From the Principal’s Desk

Good news from the zone swimming carnival. While writing this newsletter I have unconfirmed reports that at least two of our Secondary students have won through to State level as has our Junior Girls Relay team. Congratulations, I look forward to hearing the full results tomorrow.

Lots of new enrolments

Swimming is one of the many things we do very well at Lightning Ridge Central School. Our school is growing and getting better and better every year. This year our school has grown to over 440 students and we continue to take enrolments from new students every week.

Suspensions

The behaviour of students at our school, and their commitment to learning, continues to improve. Our school is very settled and students look forward to coming into classroom for their learning each lesson. Each lesson Teachers set high expectations of student learning and behaviour and these are being met. In the same period last year there were 31 suspensions across the school, 13 in Primary and 18 in Secondary this year there are a total of 9 suspensions, 4 in Primary and 5 in Secondary and this is one of the many indicators that explain why Lightning Ridge Central School is the school of choice for all parents who want the best education for their children.

Clean Up Australia Day

At Lightning Ridge Central School we also encourage the development of good citizens and we do that by involving ourselves and community events the latest one being clean up Australia Day when most students of the school happily went around the town cleaning up to provide support for a valuable tourist industry and to make our town a better place to live. Some students chose not to participate in the clean-up and they were fortunate enough to spend the morning in the classroom learning about why a clean environment is very important to us all. At the end of the clean-up all of those who participated were treated to an ice block in thanks for their assistance. A special thanks to the Lightning Ridge Rotary Club who supported our town and our school by donating most of the gloves our students wore.
Phone in early if you have a message for students.

We have been having a number of parents ringing late in the afternoon to send a message to their children. It is often very difficult to get a message to students’ minutes before the bell – especially if they are at sport or engaged in learning outside their normal classroom. We will make every effort to contact students when we receive a phone call however, any calls coming in after 1pm cannot be guaranteed to reach the child. If you need to ring late with a message for your child we will try our best to pass the message on. If that is not possible we will call you back and let you know so that you can make other arrangements.

Priority for Learning

Learning and safety are two of our highest priorities. To ensure the safety of all students we ask that parents coming into the school first come to the main office to sign in and collect a visitor’s badge. As I mentioned last newsletter please don’t be offended if a staff member asks where your badge is and direct you to go back to the front office to collect one if you’ve forgotten to do that on entry. This is to ensure the safety of all students.

We encourage parents to come in and visit student’s classrooms, see the children at work and see the environment in which they learn. To minimise disruptions to learning we ask that you contact the school first and arrange the best time for your visit with the classroom teacher and your child.

We are finding that unannounced visits to a classroom can disrupt the learning in the classroom for all students for quite some time even if it is to drop off lunch or if parents are waiting outside the door of a classroom at the end of the school day.

There is a lovely shady area near the old wooden building which has seating and we ask that all parents wait there for their children each afternoon until the bell has rung and classes are leaving their classroom.

Attendance

Attendance is a very important thing. If students are not at school they are missing out on learning it is that simple. We take this so seriously that we now have Mrs Beck Arthur working with this two days every week to try and lift the attendance of all students. Welcome to the team Beck.

Voluntary Contributions and Subject Fees

It is important that everyone knows how the school uses its finances to support students. This year all subject fees will go directly to the subject to pay for materials used by students. This means that students who choose not to pay subject fees will not be able to use the materials paid for by other students. Voluntary contribution fees will go directly to the class or year group of the students and the students who pay voluntary contributions will be given some say in how that money is spent.

Afternoon Programs

While we ask students not to attend school before 8:15am in Secondary or 8:30am in Primary we ask students to stay behind some days to enjoy the growing number of after-school clubs. At the moment we have Nerd club on Friday afternoons, Sewing Bee on Wednesday afternoons, on Thursday we have a Homework Centre and soon we will start a group who will be Go-kart building. Of course if students don’t attend the school on any day they can not attend the afternoon class.
School Choir

Our school choir is practising at lunchtimes and to hear their joyous, talented voices could not help but bring a smile to your face. Congratulations Miss Thompson on the fantastic work you are doing with this group of inspiring young singers. Miss Thompson is also coordinating the auditions for the Moorambilla choir which happen at school on March 23. Last year Lightning Ridge had the largest number of participants sending a group of 30 to this amazing regional event. Let’s see if we can be the biggest group again this year.

Motivational Media

A group called Motivational Media will be here at 10 am on Tuesday, 17 March to screen a film called JIGSAW. Each year this group put together a fantastic, educational, motivational production which tours the country to encourage young people to think about the future, to plan and set goals, and to make good choices. We are very fortunate to be able to have this group come into the school this year. To help cover the cost we are asking each student who participates to bring a $1 donation and every student who donates one dollar will get a free ice block at the end of the presentation.

Postcards

Part of our own ongoing motivational program is the development of a school postcard which will be sent out to students who do something which deserves a little more recognition than a Proud and Positive letter. The postcards will be very obvious and it will be easy to see that the student has done something really good and will give parents an opportunity to display those postcards in their home. We only have 1000 postcards at the moment I hope that will be enough to reward all of the terrific students we have at Lightning Ridge Central School this year. A special thanks to Miss Martinez who produced the amazing photo on the front of the card!

WHEN: Saturday 7th March 2015
TIME: 6pm - 6:30pm with light refreshments to follow the official unveiling
WHERE: Australian Opal Centre Showroom 1/5 Morilla St, Lightning Ridge
Primary Student of the Week
Week 5  ES1G
Blake Benjamin

Blake has been awarded student of the week for making a great start to Kindergarten. You are trying really hard and showing lots of enthusiasm for learning. Keep up the great work!

Primary Student of the Week
Week 5  S3M
Lachlan Johnston

S3M's student of the week is Lachlan Johnston. Lachlan is always showing enthusiasm in his work and has great potential in all areas of his schooling. He demonstrates fantastic signs of leadership in the classroom and also within the K-6 school environment. Lachlan sets an example of excellence in his behaviour and cooperation. I appreciate Lachlan's cooperation and enthusiasm in our class and look forward to teaching him this year. Well done Lachie!
Secondary Student of the Week
Week 5  Year 8
Mary Dransfield

Mary has been selected as student of the week as she has shown an increased commitment to her learning this year. She actively participates in lessons and completes quality work. Congratulations Mary!

Primary Student of the Week
Week 6  S2C
Kiara Barrett

S2C’s student of the week is Kiara Barrett. Kiara has been awarded student of the week for following the PBL rules in and out of the classroom and consistent quality work in class. Well done Kiara!

We cover all the 'fun' subjects hence our motto- 'Where learning is Fun'.

Our vision statement is: “Secondary studies strive to set students up to be respectful, competent members of the community by providing a dynamic, engaging & fun environment. ”This is our commitment to the students of LRCS, throughout the year we will be working towards achieving our vision.

Secondary Studies has started with a bang this year. Ms Francis started the year with the swimming carnival congratulations to all those who attended and 'had a go'.

PDHPE students are participating in a mandatory aquatics unit in both stage 4 & 5. This is a requirement of the board of studies and it is important that all students attend each week.

Elective subjects in stage 5 have now been finalised, students have had an opportunity to change their elective so they can select the one that suits them best, now they are all working towards completing their practical projects & other activities. Some of our electives incur fees, these fees are used to pay for food, metal, wood, paints etc. Without these fees we would not be able to deliver as many practical projects as we do.

Year 8 students are currently studying Visual Arts & LOTE (Japanese)

Year 7 Students are rotated during Terms 1 &2 between Sewing, Cooking, Wood Work & computers.

Year 11 & 12 students are working towards producing their major works, once again there are fees for some of these subjects.

Parents will receive invoices for these shortly, please make your payments to the front office promptly so we can purchase necessary supplies to enable your son/daughter to complete their projects.
Year 7 students this Term are learning to work in the kitchen. They are learning about safety, equipment, nutrition and loads of other concepts. The students have an assessment task due towards the end of term about breakfast. The class will then be individually making their own breakfast, students need to plan their own breakfast and then cook it at school.

Stage 5 Food Tech are completing a unit of work about nutrients, food components, digestion of food & the properties of food. This knowledge will then be used throughout the year. We recently completed an activity on digestion in which students were given a part of the digestive system. Crackers were ‘eaten’ passed down through to the stomach, gall bladder and pancreas where tea, water & orange soda was added. The entire mixture was then passed to the small & large intestine (stocking). Students could see first hand how the absorption of nutrients into the blood stream occurs.
Stage 5 Child Studies
This term the unit of work that the class is completing is “What to Expect When You’re Expecting”. This unit is providing the students with a wealth of information about the stages of pregnancy. It looks at the emotional, physical, social and financial impact of having a child. As part of this unit the Child Studies students are each making a baby mobile.

Stage 4 Mandatory Technology Textiles
Half of Year 7 are currently completing a Textiles unit in Mandatory Technology. So far this enthusiastic class has completed some textile painting which they will sew into plastic bag holders. They are currently making tie dyed door snakes that met their given Design Brief to create a product from fabric that would keep out both draughts and dust from below a door and keep the temperature more stable within the house.

Left is Jack Loterton sewing eyes on his tie dyed door snake.

Opal, Malieke, Natasha Georgina, Nathan and Anton with their textile painting.
Greetings for the second newsletter for the term. Hasn’t it gone quickly and as I type this we are about to enjoy our midterm break!

I say enjoy as there are so many things you can do if you have a bit of extra time, so I hope if your kids are staying home that you make it a time for things that they do not get time for when school is on. That can be more sleep, cooking, cleaning, gardening and reading. Notice I didn’t write computer, iPad, X-Box etc. Too much screen time limits social interaction and language development. My kids hated it but we had “technology free” days. Kids don’t have to love everything adults choose for them and being a parent or a teacher and making good choices for your kids gives them an opportunity to see that life can be so much more.

Classes have settled into their routine quite well. There are, as always, some students who think it is ok to disrupt the learning of others or choose not to participate. We do not accept this and the class teachers and Mrs Lehman are working with me to follow up on unacceptable behaviour.

All classes have Talking and Listening as their English focus this term. Stage 2 and Stage 3 have books that deal with displacement. Stage 3 has a story set in Cambodia and Stage 2 has a story of a Greek family who migrate to Australia. Others’ struggles show our students that in life we all have periods where our life is not perfect. The characters in these texts show an insight into how others feel. Kindergarten loved listening to *Harry the Dirty Dog* and finding the scrubbing brush that we hid in the library. Stage 1 tucked “mummy” in and made up a bed time story after listening to *Tucking Mummy In*.

The library Turtle Draw winners recently have been:

**Week 3**

**ES1** Layne Walford ES1G (Book: Fishing in the Torres Strait)

**Stage 1** Zara McLeod S1M (Book: Don’t Let a Spoonbill in the Kitchen)

**Stage 2** Indi Tishler S2F (Magazine Voucher)

**Stage 3** Darren Small S3D

**Week 4**

**ES1** Temia McBride ES1T (Canteen Voucher)

**Stage 1** Layla Dench S1W

**Stage 2** Nat Fields-Walford S2F (Book: World of Warcraft)

**Stage 3** Angel Johnston S3M

Penny Fahey Teacher—Librarian
This Term Stage 4 and 5 PDHPE are going to the pool for practical lessons.

In Stage 4 we are doing ‘Aquatics and Water Safety’. We are correcting our strokes and learning how to be safe around the water including rescues and safe entries and exits.

In Stage 5 we are undertaking a unit called ‘Aquatic Games’. Each week we have been warming up with a small game such as captain ball or tunnel ball then moving into a larger game like water polo or water volleyball.
## 2015 Barwon Swimming Carnival

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Compulsory School Attendance
Information for parents

Education for your child is important and regular attendance at school is essential for your child to achieve their educational best and increase their career and life options. NSW public schools work in partnership with parents to encourage and support regular attendance of children and young people. When your child attends school every day, learning becomes easier and your child will build and maintain friendships with other children.

What are my legal responsibilities?

Education in New South Wales is compulsory for all children between the ages of six years and below the minimum school leaving age. The Education Act 1990 requires that parents ensure their children of compulsory school age are enrolled at, and regularly attend school, or, are registered with the Board of Studies, Teaching and Educational Standards for homeschooling.

Once enrolled, children are required to attend school each day it is open for students.

The importance of arriving on time

Arriving at school and class on time:

- Ensures that students do not miss out on important learning activities scheduled early in the day
- Helps students learn the importance of punctuality and routine
- Give students time to greet their friends before class
- Reduces classroom disruption

Lateness is recorded as a partial absence and must be explained by parents.

What if my child has to be away from school?

On occasion, your child may need to be absent from school. Justified reasons for student absences may include:

- being sick, or having an infectious disease
- having an unavoidable medical appointment
- being required to attend a recognised religious holiday
- exceptional or urgent family circumstance (e.g. attending a funeral)

Following an absence from school you must ensure that within 7 days you provide your child’s school with a verbal or written explanation for the absence. However, if the school has not received an explanation from you within 2 days, the school may contact you to discuss the absence.

Principals may request medical certificates or other documentation when frequent or long term absences are explained as being due to illness. Principals may also seek parental permission to speak with medical specialists to obtain information to collaboratively develop a health care plan to support your child. If the request is denied, the principal can record the absences as unjustified.

Travel

Families are encouraged to travel during school holidays. If travel during school term is necessary, discuss this with your child’s school principal. An Application for Extended Leave may need to be completed. Absences relating to travel will be marked as leave on the roll and therefore contribute to your child’s total absences for the year.

In some circumstances students may be eligible to enrol in distance education for travel periods over 50 school days. This should be discussed with your child’s school principal.

NSW DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND COMMUNITIES  LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT  WWW.DEC.NSW.GOV.AU
My child won’t go to school.
What should I do?

You should contact the principal as soon as possible to discuss the issue and ask for help. Strategies to help improve attendance may include a referral to the school’s learning and support team or linking your child with appropriate support networks. The principal may seek further support from the Home School Liaison Program to develop an Attendance Improvement Plan.

What might happen if my child continues to have unacceptable absences?

It is important to understand that the Department of Education and Communities may be required to take further action where children of compulsory school age have recurring numbers of unexplained or unjustified absences from school.

Some of the following actions may be undertaken:

- Compulsory Schooling Conferences

You may be asked, along with your child, to attend a Compulsory Schooling Conference. The conference will help to identify the supports your child may need to have in place so they attend school regularly. The school, parents and agencies will work together to develop an agreed plan (known as Undertakings) to support your child’s attendance at school.

- Application to the Children’s Court—Compulsory Schooling Order

If your child’s attendance at school remains unsatisfactory the Department may apply to the Children’s Court for a Compulsory Schooling Order. The Children’s Court magistrate may order a Compulsory Schooling Conference to be convened.

- Prosecution in the Local Court

School and Department staff remain committed to working in partnership with you to address the issues which are preventing your child’s full participation at school. In circumstances where a breach of compulsory schooling orders occurs further action may be taken against a parent in the Local Court. The result of court action can be the imposition of a community service order or a fine.

What age can my child leave school?

All New South Wales students must complete Year 10 or its equivalent. After Year 10, and up until they reach 17 years of age, there are a range of flexible options for students to complete their schooling.

Working in Partnership

The Department of Education and Communities recognises that working collaboratively with students and their families is the best way to support the regular attendance of students at school.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child to fulfil their life opportunities.

Further information regarding school attendance can be obtained from the following websites:

Policy, information and brochures:

The school leaving age:

Do you need an interpreter?

Interpreting services are available on request, including for the hearing impaired. The Telephone Interpreter Service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week on 131 450. You will not be charged for this service.

For further advice and questions contact your educational services team

T 131 538

Learning and Engagement

Student Engagement & Interagency Partnerships

T 0244 5129

www.dec.nsw.gov.au
© February 2015
NSW Department of Education and Communities
February 21 - Backyard Veggie Gardening (Preparing For Autumn Harvest) with Rebel Black
Time: 8am - 11am
Cost: $45
Max number: 20

March 21 - Swap & Share - Food, Friendship & FUN!
Time: 9am - 1pm
Cost: Bring something home made/hand crafted/home grown to swap and share!
Max number: EVERYONE WELCOME!

April 24-26 - Introduction to Permaculture & Permaculture Planning/Design (3 days) with Nick Huggins
Time: 9am - 5pm each day
Cost: $395
Max number: 30

Saturday May 23rd & 24th - Introduction to Aquaponics with Murray Hallam (1.5 days)
Time: 9am – 5pm
Cost: $275
Max number: 30

June 20 - Swap & Share - Food, Friendship & FUN!
Time: 9am - 1pm
Cost: Bring something home made/hand crafted/home grown to swap and share!
Max number: EVERYONE WELCOME!

July 25th - Fermented Foods With Christine Corner
Time: 10am - 1pm
Cost: $150
Max number: 12

July 26th - Herbal Remedies For Human and Animal Health with Christine Corner
Time: 10am - 1pm
Cost: $150

Workshops to be paid for when booking is made.
Payment plans available

ENQUIRIES & BOOKINGS
www.thehungryspirit.com
rebel@thehungryspirit.com

The Hungry Spirit
feeding people first
INTRODUCTION TO PERMACULTURE 24th to 26th April 2015
Lightning Ridge NSW

An 18 hour course that will change the way you look at farming, food production and the world around YOU!

NOTE - Spaces LIMITED to 30 people only.

BE A PART OF THE NEXT FOOD PRODUCTION REVOLUTION!

Are you looking for a way to be more self-reliant? Do you want your land to be more productive and profitable? Are you dismayed by the failing health of people, the earth and our communities and want to enact change? Do you want to help heal and regenerate yourself, your family and your community? Permaculture provides skills to improve your quality of life, create resilience, care for the environment and build family and community strength and the permaculture design course has been designed with you in mind. Whether you have a small backyard, a balcony or thousands of acres - Permaculture can help you turn your life and space into social, biological and financial profits for you and your family.

WHEN?
This course will run over 3 days:
Day 1 - Friday 24th April
Day 2 - Saturday 25th April
Day 3 - Sunday 26th April
with a full day design practical.
Starting 9am finishing at 5pm each day.

WHERE?
WHERE - THE HUNGRY SPIRIT CENTRE FOR SEMI-ARID SUSTAINABILITY
Location -57 Bald Hill Road, Lightning Ridge NSW

INVESTMENT?
The cost is only $395.00 per person for the 3 days including all meals, course notes and a bound 198 page Intro to Permaculture Manual.

To express your interest in this course please contact Rebekah Black at The Hungry Spirit on 0419 639 380 & rebekah@thehungryspirit.com
Go to the website for an application form and further details.

www.thehungryspirit.com
Feel Good Day

Monday, 16th March 2015

The ‘Feel Good’ Day is designed for Women to have you feeling good about yourself.

Attendees will learn some self-defence moves to know how to stay safe, have fun, be fit and be empowered.

Attendees will also have the opportunity to do some Yoga to transform your body and mind and learn ways to relax and use these skills at home.

It is intended to be a FUN FILLED Day so we hope you can come along and join in on the fun.

THESE WORKSHOPS ARE ALL FREE but Bookings are REQUIRED.

Once you have booked and filled out a booking sheet, you will be given an information sheet with the venue details and time.

For further information and to BOOK NOW, please call our Thiyama-li office on (02) 68 283 143.
Freedom Ride Celebrations
Lost Property

Reminder to all parents, if your child is missing items of clothing please check lost property in BOTH Front office and your child’s classroom.

All unclaimed items will be recycled into our uniform pool at the end of each Term.
Stay safe

Don’t Walk Between the buses!

⇒ The gates in the school bus fence are for students entering or leaving the buses.

⇒ Nobody should walk near the bus.

⇒ Please walk around the bus fence if you need to cross the road.
Skills Development Workshops
Monday 23 March 2015

What can you expect in the Skills Development Workshops?
These workshops are specifically and deliberately designed for ALL students from Years 3-6 in primary schools and Years 7-11 in high schools to participate. During the course of the workshop they will experience sol-fa part singing, improvisation, body percussion and, most importantly, music literacy – as well as a great deal of fun.

Not every student can be chosen to participate in the next stage of this project, but it is extremely important that we give an equal opportunity to all. Unlocking young musicians’ potential is a unique skill set with often surprising results. We welcome teachers, parents and community members into these workshops so they can see how it is done.

Students will be contacted if they are selected for a first round offer through the school office in the first week of Term 2.

Moorambilla Voices in 2015

Moorambilla is looking forward to a fabulous 10th year, following the remarkable success of the documentary Outback Choir, screened on ABC last November. This year, we are very excited to announce that our September performances will take place at the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre. This is a state of the art venue that will give the candidates a taste of a professional performance environment – a space that will complement the calibre of their performances and the artists who accompany them. In travelling to Dubbo, Moorambilla Voices also has the opportunity to reach a wider audience from a regional centre, showcasing the work we do and the amazing creativity and talent of our region’s children. Tickets for this year’s gala concert in Dubbo will be sold through the Dubbo Regional Theatre and Convention Centre, online or over the phone.

2015 Dates

Canberra International Music Festival
7-11 May (invited participants)
August Camps, Baradine
5-8 August, Moorambilla Voices Boys (Primary)
8-11 August, Moorambilla Voices Girls (Primary)
12-15 August, MAXed OUT (High School)
September Camps, Baradine
16-19 September, MAXed OUT
17-19 September, Moorambilla Voices Boys & Girls Gala Concert
19 September, Dubbo