with the Year 7 & 8 students having the HPV (Dose 1) and Diphtheria, Tetanus and Pertussis (Boostrix) immunisations. Envelopes containing three permission forms (1 for each vaccination) were sent home to Year 7 & 8 students and they have been collected. The immunisation team have informed me that is not too late if the envelope was misplaced. We have some spare envelopes in the office and if you would like your student to participate in the immunisation program please collect an envelope from the office, fill it in and return it by Tuesday 22 March. If you have any questions please contact the office on 5466 8922.

Peta Jackson
Year 7-8 Deputy Principal

Meet the Year Level Coordinators...

Year 9
It would appear that the Year 9 cohort has almost seamlessly settled back into their schooling at Laidley State High School, with the majority of students arriving to class, well prepared with books, stationery and a bottle of water. I am also pleased to see that the number of Year 9 students attending lessons with a laptop computer continues to increase, as computer access broadens the outcomes possible within the teaching and learning environment. I welcome students joining the school for the first time in 2016 and remind them that I am in E block staffroom if assistance is required.

As Year 9 Co-ordinator it is not possible to bother me, you are my concern.

Congratulations to the Junior School Captains who have already demonstrated the capacity to conduct school parades in a capable manner and serve as excellent role models for all. It is pleasing also to see leaders across all junior leadership positions, rise to the challenge of giving without the expectation of something in return. Your service benefits all. Thank you.

In addition to the mandated content to be covered in the core and elective subjects, students undertake two lessons a week with a focus on content to enhance their personal growth and development. It is important that all students know that they are valued within the school community to which they belong and beyond. I would like all of our students to know that they matter and recognise that establishing goals is an important first step in order to achieve one’s potential.

Best wishes, Dr Wells.

Welcome Back Year 10!
We’ve hit the ground and we are running! A big welcome back to our Year 10 cohort, who have entered their senior schooling years. This term one of our focuses in PCD is career planning and employment opportunities. Earlier in the term we had a range of speakers come in to host talks with the group, discussing their own journeys since leaving high school. The students heard about the variety of different pathways these speakers had explored, as well as how the different opportunities presented to them, helped guide them throughout their working life.

Next term students will begin to prepare for SET planning, and start making some decisions about their own subject selection for their senior years. We also had the Elevate team come out and give a Study Sensei presentation to a group of our students last week. This engaging presentation gave the students a variety of study and revision methods designed to help them develop their learning and memory skills.

We encourage our students to work hard this year, as they prepare themselves for the challenges to come!

Megan Newbury & Ian Perry
Year 10 Coordinators

Dr Wells
Year 9 Coordinator
### Student Absences

When students are marked absent from school. A text message goes out to parents/caregivers notifying of this. It is important that a response to this text message is received by the school to ensure the safety of our students at all times.

### USI Numbers needed for VET students

If your student is completing a VET (Vocational Educational Training) course through Laidley High then they will need to obtain a USI (Unique Student Identifier). This is a 10 digit number which will allow them to access all their training records. Students will need to create their USI account online [https://www.usi.gov.au](https://www.usi.gov.au) and will need at least one form of ID to do so e.g. Medicare Card, Birth Certificate (Australian), Driver’s Licence or Australian Passport. Once students have their USI number can they please bring a copy of it to the office so it can be verified or email it to tmcp30@eq.edu.au. If you have any enquiries regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact the school for further information.

### Teacher Development

This year we welcome two graduate teachers to Laidley SHS, Danielle Merritt and Tamara Devlin. Danielle and Tamara are undertaking an induction program to support their career transition and are supported by trained mentors and experienced teachers, Emma Saal and Sarah Perry. We look forward to celebrating the growth and success of Danielle and Tamara.

All teachers are currently writing their performance development plans which will guide their professional development this year. These plans align with the ‘AITSL Professional Standards for Teachers’ and will have a specific focus on the school priority areas of Explicit Instruction Pedagogy, Higher-Order thinking processes and implementation of the Laidley SHS Writing Framework.

This Saturday, all teaching staff will be giving up a whole day to attend a professional development program on Explicit Instruction delivered by Dr Anita Archer. Explicit Instruction is a teaching approach which seeks to enhance student engagement and success. Explicit instruction requires clear goals and expectations, step-by-step instructions, active student participation, student/teacher feedback and a gradual release of the responsibility of learning from teacher to student. All teaching staff will be receiving lesson observations and feedback on their implementation of the Explicit Instruction pedagogy.

### Home Economics

The Home Economics faculty is off to a sizzling start! Ms Walsh has been working with our Year 7 students to teach them about the importance of good nutrition and basic cooking techniques. Earlier this term they explored basic design and textile production techniques and created their own textile monsters.

Our Year 9 and 10 Food Studies students with Ms Walsh and Mrs Pellicaan have been cooking up a storm and learning about the properties of food, sustainability and nutrition. Amazing smells having been wafting through the school as they prepare stir fries, pasta dishes, desserts and many other yummy recipes.

The sewing machines have been abuzz over in Year 10 Home Economics producing super hero capes which will be given to young children undergoing treatment in hospital to help them feel a little braver. The Capes 4 Kids Program has donated the materials, patterns and assorted embellishments to allow us to create stunning capes. The students have taken the project on-board with enthusiasm. We are looking forward to sharing the finished capes with you and seeing them put smiles on the faces of young children going through a scary time.

Year 11 and 12 Early Childhood Studies students have been learning about the Early Childhood industry and the importance of creativity in child development. The students are looking forward to undertaking practical experience during terms 2-4.

Our Certificate II Hospitality students have been enjoying learning about beverages during that last few weeks of summer and have been observed sipping smoothies, iced teas and mocktails! They have also catered for the ASPIRE morning tea preparing a variety of sandwiches.

Hospitality Studies students have planned and produced a three course meal and matching beverage luncheon for invited guests on March 11th.

As you can see the Home Economics Department has been very busy indeed.

### Can you help?

We would like to build up our herb garden so that we can use fresh herbs in our cooking. If you are able to contribute some seedlings please contact one of the Home Economics teachers.

---

**P&C Meeting 4th May School Administration Building 5:30pm-7:30pm Parents/Carers Welcome.**

---

Nikki Field
$20 EB Games voucher
(donated by Ms Wickenden)

Ms Butt

Corey Jackwitz
Asics Water Bottle
(donated by HPE Dept)

Ms Hanlon

---

Keryn Loughman
HOD - Home Ec/Teacher Development
Master Teacher’s Report

Writing is an essential skill both in life and at school. In today’s society more than ever we need to be able to write coherently and effectively in order to achieve our goals. In addition, reading and writing are creative outlets that help us to express our thoughts and feelings. I am currently working with teachers to support them in developing the writing skills of all students. The Laidley State High School writing framework has been produced and is currently being implemented across the school. As part of this implementation I am working closely with the Year 9 cohort in Science and English collecting feedback and data on the improvement in student writing.

Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 have completed an on demand writing task that has been marked according to the NAPLAN criteria and we have analysed the strengths and areas of support to help inform the focus of our writing instruction. These tasks will be repeated in Term 3 to track improvements in student writing. A number of teachers from various faculties have also started working on developing their skills by completing the Department of Education’s online coaching module on “How to Teach Writing”.

The Lockyer Young Writers Competition started in 2015. It is being expanded this year with preparations well under way for a literature festival to launch the second annual writing challenge in conjunction with Book Week 2016 “Australia – Story Country”. The literature festival will incorporate the Write a Book in a Day competition that some of our students attended last year as well as an author visit and workshop. We are also working with the Somerset Celebration of Literature Committee on a very exciting plan that should come to fruition in Term 1 2017.

Students are welcome to attend the Writing Master Class in H1 on Thursday afternoons from 3.05 to 4.15 if they would like help with any writing they may be doing, whether for school or their own enjoyment. 

See Mrs Lund in H Block Staffroom for a permission form.

A special mention goes to Emma Masri and her amazing fundraising efforts!

Maths News

The Maths Department have been busy preparing students for assessment. Many of the classes are currently studying probability so there have been lots of dice and card games going on in classrooms. A lot of other topics have also been covered including numbers, algebra, measurement and geometry.

This year sees our Year 11 Maths B class being involved in some exciting trials that are a lead up to the changes that will occur to senior assessment. Firstly we are involved in the endorsement trial in which assessment pieces are checked by other Maths B teachers before they are used in class. Secondly, we will be involved in the external assessment trial. On June 1st, our students along with many others in the state will sit a 2 hour external exam. This is a great opportunity for our school to be able to provide feedback to assist in the development of the new procedures to determine students suitability for further studies.

As I am writing this we are celebrating International Pi (π) Day on March 14 (3.14). Here are a few jokes which were the students’ favourites:

3.14% of Sailors are PI rates!

The roundest knight at King Arthur’s was Sir Cumference… He ate too much PI!

What is the official animal of Pi Day?… the PI – thon!

With thanks to http://mytowntutors.com/2014/03/pi-day-jokes-101-pi-day-jokes-for-math-teachers/

Happy Pi Day!

Toni Adams
Head of Mathematics

Hair Goes Flying

Today, 34 Australians will be given the devastating news that they have leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma and they will turn to the Leukaemia Foundation for help. Teachers and students lined up to have their heads shaved, beard removed, legs waxed and hair coloured, all in the name of a good cause – Shave for a Cure. This year the Student Council organised a fundraiser for this worthy cause. The school to date has raised just over $1000 and there are still donations coming in.

The Student Council would especially like to thank Melissa from Plainland Beauty and Emilee O’Keefe for volunteering their time and resources to wax and shave our volunteers. Kenneth Urquhart and Bailey Trimble were brave enough to shave their heads. Mr Porter and Hayden Cahill stood up to the challenge of having their legs waxed! A few interesting faces were pulled during this ordeal. Mr Bishop looks like a new man without his beard! Hair colouring created some interesting looks for many of our younger students.

A special mention goes to Emma Masri and her amazing fundraising efforts!
Next Step is the Queensland Government’s statewide survey of every student who completed Year 12 during the previous year in Queensland at government, Catholic and independent schools. The survey collects information about the initial study and employment destinations of young people after leaving school.

The 2015 Next Step survey was conducted between March and June 2015. More than 40,000 young people who completed Year 12 in 2014 participated in the survey.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT

7 AND 8 HISTORY
The Year 7 and Year 8 students have been thoroughly immersed in ancient times this term with Year 7 students honing their historical inquiry skills by researching an ancient Mediterranean society (Egypt, Rome or Greece). They have focussed on particular artefacts and have designed and presented models of their artefacts which will be on display in the library throughout the last week of term. The Year 8 students have been thoroughly enjoying learning about medieval times and have been creating their own heraldic shields. Students are looking forward to donning their shields and medieval attire for the annual Medieval Day held on Monday 21st March 2016 where students will experience a day in the life of medieval times.

LEARNING ENHANCEMENT TEAM
The Learning Enhancement Team have been very busy writing programs for an array of intervention and extension programs this semester. Students will be participating in Short Cycle Interventions which include filling gaps in learning as well as extension opportunities. We will also be offering a specific reading program for our dyslexic students commencing in Term 2. Remember, if you have any questions, concerns or ideas regarding effectively supporting or extending your child at school, please do not hesitate to speak to one of the Learning Enhancement Team members.

THE ONGOING HOMEWORK DEBATE – Homework is to growth is to homework
Homework is an ongoing debate that occurs not only at home but amongst professional educational circles. Students, parents and teachers can be heard, throughout different times of the year, asking the age old question – “Do we really need to be delivering/forcing/promoting/completing homework?”.

The short answer is ‘yes’ not for the reason that ‘practice makes perfect’ but more so for the reason that practice is scientifically proven to form synaptic connections in our brains. To put it simply, practice helps us build long term memories and make connections between skills and knowledges learnt.

Committing to at least 10 minutes a day working towards a particular skill DOES improve our ability to perform the skill and our ability to perform the skill easier next time. Committing to a mindset of growth – ‘I may not be there yet but I am working towards getting there’ – is essential to empowering our brains to want to put the regular and consistent effort in both at school and at home.

I dare us all to take up the challenge of the 10 minute commitment and experience our marvellous brains at work!
**P&C News**

**School Canteen:**
Early opening hours for pre order lunches/breakfast purchases 8:15am-8:45am
School canteen also offers a variety of salads, sandwiches, ice creams and drinks.

**Weekly Specials Board**
- **Monday:** Chicken & Gravy Rolls $4.20
- **Tuesday:** Hawaiian Pizza $3.50
- **Wednesday:** Chicken Burger $4.20
- **Thursday:** Cheesy Dogs $3.20
- **Friday:** Sweet Chilli Chicken Burger $4.80

---

**Next Chaplaincy Committee Meeting and AGM**
Tuesday, April 26th
3.30pm at LSHS
Contact Rev. Euan McDonald (current LCC Chairman)
Mob. 0407 623 014
Email: eandymcd@bigpond.net.au or speak with your Chappy!

---

**INVITATION**
Here is a call out for any girls who are still interested in playing netball this year.
We are inviting you to come down to the courts for the next two weeks to see if you enjoy the sport, before you have to sign up and pay fees!

If you are already part of a team – Bring a Friend!!
If you require more information, please contact us on the details below.

“We look forward to seeing you on the courts!”

---

Laidley & District Netball Association
PO BOX 258 Laidley, QLD 4341
www.laidleynetball.org.au
laidleynetball@gmail.com

---

**Lockyer Valley Dog Training Club**
Obedience, Rallyo, Agility
Call us on 0439932224
Or. 0417799281
Or. Contact on Facebook
Have more fun with ur dog!
March/April School Holiday FUN!!

**Ozobots - Robot Fun**
- **Thursday 31 March** - Gatton
  - 6-7Yrs 9.30-10.30am or 2-3pm
- **Friday 8 April** - Laidley
  - 6-7Yrs 9.30-10.30am or 2-3pm
  - Bookings Essential - Free Activity

**MaKeyMaKey Alien World**
- **Friday 1 April** - Laidley
  - 3-4Yrs + Care 9.30-10.30am
  - 4-12Yrs 9-10.30am
- **Thursday 7 April** - Gatton
  - 3-6Yrs + Care 9.30-10.30am
  - 6-12Yrs 2-3pm
  - Bookings Essential - Free Activity

**3-6Yrs Make a Jet Pack**
- **Tuesday 29 March** - Gatton
  - 9.00-10am
- **Tuesday 5 April** - Laidley
  - 9.00-10am
  - Child and Caret Activity
  - Bookings Essential - $2 per child

**LEGO - Let’s Build**
- Ages 6 - 12 yrs
- **Thursday 31 March** - Gatton
  - 9.30-10.30am - Laidley
- **Friday 8 April** - Gatton
  - 2-3pm - Gatton
  - Bookings Essential - Free Activity

**Alien Scarry Hair**
- Ages 6 - 12 yrs
- **Friday 1 April** - Gatton
  - 9.00-10am
- **Thursday 7 April** - Laidley
  - Bookings Essential - $2 per child

**Das Neumann Haus**
- **Patricke Street - Laidley**
- **Laidley Heritage - Gatton**
- **13th & 14th March**

**Contact:** (07) 5465 2816

For more information visit www.lockyervalley.qld.gov.au and go to What’s On.
Emu Gully Leadership Camp

Thank you to Spar Laidley, Hatto’s Fresh Fruit & Veg and Supa IGA Laidley for your kind donations towards Close the Gap celebrations!