On Thursday of this week we will be holding our EXPO night which is where we are able to showcase many of the great things that happen on a daily basis at Lake Illawarra High.

I would like to encourage as many of our future students who are currently in Yr. 5&6 and their families as possible to come up to the school between 3.30pm and 5.15pm to have a look around, meet some of our Yr. 7 students, school leaders and staff and to ask any questions you may have about high school in general and Lake Illawarra High in particular.

It is also a chance for parents of our current Yr. 7 students to come and meet the staff. It promises to be a great afternoon.

Congratulations to our school swimming team who once again excelled at the recent zone carnival. Not only was your sporting endeavours of the highest order but so was your behaviour and sportsmanship. As usual you did yourselves and the school proud. This positive behaviour is indicative of the behaviour of the vast majority of students at Lake High. There have already been a number of excursions this year and I receive the same comments time after time about how exceptional our students are and what credit they bring to the school, their families and especially themselves.

Well done to everyone involved.

The refurbishment of the toilets is continuing with only minor interruptions. Thank you to the school community for your patience while this work is undertaken. I am sure the benefits will be great.

Tony Hicks
Principal
E.D.G.E Workshop
Tuesday 24th February was a fun and enjoyable experience for a selected group of students from Years 9 to 12. These students participated in an E.D.G.E Workshop, which stands for Education, Deportment, Grooming and Employment. This session, co-ordinated by ex-Lake High student Sharna Dawson and her Reignite team of a hairdresser, stylist and beautician, allowed students to experience through hands on activities how to be prepared for future interviews and learn how to impress possible employers.

Students were divided into groups of boys and girls and were guided on how to take care of their personal hygiene and beauty, experiment with hairstyles that were presentable to employers and even know how to knot business ties if necessary. Some of the boys took up the opportunity to get a new hairstyle on the spot under the expertise of Lisa the hairdresser!

These practical and fun activities supported the need for students to be aware of their public image in which they present and realise how possible employers will be taking notice of this image both at interview or prior to meeting them via the internet. All students were well-behaved excellent participants and had a great time learning practical and useful information. This workshop will again operate in Term 2 and 3 and some more students will have some fun learning some life lessons.

Jessica Russell and Coral Booth (Above)

Defence Force Talks
On Thursday 12th March the Australian Defence Force Recruiting team will be visiting the school to talk to interested students about the three areas of Defence (Army, Navy and Air Force) where possible opportunities, expectations and how to apply will be discussed. Information about the Australian Defence Force Academy will also be provided if students are thinking about officer training and university degrees.

A GAP YEAR with the Defence Force for 2016 will also be explained for students completing Year 12 and applications are currently open on their website and close on the 16th March. http://www.defencejobs.gov.au/education/GapYear

Work Experience
Students of Year 10 have the opportunity to be involved in work experience in the final week of Term 1. This is a great chance for students to find areas of interest, discover what they may or may not wish to pursue in the future and help develop skills of working in the adult environment. Although not a compulsory activity it is strongly advised that students participate. I am more than willing to help students to find a possible location to do work experience however it is favoured that they find their own employer as it will develop confidence and personal skills on how to talk to adults.

The process of looking for work experience and the appropriate forms to complete will be explained in Careers lessons over the next two weeks.

Maths Corner
The first notifications and revision exams have gone out to:
Year 11 General and Advanced Classes (Exam Week 7)
Year 12 General 1 has the second assessment task in the form of an assignment due Week 8.
Year 7 should get their notification and revision test next week for their test in Week 8.

Year 12 past papers are being ordered for General 2, Advanced and Extension Mathematics. They cost about $35 retail and you can order them from the school (Pay at the front office) for $15 per past paper. They are essential for preparation for the HSC Mathematics papers. Please pay before the end of week 8 so the order can be sent.

The Australian Mathematics Competition is on the 30th July and students can enter by paying $6 at the front office.
Exams coming up soon:
Yr. 9 Term 1 Week 9
Yr. 12 Term 1 Weeks 9&10 (Half Yearly exams)

Steve Morley
Relieving HT Mathematics
Elective Visual Arts’ student recently travelled to Sydney to see a number of world famous exhibitions and Artexpress, an exhibition of the best works from the 2014 HSC. After a rest stop above Sydney Botanical Gardens, our second stop was the Art Gallery of NSW. Here students, especially those in Years 11 and 12, were able to gain firsthand knowledge of the range and standard of work produced by HSC students and also valuable ideas to enhance the development of their own Bodies of Work and future practical work. We then visited the ‘Pop to Popism’ exhibition which featured some of the most iconic Pop art works produced by some of the most famous Modernist artists of the 1960s, 70s and 80s. Students thoroughly enjoyed this very extensive, international and Australian exhibition with many claiming it was the best exhibition they’d ever seen and disappointed that they couldn’t stay longer! Year 12 especially enjoyed seeing ‘the real’ works they’d recently been studying in a class Case Study. Next stop was lunch at Circular Quay, complete with a giant cruise ship and thousands of people! The Museum of Contemporary Art, also at Circular Quay, was our final destination. Here the scale and attention to detail of the famous American portrait artist Chuck Close’s work, was also fantastic and delighted students. It was a pleasure to share the works of so many amazing, famous artists (and would be artists!) with a group of such keen and interested students. They were all fine ambassadors for our school and the knowledge they gained bodes well for the future success of Visual Arts at ‘Lake’. Thank you all for a great day!
Mrs Hudson
Brooke Sharkey researching ideas

Logan McMahon and Chealsee Lewis playing Warhol ‘Twister’

Whitney Cerasani and Maddison Taylor exhausted after a big day

Penny Hass, Taliesha Galea-Murtezovski and Renee Arblaster enjoying the day
Just a reminder from us the Breakfast Club has started again. Every Tuesday and Thursday mornings in the Cooking Rooms (C23). Toast, Juice and Milo will be served from 7:50am until Roll call. So if you come early, have not had time for breakfast, the cupboards are empty or you would like a warm drink on a cold morning your welcome to come up. It’s free! Also watch this space for more events that we are going to hold later on this term.

The Sports Committee

Your nominations were exemplary and we are looking forward to the skills, experience and enthusiasm you will be bringing to the team. Well done!

Lake Illawarra High School SRC

This year sees dynamic changes in the Science department. With sadness, we have said bon voyage and good luck to Mr Fellows and Mr Freel. To fill their places we are very excited to announce Ms McKinlay as our new head of Faculty, as well as Ms Cram and Mr Dyer.

After some significant hard work and effort last year, Mrs Atkinson and her team in the Ag plot are making great progress once again. Preparation and planting for this year’s market garden is well under way, with produce for sale in the near future (Year 10 has been seen spicing things up recently).

Year 11 Biology and Senior Science students had a blast on their annual field study of the Minnamurra mangroves. Closer to home, all the budding scientist in year 7 have received their Bunsen burner licenses and are settling in well.

Year 8 students have been grappling with gravity over the past week. They designed their own experiments testing variables that affect parachute flight. Some very successful attempts at producing near perfect parachutes have been seen.

SRC NEWS

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our latest SRC representative Timothy Watkins who is currently in year 9. We are all excited to have you on board and we are looking forward to working with you!

Also big congratulations to our six new SRC representatives in year 7;
Claudia Balatti
Caieta Bazzano
Jacqui Burns
Jennifer Grujevski
Remy Marsh
Rhiana McDonald
This term, students in Year 9 Food Technology are exploring the history of food in Australia. They have started off by looking at traditional bush foods prepared by Aborigines and then learning about influences of the early European settlers together with other continuing immigration from a variety of cultures. As part of the experience students are planning and preparing foods, which reflect the multicultural nature of Australian cuisine, they even got to try kangaroo with many enjoying this opportunity. In Week 7 students will have the chance to dine at the International Food Buffet in Sydney as a planned excursion. Stay tuned for the upcoming photos from this day.

Mr D. Bain
TAS Teachers – Home Economics
On the Monday 16th of February, Year 7 went on an excursion to Cataract Scout camp. The aim of this excursion was to help Year 7 transition into their start here at Lake Illawarra high school, while also initiating bonding between the year group. The excursion involved Challenge Valley mud course, abseiling and a high ropes course. These activities put a lot of students and teachers out of their comfort zones, however, at the same time learning new skills and challenging themselves. The day was full of laughs as students and teachers encouraged each other to finish sections of courses and activities. The activities involved were designed to break down barriers between students, push them mentally to reach their full potential and most of all to have some fun. The students should be recognised for their attitude and behaviour on the day, as we were very impressed and proud of them for trying their hardest in all aspects. Well done Year 7, we look forward to many more exciting excursions and trips ahead. Mr Demertzis and Miss Norris.
Your high-school student should be thinking about his/her future. Will I go to Uni? Should I try to find a job? What should I do? Listen to them, support them, and have an open mind about the endless possibilities.

If your high-school student has a job, then help them manage their money and time. Help them to create a budget, and have a savings plan.

When your high-school student gets their driver’s license, have clear rules as to when, how, and with whom they drive with. Give them clear guidelines. “You will not be texting while driving,” and “Always buckle up when driving!” Make sure they know that driving is a great responsibility and privilege.

Help your high-school student manage stress. Find time for the whole family to get some exercise and let off some steam.

Find time to have dinner together. During dinner, make sure everyone has a chance to share the highlights of their day and how they may do things differently tomorrow.

Your teen may be working hard to balance extra-curricular activities and school activities this year. Help your teen become a master time manager by standing your ground and enforcing at-home chores and family responsibilities.

At the same time, don’t forget that standardized test scores are also an integral part of the application. Whether your child is struggling or doing well in school, consider enrolling them in a test-preparation course.

At this age, friendships and romance become more important while cliques become less so. Set clear rules and guidelines about dating. Your teen should have a curfew that is enforced, and you should monitor your teen’s mood and behavior to ensure that dating is not affecting academic performance. It is important for parents to be viewed as approachable while still maintaining their parental authority.

Changes to Attendance

The Minister for Education has made changes to attendance and how it is recorded. This is now referred to ACARA National Standards for Student Attendance Data Reporting. This may affect your child’s/ward attendance records.

The major change is Holidays taken by students outside of school vacation periods will now be included as absences. A Certificate of Exemption can no longer be granted for this period. This means all holidays will be recorded as absences on your child’s/wards report. Families are encouraged to take holidays or travel during school vacations. If travel outside of school vacation periods is necessary the following considerations apply:

- If the principal accepts the reason for the absence, the absence will be marked as Leave and be recorded as Justified Leave. This will appear on your child’s/wards report as Justified leave.
- If the principal does not believe the absence is in the student’s best interests and does not accept the reason the absence will be recorded as Unjustified Leave.

If you are planning to take holidays during school days please call into school and fill in the appropriate form and see the Principal – Tony Hicks, before you go. This will possibly avoid your child/ward been marked as Unjustified leave and you will not receive text messages/letters & or phone calls.

It is really important if your child is absent or LATE that all absences are explained.

WHY MAY YOU ASK?

Firstly it’s the law, under the Education Act 1990 all absences must be explained within seven days. If you do not explain why your child has been away within 7 school days it will go down as an unjustified absence and this will appear on your child’s/ward’s report. Also if your child is late it will go down as an unjustified partial absence on your child’s/wards report.

Being absent and/or being late must be explained with a valid reason!
You can do this via note, phone call, sms or in person.
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 unforeseen 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.

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<th>1 Day A Week</th>
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<td>Per term</td>
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### Justified reasons

- Doctor’s/Dentist appointment – must provide evidence, such as a Doctor’s/Dentist certificate or letter
- Appointment with other health care professional or similar service – must provide evidence, such as an appointment card or letter
- Special family circumstances – note/verbal explanation must be provided
- Bus delayed – school will check to verify
- Interview with Principal, Deputy/Assistant Principal, Counsellor or other school personnel – staff involved must inform the front office

### Unjustified reasons

- Sleeping in/ alarm not going off
- Missed the bus
- Traffic/ road works
- Walked to school
- Waiting for parent
- Minding sibling
- Shopping
- Other similar reasons

**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.

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

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- Thursdays 2-2:50 pm

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Find us on Facebook

LACIE'S BREAKFAST CLUB IS
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Our proud sponsors of our breakfast club is the:

The Shellharbour Club
Finance Control works with families to effectively structure mortgages, plan for renovations or assist in upgrading to a larger family home.

We work with you to plan funding for your children’s education expenses and extra-curricular activities (sport, music and performing arts), medical expenses (e.g. braces), family holidays and securing your family’s financial position should the unexpected occur. We can guide you through the challenges that families face when trying to balance spending and saving.

Contact Alexandra at Finance Control on 02 42762557 or alex@financecontrol.com.au
Register for our newsletter at www.financecontrol.com.au
AST SURF SCHOOL PRESENTS

Surfing Australia Accredited water Safety and Surfing Program

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