As the year draws to a close I would like to thank the entire Lake Illawarra High community for their efforts during 2014.

The vast majority of our wonderful students have worked hard and achieved many great things. You deserve to be able to have a break in readiness for another exciting year next year.

For our HSC students please take this opportunity to consolidate the work of the last term and ensure that you are organised and ready to go come January 28.

Thank you to the parent community for your support of the school this year. It is so important that we work together to enable our children to get the best possible outcomes.

I would also like to thank the staff of Lake High for their dedication and professionalism throughout the year. I know that in everything you do the number one thought is to make sure it is for the benefit of our students.

Please enjoy the final instalment of the Lake Lines for 2014. I look forward to a really successful and exciting 2015.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to everyone.

Tony Hicks
Principal

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**SCHOOL RESUMES 2015 – WEEK A**

**Years 7, 11, 12**
**Wednesday 28/1/15.**

**Years 8, 9, 10**
**Thursday 29/1/15.**

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**Deputies’ Dialogue**

We would like to start by congratulating all of the students who have received, and who will receive, awards at the Presentation Evening, Sports Assembly and Year Assemblies. You have worked very hard this year and should be extremely proud of your achievements. We look forward to all students performing at their best in 2015.

All students will have received their Yearly reports by Tuesday the 16th of December. Reports are designed to help both parents and students monitor their academic process, if you have any queries regarding the information provided in these reports please feel free to contact the school.

In 2015, we will be continuing to implement and promote Positive Behaviour for Learning (PBL). Our school values of Respect, Responsibility and Safety will be imbedded into all aspects of our school community.

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**Before You**

**THINK**

T = Is it True?
H = Is it Helpful?
I = Is it Inspiring?
N = Is it Necessary?
K = Is it Kind?

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A reminder to all students to THINK before you use any form of social and electronic media during the holidays. Finally, we would like to wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season.

Mrs Kerrie Powell and Mr Phil Munn

Be Respectful, Be Responsible and Be Safe

Mr Munn and Mrs Powell

Deputy Principals
LINKS GRADUATION NIGHT
Throughout the year 10 students from Year 9 were involved in a Links to Learning program to develop skills of independence, confidence, leadership and connectedness to the school and wider community. Lake Illawarra HS has been involved in this program with five other schools in the Illawarra for 12 years. The team, led by Michael Marino from the Illawarra Multicultural Society, has been successful over the past 3 terms with students participating in activities such as volunteer projects, First Aid Course and Bronze Duke of Edinburgh program. Students attended their graduation evening with over 300 people present to celebrate their accomplishments and hear of their success. Along with myself, Mr Chaseling as Year Adviser was present at the evening and we were extremely proud of the student’s efforts. Special mention goes to Brittany Waterman who presented a speech on the importance of the program and how it affected her personally.

TAFE ENROLMENTS
Students interested in applying to TAFE for the beginning of next year need to do so now. This is an online procedure or students can visit a campus to gather information and apply to a course with the administration assistants.

"LIFE HAS TWO RULES:
#1 NEVER QUIT
#2 ALWAYS REMEMBER RULE #1."

View Semester 1, 2015 courses* now!
Enrolments open Saturday 6 December.

*Proposed courses only. Final courses available November 2014

Click here for more information TAFE website http://www.illawarra.tafensw.edu.au
On the 23rd of October, Support Unit Students attended the EP Mini-Olympics at Beaton Park. A great day was had by all and many personal bests were achieved. Some of the events were, 50m, 100m, 400m races, long jump, high jump, shot putt, vortex throw and everyone had BBQ lunch and quite a few students received medals. Thank you to all the buddy students from Yr.10 and Yr.11 from other High Schools for their support.

Congratulations to Jarrod Dyer who achieved an Australian Record with Swimming Australia in a recent swim meet in the 100m Backstroke. Also to Tarren Dyer who was inducted into the SRC.

On Thursday 20th of Nov 2014 The Harbour Centre (Support Unit) went to Wollongong Entertainment Centre to see KidzWish Christmas Concert. The story was about Cinderella. We saw many characters such as Ronald McDonald, Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and the KidzWish Fairy. The fairy flew through the sky. For lunch we had nuggets and an ice block. I got my photo taken with a policeman. We had a great day.

By Colbey Winsor Yr. 7 MCC class
Well it has been a crazy and wonderful year for the library with many positive changes to the way we do things and the extra-curricular activities and learning support that we provide. It is our greatest hope that we can continue to expand our services and become a central hub of learning and fun for our school community. We have undergone a big task with remodelling the library. We now have a full level for reading complete with lounges and beanbags, computer area with loanable laptops and reference collections, and two executive interview and meeting rooms. Our senior area now boasts a Milo station and a Nintendo system for those times when our hard working year 11 and year 12 students need to wind down and relax. We also have tutors and a chaplain working through the library providing much needed support for students.

We have introduced a wealth of extra-curricular activities and learning opportunities to give our students exciting opportunities to have fun and push themselves in their learning. We now run an anime club, dungeons and dragons groups, book club, puzzle challenge, trivia days and magic the gathering competitions. We also encourage our students to undertake individual learning projects and have started a few of our best and brightest in computer programming and musical studies.

Our book week celebration this year was a week to remember with our entire library being remodelled to display our best reads. We ran daily events including game competitions, musical performances, plugging of books, and other fun activities. This week saw an introduction to the ‘Onesie Wednesday’ where the library staff dressed up in their best onesies. Everyone had a great time throughout this week and we are looking forward to next year’s book week celebration where we can build on what we have started this year.

Now that this year has come to a close, we look to what will be happening next year. Many of the initiatives, activities and support services that we introduced this year will continue to run but we are always planning to add more to the library experience. We are in the process of upgrading our computers and adding PC’s to our collection. We are also hoping to get touch screen devices that students and staff will be able to utilize in the library. We will be installing a new smart board for our teachers to use while they teach their classes. We hope that this will also be utilized for presentation days, special events, and by our clubs.

We are adding to our magazines subscriptions with the incorporation of a gaming magazine, girlfriend, new scientist, book review magazine, sporting magazines, and a magic magazine. We will also be launching into the premiers reading challenge next year. This is a great program for any student to become involved in and provides great opportunities to develop your intellectual ability while at the same time enjoying our many fantastic fiction novels.

Very exciting times ahead for the library and for Lake Illawarra High School. This is your local library team wishing you a brilliant break and we look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

Nairn
Teacher Librarian
Mr Pickard and I would like to congratulate the Student Representative Council who had their induction ceremony a few weeks ago. Each SRC member was individually selected to become part of this council by their peers, who have recognised their outstanding leadership qualities.

The SRC underwent a slight restructure this year. Members of the Student Council are now able to select a role that enables them to work in an area that is of a particular interest to them. The purpose of this was to empower students to utilise their individual expertise, experience and passion in a productive manner. Some of the roles that students fulfil include journalism, promotion, communications, photography, finance and administration. From these diverse roles students gain skills that will be beneficial to them in any future employment or leadership position.

Working in the role of SRC Coordinator is a truly rewarding and gratifying experience. We have the privilege of seeing SRC members work tirelessly to make positive contributions to both our school and community. Students often sacrifice their own time to assist staff in school-based events and are all empathetic individuals, who are passionate about supporting charities to help assist those who are disadvantaged. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our newly elected and re-elected leaders for the hard work and dedication they have each already demonstrated in the past few months. The SRC have continued their charity work; raising money and supporting many worthy causes including Jeans for Genes, The Autism Awareness association, The Cancer Council and Relay for Life. They have also raised money to assist and support the students within the school with their educational goals and to create a pleasant school environment.

We are looking forward to working with the SRC in their new leadership roles. The diversity of skills and experience that they will bring to their new positions will undoubtedly be highly beneficial to both our school and community throughout this next year. We are excited by their collective enthusiasm and energy, and believe they are all going to be truly inspirational leaders.

Thank you to everyone who has helped support the SRC in their efforts this term to raise money to purchase Christmas gifts for underprivileged children. Our Lolly Shop was extremely successful and helped to increase the funding of this cause significantly. Remember, you can still donate gifts until next Wednesday the 17th of December (any age group).
Year 9 has been busy making posters in Geography. They have been studying Factors Causing Change in Australian Communities and have been very creative with their display. Some areas that they looked at in detail include Lifestyle Expectations of Australians, Changing Work Patterns in the Community, Recognition of Native Title and New Technology and its impact on the community. Well done!

Year 9 HSIE students produced some excellent results in their Yearly exams. The following students achieved outstanding results in one or more HSIE subjects.

**Congratulations:**

- **Jesse Baker** (Geography and History)
- **Kye Beaton** (Geography)
- **Kaysha Carlson** (Geography and History)
- **Shaye-Lee Frier** (Geography and History)
- **Angela Gonzaga** (Geography and History)
- **Rhiannon Halling** (History)
- **Tarea Hodges** (History)
- **Charley Holland** (Geography and History)
- **Liam Irwin** (Geography and History)
- **Cody Kelly** (Geography and History)
- **Dimi Liverys** (Geography and History)
- **James Linsell** (Geography and History)
- **Natalie McLeish** (History)
- **Maddie Pearson** (Geography and History)
- **Reanna Pullen** (History)
- **Lily Shepherd** (History)
- **Sarah Stephenson** (Geography and History)
- **Emma Stopher** (Geography and History)
- **Ruby Harkness** (Geography and History)
- **Shari Casha** (History)
Our school participated in the Computer Science Week "Hour of Code" worldwide challenge on Tuesday and Wednesday. Students in 9IST and 10 IST tackled the challenging "LightBot" programming task, while lunchtime participants enjoyed the "Angry Birds" and "Flappy Bird" programming activities. Students can try these fun programming tasks anytime, by going to the website http://hourofcode.com

Byron Lye, Tenayah Tynan, Liam Coyle enjoying their LightBot challenge.

Just a quick thank you to all the Aboriginal students who have worked with me throughout 2014.

Your energy and positive outlook on life have made my job easy and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in 2015.

Don’t forget that we have a Homework Centre in the Library every Thursday P6 (2pm-2:50pm) and everyone is welcome!

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Years.

Geoff Robson
(Norta Norta Tutor)
Last week we had the opportunity to meet many of the Year 6 students who will be transitioning to high school next year. The students enthusiastically participated in a Science lesson, where they observed microscopic organisms, conducted flame tests and determined the acidity of substances. They also had the opportunity to meet some of the LIHS farm animals. Several Year 9 and 10 students were on hand to help guide the students through the activities and answer their questions. It was a great day for the teachers and the students, and we look forward to seeing them all next year!

A forensic science workshop, “A Case of Conspiracy” ran in the library on Wednesday. Two sessions were conducted and students in years 7 to 12 had a taste of what it would be like to solve a crime based on forensic evidence. Students looked at a range of evidence, including simulated blood spatters, tyre track impressions, text messages and autopsy reports, to solve the ‘crime’ and determine motive. The presentation was excellent and all the students enjoyed the hands on activities. A big thank you to Ms McKinlay for organising the day.

Look out for “A Case of Identity”, which will be running at the school in 2015!

Mrs Atkinson also treated her Agriculture students to a BBQ lunch featuring produce grown within the plot. Students indulged in zucchini slice, kale chips, herbed chicken and fresh salad. It was a wonderful opportunity to reward students for their efforts and to sample food made from fresh produce.
As the year draws to a close, year 7 have been very busy in Italian completing their Assessment Tasks. In Languages, the students are assessed in 5 areas Reading, Writing, Speaking, Listening and Culture. The following students received 100% on their Assessment Tasks.

**SPEAKING**
- Marley Fletcher
- Samantha Gibbs
- Roseannah Kyriozopoulos

**LISTENING**
- Marley Fletcher

**WRITING**
- Keelan Ashburner
- Marley Fletcher
- Claudia Calci
- Macey Cerasani
- Samantha Gibbs
- Sophie Scott
- Callum Oldroyd

Well done to the above students for these outstanding results! And congratulations to all the students who worked hard in Italian this year. I hope you all have a safe and happy Christmas break.

Mrs Mitchell.
Senior High School

Senior school years can be very stressful if not properly prepared for. Your child is beginning to better understand that success in their final school years is wholly dependent on the time they dedicate to their study. This can be a daunting revelation, so as parents, you should encourage and motivate your child to do their personal best.

As a parent, you may want to:

- Provide at-home learning opportunities to solidify key concepts tested in the HSC or relevant senior school qualification
- Give your child extra practice in subjects or areas they may be struggling with
- Provide experience in answering HSC or relevant senior school qualification exam-style questions

How can you implement at-home learning?

Our range of Excel titles have been written to reflect the expected level of ability a child should possess at each school year. Using these titles, you can assess your child’s ability in a range of senior high school subjects and, based on the results, take the next necessary steps to help with your child’s education. Titles in this range include worked solutions, allowing you to work through answers with your child.

Tips for preparing for exams

For parents:

- This is the big one! Your child may be feeling anxious so reassure them that they are trying to achieve their personal best
- Be aware of your child's exam schedule. Half-yearly exams are usually after the school holidays, so always ensure your child sets aside study time during their break
- Assist your child in creating a study schedule. This allows for solid blocks of studying, but also ensures that your child has adequate rest
- Make study interesting. Exams are stressful, so try to think of creative ways to help your child study. We like quizzes, flashcards and timed revision tests
- Ensure your child has the relevant textbooks and study guides available at home

For students:

- Making notes and summarising topic areas throughout the year means that come exam time, you have pre-prepared notes for revision
- Completing past HSC or relevant senior school qualification exam-style questions is critical to developing exam experience
- Using our Excel range, work through units and become aware of areas that require revision
- Ensure you understand the relevant concepts of a subject. Excel HSC Pocket Books are a quick and easy reference tool to give you that extra edge
- Reading novels, newspapers and other publications of interest for pleasure will increase your vocabulary and comprehension skills
The Education Act 1990 requires your child to attend school each day that instruction is provided unless prevent for doing so by sickness or another approved reason. The Principal will only grant leave for the following instances:

- Sickness where the absence is satisfactorily explained as being due to illness
- Misadventure or unforseen event
- Domestic necessity such as serious illness of an immediate family member
- Attendance at funerals
- Recognise religious festivals or ceremonial occasions

If a student is absent, a note explaining the absence should be handed in to the roll call teacher on the first day of their return. The explanation should contain:

1. Date that the note was written;
2. Student’s name
3. Days/dates the student was absent from school
4. The reason why the student was absent
5. The signature of the student’s parent or caregiver.

Students can collect an absence note book from their roll call teacher or the Front Office Staff. This makes absence note writing easy as it ensures all relevant information is given to the school.

Parent/s and caregivers are required by law to provide a written or verbal explanation to the Principal within seven days of any absence as to why their child was not at school. It is important that the school receives a written or verbal explanation because:

1. It is the parent’s legal obligation to explain their child’s absence within seven days
2. It is a requirement that the school investigate all unexplained absences

### Failure to explain your child’s absences

Within seven days of their occurrence will result in an unjustified absence being recorded. This will be displayed on your child’s report.

It is important for parents to make attending school a priority. Allowing children days off for birthdays, to look after younger children, to go shopping, to keep you company or because they were tired from a late night, not only send the wrong message to your child, it is against the law. Children who get used to having days off school for these kinds of reasons develop an attitude that their attendance at school is not very important. This can become a big issue as a child gets older.

An attendance rate of 95% or above is a good target. This equates to no more than three days absent per term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance Rate</th>
<th>Days Per Term</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>1 Day A Week</strong></td>
<td>1.75 days</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>5 Days A Term</strong></td>
<td>5 days</td>
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### 1 Day A Week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per term</th>
<th>Per Year</th>
<th>7-10</th>
<th>K-10</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2 weeks</td>
<td>40 days</td>
<td>160 days</td>
<td>440 days</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 terms</td>
<td>2.5 years</td>
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### 5 Days A Term

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Per term</th>
<th>Per Year</th>
<th>7-10</th>
<th>K-10</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 week</td>
<td>20 days</td>
<td>80 days</td>
<td>220 days</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1.5 terms</td>
<td>1 year 0.5 term</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justified reasons</td>
<td>Unjustified reasons</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Doctor’s/Dentist appointment — must provide evidence, such as a Doctor’s/Dentist certificate or letter</td>
<td>• Sleeping in/ alarm not going off</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Appointment with other health care professional or similar service – must provide evidence, such as an appointment card or letter</td>
<td>• Missed the bus</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Special family circumstances – note/verbal explanation must be provided</td>
<td>• Traffic/ road works</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Bus delayed – school will check to verify</td>
<td>• Walked to school</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Interview with Principal, Deputy/Assistant Principal, Counsellor or other school personnel – staff involved must inform the front office</td>
<td>• Waiting for parent</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Minding sibling</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Shopping</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Other similar reasons</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Please note: A note from a parent or verbal explanation from parent who drops student at school for any reasons listed above as ‘unjustified’ DOES NOT make the reason ‘justified’.

Payments can be made using either a Visa or MasterCard credit or debit card. The payment page is accessed from the front page of the schools website by selecting $ Make a payment. Items that can be paid include voluntary school contributions, subject contributions, excursions, sales to students and creative and practical arts activities (these include band, drama and dance).

There is also a category called other this to cover items not covered in the previous headings, other can be used to make a complete payment of a school invoice.

When you access the $ Make a payment you must enter:

- the students name, and
- class and reference number OR
- the students name, and
- Date of birth.

These details are entered each time you make a payment as student information is not held within the payment system. There is also the option to enter the Student Registration Number and Invoice number if you are aware of them, these are optional fields.

This is a secure payment system hosted by Westpac to ensure that your credit/debit card details are captured in a secure manner, these details are not passed back to the school.

You have the ability to check and change any details of the payment before the payment is processed. Receipts can be emailed and/or printed.

Details of the payments are passed daily to the school where they will be receipted against your child’s account. As a receipt has been issued from the payment page a further receipt will not be issued by the school.

For any enquiries regarding the Online Payment process please contact the School Administration Office.

Thanks
Ria Douglas
SAM
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS!

Our school is currently looking for parents, grandparents or caregivers who are available to assist in a reading program for Year 7 students. Anyone who is interested in being involved please contact Tony Hicks or the Learning Support Team on 4296 3844.

Join us in the library:
- Tuesdays 3-4pm
- Thursdays 2-2:50 pm

If you would like to place an ad for your business in our newsletter please phone the school on 4296 3844 for more information.