

LEETON HIGH SCHOOL

Newsletter

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Principal: Mrs M Crelley

Issue No: 20

Term: 4

Monday 14th December, 2020

“Educating young people for active and responsible citizenship”

~~ PRINCIPAL'S REPORT ~~

What a year!

2020 started like any other. Students and staff were excited for a new year of learning. The annual swimming carnival was the first whole school event which was a great way to start the year. Unfortunately, our swimming carnival would be the last of our regular events for some time as we moved to learning from home in response to COVID-19.

Despite the uncertainty and challenges, staff adapted amazingly well to our 'new normal' as they ran classes through online platforms such as Google Classroom, Microsoft Teams and Zoom meetings. Our students displayed great resilience as they engaged with their learning from home. Parents and carers were very supportive during this time which was very much appreciated. We felt for Year 12 who had such an important year interrupted and the great uncertainty which surrounded what would happen with their HSC examinations.

We were all very grateful when things started to return to normal and students came back to onsite learning in Term 2.

We were able to continue with our unique and innovative programs such as the Leeton High School Learning Links program which supports students to prepare for a successful life after school. Thank you to the many generous businesses, organisations and individuals who provided their expertise and resources to assist our students to reach their goals. Leeton High School is very grateful for these great partnerships forged as part of this program. COMPACT empowered our young ladies across Years 7-10 through their amazing work around building resilience, self-esteem, confidence and positive relationships. Leeton Shire Council generously supported our Aboriginal Boys' Cultural Program by releasing Mr William Ingram to share his knowledge with our students through weekly culture sharing sessions.

Our Hands on Learning program has gone from strength to strength, providing an alternate learning experience for diverse groups of students. Our teachers and artisans have facilitated amazingly creative opportunities for our students to learn different skills over the course of the year such as authentic pasta making, building internal walls, the fineries of plumbing, making a fully functioning pizza oven, paving, rendering, furniture restoration and construction, painting and decorating, cement work and slab construction. In working on these projects, students were able to utilise and develop their literacy and numeracy skills as part of their planning and activities and were able to work with a range of students from different years.

We remain committed to our involvement as an early adopter school of the High Potential and Gifted Education Policy. We are currently closely working through the policy to identify ways in which we can better develop the intellectual, social-emotional, physical, creative needs and talents of our students.

We have continued to build the profile of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) in the school and now have two elective classes for students in Years 9 and 10 which is a very promising platform to further develop this knowledge and skills in our students and staff.

While many activities and opportunities were not to be this year, our students still excelled. Four students in Year 9, Jana Deaton, Madeline Irvin, Jessica Wells and Kathleen Metre had their beautiful work published in the Ash Dust Air Poetry Anthology launched in Wagga and the very talented Amelie Sachs in Year 12 has been nominated for Encore, a musical initiative which showcases a selection of superior music pieces from HSC Music students across the state. Additionally, we have just received confirmation that Leeton High School is now partnered with Leeton Shire Council Arts Unit to be the principle partner for the 2021 Henry V Shakespearean masterpiece to be performed here in Leeton which will provide our students and teachers with exclusive and quality exposure to the art of acting and directing and specialists such as choreographers, set designers, lighting and sound experts.

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Jamwich 2020 provided an inspiring platform for live music last week and I applaud the students and teachers who performed in front of their peers. It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, unique to Leeton High School. Auditions for Shrek – the Musical 2021 has also drawn an enthusiastic response from students with great numbers seeking a lead or an ensemble role. Can't wait to see this production evolve.

Wellbeing has continued to be a vital focus and important issues and resources are shared during our Year Meetings every Friday with students and staff. As a Positive Behaviour for Learning school, we have worked hard to promote positive behaviours framed around our values of being respectful, responsible, learners. To date, our students have been acknowledged 27,705 times for demonstrating these values by our staff which is an amazing effort!!!

With the new school planning process for 2021-2024 well on its way, we have committed to focussing on our students' growth and attainment in Reading and Numeracy, through refined teaching practices and greater collaboration and to enrich, engage and recognise not only our students and staff but to develop the huge potential in everyone here at Leeton High School. We are future focussed and will continue to be innovative in creating bold new approaches and opportunities for improved learning and wellbeing.

We farewelled an incredibly resilient Year 12 and were able to invite family members to share in this significant occasion and we hosted a Graduation Dinner which was livestreamed so parents could participate with us. We also welcomed Year 6 finally onsite for our Orientation program and we can't wait to see our newest students next year. We also recently celebrated our student's achievements at Presentation Day on 10th December. I would like to congratulate all award winners for their stellar efforts this year across academic, sporting, cultural and citizenship domains and express my appreciation to our special guest presenter and award providers. We greatly value your interest, generosity and support.

Thank you to all our teachers, support, administration and grounds staff for their commitment to our students and school and to our generous and dedicated P&C who have tirelessly supported our school with their honest feedback, substantial donations and fundraising. The support we receive from this dedicated group of parents is invaluable and much appreciated. The P&C meets every 4th Tuesday of the month at 7pm in the school Library. All welcome.

I also extend my gratitude and best wishes to the teachers who will be moving on from Leeton High School in 2021. Thank you to Nick and Sarah Turner who have had an incredible impact on our school over many years. We wish the Turners all the best as they move to be closer to family. Best wishes to Craig Henderson who will be on leave for Semester 1 2021. Glenn Duggan, Deputy Principal, will be returning to Sydney to be closer to his family. We thank Mr. Duggan for his great work in establishing some of unique initiatives such as our Compact Leap and Legends girls' programs and for fostering other valuable connections to support the learning and wellbeing of our students. Brad Green will return to Bulli High School after spending 2020 with us as part of the Rural Experience Program, undertaking the role of an additional Learning and Support Teacher. We wish Mr. Green all the best and hope he enjoyed the 'tree change.'

Additionally, I would like to welcome to Leeton High School as permanent appointments in 2021, Miss Madelein Arthur who will join our English faculty and Ms. Rita Prevato our new Languages Other Than English (LOTE) Italian teacher. Both Miss Arthur and Ms. Prevato will share their exceptional skills and experience to enhance learning at Leeton High School. I also welcome Mrs. Alison Dahlenburg who carries an absolute wealth of knowledge and experience in Science and Technology, Mr. Chris Toland, an accomplished musician and Music teacher will be with us next year to support the ever-growing student interest in the creative and performing arts, Mr. Jack McDonell will also join our dynamic PDHPE team and Ms. Annadale Schwencke who will join our HSIE faculty. Ms. Jaimie Northey will undertake the relieving Head Teacher HSIE position for Semester 1 2021, Mr. Walter Tregear will replace Mr. Damian Bush as relieving Head Teacher Mathematics/LOTE as Mr. Bush will be acting as our second Deputy Principal next year.

I look forward to another exciting and productive year in 2021 and thank you for your ongoing support. Best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year!

Years 7, 11 and 12 return Friday 29th January 2021 and all students return Monday 1st February 2021.



Mrs. Meagan Crelley
Principal

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SCHOOL AWARDS

Congratulations to the following students on achieving awards:

BRONZE AWARD: Charlie Watson, Kate O'Brien, Indianna Halls, Taylah Axtill, Seth Thornton, Amelia Irvin, Jack Morgan-Smith, Mackenzie Lee (Year 7), and Chelsea Clark (Year 8).

SILVER AWARD: Chelsea Clark (Year 8)

BEXECUTIVE AWARD: Jaida Crowe (Year 7), Naz Dana Saifi, Samuel Banfield (Year 8), Seth Sgroi (Year 9), Hugo Gerhard (Year 10), Mikayla Pearce, Matthew Ryan and Alison Moller (Year 11).

Monetary Winners from Presentation Day

Due to changes the Department has made there were no cheques given to winners. Payment details have been sent off to the Department to be processed. Payments can take up to 2 weeks before you see them in your account.

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOL

The school is now accepting cash payments but eftpos or POP would be the preferred payments if possible.

Eftpos is available at the front office or POP payments can be made through our school website (leeton-h.schools.nsw.gov.au then go to the "Make a Payment" tab at the top of the page)

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wed 16th Dec – Rewards Day
Wed 16th Dec – Last day for Students

START DATES 2021

Wed 27th & Thurs 28th Jan – Pupil Free days
Fri 29th Jan - Years 7, 11 & 12 start
Mon 1st Feb – Years 8, 9 & 10 start

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Peace on Earth

St Peter's Anglican Church, Leeton

Cnr Church and Oak Sts (ph: 69532107)

Christmas Mass Times

Christmas Eve

6:00 pm Children's Liturgy and Mass

11:30 pm Procession, blessing of the crib and Solemn Mass

Christmas Day

8:30 am Mass in the Lady Chapel



Mental Health Services and Support

Beyond Blue

24/7 mental health support service

1300 22 4636
beyondblue.org.au

headspace

Online support and counselling to young people aged 12 to 25

1800 650 890 (9am-1am daily)
For webchat, visit: headspace.org.au/e/headspace

Kids Helpline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services for children and young people aged 5 to 25

1800 55 1800
kidshelpline.com.au

1800RESPECT

24/7 support for people impacted by sexual assault, domestic violence and abuse

1800 737 732
1800respect.org.au

Lifeline

24/7 crisis support and suicide prevention services

13 11 14
lifeline.org.au

Suicide Call Back

24/7 crisis support and counselling service for people affected by suicide

1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au

Mensline

24/7 counselling service for men

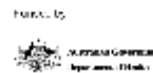
1300 78 99 78
mensline.org.au

QLife

LGBTI peer support and referral

1800 184 527 (9am-10pm daily)
qlife.org.au (online chat 2pm-12am daily)

If you are concerned about someone at risk of immediate harm, call 000 or go to your nearest hospital emergency department.



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