

# LEETON HIGH SCHOOL

## Newsletter

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*"Educating young people for active and responsible citizenship"*



*~~ RELIEVING PRINCIPAL'S REPORT ~~*



How good was MADD Night! Last Friday's performance featured an astonishing 90 performers, representing just under 20% of our student population. It does not get better than to attend a school performance evening, look at the program and raise an eyebrow out of surprise when you see a student's name that you were not expecting. Even better, is watching them take to the stage in front of a big crowd and nail their performance, finishing amidst rapturous applause and cheering. That is where performing arts differs from other activities in a school. The benefits for a student's life transcend far beyond that moment on stage. If you can get up and perform in front of a crowd, then you are capable of doing anything in life. Congratulations to the staff and performers who put this terrific show together. I challenge others who may have been watching and wishing they were on stage to put yourself forward in 2016 and avoid regret, which takes a lot longer to go away than pre-performance 'butterflies'.

Congratulations to Madeline Warburton of Year 11, who represented New South Wales at the National Schools Athletics Championships last week. In an impressive performance, Madeline threw a personal best distance to be awarded the Bronze medal in the Senior Girls Javelin. Again, this shows that talent can get a person so far but hard work is needed to achieve success of this magnitude. Well done!



Thank you to Mrs Lourigan for her tireless work with our school debating teams this year, culminating with our Year 7-8 team flying to Sydney to partake in the Premier's Challenge Finals. The opposition proved to be a tad starchy for Amelie Sachs, Grace Kokke, Kaila DePaoli and Abbey Snell, but they should be proud of their efforts as we are.

Congratulations to anyone who will be receiving an award on Presentation Night this Thursday. My sore left wrist from signing all of the Certificates confirms that there are a lot of people who will be recognised for good work and service to our school. As I said during last week's assembly, there are always a lot of people who try their best and will never get an award as such. These kids may be fighting against genetics, home stability and socio-economic factors. I will emphasise again, that if you can look at yourself and know that you have done your best, then take heart that you do not need a piece of signed cardboard to realise that. You will succeed in life if you maintain this attitude. Leeton High has your back and we are here to help you realise your goals, too.

Since this is the last newsletter for 2015, I would like the entirety of our school community for pulling together during the darkest of times. This year will always be remembered as the year that Stephanie Scott was taken from us, just as Stephanie herself will always be remembered. It is through strength and unity that our school has been able to provide opportunities for our students to succeed, despite adversity.

As a consequence of all that has occurred, 2016 will be a year of rebuilding for Leeton High School. This term, we have looked at some of the data available for our school over the last decade. Whilst Leeton High has always provided quality educational opportunities for the kids in our community, the opportunity arises for us to evaluate all that we do, ask the questions of ourselves that we may have not previously considered and strive to create improvement. There are three things that will help our students

and our school achieve this promptly next year. If our students are going to get better results and a better education to become better people and create a better world, then we all need to work together to ensure that they:

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| <b>“SUIT UP”</b>     | Bring the correct uniform and equipment to allow you to participate effectively in all activities.   |
| <b>“SHOW UP”</b>     | Improve your attendance to maximise learning opportunities. Parents, do not accept lame excuses for your kids to stay home. This is not how a successful life works. Contact the school, if we need to intervene to get your child’s attendance and education back on track. |
| <b>“GET IT DONE”</b> | Complete the work in class and submit all of your Assessment tasks to the best of your ability. Ask questions, if you need help. Do not sit there and accept mediocrity.   |

A number of staff members will be leaving us for new opportunities, after years of great service to Leeton High. Congratulations to Rebecca Ormond who has been promoted to Head Teacher- English at Yanco Agricultural High School and all the best to Martin Maley and Cheryl Kilpatrick, who have been given transfers to other schools. I would like to thank our School’s P&C, who I have grown to respect and appreciate at a deeper level, since relieving this term.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for their efforts in this difficult year and wish you all a restful and reinvigorating Holiday. Over the Christmas holidays, stay in touch with the happenings at your community High School on our Facebook page – <http://www.facebook.com/LeetonHS>

**Andrew Morschel, Relieving Principal**



*~~ RELIEVING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT~~*

It is important that we maintain the procedures in place for students out of uniform, students late to school and students that are early leavers for the remainder of this year. If a student is out of uniform for the day they are required to bring a note explaining why they are out of uniform to the front office before school. If there is a problem with uniform availability, please contact the school. If a student is late to school they are to sign in through the front office. Likewise, if a student is to leave school early they are to go via the office and must be picked up by a parent.

As this is the last newsletter for 2015, I would personally like to express my thanks to everyone that had worked hard throughout this year, a year that has challenged us all on so many levels. This time of the school year we can all reflect upon the year’s events and look to the future and making Leeton High the best it can be. As a school community we need to continue to live up to our mission statement and ‘educate young people for active and responsible citizenship’.

All students are encouraged, as they receive their end of year reports, to reflect on their year and the effort they have put into their schooling. It is important to do this and set some goals for 2016. These goals can be simple, coming to school prepared for lessons with a book and pen or improving your attendance. They can be about building positive relationships with your peers and teachers.

Finally, I wish all staff, students and carers a safe and happy Christmas and holiday season and I look forward to working together in 2016 to ‘inspire, engage and challenge all students to succeed’.

**Damian Bush, Relieving Deputy Principal**



## *SCHOOL AWARDS*

Congratulations to the following students on achieving awards:

**SILVER AWARD:** Trahlon Lyons (Year 7), Zac Fairweather, Macy Ekin (Year 8), Connor Bourke (Year 9) and Mica Martinez (Year 11).

**GOLD AWARD:** Kelsey Bandy (Year 7), Maanu Alexander, Riley Taskiran and Jacob Mills (Year 8).

**EXECUTIVE AWARDS:** Kira Dart (Year 7), Lauren Young (Year 8), Siarne Deeves (Year 9), Bryce DeMamiel (Year 10) and Mica Martinez (Year 11).



### LEETONIANS

Our Leetonians have arrived and they are ready for purchase. They are \$20 and you can purchase them from the front office.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Thur 10 Dec – Presentation Night  
Wed 16 Dec – Last day for students  
Fri 18 Dec – Last day for Staff

**2016 Start Dates**  
Wed 27 Jan – Staff return  
Thur 28 Jan – Years 7, 11 and 12 return  
Fri 29 Jan – Years 8, 9 and 10 return

