



THE LINK



Leumeah High School Newsletter

8 March 2019 Term 1 Week 6

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From the Principal Mr. Zielinski

I am pleased to report that all students have begun the new school year with enthusiasm and determination to make 2019 a successful year of learning. As I have visited various classrooms I have been impressed with the effort and attitude displayed by students as they go about their learning. I also extend a warm welcome to all new Year 7 students and their families to our school and know that the next six years of learning will be exciting, demanding and ultimately rewarding.

Congratulations to our HSC class of 2018 who achieved some impressive results. Notable results included Mariam M who placed on the HSC High Achievers list for Society and Culture while Leyna H, Tiarne A, Kaylah B and Paul B all earned outstanding HSC results.

There have been some significant staff movements over the last few months. At the end of last year we farewelled Mrs Vicki Harper who has retired after many years of service as a SLSO. We also bade farewell to Mr Craig Shaw who has moved to Warilla HS in Wollongong, our School Counsellor Mrs Jasmine Bozic who has been promoted to Senior Psychologist – Education in Greystanes and to Ms Amanda Olgvie, who has received a transfer to Camden HS. We welcome Ms Keely Baker to the position of Head Teacher, Science. Ms Baker replaces Mr Simon Flanagan who was promoted to the position of Deputy Principal late last year. We also welcome Mr Alex Glasgow as our third Deputy Principal. Mr Glasgow comes with enormous experience both as a teacher and consultant to the Department and I am sure he will make a significant contribution to our school. We also welcome Ms Tamara Ilic as our new school psychologist and Mrs Sheila Antal as our new permanent librarian. We also pass on our congratulations to Mr Matt Fryer, Rel HT PDHPE, and his wife, who welcomed a new baby daughter to their family this week.

On Monday 18th March, we will hold our first Parent/Teacher evening for the year. This is an opportunity for parents to meet with teachers and discuss how your child has commenced the school year. We hope to see as many parents as possible. A note will be sent home shortly.

I urge those parents who have yet to do so to download, our free Skoolbag app available from Google Play or the App Store. This app will keep you informed of the events that are taking place at school throughout the term. Simply search for Leumeah High, download and join the over 1000 families who are already using our Skoolbag app to keep themselves up to date about our school.

Leumeah High has again provided diaries for all students this year. In their diary, students are expected to record homework and assessments. As well, throughout the diary, students will find study tips, school to work information and helpful hints regarding good behaviour, along with important dates. It is a requirement that students bring their diary to school each day.

With the start of the new school year I again ask for support from parents who drive their children to and from school to be mindful of road rules to ensure the safety and wellbeing of all our students and other pedestrians during school starting and finishing times. Parents are reminded that there are very significant fines imposed for even minor traffic infringements in and around school. If at all possible I would ask parents to drop off and pick up students in Wyangala Cres rather than the front of the school each day. There is significantly less through traffic at the rear exit and this offers a safer alternative than the main entrance at the front of the school. I also remind parents that it is illegal to pick up students in the bus bay and would ask that all parents refrain from driving through the bus bay at any time.

CALENDER

MARCH

- 11 SSW Swimming Carnival
- 11 Year 7 2020 Information Evening
- 15 Year 12 Fast Forward
- 18 Years 7-12 Parent Teacher Evening
- 28 Years 7 and 8 Gala Day

APRIL

- 1 Years 9/10 Drama Excursion
- 2-9 Year 12 Exams
- 8-10 CHS Swimming Carnival
- 11 Year 9 Fast Forward
- 11 School Cross Country
- 12 Last Day Term 1, 2019
- 30 First Day Term 2, 2019

Thank you to the vast majority of parents who have assisted in ensuring their child is dressed in appropriate school uniform each day. When all our students dress in correct uniform it sends a strong positive message to our community about the standards and ethos of Leumeah High and demonstrates the pride that the students have for their school. I do appreciate it can be difficult for parents on some days to “encourage” their children to wear correct uniform, particularly the black leather school shoes and I thank each parent for their assistance. I do remind parents that it is important that all students wear black leather school shoes. It is a requirement of Work Health Safety and Workcover legislation that states students must wear sturdy leather shoes in areas such as science labs, craft rooms and workshops and food technology labs. Additionally, students must wear appropriate footwear for sport and PE when timetabled (such as runners /joggers). If students are not wearing appropriate footwear then they may not be allowed to participate in these activities on that day. It is also a requirement that all students are attired in correct full school uniform when on excursions. Parents are reminded that any student not in correct uniform on the day of the excursion will not be allowed to attend and if venues have been prepaid, then no refund will be available.

Our first Leumeah Parent Forum for the year will be this Monday 25th March at 6.00pm in the school common room. I urge all parents to attend.

From the Deputies

It has been great to see students settling into the 2019 with a strong focus on their learning. Year 7 have had a range of experiences to help them settle into their new routines and the new school environment, including Boot Camp days for 7T, Peer Support lessons, the Year 7 Camp to name a few. The leadership displayed by our Year 10 Peer Support leaders in assisting Year 7 with their transition to high school has been outstanding, and has contributed positively to Year 7's growing sense of belonging. In the Senior School, Year 11 have also made a successful transition into their new role as the HSC students of 2020, commencing their learning journey with a positive yet serious attitude, for which they are to be commended. Interim reports have been distributed for Years 7 & 11 on Friday 8th March – please contact the office if you have not received your student's report.

Assessment Booklets for Years 7-11 have now been distributed. These booklets contain important information for both students and parents about when students will be required to submit evidence of their learning in each subject they are studying. Information around school expectations and policies in assessment are also published in these booklets, so parents are advised to discuss the assessment schedules and expectations with their students as to generate discussions around what your students are learning, and how they know whether they are making progress in their learning. The purpose of assessment tasks for students and parents is to check in on that learning progress, so it is important to know when tasks are due. The school policy is for students to be given at least 2 weeks' notice of when a task will be due. We also have a no-opting-out policy for all students, meaning that every student is expected to complete and submit every assessment task. Parent support with this critical aspect of your student's learning is appreciated.

We ask parents to respect and support our expectations around student use of mobile phones. There have been far too many incidents involving the misuse of mobile phones during learning time already this year. Mobile phones are to be switched off or on silent, and out of sight at all times. Too often they become a source of distraction from learning, and in the playground they detract from genuine human interactions. When they are being misused they will be confiscated. In the case of repeated misuse parents will be contacted to collect the device in person from the school.

Finally, you would have recently received some information about the Sentral Parent Portal. Please ensure you log in using your individual Family Access Code so that we can use this avenue to support improved communication between home and school.

We look forward to meeting with you at the upcoming Parent/Teacher night on March 18th.

Mrs Irons

From the Year 7 Advisor

Well done Year 7 for completing the first half of your first term of high school! We are pleased with the manner in which the overwhelming majority of Year 7 students have settled in.

Students of Year 7 have been busy in all areas of school life. Over the past few weeks Year 7 students have begun working on their STEM projects where they have been learning to launch bottle rockets. They have also had the chance to attend the Year 7 camp, have commenced peer support lessons, and had the chance to engage in a range of learning opportunities.

A reminder for all students to please return your permission notes for the National Day of Action & Bullying & Violence on the 15th March during periods 1 & 2.

Homework Centre is available for all students on a Wednesday afternoon from 3:00pm-3:30pm. Please see Mr Smith for permission notes.

Congratulations to all Year 7 for everything you have accomplished so far in high school. Whether you are creative, musical, academic, an athlete, a leader, a writer, a mathematician, a scientist or you're still figuring out your area of expertise, always remember to 'be the BEST version of YOU!'.

Mr Smith



From the Year 9 Advisor

2018 finished with fabulous achievements from our Year 9 cohort. We hope the Christmas break was relaxing and enjoyable for students and that all have returned refreshed for a challenging and rewarding year. We warmly welcome all students and parents to the new school year and particularly to our new Year 9 students and parents. We have been very pleased and indeed proud with how our students have quickly settled into the new school year.

Our Annual School Swimming Carnival was held on Thursday 8th February at The Gordon Fetterplace Aquatic Centre. A number of outstanding performances were recorded on the day, and in particular, the behaviour of Year 9 was exceptional once again. Thank you to Mr. Nelmes and the PDHPE faculty for the amazing organisation of the event. On Thursday 7th March, students competed in the Fisher Zone Swimming Carnival. Congratulations to those students competed.

Parent Teacher interviews for Years 7 – 12 will be held on Monday 18th March from 3:30pm to 7pm. It is an opportunity to touch base with the school to see how your child has been progressing. We hope to see as many parents as possible and encourage students to attend the interviews with parents.

We hope our lovely Year 9 students continue to move forward in a positive direction. During this busy time and term it is so important for all students and families to be organised and communicate with the school as much as possible. Please feel free to contact the Year 9 team (Ms Scurr, Mrs Stojakovic and Miss Langford) if you have any issues, concerns or feedback.

Ms Scurr, Mrs Stojakovic and Miss Langford

From the Year 12 Advisor

It has been a busy and exciting start to the year for Year 12 in what is their final year of study at Leumeah High School. Students are busily preparing for upcoming assessment tasks and their Half Yearly Examinations. They have ordered school jackets, attended excursions and taken their last school photos of their schooling journey.

A large number of the grade attended the Year 12 Discovery Day excursion to Wollongong University where they attended lectures, campus tours and enjoyed a day in the life of a university student.

“It was really informative and we were able to attend lectures that were of interest to us”. Lisa A, Year 12 Captain.

“The lecture on Law was really interesting and we debated a criminal case that had been through our court system last year”. Jolie K, Year 12 Prefect.

Year 12 had their final swimming carnival as students at Leumeah High School and enjoyed both competitive and novelty swimming events, as well as lunch, card games and some soccer tournaments as a grade.

Only last week, a small group of students completed their final Fast Forward session at Western Sydney University, Parramatta. Students again participated in lectures of their choice, listened to a wonderful key note speaker and were able to enjoy lunch and life in a university.

“It really made me realise that primary teaching is what I want to do”. Taylah B, Year 12 Student.

As we head into the second half of the term for Year 12, we encourage them to continue studying and preparing for their subject based assessment tasks and their upcoming Half Yearly Examinations.

Ms King

From the Science Faculty

The Science faculty have been busy acquiring new technological resources for the students at Leumeah High School. All teachers have enthusiastically embraced opportunities to develop their own skills in order to provide students with engaging and exciting lessons. We have been fortunate in receiving a scholarship of 20 Coding Kits that will allow students to participate in higher order skill development and Future Focused Learning. With the addition of the Coding Kits, and other resources the faculty is currently securing, Science are excited to be offering a STEM Club outside of class time, for students seeking to develop their skills in Science, Engineering, and Robotics, or students looking for extra-curricula involvement. We'd love to see you there.

Preliminary and HSC Science students are working hard in preparation for their upcoming examinations and assessment tasks. Years 11 and 12 Earth and Environmental Science and Year 11 Biology students have Externally Mandatory Field Studies to complete this year, visiting a number of exciting venues like Jenolan Caves, Minnamurra Falls, Questacon and the Geoscience Centre in Canberra. Years 11 and 12 Chemistry, Investigating Science and Physics will also be presented with enrichment opportunities in order to extend their knowledge of scientific concepts outside of the classroom.

Agriculture at Leumeah is in full swing and all of the Year 7 classes and the 9/10 Agriculture elective class are working hard to get the farm up and running again. Soon the seeds will be germinating, and we are hopeful for a good harvest later in the year. The chickens are a little lazy at the moment and are only laying a few eggs when they feel like it. Both groups of students will highly enjoy the amazing agricultural displays and activities at the Royal Easter Show, when we visit late in Term 1.

Ms Baker



Coding Kits from the Museum of Applied Arts Scholarship



Field Mice uncovered by 9/10 Agriculture Elective in a garden bed

From the Maths Faculty

2019 has started, and all students have settled in well to their Maths classes. Please let me remind all parents/carers that it is imperative that your child comes to school fully prepared, with all necessary equipment in Maths being pens, pencils, a rule, calculator, workbook, and a textbook cover, especially for students in Years 9 & 10. Students in Years 7 & 8 have each received a folder inside of which they will place their topic workbook. If parents of students in these grades would like their child to have access to a textbook for extra revision, then please send them to see Mrs Fry or Mr Curtain, who will allocate texts accordingly.

The school has, once again, purchased Mathletics for every student this year. It would be appreciated if the \$10 charge for this is paid to the front office as soon as possible, to help offset the substantial cost of this program to the school. All students should have received their username and password by the time you read this. Students can access the many great resources on the site through www.mathletics.com.au.

I, and my faculty, look forward to working collaboratively with you this year to ensure the best possible outcomes for your child in Mathematics. Please be reminded that homework is regularly given in this subject, so ask your child about this. Senior students also receive a weekly homework assignment. If they say they have no homework, then ask them to revise their work. Regular and continual revision is necessary to ensure that taught concepts are retained and consolidated. If there are ever any concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school.

Ms Fry

From the CAPA Faculty

This has already been an exciting term for the Creative Arts Faculty with our students returning from their holiday break enthusiastic and ready to work. New topics in all subjects have meant both students and teachers have been busy from day one.

I would like to introduce our staff in Creative and Performing Arts for 2019. Mrs Coggans and Mrs Matic will be teaching Visual Arts, Visual Design and Photography, Mrs Christophers and Ms Woolley continue as our Music teachers, and I have been very happy with my Visual Art and Photography classes I have been given this year. I look forward to the exciting and creative work our students will produce this year.

If possible I will take this opportunity to remind families about our elective fees for our subjects to cover the numerous costs of running these subjects and I thank everyone in advance for the prompt payment of these as we begin our practical work in these subjects.

Mrs Christophers has held auditions for our school choir and Ms Woolley has advertised for interested students to audition for our 2019 Musical extravaganza and we are looking forward to seeing the talent our school has to offer.

Welcome back everyone.

Mr Tsoupis

From the SRC

The Breakfast Club is now open each day for breakfast from 8am. The Breakfast Club is in the Common Room and offers free breakfast to all students. We thank Wests Leagues Club for their continued support in this program.



The SRC would like to thank the students who supported the Valentine's Day fundraiser. We raised \$200 from the sales of chocolate roses and friendship chocolates.

We have started our weekly visits to Beverly Park School. During these visits we will be helping the students with reading and completing their class work.

On the 27th of March we will be holding the World's Greatest Shave to raise money for the Leukaemia Foundation. We will be selling cupcakes and colouring hair for \$2.

Mr Parry-Ewing



Our Year 7 Technology class students working on their I pads

Parent Teacher Interviews will take place on the 18th March 2019 from 3:30pm-7:00pm. Please follow the steps below to make a booking.

TO BOOK YOUR INTERVIEW GO TO: www.schoolinterviews.com.au



Booking interviews is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3:



Enter the event code: **vw32c**



Enter your details

First enter your name, your student's name(s), and your email address.



Choose teachers

On the next page, pick the teachers you want to meet.

First select the subject or year, and then choose from the list of teachers.



Choose times

Then you'll see a timetable showing when your chosen teachers are available. Simply click on the times that suit you.

When you have finished, your interview timetable will be emailed to you. If something comes up, and you are no longer available for the specific time, you can return to the site and change your interviews whenever you want.



**WE INVITE YOU TO EXPLORE
THE FANTASTIC LEARNING
EXPERIENCES FOR
YOUR CHILD AT
LEUMEAH HIGH SCHOOL**



OPEN NIGHT

Monday 11th March 2019

Information Session: 6.00-7.30pm in the school library

Optional School Tour: 5:15pm

We will be providing an opportunity for a guided tour of our school. Families and potential future students are most welcome to visit our open classrooms and see some learning in action.

This is an opportunity for future students to explore their local high school

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