



THE LINK



Leumeah High School Newsletter

15 December 2017 Term 4 Week 11

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From the Principal Mr. Zielinski

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

This year has witnessed our Leumeah High school learning community resolutely committed to achieving our goals, a learning community working together, a learning community continually searching for improvement, a learning community encouraging new ideas which has in turn led to a learning community achieving high standards in all that we do.

Today I would like to focus on just a few of the many highlights of what has been a wonderful year for our school.

This year, our school again received significant funds from the government under the now well known Gonski funding model. I am pleased to report that these funds have been used wisely and to strong effect. Some of our initiatives we have funded this year include...

The Year 12 Study Centre, that we commenced in 2014, which is permanently staffed with a full time teacher that has allowed each Yr 12 student to receive continual support throughout the year in preparing for the HSC. This support has taken many forms including assistance with essay writing, note taking and summarising skills, completion of assessment tasks, exam preparation and study skills and has had a direct influence on the continuing improvement of our HSC results. We have employed extra Learning Support staff to assist our students most in need and made time available to all Head Teachers so they can work more closely with their faculty staff as we continue to support all teachers to improve the quality of daily teaching. Our Community Liaison Officer Mrs Donna Shedden continues to enhance our ability to provide our school community with up to date news on the many great things that happen within our school. We have also employed a student support officer, Mrs Jules Chenoweth, a qualified youth worker, for 2 days a week which has added significantly to our capacity to provide exceptional pastoral care for our students. This year we have also employed a third deputy principal. Mrs Raquel Spratt, which has allowed us to provide additional professional support to all our teaching staff. Additionally, we have just purchased another 90 IPADs for student use that will be available from the start of next year. In short, Gonski funding has made a real difference to the opportunities we provide to our students.

There have been countless highlights within our faculties as well this past 12 months. Just a few of these are...

In June, Creative and Performing Arts staged our annual musical, "Death by Jamming" which played 4 very enthusiastic performances. Written and directed by our own Ms Woolley, it was, as always, a wonderful evening of entertainment. And of course, our annual M.A.D.D. festival, held just two weeks ago, was a week of music, art, dance and film that again showcased the talent within our student body with over 28 performances, 140 students performing on stage plus a crew of 20 behind the scenes as well as hundreds of artwork on display.

In English our debating teams continue to excel, finishing runners up in our zone while the BELL Shakespeare company brought Shakespeare to life in August with a stunning school performance whilst in Mathematics we continued to see record numbers of students participating in the annual maths competitions and performing exceedingly well, while our Numeracy Gala Day for Year 8 proved beyond argument that Maths is fun! Significantly our growth in NAPLAN Literacy and Numeracy from Yr 7 to Yr 9 continues to be in the top 15% of all schools in the state which is a tremendous achievement.

CALENDER

DECEMBER

15/12 Students Last Day, Term 4

JANUARY

30/01 Years 7, 11 & 12 Return

31/01 Years 8, 9 & 10 Return

In Life, Technology and Applied Science Yr 8 have enjoyed considerable success with their STEM projects which included Coding, Robotics, and the aeronautical design challenge led by Mr Shaw in which we made the state finals, finishing a creditable 8th.

Our support unit continues to flourish with our students continuing to participate in ever greater numbers in our mainstream classes and with two students accepted into TAFE for 2018. A highly successful Autism Awareness week culminating with a whole school assembly did much to increase awareness, understanding and acceptance across our school community.

Our students continue to excel on the sporting field. Just some of our successes this year include winning both the Zone Athletics and Cross Country carnivals while in Rugby League our 14 Buckley Shield progressed to the state quarter finals.

Our finest Individual performance was by Lamarr Solvilj Talo who only this past weekend finished 6th at the Australian junior titles in discus. A brilliant result

However the story of sport at Leumeah in 2017 has been the performance of our girls... In Basketball our girls made the final 16. Our Girls open cricket side is through to the final 16 in the state with that competition not concluding till next term, but the undoubted highlight was the success of our Girls U/14s Rugby League side which won the state all-schools title in August. A tremendous achievement.

Without the countless hours our staff at Leumeah High School contribute through training and organising sport, these sporting opportunities wouldn't be possible and I thank all coaches for their contributions this year.

Our school continues to receive wide acknowledgement for our leading approach to pastoral care. Our Peer Support Program, Year 10 Crossroads, our year camps, our work with Mission Australia, Burnside, Leaps, ABCN, , Careers Market workshops, transition to high school, Out of Home care, supported work placement and work experience programs to name but some, are all successful initiatives that support our students.. A new welfare initiative this year has been SEL. SEL which stands for Social and Emotional Learning is designed to teach our students to effectively apply the knowledge, attitudes, and skills necessary to understand and manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, feel and show empathy for others, establish and maintain positive relationships, and make responsible decisions. SEL has made a demonstrable and positive difference to the way our students cope when difficulties with peer groups and conflict arise. We are one of the first schools in NSW to introduce this initiative and I would like to acknowledge the work of Ken Bates, Kim Osborne, Tania Irons, Josie Ferro and the entire welfare team for the work they have done. It has made our school an even better school.

Our two student groups, our Student Representative Council and Our Aboriginal Representative Council are both wonderful endorsements for the quality of young people Leumeah High possesses. Guided by Mr Parry-Ewing and Ms Roberts, I could easily take all morning talking about their achievements (don't worry I won't) but it is important to mention a few.

Some of the ARC initiatives include...

The annual Christmas Toy Drive for needy families'

The Naidoc celebrations in July highlighting Aboriginal Culture and their languages and subsequent fete along with the associated reconciliation week activities

The ARC link with Passfield Park school supporting students each week

The continuing relationship with Pembroke Lodge Retirement village where our students perform each term

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A few of the SRC initiatives include...

- The Breakfast club
- The student leadership camp
- Worlds greatest shave fundraiser to support funding for leukaemia research
- Dogtober
- The biggest morning tea to raise money for cancer research
- sustainability initiatives like our water fountain supported by the P&C
- The refugee sleepout which raised over \$3000
- the partnership with Beverley Park School

This is just a short list of their achievements but it does put paid to the notion that teenagers only care for themselves.

I would like to thank and acknowledge the wonderful support from Wests Leagues who have fully sponsored our SRC breakfast program since its inception, who each year give generously to our annual presentation and who provide this auditorium for our major presentations free of charge.

Just a fortnight ago our school celebrated its 40th birthday which saw scores of past students and former staff attending a day long celebration which gave the many past students a chance to stroll down memory lane, visit classrooms and find themselves mentioned in old school magazines, pictures and yearbooks. The highlight for many was catching up with childhood friends. All students spoke with great fondness for the school and the wonderful education and support they received. I was proud to be able to tell them that nothing had changed.

Finally, we have been fortunate to gain some major capital improvements this year with the complete \$450,000 refurbishment of one of our two kitchens to full commercial standards while currently we are in the middle of having all roofing replaced at a cost of \$1.5 million dollars. While the school has excellent facilities, for those of us who are on the wrong side of 40, we well understand the need for a little extra maintenance now and then and so does the school.

We have bid farewell this year to a number of staff who have made significant contributions to our school. From English Mrs Pawar retired at the end of 2nd term and Mrs Shortridge left at the end of first term. In their place we welcomed Mr Pratt who has already commenced and Mrs King who will commence at the start of next year. We also welcomed Ms Finucane to our HSIE faculty and Mr Gatti to PDHPE. We are delighted that both Ms Christina Needham and Mr Josh Curtain, have been appointed full time to our school from the start of next year. I would like to thank Ms Laura Burns who returns to her substantive position at Campbelltown North Primary next year. We also sadly say goodbye to Ms Rachael Roberts who has lead the ARC so wonderfully this year and who will be moving to Campbell House and I would like to acknowledge the wonderful work of Mrs Osborne, our HT CAPA who moves to Picton High School next year. Mr Allsopp, will also take leave next year while he takes up a leading position in ACT cricket.

Many staff have contributed to this morning, Ms McWilliam, Ms Edwards, Ms Osborne, Mrs Irons, Mrs Carter, Mrs Siebrecht, Mrs Shedden and Mr Tsoupis and I thank them for all they have done.

Walt Disney said, "You can dream, create, design and build the most wonderful idea in the world, but it requires people to make the dream reality."

The many highlights I have spoken of tonight would not be possible without the support of the dedicated, committed and passionate staff of our school. I have taught in numerous schools over my 35 years as a teacher, However I have never worked with a staff that works as hard as my staff work to help make 'the dreams' come true. I am constantly humbled by their commitment, passion and unfailing dedication to do the best for all students of our school.

I am so very fortunate to lead such a dedicated, hardworking and talented team. As a school, we are very proud of our efforts to create a learning environment that sets high standards and I continue to have a privileged position as Principal of this school. I wish you all a Merry Christmas, a prosperous new year and an enjoyable and safe holiday. Thank You.

2017 Presentation Day

Congratulations to all of our award recipients! Thank you to our special Guests, Mr Rogers- President Leumeah High School P&C, Mr Noyce- Director Wests Leagues Club, Ms Hunt- Councillor for Campbelltown, Mr McGillicuddy- Principal Ruse Primary School, Mrs Wood- Principal Leumeah Primary School and Able Seaman J. Sinclair for presenting awards to our students.







NUMERACY GALA DAY

Year 8 student Participated in a variety of activities for Numeracy Gala Day



Our Bundalong Unit enjoyed an excursion to the Powerhouse Museum.





STEM Science, Technology,
Engineering, Mathematics

Year 7 STEM Workshops



SPORTS REPORT

Award Recipients from the Zone Blues Presentation at Sarah Redfern High School. The Awards were presented by Anthony Redward, the NSW Boxing coaching Director. Congratulations to all students.



2017 Sports Presentation

We would like to thank Corban McGregor of the Australian Rugby League Jillaroos team for being our special guest and presenting awards at our Sports Presentation. Congratulations to all students who received awards!



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Thank You to
all of our Staff
and Students
for showcasing
a spectacular
show!

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WARBY

11,813

MACARTHUR

10,497

DORE

10,027

FREEMAN

9,661



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