PRINCIPAL’S REPORT - Melinda Bright

I have really enjoyed reading about the student success stories and involvement in challenging activities in this edition. Congratulations to all our swimmers who took part in the Sydney East Swimming Carnival this week.

I love how many students took part in soccer (football sorry Greg) trials this week, both boys and girls. It really is a growing extra-curricular program and I must thank Greg Wozniak for his enthusiastic and passionate leadership and organisation. He has a growing army of coaches!

For those students who have more of an interest in the arts there are plenty of opportunities in dance, drama or theatre sports coming up. Well done also to Sam and Felix on their selection in the State Drama ensembles. We have such a long tradition of our students performing at this level.

I also heard tall tales of gourmet cooking on the latest Duke of Ed. expedition! What, no noodles? Was My Kitchen Rules secretly filming in the Kangaroo valley? Our students really are very innovative and never settle for anything but the best.

David Price (learn more here http://austparents.edu.au/news/workshop-series-with-david-price-obe/) and Dan Haesler (learn more here http://danhaesler.com/). What do these men have in common? They have an amazing ability to synthesize all the current research on future learning and deliver a humorous yet meaningful keynote address to inspire us to make the necessary changes in our schools.

We also attended a range of different workshops run by innovators in schools including workshops on:
1. Strategies for developing open learning environments
2. High School Self Organised Learning Environments
3. Designing Learning Environments
4. A Snapshot of Innovation at Merrylands HS
5. A Middle School Approach to Building the Learning Continuum
6. Design2Learn – A practical approach to developing learning environments

These were just a few of the workshops we sampled over the two days. Events such as these allow us to be inspired, see models of effective practice, revisit our own vision and come back excited about doing something new and fresh or building on our existing vision.
In our blueprint for the future we definitely have designing different learning spaces on our radar. Simply revisiting our physical environment is not enough though. We must support these changes with changes and improvements to pedagogy.

These are my ‘takeouts’ from the David Price keynote:

*If 50% of jobs will be freelance in 2020 what are we doing to prepare our students? By 2050 up to 70% of jobs could be automated!*

Need more:

- Independent learners
- Critical thinkers
- Coding – do we need to embed it in the curriculum
- Coding must be explicitly taught to all students
  (curriculum review submission)
- Robotics - gaining in importance - where do we have it currently in our curriculum?

**Leadership Challenges/Opportunity: the Irresistible Rise of Social Learning**

The way knowledge is so readily acceptable means the role of the teacher has changed - have our teaching practices changed?

Engagement alone does not = fun.
Engagement + challenge = fun

**Six Imperatives of Social Learning**

- Do it yourself (autonomy)
- Do it now (immediacy)
- Do it with friends (collegiality)
- Do it for fun (playfulness)
- Do unto others (generosity)
- Do it for the world to see (High visibility) - a public audience for student work is a great motivator

What lies behind us and what lies ahead of us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us. (Attributed to Haskins, or Emerson, or Thoreau)

**Curriculum Review 2015**

We currently have a team of staff members who are undertaking a curriculum review this year. One of the main suggestions being examined by the team is whether we will move from a six period day to a five period day. It is timely after almost three years here that we review where we are at and in light of some of the research outlined by the speakers above, examine if our curriculum needs to be modified or improved to cater for the future learning needs of students. I would like to invite any parents who may like to make a comment or submission to our Curriculum Review team to email us on the school email address and title your email ‘Curriculum Review Submission’.

**The SpaceMakers – a facilities review team**

As I have said above it is always timely to stop every now and then and take stock. Given the enormous increases in enrolments we are experiencing we also have staff team reviewing the usage of all our current teaching and non-teaching spaces. They will identify any underutilised spaces and any spaces which can be repurposed to enhance teaching and learning spaces in the school. Faculties and individual teachers will have the opportunity to make submissions on spaces and we also encourage any parents or students to do the same. Please email us on the school email address with the title ‘To The Spacemakers’ if you have a submission.

*Melinda Bright—Principal*
Sports Report
by Sally Bury
Sports Coordinator

Congratulations to all swimmers who have competed at both the zone and Sydney East swimming carnivals lately. They have all tried hard and been outstanding role models for the school.

Bligh zone age champions were:
Hannah Baker 12 years girls
Kim Shi 13 years boys
Finn Purcell 14 years boys

The following students also set new zone records:
Andy Balcomb 14 yrs 200m freestyle
Finn Purcell 14 yrs 50m freestyle and butterfly

The 13 years boys relay team consisting of:
Kim Shi, Steven Tan, Xavier Stocca and Kaoru Varlamov.

20 students qualified for the Sydney East region swimming carnival held on Wednesday 18th March at Homebush.

The following students have qualified for the CHS swimming championships on 26, 27 and 28 March at Homebush:
Zarni Tun, Andy Balcomb, Finn Purcell, Maddy Baker, Kim Shi and the 12 and 13 boys relay teams.

12’s -Max Heineke, Marcello Paul, Geoff Kelso and Finn McKendry
13’s- Kim Shi, Steven Tan, Xavier Stocca and Kaoru Varlamov.

Well done and good luck.

Sport Choices for term 2 and 3 will be done during week 9 at school.

Students must look at the sport options posted on the sports noticeboard and make 3 selections in order of preference. Students are not guaranteed their first preference so must be sure to select 3 in order of priority.

A list of sports is also on the website.

Well being
Here at SSC Leichhardt we aim to sustain a safe and supportive learning environment for all of our students. We have an amazing Welfare team which includes our four fantastic year Advisors, our Girls Advisor, Boys Advisor, Learning and Support teacher, Counsellors, Careers Advisor, Aboriginal Education Officer, Norta Norta Teacher, Deputy, Principal, and The Head Teacher Welfare.

Each term Year groups will have two year meetings. The first meeting takes place with the whole cohort, whilst the second one is divided into gender. We will be finishing our first term with our Gender Split Year Meetings in week 9. These meetings are a great opportunity for the Year Advisors to touch base with the cohort, but in particular a way to allow our Boys and Girls Advisors to connect with their students and discuss issues that are important and relevant to them.

Term two will also see the commencement of many mentoring initiatives. We have been given the opportunity to work with RAISE youth Mentoring in our school, a fantastic program that will provide 10 mentors for 10 students in years 8 and 9.

Tim Paterson, our Boys Advisor will start ‘Project Boys’, a new initiative of the Welfare Team to engage some of our male students in year 7 and 8 through working in small groups on a school community project.

We are happy to again be connecting with Leichhardt Council and SSC Balmain Campus in the Linked In Program that focuses on mentoring some of our female students in year 8 by taking them out into the community and connecting them with positive role models whilst trying new things.

Our Careers Advisor, Anna Letsios, is also looking to mentor students in year 9 and 10 who are unsure about their future education and career paths through a new program ‘Career mentoring’. This program would look at career options and vocational skill building.

Finally, we are also really excited to see that our female students, as well as a handful of male students, have taken the initiative to start a new project called #LSSCforshe. This group aims to give a louder voice to our female students by campaigning for things that are important to them. These determined students tell me that their first campaign will focus on encouraging positive body image. It is no wonder that these students have won the support of our wonderful staff such as Rachael Alonso, Steph Ward and many more who have put up their hands to offer their help if needed.

It has been a busy start to the year with so many wonderful contributions by our enthusiastic staff and students. I hope everyone has a great holiday and recharges for term two.

Alex Boerma—Relieving Head Teacher Welfare
Drama News

by Alex Boerma
Drama and Dance Coordinator

2015 NSW State Drama Ensemble

Congratulations to two of our very talented students securing their place as part of the NSW State Drama Ensemble. Sam Sweeney in Year 7 was successful in his audition for a place in the Junior Ensemble, and Felix Loveday in year 9 will continue his great work from last year in the year 9 Ensemble. We can’t wait to see what exciting things you both create with this opportunity.

2015 Drama Production Auditions are Friday 27 March. Join the edmodo group (tevy7y) to put your name down and prepare your 1 minute monologue for your audition. Good Luck!

Upcoming Assessments for weeks 9 and 10:
Year 7 - Improvisation; Practical assessment in class. No Preparation at home needed
Year 9 - Greek Theatre; Students perform a 3-5 minute scene using chorus and mask. Log book also to be submitted.
Year 10 - Commedia Dell Arte; Students research, create and perform a lazzi from Commedia Dell Arte. Practical and theory components to be submitted together.

It’s that time of year again to start our extra curricula improvisation group. If you are interested in joining one of our Theatresports training groups please go to the Performing Arts Notice Board outside GC.01 drama room to sign up. There will be two groups; year 9 and 10 will train together for the remainder of term 1 and term 2. Year 7 and 8 will come together in terms 3 and 4.

Training will be held on Monday mornings at 8 am in CG.01 drama room with one of our very talented ex-students, and ex-Theatresport champion, Declan Maher. Please see Mrs Boerma for a note.
Music News

by Glad Reed
Music Teacher

Friday 13 March was a fitting date for the massive Year 7 Junk Music Workshop. Close to 250 Year 7 students participated in a creative percussive session to augment their Project Based Learning this term.

Themed around sustainability, students brought a collection of recycled rubbish from home—everything from shoeboxes to milo tins and plastic bottle tops were used to create their own instruments.

The resulting Junk Music Orchestra was led by the Drumbeats team—a tribal experience in group percussion that was a sight and sound to behold.

Well done Year 7 on your participation and exemplary behaviour at this event.

The Music staff would also like to thank the whole of the school staff for their support on the day.

Comments from our Year 7 cohort about what they learnt from the Junk Music workshop

I liked the creativity of it all, the fact that you can make music out of rubbish (junk) was amazing. Jezrell

The Junk Music workshop was good and fun, I learnt that you could make music out of anything. Harry

I enjoyed adding different music to the constant beat. Hannah

My favourite part of the Junk music workshop was making the shakers. Flynn

I liked to find junk to make music and I liked to make good sounds with my instrument. Noah

I liked how good the Drumbeats drummers were and how they created their drums from recycled things. Angela

My favourite moment was when Manny and I used the barrel as a drum. David

I enjoyed the Drumbeats workshop and how they taught us to improvise with different instruments. Lauren
Update from Leichhardt Football Association (LFA) March 2015

The Football (Soccer) Program for 2015 is now well under-way at SSC Leichhardt Campus. Over 150 students across different age groups participated in trials for numerous outdoor and Futsal (indoor) soccer teams. As a result of several weeks of intensive trials, over 90 students were selected for their respective teams. These players, along with their coaches, will represent the school in the following tournaments:

U16 Boys Futsal Marrickville Regionals Tuesday 24 March 2015 (Team Blue Coach Scott Keough)

U14 Girls Futsal Marrickville Regionals Wednesday 25 March 2015 (Coach Helen Proctor)

U14 Boys Futsal Marrickville Regionals Wednesday 25 March 2015 (Team Sky Coach Jonothan Murty and Team Blue Coach Sally Bury)

U16 Girls Futsal Northern Beaches Regionals Thursday 21 May 2015 (Coach Greg Wozniak)

U16 Boys Futsal Campbelltown Regionals Tuesday 2 June 2015 (Coach Greg Wozniak)

Support Unit Futsal Athletes with Disabilities Championships Penrith Friday 31 July 2015 (Coach Greg Wozniak)

U15 Girls Outdoor Soccer Bill Turner Trophy 2nd Round Match week ending 8 May 2015 (Coaches Liz Jones and Tim Paterson)

U15 Boys Outdoor Soccer Bill Turner Cup 2nd Round Match week ending 8 May 2015 (Coaches Greg Wozniak)

I would like to thank all of the students, parents, coaches, and school staff who are dedicating many hours of their own time in making the Football Program such a vibrant and growing element of school life here at Leichhardt.

Good luck and all the best to players and coaches in their forthcoming tournaments.

LFA, all the way!

Greg Wozniak—Soccer coach

Duke of Edinburgh Practice Adventurous Journey

Year 10 Duke of Edinburgh students participating in the Bronze Award completed their Test Adventurous Journey in week 7. The Journey was a two day canoe trip on the Tallowa Dam in the Kangaroo Valley.

Students paired up and canoed 22 kilometres over the course of two days, developing their canoeing skills, as well as developing team work skills and resilience when it came to facing a challenge.

We camped by the water, cooking gourmet dinners, surrounded by the beautiful gorge country. We had a great chance to develop our camping skills, reflecting on what we actually need to survive while away from our everyday creature comforts. We also had a great chance to cool off under a water fall in a nearby creek.

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is open to students from Years 9 and above. Speak to Mr Adcock if you have any questions.

We are looking forward to the next adventure. Silver participants will be going on a three day hike in term 3.

Peter Adcock—Duke of Edinburgh Coordinator
HSIE News

by Matt Harris
HSIE, Teacher

Geography fun fact: Though Mt. Everest is the highest altitude in terms of sea level on the planet, Mount Chiribabzon the Andes is the closest to the moon. The Marianas Trench is the lowest place on earth.

Last Friday, all of year 10 Geography participated in an excursion to the Sydney foreshore area of Darling Harbour, Barangaroo, Millers Point and Walsh Bay to study the effects of Urban growth and decline. The day was a great success with the students showcasing the attitudes and behaviour SSC Leichhardt prides itself on. This excursion allowed the students the opportunity to look critically into the issues and attitudes surrounding renewal, decay and consolidation of urban space, through an in-depth study and field work of various sites. Attached to this excursion, the Year 10 Geography assessment task asks the students to develop a Research Action Plan on these sites and then partake in an in-class report of their findings.

In exciting news, Year 10 Elective History is starting a new topic this week with an in depth study on Ancient Roman life and social constructs, using a source based historiographical approach as well as a case study on Gladiators. This is truly an engrossing period of history, one in which we as a faculty believe can engage the students with a really interesting topic. Year 7’s Project Based Learning is coming along with leaps and bounds with many groups starting their final design product and presentation due in Week 10. We have seen some really thought-provoking projects, where students are making games, videos, comics, 3D models and mine craft simulations to answer their driving questions on Environmental Sustainability.

Those students doing the Geography Competition please meet in Period one Monday 30 March in the Hall.

Quotes of the week: In a personal note to finish off, these quotes are in memory of a truly brilliant author:

Geography is just physics slowed down, with a couple of trees stuck in it.

Most of the great triumphs and tragedies of history are caused not by people being fundamentally good or fundamentally evil, but by people being fundamentally people.

Human beings make life so interesting. Do you know, that in a universe so full of wonders, they have managed to invent boredom.

People don’t alter history any more than birds alter the sky, they just make brief patterns in it.

R.I.P Terry Pratchett

Upcoming Assessments/ Events | Due Date
---|---
Year 10 Geography Research Action Plan | Week 8 (19 or 20 March)
Year 10 Geography In-class report | Last lesson of week 9
Year 10 History test on World War II | Last lesson of week 9
Year 9 International Studies report | Week 9
Year 10 Commerce Oral response to case law | Monday 23 (Week 9)
Year 9 Commerce in class test | Last lesson week 9
Year 10 International Studies report | Friday 2 (Week 8)
Year 9 Elective History Historical film review | Week 10 (31 March/1 April
Geography Competition all years | Monday the 30 (Week 10)
History Competition all years | Registration closes 2 April (Week 10)
Schools Remember ANZAC event Hyde Park | 23 April 2015

Aboriginal Heritage Walking Tour

On Tuesday 17 March two student Emily Grimes and Ethan Cranford were invited to partake in a Aboriginal Heritage Walking Tour. The event was run in conjuncture with Diversity Week. The tour was aimed at acknowledging and celebrating the culture and heritage of the first Australian’s. Emily was invited on the tour as a result of her fantastic research on Douglas Grant, who was a significant Indigenous member of the Leichhardt community. Throughout the morning we got a taste of the influence of Douglas in the area, as well as Aboriginal bush food and customs of the Gadigal and Wombal people. The students had a fantastic morning and have come away with an enriched understanding and interest in the local Aboriginal culture.

Tim Paterson—HSIE Faculty
Maths News

by Ilhea Yen
Head Teacher

Mathematician of the week:
The first female mathematician to win the Fields Medal

Maryam Mirzakhani, aged 37, is an Iranian mathematician working in the United States. Since 2008, she has served as a professor of mathematics at Stanford University.

In 2014, Mirzakhani became both the first woman and the first Iranian honoured with the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics. The award committee cited her work in understanding the symmetry of curved surfaces.

Maryam went to high school in Tehran at Farzanegan, National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents (NODET). She competed and was recognized internationally for her maths skills, receiving gold medals at both the 1994 International Mathematical Olympiad (Hong Kong) and the 1995 International Mathematical Olympiad (Toronto) where she was the first Iranian student to finish with a perfect score and to win two gold medals.

She obtained her BSc in mathematics (1999) from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran. She went to the United States for graduate work, earning a PhD from Harvard University (2004), where she worked under the supervision of the Fields Medalist Curtis McMullen. She was also a 2004 research fellow of the Clay Mathematics Institute and a professor at Princeton University.

What is happening at Pi-Rate time
Wednesdays at lunch in Room 1B.31

Come to the Pi-Rate time (maths peer-tutoring time) on Wednesday at lunchtime, bring your lunch and maths questions.

Room 1B.31 is becoming a very busy study place with students who have maths questions to ask, discuss and just do self-study.

It is a place you can just pop in and feel free to ask or discuss maths questions with a maths teacher, a friend or Year 10 students. More students are becoming regulars to do their maths homework. So please come and enjoy exciting learning environment!

INVITATION
PARENTS/CARERS
Year 7 ProBL Exhibition of Learning

On Wednesday April 1 students of Year 7 will be presenting to the Leichhardt community the culmination of their terms learning through the ProBL (project based learning) unit about Sustainability.

We are very excited to present what Year 7 groups have been up to including everything from building sustainable environments in Minecraft to creating ranges of recycled products.

A lot of learning, thinking, inventing and creating has gone on and we hope you can join us to celebrate.

Venue: Sydney Secondary College Leichhardt Hall
Date: Wednesday 1st April
Time: 1.15pm (straight after lunch)

Sunny South—Librarian
News from the P&C

Hello everyone,

Our last meeting was on 2nd March and it was the AGM. Our new executive is:
President: Nick Potter
Vice President: Siranda Torvaldsen
Secretary: Lyndell Webster
Treasurer: Rachel Wang
Lostock Coordinator: Belinda Fraser

Many thanks to those who have volunteered to take up these positions. I would also like to thank Trish Ware, outgoing Treasurer and Fiona Law, outgoing Vice President. Both have been on the executive for at least 3 years and have made a huge contribution to the P&C and the school. And welcome to Siranda and Rachel, our newcomers.

I was fortunate to speak on the P&C’s behalf at the school’s Open Day for 2016 prospective year 7s. There was a huge turnout. It is a sign of what a great reputation our school has that there are so many kids who are keen to attend SSC Leichhardt.

I was also proud to represent the P&C at the recent College Presentation Day in the Sydney Town Hall. The P&C sponsors the Leichhardt Dux and Distinguished Achiever awards and I was pleased to present these awards to Chiara Lam and Ruby Bruce. The whole day was managed and presented to an outstanding level by students of the college from all three campuses.

Many of you will know that students from all three campuses who use the Inner West Light Rail are unable to use the school transport passes and so have to pay each day to get to school. The P&C have campaigned since it opened to have the school student transport scheme extended to the Light Rail and this week I wrote to all candidates in the NSW State Election stressing this as an important issue for our families.

Due to Easter we will not have a meeting in April so our next P&C Meeting will be Monday 4th May.

If you’d like to contact any of us about meetings or what we are doing use the P&C email address ssclpc@gmail.com

Cheers,
Nick Potter – President P&C

P&C Meeting dates for 2015
All meetings are held in the staff common room, from 7 p.m., on the first Monday of the month (except where that falls in the school or public holidays)
Monday May 4
Monday June 1
No July meeting
Monday August 3
Monday September 7
No October meeting
Monday November 2
Monday December 7

Fund Raising
The P&C holds a fund raising event once a year. It is usually a Trivia Night and last year was our most successful ever. As well as the Trivia Night we ask for a family donation at the start of the school year. This is included on the invoice you receive from the school. We urge you to make this payment. At meetings we decide on ways to spend these funds to benefit the school and the kids. Last year we paid for musical equipment, sports uniforms and improvements to the sounds system in the school hall, among other things.

P&C email list
We have tried to capture everyone’s details on our P&C mailing list. We use this list to distribute P&C minutes and important information to parents. If you don’t receive emails from us and you think you may not be on the list drop us an email at ssclpc@gmail.com and we will update your details. This year’s new year 7 is the biggest yet so we may be a bit slow getting all your details in

P&C pages on the school website
Another way to keep up to date with P&C activities is to view our pages on the school’s website. The minutes of P&C meetings are regularly uploaded, along with information about Lostock. www.leichhardt-h.schools.nsw.edu.au/parents-citizens

Lostock
Sydney Secondary College maintains a modest riverfront camp at Lostock, 60km north of Maitland in the Upper Hunter Valley. Set among working farms and rolling hills right on the banks of the Patterson River, it was once a one-teacher country school that has been converted to provide a rural education camp for groups of 30 or so, but is also set up as a comfortable weekender for College families, staff and general public when not in use by the College. The camp is looked after by an intercampus subcommittee of parents and volunteers on behalf of the SSC community.

For more information, visit the website at http://lostock-school-camp.wikispaces.com/
Please direct booking requests by email to Lostock-School@hotmail.com