

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents,



It was wonderful to have many of our families in Longreach for our Home Tutor Workshop. Students had so many opportunities to spend valuable time with their new teachers and complete Cross Country training, class PE lessons and Water Fun with Mrs McClymont. Our Family Night was a great success. A huge thank-you goes out to Mrs Bates and Mrs Deanne Jones for organising a fantastic evening. Thank-you to the staff for manning some of the fun stalls. Our P&C did a great job of feeding us and thanks to the year 5/6 students for their drink stall. The Market stalls were a wonderful opportunity for students to make some of their own money. The proceeds from the Family Fun Night were sent through to the P&C to go towards supporting our students. What an awesome night!

We ended the night with our Colour Fun Run, which is always a big hit with the kids. A huge thanks to Mrs McClymont and Miss Manns who organised the Colour Fun Run.

I would like to welcome our new P&C to the 2024 year. Our P&C organisation is a valuable part of the way that we operate. The partnership that we have with our families continues to be supported by the P&C. We seek feedback at our Home Tutor Sessions and ensure that we have the opportunity to have rigorous discussions at our P&C meetings so that the school can make informed decisions. We thank everyone for their honesty, frankness and respect that is shown at all times. We will continue to work with our P&C to ensure that the connection between home and school continues to be a strong one.

*Fiona Clein*

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

### Minischools



We are excited to re-introduce Minischools, a unique distance education experience designed to bring students together for face-to-face school and overnight experiences that may not be possible in their home environments. Our specific aims include active participation in class lessons, fostering relationships with teachers and peers over an extended period, and making use of school facilities.

Each day, our dedicated teachers will provide an afternoon and evening program, with all meals served in the Quarters Dining Room unless otherwise advised. Throughout the week, the emphasis will be on lively classroom learning, complemented by a range of group and extracurricular activities.

We are also pleased to offer the opportunity for siblings to stay at the Quarters during Minischool, provided there are enough beds available. Siblings will follow the same protocols as Minischool students and must be accompanied by a parent or home tutor, who will be responsible for them throughout the duration of Minischool. Siblings will need to complete their schooling for the week under the guidance of their Home Tutor. They may join their class teacher/s on-air in the school building and join their teacher aide/s for face-to-face lessons where applicable. Areas within the school will be available for Home Tutors to work with their siblings.

At each Minischool, we will require the assistance of approximately four to six supervisors, with roles including Head Supervisor and Cooking Coordinator/s. Supervisors will assist with looking after students, meals, and helping organise students for showers and bed. If you are interested in assisting or having your Home Tutor or Governess participate, please contact us.

## FROM THE DEPUTY PRINCIPAL, Continued..

All students and supervisors are encouraged to stay at the Quarters. Minischool students can stay at the Quarters without a parent or Home Tutor as they will be in the care of their teachers for the duration of the Minischool.

This year, we look forward to providing enriching and engaging Minischool experiences for all involved. For more information or to express interest in assisting, please contact me via email or phone.

## School Musical 2024

'Lights, camera, action...!' 2024 marks another exciting year for the School Musical at LSODE. Since 2012, LSODE has proudly presented a grand musical production every two years, offering all students from Prep to Year 10 a chance to take part. This year's 2024 production will be our sixth, promising to be a spectacular event with over 100 students participating in the cast and chorus.

The benefits for students who participate are immense. They gain the valuable experience of performing in a full-scale production on stage, which helps develop their self-confidence and self-esteem. They also get a taste of cultural immersion and stepping outside their comfort zones, performing in front of a large audience. This opportunity allows students to feel liberated, acknowledged, and celebrated, among other benefits, creating memories that will last a lifetime.

At LSODE, one of our key values is OPPORTUNITY. We strive to provide, create, or facilitate opportunities that isolated students might not otherwise have. Participation in a full-scale musical production is one such opportunity that can truly enrich a child's schooling experience.

So, what is required to prepare and stage a musical production of this scale?

In **Term 1**, auditions for cast roles are held. An Audition Pack is sent to students from Years 2 to 10 who request a pack so they can audition for major or minor speaking roles. Students can audition for multiple roles, selecting their desired role, rehearsing the dialogue, arranging their own costumes and props, and submitting an audition video. Videos can be uploaded to OneDrive or emailed, and those with satellite speed restrictions can mail their USB. Auditions are due by Week 8.

**Terms 2 & 3** are dedicated to rehearsals. The cast is announced at the beginning of Term 2, and scripts are distributed. Cast students learn their lines and begin rehearsing songs and dances. Chorus students begin rehearsing their year level song/s and dance/s as well as the finale song and dance. Weekly one-hour on-air rehearsals are conducted over these terms for the cast only, along with practicing at home using provided teaching videos and mp4s.

**Term 3** sees the cast and chorus attending the three-day Whole School Musical Workshop (Week 5) to bring the script, songs and dances to life, work on character development and movement, and rehearse on the Civic Centre stage.

**Term 4** is when everything comes together, with additional rehearsals and a Cast-only 3-day camp (Week 1) held three weeks before the production. This year, Week 5 of term is the BIG WEEK!!! It is dedicated to a full day and a half of rehearsals as well as a full-dress rehearsal, culminating in two performances, opening night and a matinee.

In past productions, LSODE students have received standing ovations and impressed their audiences with their performances. It's a testament to the excellence in education for isolated families that LSODE embodies.

For further information or to answer any questions, please contact me.

Here's to an amazing year ahead,

*Rachelle Moore*



## FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT P-10

### 'Lexile' Reading Testing

During Home Tutor Workshop students in Year 3 – 6 completed a short 15–30-minute reading test. During this online test students read short passages of text and responded to a multiple-choice question about each passage. Depending on student success, the test will automatically vary the complexity of text the student receives in subsequent questions. The test itself is checking the level of text students can decode and also their understanding of the passage and vocabulary.

Students receive a Lexile level at the end of the test. This allows teachers and students to borrow books that are at an individual's independent reading level and level of understanding. There is a section in the library where books have been organised in Lexile levels. Whilst not all books fit into this Lexile system there is a large selection of books to choose from.

Student's Lexile level will be added to their 'Checklist and Information' section in OneNote. If you are having trouble finding this, please contact your class teacher. Lexile testing will be completed at the beginning of Term 1 and Term 3 each year.

*Dane McDonald*



## FROM THE PSYCHOLOGIST



Attending school is important for education and social emotional wellbeing outcomes, however there are a range of reasons why your student may be struggling in this space. It is in the best interest of the student and family to work collaboratively with the school to reduce the following:

- the absence is having a significant impact on a student's educational attainment, achievement and development
- a parent reports that a student refuses to attend school and has limited explanation for the student's absence
- further learning and social challenges for the child

In managing attendance, the relationship between school and families is critical that we are working together and:

- conducting effective school-to-home and home-to-school communications
- providing volunteer opportunities to enable parents to be involved at school
- engaging families with homework and other curriculum-related activities
- families being participants in school decision-making
- coordinating resources and services from the community for families, students and the school
- providing opportunities to enhance parenting knowledge and skills.

It is important to ensure the school and family are on the same page with benefits and motivators for attending.

Having a good night time routine and sleep, a calm start to the morning – waking up, morning routine, a healthy breakfast! These are all key things to setting your young one up for success each and every day at school.

# ATTEND TODAY

## ACHIEVE TOMORROW





## FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT - PARTNERS IN LEARNING

Welcome to 2024! For those who don't know me, I am the Head of Department for the Partners in Learning project. My role is to provide face-to-face and online delivery of the Partners in Learning modules (multiple times throughout the year) to home tutors of students enrolled in eKindy to Year 2. These modules, delivered over a 2 day workshop, specifically focus on literacy development in the early years of schooling. Starting from the foundations of speech and language development we build knowledge up through oral language development, emergent literacy and teaching beginning readers. Following completion of the modules I then provide ongoing support to home tutors to answer any questions that you might think of following the workshops, to model strategies with your students or generally be a listening ear.

Using feedback from past participants the modules have been slightly updated for the 2024 delivery, now providing more relevant information and examples of practice. The first face to face offering for this year will be held later this term during Week 8, Wednesday 13 March and Thursday 14 March. Thank you to those keen beans who have already registered! Please see the attached flyer for more details and to register.

Please do not hesitate to contact to me if you have a question or need something clarified. The only silly question is the one you don't ask. I am looking forward to another successful year of Partners in Learning at LSODE and can't wait to work with you all.

*Michelle Sieber*



### Presenter:

Michelle Sieber  
HOD - Partners in Learning



### Who should attend?

eKindy - Year 2 Parents and Home Tutors



### Dates and times:

Wed 13 March - Thurs 14 March  
9:00am - 2:00pm



### Delivery Platform:

Face to face Workshop  
ARID Zone Research Building  
(next door to LSODE)



### What to bring:

Favourite picture book



Wednesday 6 March  
Please RSVP to Michelle Sieber  
msieb4@eq.edu.au  
07 4658 4220

## ABOUT THE WORKSHOPS

This project is a collaboration project supported by Rural and Remote, Reading and Writing Centre, State Schools Performance - Curriculum, Teaching and Learning and Western Alliance Schools of Distance Education (Charleville, Longreach and Mount Isa).

### This project aims to:

- Build confidence and capability of Home Tutors of Prep to Year 2 students to support their students in reading and writing
- Provide resource packages to Home Tutors
- Provide ongoing, needs-based support to Home Tutors through access to a dedicated Western Alliance Reading and Writing Coach
- Improve reading and writing results for SDE students across Prep to Year 2

### MODULE OUTLINE

1. Speech and language development
2. Promoting oral language development
3. Emergent literacy
4. Teaching beginning readers



## FROM OUR INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TEACHER - STRINGS

This year, I decided to challenge myself professionally and work with the students from Longreach School of Distance Education. I had a few concerns and many questions, but for the most part, I was excited to get started. While the on-line lessons are similar to what teachers provided during those 'Covid' days, the teaching platform is established, and I found all the students more engaged and actively motivated to learn. Cudos to the teachers who came before me to set up the LSODE program so well! I discovered that my students come from a multitude of backgrounds; families on huge cattle properties, travelling families who follow the sheep shearing jobs, and families from places that I've only read about but now want to visit - Muttaborra, Julia Creek and way out in Atherton!

After meeting my new students through a computer screen for the first few weeks, it was time to head up to Longreach for "Home Tutor Week". This is a week where students have the opportunity to come into Longreach for face-to-face classes, meet friends, have swimming lessons and play team sports. The tutors or governesses get training on home classroom set up, behaviour management etc, and the mothers catch for some socialising too. I was able to meet all my new string students and set them up on their instruments for the first time. We discussed instrument care, worked on posture, left hands and bow holds, and played games to increase their music literacy. These students and the continuing string students had face-to-face lessons with me as well as some dedicated ensemble time. The importance of a shared beat was a focus, as well as intonation; listening to their own, and each other's. For students who usually only play their instruments solo, these concepts are challenging and need to be further developed.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting my students face-to-face, getting to know their families, and working with my new colleagues at LSODE. A massive 'thank you' to Kristen Pengelly who accompanied me for the handover, and who has generously answered thousands of my questions! Her organisation, dedication and passion for this program has enabled a smooth transition for me. I will eagerly await my next on-line lessons, wondering if I will see my students playing from under the awning of their camper, inside the shed amongst the bales of hay, or playing for me in a paddock of cows with the sun setting in the distance. Either way, I look forward with great anticipation for the years ahead; continuing to foster a love of music and facilitating music making for students geographically isolated.

*Sherina Parker*



## CENTRAL WEST SWIMMING TRIALS



Well done to all students that participated in the Central West Swimming trials held in Barcaldine. A special mention to the three students that made it through to the North West Team, Harriet Holcombe, Jack Seccombe and Matilda Baird. We wish you the best of luck at the North West trials.

## HOME TUTOR WORKSHOP - FAMILY FUN NIGHT





## HOME TUTOR WORKSHOP & CLUSTER





## FOOTBALL & NETBALL CLINIC



## Term 1 Upcoming Events

### Week 5

Wednesday 21 February

Thursday 22 February & Friday 23 February

Central West Girls Netball

North West Swimming

### Week 6

Monday 26 February

Monday 26 February - Friday 1 March

Friday 1 March

Central West Rugby

Year 5/6 Minischool

Central West Touch

### Week 7

Tuesday 5 March

Friday 8 March & Saturday 9 March

No On-Air lessons- Western Alliance

North West Girls Netball

### Week 8

Tuesday 12 March

Wednesday 13 March - Friday 15 March

Wednesday 13 March & Thursday 14 March

Friday 15 March

Friday 15 March - Sunday 17 March

No On-Air lessons Prep-Year 6

Whole School Cluster & NAPLAN

PiL Workshop

Interhouse Cross Country & Govie Networking

SHEP Longreach

### Week 9

Monday 18 March - Friday 22 March

Friday 22 March - Saturday 23 March

Western Alliance Multischool (1)

North West Netball