From the Principal’s Desk

Another 2 weeks have passed and as usual there were lots of exciting things at Lightning Ridge Central School. For 2 weeks the students have been presented with many exciting opportunities to broaden their horizons and increase their learning.

Assemblies

We have had a wonderful assembly for primary students where many were presented with awards that they have earned throughout this term. A number of classes as well as our School Choir put on amazing performances showcasing the talents of our young students.

The amazing talents of our older students were presented when our school captain nominees gave their speeches to an assembly prior to students electing their representatives for next year.

Surveys

One of the things we always try to do is find out what we are doing well and how we can improve our school. For this reason we often ask parents, students and staff to complete surveys. Unfortunately last year we had very limited responses from parents and not all that many from students. We’re about to ask again for students parents and staff to fill in a survey so please take the time to let us know what you think.

The survey is called “Tell Them From Me” (TTFM) and is done completely online. Our school does not conduct the survey and we do not make up the questions however at the end of the survey period we will get completely anonymous survey results which are compared both with the cluster of schools around us and also responses from schools state-wide.

I would really encourage all parents and students to complete the survey and we will be giving you information explaining how the TTFM survey can be completed. If there are any questions or if you don’t have access to the Internet you are more than welcome to come into the school and we will provide you with a computer and some privacy so you can complete the surveys. We are genuinely interested in finding out what people believe that we do well and what people believe could be improved.

Upcoming P&C and AECG Meetings

One of the major ways, apart from these surveys, that we can get parents and community input is through our P&C which will be holding a meeting at 5 PM on August 25 here at the school and also our AECG and I look forward to being able to publicise a series of meetings that are coming up soon.
From the Principal's Desk continued...

**Staff Survey Responses**

Some quotes from our staff who responded to a survey earlier this term. Some of the things our staff thought could be improved were better communication between parents and the school. More parents involved in the school and decision making. Many staff also commented on access to technology for students.

In response to these issues I would like to invite parents to become part of our school plan review meetings, they are held every 3 weeks at school from 3:15 – 4:30pm. Come in and find out more. I’d also like to upgrade the sign at the front of the school to allow us to give more messages to parents and community and also display student work for everyone to see. The school Executive discussed this earlier this year and while it was thought to be a good idea it was not given a high priority. Perhaps we should have moved sooner?

Primary students will soon have access to iPads in classrooms when a few technical issues are ironed out and we are discussing a proposal to provide laptops for secondary students for $25 per term. Please let me know what you think about these ideas, I’d like all parents to have their say.

Some, often repeated, positive comments from staff were:

- I am genuinely proud of being part of the LRCS team.
- Staff who work extremely well as a team and are very dedicated.
- A diverse student body that mostly treat each other with respect.
- The staff work together to provide extracurricular activities for the kids.
- The grounds of our school are exceptional.
- All staff members are willing to help out anywhere any time.

If you have any comments to make, concerns or compliments arrange a time to come in and have a chat.
I’m always keen to hear parent and community opinions.
Hello,

With the theme for Book Week which is *Books Light up our World* I would like to share something that I found whilst reading a magazine.

Books truly light up our world in so many different ways. They shed light into dark places by bringing education to those who want it. Books bring the world to life for us, enabling us to travel to distant lands without leaving our homes and even venture into space or fantasy worlds. They empower us, entertain us, educate us and bring us closer to others. Books help us to grow as human beings.

I hope your will encourage your children to be part of Book Week at LRCS and attend as many of the activities yourself that are possible. I am listing below what is happening so you can plan to be here.

Monday 24th—Friday 28th we have the Book Fair in the library with books for sale from Collins Book shop at Tamworth.

Monday 24th is the Bake a Book competition. Cakes can be delivered to the library from 8.30am. This is a K-12 competition. The cake is judged on decoration and needs to either replicate the front cover of a favourite book or be recognisable as the book by perhaps a theme.(eg a Chocolate Cake would be a good one for *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*.

Tuesday 25th is The Placard Parade for K-6 in the Junior Quad starting at 9.10 am. Students can make their placard at home and getting dressed in a costume is fun too.

Lessons during the week will involve a Book Week Colouring Competition as well as browsing the Book Fair.

Friday we have the finals of the Oral Reading Competition in the library commencing at 9.30am.

Let’s light up our kid’s lives by being part of Book Week and celebrating the place books have in our lives.

Penny Fahey  Teacher Librarian
Primary Student of the Week

Week 4 S3D

Dani Burgess-Dale

Annika has been awarded student of the week as she has begun to be an enthusiastic learner. She is an attentive listener and goes out of her way to study outside of school.

Well done Annika. Keep it up!

Primary Student of the Week

Week 5 S2V

Mia Nagy

Mia is always a helpful and cooperative student in the classroom. She is focused on her work and likes to help other students. She loves to draw and always produces her quality work.

Congratulations Mia!

Primary Student of the Week

Week 6 ES1T

Dani Burgess-Dale

 Dani is a student who always follows our school PBL rules. She is a polite and considerate student who gives her very best effort in all that she undertakes. She is a pleasure to have as a member of our class, S2V.

Congratulations Dani!
Secondary Student of the Week  
Week 4 Year 11  
Casey Rice-Jones

Casey is a responsible and respectful student who produces quality work, both in class and extra-curricular activities. He involves himself in a variety of events around the school and has demonstrated his leadership skills and initiative through participation in the SRC.

Congratulations Casey!

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Primary Student of the Week  
Week 4 S1M  
Taylor Morgan

Taylor is a kind and helpful student who always shows an enthusiastic attitude to all learning activities. Her confidence in her own ability has grown tremendously this year and she has made fantastic improvements in all areas of her learning.

Well done, Taylor!

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Primary Student of the Week  
Week 6 S2/3MA  
Shelby Davis

Shelby has been selected as Student of the week for consistently applying herself in all areas of her schooling, always following PBL goals and an excellent role model to other students.

Well done Shelby!

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On Thursday 6th August some of the lucky students from S23MA were invited to go to Goodooga for the Indigenous Games.

We caught the bus and left school at 8am.

The bus arrived at Goodooga Central School and we were welcomed by staff and big smiles before we had Welcome to country in the local language and in English.

We were teamed up with students from all over NSW and given team names.

The games were a lot of fun and seeing everyone working as a team, even though they had only just met was inspirational.

Everyone had a fantastic day and we had a massive feast before the presentations.

Skye: “I was scared at first but had a lot of fun”
Levi: “I liked all the games and meeting new people. I made new friends and had fun”
Riley: “I like the games and I had a nice day”
On Friday, 7th August, Secondary students participated in ‘Write A Book In A Day’. This is a fundraising event to assist the ‘Kids Cancer Project’ charity to raise funds for research into childhood cancer. It involves students working in teams within a 12 hour period to write, illustrate and bind a book for an audience of cancer patients aged 11-16.

Our two teams, The Opals (consisting of Camille, Cristen, Ebony, Ned, Nathan, Tellulah, Genevieve, Casey) and The Opalettes (Hollie, Mary, Cassidy, Keith, Maddison, Madyson, Tennessee, Hareem) worked very well together to create their books. Students volunteered their time at school, with some arriving at 8am and not leaving until well after 5.30am, with Ms Fitzgerald and Dove submitting the finished products just before the deadline.

These students demonstrated their ability to work collaboratively and with respect and responsibility. Both teams produced great books and they made their teachers very proud. Great work, LRCS!
5 Ways to Boost Your Marks after Mid-Years Trials

1. Know What You Don’t Know
The best thing you can take from your mid-year exams is that it’s a really good way to highlight the things you DON’T know. Once you stop crying about your marks you’ll actually realise that this is a really important way to improve your marks going forward. The best students know exactly which topics they don’t know, which means they focus only on their weaknesses and not on their strengths. Practising your strengths won’t increase your marks as much.

There are three ways to find out the stuff you don’t know:

1. Where did you lose the marks - go back through your exams papers and see where you lost most marks for each subject. List them by priority. 5 = I’m a boss at this topic. 1 = I’m still so screwed for this topic! Work on the 1’s first.
2. Go over the content - using Hub videos to efficiently go through all the necessary content will quickly highlight the holes in your knowledge. If it’s all about efficiency then 5-10 minute videos are the best way to get through it all.
3. Past papers - HSC past papers quickly highlight the things you need to be focusing on. Your time is limited. Use it wisely. Find the things you don’t know and focus your time on these things first.

2. Use Your Teachers
We know stuff like HSC Hub is awesome for getting help but remember that you also have your teachers there to help you out. Use them.
Your teachers are the ones that have marked your mid-year exams so they know (probably more than anyone) where and how you went wrong. A good strategy is to make changes to your responses and hand them to your teachers for marking and feedback. Most teachers are up for giving feedback and this will give you a really good indication of where you’re at.
We work with plenty of state-ranked students and the one thing they have in common is that they swamped their teachers with millions of drafts throughout the year!

3. Do More, Think Less
Small fast changes win every time! We know what it’s like, you spend weeks and weeks working on essay drafts or practice responses until it’s perfect AND THEN you hand it in. This isn’t the most effective way to go about things. A better way is to make small, deliberate changes and hand them in as fast as possible. One you get your feedback, plug the holes and do it again. This will make sure you get on the right track faster and avoids ‘analysis paralysis’ when you’re just making useless changes that won’t boost your marks much. Your teachers should be sick of you by the end of the year!
Also, don’t forget about the smaller responses. Yes, everyone gets teachers to look at their English essays but A LOT of the HSC is smaller 5-10mark questions that no one considers. I make in an essay and 1 mark on a short answer are worth the same amount, remember that. So submit that Religion 6 marker or that History source analysis or a Chemistry 8 marker. Get these perfect as well!
Deliberate changes. Specific feedback. Quick fixes. Repeat.

4. Learn From The Best
This is one of the best times in the year to compare your responses to those of the best kids. By looking at your exam answers next to a top scorer you’ll very quickly see the areas you need to improve. The Hub is a great way to see how the best do it. By walking you through how the top students would construct sample answers it’ll give you a really good sense of how to do things. That way you can compare your answers and identify the issues asap.
It’s also a really good strategy to get top students to look at your work and identify the issues for you. Resources like the Hub marking centre give you specific feedback from state-ranked graduates, which will highlight all the problems in your answers faster than anything else.

5. Past Papers (as usual)

We always say this. Past papers never lie. If you get to a question and you feel like you’re going to pass out from anxiety - you probably need to spend some time on it. If you’re going through other questions like an absolute boss - no need to keep wasting your precious study time.

The point is you should be getting the best bang for your buck in terms of your time and effort. Quickly learn what you don’t know and plug the holes as quickly and as efficiently as possible. That’s how to boost your marks!

Farewell Mrs Walmsley

Carissa Walmsley has been a valued teacher at our school for three years. Mrs Walmsley has strongly dedicated her time and expertise into the classroom, the school and our community. The students she has taught have all excelled in their learning and wellbeing. They are always happy, engaged and thrive with growing results across all learning subjects. Mrs Walmsley has been heavily involved in many of the programs which run in our school. She is a leader in Primary for our Positive Behaviour for Learning Program, she has set up and maintains our school garden for the children to use and she mentors other teachers in programming and teaching.

We are excited for Mrs Walmsley and her husband, Lee, as they will be welcoming their first child into their family. As you can expect, she will be taking maternity leave shortly to spend time with her new addition to the family. We would also like to inform you that she has successfully received a transfer to a new school closer to home and her family. This is sad news for our school community to be losing such a brilliant teacher.

Mrs Walmsley’s last day teaching in the classroom will be Thursday 3rd September. Lynn Davis will be replacing Mrs Walmsley as the teacher in S1W. Miss Davis is an experienced teacher who has been in Lightning Ridge for many years. She brings a world of knowledge and expertise to teaching. Miss Davis has been a supervisor to teachers and she mentors and supports all teachers with Literacy and Numeracy initiatives. Miss Davis has had the pleasure of working with S1W and she is looking forward to teaching S1W for the remainder of the year.

Hopefully you have the chance to come and see Mrs Walmsley and congratulate her on all her achievements before her last day at Lightning Ridge Central School.
Dear Parents and Carers

This term, your school is taking part in the *Tell Them From Me* student survey. The survey will provide us with valuable feedback on what our students think about school life, how engaged they are with school and the different ways that teachers interact with them. Schools in Australia and around the world have used the *Tell Them From Me* survey to help them improve. The survey is completed on-line and is run by an independent research company, The Learning Bar, which specialises in school-based surveys.

Staff in schools will not be able to identify individual students from their responses. To ensure confidentiality, participating students will receive a unique username and password. Where fewer than five students respond to a question, the results will be suppressed. The survey typically takes 30 minutes or less to complete and will be administered by the school during normal school hours. Once the surveys are completed by students, reports are prepared and in most cases are available to schools within three business days.

This survey will help your school better understand how to improve student wellbeing and engagement. It will help the school identify what works to improve student outcomes.

Participating in the survey is entirely voluntary. Your child will not take part if either you or your child do not wish to. If, during the survey, your child is uncomfortable answering any question, he/she should leave it blank and move on to the next question. Your child can stop the survey at any time.

If you **do not want your child to take part** in the survey, please complete the attached form and return it to your child's school by Friday 28th August.


Kerry Adamthwaite                  Dr Jenny Donovan
Principal                           General Manager
Lightning Ridge Central School   Centre for Education Statistics and Evaluation
Tell Them From Me Student Feedback Survey non-consent form

If you do not want your child to participate in the student feedback survey, please sign this form and return it to your school by Friday 28th August.

I DO NOT give consent for my child/children to participate in the Tell Them From Me student feedback survey.

Name of student/s .................................................................

Roll class/es ............................................................................

Name of parent/carer ............................................................... 

Signature of parent/carer ...........................................................

Date .................................................................
Education Services Forum supporting Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Agreement

As part of the Murdi Paaki Regional Enterprise Agreement educational services personnel from the Department of Education invite members of the community to participate in a forum about the Wellbeing Framework.

The forum will give the community an opportunity to hear about the Education Department’s approach to wellbeing and provide an understanding of the behaviour code for students, Suspension and Expulsion of School Students policy and attendance requirements.

The forum will run Wednesday 9 September 2015 from 4:00pm to 5:00pm at Lightning Ridge Central School Library.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Stage 2 Excursion to Dubbo Zoo