Lyneham High School is built on the traditional lands of the Ngunnawal people. We acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

Walking across the Rainbow Crossing
From the Principal

Reports, Parent On-Line Bookings and Parent-Teacher Interviews

On Tuesday April 1 mid semester reports will be handed out to all students. These reports are a snapshot of how a student is performing at this point in the Semester. A more detailed report will be issued at the end of the Semester.

For all parents who have returned their Parent Teacher Online (PTO) permission note: included with your student’s report will be details outlining our process for making online bookings for Parent Teacher interviews. The sheet will include instructions and details about log in and a pin number. If you do not have access to the internet, or if you lose these details, please phone the school on 6205 6399 and office staff will make the appointments for you. The process is very simple and straightforward.

If you have not returned your PTO permission note then please do so before 9am Friday April 4. Once you have returned your PTO permission note to the Front Office, you will be contacted with login details.

If you return your permission note after April 4 then your details will not be able to be added to the online booking system. You are still very welcome to attend the evening, but you will have to make bookings when you arrive. Because of this it cannot be guaranteed that time slots will be available and delays in making bookings should be expected. For this reason it is very important that you return your PTO permission note by April 4. These permission notes are only completed once during your child’s time at Lyneham High School and are a requirement under revised privacy policies issued by the Education Directorate.

Parent/Teacher Interviews will be held on Monday April 7 and Tuesday April 8 between 4.00pm and 7.00pm. I look forward to meeting up with many of you. Even if the report does not indicate that an appointment is requested, all parents are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The P&C will be providing a sausage sizzle from about 5:00pm on each night, so please bring some money along with you.

Board Election Results

Congratulations to our new Board members. Parent representatives are Damien McGrath (continuing on the Board for a further two year appointment), Carolyn Coleman (two year appointment) and Deborah Nesbitt (one year appointment); our student representatives are Iesha White and Tina Nguyen (who both have a two year appointment) and our two staff representatives are Michael Denmead (two year appointment) and Phil Dunne (a one year appointment). I look forward to working with you over the coming months.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank our outgoing Board members, Patrick Connell (outgoing Board Chair), Angela Liao, Steve Sant, Murali Reddy, Rebecca Duncan and Luke Williams. It has been a pleasure working with all of you. A special thank you to Luke Williams who has been a member of the School Board for a total of seven years – quite a commitment!!
Around the school

Since the last newsletter there have been many exciting opportunities provided for students at Lyneham High. Our STAR girls enjoyed their Camp and I believe that many, including some teachers, conquered the high ropes. Our Bands have been busy with workshops in preparation for the National Eisteddfod. The National Day of Action became a National Week of Action with students organising a rainbow day and a rainbow crossing appearing in one of our corridors. This week some of our students trained as Mental Health Ambassadors and many students competed in the Zone Swimming Carnival. The year 8 Medieval Fair was an exciting event for the whole school. The last couple of days have been relatively quiet because so many of our students are at our Musical Production Camp, working intensively on this year’s musical. I am beginning to hear the music of Moonflower around the school and I am really looking forward to another great musical at the end of next term. One highlight for me this week was definitely the performance of House Chants at the school assembly. That was a lot of fun. Many thanks to all the teachers who make these rich experiences possible!

School Priority 3 – implement the next stages of the Australian Curriculum, including assessment against the achievement standards

I am sure that parents will be aware that all ACT schools are implementing the first stages of the new Australian Curriculum (AC). Across the school we are teaching the AC in English, Mathematics, Science and History (which is part of SoSE) and are assessing students against the Achievement Standards of these new curricula from years 7-10. SoSE are also teaching the new Geography curriculum and the Arts are moving towards implementation. We are all working hard to master the new assessment processes and hope to be able to produce a guide to these processes to share with students and parents/carers by the end of the year. If you have any questions about the new curriculum or how it is assessed, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher in charge of the particular subject area or contact Robin Morrell (Deputy Principal) or Janet Richardson (Executive teacher in charge of Assessment and Reporting).

NAPLAN results

I encourage all parents to browse the Myschool website to see our recently published NAPLAN results for 2013 at http://www.myschool.edu.au/ While NAPLAN is a snapshot in time and does not include reference to all the work we do, it does include very useful information about how we are progressing and what we need to focus on as a school. I am happy with our NAPLAN results and there were no surprises for us – which means we have a good understanding of how our students are progressing.

Valuables at school

Just a reminder to all parents that school policy is to discourage students from bringing any valuables to school. If students do bring valuables to school, they do so at their own risk. Any valuables need to be kept on the student’s person and not left in change rooms or in unattended bags. School staff are under no obligation to take responsibility for a student’s personal property but, if for any reason, a student needs to bring a sum of money to school, they should approach the Front Office to ensure that it is kept safe. Schools do not have insurance cover to automatically compensate for the loss, damage or theft of student personal property although parents may wish to consider insurance cover for valuable items that may be brought to school.
The school does provide a bicycle cage, but bicycles are placed in this cage at the owners’ personal risk. Generally the bike bay is locked at 9.00 am and opened at 3.00pm. The cage is not theft proof and there may be times when it is left unlocked for a variety of reasons. Parents are encouraged to supply a good quality chain or bar to secure any bicycles left at school. It is never advisable to leave bikes in the bike bay over the weekend.

I would also ask all members of our community to report any suspicious activity to staff or to police on weekends. Incidents of theft are not common, but as in any community, theft does sometimes occur.

**Congratulations to:**

The following students who did so well in the U16 Australian Junior Athletics Championships:
Clare Yung (Discus 10th; 90m Hurdles 26th; Long Jump 13th)
Mitchell Braithwaite (3000m 9th; Steeplechase 2000m 5th)
Soumil Sharma (Shot Put 6th; Discus 1st)
Teagan Kite (Discus 3rd; Javelin U20 4th; Shot Put 3rd)

Rhiannon and Callum Burden who represented ACT Diving in both Springboard and Platform.

Regards

Colleen Matheson
Homework Forum

On March 17 the P&C held a Homework Forum preceding their AGM. It was wonderful to see so many parents in attendance. I’ve had a number of parents phone or email since who were not able to come on the night and who wanted to know what happened at the Forum. I thought it might be worthwhile summarizing some of the points of discussion for you.

Homework was defined as learning that is done out of class, is directly related to class programs and is set by teachers, for example assignments, study for tests, preparation for presentations, practising work learnt, finishing off work from class.

Parents had a wide range of views about homework, some seeing it as very important, others seeing it as not so important. Some parents felt that their children received too much homework, some wanted their children to do more work at home and others felt that the concern should be about the quality of the homework and the quality and timeliness of the feedback given.

We looked at a number of questions and I provided some comments on the research available.

Does homework improve student learning outcomes? The research has varied over the years and across different cultures. It seems that generally homework does not make a great difference in primary school, makes a marginal difference in the junior years of high school and provides reasonable benefits in the senior years of high school.

Is parent involvement in homework a positive? Many see parent involvement in homework as the “great unequaliser”, reinforcing inequities. Some parents lack resources, time, expertise and money to help. There is some evidence that if parents take over their children’s homework they can reduce the child’s ability to work independently and may destroy their confidence. Parent involvement does often result in work being handed in but it is important for parents to assist students to become good, independent learners. It is more important to praise effort and progress than achievement.

Does homework help to build positive connections between school and home? Many parents agreed that this depends on the homework given – is it worthwhile, are instructions clear, is it pitched at the correct level, do students require resources which are difficult to find? Tired and emotional students and parents are not going to contribute to positive connections between school and home.

How much time should each student spend on homework each night? There is no clear answer. It depends on the subject, the age and ability of the student, how much they complete in school time, the type of work given etc. There is evidence, however, that after two hours, the effectiveness of homework diminishes. Young people also need time to enjoy and be part of family life.

Will all subjects set homework? No – some practical subjects may not have homework, other subjects may set a little most nights, some subjects encourage students to complete assessable work in class time. All subjects, however, will encourage home learning – including reading, proof reading, revision, catching up on work missed etc.
What type of homework is most effective? Homework that
• Is purposeful and supports learning – not just busy work
• Is at the correct level of difficulty
• Is able to be completed independently
• Does not require parents to act as policemen or referees

How can parents best support their children at home?
• Maintain a positive relationship with your child
• Provide a quiet place for homework
• When there is homework, focus on helping students to develop choice, autonomy and independent learning.
• Acknowledge effort rather than achievement
• Encourage all learning – talk, read, show interest

Parents then gave some feedback on separate statements we are developing for teachers, students and parents on expectations around homework. We are still working on these and will bring them back to parents in draft form for more comment.

Many thanks to those parents who attended and contributed, and to Barbara Monsma for her input to the forum.

Colleen Matheson
Are you part of the problem or part of the solution!

As part of our work for the National Day of Action this year the Student Forum identified three key behaviours that can lead to bullying and violence. The forum choose to focus students thinking on school cliques, racism and homophobia. Student speakers addressed a whole school assembly to highlight the issues and the harm that can result from these behaviours. Students then spent the remainder of the session focusing on our multicultural society, the need to belong, unpacking gender pronouns and looking at some of the issues around gender identity and sexuality.

Students were invited to show their commitment to anti-racism and homophobia by walking across our “rainbow crossing” and leaving their handprint on our mural.

A huge thank you to Kirsten Waddell for her creative thinking on the theme, Kirsten and Brydie Parton for their knee braking work on getting the crossing ready, and all of the Home Group representatives for their valuable feedback and support for the learning materials.
LYNEHAM HIGH SCHOOL BOARD

The nomination and election process has been completed and the following candidates have been appointed to the Lyneham High School Board.

- Mr Damien McGrath P&C Member
- Ms Carolyn Coleman P&C Member
- Ms Deborah Nesbitt P&C Member
- Mr Michael Denmead Staff Member
- Mr Phil Dunne Staff Member
- Miss Tina Nguyen Student Member
- Miss Iesha White Student Member

Appointments commence on 1 April 2014.

Kathryn Cheshire
Assistant Returning Officer

Mie Goreng Fundraiser for Malaysia Excursion 2014

Apa kabar semua! Less than 4 months to go before the Indonesian students embark on a once in a lifetime opportunity to visit Malaysia/Sarawak in July. As part of the fundraising effort, continuing students from Kelas 8-10 Hebat will be setting up a stall at the canteen on 2 April, Wednesday (Week 9). For just $3.00, you will get a bowl of delicious mie goreng (fried noodles) infused with aromatic bumbu (spices) and a cup of authentic and refreshing es teh (iced tea). All proceeds will go to the Malaysia Excursion. For more information, please contact any of the Indonesian teachers.

Salam,

Ibu Battaglini & Ibu Idris
When I went to interview Angie Parker I found her pruning an olive tree in the school farm surrounded by enthusiastic students clearing away the branches, feeding chickens and tending to baby chicks. This is a typical lunch time for Angie. This fit and energetic teacher doesn’t like to sit still. She views the best part of her job as being part of a great science faculty and having the time to spend in her beloved school farm.

Angie has spent most of her working life involved in agriculture and farming, however, only a relative short length of time has been in a high school setting. Angie spent three years at Wee Waa on a farm that was predominately cotton with some beef and wheat thrown into the mix. Leaving this she moved to the Northern Beach area of Sydney and set up a hydroponic cut flower business. For seven years she supplied carnations to florists up and down Sydney Northern Beaches. During this time she completed a Diploma of Education and taught Agriculture to years 11 and 12 students. She was also on the Board of Studies and ran the marking of the HSC Agriculture papers. Angie moved into the TAFE area and taught organic and small area farming. Embracing change and looking for new challenges Angie went onto managing a certified organic farm which was a workplace for intellectually disabled adults. Dedicating four years of her life to this she then ventured up to Nimbin to run her own certified organic farm. In 2003 Angie was given a permanent teaching position in the ACT and in 2007 she arrived at Lyneham.

When asked about her passion she quickly responded with “people who grow food”. This is clearly evident in her everyday life and the myriad of agricultural positions she has undertaken over the years. Her second great passion is art. Recently she has reclaimed some of her backyard from vegetable production to build a dedicated art studio.

Angie has an amazing skill set but to most of us at Lyneham her wonderful relationships with students and caring nature is a stand out. Angie found it hard to identify just one highlight at Lyneham, however, after a few moments of reflection she remembered the incredible Borneo trip where she and a number of girls from the STAR program met and conquered some amazing challenges.
Languages News

EALD

On Friday 21 March EALD students and teaching staff celebrated Harmony Day with a “Bring a Plate and a Mate” luncheon. Students enjoyed sharing traditional foods from their home countries which included dishes from Iran, China, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Pakistan, Myanmar, Slovenia and Australia. Students feasted on pavlova, pastries, vegetables, rice and noodles. Hot and spicy, sweet and savoury – all tastes were catered for. A BIG thank you goes out to all the parents who prepared dishes for their children to share. This is a delicious and great way to celebrate our diversity at Lyneham High School.

Study Hub

The Study Hub is now open!

Lyneham High offers many opportunities for students to get support with their learning.

On Wednesday and Thursday afternoons the Homework Club operates out of the Library from 3.05pm to 4.15pm. Maths Tutes run on Tuesdays at lunchtime. Now there are even more opportunities to get that bit of extra support time or help with assignments.

If you can’t make it to the Homework Club COME TO THE STUDY HUB! Do you want a quiet place to study? COME TO THE STUDY HUB! Want help with research skills? COME TO THE STUDY HUB! Want help with structuring essays? COME TO THE STUDY HUB! Want help with understanding text types? COME TO THE STUDY HUB!

STUDY HUB

Wednesday Lunchtimes

Room 62
Medieval Fair
UNIFORM SHOP – OPENING HOURS

Open for Parents/Students
Tuesday 8.30am – 10.30am
Thursday 8.30am – 10.30am

Open for Students
Monday 11.05am – 11.30 (Recess)
Friday 8.30am – 8.45am (Before School)

YEAR 10 INFORMATION EVENING
5.30pm-6.30pm Thursday 3 April
Lyneham High School Hall

For all Year 10 students, their parents and guardians, there is an Information Evening at 5.30pm on Thursday 3 April in the Lyneham High School Hall.

- **Colleen Matheson**, LHS Principal will speak about the Year 10 Certificate.
- **Kerrie Heath**, Dickson College Principal will speak about the transition to Year 11, enrolling in the college of your choice and correct class selection.
- **Melissa Moir**, LHS Careers Advisor will speak about work experience placements, apprenticeships and post-Year 10 options.
- **Sharon Hayes, Jackie Livingstone and Anna Mason**, LHS Year 10 Coordinator will speak about 2014 events, including Road Ready, the Formal and Graduation.

There is no requirement to RSVP. Tea and coffee will be provided.
For more information, please contact Jackie on john.livingstone@ed.act.edu.au
LEAP Report News

Welcome to the first LEAP section in the LHS newsletter for 2014. I’ll try to have a report of the LEAP activities once a term and feature information about the program and what’s been happening. We’ve already had a Year 8 LEAP Camp and a Year 10 Science Symposium this term and next term the Year 7 and 8 da Vinci Decathlon Competition kicks off. Below is a report from the Year 8s, information about the new ETD Gifted and Talented Policy and the LHS strategic review of the program.

Luke Williams
LEAP Coordinator
Year 8 LEAP Camp

Recently, on March 13, the Year 8 LEAP students went on a two day camp to Warrambui in New South Wales. The point of the two days was to have fun and to bond as a group, as well as work on our team skills. The Dome consisted of six dorm-rooms, a piano, a grand hall and a dining room. Each door had a whiteboard on which groups wrote their team names on. A lot of erasing, writing and drawing occurred!

They split us into two groups (A and B) to do separate activities; the two activities on the first day were Archery and Frisbee Golf (also known as “Frolf”). The Archery activity was first completed by group A, it consisted of shooting a bow at a target followed by a shoot-off between two small groups within group A. After plenty of cheering it turned out to be a draw. Group B finished Frisbee Golf first, which consisted of throwing frisbees at barrels only slightly larger than the frisbees themselves. During free time the best activities included dodgeball, cards, “Pandemic” and reading. The meals were eventful, tasty and noisy. We also went on a bushwalk up a mountain and across the ranges. Late at night, we all went out and after a short walk arrived at a large and hot campfire. We roasted marshmallows with various degrees of talent, which ranged from sitting next to the fire for 10 minutes and holding the marshmallows over the burning coals to throwing marshmallows into the fire. After that we played some fire-side games which involved gumtrees, coins and a variety of other activities.

On the second day, after a night of quiet and restful sleep, the activities included the obstacle course and initiative activities. The obstacle course was primarily a test of balancing and teamwork where we had to climb through “spider webs” and balance on tiny posts. The initiatives consisted of trust activities such as trust falling and communication without speaking which frustrated many people. There was also trust “driving” and “running” in the initiatives. The first was being blindfolded and walking around with a “driver”, and the second was running at some other people and them moving out of the way at the last second. We learnt a lot of about how to trust each other!

Overall LEAP camp was a great experience and all of Year 8 LEAP enjoyed it. On behalf of LEAP we would like to thank the teachers involved in setting up such an amazing camp specifically, Mr. Williams and Ms. McLaughlan and we would also like to thank the staff at Warrambui for helping us through all the activities.

By Antonio Donald and Netanya Robinson
What is LEAP?
For those of you unfamiliar with LEAP, it stands for Lyneham Enriched Academic Program and it has been operating at LHS since 1983. We have about 125 gifted and talented students across all four year groups who have been selected via nominations, psychometric tests and other criteria. Most are in the same classes for English, Maths, Science and SOSE, but some are “partial” who may be in one or two of these core classes. LEAP is not an accelerated program – it’s an enrichment program that allows staff to go into further depth with their classes and provide a variety of additional challenging activities. LEAP students follow the same curriculum as other students. As LEAP Coordinator, I provide support to the students as well as alerting them to or providing them with enrichment opportunities while also leading professional development of LEAP teachers.

A new information booklet, nomination form and details will be appearing on the LHS website before the end of term 1.

LEAP Strategic Review
Lyneham High is currently performing a strategic review of the program. As part of the review, students and parents involved with LEAP will be surveyed this year in order for us to best evaluate the program and make any necessary changes so that it may best fit with contemporary theories, new directorate policy and community expectations.
Gifted and Talented Students Policy 2014


At Lyneham High School the first point of contact and the Gifted and Talented Liaison Officer is Luke Williams who can be contacted on 6205 6399 or luke.williams@ed.act.edu.au.
Gifted and talented students in ACT public schools – information session for families and the community Tuesday 8 April 2014

Families and members of the community are invited to attend an information session focusing on how ACT public schools and families can work in partnership to support gifted and talented students in ACT public schools.

This information session will take place at 5:30–6:30pm on Tuesday 8 April at the Hedley Beare Centre for Teaching and Learning, Fremantle Drive, Stirling ACT.

Registration for this session is not required and tea, coffee, water and juice will be provided beforehand.

Principals are required to ensure that appropriate strategies and provisions are made for all gifted and talented students enrolled at their school.

Principals and staff will work with families, students and community members to support the process of identifying and meeting the needs of all gifted and talented students at their school. Schools will be active in engaging families and the community throughout this process.
**Snack - slam poetry workshop**

Snack is a proposed slam poetry workshop to be run by the Tuggeranong Arts Centre, encouraging young people to explore the power of rhythm, rhyme and the human voice.

The project, run across multiple days, will give participants the opportunity to use poetry as a medium for voicing both individual and societal issues.

It will educate participants on the conception and spread of hip-hop and slam culture, with a focus on how these art forms have empowered individuals to affect positive change.

There will also be a large practical component, with each participant invited to discuss how rap verses are structured and written before creating their own spoken work or rap piece.

Snack is a project run as part of the Tuggeranong Art Centre’s Community Cultural Inclusion Program (CCIP), an ACT Government initiative that hopes to give every ACT resident a unique opportunity to contribute to the community’s artistic and cultural landscape.

For more information on CCIP events and activities, contact the centre’s Community Cultural Inclusion Officers at ccip@tuggeranongarts.com or on (02) 6293 1443.

**Tutors:** Sayan De and Livvi Hatfield. Both are students at the ANU who have several years’ experience running poetry slam and workshops.

**What:** Snack – slam poetry workshop  
**When:** April 14th to 17th  
**Time:** 11am to 2pm.  
**Where:** Tuggeranong Arts Centre, 137 Reed Street, Greenway, ACT  
**Cost:** Free – with materials and light lunch provided daily.

* *Places are only available for 15 people*
**Questacon Technology Learning Centre’s Interactive Technology Programmes**

Choose from either the half-day or full-day programme. All workshops will inspire the inner innovator and are available for children aged 10-15.

If you require any further information please contact our bookings team on 1800 889 995 or qtlc.bookings@questacon.edu.au
FORUM FOR PARENTS

The Other Talk
Let’s talk about alcohol and drugs.

GEOFF MUNRO
NATIONAL POLICY MANAGER, AUSTRALIAN DRUG FOUNDATION

At some point we have all sat down with our parents for ‘the talk’. It’s not always easy, but learning about sex is an important conversation that every parent and child should have.

The Other Talk is about Australian families talking openly about alcohol and other drugs. It’s an initial conversation and an ongoing understanding that when it comes to alcohol and other drugs, no question is too silly and no topic is off limits. It’s about letting your child know that they can come to you to discuss not only drugs and alcohol, but also related issues such as peer pressure, health, parties, safety and expectations.

many parents fear ‘The Other Talk’ because it may raise questions that they feel ill-equipped to answer or explain appropriately.

Forum

Parents are invited to attend this free forum on The Other Talk. Information and strategies on how to start the conversation will be discussed with questions welcome.

About Geoff Munro

Geoff is the National Policy Manager at the Australian Drug Foundation. He has worked in the alcohol and other drug field for over 25 years specialising in drug training, prevention and community development.

The Australian Drug Foundation’s Good Sports program has been working with community sports clubs for over a decade to reduce the harm associated with excessive alcohol use by club members and fans. Nationally more than 6000 sporting clubs are enrolled in the program, with many reporting positive impacts as a consequence.

The Australian Drug Foundation

A program of GoodSports.com.au

GoodSports.com.au

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